

Chess

Wishing All Our Readers
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

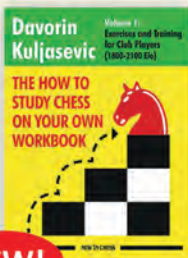


Nunn Triumphs at Former Monastery – England has a new world champion

Christmas Chess Quiz – Festive brain-teasing trivia from Graham Phythian

Amazing Grace – Alan McGowan reveals much about Alekhine's sixth wife

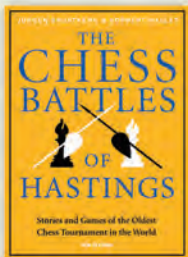
NEW IN CHESS BOOKS



NEW!

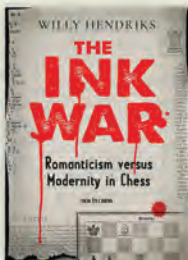
The Workbook for Self-Study *Davorin Kuljasevic*

Last year, *How To Study Chess on Your Own*, was a surprise bestseller. Now there is a Workbook with the accompanying exercises and training tools for self-study for all players with an Elo of 1800-2100. Most workbooks offer puzzles and puzzles only. But Kuljasevic has used his experience as a coach to create a much broader and more interesting training schedule with tasks like 'Find the mini-plan'.



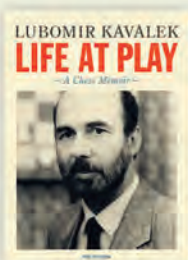
The Oldest Chess Tournament in the World *Jürgen Brustkern & Norbert Walleit*

No other chess tournament has such a long and rich history as Hastings. Countless chess players, professionals and amateurs alike, have celebrated Christmas and welcomed the New Year in Hastings while battling it out on the chessboard. The book covers the tournament's fascinating history and portrays forty of the most colourful participants. The stories begin in 1895 and span 125 years.



The Birth of Modern Chess *Willy Hendriks*

The rivalry between William Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort, the world's strongest chess players in the late nineteenth century, became so fierce that it was named 'The Ink War'. It was not only about who was the strongest player but also about who had the best ideas on how to play the game. In *The Ink War*, IM Willy Hendriks once again offers his unique perspective on the birth of modern chess.



Kavalek's long-awaited memoir *Lubomir Kavalek*

American-Czech Grandmaster Lubomir Kavalek (1943-2021) was a three-time US Chess Champion and one of the best chess writers of the last decades. Kavalek could speak from experience as he worked with or met all the chess greats of the last century, from Bobby Fischer to Nigel Short. Including many of his best games with Kavalek's entertaining comments.



Enjoy the most exciting chess games ever *Steve Giddins*

New In Chess magazine has a back page column, entitled Just Checking. One of the questions is: What was the most exciting chess game you ever saw? This new anthology presents the 45 most exciting of these most exciting games, as chosen by top players and experts such as Anand, Short and Ivanchuk.

Another hit repertoire *Christof Sielecki*

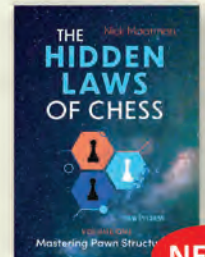
German coach and IM Christof Sielecki presents a complete solution for Black. With this repertoire, you will not only safely navigate the opening phase, but you will actually understand what is happening and how you can play for a win. Why is the repertoire called simple? For the simple reason that the variations are straightforward, easy to remember, and require little or no maintenance.



NEW!

Discover the Hidden Laws of Chess *Nick Maatman*

IM Nick Maatman invented the *Hidden Laws of Chess* as an instructional tool to help his students bridge the gap between the basic understanding of a club player and the next level of knowledge of Masters and Grandmasters. The *Hidden Laws* will uncover elements such as space, the quality of a pawn structure, and a doubled pawn's strength or weakness.



NEW!

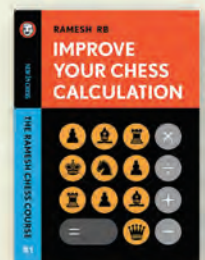
How to understand the endgame *Herman Grooten*

Improving your knowledge of the 'third phase' in a chess game will bring you many extra half or even full points. After the success of his award-winning classics, *Chess Strategy for Club Players* and *Attacking Chess for Club Players* Herman Grooten has now written an equally instructive endgame manual. He teaches you how to understand the themes of an endgame, and find the right moves based on your understanding.



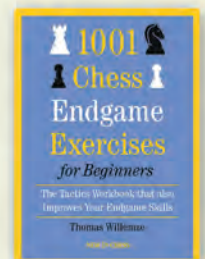
It's hard work, but calculation can be trained *Ramesh RB*

Calculation is key to winning chess games. Converting chess knowledge into concrete moves requires calculation and precise visualization. In his first book of the Ramesh Chess Course, the best coach in the world has collected hundreds of training exercises that take your calculation skills from a club player's level to master level.



Sharpen your endgame tactics *Thomas Willemze*

In *1001 Chess Endgame Exercises for Beginners*, IM Thomas Willemze does two things simultaneously. He explains all the basic concepts and provides many exercises for each theme and each chess piece in a highly instructive puzzle rush.



Chess

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An English World Champion

Nunn triumphs at former monastery - Terry Chapman reports from Assisi



Esteemed author, publisher and mathematician. Former world top-ten grandmaster. Three-time winner of the World Chess Solving Championship. Rated more than 100 points above the next contender. Arriving at the event with a string of 11 consecutive wins at Seniors events, four of them as gold medallist in the recent World Senior Team Championship...

Unsurprisingly John Nunn was clear favourite for the World Over-65s Championship in Assisi, and indeed he started with five wins, bringing his consecutive total

in Seniors events to 16. His Round 3 game was scarily (for his rivals) brilliant:

J.Nunn-D.Shaider
World Over-65 Ch., Assisi 2022
Sicilian Rossolimo

1 e4 c5 2 d4 f3 dxc6 3 b5 b6 4 c3 e6 5 0-0 g7 6 e1 g6 7 xc6 dxc6 8 d4 cxd4



9 d5! exd5 10 exd5+ e7 11 f4 d6 12 d2 a6 13 e4 g7 14 dxd6+ f8 15 f3 f5



16 g3 d7 17 xe7! xe7 18 g5+ f8 19 e1 e8 20 e7+ g8 21 e6+ f8 22 xe8+! 1-0

And his crushing round 5 victory was nothing if not convincing:

J.Nunn-J.Hebert

World Over-65 Ch., Assisi 2022
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 c3 c6 4 e5 d7 5 f4 h6 6 e3 f6 7 f3 f5 8 f2 fxe5 9 dx5 b4 10 a3 e7 11 d2 0-0 12 0-0-0 h8 13 g4 h6 14 g1 e8 15 h4 b5 16 f5 b4 17 axb4 bxb4



18 f6 ♖g8 19 g5 ♜ge7 20 g6! ♜f5
21 ♙d3 hxg6 22 h5 gxf6 23 ♙xf5 g5
24 exf6 ♜f7 25 ♜xg5 1-0 Wow!

I'm not aware of any individual world championship title achieved by an Englishman at non-junior level – with the notable exception of the first women's world chess champion, Vera Menchik. Kasparov proved too high a barrier to the crown for Nigel Short in 1993. In 2004, Michael Adams had the nearest of misses in his FIDE title final against Kasimdzhanov. Despite the distinguished generation which emerged in the 60s and 70s, there has never been an English World Seniors Champion in any age group. But this time, surely, Nunn was a shoo-in for the title?

Not so fast! In Round 6 half a point was dropped. Then in Round 8 – unthinkable – a sharp line, a missed detail, a loss. At the worst possible moment! Suddenly in the three remaining rounds John needed to score a point more than his opponent in that game, Jens Kristiansen. Otherwise the tie break system (individual result between the players) would work against him.

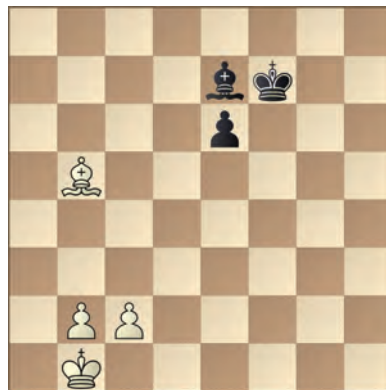
Round 9, John wins, Kristiansen draws, progress! But then in round 10 we see the mirror result, John draws, Kristiansen wins. Now only one round 11 outcome will do the job: a win for Nunn (playing White against IM Valentin Bogdanov of the Ukraine), and a loss for Kristiansen (playing Black against GM Jose Luis Fernandez Garcia of Spain).

Playing a couple of yards away on the next table, I have never, even in a team match, checked the progress of other games so often. You had to be there! Hour by hour hopes fluctuated. Initially John's queen and knight versus queen and bishop endgame hadn't looked promising.



John Nunn (centre) sings the British national anthem as he receives his prize as the winner of the World Over-65 Senior Championship. Pictured to his left is GM Jose Luis Fernandez Garcia who received the silver medal, and to John's right is GM Nikolay Legky who won bronze.

