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Chess Update

2023 TATA STEEL MASTERS

DUTCH COURAGE

ANISH GIRI SHAKES OFF
"DRAWISH" REPUTATION
TO EMERGE VICTORIOUS



Botvinnik in Britain - Bob Jones covers the Patriarch's four UK tournaments

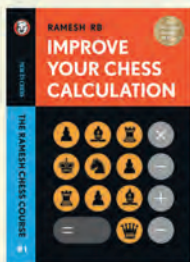


Fighting Back! - Ben Graff explores how we might prepare for our opponents



Tournament reports: 4NCL, Airthings Masters, FIDE Women's Grand Prix

NEW IN CHESS BOOKS



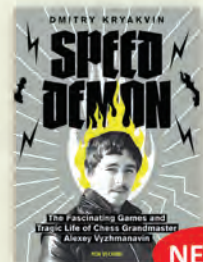
Chess.com 2022 Book of the Year *Ramesh RB*

Coach Ramesh has won the 2022 Chess.com Book of the Year Award, in a vote with thousands of chess players. It is well deserved. But beware! It is a tough book that will require some real effort. Are you up for the challenge?

"An absolute divine masterpiece" – *Andras Toth.*

The forgotten chess genius *Dmitry Kryakvin*

Chess Grandmaster Alexey Vyzhmanavin died in 2000 at forty, in circumstances that remain unclear. He was a highly gifted blitz and rapid player and the ultimate Speed Demon, living for chess but battling depression and alcoholism. This book pays tribute to this forgotten chess genius.



NEW!



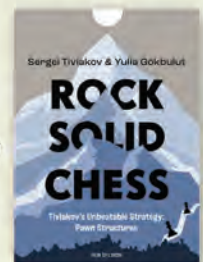
NEW!

Celebrating 'The Wimbledon of Chess'

This year the Tata Steel Chess tournament, often called the Wimbledon of Chess, celebrates its 85th edition. This book captures the festival's uniqueness and tells the stories of the winners and the amateurs. Included are the best twelve games of the last two decades, including the final verdict about Kasparov-Topalov by GM Erwin I'Ami. The book is richly illustrated with dozens of pictures.

The unbeaten grandmaster *Sergei Tiviakov*

Sergei Tiviakov was unbeaten for a consecutive 110 professional chess games as a grandmaster. Who better to teach you rock-solid chess strategy than Tiviakov? In his first book, he explains everything he knows about the fundamentals of chess strategy: pawn structures.

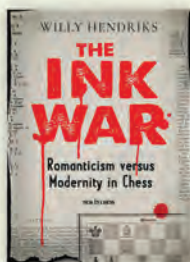


The workbook for self-study *Davorin Kuljasevic*

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'.

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.

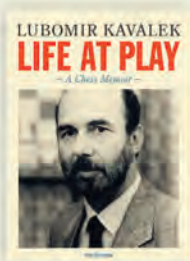
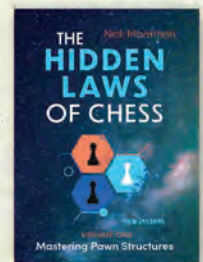


The birth of modern chess *Willy Hendriks*

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.

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.



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.

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.



Chess

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60 Seconds with... IM Yochanan Afek



Born: 16th April, 1952 in Tel Aviv.

Place of residence: Amsterdam.

Occupation: Chess writer and trainer.

Enjoyable? Composing endgame studies.

And home life? I live on my own.

But sometimes good to escape to: Prague, Tel Aviv or Facebook.

Sports played or followed: Basketball, rather followed...

A favourite novel? *A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz.

Piece of music? Simon and Garfunkel, The Beatles and mainly old Israeli songs.

Film or TV series? *The Lives of Others* ('Das Leben der Anderen').

What's the best thing about playing chess? Every game is a new creative challenge.

And the worst? That real life beyond the board might become of minor significance.

Your best move? A possible candidate is 19...♙a5!! as I played against GM Arthur Kogan.

Y.Afek-A.Kogan Israel Cup (rapid) 1999



19...♙a5!! ♖e8

The main point remained behind the scenes: 19...♙xa5 is met by the powerful blow 20 g6!!, after which the black royal couple is threatened simultaneously following the opening of the fifth rank, in contrast to which the routine materialistic approach fails: 20 ♖xe7+? ♙h8 21 ♙xd4 ♗d8! and Black is fine.

20 ♖f6+! 1-0

It's game over after 20...♙xf6 21 gxf6 g6 22 ♗h6 or 20...gxf6 21 gxf6+ ♙h8 22 ♙g7.

But less memorable than your worst move? There are too many of them, but perhaps most painful was to panic with 30...♙d1+?? against GM Palac in a last round.

M.Palac-Y.Afek Werfen Open 1991



30...♙d1+??

30...♙d6!! would have drawn the game (31 ♙h8+! ♙xh8 32 ♙h6+ ♙g7 33 ♙xg7+ ♙g8 34 ♙f6+ ♙f8 35 ♙g7+, etc), thereby

giving me an IM norm.

31 ♙xd1 ♗c7 32 ♙h6 ♙xh6 33 ♗xh6+ 1-0

And a highly memorable opponent? Playing world-class players, especially Smyslov and Tal, are always memorable souvenirs.

Favourite game of all time? Kasparov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1999, which I witnessed in a state of fascination live in De Moriaan.

G.Kasparov-V.Topalov Wijk aan Zee 1999 Pirc Defence

1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♖f6 3 ♗c3 g6 4 ♙e3 ♙g7 5 ♗d2 c6 6 f3 b5 7 ♗ge2 ♗bd7 8 ♙h6 ♙xh6 9 ♗xh6 ♙b7 10 a3 e5 11 0-0-0 ♗e7 12 ♙b1 a6 13 ♗c1 0-0-0 14 ♗b3 exd4 15 ♙xd4 c5 16 ♗d1 ♗b6 17 g3 ♙b8 18 ♗a5 ♙a8 19 ♙h3 d5 20 ♗f4+ ♙a7 21 ♙he1 d4 22 ♗d5 ♗bxd5 23 exd5 ♗d6



24 ♙xd4 cxd4 25 ♙e7+ ♙b6 26 ♗xd4+ ♙xa5 27 b4+ ♙a4 28 ♗c3 ♗xd5 29 ♙a7 ♙b7 30 ♙xb7 ♗c4 31 ♗xf6 ♙xa3 32 ♗xa6+ ♙xb4 33 c3+ ♙xc3 34 ♗a1+ ♙d2 35 ♗b2+ ♙d1 36 ♙f1 ♗d2 37 ♗d7 ♙xd7 38 ♙xc4 bxc4 39 ♗xh8 ♗d3 40 ♗a8 c3 41 ♗a4+ ♙e1 42 f4 f5 43 ♙c1 ♗d2 44 ♗a7 1-0

The best three chess books: *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors* series, and *The Mammoth Book of World's Greatest Chess Games*.

Is FIDE doing a good job? Better than ever.

Can chess make one happy? Indeed, just like other fine arts.

A tip please for the club player: Solving one endgame study a day keeps blunders away!



How to Beat a Grandmaster

Part 15 of IM Paul Littlewood's popular series takes a look at a classic encounter

In the 1950s and 60s the strongest player in England was Jonathan Penrose. He was British Champion a record ten times and became an International Master in 1961. He represented England in numerous Olympiads and was well known as a giant killer who had the respect of all players.

His most famous game was against the world champion, Mikhail Tal, who had just beaten Botvinnik in a thrilling match earlier that year.

J. Penrose-M. Tal
Leipzig Olympiad 1960
Modern Benoni

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 g6 6 e4 d6 7 ♙d3 ♙g7 8 ♘ge2 0-0 9 0-0 a6 10 a4 ♖c7 11 h3 ♘bd7 12 f4

The system employed by White is slightly off the beaten track, but it must not be underestimated, as a strong kingside attack can result if Black does not find the right counter

12... ♗e8 13 ♘g3 c4 14 ♙c2 ♘c5 15 ♖f3 ♘fd7 16 ♙e3 b5 17 axb5 ♗b8 18 ♖f2 axb5

The position is dynamically equal, with White's potential initiative on the kingside being balanced by Black's queenside play.

19 e5!



19...dxe5?

Falling in with White's plans. Rather than allow Penrose to carry out a classic sacrificial breakthrough, Tal should have tried 19...♗f8. A possible continuation runs 20 exd6 ♖xd6 21 f5 b4 22 ♘ce4 ♘xe4 23 ♘xe4 ♖xd5 24 f6 ♙h8 25 ♗ad1 ♖h5 with an unclear position.

