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OF THE REIGN OF
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Chess Update



CHESS IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE OF COMMONS TAKES ON HOUSE OF LORDS AT SPEAKER'S HOUSE

ISSN 0964-6221



Back in the Groove - Levon Aronian bounced back to his best at the WR Masters



Cambridge Class - Michael Adams annotates a key win from the Cambridge Open



Zukertort & Steinitz - Craig Pritchett on a high stakes battle for chess primacy



Chess

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Sucikova Storms to Success at SPTW



Lorin D'Costa reports from 200-year-old Edinburgh CC, host of the SPTW International

The historic Edinburgh Chess Club was the setting for the 2nd She Plays To Win International held during February half-term. The club, which last year celebrated their bicentenary, are one of the oldest in the world and it was an honour to have such an esteemed host for our She Plays To Win flagship event in the centre of the Scottish capital.

This also allowed me to come up and see first-hand the Scottish female talent take on some of England's young stars in the Challengers tournament. She Plays To Win is a UK-wide project, so it is important that we move around and hold events in different parts of Britain.

10 players participated in the Woman International Master (WIM) Norm event, including local grandmaster Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant. However, Ketevan had to settle for second place on 7/9 behind a superb performance from WIM Svetlana Sucikova who scored a huge 8/9. WIM Fiona Steil-Antoni from Luxembourg claimed the third place trophy on tie-break with 5½/9 ahead of top English scorer, Kamila Hryshchenko.

In the WIM Norm event, there were seven norm seekers who went in search of the coveted norm score of 6½ points. These included four from the UK: Zoe Varney, Louise Head, Kamila Hryshchenko and Suzie Cooke. Kamila was the closest scoring 5½, just a point short.

Zoe Varney started day one on form, beating WFM and Edinburgh University student Andrea Henderson De La Fuente then drawing solidly with Black against the highest-rated player, Ketevan. Unfortunately Zoe was not able to turn her draws into wins to chase the norm score, but she was happy with her fighting chess. Let's see how she got off to a flyer with an early attacking idea against the Philidor.



Happy smiles despite five days of hard-fought chess! Beneath the Scottish flag (l-r): Svetlana Sucikova, Fiona Steil-Antoni, Steph Brown, Zoe Varney, Monica Rojickova, Florence Wilson, Maaiké Keetman, Louise Head, Riya Barbier-Ramaiah, Angharad Hunt, Chrysa Mitraka, Wenyi Zhao, Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant, Kamila Hryshchenko, with Andrea Henderson de la Fuente at the front kneeling.

**Z.Varney-
A.Henderson De La Fuente**
Round 1
Philidor Defence
1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♟f6 3 ♞c3 e5 4 ♟f3 ♞bd7

5 ♟g1!?

5 ♟c4 ♟e7 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♞e1 c6 8 a4 is the main line, but Zoe was intrigued by this ♟g1 and g2-g4 idea and was keen to give it a go. Of course, Shirov's 5 g4 is the other way to play it, sacrificing the pawn.

5...c6 6 g4 h6

6...g6 7 g5 ♟h5 8 ♟e3 ♟g7 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 ♟d6 ♟e7 11 ♟xe7+ ♟xe7, as in Grandelius-Vidit, Chessable Masters (rapid) 2022, is the solid way to respond to the g2-g4 sortie.

7 h4 exd4 8 ♟xd4 ♟c5

8...♟e5 9 g5 hxg5 10 hxg5 ♟fg4 looks rather odd, but the tactics work out after 11 f4 ♟b6! 12 ♟e2 (if 12 fxe5? dxe5 13 ♟f3 ♟f2#) 12...♟h2.

9 ♟e2 ♟e7 10 f3



Already there are development issues for Black, whereas Zoe will go ♟e3 and 0-0-0, with g4-g5 thrown in.

10...♖e5 11 ♙e3 g5 12 0-0-0 ♙e7

Or if 12...gxh4 13 ♜f2.

13 ♜d2 d5 14 ♗b3

14 f4 also is strong, and if 14...gxf4 15 ♙xf4 ♗fxe4 16 ♙xe5 or 14...♗fxe4 15 fxe5 ♗xd2 16 ♜xd2 gxh4 17 ♗f5.

14...♗e6

After 14...♗xb3+ 15 axb3 dxe4 16 ♙d4 ♖a5 17 ♙c4 ♖a1+ 18 ♗b1 the black position is too ragged, and if 18...♙e6 19 ♖c3 0-0-0 20 ♙xf6.

15 exd5 ♗xd5 16 ♗xd5 cxd5

16...♖xd5 17 ♖c3! also leaves Black in trouble.

17 ♙b5+ ♗f8 18 ♜ge1



Model centralisation and do just compare the difference in coordination between the two sides!

18...♙f6 19 ♙d4 ♗xd4

19...♖f4? drops a piece to 20 ♖xf4 ♗xf4 21 ♙xf6.

20 ♜xe5 ♗xb3+ 21 axb3 ♙xe5 22 hxg5 hxg5 23 ♖xg5 f6 24 ♖d2 ♙e6 25 ♖b4+ ♗f7 26 f4 a5 27 ♖d2 ♙xg4 28 ♜g1 1-0

Louise Head scored an excellent 5/9 and gained 30 rating points. She was very satisfied with her play, especially given her extensive PhD work at Edinburgh University takes up most of her time, and with some more fortune might have come really close to the norm score. Louise won in fine style in the final round.

M.Rojickova-L.Head

Round 9

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5

Louise's pet line, the Khenkin-Arkell variation.

4 c3 ♗c6 5 ♙e2

Preventing ♙g4 ideas, since 5 ♗f3 ♙g4 6 ♙e2 e6 7 ♗bd2 ♜c8 8 0-0 a6 9 h3 ♙h5, as in Yuffa-Romanov, Sochi 2016, seems completely fine for Black, because the light-squared bishop has made its way outside of the French structure to g4.

5...♙d7

It's not clear why Louise didn't go for the usual 5...♙f5 6 g4 ♙e4 7 f3 ♙g6.

6 ♗f3 ♜c8 7 dxc5 e6 8 ♙e3 ♗ge7 9 ♙d4 ♗g6 10 ♖d2 f6



Very enterprising. This forces White to take on f6 allowing Black the bigger pawn centre, but how strong is that? Let's see.

11 exf6 gxf6 12 0-0 ♙g7 13 ♗a3 a6 14 ♙e3 ♗ce7 15 c4

This feels correct as it slows down ...e5 ideas.

15...0-0 16 ♜fd1 ♖c7 17 ♜ac1 ♜cd8 18 ♖c2

Bringing the knight into play with 18 cxd5 ♗xd5 19 ♗c4 might have been better. This piece never gets to join the action.

18...♗h8 19 b4 f5 20 cxd5 ♗xd5 21 ♙d4

After 21 ♙g5 ♜de8 22 ♗c4 ♗xb4 23 ♖d2 ♗d5 24 ♗d6 ♜b8 at least Black's pawn has been recovered, although the knight on d6 is now very strong.

21...♙c6

21...♙xd4 22 ♗xd4 e5 23 ♗f3 ♙c6 feels harmonious enough too.

22 ♖b2?



An unfortunate move played when already low on time. It pretty much forces Louise to play the advance she's been angling for.

22...e5! 23 ♙e3 f4 24 ♙d2 e4 25 ♗d4 ♖e5

Or even 25...f3 26 gxf3 ♗gf4.

26 ♙e1 f3!

Correctly going after the white king. Black's pieces are working most harmoniously here.

27 ♙c4

Likewise, if 27 gxf3 ♖g5+ 28 ♗h1 ♗df4 29 ♙f1 ♜xd4 30 ♜xd4 e3! with ...♙xf3+ to follow.

27...♗df4 28 ♙c3

28 g3 e3 29 fxe3 f2+ 30 ♙xf2 ♗h3+ is crushing.

28...♗h3+!



This leads to a nice finish.

