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Chess Update

STILL THE KING

MAGNUS CARLSEN BECOMES TRIPLE WORLD CHAMPION FOR THE THIRD TIME IN HIS CAREER



1066 And All That... - Andrew Ledger reports from a blustering Hastings

Buenos Aires 1939 - Richard Forster on the putsch that did not happen

A Pivotal Encounter - John Nunn with a key win from the World Senior

Chess

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Sunny Sitges!

IM Tom Rendle enjoyed his first visit to the super-strong Sunway Open in Sitges

With the London Chess Classic again not taking place in 2022 the race was on to find a pre-Christmas replacement. Having been, I can now heartily recommend the Chessable Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival.

I think we were exceptionally lucky with the weather back in December (generally 10-18°C on most days), but there was also a very welcoming atmosphere from the organisers and sponsors. Alongside the chess itself, there were various side events, including night blitz tournaments (starting a bit late for me at 11pm), table football and table-tennis. Before the games (starting as late 4.30pm) there were lectures by various GMs, from Stuart Conquest to Vasily Ivanchuk, as well as wine and beer tasting, a cocktail masterclass and various cooking workshops.

The tournament itself was a great opportunity to play strong players, and I was very happy to face five GMs over the 10 rounds, although there are plenty of talented youngsters to overcome, as is the case everywhere these days. Below is my favourite game from the event against the talented Australian GM Bobby Cheng.



Few tournaments are as lively as the Sunway Open in Sitges, which combines a pretty strong Open with plenty of entertainment and side events. Tom Rendle certainly enjoyed his first visit.

T.Rendle-B.Cheng Sitges 2022 Catalan Opening

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 c6 4 g3 dxc4 5 ♙g2 b5 6 ♗e5 ♙b7

Instead, 6...♗f6 allows 7 ♗xc6 (7 a4 is also dangerous for Black here) 7...♙b6 8 ♗a5! ♗d5 9 ♙d2 ♗c6 10 ♗xc6 ♙xc6 11 e4 ♗b4 12 0-0 with a clear edge for White in Korchnoi-Moskalenko, Barcelona 2004.

7 a4 a6 8 0-0 ♗f6 9 b3

A standard Catalan pawn sacrifice.

9...cxb3 10 ♙xb3!



10 ♙b2 is the more common choice (10...♗bd7 11 ♗d2 ♗xe5 12 dxe5 ♗d5 13 ♙xb3 ♙e7 and White has reasonable compensation for the pawn), and I actually played it in a blitz game fairly recently. However, it came to my attention that 10 ♙xb3 is actually the more testing choice, asking Black if he really wants to take the second pawn on d4.

10...♙e7

10...♙xd4 is, of course, critical, but after 11 ♙b2 ♙b4 12 ♙c2 ♙c5 13 ♙d3 ♙e7 14 ♗d2 ♗b6 15 ♗e4 White has very active pieces and a promising attack in return for the two pawns.

11 ♗d1?!

I didn't want to release the tension too early, but Harikrishna has shown that doing so leads to a stable edge for White: 11 axb5 axb5 12 ♙xa8 ♙xa8 13 ♙a2! ♙b7 14 ♙a7 ♙c8 15 ♗c3 0-0 16 ♗xb5 ♗d5 17 ♙a3 cxb5 18 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 19 ♙xb7 ♙xb7 20 ♙xb7 with an ongoing pleasant pull, Harikrishna-Druska, Polish League 2021 (1-0, 64).

11...0-0 12 ♗c3

12 ♙a3 would be thematic here, but unfortunately after 12...b4! the pawn can't be taken because of 13 ♙xb4? ♙b6.

12...b4 13 a5 ♗bd7

13...♙a7!? leads to unclear play after

14 ♙e3 ♙c7 15 ♗a4 c5!

14 ♗xd7

At the time I thought this enabled me to keep control and restrain the all-important ...c5 break, but I missed Bobby's idea here.

14 ♙g5! seems to be the way to keep up the pressure: for example, 14...bxc3 15 ♙xb7 ♗xe5 16 ♙xf6 ♗f3+ 17 ♙xf3 ♙xf6 18 e3 and only White can be better, although a draw seems very likely when the queens get exchanged.

14...♗xd7

After 14...♙xd7 15 ♗a4 ♙ad8 16 ♙f4 White was clearly better in Sarana-Ponkratov, Anapa 2021.

15 ♗e4



15...c5!

Played after a 30-minute think – it turns out ...c5 wasn't as restrained as I'd hoped.

Any slow move leads to a clear edge for White: for example, 15...c8 16 f4 c5 17 dxc5 d5 18 bxb4 dxc5 19 dxc5 dxc5 20 b2 d7 21 e3 c6 22 dxd5 exd5 23 d3 and White has excellent chances of picking up the IQP.

16 dxc5 dxe4

I had overlooked the strength of this intermezzo and suddenly the centre has been blasted wide open.

17 dxe4 dxc5 18 dxc7+?!

Objectively a mistake, but I couldn't bring myself to defend a slightly worse endgame. Often it helps to be optimistic (or simply unable to correctly assess a position!) when playing and I didn't really think I was worse yet.

After 18 c2 dxd1+ 19 dxd1 dxe4 20 d3 dxc5 21 f3 b8 the position feels a bit unpleasant to me for White; although objectively it should be close to equal, the passed pawn on b4 will always give Black pressure.

18...dxc7 19 c2 c8 20 d2 b3 21 b1

21 c3!? d6 22 d4! is an inventive idea from *Stockfish* that completely passed me by. One nice point is 22...dxc7 (after 22...d4! 23 f3 dxc7 24 axa4 dxd4 25 dxd4 f6 White's attack doesn't seem to be enough for the exchange) 23 h4+ and Black must allow a perpetual: 23...g6 (23...g8? 24 f6 leads to a rather picturesque mate after 24...gxf6 25 dxf6) 24 g4+ d5 (not 24...d6? 25 e3+ or 24...d7? 25 dxc7+) 25 h4+ g6 26 g4+, etc.

21...b8?!

21...d8! prevents d4 and now the pawn on b3 dominates proceedings. White has nothing better than retreating with 22 d3 dxd3 23 dxd3 dxd3 24 d3, but after 24...c2! Black is in complete control of the ensuing endgame.

22 d4 d6 23 c4!



I think this was the idea my opponent overlooked – it seems strange to go here, rather than over to the kingside on g4 or f4, but it's much more important to pin the knight and tie down the black queen.

23 g4 was in fact my original intention, but I realised that after 23...d8 24 dxf6 fxf6 25 h4 fd8 White's attack on the Black king is only a mirage – and with ...g5



Kirill Alekseenko racked up a huge 8½/10 to finish half a point ahead of Hans Niemann and Mohammad Tabatabaei, with Tom Rendle finishing on '+2' in what was a pretty strong open.

and ...g7 coming, Black is even winning here!

23...e5?

Played after a lot of thought, but now the bishop escapes from h7 and White has all the positional trumps to go with a winning attack.

23...dxc2 24 h4 looks very strong, but in fact Black has a number of ways to stay in the game here: 24...b4! (or 24...d8 25 h5 d5!, which is persistent when if 26 dxd5 exd5 27 bxb2 dxc7 and the passed pawn on b3 gives Black excellent chances to hold) 25 b4 (White can take a draw with 25 e4+ g8 26 d7+ d8 27 e4+) 25...d6 26 c4 b7! 27 dxc5 b4 28 h5 g4! and Black appears to be hanging on – but this series of only moves is very hard to foresee.

24 d5 c7 25 c1

Finally I was able to untangle my queenside pieces and suddenly the black king is looking very vulnerable.

25...b5 26 e3 d6 27 g4!



Creating a simple mate-in-two threat, as well as threatening g4-g5 and dxe5.

27...dxc7 28 g5 d8 29 dxe5 b2 30 b1

Honestly I was expecting resignation at any moment, but strong GMs always seem to find a way to cause a few more problems.

30...dxe5!?

If 30...e7 31 h3 g5+ 32 g4 and Black can safely resign here.

