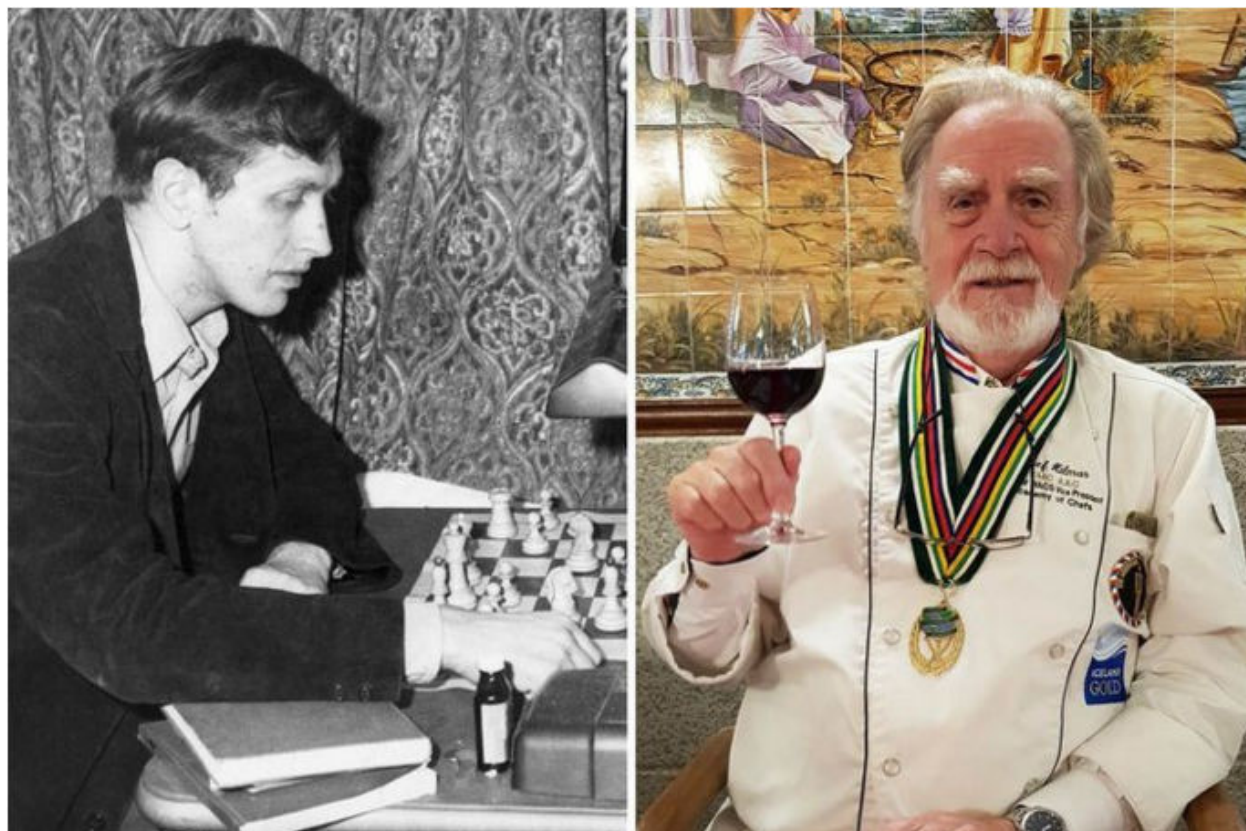


## Fischer did not get into the second chess game due to the intrusion of photographers

<https://www.visir.is/g/20212066186d/fischer-komst-ekki-i-adra-skakina-vegna-agangs-ljosmyndara>

[Jakob Bjarnar](#) writes 31 January 2021 08:00



Fischer became an Icelandic citizen, probably one of the most well-known Icelanders, but his grave is in Selfoss, where a special Fischer Center has been set up. CHEF HILMAR B. JÓNSSON RECALLS HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE GENIUS WHO SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON THE DUEL OF THE CENTURY.

Chef Hilmar B. Jónsson took care of Bobby Fischer and his assistants when they stayed at Hótel Loftleiðir due to the duel of the century. He tells a story here which is an important puzzle in the story.