29 gxh3 ♖g5+ 30 ♗f1 ♗f4

Or just 30...♖g2+ 31 ♙e1 ♖g1+ 32 ♗d2 ♖xf2+ 33 ♙e2 ♖xe2#.

31 ♗xf3 ♖g2+ 32 ♙e1 ♖h1+ 33 ♙f1 ♗g2+ 34 ♙e2 exf3# 0-1

"It's not often you get to checkmate, and even less so with a pawn," remarked Louise afterwards. A nice end to a good tournament for her.

Suzie had an upcoming exam and children to look after, so despite also living just a short train journey away from the venue, it was always going to be a tough tournament for her given the double rounds and being the lowest-rated player. Still, she gave as good as she got and was content, given circumstances, with her performance. She could probably count herself a little unlucky in some of her games.

However, the real star of the show was WIM Svetlana Sucikova from Slovakia via Yorkshire. Svetlana also now lives in Edinburgh so had some home advantage. In any case, she stormed to a fantastic 8/9 winning score, having first place in the bag before the final round was played. In fact at the prize giving she joked that she expects not to be invited again to a SPTW norm tournament, having defeating all the norm seekers one after the other.

Svetlana demonstrated that whilst she normally plays quite solidly, she is able to mix up her game and complicate things when required. Her game with Kamila in round 8 showed her attacking skills, but it was her much anticipated game with top seed Keti in round 5 where she really showed her ability to handle complications.

S.Sucikova-K.Arakhamia-Grant

Round 5

Pirc Defence

1 ♗f3 g6 2 g3 ♙g7 3 ♙g2 e5 4 e4 d6 5 d4 ♗d7 6 c3

Svetlana clearly wants to just get a position and avoid any heavy theory.

Instead, 6 0-0 ♗gf6 7 ♗c3 0-0 8 h3 b6 9 a4 a5 10 ♙e3 was played by a former women's world champion in Stefanova-Ibarra Jerez, Spanish Team Championship 2020.

6...♗gf6 7 ♖c2 0-0 8 0-0 ♖e7 9 ♗bd2

b6 10 b3 ♖b7 11 ♖b2



11...c5

11...exd4 is actually stronger than it appears, as if 12 ♖xd4 c5 13 ♗e2 d5 or 12 cxd4 ♗xe4 13 ♖xc7 ♗xd2 14 ♖xd2 ♖xg2 15 ♗xg2 ♖e6, but it is understandable that Keti wants more.

12 dxe5

Avoiding 12 d5 ♗h5 with the typical Kings Indian ...f5 break to follow.

12...dxe5 13 ♖fe1 ♖ad8 14 ♖c4 b5 15 ♗cd2 ♗e8 16 a4 b4

16...a6 17 axb5 axb5 18 ♖a7 looks dangerous for Black, but this is an illusion: 18...♗d6 then ...♖a8 will challenge the a-file.

17 ♖c4 ♗d6 18 ♗xd6 ♖xd6 19 ♖ad1 ♖b8 20 cxb4 cxb4 21 a5

Or maybe 21 ♖c4, and if 21...♖a8 22 ♖h3 ♗f6 23 ♖xe5.

21...♖c8 22 ♖d2 ♖c6 23 ♖h3!



Instigating complications by provoking the ...f5 break. Keti certainly would have wanted this, but there is plenty going on here, as we will see.

23...f5 24 ♗g5

Both 24 ♖e3 and 24 ♗h4 demonstrate the shakiness of the black position. The e4-pawn cannot be taken as the d7-knight would hang.

24...♖c5 25 ♖f1

Or simply 25 exf5 gxf5 26 ♖e3.

25...h6

I wonder what exactly Svetlana had in mind against 25...♗xe4 as there are a few tempting options, including 26 ♖c4+ ♗h8 27 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 28 ♗e6 ♖fe8 29 ♖d7 ♖xe6 30 ♖xe6 when, despite the pawn minus, White is very active.

26 ♖c4+ ♗h8



Andorran WFM Andrea Henderson de La Fuente currently studies at Edinburgh University and went for a very aggressive kingside build-up against Georgian-Scottish legend Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant, who calmly ran her king away via d8 and c7 en route to the full point.



27 exf5!!

An excellent sacrifice.

27 ♗f7+ ♖xf7 (or 27...♗h7 28 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 29 ♖xh6+ ♗g8 30 ♗g5+ ♖d5 31 ♖h7#) 28 ♖xf7 ♗xe4 29 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 30 ♖xg6 was the safe path to a better position.

27...hxg5 28 ♖xg5

28 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 29 ♖xg5 was apparently even stronger, and if 29...♖c7 30 fxg6 ♗g7 31 ♖xe5.

28...♖xf5 29 ♖xg6 ♖f6 30 ♖h5+ ♖h6

The only way to defend, so this line was forced.

31 ♖xh6+ ♖xh6 32 ♖xe5+ ♖xe5 33 ♖xe5



An imbalance has been reached. However, the problem for Black is that she has too few pawns and White has no weaknesses. This was an excellent assessment in advance by Svetlana.

33...♖f3 34 ♖d6 ♖f8 35 ♖g6 ♗xb3 36 ♖f5!

And not 36 ♖xb3?? ♖c1+.

36...♗d2

36...♖e4? 37 ♖h5+ forces mate.

37 ♖g8+ ♗h7 38 ♖gxf8 ♖xc4 39 ♖xf3

The only move to prevent mate, but it leads to a winning rook endgame as 39...♗xf3+ 40 ♖xf3 ♖c3 41 ♖f7+ ♗g6 42 ♖xa7 b3 43 ♖b7 is also hopeless for Black.

39...b3 40 ♖3f7+ ♗g6 41 ♖b7 ♖c2 42 ♖fb8 ♖a2 43 ♖xb3 ♗xb3 44 ♖xb3 ♖xa5 45 ♖b7 1-0

Keti resigned as the white pawns will roll forward.

Here Svetlana showed she was willing to change the character of the position and head for complications when necessary. She was on great form in Edinburgh, underlined by her 8/9 unbeaten score. Well done, Svetlana!

Notes by Svetlana Sucikova

This game is from the seventh round at which stage I had a one point lead. I've played Louise once before in a classical game at the 2021 European Team Championship and won, but she is a strong player and I knew I had to perform at my best in order to win again.

S.Sucikova-L.Head
Round 7
Reti Opening

1 ♗f3 d5 2 g3 c5

Before the game I was preparing for

2...♙f5, followed by ...c6 and ...e6. At this stage I was out of prep and relying on my existing knowledge of some ideas in these types of positions.

3 ♖g2 e6 4 0-0 ♜f6 5 d4 cxd4 6 ♞xd4 e5 7 ♞b3 h6

This move prevents ♙g5, pinning the knight, which would undermine the defence of the d5-pawn. However, it also feels like a slow approach and, as we'll see later, Black will fail to bring her king to a safety due to the lack of development. After the game Louise mentioned that 7...♙e6 is the move she's looked at in the past, but she mixed up her lines.

8 c4



Exploiting the lead in development by opening up the position.

8...e4

I had not even considered this move. Louise said she'd seen such idea previously, but here combined with ...h6 it's too slow. At this stage I caught myself looking at the scoresheet, thinking to myself, 'Black has made seven out of the first eight moves with pawns, which cannot be right and while it will still require precise play, I should be able to convert it'.

Instead, after 8...dxc4 9 ♞xd8+ ♜xd8 10 ♞a5 Black's king is very weak and she is also behind in development. In general White is happy to exchange queens on d8. Likewise, if 8...d4 9 e3 when Black's centre is falling apart. During the game I believed that if Black pushed 9...d3, the pawn would be lost eventually after 10 ♞c3. However, if Black plays 9...dxe3 the king would be stuck in the centre with a hopeless position: 10 ♞xd8+ ♜xd8 11 ♙xe3 ♞c6 12 ♞c3, as played by the strong German GM Donchenko. Finally, 8...♙e6 9 ♞c3 begins to exploit the b7-square which ...♙e6 has weakened.

9 ♞c3

9 cxd5 was also an option, but I thought that bringing the knight in is even stronger and what this type of position (with a major lead in development) is asking for.