20 f5 ♙b7 21 ♗ad1?!

Remarkably White has a winning sacrifice



The legendary Tal hypnotic gaze failed for once against Jonathan Penrose, who won a model game.

here: 21 fxxg6 fxxg6 22 ♙xg6! hxg6 23 ♖f7+ ♙h8 (if 23...♙h7 then 24 ♘h5! gxh5 25 ♗f5 ♘f6 26 ♖xc7 and wins) 24 ♖xxg6 ♘f8 25 ♖h5+ ♘h7 26 ♗f7 ♗e7 27 ♗af1 with a crushing attack.

21... ♙a8 22 ♘ce4?

The previous line of 22 fxxg6 still works.

22... ♘a4??

This is now a dreadful mistake and I suspect time trouble was playing its part.

23 ♙xa4 bxa4 24 fxxg6 fxxg6 25 ♖f7+ ♙h8 26 ♘c5



White is now clearly winning and it was just a case of Jonathan not ruining his position in the time scramble that followed.

26... ♖a7 27 ♖xd7

Even stronger was 27 ♗f3!

27... ♖xd7 28 ♘xd7 ♗xb2 29 ♘b6 ♗b3

30 ♘xc4 ♗d8 31 d6 ♗c3 32 ♗c1 ♗xc1 33 ♗xc1 ♙d5 34 ♘b6 ♙b3 35 ♘e4 h6 36 d7 ♙f8 37 ♗c8 ♙e7 38 ♙c5 ♙h4 39 g3



1-0

A great finish by Jonathan and a good example of how putting pressure on even a top-class grandmaster can cause them to go wrong in a complex position.

Retrospectively Jonathan was awarded the GM title in 1993, which was thoroughly deserved as he had shown himself to be well capable of being able to cross swords with the best players in the world.

Meanwhile if you have any games where you have beaten a grandmaster then please send them to me via plittl@hotmail.com and if they are suitable I will try to include them.

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 number of recent events, including the World Rapid and Blitz, as well as the 4NCL Harrogate Congress. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just pick up win a pawn.

Solutions on pages 54.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) J.W.Nicholson-M.Surtees
Harrogate 2023
White to Play



(2) M.Adams-T.Quilter
European Blitz Championship, Katowice 2022
White to Play



(3) A.Cherniaev-B.Clarke
Hastings 2022/23
Black to Play



(4) V.Artemiev-M.Carlsen
World Rapid Championship, Almaty 2022
White to Play



(5) S.Estremera Panos-B.Clarke
Seville 2023
Black to Play



(6) D.Dubov-N.Sarin
World Rapid Championship, Almaty 2022
White to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



(7) A.Shimanov-M.Carlsen
World Blitz Championship, Almaty 2022
Black to Play



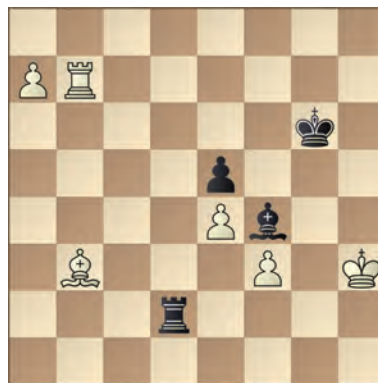
(8) H.Niemann-M.Tabatabaei
Sitges (blitz) 2022
White to Play



(9) K.Malinovsky-V.Rasik
Czech League 2022
Black to Play



(10) M.Adams-V.Petrovskiy
European Blitz Championship, Katowice 2022
White to Play



(11) B.Nitish-T.Adarsh
Budapest 2022
White to Play



(12) A.Erigaisi-S.Mamedyarov
Meltwater Tour Final (rapid) 2022
White to Play



(13) H.Uber Gracia-J.Willow
Sitges 2022
Black to Play



(14) M.A.Maurizzi-D.Dubov
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2023
White to Play

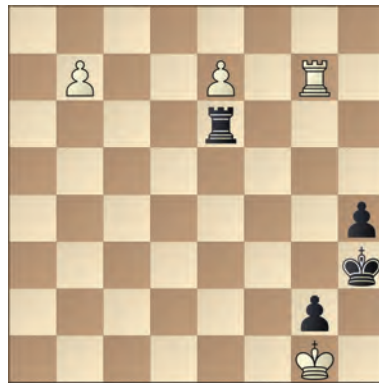


(15) S.Booth-B.Chan
Harrogate 2023
White to Play

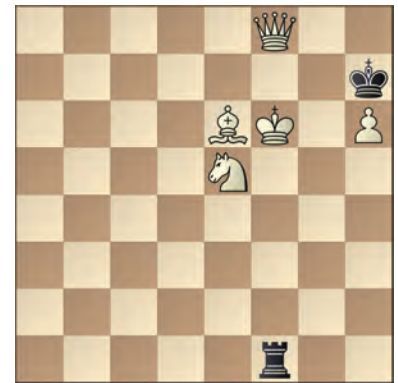
Harder Puzzles for the Club Player – Solutions on page 54



(16) M.M.Mesanan-M.Walker
Harrogate 2023
Black to Play



(17) I.Saric-A.Korobov
Czech Republic League 2023
Black to Play and Draw



(18) L.Pantsulaia-A.Erigaisi
World Blitz Championship, Almaty 2022
White to Play



(19) T.Dunne-J.Britnell
Hastings 2023
Black to Play



(20) R.De Coverly-M.Ther
Harrogate 2023
White to Play



(21) A.Gadimbayli-F.Vallejo Pons
Gashimov Memorial, Baku (blitz) 2022
White to Play



(22) D.Paravyan-A.Suleymenov
World Rapid Championship, Almaty 2022
Black to Play and Draw



(23) J.Gustafsson-S.Grigorian
German Bundesliga 2022
White to Play



(24) J.S.Christiansen-V.Burmakin
World Rapid Championship, Almaty 2022
White to Play

GREAT NEW TITLES

OUT NOW



Simon Williams (the Ginger GM) has played the Dutch Defence all his life and is considered one of the world's leading experts on this very dynamic Black counter. Here he shares his extensive knowledge, holds nothing back and carves out a formidable repertoire for aggressive black players.

Paperback 288 pages



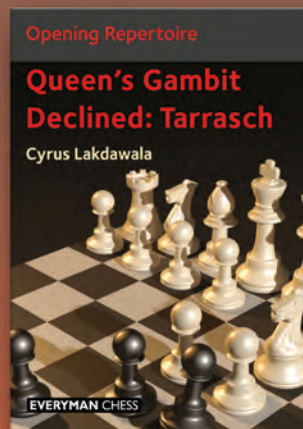
The Barry Attack is a highly aggressive system that arises after 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bf4. It is an ideal weapon for those who love to attack.

Paperback 320 pages



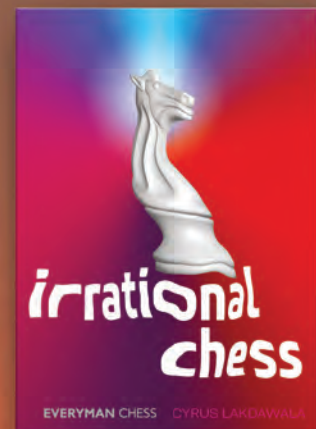
A squeeze play occurs when a player with a minimal advantage is able to nurse this edge to victory by continually setting their opponent difficult problems. In this book Cyrus Lakdawala explains all the key concepts.

Paperback 464 pages



The Tarrasch Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined is a fierce counter-attacking line arising after 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c5. In this variation Black gains free and easy piece play but in return usually has to accept the structural weakness of an Isolated Queen's Pawn (IQP)

Paperback 304 pages

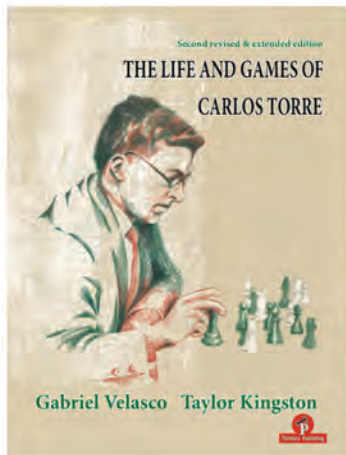


In this collection of brilliantly unconventional and irrational games, the positions appear almost random. Kings have gone walkabout, pieces are on bizarre squares, huge pawn rollers are sweeping all before them. How can you navigate a path in such a game? Prolific chess author and coach Cyrus Lakdawala shows you how.