31 dxe5 d6

Of course the game should be completely over at this point, but I couldn't find a satisfactory way to eliminate the b2-pawn if I kept the extra queen.

32 dxb5?!

32 e4 dxc5 33 c2 d6 34 h4! d6 35 dxe6 fxe6 36 c8 was the cleanest way to finish the game.

32...axb5 33 c8 d4 34 d3

After 34 a6 dxf5 35 a7 d7 36 b8 d6 37 a8 dxb8 38 b2! dxc5 39 b5 d4 40 b7 Black can hardly move.

34...dxa5 35 dxf8+ dxf8 36 dxb2 c3

37 a2 b4 38 a7 d6 39 h4 b3 40 b7

b2 41 b3 d5 42 b5 c3 43 e3 d7

44 b3 d5 45 f4

Not the simplest way to win (45 b7+ d8 46 b1 g6 47 f4 d7 48 d2), but good enough.

45...dxc5 46 b5 dxd3 47 fxe5 g6 48 d1



48...d7

Or 48...e6 49 e2 dxe5 50 b2 d5 51 b4 and the endgame is hopeless for Black.

49 d2 c6 50 dxd3

White can still go wrong with 50 b8 d7 51 b3?? d1+.

50...dxb5 51 d2 c6 52 e6! 1-0

After 52...fxe6 53 h5 gxh5 54 g6 the pawn cannot be stopped.



60 Seconds with... Philip Hurtado



Born: Brighton, England.

Place of residence: London.

Occupation: Continuous improvement.

Enjoyable? Most of the time not. (Hope my boss doesn't read this, otherwise he might regret having offered me a 5% stake in his company!)

And home life? Very much so.

But sometimes good to escape to: The Tropics.

Sports played or followed: Tennis, MMA (Mixed Martial Arts).

A favourite novel? All the great Russian novelists: Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Pasternak. You might have not read the novels, but you have watched the films – Think *Doctor Zhivago*.

Piece of music? Depends when you ask me. *Nessun Dorma* (Andrea Bocelli live in Central Park, the moment when his voice echoes over that of the chorus and gets everyone up from their seats). I can listen to that part over and over again. But if you ask me on a Tuesday, I might have just said Eminem ('Lose Yourself').

Film or TV series? *Midnight Cowboy*, *Secrets and Lies*, *Big Bang Theory*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? Thinking of what is the best move to play, and only that.

And the worst? Time wasting.

Your best move? I thought I had one. A brilliant move I played after 40 minutes' thought, but when I put the move into the computer it showed me a better one, and that my position was already overwhelming anyway, so I can't show that one.

I did, however, find a position which I remember having over the board and thinking to myself this is "White to play and win". I felt I was much better, and after a long thought I played what the computer considered was the second best move. Can you find its first choice?



I had this position at Benidorm in January 2020. I spent a lot of time working out how to attack the f5-pawn, and invested a considerable amount of time looking at moves like 18 ♖e1 (with the obvious idea of 19 ♜xf5), 18 ♜f4 (adding pressure on the f5-pawn), and 18 ♜a3 (retreating my rook to a safe square), which presumably are the same candidate moves you have looked at.

In the game I rejected 18 ♜f4 because of 18...g5 and analysed no further, thinking I was losing the rook. Had I bothered to calculate two moves deeper, this would have been my best move. At least of 2020.

But less memorable than your worst move? I don't keep a record of those. By the time I have dinner, I have forgotten about them.

And a highly memorable opponent? I've never been that good at anything as to have had a nemesis.

Favourite game of all time? *AlphaZero vs Stockfish*, Game 10 of their 2017 match. A real game changer. Prior to this game, it was inconceivable for anything on planet earth to calmly play a piece down against *Stockfish* and beat it.

The best three chess books: *My Best Games of Chess* by Alexander Alekhine, *Simple Chess* by Michael Stean (the best book anybody has ever recommended to me), and *Think Like a Super-GM*, by myself and Mickey.

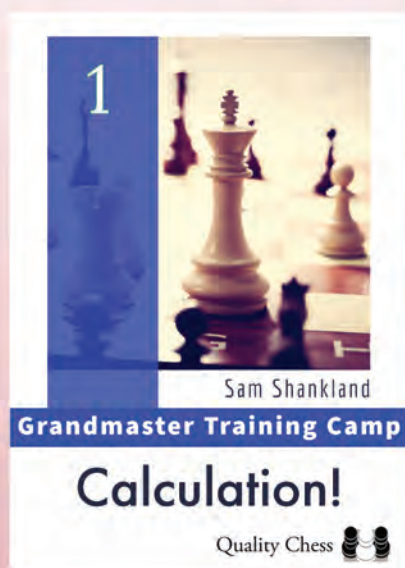
Can chess make one happy? It will make you forget you are unhappy.

A tip please for the club player: Read my book, especially chapter four, 'Why Can't I Play Like a Super GM?', and Michael Adams's section 'Grandmaster Secrets'. Those two chapters alone are worth the cover price.



Ed.- Above we see Philip at Chess & Bridge, receiving the Book of the Year Award from two of the judges, Jovanka Houska and Ray Edwards.

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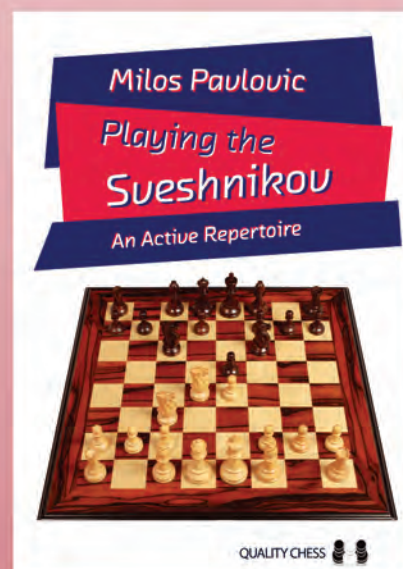
Sam Shankland is the 2018 US Champion, 2016 Olympiad gold-medal winner for teams and 2014 individual gold medal winner. He has played Board 1 for the US in the World Team Championship and competed with the best players in the world. His latest great result was reaching the quarter-final of the 2021 World Cup.

Playing the Sveshnikov

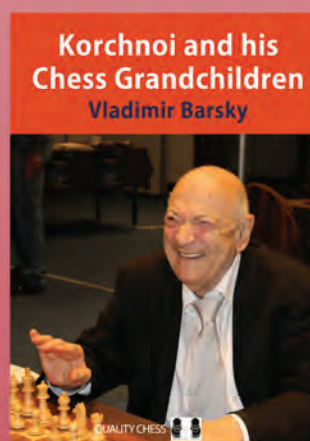
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Milos Pavlovic is a former Yugoslav Champion and a lifelong Sveshnikov player. Also an experienced chess trainer, he has held the grandmaster title since 1993.



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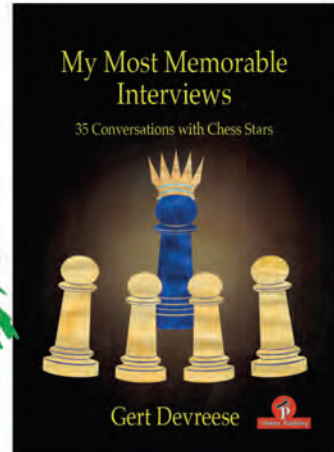
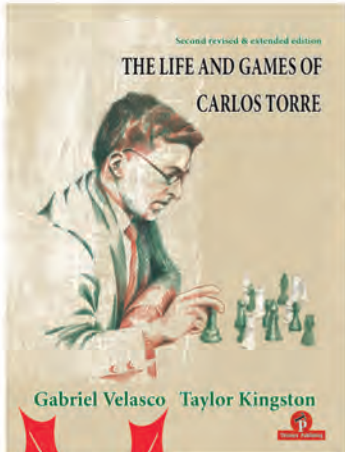