Next year, half a century will have passed since the duel of the century was held in Reykjavík. Chess player Bobby Fischer then beat Boris Spassky and quickly there 24-year-old Soviet monopoly on the world title. In July in Reykjavík 1972. Fischer lost the first chess and the second also because he did not come to the game. Much has been written, predicted and speculated about that bizarre incident; that this was part of the psychological warfare that prevailed and that Fischer had managed to knock Spassky out of the song. Hilmar can tell a story that explains this incident.

## Old age in Spain

Visi had received a suggestion that Hilmar possesses invaluable knowledge that sheds a clearer light on this historical event. he is now 78 years old, in tough shape and lives just outside Torrevieja in Spain, more specifically in an area called Orihuela Costa. Has been around for three years now and is doing extremely well. More than a thousand Icelanders live in these areas. For example, there are 700 members in a relatively newly established Icelandic Association and not nearly all of them.



Hilmar is now 78 years old, in ghost form and enjoys life in Spain. .SENT

"I'm just getting old and I'm trying to have the best. I am officially a refugee from Besta Landi Í Heimi with 340 thousand in old age pension from Bjarni Ben. I stopped working in 2012 after teaching the Americans to cook fish for 22 years under the auspices of the Icelandic fish sales companies in the USA. I lived there for 12 years. "

Hilmar says he knows the human gait in chess but no more. Before we turn to the story that Hilmar has to tell about his acquaintance with Bobby Fischer, it is worth mentioning Hilmar's glorious career. He was a chef for 54 years, was called Iceland's travel chef here for a while.

### **Hilmar's elegant career**

"I was in charge of country presentations around the world for 20 years. Was Mrs. Vigdís' chef for her first 12 years," says Hilmar. He was one of the founders of the Chefs' Club in 1972 and is still a member. He was also in the first national team to compete for Iceland in an international cooking competition.

"Yes, then I started the magazine Gestgjafann with my wife and we had it for the first 8 years. The woman died in 2016," says Hilmar, who was also the vice president of the World Federation of Chefs for 5 years, with 110 countries and 10 million members.



Hilmar's career as a chef is extremely elegant. SENT

Hilmar says that he has something to say about it when Icelandic Seafood was sold in 2011, it is a shame and a shame but it is waiting for a better time. He says the situation in Spain is difficult now because of the coronary heart disease. All restaurants are closed, there are restrictions on where people can go, masks, alcohol and two meters, but the temperature is reaching 20 degrees and up. Hilmar lives with his Icelandic friend.

The story then turns to Reykjavík and the year is 1972. There had been a lot of talk in the media about the possibility that the World Chess Championship should take place in Iceland.

### **Bobby is coming**

"One day, hotel manager Erling Aspelund called me into his office and said he needed to tell me a secret. So it was pretty much decided that Bobby Fischer would stay with us during the chess tournament. Admittedly, he would have access to a large, beautiful detached house on Arnarnes, "says Hilmar and rolled his eyes.



The media followed Fischer in stripes. After all, there is talk of a duel of the century, the Soviet Union against the United States, the East against the West. THIS PHOTO IS TAKEN WHEN HE ARRIVES FOR THE THIRD GAME AGAINST BORIS SPASSKY ON JULY 17, 1972.

EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS / GETTY IMAGES

Erling told Hilmar that one of the things that made this project particularly interesting was the fact that Bobby had never stayed more than two to three days at the same hotel where he had competed years before, he was always unhappy with something and moved on. another hotel.

"Erling said that if this happened, I would have to take care of the carcass. That is to say, when Bobby wakes up you are there and when Bobby goes to bed you are there, Erling said: "I want us to be able to say that he has been here all along."

### **A reporter followed**

Hilmar said "no problem" and a few weeks later Bobby arrived with a beautiful entourage but also about 30 journalists from both Europe and America.

"Most of these reporters stayed at our hotel. Bobby was given the bridal suite, which was room number 470. Spassky, on the other hand, lived at Hotel Saga, also with his entourage. I do not remember where the assistants got a room except that the main assistant, Reverend Lombardy, was in another suite on the fourth floor. Then there was a woman I do not remember the name of."