Paperback 400 pages



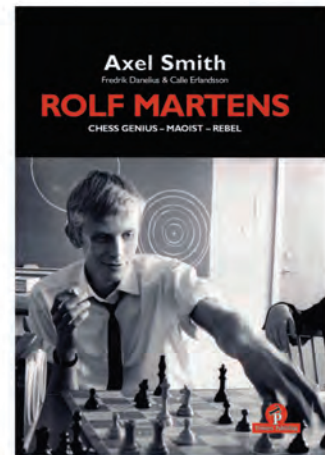
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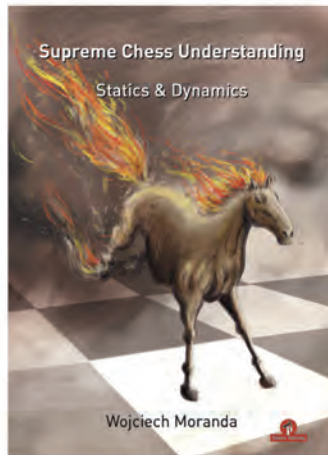
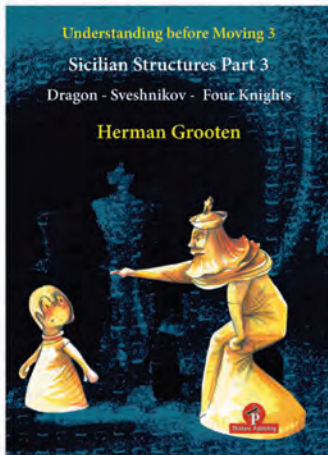
THE PRACTICAL ENDGAME BIBLE
Guidelines for the Fundamentals of the Endgame



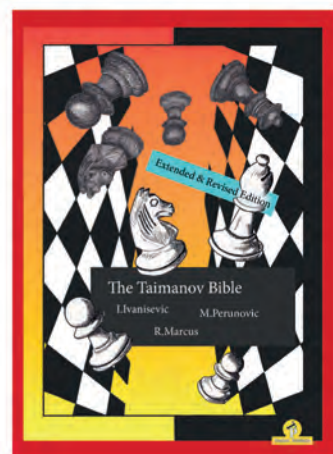
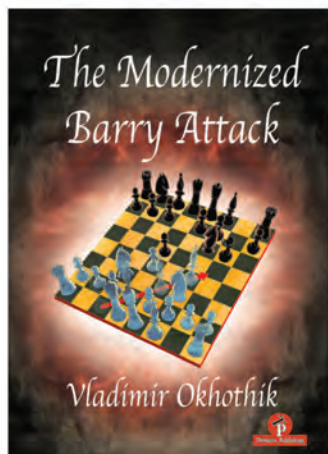
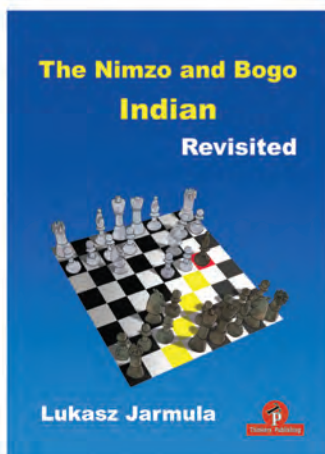
Boroljub Zlatanovic



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Winter 2023





Home News

BELFAST – The Maynard Sinclair Pavilion again played host to the Williamson Shield (January 20-22), which went on tie-break to Mandar Tahmankar of hosts Civil Service Chess Club after he and Scott Crockart (Strand) had both finished on 4/5. Danny Mallaghan was back in third, a further half point adrift, while the Intermediate was won by Mikolaj Liszewski with 4½/5 by half a point from Adam Rushe.

BLACKPOOL – The popular Blackpool Congress was held a little earlier than usual at the Imperial Hotel, which resulted in an unfortunate clash with the 4NCL over the weekend of February 10-12, although only the Open was slightly weakened.

Open: 1 Ameet Ghazi (Sutton Coldfield) 5/5, 2-4 Martin Mitchell (Poulton-le-Fylde), Andrew Burnett (Newcastle), Aitor Garcia-Ruiz (Bristol University) 4.

Major: 1-2 Jonathan McKay (Glasgow), Paul Doherty (Bolton) 4½, 3-5 Bob Newton (Rochdale), James McDade (Inverness), Damien McCarthy (Culcheth) 4.

Intermediate: 1 Luke Maher (Liverpool) 4½, 2-7 Mohammed Khan (Ashton-under-Lyne), Randolph Donohue (Leeds), Qixiang Han (Coulsdon), Roy Lawrence (Sutton Coldfield), Kevin Winter (Ilkley), Robert Kane (West London) 4.

Minor: 1-4 Alexander Kairat (Battersea), Samuel Greig (Thornaby), Stephen Gaskell (Rushall), Lion Lebedev (Barnet) 4½.

Standard: 1 Paul Curran (Heywood) 5, 2-4 Simon Kerridge (Bearsden), Neil Hambly (Hull), Ben Plimley (Oxford) 4½.

BRIDGEND – FM Ioan Rees made a successful comeback at the Welsh New Year Congress (January 6-8).

Open: 1 Ioan Rees 5/5, 2 Alex Bullen 4, 3-7 Joe Fathallah (all Cardiff), Stephen Homer (Exeter), Conor Gay (Battersea), Jason Garcia (Llanelli), Chris Dixon (Gwent) 3.

Major: 1-2 Les Philpin (Swansea), Mohammed Binesmael (Cardiff) 4, 3-4 Yaroslav Sharhorodsky (Cardiff), Jack Hannigan (Wales) 3½.

BRISTOL – Leading Bristol player James Cobb defeated fellow IM James Sherwin in the final round of the Bristol Blitz on February 5th to triumph with 7½/9, with Oscar Garcia (Downend) and Stanley Badacsonyi (Muswell Hill) half a point behind.

EDINBURGH – Top seed FM Alan Tate (Wandering Dragons, Edinburgh) triumphed at the Lothians Allegro on January 15th, his



Alan Tate likes to shock grandmasters, but had to make do with 100% at the Lothians Allegro.

5/5 leaving him a whole point ahead of Isaac Browning (Wandering Dragons), with Lakudkar Shubham (Stirling), Pisut Prayoonthamrongthiti (St Andrews), Mark Orr (Wandering Dragons), Craig Thomson (Edinburgh) all sharing third a further half-point back.

Rithvik Deepak Ambattu (Edinburgh) then triumphed with 5/5 at the Edinburgh Park Allegro, a Scottish Chess Tour event on February 4th. Mike Chisholm (Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh) and Rishi Vijayakumar (Dundee) shared second a point behind, while the Under-1600 section went to Vikram Vedanth (Edinburgh) and Bernard Cassidy (Hamilton) with 4½/5. The Scottish Chess

Tour were also responsible for the Renfrew Allegro the next day, which saw IM Angus Dunnington (Glasgow) rack up 5/5 in the Open to finish a point ahead of Rob Colston (Bearsden) and Nicolas Skettos (Glasgow), while top honours in the Under-1600 went to Alan Sharp (Bearsden), Peter Knak-Watt (Glasgow), Tavish Railwani (Kirkintilloch), all also with 4/5.

FAREHAM – David Pye triumphed with 5/6 at the Castle Chess Fareham Congress (January 20-22).

Open: 1 David Pye (Cosham) 5/6, 2 Theo Khoury (Maidenhead) 4½, 3 Roman Mitra (Southampton) 4.

Major: 1-2 Simon Arnold (York), Thomas Anderson 4½, 3-5 Patrik Baron, Niclas Hordnes (all Southampton), Philip Maul (Reading) 4.

Minor: 1 Fraidon Shabgard 5, 2 Pietro Silke Balerna (both Southampton) 4½, 3-4 Kevin Flux (Isle of Wight), Keven Lamb (Chandler's Ford) 4.

HARROGATE – The 4NCL Congress in Harrogate (January 20-22) was sold out well in advance. Hull and Warwick University's Joe Varley belied his FIDE rating of 1864 as he completed a fine comeback from losing to Tim Wall in the opening round by defeating FM Andrew Burnett to join a five-way tie for first, which also included the in-form Paul Townsend.