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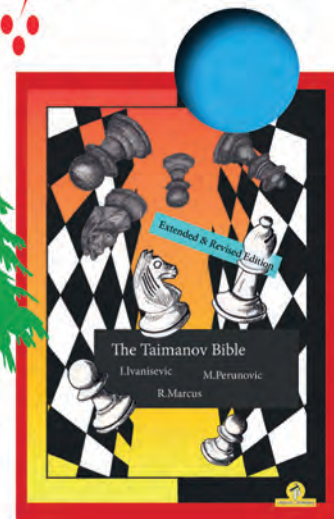
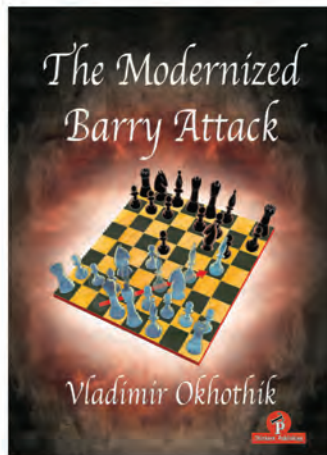
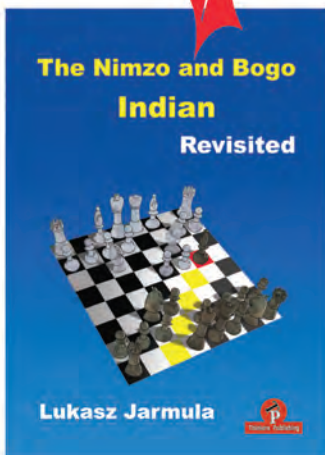
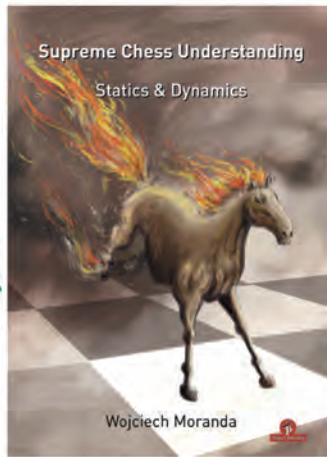
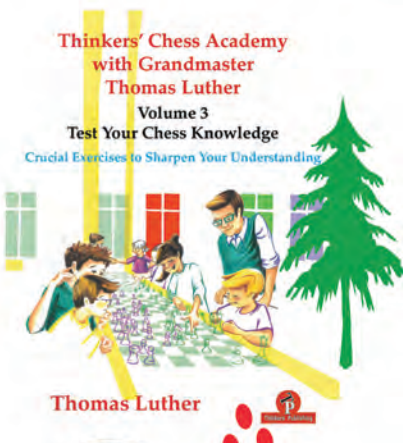
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Buenos Aires 1939: The putsch that did not happen

Richard Forster reveals how a handful of delegates tried to oust the FIDE President

A FIDE President who stays in office for far too long, who fails to bring order to the world championship and who can only be removed by a revolt? It is easily forgotten that such feelings did not start with Campomanes or Ilyumzhinov, but had already been around some eighty years ago.

At that time, Dr. Alexander Rueb was the President of FIDE. Since its foundation in 1924, he had led and developed the federation out of The Hague as a virtual one-man show. One of his greatest critics was Baruch Wood, the founder and editor of *CHESS*. He was on site, when, at the end of the 1939 Olympiad in Buenos Aires, a handful of delegates attempted to stage a coup and voted Rueb out of office. And yet, in his magazine and reports, Wood did not say a single word about these events, which is even more noteworthy as two years earlier he had claimed himself that “the present FIDE is obviously incompetent” and that “we should sack the lot!” (*CHESS*, 14 September 1937, p. 4).

Thanks to a recent motion of the Argentinean Chess Federation, that tumultuous FIDE congress is back in the limelight. What happened in those September days of 1939, when the world at large had bigger concerns than chess, and why did Wood keep silent about it? And is today's FIDE well advised by its History Committee to revise its list of presidents?

The 1939 Olympiad

The 1939 ‘Tournament of Nations’ in Buenos Aires is unique in chess history, remembered for wonderful tales and harrowing stories, celebrated in dozens of articles and some exceptional books.

Official List of FIDE Presidents

1924–49	Alexander Rueb (Netherlands)
1949–70	Folke Rogard (Sweden)
1970–78	Max Euwe (Netherlands)
1978–82	Friðrik Ólafsson (Iceland)
1982–95	Florencio Campomanes (Philippines)
1995–2018	Kirsan Ilyumzhinov (Russia)
2018–	Arkady Dvorkovich (Russia)



Dr. Alexander Rueb (1882 – 1959) was a Dutch lawyer, diplomat, and the first President of FIDE from 1924 to 1949. (picture: Livre d'Or de la Fédération Internationale d'Echecs, 1976)

Alongside the international team tournament (nowadays called ‘Olympiad’) and the women’s world championship, FIDE also held its General Assembly. On 18th September, the penultimate day of play, a controversial, unannounced vote resulted in support, by 8 to 0 votes, for replacing the incumbent FIDE President, Alexander Rueb, by Augusto De Muro, the President of the Argentinean Chess Federation.

Although this should have been significant news, it was hardly mentioned by the press at the time. The reporting centred almost exclusively on the sporting side of the event, and it all was overshadowed, of course, by the outbreak of World War II on 1st September 1939. After the War, when FIDE reconstituted itself at its next Congress in Winterthur, Switzerland, it continued with Rueb as President as if nothing had ever happened, and the Buenos Aires intermezzo was quickly forgotten. FIDE remained in Europe, with Rueb its President until 1949.

Does this part of FIDE history need rewriting? Has Augusto De Muro been unjustly neglected by chroniclers of FIDE, as claimed by the recent Argentinean motion?

FIDE from 1924 to 1939

The World Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded on 20th July 1924 in Paris. Its daily business was entrusted to a Central Committee of three people, elected for four-year terms of office during the General Assembly, which was held annually. From 1928 onwards, the Committee consisted of the President, Alexander Rueb from the Netherlands, the Vice-President, Maurice S. Kuhns from the United States, and the Treasurer, Marc Nicolet from Switzerland.

FIDE membership grew from 13 nations in 1925 to 33 in 1938. For most of that period Argentina remained the only Latin American country. However, in the year preceding the 1939 Olympiad, twelve more federations joined FIDE, many of them from Latin America, attracted by the prospect of playing in Buenos Aires.

The 16th FIDE Congress

The 16th Congress of FIDE took place in the last week of the Buenos Aires team tournament. Tensions arose early on between Alexander Rueb and the South American representatives, the most notable of whom was Luciano Long Vidal of Argentina, who made several rather sharp criticisms of FIDE and invited delegates to visit the offices of the Olympiad organisers, to see how efficiently it was handling matters related to communications and documentation.

At the end of the fifth and final official session of the General Assembly, the Paraguayan delegate, Dr. Luis Oscar Boettner, requested the floor. In view of the war in Europe and the exposed location of Holland, where FIDE had its headquarters, he foresaw great dangers for the continuation and development of FIDE’s activities. He therefore put forward a motion that FIDE’s headquarters should be moved temporarily to Buenos Aires, that Rueb should be elected Honorary President, and that the President of the Argentinean Chess Federation should be appointed as the acting President of FIDE, with his mandate to continue until the next FIDE Congress. The motion was co-signed by the delegates from Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Costa Rica, and Guatemala.

Rueb argued that no elections were on the agenda and that the proposal, not having



Paraguay's Dr. Luis Oscar Boettner proposed the temporary relocation of FIDE's headquarters to Buenos Aires due to the outbreak of war. (picture: Corte Suprema de Justicia, Paraguay)



From an official gathering at the Buenos Aires 1939 Olympiad, taken during a captains' meeting or perhaps even a session of the General Assembly. On the far left, speaking, seems to be Augusto De Muro. (picture: courtesy of Jurgen Stigter)

been announced prior to the Congress, violated FIDE's Statutes and Regulations. The General Assembly, whose working session at this point consisted mostly of Latin American representatives, chose to follow not Rueb's view, but that of the Peruvian delegate, Dr. José Jacinto Rada, who claimed that "According to the letter and the spirit of the Statutes, the General Assembly was the supreme authority of FIDE, and that it could thus adopt any resolution."