Then at last it became clear John was getting the job done, outplaying his opponent. But the other game! Fernandez Garcia's attack looked winning. Then it didn't. Then Kristiansen reached this drawn opposite-coloured bishop ending.



Then instead of getting his bishop to f8 and king to b6, when White cannot make progress, as everyone who has memorised Dvoretzky's manual knows (joke: has anyone memorised it?), he blew it.

We had our world champion! Hooray!

Many congratulations to John, the entirely deserving winner. It's fortunate that his single miscalculation in 11 games did not in the end have the disproportionate consequences which at one stage seemed possible. It was lovely too that John's wife Petra (playing herself, and beginning her account with a successful long-term piece sacrifice and victory against IM Fred Berend) was there to celebrate this splendid result with him.

GM Fernandez Garcia took silver and GM Nikolay Legky of France bronze.

The Over-50s event was also won by its top seed Zurab Sturua, on tie-break from GM Maxim Novik of Lithuania. Curiously for an eleven-round event, those two didn't play each other. Ivan Morovic of Chile took the

bronze, also on tie-break.

51 countries were represented. There were 192 players including 8 GMs in the Over-65s event, and 149 including 14 GMs in the Over-50s, an excellent turnout, if Eurocentric. One day perhaps the event will take place in another continent than Europe.

England had one of the largest 'teams', with 15 players across the two events. Stephen Dishman showed strongly in the Over-50s (but a last round loss took the shine off his score). Unfortunately, his best result was against GM Keith Arkell which took the wind out of Keith's own challenge. In the Over-65s Paul Hutchinson's star shone brightly for eight rounds. I started well, but my loss from a promising position against the eventual silver medallist in round 6 set me back. Eventually I was perhaps good for my 7/11, but no more.

The venue, supposedly once a monastery though there was little trace of it, was actually in Santa Maria degli Angeli in the valley below Assisi. Los Angeles derives its name from the basilica of the same name, and San Francisco, of course, is named after St Francis of Assisi, Italy's patron saint, so for a small town it's left quite an imprint.

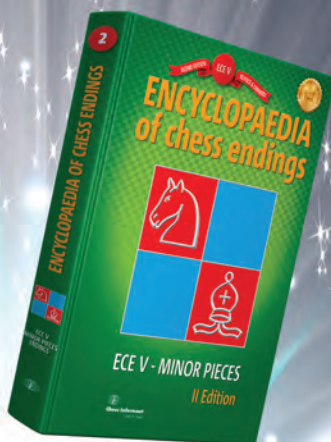
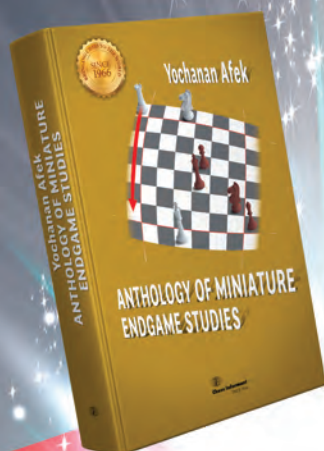
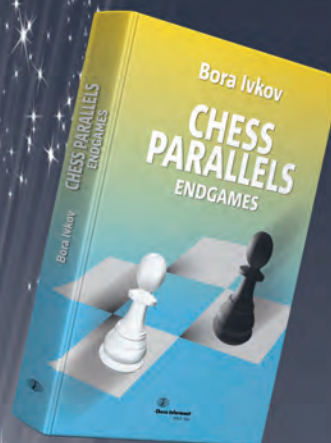
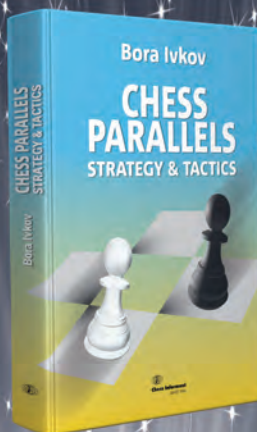
From our hotels we had lovely views of the famous hill town, and a pleasant walk up to it through fields, olive groves and vineyards (if it wasn't one of the rainy days). Playing conditions were acceptable (there were some criticisms of stuffy air in one of the two playing halls). Accommodation was good. Consternation at the catering arrangements (no buffet) mostly ebbed away thanks to the brisk and cheerful service. On the day off a trip was arranged to even more famous Siena. Alternatives were walks up Mount Subasio above Assisi, or trips to nearby ancient and beautiful towns such as Spello or Perugia. Like others I was very charmed by the historic landscape; it was a privilege to spend nearly two weeks there.

New instructive books from Chess Informant



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& Happy New
Year**



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soon**

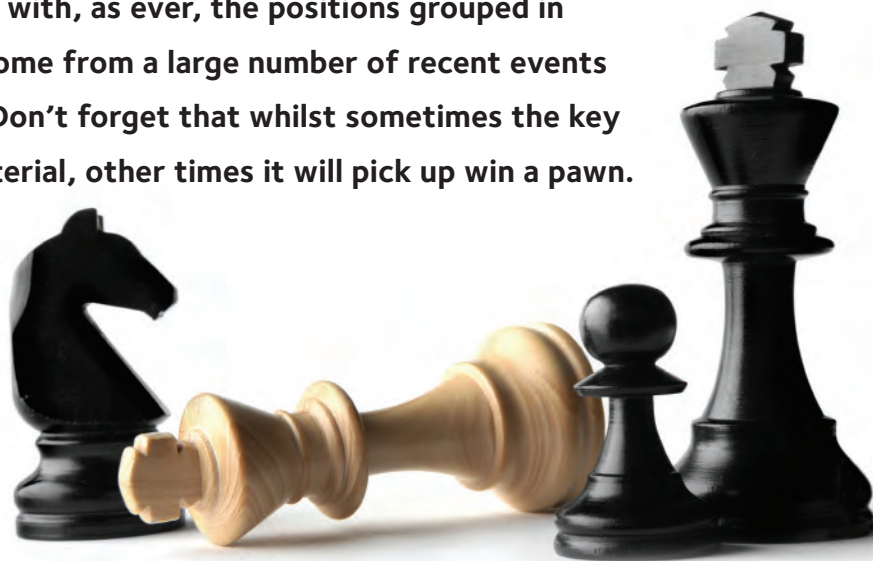


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Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from a large number of recent events and include some stunning resources. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will pick up win a pawn.

Solutions on pages 53.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) N.Moyse-J.Virgin
Maidenhead 2022
White to Play



(2) A.Guerrero-H.Grieve
La Nucua 2022
Black to Play



(3) D.Fernandez-H.Holinka
Hooegeveen 2022
White to Play



(4) S.German-M.Donnely
Kenilworth 2022
Black to Play



(5) R.Vaishali-S.Sethuraman
Fagernes 2022
White to Play



(6) D.Alsina Leal-S.Chow
4NCL, Daventry 2022
White to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 53



(7) M.Carlsen-I.Nepomniachtchi
World Fischer Random Ch., Reykjavik 2022
Black to Play



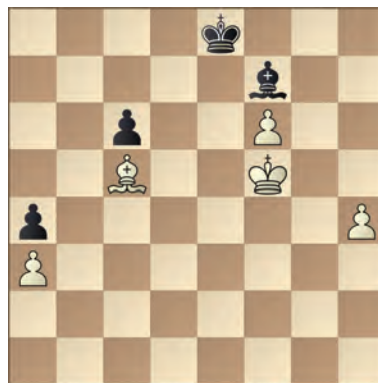
(8) N.Thatte-G.Amato
Maidenhead 2022
White to Play



(9) K.Arkell-H.Walther
European Senior Team Ch., Dresden 2022
White to Play



(10) F.Steil-Antoni-S.Dias
4NCL, Daventry 2022
White to Play



(11) B.Kelmendi-P.Shaw
4NCL, Daventry 2022
Black to Play and Draw



(12) P.Damodaran-N.Woltery
Maidenhead 2022
White to Play



(13) M.Ivanovic-V.Ivic
Serbian Team Ch., Vrnjacka Banja 2022
Black to Play



(14) M.Carlsen-P.Harikrishna
European Club Cup, Mayrhofen 2022
White to Play



(15) R.Mounce-H.Siefaldin
Scarborough 2022
White to Play

Harder Puzzles for the Club Player – Solutions on page 53



(16) L.Mendonca-J.Cappelletto
World Junior Ch., Cala Gonone 2022
White to Play



(17) H.Koneru-A.Muzychuk
FIDE Women's Candidates, Monaco 2022
White to Play



(18) D.Gukesh-M.Carlsen
Aimchess Rapid 2022
White to Play



(19) A.Naiditsch-P.Maghsoodloo
French Top-16, Chartres 2022
White to Play



(20) T.Wall-L.Fava
Scarborough 2022
White to Play



(21) J.Kilshaw-R.Makkar
Scarborough 2022
White to Play



(22) A.Muzychuk-H.Koneru
FIDE Women's Candidates, Monaco (blitz) 2022
White to Play



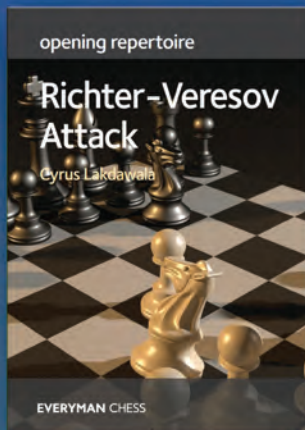
(23) I.Nepomniachtchi-M.Carlsen
World Fischer Random Ch., Reykjavik 2022
Black to Play



(24) A.Giri-S.Vidit
Aimchess Rapid 2022
White to Play

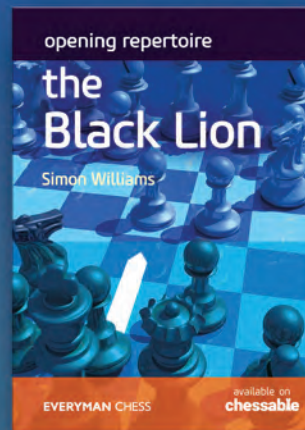
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The Richter-Veresov Attack is characterized by the moves 1 d4, 2 Nc3 and 3 Bg5. In this book Cyrus Lakdawala focuses on traditional treatments which generally eschew f3 in favour of more classical development with moves such as Nf3, e3 or even Qf3.