9...♞a6

After 9...dxc4 10 ♞xd8+ ♜xd8 11 ♞a5 ♙b4 12 ♞xc4 I would have been happy as Black cannot castle anymore.

10 ♞xd5

Taking with the piece because removing the knight on f6 makes the g7-pawn more vulnerable and is difficult for Black to develop



With a fireplace and coffee to hand, Louise Head is about to play the devastating 27...♞df4 28 ♙c3 ♞h3+!, as we saw back on page 13. Louise would finish on a highly respectable 5/9, double the score of her final round opponent, the Slovakian WFM Monika Rojickova.

since the bishop on f8 can be tied to the defence of that pawn.

10...♞xd5 11 cxd5 f5



12 f3

The black king is in the centre so this aims to open up the position, including the f-file. Also ideas to exploit the weakened h5-e8 diagonal are on the table.

After 12 ♞d4 ♞b4 13 ♙f4 ♞xd5 (13...♞xd5? 14 ♞fd1 ♙e6 15 ♞e5 wins) 14 ♞fd1 ♞xd4 15 ♞xd4 White is better, but I was convinced that 12 f3 would be more dangerous, clearing the centre with queens still on the board.

12...♞b6+ 13 ♜h1 exf3 14 ♙xf3

This opens up the f-file for the rook and now ♙h5+ threats are also on the table.

14...♙e7 15 ♙f4

A different idea that prevents Black from castling by trapping the bishop on c8 (15...0-0?? 16 d6 ♙f6 17 d7 ♞d8 18 dxc8♞).

15 ♙h5+ was my initial idea when I played 12 f3, but then I figured that I don't have a good response to 15...g6 16 ♞d4 ♞g8 and I don't want to trade queens as the black king is weak.

15...♙d7 16 d6

The d5-square is important for my queen to further prevent Black from castling.

16...♙f6 17 ♞d5 ♞b4 18 ♙h5+

Preventing castling once and for all.

18...♜d8 19 ♞d2 ♞d5 20 ♙f3 ♞xf4 21 ♞xf4

Recapturing with 21 gxf4 would be stronger, restricting the dark-squared bishop, thereby preventing pins with ...♙g5. Also later the queen returned to d2 anyway as it supports ♞a5xb7 ideas. During the game I did not spend enough time on this move and went with the general principle of having a safer king by keeping the pawn on g3.

After 21 gxf4 ♞e8 22 ♞ac1 ♞c8 23 ♞a5 White goes after the b7-pawn and the f4-pawn prevents Black from obtaining counterplay on the dark squares.

21...♞e8 22 ♞fd1 ♞c8 23 ♞d2 ♞c4?



The final mistake from Black which gives White ♞a5 with tempo.

24 ♞a5 ♞ce4 25 ♞ac1 ♞8e5 26 ♞c4

Winning the exchange on my own terms.

26...♞xc4 27 ♞xc4 ♞b5 28 b3 ♞c5

In principle, this exchange makes White's job much easier.

29 ♞xc5 ♞xc5 30 ♙xb7 ♞b5 31 ♙f3 ♙e6 32 ♞e3 ♞d7 33 ♞c5 ♙g5 34 h4 ♙f6 35 ♙c6 ♞c8 36 ♞a5+ 1-0

Black cannot prevent the mate, so resigned.

Challengers Tournament

10 players also took part in the Challengers event held alongside the WIM Norm tournament. Riya Barbier-Ramaiah from north London top-scored with 7½/9, finishing just half a point ahead of Alannah Ashton from 3Cs, with Edinburgh's Florence Wilson back on 6 points.

It was amazing seeing the Challengers girls, mostly all aged 11-16, playing three to four hour games back to back and giving it their all in them. For example, Riya's game with Wenyi Zhao started at 3pm and they were playing until after 7pm, which prompted Riya to say straight after winning the game, "I'm sure my family have abandoned me!"

My thanks to Edinburgh Chess Club, as well as to arbiters David Clayton and Alistair Maxwell for running the chess side of things as smoothly as they did. Whilst no one scored a norm in the end, it appears arbiter Alistair Maxwell did make his final FIDE Arbiter norm. Well done, Alistair!

My thanks too to the Chess Trust, Friends of Chess and John Robinson Youth Chess Trust for their generous support in helping us run the event. Overall, it was a fantastic



Challengers winner Riya Barbier-Ramaiah is flanked by two key supporters of She Plays To Win, Louise Head and Zoe Varney.

tournament, played in a historic setting, with lots of hard-fought games. She Plays To Win hopes to continue the tradition in 2024 – we

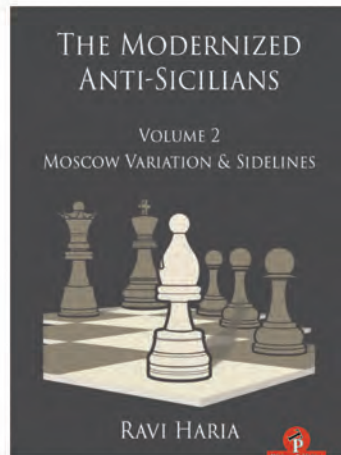
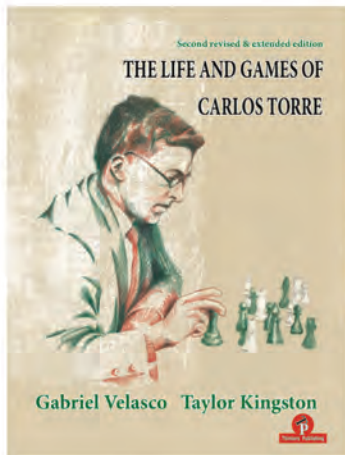
have held it in London in 2022 and Edinburgh in 2023, but where next?



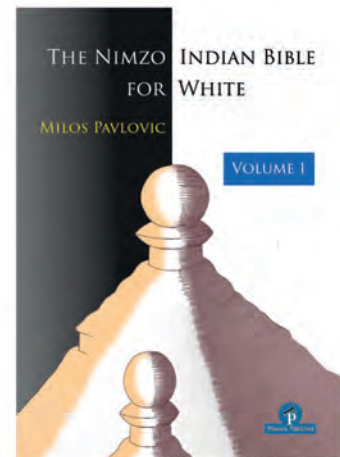
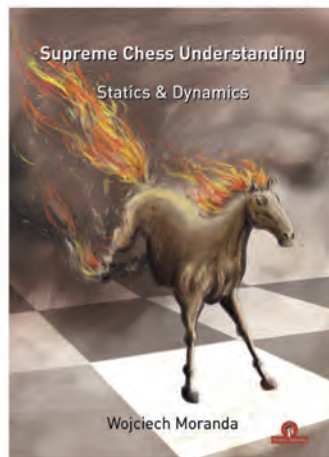
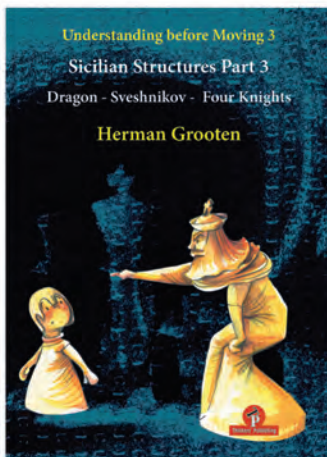
Fiona Steil-Antoni (right) was playing her first individual tournament in five years, so could be happy to finish third. Normally Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant (left) would have prevailed, but this time she had to settle for second place behind a superb performance from Svetlana Sucikova.