A vote was held. Six South American nations (Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay) and two European countries (Denmark and Lithuania) voted in favour of the controversial motion. Estonia, France, Germany, and Argentina abstained, the last-named as a "matter of délicatess", although it was clearly in favour of the proposal and, presumably, its *spiritus rector*.

Rueb left the meeting, having declared that he would not accept the decisions, which he regarded as illegal. The General Assembly continued without him, and the next day it had its decision ratified by a total of 19 delegates. No further debate took place, however, and it is unclear how many delegates were aware of all the circumstances and of Rueb's objections.

Formally, the war in Europe was given as the reason for moving FIDE to Buenos Aires, but growing discontent with Rueb was also a factor, and perhaps even a greater one. This was revealed by, for instance, Roberto Grau (1900–1944), a co-founder of FIDE, "father of the 1939 Olympiad", and the top board of the Argentinean team:

[N]otable federation and club directors, who in the first hour were indispensable elements for success, unfortunately fail later on, and they have to be violently ousted from the positions they consider their own

property. For many years, FIDE has been a prime example of this.

Dr. Rueb became, little by little, the dictator of FIDE, and a traveller who every year had his wife's expenses paid to attend the congresses, which had to work through dumb agendas, and to solemnly inaugurate the big team tournaments, FIDE's only effective activity. It was necessary to put an end to such an abnormal state of affairs. Rueb had turned the FIDE presidency into an asset of his own; in the debates he respected the agenda when it suited him, and incorporated matters when they were brought up by him or by the Swiss Federation, which followed him faithfully.

This means that there was perfect agreement and that the desire was evident to remove Dr. Rueb from the post which he had retained by always evading responsibility for his actions...

(¡Aquí Está!, 18 May 1940)

The frustration which had built up over the years is evident. With the congresses taking place in far-away locations and with elections timed inconveniently, it was hard for South Americans to bring about any changes. But now the outbreak of the war, together with the absence of many of the European delegates, offered an unexpected opportunity to change the situation radically.

Was the 'De Muro Presidency' legitimate?

In legal terms, the vote in Buenos Aires was almost certainly invalid. 1939 was not an election year, and the proposal to relocate FIDE and to oust Rueb had not been properly announced in advance and should thus not have been on the agenda at all. Both the FIDE Statutes and the applicable Swiss Civil Code

leave no doubt about that. Meanwhile, the clause granting "supreme power" to the General Assembly can hardly have meant that the latter could violate its own Regulations and Statutes whenever it might wish to.

Both the legality and the legitimacy have to be questioned. Although the circumstances were exceptional, they were not of the kind that justified the forcible ousting of the President without due process. Several legal options existed within the framework of FIDE



Augusto De Muro, born in 1886 or 1887 in Buenos Aires, was for decades one of Argentina's leading sports journalists and editors. (picture: Jaque Mate, May 1929, courtesy of the Cleveland Public Library and of Chess Notes)

to bring about a change or to mitigate the impact of war. For instance, the Vice-President Maurice S. Kuhns was an American and thus far from the war zone. He could have been entrusted with continuing FIDE's business in case of need. Kuhns, incidentally, was regarded by both Rueb and De Muro as being on their respective sides. After initially congratulating De Muro, however, Kuhns soon retracted his words. Once the full picture emerged and he had heard from both parties, he came down on Rueb's side, describing the Buenos Aires FIDE as "spurious".

The Paraguayan motion was an obvious violation of democratic principles. Only about half the members of FIDE were represented in Buenos Aires, and even fewer knew that such an important vote was being held. Ultimately, only 8 of the 45 member nations had voted against Rueb. Not surprisingly, some commentators spoke of a "coup".

Reaction in Europe to the news from Buenos Aires fell short of the "perfect agreement" postulated by Grau. It was lukewarm at best and derisive at worst.

The position of *CHES*

Baruch Wood was one of the writers who essentially chose to ignore the story altogether, although he was in a perfect spot to report. He had been in Buenos Aires as the reserve player of the English team. In the preliminaries he had scored one win, two draws, and one loss. Then war broke out. As his team-mates decided to return to Europe immediately, England retired from the competition (the only nation to do so). Wood, however, did not sail with the others and remained until the end of the tournament. With plenty of time on his hands, he prepared reports on the chess tournament and also appears to have participated in some of the sessions of the FIDE Congress, although presumably without voting rights, since the official delegate of the British Chess Federation was Thomas Henry Acton, who also returned to Europe early.

There seems to be only one plausible reason why Wood did not report in *CHES* about the attempted ousting of Rueb, which he had demanded two years earlier himself: he considered it entirely illegitimate and unnewsworthy.

Curiously, Wood finally picked up the story one-and-a-half years later, when publishing a longer exchange of letters from America, wherein Maurice S. Kuhns described the situation regarding FIDE and also expressed his doubts about the legitimacy of the alleged "elections" (see *CHES*, May 1941, pp. 114-115, and June 1941, p. 131). Unlike Kuhns, Wood had been on site, but he limited himself to a very brief postscript, correcting Kuhns on Rueb's presence in Buenos Aires and declaring that "it might have cleared the situation a little had [Rueb] lodged a vigorous protest at the time, instead of saying little or nothing until he had returned to Europe. The

remainder of the paragraph containing this statement is perfectly correct."

Decades later, when Wood wrote down his memoirs of the Olympiad, he again made no mention of the contentious Congress (see the posthumous publication in *CHES*, September 1999, p. 42).

From a historical point of view, when judging the current Argentinean motion to have Augusto De Muro retroactively recognised as FIDE President for the years 1939 to 1946, the crucial final question to consider is not only the legitimacy, but also whether he effectively led FIDE in those years or at least had a significant impact.

The answer is decidedly negative. The 'De Muro Presidency' existed primarily on paper. Apart from a few speeches, De Muro did not continue with FIDE's activities during the war years. No reports were produced, no gatherings held, and no membership fees collected. The coup attempt was thus not only largely ignored outside Latin America, it also had no real consequences whatsoever.

Summary

In conclusion:

i. The 1939 vote to replace Rueb by De Muro and move FIDE's headquarters to Buenos Aires was a violation of the Federation's Statutes, committed by an unrepresentative minority and, essentially, behind the back of the other member nations. Growing discontent with the incumbent President was just as much a motive as geopolitical considerations. The 'De Muro Administration' faced opposition from overseas from the outset and never became truly productive.

ii. In the 21st century, it seems ill-advised for FIDE to endorse retrospectively an illegitimate and illegal attempt to usurp power, and particularly given that the action had little practical impact at the time, except for increasing FIDE's paralysis during the war.

iii. Augusto De Muro, Roberto Grau, and others deserve great admiration for organising a splendid Chess Olympiad in 1939, after overcoming countless obstacles. There are far better ways of honouring their names than rewriting FIDE's presidential history. Launching a proper gallery of honorary members and founders of FIDE would be a welcome first step.

The author is grateful to Justin Corfield, Juan Sebastián Morgado, Jurgen Stigter, and Edward Winter, as well as Raymond Rozman and William Chase from the Cleveland Public Library, who generously provided various materials for this article. For an extensive 30-page report, including detailed sources, see www.chesshistory.com/fide1939.



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Home News

AYR – Rishi Vijayakumar (Dundee) triumphed with 4½/5 at the Ayr Allegro on December 4th, finishing half a point ahead of Rabindra Paul (Ardrossan), while Zachary Patton (Paisley) took first place in the Under-1600 section on 100%, with Advik Mittal (Kirkintilloch) back on 4/5.

The day before another Scottish Chess Tour event had taken place, the Edinburgh Park Allegro, which featured significantly more players and saw FM Keith Ruxton (Edinburgh) finish on 100%, with Raja Palaniswamy (India) on 4½/5. The Under-1600 section fell to Kritan Boggarapu whose 5/5 left him a point ahead of fellow Edinburgh players Juniper Preston and Joao Reis.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA – Bexhill Town Hall hosted the second Bexhill Rapidplay on November 12th. **Open:** 1 Mark Rich (Orpington) 5½/6, 2-3 Jonathan Britnell (Lewes), Ilya Iyengar (Hendon) 5. **Challengers:** 1 Samuel Merchant 5½, 2-4 Luke Chapman (both Sussex), Freya Pinna-Chapman (Hastings), Aidan Burnside (East Grinstead) 4.