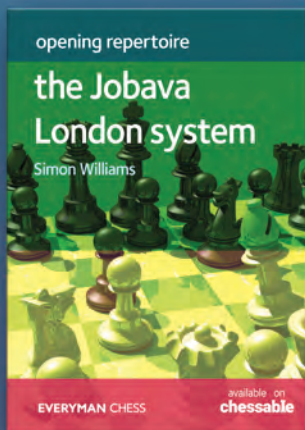
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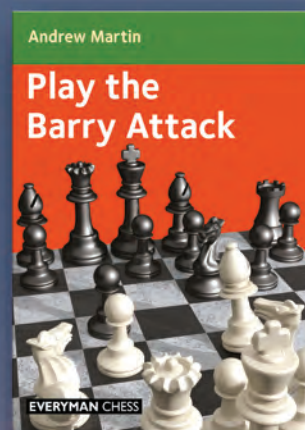
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your successes.

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Your best move? 21...♘a2 against Psakhis (unsound but splendid).

L.Psakhis-J.Speelman
Hastings 1987/88



♙e7 9 f4 d6 10 ♖h1 0-0 11 ♜e1 ♘xd4
12 ♙xd4 b5 13 ♜g3 ♙b7 14 a3 ♜ad8
15 ♜ae1 ♜d7 16 ♙d3 ♜d8 17 ♜h3 g6
18 f5 e5 19 ♙e3 ♜e8 20 fxg6 hxg6



21 ♘d5! ♘xd5? 22 ♜xf7!! ♙xf7 23 ♜h7+
♙e6 24 exd5+ ♙xd5 25 ♙e4+! ♙xe4
26 ♜f7 ♙f6 27 ♙d2+ ♙d4 28 ♙e3+
♙e4 29 ♜b3 ♙f5 30 ♜f1+ ♙g4 31 ♜d3
♙xg2+ 32 ♙xg2 ♜a8+ 33 ♙g1 ♙g5
34 ♜e2+ ♙h4 35 ♙f2+ ♙h3 36 ♙e1!
1-0

Born: October 2nd 1956, London.

Place of residence: London.

Occupation: Chess player, writer and teacher.

Enjoyable? All sorts of puzzles – cryptic crosswords, killer sudokus, etc.

And home life? Married with one son.

But sometimes good to escape to: The feral life of a chess player.

Sports played or followed: Hopeless playing them, but like to watch almost anything competitive.

A favourite novel? *The Master and Margarita*.

Piece of music? I like old rock music: The Rolling Stones, The Who, etc.

Film or TV series? *2001: A Space Odyssey*, I like many different detective series on the box and also really good comedy: *Black Books*, *Hyperdrive*, obviously *Monty Python*...

What's the best thing about playing chess? That you are metaphorically naked and so take complete responsibility for yourself and

21...♘a2?!? 22 ♜c4 ♘d4 23 b3 ♘b5
24 ♜b2 ♘ac3 25 a4 ♘d1 26 ♜b1? ♘a3!
27 ♜cc1 ♘xb1 28 ♘b1 f5 29 ♙b7 g5
30 ♙a6 f4 31 ♙d3 ♘xd3 32 exd3 ♘xd3
33 ♙e2 ♘d5 34 gxf4 gxf4 35 ♜c1 ♘b2
36 ♙c3 ♘d3 37 ♜g1? ♘b4 38 ♜g7+
♙f8 39 ♙b2 ♜d3 0-1

But less memorable than your worst move? I've made so many blunders in my life...

And a highly memorable opponent? Ivanchuk is the most talented opponent I've ever played – even better than the Ks, modulo his unfortunately relatively weak nerves.

Favourite game of all time? I like either ultraviolence or extreme subtlety. Kasparov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1999 (driving the black king to a4), and Wei Yi-Bruzon are good examples of the former. Petrosian-Botvinnik, World Championship (Game 5), 1963, is a nice example of the latter.

Wei Yi-L.Bruzon Batista
Danzhou 2015
Sicilian Scheveningen

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 ♘c3 a6 4 ♙e2 ♘c6
5 d4 cxd4 6 ♘xd4 ♜c7 7 0-0 ♘f6 8 ♙e3

The best three chess books: As a kid I had a shelf of chess books above my bed. I very much liked *Larsen's Selected Games of Chess 1948-69* and Peter Clarke's book of Tal's best games (though, of course, lots of the analysis has been exploded by our silicon lords and masters subsequently). I also had Euwe and Kramer's two-volume work on the middlegame.

Is FIDE doing a good job? They could do even worse.

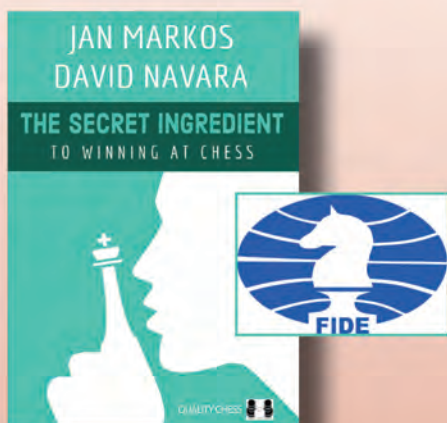
Or your National Federation? Not too bad.

Any advice for either? Try not to be too pernickety.

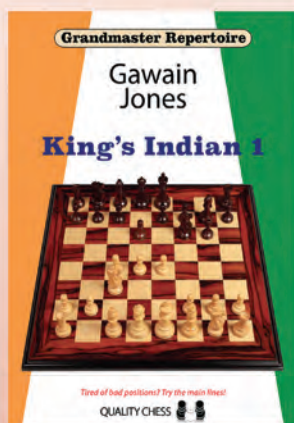
Can chess make one happy? Of course for short periods, but it's a relatively depressive game because losses tend to last in your mind longer than wins.

A tip please for the club player: Trust yourself. Even if you are playing some fearsome maestro then play the moves which you believe are good. Don't psyche yourself out of them because they 'can't possibly work'. But equally sit on your hands for a moment if something looks or feels too good to be true. The punk may be trying to trap you...

A great year for Quality Chess!



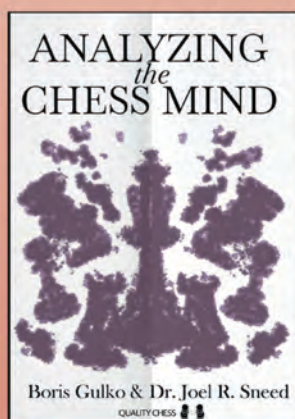
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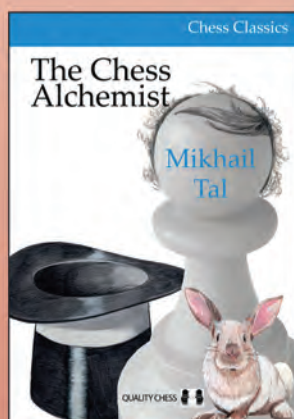
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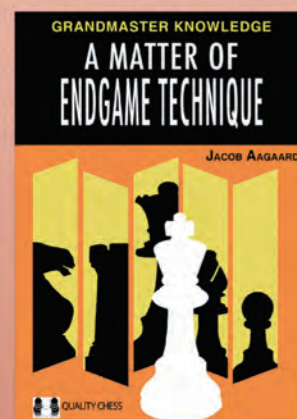
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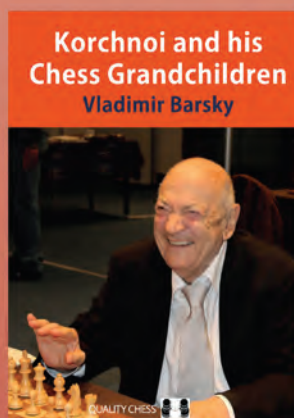
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A Matter of
Endgame Technique



