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Das unten abgebildete Interview wurde in der Zeit vom 5.12.2014 bis 6.12.2014 auf schriftlichem Wege mit Alexey Bezgodov (Bild) geführt.



(Foto: GM S. Vokarev)

Anlass für das Interview war eine Rezension des Buches „The Liberated Bishop Defence“, das von ihm geschrieben worden ist. (<http://www.bdf-fernschachbund.de/service/rezensionen/2014/rezens2014.htm#TheLiberatedBishopDefence>).

Das Interview wurde in englischer Sprache geführt, die Fragen sind rot gekennzeichnet.

Interview:

When did you learn the rules of chess and who showed you the game?

My father (he was a school teacher) taught me to play chess when I was very young. More or less seriously I began to study chess at 11. Our family lived in Olkhovka village, Kurgan region, Ural. At our village there weren't chess coaches at all so I had to study chess by myself.

Why do you love chess and is there anything you don't like in this game?

Everybody could find something his own, very personal in chess. It's rather special world, something like a parallel reality. There is nothing I don't like in chess.

Your hometown is Khanty-Mansiysk. Please describe the climatic characteristics!

Almost all my childhood I spent in Olkhovka, a village with about 1500 inhabitants. And now I'm living in Olkhovka again due to help my aged mother. For some years I was a coach and a chess-player in Khanty-Mansiysk, in Cheliabinsk, in Perm. Now I teach my students by Skype.

Now let us turn to „The Liberated Bishop Defence"! When arose your idea to write it and was there anything which can be seen as a concrete impulse?

I always liked to analyze something new, to find new conceptions in chess and so on. About one year and a half ago I realized: it's very interesting and perspective idea – to play Bc8-f5 after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 or 2.Nf3, Black could build the entire opening repertoire around this idea. I'd like to thank my publishers – New in Chess and Moscow chess fan Andrei Elkov, and my friend IM Vladimir Barsky for their support.

Which are the biggest advantages for the player, who uses the opening with 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5, and where do you see the most important dangers for him?

I'm sure it's very healthy opening, not worse than Queen's gambit, Slav defence or any other "correct" opening. Black tries to complete his development as soon as possible, to create an active pieces' play. But „The Liberated Bishop Defence" is underestimated – many players think this is incorrect opening and try to refuse it without serious home work. So it's a good chance for Black to win a nice short game!

The most unpleasant lines for Black are 1.d4 d5 2.c4 Bf5 3.Qb3 and 1.d4 d5 2.c4 Bf5 3.cxd5.

How much of your own experience with the opening can the reader find in your book?

There is a lot of my own analysis, novelties and so on. And my own games of course.

Please tell us three short terms, which describe the most important features of „The Liberated Bishop Defence"!

- 1) Give the liberty to the Bishop!
- 2) Play by pieces!
- 3) Don't be afraid!

Okay, what would you think, if the opening with 2...Bf5 would be called „Bezgodov Opening“ in Future?

No, it won't be correct. If you want you can call the line 1.e4 c5 2.a3!? the Bezgodov variation! As for „The Liberated Bishop Defence“ I didn't invent it but just evaluated a lot of lines and found one or two thousands new moves. It's not enough for the name of the opening!

And now our three last questions: Please tell us – which success in your tournament career is your biggest desire for the future?

I don't think about any success when I play chess or write a book. I just try to do all my best.

Can we hope to see you again as a highly competent author of opening books? Which are your current or next projects, if they don't are secret?

Now I'm working on my next opening book; hope it will be ready in March 2015. Once again it will be a complete Black repertoire vs. 1.d4, and it's almost "terra incognita"!

What do you think about correspondence chess and the players?

I appreciate very high the correspondence chess and the OTB-players. I played OTB by myself when I was a school-boy and this experience helped me very much in my chess development. Nowadays OTB-players develop chess theory very active.