The master chef in Spain. HE NOW LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER AND VARIOUS INTERESTING THINGS COME OUT OF THE DOOR THAT ARE WORTH KEEPING.  
.SENT

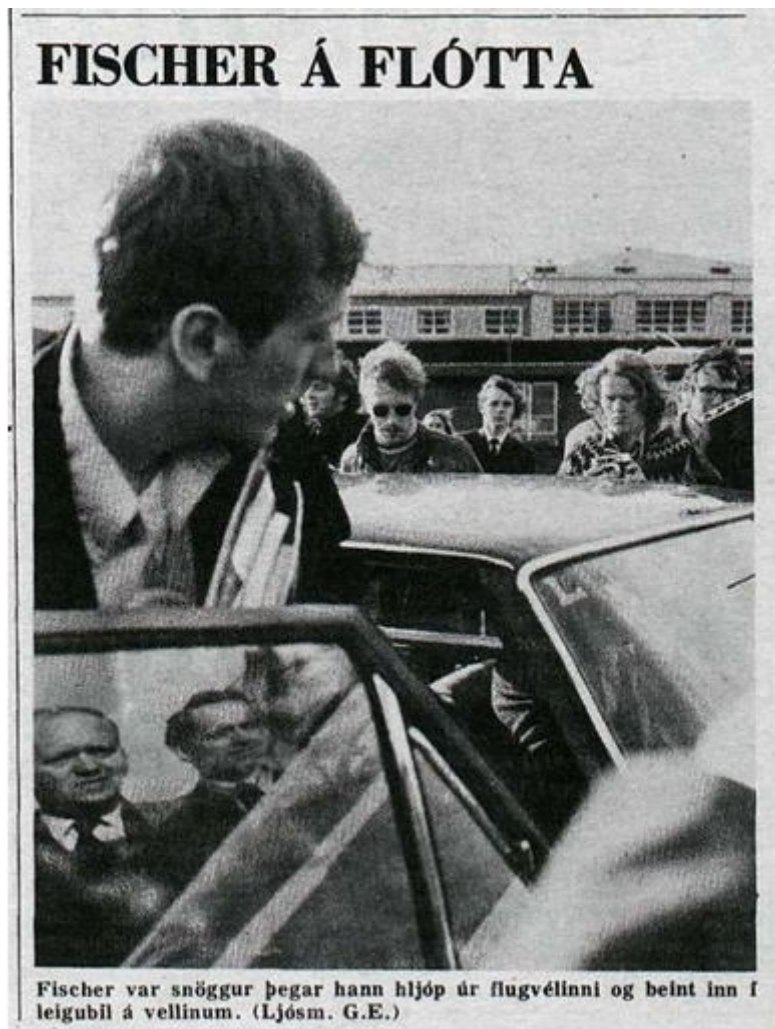
Hilmar says that they at Hótel Loftleiðir have taken over a small hall next to Blómasalur just for Bobby and his people to eat in.

"Bobby was particularly fearful of people and could not stand photographers and reporters around him at all. In this hall I had set up one eight-person round table to eat at and 2 four-person tables if people wanted to sit elsewhere. I had the first dinner on a table similar to what we did in the Flower Hall for a three-course meal with white wine and red wine, and a glass of water and a mouthwash in a beautiful fold. "

### **Fischer morbidly suspicious**

Hilmar says that when Bobby and Lombardy sat down at the table, Bobby put his forearm on the edge of the table and pushed the whole club into my table. He picked up a leather briefcase that would fit in the inside pocket of his jacket. When this folder was opened, it turned out to be a travel board with chess players that were inserted diagonally into slits at each square.

"I brought the menus and whenever I approached Bobby closed the folder so I could not see the chess position he had set up and was talking to Lombardy.



The pressure of the pressure was great. HERE YOU CAN SEE A PICTURE OF HIM ON THE FRONT PAGE OF ÞJÓÐVILJAN ON JULY 5, 1972 UNDER A DESCRIPTIVE HEADLINE: FISCHER ON THE RUN.TIMARIT.IS

I took the order and cleaned the center of the table. Went forward and locked the carcasses inside, but it was at their request. No one should surprise them. I served the food and handed Bobby cutlery with each dish and one glass of wine at a time. Lombardy and later the assistant left the table set up as opposed to Bobby. "

As those who remember this time know, a cold war broke out between the factions, East and West.