Fischer – Spassky 1972



Korchnoi and his
Chess Grandchildren



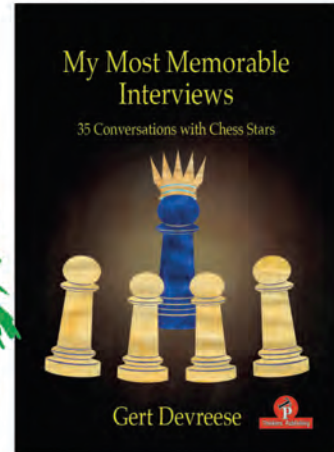
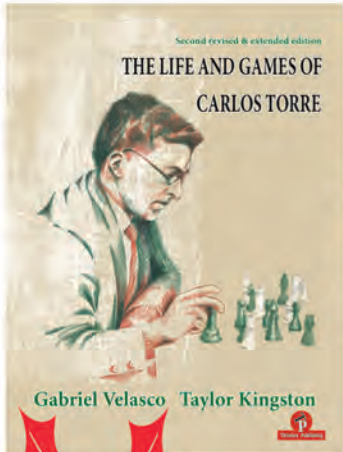
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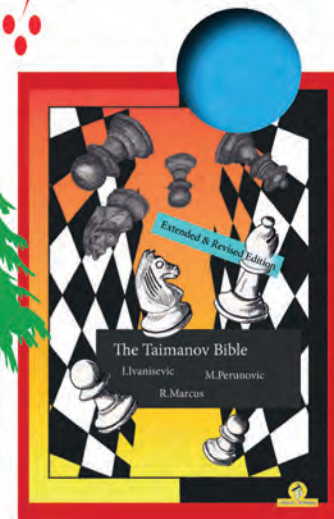
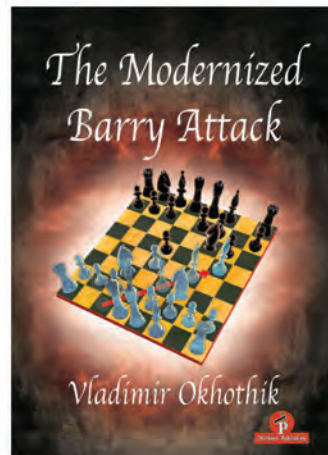
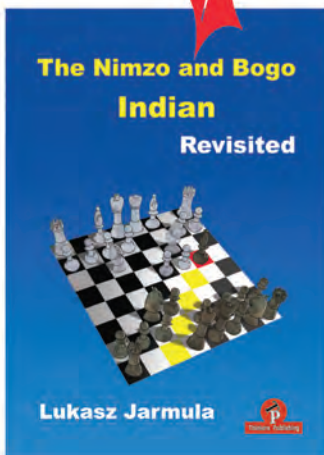
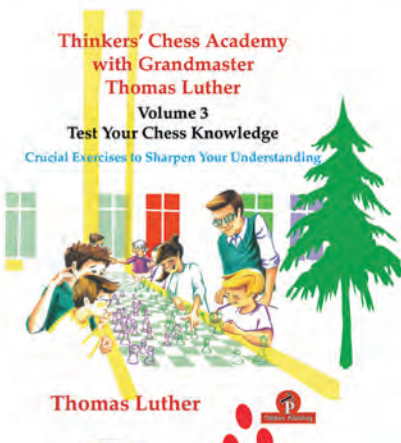
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Never Mind the Grandmasters...

Here come the amateurs - by Carl Portman (carl.portman@hotmail.co.uk)

Make no mistake about it, I am a hard-liner. If you do the crime then you should do the time, no argument. That said, I am a man who believes in giving everyone a second chance. An opportunity for redemption, if you like. Have we all not wanted this for ourselves when we have transgressed (as child or adult) in our own lives?

It is no secret that I am the Manager for Chess in Prisons for the English Chess Federation, and last October myself and Nigel Towers, the Director of Home Chess, co-managed an England prison team to participate in the 2nd Intercontinental World Online Prison Chess Championships.

We all comprehend the concept that chess is beneficial for us in many ways, from developing logical thinking and decision making to planning and being responsible for our decisions, but it is necessary to record when this actually happens in a tangible and measurable way, so let me share with you the experience that Nigel and I had during this project.

The prison we chose was HMP Hewell in the Midlands because it was easily accessible to us both. In essence we had to choose a squad and from that squad a team, a bit like football managers do. We had no idea what the playing strength of the inmates was and we knew that we would have to work with what we had. Some prisons have very strong players – over 2000 Elo – whilst others have individuals who operate at an elementary level.



Carl and Nigel Towers coached the HMP Hewell side ahead of the World Prison Chess Championship.

offer some coaching and advice without cutting across one other. We shared knowledge and ideas freely, which benefited the players enormously.

We would only have about eight or nine sessions with the men before the finals, so there was a lot to do in a short time. After initial assessments we formed a squad of 10 players of which only four would be in the starting team. Unsurprisingly there's a lot of testosterone flying about in a male prison and there was plenty of banter as the men 'tested' Nigel and myself to see who we were and what we were really about. A rodomontade usually emerges in prison chess, but this group were just not like that.

Anyone who knows me will tell you that I am a mile a minute, full of energy with plenty to say for myself, so I don't think they got much of a word in. Nigel is 'the quiet one', but he gets the job done super-effectively in his own inimitable fashion. He was my voice of reason when I strayed from the path of our objective and got a bit too excited.

We explained what was happening and demanded absolute commitment from the squad, otherwise they were free to step out. They were all up for it and to a man they never missed any sessions and they fully applied themselves. We had whittled the squad to 8

players and they all gave 100% to the cause. They were always respectful not only to Nigel and myself, but to themselves and prison staff. They wanted this chess project.

After all this was an opportunity whilst in prison to play at international level in a world championship. Such an honour would probably never come around again, and it would look fantastic on their CV once they left prison. Over the weeks our relationship blossomed as trust developed. We all spoke plainly and honestly, and let the chess do the talking. The truth is found on the chess board after all.

Let me then remind you of the power and beauty of chess, manifest through those men, some of whom had done bad things it is quite true, but we only witnessed the best of them. Officers would visit the chess room and be stunned that these prisoners who allegedly were very difficult to manage on the wing were just playing chess, in silence as a group. This is the power of chess.

They were equally amazed when one of the prisoners was asked by Nigel to go to the demonstration board to explain his thinking to the class. He did so with relish and no little skill, and could have passed for a university lecturer. Staff had not seen this side of him. When prisoners took chess books and magazines to their cells and quietly studied



To be very fair, 'our lads' were in the latter bracket. They played quite a bit, but did not really improve, so the challenge was on. Nigel and I had never worked together before, but we soon developed a great chemistry, taking it in turns to speak to prisoners and each

the game for weeks without any trouble on the wings, the benefit to them and the prison was evident. I gave everyone a nickname, as is my way, and these stuck with the men. Indeed, they carried them to the wings where 'Muesli Man' might be seen playing chess against 'Smiler'. It was all good fun and helped the squad to bond.

On the day all teams were allowed to select four different players for each match, so Nigel and I decided to reward everyone in the squad by ensuring that they all played at least one game – and thereby receive a certificate for representing England. Chess, as we know, is open to everyone and our England team included an Albanian, a Somalian and a Romanian, some young and others older. It was a cultural celebration.

Fair enough, the results were not good, and our team finished bottom of the qualifying group, but as we told the lads, they were stronger than everyone else because they were holding them up. There were some successes. Even though I could not attend the final in person on the day (thanks to Covid), Nigel managed the team and made what Mourinho would call an inspired substitution. He changed our board one for someone who might otherwise have been on board three for four – and the chap promptly won three games in a row. This and that we drew with Germany were significant achievements for the team.

There were some very interesting games, and this is a position from one of them, from

the board one encounter in England A versus Serbia A. Our chap had really let rip and shoved his h-pawn right into the heart of the black kingside. GM Simon Williams would have been proud of 'Old Harry' I am sure. This was the moment that White went for it with 14 h4!



After that he just ripped into the black position and ended up mating his opponent on move 19. This is a nice little miniature, not devoid of errors of course, but we are not playing at that sort of level. Here is the whole game to play over at your leisure:

1 d4 d5 2 ♘c3 ♗f6 3 e3 e6 4 ♗f3 ♗c6 5 ♘d2 ♗b4 6 ♕e2 0-0 7 0-0-0 a6 8 e4 ♗e8 9 e5 ♗d7 10 ♘g5 ♗e7 11 ♗a4 b6 12 ♕e3 g6 13 ♕f4 ♗f8 14 h4 ♕e8 15 h5 ♗b8 16 hxg6 ♗xg6 17 ♕h2 h5 18 ♕xh5 f6 19 ♕h7# 1-0

A shout-out for Lorraine Grace at the

prison. She is a library customer adviser and the chess tsar at the prison. Without her and the support of Governor Ralph Lubkowski, there would be no chess. Thanks to their vision and belief in the value of chess, great things happen at HMP Hewell.

Whilst I am writing from an ECF perspective, I must mention that Chess in Schools and Communities and, in particular, the indefatigable Peter Sullivan managed to run no fewer than three other England teams in these finals. They were the real stars in terms of results, as covered by Peter in last month's *CHESS*.