2nd She Plays To Win Tournament - Edinburgh, Scotland - Wednesday 15th to Sunday 19th February 2023

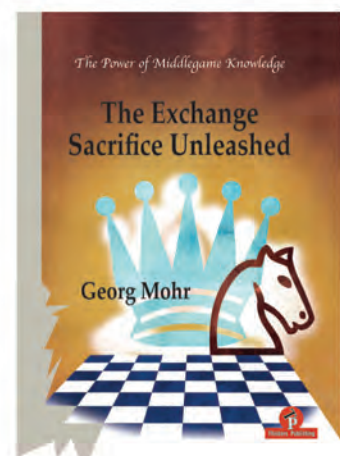
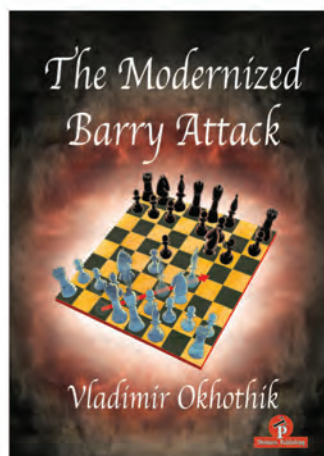
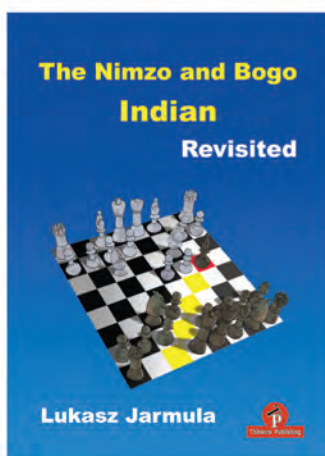
Player	Title	FED	Elo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Points	
1	Svetlana Sucikova	WIM	SVK	2205	#	1	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	8
2	KetevanArakhamia-Grant	GM	SCO	2320	0	#	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	7
3	Fiona Steil-Antoni	WIM	LUX	2195	½	0	#	1	0	½	1	½	1	1	5.5
4	Kamila Hryshchenko		ENG	2147	0	0	0	#	½	1	1	1	1	1	5.5
5	Louise Head	WFM	ENG	2020	0	½	1	½	#	½	½	1	1	0	5
6	Maaike Keetman	WFM	NED	2164	0	0	½	0	½	#	1	1	½	1	4.5
7	Zoe Varney	WCM	ENG	1937	½	½	0	0	½	0	#	½	½	1	3.5
8	Monika Rojickova	WFM	SVK	2101	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	#	1	½	2.5
9	Suzie Cooke	WFM	SCO	1941	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	#	1	2
10	Andrea Henderson de La Fuente	WFM	AND	1989	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	0	#	1.5



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SPRING 2023



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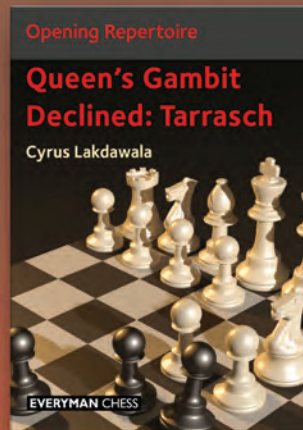
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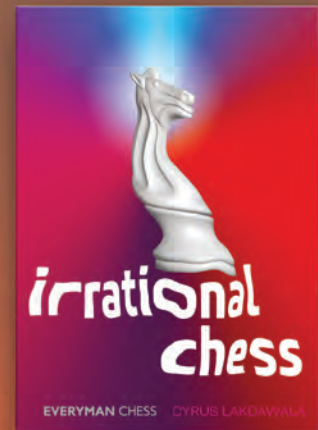
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Magical Attacks

They can't compete with Szabó-Lloyd, but you may also be inspired by 3 recent games

Everyone loves a queen sacrifice and in this game from last December, Black was able to exploit White's lack of development, despite never having a legal move available for his own light-squared bishop.

M.Poleg-B.Aizenberg

Israeli Championship, Arad 2022
Anti-Benoni

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 c5 3 e3 g6 4 dxc5 ♙g7 5 a3 a5 6 ♖a2?!

Creative, but White should really settle for 6 ♗c3 ♗a6 7 e4, with chances of an edge.

6...0-0 7 ♗c3 ♖c7 8 b4?

And this is too much.

8...axb4



Possibly only here did White spot 9 axb4 ♗e4! when 10 ♖xa8 ♙xc3+ 11 ♗e2 ♙xb4 12 ♙b2 ♗a6 leaves Black firmly in the driving seat with 13...d5 the immediate threat.

9 ♗b5!? ♖a5 10 ♙d2 ♗e4!?

Teeing up a queen sacrifice, although 10...♖a4 11 ♙xb4 ♖xd1+ 12 ♗xd1 ♗a6 13 ♖c2 ♗e4 would have been simple and strong.

11 ♙xb4 ♖xb4+! 12 axb4 ♖xa2



Black has rook, bishop and activity for the queen, factors which clearly threw Poleg and caused him to collapse. Instead, returning the material with 13 f3! ♖a1 (13...♗f2?! 14 ♖b3 only gives Black an inferior version) 14 ♖xa1 ♙xa1 15 fxe4 would have left everything to play for.

13 ♖b3?? ♖a1+ 14 ♗e2 ♖xf1!

Whoops! 15 ♗xf1? ♗d2+ would, of course, not be wise, but in any case Black's initiative is by now a deadly one.

15 f3 ♖f2+ 16 ♗e1 ♖b2 17 ♖a3 ♗d2 18 ♖d3 ♗c6

It's high time to bring up the reserves.

19 ♗d4 ♗xb4 20 ♖c3 ♗b1!



Neat. The knights weave their magical web around the white queen.

21 ♖xb2 ♗d3+ 22 ♗d1 ♗xb2+ 23 ♗c2 ♗xc4 24 ♗xb1 ♗xe3 0-1

Central superiority and having the more active pieces can also translate into a mighty attack, as in this gem from the Tata Steel Challengers.

B.Adhiban-E.Roebers

Wijk aan Zee 2023
English Opening

1 ♗f3 ♗f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗c3 ♙b4 4 g4!? h6 5 ♖g1 b6 6 ♖b3 ♙e7 7 d4 ♙b7 8 g5

Preparing to go long with 8 ♙f4 might be even stronger, as could be 8 h4!?

8...hxg5 9 ♙xg5?!

9 ♗xg5! was the way to fight for an advantage, and if 9...♖xh2 10 ♖c2, menacing ♗xf7.

9...d6?!

Far too slow, in contrast to which 9...♙xf3 10 exf3 c5!? would have left everything to

play for, with 11 d5!? ♗xd5 12 cxd5 ♙xg5 13 ♗e4 ♙f4 no more than just very unclear.

10 0-0-0 ♗bd7 11 h4!

Cementing the bishop on g5 in place ahead of going ♙h3. Sooner or later d4-d5 is going to leave Black badly cramped.

11...a6 12 ♙h3 ♗h5 13 d5! e5 14 ♙xd7+ ♖xd7 15 c5!



A classic and powerful breakthrough, since Black can't take, with 15...dxc5? 16 ♗xe5 ♖f5 17 ♗c4 followed by d5-d6 giving White a monstrous initiative.

15...♖d8 16 ♙xe7 ♗e7 17 ♗e4

Increasing the pressure, as well as teeing up what follows.

17...♙c8 18 ♗xe5! dxe5 19 d6+?

Very tempting, but first 19 ♗g5! was the way to leave White with a powerful attack: for example, 19...♖d7 20 d6+ ♗e8 21 ♖f3 c6 22 cxb6 followed by ♗e4-c5.

19...cxd6 20 ♖xd6 ♖c7 21 ♖g5 bxc5?

Returning the favour. 21...♙e6! 22 ♖xe5 ♖h6! might even be slightly better for Black.

22 ♖xe5+ ♗f8 23 ♗g5



Threatening ♖d8+ as White enjoys far too much play for the piece.



Baskaran Adhiban had to settle for a share of fifth at the Tata Steel Challengers, but remains as creative as ever, as he demonstrated with a superb attacking masterpiece on the Dutch coast.

23...♖b7 24 ♜f5 ♘f6 25 ♜dxf6! gxf6
26 ♜xf6

It's now a whole rook, but is the black king really going to survive?

26...♙g8

26...c4 27 ♜b4+ ♙g8 28 ♜xf7 ♜xf7 29 ♘xf7 ♘xf7 30 ♜xb7+ simply leaves White with too many extra pawns.