BIRMINGHAM – The Birmingham Open took place at Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School in Acocks Green (November 19-20).

Open: 1 Piotr Danderski (Leicestershire) 4½/5, 2-3 Aron Saunders (Bristol), Lorenzo Fava (Cambridge) 4.

Major: 1 Jack Pilley (Syston) 5, 2 Shabab Quraishi (West Bromwich) 4, 3 Matthew McLachlan (Guildford) 3½.

Intermediate: 1 David Collyer (Southampton) 5, 2 Ben Carpenter-Friend (Herne Bay) 4½, 3-4 Peter Bending (Cheltenham), Tom Junde He (Birmingham) 4.

Minor: 1 Keatan Patel (Coventry) 4½, 2-4 Bhupinder Singh Narula (Birmingham), Chaniru Ranasinghe (South Birmingham), Kanvansh Dhingra (Sutton Coldfield) 4.

BRAMCOTE – Shabir Okhai (West Bridgford) racked up 6/6 at the Nottinghamshire Championship in Bramcote on November 13th. Julian Cast (Long Eaton) was a point adrift, while the Challengers saw a three-way tie for first between Nick London (Radcliffe), Joe Andrews (Nottingham) and Benjamin Humphreys (West Bridgford), also on 5/6.

DAVENTRY – Wood Green, Chessable White Rose and Chess.com Manx Liberty all won both their matches in January to remain on 100% in Division One of the 4NCL, while The Sharks fought back well to draw with Wood Green Youth and, alongside Cheddleton, are on 7/8. We'll have the full news from the second weekend of the season (January 14-15)

in our March pages.

The 4NCL Online League is still going strong with Season Six seeing Charlton Cobras and Dundee City top Groups A and B respectively in Division One before Charlton triumphed on board count come the final on December 20th, thanks to Conor Murphy's victory on top board over Richard Polaczek (Declan Shafi won for Dundee on board two against Gary Clark). Elsewhere Guildford defeated Barnet Knights in the final of Division Two – on board count too and thanks to Nigel Povah defeating Rob Willmoth on top board – while top honours in Division Three went to Hebden Bridge who overcame Morpeth after another 2-2 and Dundee City D defeated Jurassic Coast 3-1 in the Division Four final.

GREENISLAND – The Ulster Blitz Championships attracted 50 players to Greenisland Chess Club on December 29th, Robbie Wright triumphing on tie-break, while WFM Karina Campbell (Civil Service, 9½/18) became the inaugural Women's Champion.

Leading scores: 1 Robbie Wright (Strand) Liam Ferris (Queens University) 15½/18, 3 Ross Du Berry (Galway) 14½.

The Civil Service Chess Club in Belfast then hosted the Dundonald Rapid on January 7th, which featured 8 rounds of 20+0 under the watchful eye of arbiters Brendan Jamison and Adam Rushe.

Leading scores: 1 Mandar Tahmankar (Civil Service) 7½/8, 2 Richard Morrow (Bangor) 6½, 3 Gatis Barbals (Fruithill) 6.

HAMILTON – Sanjith Madhavan (Glasgow) triumphed with 4½/5 at the Hamilton Open, which was held at the Bothwell Bowling Club (January 7-8). Half a point back sharing second were Alan Jelfs (East Kilbridge), Pisut Prayoonthamrongthiti (Thailand), Calum McGillivray (Edinburgh), Neev Lukhi (Kirkintilloch) and Ross Blackford (Kelso).

HASTINGS – Along the Masters, there were, as usual, a great many other tournaments held as part of the 96th Caplin Hastings International Chess Congress (December 28 - January 8). IM Brandon Clarke clearly likes to challenge himself, a bit like Reuben Fine did. Not content with scoring 7/10 in the Masters, Clarke also amassed 15/15 in the two morning Opens (worth £300 each), as well as the closing weekend (first prize: £500), culminating in a win over Spanish GM Oleg Korneev.

Christmas AM Open: 1 Brandon Clarke (Ely) 5/5, 2-4 Adam Ashton (Sowerby Bridge), Sam Jukes (Cardiff), Jürgen Brustkern (Germany) 3½.

Christmas AM Under-1900: 1-2 Supratit



Brandon Clarke is a man who certainly likes to play, slotting in two games a day throughout Hastings and racking up a huge 22/25 in total.

Banerjee (Coulsdon), Ted Filby (Hastings) 4, 3 Kit Blades (Brighton) 3½.

Christmas AM Under-1700: 1-5 Marc Bryant, Derek Cosens, Mason Woodhams (all Hastings), John Constable (Bude), James Fazzolari (Margate) 3½.

Christmas PM Under-2125: 1 Billy Fellowes (Coventry) 4, 2-3 Subhani Ashraf (India), Jeffrey Boardman (Haywoods Heath) 3½.

Christmas PM Under-1800: 1 Louis Buckland (Lewes) 4½, 2 Leo Woning (Bexhill) 4, 3-4 Robert Wall (East Grinstead), Michelle Chan (St Albans) 3½.

Christmas PM Under-1600: 1 Kritan Boggarapu (Edinburgh) 4, 2-4 Douglas Forbes (Gerrards Cross), William Tracey (Bexhill), Louie Ellson (Kent) 3½.

Blitz: 1 Yichen Han (Oxford) 8½/9, 2 Gabor Nagy (Hungary) 8, 3 Frederick Waldhausen Gordon (Edinburgh) 7.

New Year AM Open: 1 Brandon Clarke (Ely) 5/5, 2 Michael Green (Loughborough) 3½, 3 Helge Hjort (Hendon) 3.

New Year AM Under-1900: 1 Carl Gartside (Macclesfield) 4, 2-3 Henry Shaw (Crowborough), Paul Kelly (Hastings) 3½.

New Year AM Under-1700: 1-2 Marc Bryant (Hastings), Dale Westcott (Neath) 4, 3 Paul Mottram (Wigston) 3½.

New Year PM Under-2125: 1 Carl Gartside (Macclesfield) 4, 2-3 Alaa Gamal (Basildon),

Jerry Anstead (Tunbridge Wells) 3½.

New Year PM Under-1800: 1 Paul Jackson 4½, 2-5 Brendan O’Gorman, Paul Bloom (all Coulsdon), Hambel Willow (West Nottingham), Adrian Cload (Hastings) 3½.

New Year PM Under-1600: 1-2 Robert Smart (Eastbourne), Jan Petter Opedal (Norway) 4, 3-4 Chris Fraser (West Bridgford), Jennifer Goldsmith (Harrow) 3½.

Weekend Open: 1 Brandon Clarke (Ely) 5/5, 2-4 Aron Saunders (Bristol), Marta Garcia Martin (Spain), Martin Althenhof (Germany) 4.

Weekend Major: 1-4 Brian Gosling (East Budleigh), Mark Abbott (Exmouth), Okwose Marc Obi (Bedford), Jack Virgin (Charlton) 4.

Weekend Intermediate: 1 Elizabeth Finn (Sussex) 4½, 2-3 David Rogers (Charlton), Alan Prince (Brentwood) 4.

Weekend Minor: 1-2 Beni Sisupalan (Barnet), William Tracey (Bexhill) 4, 3 Lars Schiefler (Kent) 4.

HULL – The Hull Rapidplay on January 15th clashed with the main divisions of the 4NCL, but not Division Three East in which the city’s team plays, and was a huge success, with 101 entries, 23 of which were juniors. Ukrainian teenagers certainly did well in the Open.

Open: 1 Artem Lutsko (Ukraine) 5/6, 2 Maksym Larchikov (Hull), Gavyn Cooper (Holme-on-Spalding-Moor) 4½.

Major: 1-2 Paul May (Alwoodley), Chris Matthews (East Hull) 5, 3-5 Kyle Pelling (Heywood), David Wells (York), Gerald Cuaresma (Huddersfield) 4½.