Chess is growing rapidly in the prison community in the UK and around the world. It is finding its way on to prison agendas because more people are becoming aware of the value of it. Let us not forget that at chess people soon learn to be magnanimous in both victory and defeat, as we must in life. We learn to think before we move, to be responsible for our decisions and that our actions have consequences, so to that end chess is a shining metaphor for life.

This was a joyous and memorable project, and everyone involved around the globe felt part of a team. The prisoners loved it and chess won the day. This incredible game of ours continues to shine a light in a dark place.



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Solutions

1) Moyse-Virgin

1 ♖xe6+! 1-0 By far the strongest continuation in view of 1...♗xe6 2 ♗xe6#.

2) Guerrero-Grieve

1...g5+! 0-1 White must give up rook and bishop in view of 2 ♖h5 ♗h3#.

3) Fernandez-Holinka

1 ♗xe5! ♖d7 (or 1...♗xe5 2 ♗xc8#) **2 ♗xe6 fxe6 3 ♗d1+ 1-0**

4) German-Donnelly

1...♗xh4! (the most forcing, although 1...♗e3 2 ♗xh7 ♗xh3+ 3 ♖g2 ♗f6 also wins) **2 ♗xe4** (or 2 ♗xe4 ♗xh3+ 3 ♗h2 ♗xh2+ 4 ♖xh2 ♖xf7; Black's next plays for the same rook-up endgame) **2...♗xe4! 3 ♗xc7 ♗e1+ 4 ♖h2 ♗e5+ 5 ♖g2 ♗g3# 0-1**

5) Vaishali-Sethuraman

1 ♗xf8+! 1-0 Mate follows after 2 ♗h6+ and while 1 ♖a1 g5! 2 ♗xg5! wins too, 1 ♗xc2?? ♗e1+ 2 ♗c1 ♗f5+ would have been most unwise.

6) Alsina Leal-Chow

1 ♗c3! 1-0 The black queen is fatally overloaded (1...♗xc3 2 ♗xe8#), and this way is even stronger than 1 ♗b2 ♗xc8 2 ♗xe5.

7) Carlsen-Nepomniachtchi

1...♗e2+! 2 ♗xe2 (or 2 ♖f1 ♗e3+ 3 ♖e1 ♗xf5 4 ♗xb8 ♗c3+ and wins) **2...♗xh2+ 3 ♖f1 ♗h1+ 4 ♖f2 ♗xe2+ 5 ♖xe2 ♗xg2+** fatally exposed the white king: **6 ♖d3 ♗b2+ 7 ♖d4 bxc6 8 ♗e5 ♗h4+ 9 ♗e4 0-1**

8) Thatte-Amato

1 ♗xg4! ♗xg4 2 ♗xf7+ ♖g8 3 ♗xb7+ ♖h8 4 ♗xb6 axb6 5 ♗xc6 saw White go on to win comfortably with his three extra pawns.

9) Arkell-Walther

1 ♗xb7! ♗xb7?! (1...♗e5 2 ♗fb1 ♗f8 3 ♗a4 leaves White a pawn up and in full control) **2 ♗f6+! ♗xf6 3 ♗xb7 ♗ab8 4 ♗d5** left White queen and pawn for rook and piece ahead, which Arkell would prove swift to convert.

10) Steil-Antoni-Dias

1 ♗e3! trapped the black queen, White's extra pieces quickly beginning to make their presence felt after **1...♗xa2 2 ♗eb1 ♗xb1 3 ♗xb1 ♗xb1+** (if 3...♗a2 4 ♗b3) **4 ♗xb1 ♗d1+ 5 ♖h2 ♗fd8 6 ♗c2 ♗a1 7 ♗c4** (1-0, 26).

11) Kelmendi-Shaw

1...♖d7! (White's pawns proved too strong after 1...♗b3? 2 ♖g6 ♗f7+ 3 ♖g7 ♗h5 4 ♖h6 ♗f7 5 h5 in the game) **2 ♖g5** (White

can attempt to pass, as with 2 ♗b4, but then Black has 2...♗e8) **2...♖e6** would have drawn, since after **3 h5 ♗xh5 4 ♖xh5 ♖xf6** White is left with the wrong-coloured rook's pawn.

12) Damodaran-Woltery

1 ♗xf7+! ♖xf7 (1...♖h8 2 ♗xe8 ♗xe8 3 ♗d5 isn't exactly any better for Black) **2 ♗g5+ ♖g8** (and not 2...♖f6? 3 ♗d5+ ♖e5 4 f4#) **3 ♗e6 ♗b6 4 ♗d5 ♗c6** (4...♗xb2 5 ♗xg7 ♗xg7 6 ♗c7 wins a clean exchange) **5 ♗ec7 e6?** (the white knights also continue to weave their magic after 5...♗f6 6 ♗xa8, and if 6...b6 7 ♗ac7) **6 ♗xe8! exd5 7 ♗xg7 b6** (7...♖xg7 8 ♗h6+ ♖g8 9 ♗xa5 would be an extra exchange and pawn plus the dark squares) **8 exd5 ♗xd5 9 ♗e8??** (whoops; 9 ♗h6 ♗b7 10 f4 was a way to win) **9...♗e6??** (9...♗b7 10 f3 ♗xe8 would have put Black right back in the game) **10 ♗c3? ♗b7? 11 ♗g7# 1-0**

13) Ivanovic-Ivic

1...♗xg2! 2 ♖xg2 (even 2 ♗d5 ♗h3! should leave Black with a decisive initiative) **2...♗h3+! 3 ♖xh3 ♗xf3+ 4 ♖h4 ♗xd4** (threatening 5...♗f5#, as well as 5...g6 then 6...♗h5#; 4...♗e7 also does the job) **5 ♗xd4 ♗e7+ 6 ♗g5 ♗xg5+ 7 ♖xg5 h6+ 0-1**

14) Carlsen-Harikrishna

1 ♗c8! ♗d6 (clearly 1...♗xe3? 2 ♗d8+ ♖g7 3 fxe3 won't do) **2 ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 3 ♗xh6 ♗xd5** (easy to criticise, but 3...hxg4 4 ♗e4 ♗xd5 5 ♗h7+ ♖f8 6 ♗h8+ also wins the bishop and 3...♗h4 4 ♗xh5 ♗f6 5 g5! ♗f5 6 ♗h4 followed by ♗e4 is surely winning too) **4 ♗d2!** pinned the bishop and won the game: **4...hxg4 5 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 6 ♗xd5 ♖g7 7 ♖g2 f5 8 ♖g3 ♖f6 9 ♖h4 e4 10 ♗c6 ♖e5 11 ♖g3 ♖d4 12 ♖f4 ♖d3 13 ♖xf5 e3 14 fxe3 ♖xe3 15 b3 1-0**

15) Mounce-Siefaldin

Black was fully on the board after 1 ♗b7? ♗d6, but **1 ♗xc7+! ♖xc7 2 ♗a7+ ♖c8 3 ♗a6+! ♖c7 4 ♗e3!** would have won, and if **4...♗d1 5 ♗b6+ ♖d6 6 ♗a3+!** (the key resource) **6...b4** (there's just isn't a good defence, as shown too by 6...♖d5 7 c4+!, and if 7...♖xc4 8 ♗d2+ ♗xd2 9 ♗c1+ ♖d3 10 ♗e3#, as well as 6...♖d7 7 ♗a7+ ♖d6 8 ♗c7+ ♖d5 9 c4+! ♖xc4 10 ♗xc6+ ♖b3 11 ♗c3+) **7 ♗xb4+ ♗xb4 8 ♗xd1+ ♖e6 9 cxb4** with an extra piece.

16) Mendonca-Cappelletto

Black has just blundered with ...♗d4-c5 (...♗f6! would have left White in trouble): **1 ♗d6!** (a lovely interference shot, freeing h2 for the king) **1...♗xb4** (this drops a piece, as does 1...♗b5 2 ♗xc5 and even 1...♗xd6

2 ♗xb6 ♗xb6 3 ♗b3 should really be winning for White) **2 ♗xb4 1-0**

17) Koneru-Muzychuk

1 ♗xc5! bxc5 (1...♗xc5 2 ♗d7 ♗e7 3 ♗b7 wins the queen and 1...♗xc5 2 ♗xb6! ♗a7 3 ♗d7+ the exchange) **2 ♗d7!** left Black without a satisfactory defence to the threats of 3 ♗b7 and 3 ♗d6, play concluding: **2...♗a7 3 ♗d6! ♗xd6 4 ♗xa7 1-0**

18) Gukesh-Carlsen

1 ♗b6! (ouch; this carries the lethal threats of 2 ♗xe7 and 2 ♗d3) **1...♗g5 2 ♗xe7! ♗ea8 3 ♗c7 ♗e3+ 4 ♖h1 1-0**

19) Naiditsch-Maghsoodloo

1 g4! (the only move that wins, in view of 1 g3 b6 and most certainly not 1 ♖c5?? h4! when it's Black whose extra tempi will prove decisive) **1...hxg4** (1...h4 2 g5 g6 3 ♖c5 ♖d7 4 ♖d5 is also a decisive opposition, and if 4...b6 5 b5) **2 hxg4 ♖d7 3 ♖b6 ♖c8 4 g5! 1-0** White is too quick after 4...♖b8 (or 4...g6 5 ♖a7! ♖c7 6 b5 b6 7 ♖a6) 5 g6 ♖a8 6 ♖c7 ♖a7 7 ♖d7.