27 ♜g6+ ♙f8 28 ♜f6 ♙g8 29 ♜xf7 c4
30 ♜b4 a5 31 ♜b5 ♙a6 32 ♜d5 ♖b7
33 ♜e6 ♜c6 34 ♜e5 ♜h1+

In conjunction with Black's next, the best try, even if it does allow Adhiban to finish in style.

35 ♙c2 ♙e4+ 36 ♘xe4! ♘xf7

36...♜xe4+ 37 ♜xe4 ♘xf7 38 ♜xc4+ would once again be hopeless in the long run.
37 ♘d6+



Weaving a mating net.

37...♙g6 38 ♜g5+ ♙h7 39 ♜h5+ ♙g7
40 ♜f7+ ♙h6 41 ♘f5# 1-0

Connected passed pawns on the sixth rank can overpower a rook, but also always beware the power of rooks doubled on the seventh.

R.Makkar-C.Murphy

4NCL, Daventry 2023

Giuoco Piano

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♙c5 4 0-0
♘f6 5 d4!? ♙xd4

A critical response, as well as one which avoids the Max Lange, 5...exd4 6 e5 d5 7 exf6 dxc4 8 fxg7 ♜g8.

6 ♘xd4 ♘xd4 7 ♙g5 h6 8 ♙h4 d6!

Good defence from Black, whereas the more common 8...g5? 9 f4! would fall for White's rather well-disguised trap. For more on that and the line in general, do maybe see Everyman's *Grandmaster Gambits: 1 e4*.

9 f4! ♙g4

A forcing sequence pretty much now has to occur, one which leads to something of an imbalance.

10 ♙xf6 ♙xd1 11 ♙xd8 ♜xd8 12 c3

12 ♘d1!? ♘xc2 13 ♘c3 ♘xa1 14 ♜xa1 exf4 15 ♘d5 results in a more chaotic imbalance, as covered in the aforementioned book.

12...♙e2 13 cxd4 ♙xc4 14 ♜c1 ♙a6
15 ♜xc7



15...exd4

15...exf4!? might well be the better pawn to take, and if 16 ♘c3 0-0 17 ♘d5 ♜fe8 18 ♜e1 ♙d3.

16 ♘d2

16 ♘a3! 0-0 17 ♜d1 is tenable for White even after 17...d5 18 e5 ♜c8 19 ♜xc8 ♜xc8 20 ♜xd4, according to the engines.

16...0-0 17 b4

Logical play, but even here the suspicion remains that Black is slightly for choice, since he is still a pawn to the good and with the superior minor piece.

17...♜fe8 18 a4?

Rather forcing the bishop to where it wants to go and 18 ♜ac1 ♙d3 19 ♜xb7 was surely a much better try.

18...♙d3 19 ♜xb7



19...f5!?

An extremely tempting move, going for connected central passed pawns (if 20 exf5? ♜e2), but objectively 19...♜c8! was correct followed by ...♜c2 or 20 e5!? dxe5 21 fxe5 ♜xe5 22 ♘f3 ♜e2 23 ♘d4 ♜xg2+! 24 ♙xg2 ♙e4+.

20 ♜xa7 fxe4 21 ♘b3

The d4-pawn must finally fall, but as Murphy had no doubt realised, the e-pawn is a pretty big unit and Black remains very actively placed.

21...e3 22 ♘xd4 ♜e4 23 ♘f3 ♜xb4
24 ♜e7 e2!?

24...♙e4 25 ♜e1 ♙xf3 26 gxf3 ♜xf4 27 ♜1xe3 ♜xa4 28 ♜3e4! should lead to a draw – if White defends carefully.

25 ♙f2 d5 26 a5

With Black's pawns under control for now, White must make use of his own trump.

26...♙d6 27 g3 d4 28 ♜c1 ♙c4 29 ♜e4
♙a6 30 ♜c7!

Makkar continues to defend well, doubling on the seventh just in the nick of time.

30...♜b1 31 ♜e8+ ♙h7 32 ♜ee7 ♜f1+
33 ♙g2





French-registered Rajat Makkar of Reading, Ealing and Battersea Chess Clubs already regularly plays on a high board for The Sharks in the 4NCL and will surely become an IM sooner or later.

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33...xf3?

A tempting, but narrowly flawed winning try, as would be 33...d3? 34 fxg7+ gh8 35 g7 d8 26 h4!. Instead, 33...gh8 34 e8+ gh7 would repeat moves and White is also OK after 33...g6!? 34 f5 g4 when one possibility is 35 h3 g5 36 dxg5+ hxg5 37 fxg7+ gh8 38 h7+ gh8 39 hg7+, etc.

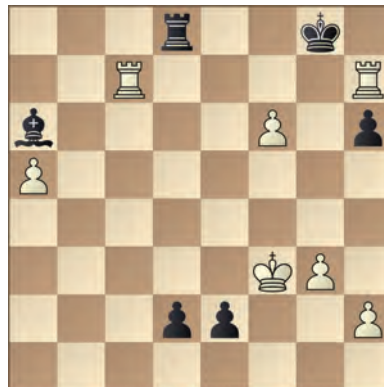
34 gh3 d3 35 fxg7+ gh8 36 g7

Covering the e-pawn and threatening mate.

36...d8 37 f5!

Without this resource Black would be OK, but now he's simply lost.

37...d2 38 h7+ gh8 39 f6



Black can queen, but can't do anything about the threat of g7+ f8; h8#.

39...e1 40 f2 d3+ 41 g2 e1+ 42 h1 1-0

A brutal finish from young Rajat Makkar, if a painful one for Conor Murphy who would bounce back in impressive fashion the next day, outplaying Gawain Jones no less.



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60 Seconds with... GM Noel Studer



Born: 18th October 1996, Bern.

Place of residence: Bern, Switzerland.

Occupation: Chess coach.

Enjoyable? Yes.

And home life? Winter is too cold.

But sometimes good to escape to:
Corralejo on Fuerteventura.

Sports played or followed: Beach volleyball and football.

A favourite novel?
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho.

Piece of music?
'Una Mattina' by Ludovico Einaudi.

Film or TV series? *Prison Break*.

What's the best thing about playing chess?
Decision making and learn to cope with defeat.

And the worst? The engine showing you 15 mistakes in a game you thought was great.

Your best move? My best move was played

against Dagur Ragnarsson one day after my birthday in 2014: 25 ♖h7+ (there was no pawn!) followed by the silent 26 ♔g2! with a mating attack.

N.Studer-D.Ragnarsson

Batumi 2014

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 dxc5 e6 5 ♖e3 ♗e7 6 c3 ♗f5 7 ♖d4 ♖d7 8 ♗f3 ♗xd4 9 cxd4 b6 10 cxb6 ♗xb6 11 ♗d2 ♗c6 12 ♗c3 ♗b8 13 ♗b1 ♖b4 14 ♖e2 0-0 15 0-0 ♗fc8 16 ♗fc1 ♗a5 17 ♖d3 ♗b7 18 ♗f4 h6 19 g4 ♖e7 20 h4 ♗c4 21 ♗c2 ♗d8 22 g5 hxg5 23 hxg5 ♗xb2 24 ♗cxb2 ♗xb2



25 ♖h7+! ♗xh7 26 ♔g2 ♔g8 27 ♗h1 ♖b4 28 g6 ♖e8 29 ♗g5 ♗xg5+ 30 ♗xg5 ♖xc3 31 gxf7+ ♖xf7 32 ♗h4 ♗f8 33 ♗h8+ ♖g8 34 ♗h3 ♖e7 35 ♗xg7+ ♖f7 36 ♗f6+ 1-0

But less memorable than your worst move?
Allowing checkmate in one in two games.

The worst was playing for Switzerland at the 2013 Mitropa Cup, where I was Black against Lukas Handler.