Open: 1-5 Keith Arkell (Paignton), Nigel Davies (Southport), Steven Jones (Basingstoke), Paul Townsend (York), Joe Varley (Hull) 4/5.

Under-2200: 1 Jack Pilley (Syston) 5, 2 Andrew Mata (Ilkley) 4½, 3-5 Luke Gostelow (Leeds), Kajus Mikalajunas (Loughborough), Vivien Webster (Halifax) 4.

Under-1700: 1 Jordan Lee (Liverpool) 5, 2-7 Daniel Meredith, Norman Andrews (both York), Bernie Tedd (Birmingham), Shriaansh Ganti (Ilkley), Geoff Ainsley (Calderdale), Sergiu Railean (Moldova) 4.

M.P. Townsend-T.Wall
Harrogate 2023
Benko Gambit

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 ♖c2 bxc4 5 ♗c3 g6 6 e4 d6 7 ♙xc4 ♙g7 8 ♗f3 ♗fd7 9 0-0 0-0 10 b3 ♗b6 11 ♙e2 a5 12 ♙b2 ♙d7 13 a4!

Giving up control of b4, but largely keeping Black's pieces on the queenside under control as White emerges from the opening with a pleasant edge.

13...♗a6 14 ♗b5 ♗b4 15 ♖d2 ♙xb2 16 ♖xb2 ♙g4



17 ♗fd4?

17 ♖c3 was one way to maintain control, since 17...f5? would run into 18 ♗g5!.

17...♙xe2?!

A little meek and a player as dynamic as Wall would normally have preferred 17...cxd4! 18 ♙xg4 d3 when Black should be



In-form 12-year-old Leicestershire star Kajus Mikalajunas is very much a name for the future.

OK with ...♗d7 up next.

18 ♗xe2 ♗d7?!

Another overly routine decision after which White is quick to take full control of the centre.

19 ♖ad1 ♗f6 20 ♗ec3



This is very much a Benko gone wrong for Black as both ♗a3-c4 and f2-f4 followed by e4-e5 loom. Townsend prosecutes his advantage mercilessly.

20...♗c8 21 ♖e2 ♖b6?! 22 ♗a3! ♗fe8 23 ♗c4 ♖a6 24 ♗b5 ♗d7 25 f4 ♗b6 26 f5!

Route one stuff and, well, why not with the black king rather short of defenders?

26...♗d7 27 ♖f2 ♗f8 28 ♖h4 ♗ce8

Desperation in view of 28...♗f6 29 ♗bxd6! exd6 30 ♖xf6 and 28...f6 29 fxg6 hxg6 30 ♖g4.

29 ♗c7 ♖a7 30 ♗xe8 ♗xe8 31 fxg6 fxg6 32 ♖g4 ♗f8 33 ♖f3 1-0

KIDLINGTON – Top seed Marcus Harvey won the £250 first prize at the Kidlington Congress (February 4-5).

Open: 1 Marcus Harvey (Witney) 4½/5, 2-4 Yichen Han (Oxford), Peter Large (Epsom), Kim Yew Chan (Muswell Hill) 4.

Major: 1 Kajus Mikalajunas (Loughborough) 5, 2-6 Roger de Coverly (Bourne End),

Graham Ashcroft (Preston), Adam Sieczkowski (Witney), Robert Dean (Saltaire), Santiago German (Warwick University) 3½.

Intermediate: 1-4 Brendan O'Gorman (Coulson), Mal Waddell (Banbury), Chris Carpenter (Herne Bay), Gareth Stevens (Cumnor) 4.

Minor: 1-3 Senith Gunaratne (Nottingham), Krish Keshari (Reading), Graham Fletcher (Swindon) 4½.

LEICESTER – 12-year-old Leicestershire junior Kajus Mikalajunas stunned Mark Hebden in the final round of the H.E. Atkins Memorial Rapidplay at the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre on January 15th.

Open: 1 Bruce Baer (Birmingham) 5/6, 2-3 Mark Hebden (Leicester), Kajus Mikalajunas (Loughborough) 4½.

Major: 1 Raju Sooraj (Leicestershire) 6, 2 Matthew Connor (Anstey) 4½, 3 Daniel Wilkinson (Braunstone) 4.

Intermediate: 1 Temitope Sanni 5, 2-4 Rhys Edwards (both Coventry), Stephen Gaskell (Rushall), Nick London (Radcliffe) 4½.

Minor: 1 Simon White (Witham) 6, 2-3 UR Jyothika (Leicestershire), Sathara Dissanayake (Wigston) 5.

Junior: 1 Yuvraj Sadhra (Anstey) 6, 2-3 Diah Patel (Coventry), Arav Ajaykumar (Leicestershire) 5.

LONDON – The London Junior Championships took place at Northwick Park over December 17-18 and 28-30.

FIDE-rated Open: 1 Alex Browning (Hammersmith, Under-21 Champion) 5½/6, 2 Senthilnathan Yogit (Uxbridge) 5, 3-6 John Merriman, Aaravamudhan Balaji, James Merriman (all Orpington), Nishchal Thatte (Ealing, Under-18 Champion) 4½; Girls Under-18 and Under-21 Champion: Nina Pert (Brentwood) 4.

Under-16: 1 Max Pert (Brentwood) 5½, 2 Eoin Moore (Kent) 5, 3-4 Anirudh Shidlagatta

(Richmond), Kabir Singh Ahuja (India) 4½.

Under-14: 1-3 Alexey Lapidus (Richmond), Josh Sharma (Maidenhead), Kajus Mikalajunas (Loughborough) 5/6.

Under-12: 1 Alfred Soulier (Wimbledon) 7½/9, 2 Oleg Verbytski (Charlton) 7, 3-6 George Zhao, Lion Lebedev (both Barnet), Pengxiao Zhu (Exeter), Luk Danbe (Croydon) 6½.

Under-10: 1-2 Advait Keerthi Kumar (Watford), George Zhao (Barnet) 6½/7, 3 Alexander Horwood (Harrow) 5½.

Under-8: 1 Dildarav Lishoy Gengis Paratazham (Surrey) 6½, 2-3 Ayan Pradhan (Coulsdon), Ethan Bogerd (Richmond) 6.

Northwick Park Open: 1-3 Remy Rushbrooke (Pimlico), Oscar Pollack (Hendon), Jamie Horton (3Cs) 4/5.

Northwick Park Major: 1 Julian Llewellyn (Muswell Hill) 4, 2-4 Salvatore Pepe (Hendon), Brendan O'Gorman (Coulsdon), Egor Latypov (Chelmsford) 3½.

Northwick Park Minor: 1 Sebastian Merchant (Sussex) 4½, 2 Taylor Duke 4, 3-4 Joshua Davis (both Southend), Nigel Collins (Aylesbury) 3½.

Christmas Major: 1 Rida Ruqayyah 6/6, 2 Mae Catabay (both Colchester) 4½, 3-6 Greg Billiness (Hammersmith), Bodhana Sivanandan (Harrow), Graham Ashcroft (Preston), Mohammed Mozaffari (Coulsdon) 4.

Christmas Minor: 1-2 Sebastian Mokher-Garcia (Surrey), Teo Saunders (Kent) 5, 3 Yixuan Dong (Middlesex) 4½.

Peter Finn top-scored at the Golders Green Rapidplay on February 11th.

Open: 1 Peter Finn (High Wycombe) 5½/6, 2-3 Peter Large (Epsom), Connor Clarke (Middlesex) 5.

Major: 1-3 Yash Mahajan (Barnet), Alexander Funk (Hendon), Kilian Teschke-Panah (Brighton) 5.

Minor: 1 Ethan Bogerd (Richmond) 6, 2-3 Antoine Clark (Hendon), BR Gagan (India) 5.

There was also another Adam Raoof, Jo Wildman, Lance Leslie-Smith and Satish Gaekwa run Golders Green Rapidplay on January 7th.

Open: 1-2 Jovica Radovanovic (Sandhurst), Abhinav Bathula (LSE) 5/6, 3 Kajus Mikalajunas (Loughborough) 4½.

Major: 1 Shrihan Koppuravuri (Aylesbury) 5, 2-4 Salvatore Pepe (Hendon), Prabodha Ariyaratne (Surrey), Arnab Kumar (Coulsdon) 4½.

Minor: 1 Daniel Dupuis (Battersea) 5½, 2-3 Christopher Adams (Golders Green), Arjun Bharadwaj (north-west London) 5.