20) Wall-Fava

White was unable to crown a fine attack after 1 ♗a5? when Black had 1...♗a7! 2 ♗a4 ♗c5, as well as the game's 1...♗d8, but **1 ♗b7+!** would have won, and if **1...♖xb7** (1...♗xb7 2 ♗xf8+ ♖a7 3 ♗a4+ ♖b6 4 ♗e3+! ♖c7 5 ♗c5 is similarly devastating) **2 ♗b4+ ♖a8 3 ♗a4+ ♖b7 4 ♗a7+ ♖c8 5 ♗xf8+ ♗d8 6 ♗d6! ♗xd6 7 exd6** when Black lacks a square for his knight, faces the threat of 8 d7+ and is quite lost after **7...♗b7 8 ♗a8+ ♖d7 9 ♗e5**.

21) Kilshaw-Makkar

Black went on to win the game and later tied for first after 1 ♗xc6? ♗e1+ 2 ♖c2 ♗b3+! 3 ♖xd2 ♗e3+ which forced mate, but **1 ♗a6+!** ♖b8 2 ♗e7! would have plugged the e-file and won for White: **2...♗b3+ 3 ♖xd2 ♗xd4+ 4 ♖e1** and the king will slip away, as with **4...♗e3+ 5 ♖f1**, leaving Black with nothing better than a hopeless exchange of queens in view of 5...♗f4+? 6 ♗xf4 ♗xf4+ 7 ♖g1 ♗xe7 8 ♗a8#.

22) Muzychuk-Koneru

After 1 ♗g1? ♗b2+ 2 ♖c1 ♗d3+ 3 ♖d1 ♗xf2+ 4 ♖c1 ♗d3+ it was perpetual check, but **1 ♗d2!!** would have won, followed by ♗g1, and if **1...♗xd2 2 ♗g1 ♗g5!?** (2...♗e8 3 f6 ♗f8 4 f7 ♖xb7 5 ♗g8 is straightforward) **3 h4! ♗d8 4 f6 ♗xf2 5 ♗g8 ♗c6 6 f7**.

23) Nepomniachtchi-Carlsen

1...♗xb3+!! 2 axb3 ♗xf4! 3 ♗h5 (3 ♗xf4? ♗xb3+ 4 ♖e1 ♗c2+ 5 ♖d1 ♗e3+ 6 ♖e1 ♗d1+! 7 ♗xd1 ♗c2# was the beautiful point) **3...♗xb3+ 4 ♖e1 ♗c2+ 5 ♗xc2! ♗xc2 6 e3 ♗f6** left Carlsen material up, as well as dominating, and he eventually converted.

24) Giri-Vidit

1 ♗xh6!! ♗b4! (1...gxh6? 2 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6

3 ♖xf6 is crushing and 3...♗e7 4 ♖xd4 two extra pawns) **2 ♗c4! gxh6 3 ♔xd4! ♕h8?** (missing the threat, but even 3...♗ad8! 4 ♗cd1! ♗xd4 5 ♗xd4 ♗d8 6 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 7 ♗f4 ♗d6 should leave White with a near-decisive initiative, when 8 ♖h5 ♖c7 9 ♖g6+ ♗f8 10 ♖xh6+ is one possibility and 8 a3 ♗a6 9 g3!? the engines' calm preference and only then ♖h5) 8... **4 ♗d6! ♗c6** (4...♗xd6? 5 ♖xf6+ ♗h7 6 ♖xf7+ ♗h8 7 ♖f6+ ♗h7 8 ♗xd6 ♗f8 9 ♗f7 supplies a mating attack) **5 ♗xf6 ♖xb2 6 ♖h5!** (the attack is overwhelming) **6...♖xc1+ 7 ♗h2 ♖xc4 8 ♗xh6+ ♗g7 9 ♗h7+ ♗g8 10 ♗h8+ ♗g7 11 ♖h6# 1-0**

November's Studies Competition

The winner was Mike Read of Norwich who wins a £30 Chess & Bridge voucher. The solution:

Norman Littlewood *Schach-Echo, 1967*

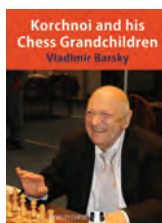


White to play and win

- 1 ♗e2+**
And not 1 ♗c3? ♗h6+ 2 ♗g4 ♗xc3.
- 1...♗d3**
1...♗d5 2 ♗bc3+ wins.
- 2 ♗c1+ ♗c2**
2...♗d4 3 ♗e2+ repeats.
- 3 ♗xe4 ♗xc1**
Or 3...♗xb1 4 ♗d5 ♗4a5 5 ♗d3 with a draw.
- 4 ♗c3!**
Sidestepping 4 ♗d5? ♗6a5.
- 4...♗d2+**
4...♗xc3 5 ♗d3 is similar.
- 5 ♗d5 ♗b4+**
White also holds after 5...♗e7+ 6 ♗e6 ♗c8 7 ♗e5 ♗f8 8 ♗f4.
- 6 ♗e6! ♗xc3 7 ♗e5!**
And, as Mike Read puts it, "Black will be left with two knights which cannot force mate."



This Month's New Releases



Korchnoi and his Chess Grandchildren
Vladimir Barsky, 384 pages
Quality Chess

RRP £29.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.55**

Viktor Korchnoi, undoubtedly the strongest player never to have won the world chess championship, had an extremely long and hugely successful career. He was an elite player from the 1950s onwards and came within one win of becoming champion of the world in 1978, when he exhausted the champion, Anatoly Karpov, who was 20 years his junior.

His games have been covered in numerous books, including several classic tomes written by the man himself, and magazines. His robust personality, acidic tongue and indefatigable fighting spirit conspired to make him one of the most memorable chess characters of all. The world has been a duller place since his demise, but what does this new book bring to the table?

The curious title does not refer to his family. Instead, the book "features 25 of Viktor Korchnoi's best games from the latter stages of his glorious career. The latest game is from 2011, when Korchnoi was still potent enough to defeat Fabiano Caruana. The

annotations are mainly in Korchnoi's own words, with insightful additions from other top players and the author." At this stage in his career, his opponents "were young enough to be his grandchildren."

The games span the period 1997–2011 and this is an updated and expanded version of the original edition, which was published in Russian in 2012. Photographs from Korchnoi's personal archive are also included, as are the thoughts of some of his contemporaries and rivals – including arch-rival Karpov.

The first game is against a 20-year-old Peter Svidler, who would go on to play in three Candidates tournaments and 10 Olympiads. Korchnoi was 45 years older, but still managed to play brilliantly to defeat Svidler's King's Indian Defence. Svidler comments: "I was struck by Korchnoi's uncompromising attitude. A slight advantage didn't for one moment suit him. He had played the opening fairly quickly, but at this point he thought for 65 minutes – then afterwards he never sank into thought again. I too was good at calculating variations in 1997, but Korchnoi calculated further – as far as move 31, after which Black immediately loses a piece."

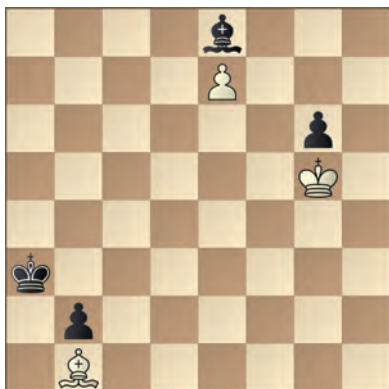
Other victims in this book are Ruslan Ponomarev, Boris Gelfand, Judit Polgar and even Magnus Carlsen. Throughout the book, clues are given as to how Korchnoi was able to stay so sharp and interested in playing, despite the advancing years. For example,

against Gelfand (Biel, 2001), he played one of the main lines of the Slav Defence as Black and commented: "To my pupils I often repeat this principle that I learnt from the old grandmasters: 'When you study a new opening and play it, your understanding and your practical strength will increase.' Very well, then! After overcoming a certain aversion for this system, I have now included it in my repertoire."

Elsewhere, we learn that he liked to watch the Russian games at Olympiads, to pick up new opening ideas. It is the way in which Korchnoi was constantly striving for improvement which should be one of the main inspirations for all of us. He had absolutely nothing to prove to anyone in his twilight years, but still he never thought about resting on his laurels.

For fighting chess, try examining the penultimate game in the book. Vugar Gashimov is the opponent and the opening is the French Defence (one of Korchnoi's long-term favourites). There are 20 pages of annotations, which sounds a lot, but they are never less than accessible. Gashimov gains the advantage, fails to find a killer blow and then the tables are turned. Korchnoi typically plays excellently in the endgame, utilising his tripled c-pawns in admirable fashion. One of them becomes a queen...and then Korchnoi relaxes, allowing Gashimov to achieve pawn promotion too. Then the new queens are exchanged and a very complex bishop ending is reached.