L.Handler-N.Studer

Meissen 2013

Catalan Opening

1 ♗f3 ♗f6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 d5 4 d4 ♖b4+ 5 ♖d2 ♖e7 6 ♖g2 0-0 7 0-0 c6 8 ♗c2 b6 9 ♗d1 ♗bd7 10 b3 ♖a6 11 a4 ♗c8 12 ♗a3 ♗e4 13 ♖c1 f5 14 ♖b2 ♗b7

15 ♗d2 c5 16 ♗xe4 fxe4 17 ♖h3 ♗c6 18 e3 ♗f6 19 ♗b5 ♖c8 20 dxc5 bxc5 21 ♖a3 ♗f7 22 ♗ac1 ♖f8 23 ♗c3 ♖b7 24 cxd5 exd5 25 ♗e2 ♖c8 26 ♖g2 ♖g4 27 h3 ♖f3 28 ♖xf3 exf3 29 ♗d4 ♗c8 30 ♗xf3 ♗e4 31 ♗xd5 ♗xg3 32 ♗g5



I was already, lost but thought I could fight on with 32...♗c6 when 33 ♗xh7# left me speechless.

And a highly memorable opponent?
Mikhail Popov.

Favourite game of all time?
I can't even remember my own games...

The best three chess books:
The Method in Chess by Iosif Dorfman, Jonathan Rowson's *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins*, and *Learn from the Legends* by Mihail Marin.

Is FIDE doing a good job? A horrible one.

Any advice for them or your national federation? Focus on promoting the game, not on how great the officials are.

Can chess make one happy? No, but it can be a piece in a complex puzzle.

A tip please for the club player: Apply a 'less but better' mindset to chess improvement!

Ed. – To find out more about Noel and read more from him, do see his excellent website nextlevelchess.blog.



is required in such an endgame.

20) Pragganandhaa-Maghsoodloo

Black has a precise winning sequence: **1...e3!** (1...xf4? 2 hxg6+ sh7 3 d6 sc5 4 e6 e3 5 sb5 is only a draw, as pointed out by our star man at Wijk aan Zee, Yochanan Afek) **2 hxg6+ sh7 3 g1** (now 3 e6 loses to 3...e2) **3...e2 4 sb5 h2+! 0-1** The sting in the tail, ensuring Black will promote.

21) Erigaisi-Aronian

The simplest win is **1...g5!** (1...e7 2 db6 se1 - 2...sf6! would still have won, and if 3 da4 sf8 4 db6 se7, transposing to the main line - 3 se5 sg3+ 4 sd5 sh4 5 se5 sd8? 6 dd5! a4 saw Aronian offer a draw, with White able to halt the a-pawn and hold after 7 sd4) **2 db6** (or 2 dc5 sg6! 3 dd7 a4) **2...sf5 3 dc8** (3 dc4 a4! 4 dd6+ sf6 5 dc4 a3 is an easy win) **3...sf6!**, successfully triangulating and thereby winning, with **4 db6 se7 5 dd7+ sf5 6 db6 sd8! 7 sd6 sh4! 8 e7 se7+ 9 sxe7 se4!** (9...sf4 10 se6 sg3? 11 sf5 is only a draw) **10 sf7** (Black will also queen after 10 se6 g3! 11 sf7 se3 12 dc4+ sf2 13 dxa5 sxd2) **10...g3 11 sxd7 se3! 12 dc4+ sf2 13 dxa5 sxd2 14 dc4 sf2** a plausible winning sequence, as pointed out by John Emms on ChessPublishing.

22) L'Ami-Beerdse

After 1...wh1? 2 g1 wh4+ 3 g3 wh2+? 4 g2 wh4+ White might already have claimed a draw by repetition, but with **1...sd6!** Black would have won, and if **2 sxd6** (or 2 b5 sxf3+! 3 sxf3 sxd3+ 4 sxd3 se2+! 5 se2 sxd3) **2...wh2+ 3 g2** (3 sf1 wh1+ 4 sf2 se1+ 5 sg2 se2+ forces mate) **3...sxf3+! 4 dxf3 sxd6**. A classic case of John Nunn's useful mnemonic LPDO (loose pieces drop off).

23) Beerdse-Vaishali

1 sxe6!! g4 (1...fxe6 2 sxe6 regains the sacrificed rook in view of 2...sf8? 3 sg6+ sf7 4 sc4) **2 se3!** (2 sxh4? was preferred in the game where after 2...fxe6 3 sh5+ sf8 White settled for a draw by perpetual check, but could still have aimed for more with 4 sc4!, and if 4...sg5 5 sxe6 se8 6 sxd4 sg6 7 sxd7 sc5+, regaining a piece, as pointed out by Afek) **2...fxe6 3 sxe6 sg5** (the only safe square in view of 3...sf8? 4 sg6+ sf7 5 sc4) **4 sc4** threatens mate in one and leaves White with a most formidable initiative for the piece: **4...sa5 5 sxf7+ sd8 6 se6** when there's no good defence to the threats of sxd7 and sf6, with **6...sd6 7 de4 sc7 8 dxd6 sf8** failing to **9 de8+ sb8 10 se7** (Afek) and the threats of sd6+ and b2-b4 are killers.

24) Maghsoodloo-Erigaisi

1...sa1+! (1...se8? 2 sxf4 b3 3 d7 sxd7 4 sxf7! left White a with a decisive attack in the game, which finished: 4...sa1+ 5 sg2 sh3+ 6 sh2! se5+ 7 sxh3 sxf5+ 8 sxf5 gxf5 9 sc7 sg6 10 sa3 se5 11 sc5 sd4 12 sxa5 sxf2 13 sb5 1-0) **2 sg2** (2 sh2 sb3! 3 d7 sxf1 4 sxf4 se5! is a stunning and essential resource, with 5 sxe5 sxf2+ forcing perpetual check) **2...sb3 3 sxf4** (3 d7? sc4 4 sxc4 f3+! picks up the d-pawn to leave Black in front) **3...sxc4 4 sh4+ sh6 5 sxc4 se5** and with such an active queen and the white king exposed, Black should be able to hold without excessive difficulty, as pointed out by Glenn Flear: for example, **6 sd3! sg5! 7 sg3 sf4! 8 sf3 sxf5 9 sb7 sxf7** and the d-pawn isn't going anywhere, unless White goes in for **10 se4! b3! 11 d7 sc7 12 d8 sxd8 13 sxd8 b2 14 sxa5 sb3** when the draw finally becomes clear.

Endgame Magic (p.47)

500. 1 dd2! sd4 2 df1! se4 3 sc2
3 dg3+? sf3 4 dxh5 sg2 5 h4 sh3 is a draw.

3...sf3
3...h4 4 sd2 sf3 5 sd3 h3 6 sd4 sf2 7 se4 wins.

4 sd3 sf2
The main point: 4...sg2 5 se3! sxf1 6 h4! (6 sf4? se2! 7 h4 sd3! 8 sg5 se4 9 sxh5 sf5 only draws) 6...sg2 7 sf4 sh3 8 sg5 wins.

5 de3 sf3 6 sd4 h4 7 sd3 h3 8 df1
sg2 9 se2 sg1 10 dd2 sxh2 11 sf2
sh1 12 df1 h2 13 dg3#

522. 1 sc8!
1 sc7? se7! 2 sc6 se6 holds.

1...sf8
1...se7 2 sc7 se6 3 sd8! sf5 4 df7 sg6 5 se8 sg7 6 se7 wins.

2 dg6!
Not 2 sd7? sg7 3 se6 h6! 4 g6 h5 with a draw.

2...sf7!
Or 2...hxg6 3 sd8 sf7 4 sd7 sf8 5 se6 sg7 6 se7 sg8 7 sf6 sh7 8 sf7, winning.

3 df4!
Side-stepping the drawn 3 dh4? se8! 4 dg2 se7 5 df4 sd6 6 dh5 se6.

3...h6! 4 g6 sf6 5 sd7 h5 6 se8 sg7
7 se7 h4 8 se6 h3 9 sf5 h2 10 dh5
sf8 11 dg3+--

547. 1 db3
1 sf8? sh7 2 db3 se4 3 dc5+ sd5 (or 3...se5, 3...sf5) 4 dd7 se6! draws.