"It was literally everything these people could come up with, to disagree on. The lighting in Laugardalshöllin was a lot of controversy and that there were some kind of spy systems in the lights, people also thought that there were spy systems in the chairs that were provided and some were cut into ribbons to look for such things. And there were many chessboards and clocks that were checked. "

### Bobby crawls back into the room

In the end, everything was ready and it was time to play chess. Bobby lost the first game, as mentioned before. But on the second day of the competition, trouble arose.

"Bobby had come down and eaten breakfast and went back upstairs. About half an hour before he was to arrive for the game, he opened the door to leave, but then a bump came into the boat. Something that no one had expected. We Icelanders knew nothing about paparazzi in those years. In the hallway in front of room 470, there were about 30 reporters with all their cameras and Bobby, who hated journalists, did not show up for the first game and thus lost the first day. World news and nothing less, "says Hilmar. But no Icelandic photographer was in that group.



156. tölublað — Föstudagur 14. júlí 1972 — 56. árgangur





# „Skákhneyksli aldarinnar“

**Fischer ófánlegur til að tefla, Spasskí dæmd skákin og tvísýnt um framhaldið**



**Spasskí er settur inn í bílinn eftir biðina á sviðinu í Laugardalshöllinni, sýnilega langþreyttur á keppum áskorandans — eins og allir aðrir.**  
— Tímamynd: GE.

**ÞÓ—**Reykjavík. Na er tvísýnt um framhald „skákhneyksli aldarinnar“. Því að Bobby Fischer mætti ekki til teils í gær, og var Spasskí því dæmdur sigurinn, eftir að klukkan var búinn að ganga í klukkustund á Fischer.

Laugardalshöllin var þéttsetin áhorfendum, er skákin átti að byrja kl. 17 í gær. Heimsmeistarinn Spasskí var mættur rétt fyrir kl. 17, og tók hann sér sæti við skakborðið. Á slaginu fimm, var klukkan sett af stað, og ekki var Fischer komin. Eftir því sem mínúturnar liðu jókst spennan í höllinni, og áhorfendur fóru að gerast órólegir. — Allt í einu heyrðist einhver hvísla að Fischer kæmi fljótlega, því að lög reglublíð höfðu hann út við Hótel Loftleibir. Þá fréttist líka, að Friðrik Ólafsson hefði farið út á Loftleibir til að telja Fischer á að koma.

En allt kom fyrir ekki. Fischer lét ekki sjá sig. Þegar klukkustund var liðin af leiktimanum, gekk yfirdómariinn Lothar Schmid fram á sviðið og tilkynnti, að Spasskí hefði verið dæmdur sigur í skákinni. — Hurfu þá allir á braut úr Laugardalshöllinni, og þegar Spasskí gekk út í Broncojeppann, sem hann hefur til umráða, var hann þungur á svipinn og langt frá því að vera sigurglaður.

Rétt upp úr kl. 5 þegar ljóst var, að Fischer ætlaði ekki að láta sjá sig, var komið á beinu sambandi við Loftleibishótel. Var talað við lögfræðing og hjálparmenn Fischers en ekkert gekk. Var þá stungið upp á því, að Friðrik Ólafsson fari út á Hótel Loftleibir og reyndi að telja Fischer á að koma.

Friðrik fór strax út á Loftleibir, og fór hann beint upp á herbergi Fischers. Bankaði hann á dyr, og Fischer spurði hver það væri. Framhald á 3. síðu.

## EINS ÁRS AFMÆLI RÍKISSTJÓRNARINNAR

Í dag er eitt ár liðið síðan núverandi ríkisstjórn settist að völdum. 14. júlí 1971 myndaði Ólafur Jóhannesson þá stjórn þriggja flokka, sem síðan hafa farið með völd í landinu.

**A þessum afmælisdegi**

stjórnarinnar verður birt reglugerð sú, sem sett hefur verið um útfærslu fiskveiðilögsögunnar í fimmtíu sjómíliur.