V.Gashimov-V.Korchnoi
Russian Team Ch., Dagomys 2008



Black can secure the point with 72...♖b4! 73 ♜f4 ♜c5!, but, typically for Korchnoi, something unexpected happened. He first tried **72...♖b3**, reconsidered and then placed the king on b4. The arbiter stepped in and told Korchnoi he had released the king on b3. "Oh? All right then!" he replied and went on to win anyway (0-1, 87; although there were still plenty of adventures ahead). Incidentally, as Marin points out, the databases show the incorrect version, with 72...♖b4.

This is an excellent book. For Korchnoi fans, it is an absolute must. For everyone else, the sheer amount of fighting chess on display should turn heads. Very impressive, Quality Chess!

Sean Marsh



Learn from Bent Larsen
Mihail Marin, 304 pages
Quality Chess

RRP £29.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.99**

Bent Larsen never quite achieved the results – or the fame – of Viktor Korchnoi. Indeed, he is, perhaps, remembered for two negative experiences rather than the plethora of positives: his startling 0-6 defeat to Bobby Fischer in their 1971 Candidates match, which was part of the latter's unstoppable march towards the ultimate title, and his loss in 17 moves to Boris Spassky in the 1970 USSR vs Rest of the World match.

For a player who was vying with Fischer for the accolade of being 'the best in the West', Larsen didn't make a great impression on the road to the world championship. However, he was capable of beating anyone, including the otherwise rampant Fischer at the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal, had a plus score on board one of the aforementioned USSR vs Rest of the World match, and battled

hard in virtually every game with his unusual ideas and excessive optimism.

This book has endured a long gestation period. Marin was flattered that Larsen knew of his book, *Learn from the Legends* (Quality Chess, various editions), and this prompted him to investigate Larsen's games properly.

"The simple fact that Larsen knew my name as a player and author was flattering enough, and his high opinion of my book was more pleasing than words can say. Nevertheless, at the same time I felt that something was wrong from my side: I had never systematically studied the games played by this great player, nor had I written any articles about him. It was at that moment that I understood that I owed – to Larsen and to chess history – a capital work about him and to let him know about it. Sadly, Larsen passed away less than one year later, and I postponed my endeavour for a whole decade."

The nine entertaining chapters cover various aspects of Larsen's chess career, including his boundless optimism, hypermodern approach to openings, his penchant for advancing his rook's pawns (a long time before *AlphaZero* caught up with the notion), his expertise in endings and some test positions from his games.

In short, his games were never dull and always entertaining. Larsen was the one who dared to play Bird's Opening against Boris Spassky, Alekhine's Defence against Mikhail Tal, the Scandinavian Defence against Anatoly Karpov and the Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack against all-comers. This was all at a time when elite players had narrow opening repertoires and opinions on which openings were 'correct' were very pointed.

Here is a snippet showing his rooks' pawns in action.

B.Larsen-S.Gligoric
Vinkovci 1970



The h-pawn is bothering the black king, but White needs to open up a second front for action.

22 a5!

"The crowning of White's previous play. With his king's knight far away, Black has problems maintaining his queenside structure intact."

Gligoric kept the a-file closed with **22...b5**, but Larsen pushed on with **23 a6!**

when Gligoric didn't fancy loosening his position with 23...♗a6 24 ♖a5!, but with a thorn in each side, his position became increasingly uncomfortable and Larsen eventually converted his advantage (1-0, 61).

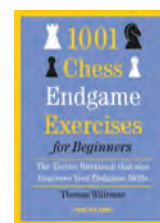
Did Larsen's extraordinary optimism boost his chess career, or stunt its growth? Optimistic players take great risks. As Marin explains, Larsen definitely saw this as a positive.

"Many times, this approach seemed to take him over the border of admissible risk, but in his best games of this kind, analysis proves that he was never in danger during his attempt to unbalance the position. True, there were also less fortunate cases when his optimism and fighting spirit would cause him to lose objectivity and ended in defeat, but Larsen explained that he did not mind this at all. 'In my opinion, it is completely pointless to remain undefeated during the whole tournament and take, say, fifth place. (In those years, round robin tournaments used to include around 20 players – M.M.) In most of the cases, this is the result of over-cautious play, lacking fantasy. [...] In order to accumulate the needed number of points to take first place, one has to take risks in a series of games.'"

Just as with the Korchnoi book, this one is a sturdy hardback and has an excellent selection of photographs. Alas, we have to deduct a point for the incorrect spelling of Teesside in the list of Notable Tournament Results (double 'e', double 's' please).

This may well have been a labour of love for the author, but hopefully readers and players of the internet generation will be tempted to give this book a try. Open it up, select a page at random, take a look at the moves and I am sure you will agree: "That is really playing chess!"

Sean Marsh



1001 Chess Endgame Exercises for Beginners

Thomas Willemze, 312 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

The endgame is an area that many a club player neglects, but solving endgame exercises can but improve one's overall combinational and calculational vision. Indeed, this New in Chess publication is subtitled 'The Tactics Workbook that Also Improves Your Endgame Skills'. Experienced coach and IM Willemze follows the step-by-step method to gradually increase the reader's knowledge of how each of the pieces operates, while looking not just at basic mating and material-winning combinations, but also various important defensive ideas.



ChessBase 17 – Starter Package

ChessBase; PC-DVD

RRP £179.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £161.10**

The latest edition of the leading chess software sees the German giants aiming to supply an even more user-friendly experience. New features don't just include superior search functions, but a newly-structured game notation, as well as a new data format and the ability to make the engine annotate verbally and not just supply assessments. This basic version of *ChessBase 17* comes with the *Big Database 2023*, an update service for that throughout 2023, and access to ChessBase's Live Database which is fast closing in on 10,000,000 games.

It's also possible to buy *ChessBase 17 – Program Only*, which does what it says on the tin, i.e. it's just the new program minus any database and bonus features. This can be obtained from Chess & Bridge for £139.95 or £125.99 for Subscribers. If you currently have *ChessBase 16*, that can be upgraded to *ChessBase 17* for £109.95 (Subscribers: £98.95) – just return your current DVD to 44 Baker Street or let the staff know your existing program key.

Those who really like their chess study may also wish to consider *ChessBase 17 – Mega Package*, which is the same as the *Starter Package*, but comes with the *Mega Database 2023*, as well as superior bonus features (a full year's subscription to *ChessBase Magazine* and full year's premium membership of Playchess, as opposed to just six months for both). The *Mega Package* retails at £269.00, coming in at £242.10 for Subscribers. There's even *ChessBase 17 – Premium Package* (RRP £449.00; Subscribers – £404.10), which is the *Mega Package* plus various bonus features and especially the *Corr Database 2022* and *Endgameturbo 5*.

You may, of course, be quite happy with your existing *ChessBase 15* or *ChessBase 16* program, but wish to purchase a new database. *Big Database 2023* featuring 9.75 million games is available as a stand-alone (PC-DVD) product at Chess and Bridge, retailing at £74.95 (Subscribers – £67.45). Meanwhile *Mega Database 2023* has the same gigantic amount of data, but 110,000 of the games are annotated. This retails at £179.95 (Subscribers – £161.95), but it's possible to upgrade from *Mega Database 2022* for £74.95 (Subscribers – £67.45) and even from an older version of *Mega Database* for £124.95 (Subscribers – £112.45), by returning the original DVD or supplying the existing program key.

Finally, for those who really like their theory, ChessBase have recently also released *Fritz Powerbook 2023* (RRP £74.95; Subscribers – £67.45). This PC-DVD

contains 25 million opening positions, taken from 1.7 million high class tournament games, and so is designed to supply the latest state of theory in tree format, which can be explored within ChessBase or one of their playing programs like *Power Fritz 18*.



Evaluate Like a Grandmaster

Eugene Perelshteyn & Nate Solon,
128 pages, paperback

RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

The American GM and FM author team are aware that many positions reached in practice are far from straightforward and, as such, far from easy to evaluate. Here Solon, a popular online chess presence with his emphasis on learning and self-improvement, and Perelshteyn aim to help the club player improve their evaluation, doing so with some well-chosen examples and especially many very instructive explanations.



Play the Barry Attack

Andrew Martin, 320 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Mark Hebden's favourite weapon remains an excellent choice for the club and tournament player. Martin maps out a timeline with 1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 ♖c3 d5 4 ♗f4, along the way highlighting many of the main strategic concepts for both sides, before tackling the theory. Notably he doesn't just look at the aggressive, one-time main line that is 4...♗g7 5 e3 0-0 6 ♗e2, but also examines in some detail 5 ♖d2 and the modern 5 ♗b5, as well as various sidelines for both colours.



The Anti-Alapin Gambit

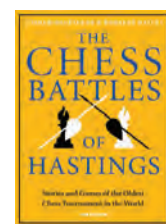
Cyrus Lakdawala & Carsten Hansen,
230 pages, paperback

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Are you a Sicilian Defence devotee fed up with failing to find anything exciting to play against 1 e4 c5 2 c3? Perhaps the Scandinavian-style gambit 2...d5 3 exd5 ♖f6!? might fit the bill. Hansen and Lakdawala certainly make a good case for it, presenting the main ideas

and theory over 44 games, while also supplying a handy quick repertoire to help get the reader up and running straight away. Magnus Carlsen no less defeated Nils Grandelius with this surprise anti-Sicilian in this year's Chessable Masters and 2...d5 3 exd5 ♖f6 looks like a line that both 2 c3 and Sicilian players should take seriously.