1...se4 2 dc5+ se5!
2...sf5 3 dd7! sg5 4 de5 transposes.

3 dd7+ sf5 4 sf8! sh7 5 sf7! sg6+ 6 sg8!! sg5 7 de5!
But not 7 df8? se8! 8 dh7+ sg6.
7...sb1 8 df7+ sf6 9 sh8!+--

This Month's New Releases



Chess Lessons from a Champion Coach*
Thomas Engqvist, 312 pages
Batsford

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**
In a world dominated by online activity, it can be very difficult to convince students and improving club players that there is still something to be gained by reading an actual real-life book. Additionally, not everyone has the money or desire to take on a professional coach.

This book, the latest in Batsford's long line of titles aimed at the improving club player, aims to bridge the gaps: "In an ideal world,

any aspiring chess player, at almost any level, would get better with a coach. If that's not possible, having chess champion coach Thomas Engqvist's book at your side is the next best thing."

Thomas Engqvist is a good writer, with books for three chess publishers – Batsford, Everyman and Gambit – already out in the wild. This one is aimed specifically aimed at those who would like to "assimilate the most important chess principles and concepts" of the game of chess and "players who want to gain a broad knowledge of chess history and its evolution."

According to more of the blurb, "In his series of lessons, Engqvist guides you through not only the most important elements of chess to master but also the psychology, how to marry knowledge with imagination, and how to stay motivated."

In his thoughtful introduction, the author reveals details of his own chess development and the best ways to use chess literature.

Engqvist examines key games by a whole galaxy of chess stars, all the way, chronologically, from Ruy Lopez to Magnus Carlsen. This means that we don't just get to see the most famous games of the world

champions, but we also have the opportunity to learn from other chess giants who didn't quite make it to the ultimate title, such as Carl Schlechter, David Bronstein and Viktor Korchnoi. This approach allows the development of chess theory and culture to unfold, provided the reader goes through the book methodically, as is the author's intention.

Here is a case in point.

C.Schlechter-W.John Barmen 1905



White has just played 38 d4-f6 and Engqvist calls this "One of the most beautiful paintings in chess history!" Schlechter went on to win at move 50.

Fast forward 75 years and the importance of knowing the classics is apparent, where we see that Tony Miles has tied his normally rock-solid opponent up in knots.

A.Miles-U.Andersson Las Palmas 1980



The game lasted just one more move, namely: 34 f1 and 1-0.

The book is not without editorial blips. For example, when Anatoly Karpov defended his title against Viktor Korchnoi in 1981 by the score of six wins, two defeats and 10 draws, that does not equate to the stated scoreline of '16-12'.

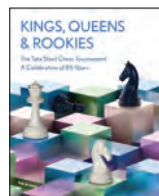
However, the content is otherwise excellent. Each player is introduced via a number of quotes, both by and about the

chess star in question, followed by a potted biography. For example, in the words of Artur Yusupov, "Vladimir Kramnik is one of the most talented players, perhaps THE most talented player, whom I have met in my chess career [...] There are some positions, like for example with the bishop pair or with a central passed pawn, which he played as if with divine inspiration." Praise indeed from a grandmaster and trainer of Yusupov's undoubted calibre and a stark reminder of what we are missing since Kramnik's premature retirement from tournament chess.

Alongside the lessons, there are various questions to engage the reader's attention and the games are enhanced by excellent annotations (plenty of prose, not many long variations). This is one of Batsford's best books in recent years. They don't get as much as attention as they used to, which is a shame, but *Chess Lessons from a Champion Coach* is instructive and definitely worth a look.

Sean Marsh

* - *Chess Lessons from a Champion Chess Coach* should be in stock at Chess & Bridge in the second half of April.



Kings, Queens & Rookies

Erwin L'Ami, Peter Doggers, Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam & Peter Boel, 160 pages
New in Chess

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

With a strapline of 'The Tata Steel Chess Tournament' then promising 'A Celebration of 85 Years', this book offers a commemoration of one of the most famous chess tournaments of all. Celebration is, indeed, the order of the day:

"In 2023, the Tata Steel Chess tournament celebrates its 85th edition. This book captures the uniqueness of the festival in 160 pages. It tells the stories of the winners, the amateurs and their favourite restaurants. Dozens of pictures highlight how photogenic the event is. And, of course, the book includes magnificent chess games annotated by the winners. Wijk aan Zee and the Tata Steel Chess Tournament bring out the best in chess."

There is no doubt about it; the Tata Steel tournament enjoys a fabulous history, although the mathematics seems somewhat dubious in this statement, taken from the opening section, written by Hans van den Berg (CEO of Tata Steel Netherland): "Of the eight World Chess Champions since 1946, only the names of Vasily Smyslov and Bobby Fischer are missing." Perhaps he stopped counting when he reached Garry Kasparov?

The main material has several authors. Erwin l'Ami looks at the last 25 years, Peter Doggers provides pen portraits of 10 tournament stars, Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam

interviews Jan Timman and Jorden van Foreest, and Peter Boel adds details from the first 60 years of the event.

The bulk of the book is given to 12 annotated games, representing the 'diamonds and pearls' of the tournament. The first game is the most famous of all Wijk aan Zee brilliances – the fabulous, sacrificial battle between Garry Kasparov and Veselin Topalov, played in 1999. The notes to the game are provided by Erwin l'Ami, who was there at the time. He remembers it well: "It was on January 20th 1999 that I visited Wijk aan Zee together with my father. As a 13-year-old, I was quite excited to see the Grandmasters at work! We had planned not to stay too long that day, as my father had obligations elsewhere, but needless to say, we stayed longer than expected!"

The rest of the games feature annotations by the winners themselves – and that includes two games by Magnus Carlsen. However, the pick of the bunch is the 2008 clash between Veselin Topalov and Vladimir Kramnik. The two players obviously had 'history' due to their controversial title match of 2006, when Kramnik's frequent toilet trips became the target of his opponent's suspicion. Topalov is therefore rather pointed in his annotations.

One key moment comes very early on in the game, with Topalov unleashing an opening surprise.

V.Topalov-V.Kramnik Wijk aan Zee 2008



Topalov played 12 xf7!?! and comments: "Exactly two years ago, also in Wijk aan Zee, Ivan [Cheparinov, Topalov's second] discovered this idea and developed it. I believe the value of this novelty is also its strong psychological effect on one's opponent. According to Cheparinov, who was observing Kramnik's reaction when I touched my knight, he almost wrote the move 12. dxd7 on his score sheet, but when he realized the pawn f7 was taken he didn't believe his eyes."

The game became more tense by the move and Topalov's annotates continues to land the barbs. "After playing his 22nd move Kramnik stood up, but before he could even walk away I responded. He saw my move and walked to the area where the toilet was. During our game in the Corus tournament he

did this several times, reminding me of his behaviour in Elista 2006. Fortunately for me, this time the quality of his moves when returning to the board was not as high as during our match.”

Topalov won the game after 45 moves and many adventures, concluding with a sharp parting shot: “The result of this game, as well as the development of it, answers the question of why Kramnik declined to play in a new match against me even for a million dollars.”

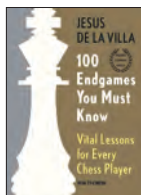
The book is beautifully produced. The photographs are plentiful, the paper is glossy, and a hardback binding is always appreciated. The concluding six pages are very nicely done, presenting photographs of (nearly!) all of the winners, complete with the years of their respective successes.

However, despite being such an attractive book it is, in some respects, a disappointment. The earliest game is Jan Timman against Oleg Romanishin, played in 1985. Surely, a real celebration of the 85 years should contain far more games. Think of all the stars who have played at Wijk: Max Euwe, Tigran Petrosian, Mikhail Botvinnik, Viktor Korchnoi, Anatoly Karpov and numerous others. There are so many classic games which should be in a celebratory tome. Also, a lot more could have been done with the interviews. The two presented here are disappointingly slight.