Arbiter Lance Leslie-Smith also helped Adam Raoof to run the Muswell Hill Rapidplay on February 14th, where Ben Keohane (London) sprang a small shock to win with 5½/6, with Alexander Cherniaev (Hackney) and Ilya Iyengar (Hendon) back on 5. Cherniaev had done better though in the January 24th edition of Muswell Hill where he tied for first with fellow grandmaster Bogdan Lalic on 5½/6.

There was also an Ealing FIDE-rated congress over the weekend of January 28th and 29th.

Under-2300: 1-2 Stephen Prior



LONDON – *Would you have recognised Peter Svidler when he was dressed from head to toe as a meerkat? The amiable Russian star very much adhered to the fancy dress theme, as did Fiona Steil-Antoni at the third Crypt Blitz last year, another fun afternoon of blitz chess, put on by the Ginger GM, Simon Williams. Amidst plenty of recollections of the inspirational life of Mike Basman and the odd drink, Jon Speelman and Danny Gormally battled through to the final.*

(Grantham), Manmay Chopra (Harrow) 4/5, 3 Ilya Iyengar (Hendon) 3½.

Under-1900: 1-2 Okwose Obi (Bedford), Marek Simon (Swansea) 4, 3 Alireza Manuchehri (London) 3½.

Under-1600: 1 Aram Swiatkowski (Meaday) 5, 2 Ruairi Isaacs (Streatham) 4½, 3-5 Finbar McLoughlin (Liverpool), Daniel Shek (Crowthorne), Rohan Campion (Hammersmith) 4.

The MindSports Centre played host to the London League Congress (February 3-5).

Open: 1 Itgelt Khuyagtsogt (Mongolia) 5/5, 2-3 Theo Khoury (Maidenhead), Jacob Yoon (Barnet) 4.

Major: 1 Ivan Omelchenko (Ukraine) 5, 2-3 Djuna Tree (Battersea), Javier Ramos Cabrera (Hendon) 4.

Rapid: 1 Alexander Cherniaev (Hackey) 6/6, 2-3 Ayman Hammam (Kings Head), Ilya Iyengar (Hendon) 4½.

NEWMARKET – Top seed Alan Merry won the EACU Closed Championship in Newmarket (January 21-22).

Open: 1 Alan Merry (Bury St Edmunds) 4½/5, 2-3 Agoston Mihalik (Cambridge), Simon Roe (St Albans) 4.

Under-1950: 1 David Payne (Norwich) 4, 2-6 Ruben Evans (Linton), Samuel Gaffney (Lowestoft), Piotr Wasilak (Newmarket), James Pack (Bury St Edmunds), Francis Bowers (Peterborough) 3½.

Under-1650: 1 Peter Stone (Norwich) 4, 2-3 John Weston (Lewes), Buster Husband (Medway) 3½.

NOTTINGHAM – A record 156 players took part in the Nottingham Rapidplay on January

29th, including many new to over-the-board play. Our congratulations to John Swain and his fellow organisers. The titled players by no means had everything their way, David Coates defeating Jonah Willow and Shabir Okhai overcoming Mark Hebden, while Ameet Ghasi drew with Sooraj Raju, but won his remaining games to scoop the £250 top prize.

Open: 1 Ameet Ghasi (Sutton Coldfield) 5½/6, 2 Dong Bao Nghia (Battersea) 5, 3-5 Mark Hebden (Leicester), Mohammed Ismail (Coulsdon), Hugh Murphy (Rushden) 4½.

Major: 1 Tom Wills (Sheffield) 5, 2-5 Christopher Lewis (Newport), Adman Tolon (Nottinghamshire), Benjamin Humphries (West Bridgford), Max Dooley (Beeston) 4½.

Intermediate: 1 Andrea Passariello (Abingdon) 6, 2-3 Tom Dabner (Nottingham University), Srivathsan Sasikumar (Leeds) 5.

Minor: 1-4 Jeffrey Bryant (Cumnor), Gavin Dow (Radcliffe), Sean Tavener (Staffordshire), Jyothika Reghu (Leicestershire) 5.

Improvers: 1-3 Aashita Roychowdhury (Leeds), Mick Frings (Nottingham Central), Matthew Stokes (Nottingham) 5.

SLIGO – English raider Jonathan Pein drew with GM Alex Baburin in the final round as he scooped the €600 top prize at the Sligo Spring Chess Tournament (February 3-5).

Master: 1 Jonathan Pein (Wood Green) 4½/5, 2-5 Evgeniya Doluhanova, Oleg Gubanov (both Ukraine), Alexander Baburin (Dublin), Rustem Abdullayev (Dun Laoghaire) 3½.

Championship: 1-2 Lukian Hushpit (Donegal), Dean Gorman (Lisburn) 4½, 3-5 Ross Beatty (Dublin), Gavin Sheahan (Dublin), Denis O'Connell (Cork) 4.



Jonathan Pein has been in top form at Sligo and also the two recent 4NCL weekends.



Mark Hebden (right) turned 65 last month and hasn't built on his fine result at Hastings in recent weekend events, whereas Nigel Davies (left) shared first at Harrogate then won at Stockport.

Major: 1-2 Oisín O'Sullivan (Ireland), Polly McCormick (Curragh) 4, 3 Vivaan Verlekar (Munster) 3½.

Challenger: 1-2 Carlos Leal, Darun Govindaraju (both Ireland) 5.

STOCKPORT – Nigel Davies racked up a perfect score at the Stockport Rapidplay on

January 29th, which was held at the town's Masonic Guildhall.

Open: Nigel Davies (Swinton) 6/6, 2-3 Allan Beardsworth (Stockport), Edward Jackson (3Cs) 4.

Major: 1 Tetsuaki Sanada 5, 2-3 Chris Vassiliou (both Chorlton), David Burgess

(Swinton) 4½.

Intermediate: 1 Alan Riddoch (Maidstone) 6, 2 Mohammed Khan (Ashton-under-Lyne) 5½, 3 Trevor Woodfinden (Denton) 5.

Minor: 1-2 Phil Shaughnessy (Ashton-under-Lyne), Philip Smith (Stoke) 5½, 3 Richard Lunt (Doncaster) 5.

Readers' Letters



Mental Suicide?

I found Steve Firth's article on blindfold chess playing (*CHESS*, February 2023) fascinating. The blindfold art has also played quite a prominent role in the sister game of checkers (draughts), and I thought the following points might be of some interest.

Willie Gardner (1863-1947) was a famous exponent and holds the record for the most games, 28, played simultaneously. A friend of mine, the late Bill Leggett, recalls that Willie told him of an occasion when he had visited his doctor complaining of headaches. On learning of his hobby, the doctor simply rolled his eyes and sighed.

Undoubtedly the two greatest exponents of simultaneous play, including blindfold games, were Newell Banks and Willie Ryan, both of the USA. As Banks included chess in his exhibitions, he was apparently able to command larger fees. In 1937 they met in two matches for the blindfold world title, Ryan winning the first 3-2 and seven draws (two batches of six games played simultaneously); Banks winning the second

2-1 and seven draws (six games and four games). So honours even. However, Ryan rejected a 30-game match proposed by Banks, stating, "While it is of no concern to me what others in checkers do, I might add here that I have no present ambition to become a 'mental suicide' [...] as I want to live a while longer!"

Another late friend, Richard Fortman (obituary in *The Times*, 2008), acted as an interlocutor for both Banks and Ryan at several of their exhibitions. He said that Banks was all business, whereas Ryan would frequently share banter with the audience. Also, on the rare occasions when they made a blatant error in visualisation (referring to a piece which wasn't there, etc), he would clarify matters in a manner which made this less obvious to those in attendance. The match book states that their April match was held in the American Legion hall in downtown Tacoma, before a packed gallery of over 300 spectators. Those were the days!

Finally, in conversation with Dr Marion Tinsley in 1983, he told me that he was confident of his ability to play 43 games

simultaneously blindfolded, against any level of opposition, provided a different 2-move ballot was assigned to each board. Since Dr Tinsley's record in simultaneous play, including blindfold games, in his 1957 and 1958 tour of the British Isles was 382 wins, 144 draws and just one loss, I had no reason to doubt him.

In his British Isles exhibitions, Tinsley frequently let opponents choose their preferred 3-move ballot and colour, conferring a massive theoretical advantage to them. Also, the sole game he lost ended up being a 'team' effort by the winning side. Notably too, when running over a game for Tinsley in 1983, he pointed out that I had played two Black moves in the wrong order. Forgetting myself, I quickly retorted with, "But that's what it says in the books", to which came the Solomon-like reply: "I'm not questioning that Richard, I'm simply telling you what's right!"