Minor: 1-4 Shriaansh Ganti (Wakefield), Benedikt Pitel, David Stothard, Hussam Al Haidar (all Hull) 5.

LONDON – Teenager Julia Volovich had an impressive result at the Mill Hill Congress (December 10-11).

Open: 1-4 Aaravamudhan Balaji (Orpington), Julia Volovich (Cambridge), Remy Rushbrooke (Pimlico), Alexander Cherniaev (Hackney) 4/5.

Under-1900: 1 Julian Llewellyn (Muswell Hill) 4, 2-6 George Zhao (Barnet), Aram

Swiatkowski (Medway), David Faulkner (Welwyn), Oliver Finnegan (Loughton), Andrea Bertesi (Italy) 3½.

Under-1700: 1 Rezin Catabay (Colchester) 5, 2-3 Oliver Josiah (Oxford), Madhav Kaushik (Borehamwood) 4.

ROCHDALE – We were saddened to learn of the death from pneumonia and heart failure of Mark Whitehead, captain of Manchester Manticores in the 4NCL and a stalwart of Rochdale Chess Club then Blue Club, which was formed after the merger of the Rochdale and Oldham clubs. Mark was especially popular on the UK congress scene, always happy to have a chat and likely to be wearing a heavy metal t-shirt, and we’ve little doubt that many readers will have crossed swords with him in a Major at some point.

SAINT PETER PORT – Mark Hebden was held to a draw in the final round by Tom Villiers, meaning that he had to settle for second place at the Guernsey International Chess Festival (October 16-22).

Leading scores: 1 Boris Chatalbashev (Denmark) 6½/7, 2 Mark Hebden (Leicester) 6, 3-5 John Wager (Maidenhead), Gunnar Johnsen (Norway), Harry Zheng (Essex) 5½, 6-13 Philip Giulian (Giffnock), Oliver Jackson (Cheshire), Thomas Villiers (Muswell Hill), Alfie Onslow, Joao Santos (both Ealing), Sven Zeidler (Swindon), Kevin Thurlow (Redhill), Brian Hewson (Tiverton) 5.

TELFORD – The Shropshire Congress made a welcome return to the headquarters of the Wrekin Housing Group (January 6-8), and saw FM Jonathan Blackburn triumph after defeating top seed IM John Cox.

Open: 1 Jonathan Blackburn (Holmes Chapel) 4½/5, 2 Bruce Baer (Birmingham) 4, 3-5 Charles Morris (Wrexham), Jonathan Underwood (Seaton), Peter Ackley (Chesterfield) 3½.

Major: 1-3 Graham Ashcroft (Preston), Joe Lees-Conway (Stourbridge), Oleg Cukovs

(Poulton-le-Fylde) 4.

Intermediate: 1 Ewan Herd (Leeds) 5, 2-5 Paul Doherty (Olham), Joe Rastal (Worcester), Adithya Vaidyanathan (Birmingham), Carmel Barwick (Crewe) 5.

Minor: 1-2 Sam Hollands (Shrewsbury), Sean Tavenor (Staffordshire) 4½, 3-5 Sam Fowkes (Birmingham), Jeff Wilson (Oldham), Amitesh Purushothaman (Coventry) 4.



Julia Volovich did well at Mill Hill and is pictured here receiving her medal for becoming British Under-18 Girls’ Champion at Torquay.

Guildford Chess Club, in association with the University of Surrey Chess Society, presents

The Guildford FIDE Congress 2023

Friday 31 March to Sunday 2 April 2023

Venue: University Hall, Stag Hill Campus, Guildford GU2 7XH

Format: 5-round Swiss tournament - Sections: Open, Major (U2000), Minor (U1600). All sections ECF-rated and FIDE-rated

Time control: 90 minutes plus 30 seconds a move from the start of the game

Entry fee: £40

Entry requirements: ECF Gold or Platinum members, or membership of a non-English chess Federation

Prize fund: £2,600 in total, including rating / female / junior prizes.

For more details, including online entry and payment, go to <http://congress.org.uk/congress/240/home>



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5-round Swiss tournament:
OPEN - UNDER-1900 (MAJOR)
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www.eastdevonchesscongress.com

This Month's New Releases



The Chess Battles of Hastings

Jürgen Brustkern & Norbert Wallet,
376 pages, New in Chess
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

The first Hastings chess tournament took place in 1895. With its all-star cast of players, fabulous games and plethora of memorable anecdotes, it has been preserved in history as one of the finest of all chess events. The follow-up took some time, only coming in 1919 in the form of the 'Victory Tournament', held to mark the end of the war to end all wars.

We have had plenty of books and articles on the famous 1895 tournament, but it has been a long time since the entire series of Hastings events has been celebrated in a single book. In fact, one must go back to *Battle of Hastings* by Reg Cload (with a games' selection by Raymond Keene), published by Pergamon Chess in 1991. As worthy as that book was, there has clearly been a lot of water under the pier since then.

We are therefore grateful to the German duo of Jürgen Brustkern and Norbert Wallet for their efforts to bring the story (almost) up to date, covering the best of the action all the way up to 2021's online event. In the words of the blurb:

"No other chess tournament has such a long and rich history as the annual gathering 'in between the years' at the English seaside resort of Hastings. Countless chess players, professionals, and amateurs alike have celebrated Christmas and welcomed the New Year in at Hastings while battling it out on the chessboard."

The authors have certainly done their research; the bibliography stretches to five pages. Inside the pages of the sturdy hardback, we find games and stories from a veritable *who's who* of chess history.

Harry Nelson Pillsbury, the original (albeit ill-fated) Hero of Hastings, who outscored a stellar field, including reigning world champion Emanuel Lasker and former champion Wilhelm Steinitz, set a high standard which was not easy to follow, but the roll of honour includes so many chess giants, including Jose Raul Capablanca, Alexander Alekhine, Mikhail Botvinnik, Anatoly Karpov and Viktor Korchnoi. Famously, Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov are two of a very small group of superstars never to have embraced the chilly challenge of the Hastings experience.

The 1895 tournament remains, in many ways, the most important of all those played at Hastings. Siegbert Tarrasch, who had left it a

little too late to challenge Wilhelm Steinitz to a title match, had a stunning run of tournament successes in the late 1880s and was no doubt perturbed to see Lasker become champion of the world before him. With all of the world's elite gathered together, Tarrasch wrote in *Frankfurter Generalanzeiger*: "This tournament is the most significant that has ever taken place, whoever emerges as the winner must be recognised as the strongest player in the world!"

Tarrasch did beat Lasker in their individual game, but still finished behind him, in fourth place. Lasker beat Pillsbury, but yet the American powered his way to first place. This still left lots of unanswered questions regarding who was the strongest player in the world; a follow-up tournament in St. Petersburg (1895/96), to which the top five players from Hastings were invited, answered some (Lasker dominated), but not all of them (Tarrasch was absent).

There have been plenty of leaner years – in terms of star players – at Hastings too, but nevertheless it is a remarkable achievement. Most of the classic Hastings games are present and correct, including Steinitz-Curt von Bardeleben (1895), Mir Sultan Khan-Capablanca (1930/31), Korchnoi-Karpov (1971/72), Keene-Miles (1975/76), Larsen-Chandler (1987/88), and Polgar-Flear (1988/89). Others I expected to see, such as John Littlewood's valiant, albeit unsuccessful, effort to slay Botvinnik's Dragon in 1961/62, are absent, but there is only so much that can be squeezed into a book, even one with such a large number of pages.

Another classic is this one:

J.Kaplan-D.Bronstein Hastings 1975/76



24...♙xd2! 25 ♖xd2 ♜d8 26 ♜hd1 c4 0-1

I remember Gerry Walsh, the former Hastings chief arbiter, telling me that some observers assumed Kaplan had lost on time, but on closer examination the full strength of 26...c4 becomes apparent. As Bronstein comments: "The white king resigns. A beautiful finish. When White runs out of pawn moves he will have to move his king and lose a piece."