A fiundu og elleftu síðu blaðsins er viðtal við Ólaf Jóhannesson forsætisráðherra.

It doesn't take long to flip through old papers to see how much people were alarmed when Fischer did not come to the game. The world was in turmoil. IT IS POSSIBLE TO LOOK AT THE FRONT PAGE OF TÍMINN, WHICH DID NOT APPEAR ANYWHERE IN THE DESCRIPTIONS. TÍMARIT.IS

All this happens without the knowledge of the hotel staff. One of the American journalists told Hilmar what was going on and he decided to take action.

"I decided to go up the corridor in good time and make sure that the reporters were not there. This is probably one of my biggest days as a restaurant manager and sometimes I think it's thanks to me that Bobby won the tournament. "If he had not appeared for the third time, Russia would have won."

### **Strict negotiations with aggressive photographers**

When Hilmar came up to the corridor, the whole crowd was armed with cameras.

"Then began one of the biggest negotiations I have ever encountered. I literally had to beg the reporters one by one to go down to the reception and wait there. If they were, Bobby would not show up, Spassky would work and everyone would go home the next day. I said he would have to go through the reception on his way out anyway. "

After a long struggle, everyone finally agreed to go down and the corridor was empty. It was just over an hour before Bobby was due to show up.

"I knocked and Lombardy opened. I told him the way was easy. Then Bobby came and said he was hungry, and wanted to come down to eat. I said, "Follow me." There are two lifts in the hotel, one halfway between the reception and Bobby's room and the other right in front of the hall that Bobby had in front of him. Now we went and went down in the elevator that was closer to Blómasalur and straight into Leifsbúð and since most of the reporters were waiting for the elevator closer to the room, not a single picture was taken. "

Hilmar locked the front door that was in the corridor to Blómasalur and also the door to Leifsbúð so that the reporters could not get anywhere.

"I took the food order and locked my friend back inside and went down to the kitchen but it is in the basement and prepared the food in one go, took it up to Leifsbúð and locked it behind me."

### **Hilmar brings Bobby out of the hotel unseen**

While Bobby was having lunch, the chess genius Hilmar asked eccentrically if he did not want to leave the hotel unseen? Fischer thought so now, if it were possible. Hilmar said he could make knots like that.



Fischer walks down the gangway. Attended to face Boris Spassky, the then world chess champion. As can be seen in this picture, Friðrik Ólafsson, our main chess genius, was at his fingertips. THIS IS JULY 18, 1972.DAILY MIRROR / MIRRORPIX / MIRRORPIX VIA GETTY IMAGES

"When he had finished eating, I asked him to follow me and took him down to the basement, but there is a corridor under the whole hotel in between and all kinds of storage and processing rooms. I took Bobby to the fire exit which is directly below room 470 but at the back of the hotel and is not visible from the reception. Bobby had a car parked behind him. I told him to wait 5 minutes and then get out of the car and drive away. Then I ran back the same way and opened up to the reception and took a few steps forward. "