Moving away from Hansen's 'Hacker Opening Files' series to the one devoted to 'Chess Endgame Magic & Tactics', he's also released *The Chess Wizardry of Wotawa*, again written in conjunction with Lakdawala (268 pages; RRP £23.99; Subscribers – £21.59). The Austrian composer Alois Wotawa (1896-1970) is one of the most famous of all time and here Lakdawala and Hansen make good use of a wide array of his endgame compositions, aiming to help the hardworking reader improve their calculation, planning and creativity.

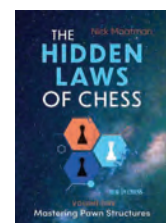


The Chess Battles of Hastings

Jürgen Brustkern & Norbert Wallet,
384 pages, hardback

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.96**

The Hastings International Congress makes a welcome return this Christmas and even if you're unable to play, you may enjoy being reminded of the congress's charm through this book written by German FM Jürgen Brustkern and his compatriot, Norbert Wallet. Brustkern has been a Hastings regular since 1977, so has seen all manner of changes, famous players and incidents occur at the famous Sussex tournament. The authors, though, begin by looking at the early English tournament scene which leads them up to Hastings 1895. From that congress they document the history of the event through to the present day before presenting some of their favourite players who have done battle at Hastings, while supplying too plenty of stunning battles at the board.

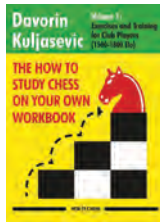


The Hidden Laws of Chess

Nick Maatman, 256 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

New in Chess have certainly been busy of late and also found several notable new authors, including Dutch IM Maatman who is the regular training partner of Jorden van Foreest. Maatman is fully aware of the importance of pawn structure – the book is even subtitled 'Mastering Pawn Structures' –

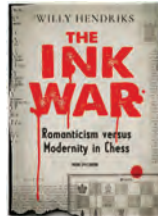
which lies behind the 'hidden laws'. These are designed to help the club player learn from grandmaster games, such as knowing which pieces to exchange in a certain structure and plenty of different structures are tackled here: doubled pawns, backward pawns, isolated pawns, hanging pawns, the mobile centre, and closed positions.



The How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook Vol. 1

Davorin Kuljasevic, 240 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**
Subtitled 'Exercises and Training for Club

Players (1500-1800 Elo)', Kuljasevic follows up his earlier, popular *How To Study Chess on Your Own* by supplying a workbook to emphasize the key features of his favoured structured approach. There are, indeed, many puzzles to solve in this follow-up book, but these may be positional, as well as tactical, or invite the reader to find the best plan. The Croatian GM also supplies some well-selected positions which can be played out against a friend or computer engine, as well as several annotated games, which can be solved in *How Good is Your Chess?* fashion.



The Ink War

Willy Hendriks, 480 pages, paperback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

Subtitled 'Romanticism Versus Modernity in Chess', the author of the best-selling *Move First, Think Later* heads back to the 1870s and 1880s. Hendriks's focus is the great rivalry between Wilhelm Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort, a rivalry so great and often conducted in magazine and newspaper columns, as well as over the board, that it became known as the 'Ink War'. This was a battle about the right way to play chess and which ideas were best. While penning a well-written account, Hendriks is not a neutral bystander and his thoughts may make you reconsider which of Steinitz and Zukertort should be considered the father of modern chess.

Please note that a hardback version of *The Ink War* is also available, retailing at £35.95 or £32.35 for Subscribers.



Forthcoming Events

- Dec 28 – Jan 8** **Hastings International Congress**
hastingschess.com

- December 28-30** **London Junior Championships & London Christmas Congress**
ljcc.co.uk

- December 29** **Ulster Blitz Championship, Greenisland**
ulsterchess.org/events

- January 6-8** **Shropshire Congress, Telford**
shropshirechess.org

- January 6-8** **Welsh New Year Congress, Bridgend**
welshchessunion.uk/calendar/

- January 7-8** **4NCL, Daventry (Divisions 3E & 4)**
4ncl.co.uk

- January 7-8** **Hamilton Open**
chessscotland.com/calendar/hamilton-open-2023/

- January 7** **Dundonald Rapid Championship, Belfast**
ulsterchess.org/events

- January 7** **Golders Green Rapidplay**
goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

- January 10** **Muswell Hill Rapidplay**
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

- January 14-15** **4NCL, Daventry (Divisions 1, 2 & 3W)**
4ncl.co.uk

- January 15** **H.E. Atkins Memorial Rapid, Mountsorrel**
congress.org.uk/congress/214/home

- January 15** **Hull & District Rapidplay**
hullchess.com/rapid+play+2023

- January 20-22** **4NCL Congress, Harrogate**
4ncl.co.uk/fide/information_29.htm

- January 20-22** **Fareham Congress**
castlechess.co.uk

- January 20-22** **Williamson Shield, Belfast**
ulsterchess.org/events

- January 21-22** **EACU Closed Championships, Newmarket**
adrianelwin.co.uk/EACUCongress/ClosedCongress.html

- January 24** **Muswell Hill Rapidplay**
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

- January 28-29** **Ealing Congress**
londonchesscongresss.godaddysites.com/ealing-fide-congress

- January 28** **Poplar Rapid**
spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub/index.asp

- January 29** **Norfolk Rapidplay, Hevingham**
norfolkchess.org/calendar.html

- January 29** **Nottingham Rapidplay**
nottinghamshirechess.org/competitions/

- January 29** **Stockport Rapidplay**
stockportchessclub.org/rapidplay

Also online: **December 31 She Plays to Win Fundraiser**
sheplaystowin.co.uk/events

And for the Online Connoisseur:

- December 26-30** **World Rapid & Blitz, Almaty**

- January 13-29** **Tata Steel - Wijk aan Zee**
tatasteelchess.com; Carlsen, Caruana, Ding, Duda Giri, Praggnanandhaa, etc.

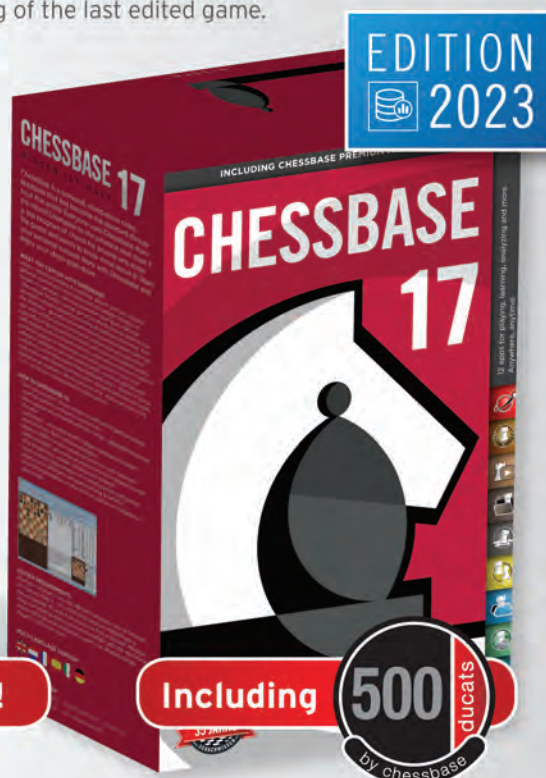
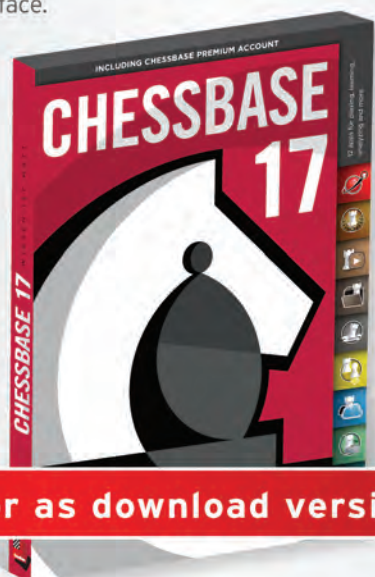
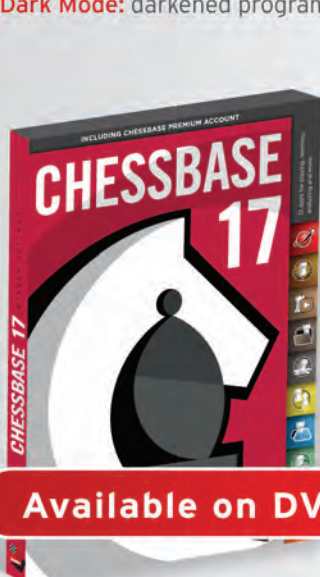
Congress organisers – Don't forget to email editor@chess.co.uk to ensure your event is listed, or if you really want to guarantee a good entry, contact Matt@chess.co.uk to discuss having it advertised.

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