Brustkern and Wallet go the extra mile, putting Hastings into the context of the chess world of the 1880s. They also shine the spotlight on a number of players we no longer get to read much about, such as Wolfgang Unzicker, Istvan Bilek, Lajos Portisch, William Hartston and Murray Chandler. More obscure characters make an appearance, too, such as Reinhard Cherubim.

There are other bonuses, including a new interview with Helmut Pfleger, for example, who shares his memories of rubbing shoulders with the greats. When talking about one of the more famous world champions, he says: "Spassky never wanted to be special in any way. He talked to everyone, showed no arrogance. I have always found him very pleasant."

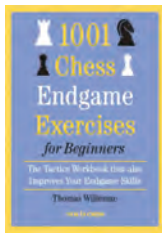
Not everyone found their experiences of Hastings to be enjoyable. Tony Miles famously described it as one of the "worst tournaments in the world" in an article in *The New Statesman* of January 1978. Ever the maverick, his derogatory comments on the noise and cold at Hastings in winter saw him break ranks from the established and expected stiff upper lip ethos of his predecessors and contemporaries alike.

Naturally, as the Hastings tournament was once again played as the old year turned into the new (thanks to the sponsorship of Caplin Systems), this book is immediately out of date in terms of it being a celebration of the entire history of the event. Nevertheless, it is still a magnificent effort and readers will be able to pick up on the action from this year's tournament in this very magazine.

Two enhancements could have been made: an index of games and some tournament crosstables, even if just to augment coverage of the classic years. There are though plenty of excellent photographs, such as the one showing Lisa Lane in her substantial fur coat (one of many depicting robust winter-wear), and Bronstein virtually nose-to-nose with Conel Hugh O'Donel Alexander in their classic 1953/54 battle, won by the latter, after successfully navigating his way through all manner of Bronstein's trickery over the course of 120 moves.

With well over 100 years of great games, memorable characters, fine anecdotes, stirring battles and marvellous memories, this is an outstanding book and, perhaps, a very early contender for the English Chess Federation Book of the Year.

Sean Marsh



1001 Chess Endgame Exercises for Beginners

Thomas Willemze, 312 pages, New in Chess
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

According to the blurb, the author “does two things simultaneously. He explains all the basic concepts and provides many exercises for each theme and each chess piece.” The strapline on the front cover also aims for two targets: ‘The tactics workbook that also improves your endgame skills.’

Stylistically, the book follows in the footsteps of the other four in the ‘1001’ series by New in Chess, which started with 2012’s *1001 Chess Exercises for Beginners* by Franco Masseti and Roberta Messa. They are all good-looking books, with a very clear layout crammed with excellent and highly instructive material. This is one presented in four parts, namely: Basic tactical patterns, The preparatory move, Defend, and Chess Endgame Exercises for Club Players.

Thomas Willemze’s previous books, *The Chess Toolbox* (New in Chess, 2020) and *The Scandinavian for Club Players* (New in Chess, 2021) are both very good and his engaging style is well to the fore here too. Each chapter starts with a succinct summary of the motif in question, followed by many pages of exercises and test positions (typically, six per page). We are also offered conclusions, flash cards to highlight key ideas and then the answers.

The use of the word ‘beginners’ in a title can serve as a double-edged sword. The material cannot remain at the most basic of levels throughout a book with 1001 positions, nor can it accelerate too quickly. It is difficult to cater for both audiences without falling between two stools.

This dichotomy reminds me of the very old book, *Chess Endings for Beginners* by J.H. Blake (Routledge, many editions). I remember my friend and I going through the examples back in the early 1980s, thinking it would be very easy target practice. In fact, they were aimed at players far beyond the level of the beginner, but we became more and more convinced we were just very poor players, despite our lofty ambitions.

Thankfully, this new book pitches everything much more accurately. The first group of examples asks the reader to find a checkmate in one move, in positions featuring queens and pawns. Then the material

progresses methodically: win a piece in two moves, checkmate in two moves, and so on. The concluding chapters focus on defending the king and various pieces. It can be somewhat harder to spot not only what the opponent intends doing, but also how to stop it happening. Here is a case in point.



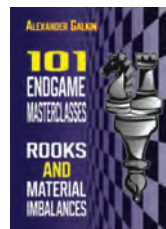
“Where should the black king go?
Three alternatives need to be assessed.

- A) 1...♔g5;
- B) 1...♔e5;
- C) 1...♔e6.”

Clearly, only one option avoids instant checkmate, but over the board, with the clock running low, it is so easy to rely on instinct, which could lead to a major blunder. The author points out that Korchnoi made such a reflex mistake in a similar position against Ian Rogers at the Biel tournament of 1986 and spends nearly a full page listing the reasons why these things happen.

The author name-checks the Steps Method in his introduction (“This famous Dutch training method is part of my chess DNA”), and uses the same terminology in the book. I have used all of the previous books in the 1001 series with my students and I am looking forward to doing the same with this one. It is ideal for improving club players who have, perhaps, neglected study of the endgame for some time and who would now like to put some flesh on the bones of their basic knowledge.

Sean Marsh



101 Endgame Masterclasses: Rooks and Material Imbalances

Alexander Galkin, 200 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Series devoted to both ‘1001’ and ‘101’ clearly remain popular, the latter title being one nowadays used by Elk and Ruby, not Gambit Publications. Russian GM Galkin provides plenty of useful material on endgames featuring at least one rook and a

material imbalance, such as rook against two pieces or rook and minor piece against queen. The vast majority of the examples are recent as well as instructive, especially for the hard-working stronger club player (Galkin’s target audience is supposedly 1900–2300, but even higher-rated players could likely learn much too from his work).



A Repertoire against the Italian Game

Mihail Marin, PC-DVD;
running time: 5 hours, 30 minutes
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 is currently rather topical at all levels of the game, so leading theoretician Mihail Marin’s visit to Hamburg is timely for all black players wondering how to counter the modern-day Italian. The Romanian GM’s response is initially quite classical in 3...♙c5 4 c3 ♘f6 5 d3 (full coverage of 5 d4, as well as the earlier deviations, 4 b4 and 4 ♘c3, is also supplied) 5...a6, providing an escape route for the bishop. However, after that followed by ...d6 and ...♙a7, Marin suggests that Black can often be quite aggressive, going ...h6 to angle for a quick ...g5.

ChessBase have also released a companion DVD, *Tactic Toolbox Italian Game*, which features 5 hours and 18 minutes of video (RRP £26.95, Subscribers £24.25). Here Marin gives particular focus to Black’s dark-squared bishop, queen’s knight and attacking chances on the kingside, while providing a large number of interactive exercises for viewers to solve.



Anthology of Miniature Endgame Studies

Yochanan Afek, 500 pages, hardback
RRP £44.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £40.45**

Leading endgame studies expert Yochanan Afek presents a selection of the best composed endings featuring no more than seven pieces on the board. Inside are all manner of interesting subjects, with chapters devoted to such topics as battery play, castling, excelsior and asymmetry. In total there are 2,000 studies for the reader to enjoy, with Afek supplying detailed solutions to each in what is another fine hardback production from Chess Informant and with a foreword from Jan Timman no less.

Check and Mate

Anastasiya Geller, 412 pages, paperback
RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**



This is 'A Beginners [sic] Guide with 2000 Examples' presented by Russian WIM and experienced junior coach Anastasiya Geller. It teaches juniors and all new to the game how to mate the king, with the vast majority of the exercises devoted to mates in one in this basic yet thorough new work.

On a related but somewhat more detailed note, Elk and Ruby have also recently released *Mate Threats and Defense: 1000 Tactical Examples* by Jakov Geller (288 pages; RRP £28.95, Subscribers £26.05). This contains 1,000 positions, of which 924 are offered for the reader to solve, ranging from simple attacks to ones more like five to six moves deep and which also contains good coverage of some important defensive techniques.



Chess Informant 154 – Eclipse

Sahovski Informator, 310 pages, paperback
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

The latest 'Informator' contains plenty of coverage of last year's European Club Cup, as well as a fascinating contribution from Brazilian GM Rafael Leitao on 'Opening Trends in South American Chess'. Nigel Davies, Danny Gormally, Douglas Griffin, Mihail Marin and Ian Rogers are some of the other notable contributors, with the traditional sections devoted to the latest novelties, games and endings very much still present too. Note further that if you'd also like the material in CD as well as book format, that is possible too at the cost of an additional £10.00.