Richard Pask, Weymouth

Author of Complete Checkers: Insights and Complete Checkers: Repertoire



Solutions

to Find the Winning Moves (pp. 26-28)

1) Nicholson-Surtees

1 ♖g5+! 1-0 The black queen is a goner.

2) Adams-Quilter

1 ♖xd7! ♖xd7 2 ♖f6+ ♖h8 3 ♖xe8 won a piece.

3) Cherniaev-Clarke

White's back rank is vulnerable: 1...♖xa7! 0-1

4) Artemiev-Carlsen

1 f4! ♖f5 2 g4 overloaded the black queen to win material and the game: 2...♖xc3 3 gx f5 ♖xb3 4 axb3 exf5 5 ♖d7 a6 6 ♖a7 ♖d6 7 ♖xa6 ♖c8 8 ♖a8 ♖e7 9 ♖d8 1-0

5) Estremera Panos-Clarke

1...♖e1+! 0-1 If 2 ♖h2 ♖xd5 3 ♖xd5 ♖xb1 or 2 ♖e1 ♖xd5.

6) Dubov-Sarin

1 ♖h5! 1-0 Mate follows, as with 1...gxh5 2 ♖xh7#.

7) Shimanov-Carlsen

1...♖c1! 2 ♖d3 ♖xb2! 0-1 The a-pawn's a killer.

8) Niemann-Tabatabaei

1 ♖xb7! 1-0 The queenside majority will sweep all before it after 1...♖xb7 2 c6 ♖b8 3 c7 ♖c8 4 b6.

9) Malinovsky-Rasik

1...♖xc4! 0-1 2 bxc4? ♖e2+ 3 ♖b1 ♖b8+ forces mate.

10) Adams-Petrovskiy

1 ♖xh5+! gxh5 2 ♖g5+ ♖h7 3 ♖xh5+ ♖g8 4 ♖g5+ 1-0 4...♖h8 5 ♖f6+ ♖g8 6 ♖d3 ♖e4 7 ♖h3 ♖h7 8 ♖xh7! ♖xh7 9 ♖f3 forces mate.

11) Arkell-Stubbs

1 ♖g7+! (1 a8♖? ♖h2+ 2 ♖g4 ♖g2+ is perpetual check) 1...♖f6 (1...♖xg7 2 a8♖ ♖h2+ 3 ♖g4 ♖g2+ 4 ♖f5 reveals the key difference with the previous note) 2 ♖f7+ ♖g5 3 ♖xf4! 1-0

12) Erigaisi-Mamedyarov

1 ♖e5+! 1-0 Nowotnyesque. If 1...♖xe5 2 ♖xe8+ or 1...♖2xe5 2 ♖f6+.

13) Uber Gracia-Willow

1...♖xh3+! 2 ♖g1 (2 ♖xh3 ♖xf3+ 3 ♖g2 ♖xe1+ 4 ♖xe1 ♖h6 is devastating too) 2...♖xf3+ 3 ♖xf3 ♖xf3 4 ♖xe5 ♖h3 5 ♖2e4 ♖h6 6 ♖h5 ♖xh5 7 gxh5 ♖g5+ 8 ♖h2 ♖xh5+ 9 ♖g1 f3 10 ♖xa5 ♖h3 0-1

14) Maurizzi-Dubov

To win, White must find 1 ♖f6+! ♖h5 2 ♖f2 or 1 ♖f2!, not go after the black rook:

1 ♖g8+? ♖h5 2 ♖xg3 ♖b1+ 3 ♖h2 (3 ♖f2 ♖e1+! 4 ♖f3 ♖e4+ changes little) 3...♖g1+! 4 ♖xg1 ½-½

15) Booth-Chan

1 ♖xc6+! (1 hxg4? allowed Black a neat stalemate trick in the game: 1...♖f7+ 2 ♖xf7 ½-½) 1...♖e7 2 hxg4 ♖xe3 3 ♖c7+ ♖d8 4 ♖f7 wins: for example, 4...♖d3 5 e6 ♖e8 6 c6 ♖c3 7 c7 e3 8 c8 ♖+! ♖xc8 9 ♖f8+ ♖e7 10 ♖xc8.

16) Mesesan-Walker

1...♖xf2+! 2 ♖xf2 ♖c5+ 3 ♖e3 ♖b4 won a decisive amount of material, in view of 4 ♖d1 ♖d3+ 5 ♖e2? ♖xb2+.

17) Saric-Korobov

1...♖f6! (threatening mate and also preparing the way for a stalemate trick) 2 ♖xg2 ♖f1+! 3 ♖xf1 ½-½

18) Pantsulaia-Erigaisi

1 ♖f3? (1 ♖f5+? ♖xf5+! is similar and 1 ♖e7! ♖xf8 2 ♖xf8 the only way to win) 1...♖xf3+ 2 ♖f5+ ♖xf5+! 3 ♖xf5 ½-½ It's stalemate.

19) Dunne-Britnell

1...♖e2! (Olé! 1...♖h4 2 ♖f3 ♖e2! isn't quite as good due to 3 ♖h3! ♖e8, but is also winning) 2 ♖f3 (or 2 ♖xe2 ♖g3#) 2...♖xf1+! 3 ♖xf1 ♖g3# 0-1

20) De Coverly-Ther

White repeated moves here (1 ♖g5+ ♖h8 2 ♖h6+ ♖g8 3 ♖g5+ ½-½), but there were two ways to win: 1 ♖fe1! (the other method is 1 ♖ae1! ♖c6 2 f3 ♖xc4 3 ♖xe5 f5 4 ♖g6+ ♖h8 5 ♖xe6, forcing Black to part company with his queen) 1...♖c6 (or 1...f6 2 ♖xe6+ ♖f7 3 ♖e3) 2 ♖f1 exd4 (if 2...♖d7? 3 ♖e3 f6 4 ♖g6+ ♖h8 5 ♖h3#) 3 ♖e5! f5 4 ♖g6+ ♖h8 5 ♖ae1 is crushing, and if 5...♖d7 (or 5...♖d7 6 ♖xe6 ♖f6 7 ♖h5+ ♖g8 8 ♖xc6 ♖xc6 9 ♖c4+) 6 ♖h6+ ♖g8 7 ♖xe6 ♖g7 8 ♖g6.

21) Gadimbayli-Vallejo Pons

Another position where White was strangely happy to repeat moves (1 ♖f7+ ♖h7 2 ♖g6+ ♖g8 3 ♖f7+? ½-½), but 1 ♖d8+! (1 ♖e8+ ♖f8 2 ♖g5 also does the job) forces mate after 1...♖f8 2 ♖h7+! (or 2 ♖f7+ ♖h7 3 ♖g8+! ♖xg8 4 ♖f7#) 2...♖xh7 3 ♖xf8+! ♖xf8 4 ♖e8#.

22) Paravyan-Suleymenov

1...♖h4! (1...♖a4? was preferred in the game, where 2 ♖xf7 ♖xf7+ 3 ♖xf7 ♖b5 4 ♖xe6 a5 5 f5! a4 6 fxg6 a3 7 g7 a2 8 g8♖ a1♖ 9 ♖b8+ ♖c6 10 ♖d6+ resulted in a two-pawn-up queen ending which was duly converted) 2 ♖xf7 (otherwise, how to make any progress after 2 ♖e5 ♖h7?) 2...♖xf4+ 3 ♖xg6 e5! is a key resource, as pointed out by Michael Roiz on ChessPublishing. Then 4 ♖e7 ♖b4 5 ♖xe5 leads to a draw after 5...♖f3! followed by running the a-pawn.