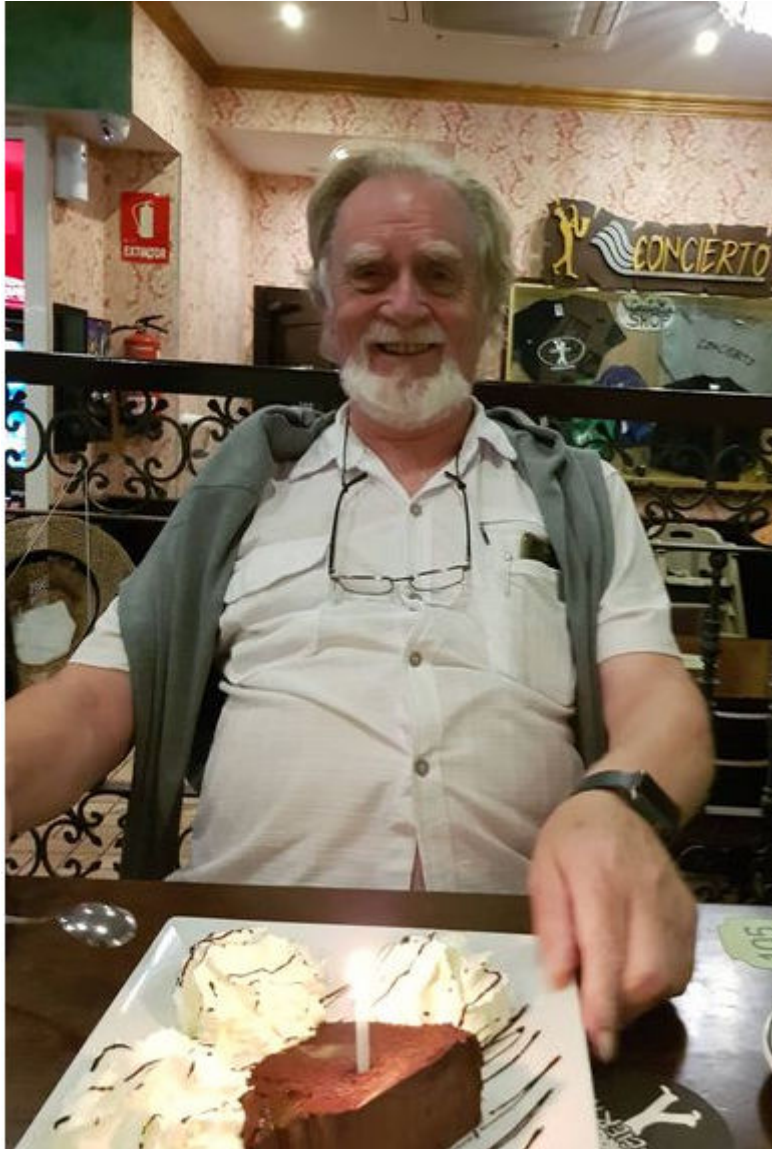
### **"I'm going to kill you"**

The reporters were in large numbers waiting for Bobby to show up.

"I was just standing there and they were waiting with the cameras ready. Then someone came running from outside and shouted that Bobby was driving away from the hotel. There was a loud and extremely awkward rant about the group of reporters and the one from the New York Times came right up to me.

His nose was two to three inches from my nose and he said, "I'm going to kill you!"

I, on the other hand, said, "Keep your cameras back and things will be good." Rarely has my heart been beating faster with excitement, but after that the reporters kept a reasonable distance. " After this incident, Bobby Fischer began to trust Hilmar, who, among other things, stated that he did not close his chess folder when he approached.



Hilmar says that Fischer ate salmon in all cases, as he is the king of chess and the salmon the king of fish. FOR ME, BOBBY WAS A FIVE TO SIX YEAR OLD KID IN THE BODY OF AN ADULT, SAYS HILMAR.

"Many more special things happened while Bobby was at the hotel, among other things he wanted to use the pool after closing at night and it was easy to get it. I opened it for him and he went in and took a shower and then upstairs and then it happened a few times that he called me and told me that he thought the pool was colder tonight than last night and whether I could heat it for him? I replied that I could, but that it would take a long time and then I would be overwhelmed with a lot of annoyance; ok. "

### **King of chess and the king of fish**

Another special thing, says Hilmar, was that Fischer ate fresh salmon in almost every case.

"One day I asked him if he did not want to taste something other than the salmon on the menu? Then he replied: "I am the king of chess. Salmon is the king of fish so that is what I like to eat ". And with that, I knew it. "

Fischer sometimes dined in the cafeteria at the Hotel with Sæmundur Pálsson, who was a kind of security guard for him or outside the Hotel. "Honorable rock as he was often called can tell many funny stories, but he spent much more time with him, privately than I did."

Most of the meals were in Leifsbúð. Hilmar says it has been very special to hear Fischer and the assistants talk together.

"For me, Bobby was a five- to six-year-old kid in the body of an adult. The conversation was like that.

Except when it came to chess, he was the best. Of all the time Bobby was in Iceland, he stayed at the hotel except for 3 nights when he was in Arnarnes, as far as I know. "

Fischer was at Hótel Loftleiðir for many weeks and that can be a good recommendation for Hilmar's work. "Yes, I was very proud of it. He was famous for always finding something to do and the story goes that he changed hotels every three to four days. Very special. "