Chess Parallels II: Endgames

Bora Ivkov, 210 pages, hardback
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Another welcome and well-produced new work from our friends in Belgrade sees the late Serbian Grandmaster present a number of instructive endgames and queenless middlegames, by no means all of which are well known. The annotations are clear and in English, and all those looking to improve their non-theoretical endgames and overall

intuition come the final stage of the game will find much useful material here.

If you're yet to purchase *Chess Parallels I*, it's possible to purchase that alongside *Chess Parallels II* for the special combined price of £67.50 or just £60.75 for Subscribers.



Daily Mail Basic Chess

David Levens, 240 pages, paperback
RRP £7.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £7.19**

Many readers will be aware of the name of David Levens, occasional contributor to these pages and a long-time leading chess coach in the Nottinghamshire area. Written for Hachette and with the beginner and those new to the game very much in mind, Levens departs a lot of clear-cut advice, explaining everything about each of the pieces, as well as various basic principles and even some opening suggestions.



Keep it Simple for Black

Christof Sielecki, 416 pages, paperback
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Thanks to a high-quality production from New in Chess, another best-selling course is turned into book format for Chessable. Mr 'Chess Explained', German IM Sielecki, maps out 'A Solid and Straightforward Chess Opening Repertoire for Black', the main pillars of which are the Caro-Kann and Queen's Gambit Declined. The repertoire is detailed, but by no means overly so, with the main emphasis being on piece set-ups, plans and verbal explanations.



Master Class Volume 15 – Viktor Korchnoi

Mihail Marin, Karsten Müller, Oliver Reeh & Yannick Pelletier, PC-DVD; running time: 7 hours, 53 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The ChessBase 'Master Class' team turn their attention to another of the all-time greats, the legendary fighter and two-time world championship challenger that was

Viktor Korchnoi. Detailed video coverage is supplied of Korchnoi's wide opening repertoire, as well as how he excelled in a great array of different types of middlegame and endgame. He was also no mean tactician and the keen user can try and solve a number of interactive tactical puzzles taken from his games, with another highlight the contribution of Yannick Pelletier as he remembers his late Swiss team-mate.

Unsurprisingly at such a time, ChessBase have also released a remastered version of *My Life for Chess*, a PC-DVD which was originally recorded in 2004 and which features over seven and a half hours of instruction from Korchnoi himself (RRP £26.95; Subscribers £24.25).



My Most Memorable Interviews

Gert Devreese, 474 pages, paperback
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Subtitled '35 Conversations with Chess Stars', leading Belgian chess journalist Devreese presents a collection of his best interviews for Thinkers Publishing. All the world champions from Karpov to Carlsen appear, as well as other luminaries including Fabiano Caruana, Hou Yifan, Hikaru Nakamura and Alexandra Kosteniuk. Plenty of the interviews were conducted around the time of Wijk aan Zee, with Sergei Tiviakov, Alex Yermolinsky, Frederic Friedel and Yochanan Afek also supplying much fascinating insight into the heart of the chess world. Do note too that a hardback version of this work is also available if you prefer, retailing at an extra £5.00 from Chess & Bridge.



Opening Repertoire: Queen's Gambit Declined: Tarrasch

Cyrus Lakdawala, 304 pages, paperback
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Cyrus Lakdawala might not be the first name that springs to mind when you think of the Tarrasch Defence, but the popular Californian author and IM demonstrates that he practices what he preaches with some of his own games appearing in this, his latest book. The repertoire is centred around a modern interpretation of 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 c5, one popularised by Daniil Dubov: 4 cxd5 exd5 5 ♗f3 ♗f6 6 g3 ♗f6 7 ♘g2 cxd4 8 ♗xd4 ♘c5!?, intending to sacrifice a pawn with 9 ♗b3 ♘b6. As ever, Lakdawala

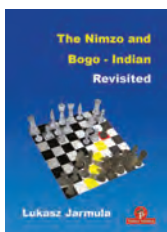
does a fine job of highlighting the key motifs while presenting a complete repertoire for Black against the Queen's Gambit.



The Modernized O'Kelly Sicilian

Jan Boekelman, 356 pages, paperback
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Dutch amateur Boekelman supplies a detailed repertoire for Black with 1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 a6, the same O'Kelly Sicilian on which Everyman Chess released a book by Andrew Martin just last year. Boekelman's bibliography is impressively thorough and it quickly becomes clear that he knows his stuff in his favourite O'Kelly, which remains a decent surprise weapon, or even a good choice for a regular one at club level. Notably against 3 ♗c3 the recommended approach is 3...e6, which may lead to a Kan, while there is also useful coverage for Black of various anti-Sicilians marked by an early ...a6.



The Nimzo and Bogo-Indian Revisited

Lukasz Jarmula, 220 pages, paperback
RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Polish GM Jarmula maps out a positional repertoire for Black against 1 d4, based around 1...♗f6 2 c4 e6, and if 3 ♗c3 ♗b4 or 3 ♗f3 ♗b4+. The key motifs for Black are clearly explained, with much of the strategy being based around light-squared (the Nimzo) and dark-squared (the Bogo) approaches. The coverage is detailed without going over the top, making this a pretty decent work for the more positional club player looking to expand or refresh their repertoire against 1 d4.



The Pawn Study Composer's Manual

Mikhail Zinar, 284 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Sergei Tkachenko has edited and updated a classic work in Russian, one which saw leading pawn study composer Mikhail Zinar (1950–2021) pretty much write the definitive textbook. Making use of over 400

studies, Zinar dissects the basics of pawn studies before looking at some key study ideas, then tackling the artistic merit of compositions and supplying some handy tips for the would-be pawn study composer.

Did you know that Zinar's composition manual was first published in Ukraine in 1990 with a print run of 100,000 copies? That's long sold out, but if you would like a copy of this new Elk & Ruby version and prefer it in hardback version, that's also available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £34.95 (£31.45 for Subscribers).



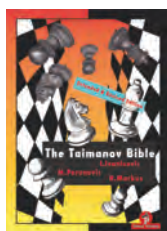
The Super Solid Slav Defence

Sipke Ernst, PC-DVD;

running time: 6 hours, 28 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Meeting 1 d4 with 1...d5 2 c4 c6 is quite a solid choice, but the resulting play can still become quite dynamic, as one would expect from an opening which has a fairly prominent role in Alireza Firouzja's repertoire. Dutch GM Ernst is a decent presenter and maps out a fairly detailed repertoire for Black, with one notable highlight being that he meets both 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 e3 and 3 ♗c3 ♗f6 4 e3 with 4...♗f5, while the main line, 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 ♗c3 dxc4 5 a4, is met by 5...e6, angling for 6 e4 ♗b4 or 6 e3 c5, which transposes to the QGA.



The Taimanov Bible

(Extended & Revised Edition)

Ivan Ivanisevic, Milos Perunovic & Robert Markus, 324 pages, paperback

RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Based around a 1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗c7!? 5 ♗c3 e6 move order, the grandmaster authors have updated their 2016 work on their favourite Taimanov Sicilian. As such, there is a fair amount of new material, not least on the topical 6 ♗e3 a6 7 ♗f3 variation, but the ethos of the original repertoire is very much maintained, with Black rarely playing ...d6 too quickly and often looking to push ...h5 at an early stage.



Thinkers' Chess Academy with Grandmaster Thomas Luther: Volume 3

Thomas Luther, 378 pages, paperback

RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

Leading German trainer GM Thomas Luther turns his attention to testing club players' chess knowledge, supplying "crucial exercises to sharpen your understanding". He is very aware of the need for readers to have some fun and learn plenty, as well as likely try to solve the hundreds of positions. In total there are 20 chapters, 10 devoted to relatively easy quick tests, with a further 10 also devoted to positions to solve while providing a number of useful lessons, including on such topics as easy tactics, checkmate in up to five moves, chess history, and an advantage in five or more moves.

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