23) Gustafsson-Grigorian

1 ♖h6+! ♖h8 2 ♖f8+! (the only way to win) 2...♖xf8 3 ♖xg7+! ♖xg7 4 ♖d8+ 1-0

24) Christiansen-Burmakin

1 ♖h5! ♖g6 (1...♖xh5 2 ♖xg7+ ♖h8 3 ♖xf7+ forces mate: 3...d4 4 ♖xd4+ ♖g8 5 ♖g7+ ♖h8 6 ♖g4+ ♖f6 7 ♖xf6#) 2 fxg6 hxg6 3 ♖e5 f6 4 ♖e6+ ♖f7 5 ♖xg6 1-0

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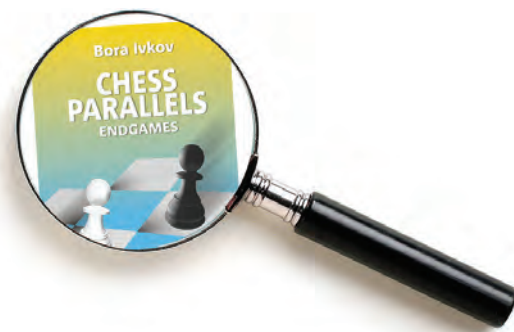
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This Month's New Releases



Chess Parallels II: Endgames

Bora Ivkov, 210 pages

Chess Informant

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Amid an ocean of books about chess openings, there float a smaller number of books on the subject of the endgame. Despite wise heads advising all of us to 'study endings', the wisdom of their words is often wasted on the majority of players, whose wallets are seduced by the prospect of 'winning quickly' with one sharp opening or another.

On a similar theme, the love of chess streamers, who accrue extraordinary amounts of viewers and followers, is acting to erode the heritage of our fine game. It becomes very apparent when I work with new students that there is a distinct lack of knowledge of the classic games and the players of a bygone era.

Move with the times, they say; why should we study the games of the past when our opponents are currently watching a streamer showing us how to win with an exciting version of the London System, or a new variation which will put the London System back under a cloud?

The same principle manifests itself in other walks of life. There was, for instance, a popular game show in which two contestants were of the mistaken belief that Homer thought doughnuts were the food of the gods.

Yet, believe it or not, we can still learn a lot from the past. Who, here, remembers Borislav Ivkov? As a mainstay of the Yugoslav chess team for many years and a member of the world's elite group of chess players from the 1960s, surely his chess knowledge is worth mining? He had wins against luminaries such as Anatoly Karpov and played for the Rest of the World in the famous match against the USSR in 1970.

Chess Parallels is a two-part chess memoir from the author. Rather than provide his full life story, the books focus instead on interesting moments from his lengthy career, some of which were favourable for him and others which were not. He certainly had great humility.

This review takes a look at the second of the two volumes, in which "we enter the magical realm of endgames."

The blurb echoes my thoughts from above. "Long before the modern powerful engines 'embellished' our world, true endgame magicians graced the chess world with tremendous chess understanding, culture and knowledge."

The book starts with a two-age

appreciation of Ivkov by Aleksandra Dimitrijevic, who describes the grandmaster as "My Mentor and Friend", and some general notes and positions about and from endgames, before the main material appears. This starts with queen endings and moves all the way through to examples featuring other pieces before presenting material on complex endgames. 11 pages on "Remembering Bora Ivkov from the Chess Informant archives" bring the book to its conclusion.

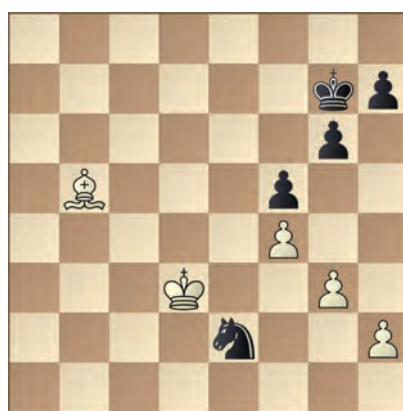
The methodical build-up is marred somewhat by a number of pages appearing out of sequence (perhaps that was just in my copy?), but in compensation there is a book ribbon, which helped me to keep my place while working out where I was and where I needed to go to next.

There are plenty of excellent photographs, not just of Ivkov and his contemporaries, but of players of other eras, too; all the way up to the current elite players. Not all of the games are Ivkov's own, by any means; other examples include the famous Mikhail Botvinnik-Bobby Fischer clash at the 1962 Varna Olympiad.

Here is an instructive snippet. We read a lot about bishops being better than knights in the endgame, but as Ivkov points out, "Even though bishop (*sic*) is a powerful, long-range piece, it has a significant weakness as well."

S.Reshevsky-S.Tatai

Netanya 1973



"Reshevsky tried to catch the enemy knight, but he faced a bitter surprise."

1...♗xf4+!! 2 gxf4 g5 3 fxf5 h6!!

A draw was agreed at this point, as 4 gxh6 ♗xh6 would leave White with the wrong-coloured bishop to help the rook's pawn to promote. Ivkov points out that Black could even

play "a cunning 4...♖h8!" with the same idea.

It is an interesting book, but it does have its weaknesses. Some of the English is eccentric, numerous examples have very little or no text, and one would search in vain for any index, be it for names or themes.

However, I found this (and the first volume) to have significant strengths too. It is good to see more hardbacks on the market, the format is nice and clear, and the paper is of good quality. Most importantly of all, despite the book's weaknesses, the material is engaging. It is best used as a book to dip into rather than for a systematic study of any particular endgame. Finally, it is a reminder that players from a former era knew a thing or two about chess and we still have a lot to learn from them.

Sean Marsh



Keep it Simple for Black

Christof Sielecki, 416 pages

Chessable

RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Christof Sielecki's earlier repertoire books, *Keep it Simple: 1.e4* (New in Chess, 2018), and *Keep it Simple: 1.d4* (New in Chess, 2019) are both popular with club and tournament players. This time, he turns his attention to helping the second player, with a complete repertoire for Black, subtitled 'A Solid and Straightforward Chess Opening Repertoire for Black'.

It is no longer an easy task to fit a repertoire for either colour into a single volume, despite the generous page count afforded to this one. However, Sielecki has a very accessible writing style, and he covers a lot of ground in typical fashion.

There is a temptation to take a short cut with repertoire books and to offer a hotch-potch of gambits, replete with exclamation marks, but little in the way of longevity. Sielecki offers a more sensible repertoire, which is solid but not dull. The Caro-Kann is the recommendation against 1 e4, the Queen's Gambit Declined is given against 1 d4 and the English is met by 1...e6, with obvious potential to transpose to the QGD.

I always find it interesting to examine the

moment when an author's recommendations cross over at the same point. For example, this interesting line is given to combat the Caro-Kann in *Keep it Simple*: 1.e4: 1 e4 c6 2 d3 d5 3 f3 dxe4 4 xe4 f6 5 e2.



Therefore, it is natural to ask what the new book suggests in return. It says it is "White's most challenging move", which consistent with it being the recommendation in the earlier book. Then it gives 5...xe4 6 e4 d7 7 c4 f6 8 e5! e6 9 e2. This is all given in the first book as the best way to proceed, with a note that "White is slightly better here with more space and a nicely placed knight on e5", which seems a very reasonable observation. The new book goes further, advocating 9...b5! as Black's best antidote. There are some tricks here which White needs to avoid, such as 10 d3 c7 11 xc6?, obviously hoping for 11...xc6 12 xb5, but the remarkable little move 11...a6! gives Black excellent compensation for the pawn sacrifice. All very interesting.

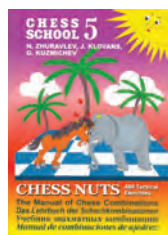
The main line of the Caro-Kann with 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 c3 dxe4 4 xe4 is met by 4...f6 and then 5 xf6+ exf6, when "a massive upside of our repertoire choice is that White now almost needs to know some concrete lines, as many 'natural' moves and setups pose no problems at all". The increasingly popular Advance variation is met by the trendy 3...c5, which is still holding up well.

Against the Queen's Gambit, the author gives a very comprehensive set of lines and ideas, sometimes with a slight twist. For instance, after 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 c3 f6 4 f3, "the tricky 4...a6" is his choice – and he gives plenty of explanatory notes to explain why. Elsewhere, even the real oddball openings such as Grob's 1 g4 receive coverage, making this an ideal single-volume repertoire book for the club and tournament player (albeit one which, rather surprisingly, lacks an index of variations).

The Chessable/New in Chess crossover continues to work well. Production values are high; once again, we have a sturdy hardback book with colour diagrams and a very clear layout. For those wondering if there are any differences between this printed version and the Chessable course itself, the author told me: "The print version is 99.9% identical to the Chessable version. We only made small changes in how some lines are organised to improve readability. The actual content is identical."

The bottom line is that if you are happy and comfortable learning from a screen and you already own the Chessable course, then you don't necessarily need to buy the book as well. However, those who prefer the old-fashioned methods of learning will be very happy that Chessable and New in Chess continue to make the courses available as printed editions.

Sean Marsh



Chess School 5 – Manual of Chess Combinations

N. Zhuralev, J. Klovans & G. Kuzmichev, 120 pages, paperback

RRP £16.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.25**

Russian Chess House have made use of the work of a number of leading chess trainers to assemble a collection of 400 positions to solve. The aim is to help the hard-working reader systematically improve both their calculational ability and recognition of a number of important tactical devices. Also recently arrived at Chess & Bridge is *Chess School 6 – 1200 Chess Combinations* by Maksim Blokh, which also presents its material by topic, but is somewhat larger than its predecessor volume, running to 248 pages, while being in hardback format and retailing at £26.95 or £24.25 for Subscribers.



How to Attack: Principles of Training

Karsten Müller, PC-DVD; running time: 4 hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

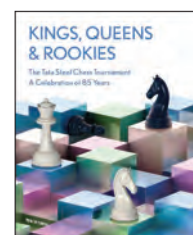
Karsten Müller might be best known as an authority on the endgame, but he is also an excellent trainer and chess teacher in general, and here makes a welcome return to the ChessBase studio. Müller presents several handy rules of thumb to help make the club player a better attacker, such as involving all the pieces in the attack, and looks at wide range of instructive material, ranging from opening lines, knight and Greek Gift sacrifices through to an examination of some classic Tal attacks.



Irrational Chess

Cyrus Lakdawala, 400 pages, paperback RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

It's not been too many months since Everyman Chess released *Squeeze Play*, whose author, Cyrus Lakdawala, now travels to the other side of the chess spectrum, looking at a wide range of pretty chaotic positions. In typical fashion, Lakdawala breaks down the basics of each critical position very well, while supplying a number of handy pointers to help readers not only not panic, but thrive next time they stumble into a bewilderedly complex position. Chapters are on Attack, Defence and Counterattack, The Dynamic Element, Exploiting Imbalances, Irrational Endings, Opening Shockers, Crazy Draws and Promotion Races, while it's no surprise to see such games as Beliavsky-Nunn, Wijk aan Zee 1985, feature.



Kings, Queens & Rookies

Erwin L'Ami, Peter Doggers, Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam & Peter Boel, 160 pages, hardback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

This high-quality production from New in Chess pays homage to Holland's leading chess tournament and is subtitled 'The Tata Steel Chess Tournament – A Celebration of 85 Years'. Inside the reader learns all about the history of the tournament, its famous winners, some of whom supply annotations, and especially the superb chess festival that takes place in Wijk aan Zee every January, with the many photographs revealing just how an elite grandmaster tournament and a massive amateur event sit so happily side by side.



Making the Right Decisions in Chess: Fundamentals

Elisabeth Pähtz, PC-DVD; running time: 4 hours, 30 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Decision making is something we all often struggle with at the board, so advice on the topic from Germany's leading female player is likely to prove welcome. Pähtz has worked with a number of strong players over the years and here aims to help you make "the right decision based on tactical factors, decisions in exchanges and moves, complex and psychological decisions in longer games and in defence." The presentation sensibly

begins by looking at some important tactics before moving on to pattern recognition and only then a discussion of what factors may help us make the right exchange. Pähtz follows up by looking at the role of intuition before tackling the topic of defence, then unites her various connected themes by examining some complete games. This thought-provoking DVD is rounded off by a handy series of interactive tests.



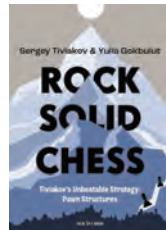
Play the Sveshnikov Sicilian

Dorian Rogozenko, PC-DVD;
running time: 5 hours, 19 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Meeting 1 e4 with 1...c5 2 d4 f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 dxd4 d6 f6 5 d3 e5 6 ddb5 d6 passed the Caruana-Carlsen world title test with flying colours and remains in excellent theoretical shape. Rogozenko begins by explaining a number of the key thematic ideas before looking at the Caruana-approved 7 d5, against which he recommends the good, old 7...dxd5 8 exd5 db8. The majority of the coverage is, however and unsurprisingly,

devoted to that strategically most complex of lines which is 7 g5 a6 8 da3 b5, and if 9 xf6 gxf6 10 d5 f5, as a pretty detailed repertoire for Black is supplied on this ChessBase product, one easily theoretical enough for even the stronger club player to rely upon it.



Rock Solid Chess

Sergey Tiviakov & Yulia Gokbulut,
264 pages, paperback

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

You might remember Sergey Tiviakov for his 110-game unbeaten run or simply for being an extremely strong grandmaster in the 1990s and 2000s. As a product of the famous Soviet Chess School, it's perhaps no surprise that Tiviakov believes pawn structure is the key to chess. Your editor recalls marvelling at the strategic prowess of Tiviakov at several of the Monarch Assurance Isle of Man Internationals, games in which Tiviakov's pawns were rarely to the fore as his pieces manoeuvred adroitly to rack up point after point. Here he shows where to place the pieces and pawns, as well as which plans to



The Sorcerer's Apprentice

David Bronstein & Tom Fürstenberg,
384 pages, hardback

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

First published in 1995, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* is a famous book, in which the legendary David Bronstein presents some of his most famous games. Bronstein sadly passed away in 2006, two years before a new edition of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* was published by New in Chess, featuring new tributes to the great man from his widow Tatiana Boleslavskaya and co-author Fürstenberg. Now we have another new edition, this time in hardback and with the addition of not just some of Bronstein's articles, ones through which his huge love of chess very much shines through, but also 32 pages of high-quality photographs.



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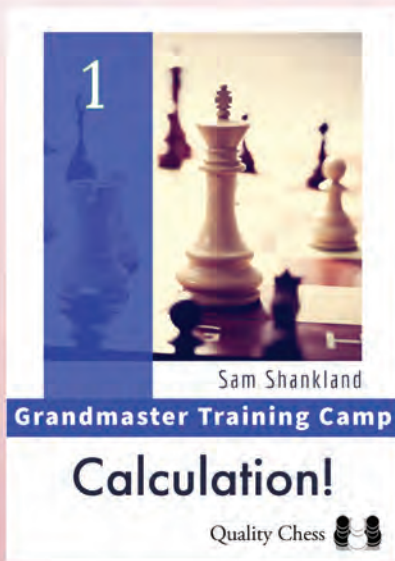
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New from Quality Chess!

Calculation! by Sam Shankland

Grandmaster Training Camp 1



This book offers a unique chance to participate in a training camp with Super-GM Sam Shankland, as he works through 300 challenging problems. Sam shares what he saw, what he did not see, and what he thinks about the problems and the skills needed to solve them. The material, previously available as a Chessable course and newly edited by Quality Chess, is at the same time both accessible to club players and challenging to GMs. Compare yourself with one of the strongest Grandmasters in the world!

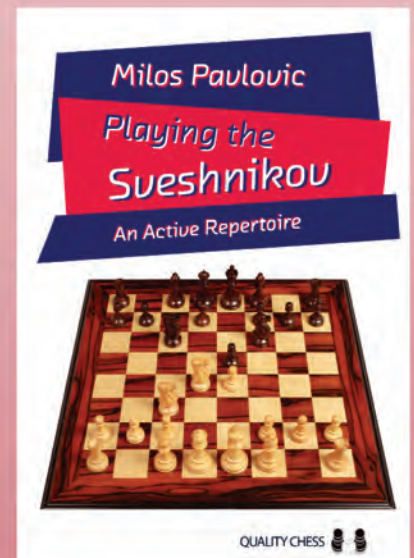
Sam Shankland is the 2018 US Champion, 2016 Olympiad gold-medal winner for teams and 2014 individual gold medal winner. He has played Board 1 for the US in the World Team Championship and competed with the best players in the world. His latest great result was reaching the quarter-final of the 2021 World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

Playing the Sveshnikov

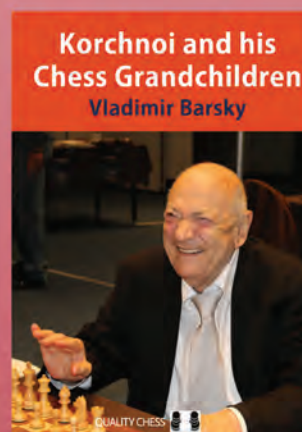
The Sicilian Sveshnikov is an ideal weapon based on sound principles of fast development and seizing central space. Decades of practical testing and analysis have proved the theoretical soundness of Black's system, and its dynamic counterattacking potential makes it a popular choice among club players and top grandmasters alike.

Playing the Sveshnikov offers a complete repertoire for Black in the Sveshnikov with top-class analysis, novelties galore and thoughtful explanations.

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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