The Chess Battles of Hastings (New in Chess, 2022) is definitely the better of the two celebratory tomes on famous tournaments. Unfortunately, I found *Kings, Queens & Rookies* to be disappointing, despite several strong points; a case of style over substance. Perhaps the history of the Wijk aan Zee event will receive much more substantial and comprehensive coverage when it makes it to 100 editions?

The book would make a handsome gift for chess fans, but anyone looking for a substantial historical document of the famous series of tournaments will have to do a lot of reading elsewhere.

Sean Marsh



100 Endgames You Must Know

Jesus De la Villa, 280 pages, hardback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

100 Endgames You Must Know has established itself as a modern-day classic and if you don't yet own a copy, this fifth edition is apparently another improved edition, as well as a limited edition hardback. If you've never been sure exactly which endgames you really ought to know, why not let de la Villa be your guide?

Talking of reprinted works by New in Chess, we were delighted to see that RB Ramesh's *Improve Your Chess Calculation*,

winner of the 2022 Chess.com Book of the Year Award, is back in stock at Chess & Bridge. This 340-page work is available in paperback for £26.95 (Subscribers – £24.25), or £32.95 (Subscribers – £29.65) if you prefer a hardback version.



Beating the Hedgehog System

Hanna Ivan-Gal & Laszlo Hazai, 176 pages
RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

New in Chess's latest production is based on a 2022 Chessable course, one which aims to show how White should best counter the Hedgehog in its various guises. WFM Ivan-Gal is a long-standing Hedgehog exponent, but has changed sides here while teaming up with noted theoretician, fellow Hungarian Hazai. Their recommended set-up for White features f2-f3, ♗e2, ♗e3 and 0-0 followed by either causing problems with a quick a4-a5 or more gradual expansion via a2-a3 and b2-b4. Coverage is certainly thorough and by the end the reader will be fully aware of not just how to suppress those key pawn breaks, ...b5 and ...d5, but how White should be looking to make progress having set up the ideal initial formation.



ChessBase Magazine 212

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

The latest issue of *CBM* is for March/April 2023 and unsurprisingly has its focus on the super tournament at Wijk aan Zee. Rustam Kasimdzhanov and Mihail Marin supply video-based annotations, while Anish Giri and Jorden van Forest supply annotations. There's also thorough coverage of two topical gambit lines, 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♗c4 ♗c5 5 ♗g5!? and 1 c4 e5 2 ♗c3 ♗f6 3 ♖f3 e4!? 4 ♗g5 c6!?

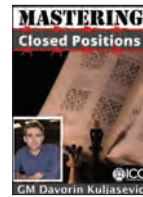


Grandmaster Training Camp 1: Calculation!

Sam Shankland, 360 pages, paperback
RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

Based on a Chessable course, readers join Shankland in a training camp and follow his quest to solve 300 exercises set by his coach, Jacob Aagaard. As well as revealing how he

tackled each position, Shankland is happy to admit what he didn't see, as well as what that reveals and how such weaknesses might be improved. Whether or not you also attempt to solve every position, it's hard not to feel that a thorough study of this work will both improve your calculational ability and tactical radar at any stage of the game.



Mastering Closed Positions

Davorn Kuljasevic, digital download, video
running time: 8 hours

RRP £79.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £71.95**

Perhaps the success of Croatian GM Kuljasevic's books *Beyond Material* and *How to Study Chess on Your Own* persuaded the ICC (chessclub.com is very much still alive as a playing site) to release a download of his course on closed positions. The 13 videos come to almost 8 hours of footage and there is also an interactive training section. The bulk of the material is devoted to the kind of abstract thinking required in closed positions, with lectures on schematic and prophylactic thinking, as well as outposts, breakthroughs, semi-open and open files, and some masterclasses based on the play of such positional maestros as Boris Gelfand and Anatoly Karpov.

ICC have also released as a digital download *10 Sharp Opening lines to become a Blitz Wizard* by Marian Petrov, which is available too from Chess & Bridge for £49.95 or £44.95 for Subscribers. It features 10 videos, coming to just over five hours of footage in total, 10 annotated games and 30 puzzles. The repertoire should suit the aggressive club player, featuring the likes of the Danish and Smith-Morra Gambits for White, as well as a few ideas for Black, including the Latvian and Scandinavian.



Playing the Sveshnikov

Milos Pavlovic, 360 pages, paperback
RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

Serbian Grandmaster and leading theoretician Pavlovic has long played that complex and unbalanced version of the Sicilian which is 1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 e5, and if 6 ♗db5 d6 7 ♗g5 a6 8 ♗a3 b5, the Sveshnikov variation. As such, he is ideally placed to map out a detailed repertoire with it for Quality Chess, one which should reinforce the knowledge of certain motifs and present plenty of new ideas for even the experienced

Sveshnikov practitioner. Notably after 9...xf6 gxf6 10...d5 Pavlovic covers both 10...f5 and 10...g7, while also supplying a useful bonus chapter on how to handle those tricky anti-Sveshnikov lines, 3...c3 and 3...b5.



Pressure Play

Neil McDonald, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Written with the club player very much in mind, Neil McDonald's books are always both an enjoyable read and full of useful advice. Here he examines how to probe and ask questions, even in seemingly innocuous positions. The master of such an approach is, of course, Magnus Carlsen, several of whose games are examined by McDonald. Chapters include 'Paralysing the Enemy Pieces', 'Pressure Play Against Pawns', 'Breaking the Deadlock with a Passed Pawn' and 'Increasing and Exploiting a Space Advantage', in other words plenty of useful material.



Speed Demon

Dmitry Kryakvin, 224 pages, paperback
RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

Anyone who remembers watching on TV in 1994 the PCA Intel Rapid Chess Grand Prix in Moscow will surely remember the dramatic semi-final between Vladimir Kramnik and Alexei Vyzhmanavin, where the latter had to win an Armageddon game, but repeated moves two pawns ahead in a bishop endgame. The hero of this book passed away in 2000, but there could be no doubt of both the talent of grandmaster Vyzhmanavin or his precious ability at speed chess, honed by countless hours of blitz in Moscow's Sokolniki Park. Subtitled 'The Fascinating Games and Tragic Life of Alexey Vyzhmanavin', Kryakvin's tribute blends some fascinating stories and superb chess with many a tragic twist.

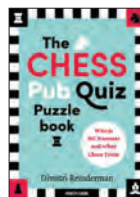


Supreme Chess Understanding: Statics & Dynamics

Wojciech Moranda, 256 pages, paperback
RRP £30.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.85**

This important work sees the Polish Grandmaster aim to nail down the key rules

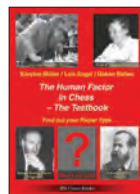
which underpin chess, with a special emphasis on the interplay between static and dynamic factors. Not only does the modern player need to know and understand the general guidelines, but also when they can be bent or even broken. Thanks to Moranda's guidance the reader's knowledge of positional transformations should be somewhat enhanced, with the three main chapters, each of which comes with a handy collection of exercises, certainly intriguingly titled: 'Bedtime Solving for Kids... With 10 Years of Experience'; 'Buy this book, they said. It will be fun, they said'; and 'Even MC cannot touch these'. *Supreme Chess Understanding* is also available in hardback version, retailing at £37.95 or £34.15 for Subscribers.



The Chess Pub Quiz Puzzle Book

Dimitri Reinderman, 144 pages, paperback
RRP £16.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.25**

In the UK we often associate certain chess players with impressive general knowledge, but in the Netherlands they even have chess-themed pub quizzes. Dutch GM Reinderman is an accomplished quiz setter, as well as solver, and here presents a wide array of trivia, including picture rounds and connection questions. If you were thinking of organising a quiz night at your local chess club, Reinderman's book should probably be your first port of call.



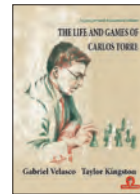
The Human Factor in Chess – The Testbook

Karsten Müller, Luis Engel & Makan Rafiee,
208 pages, paperback
RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

After the success of *The Human Factor in Chess*, which categorised players by four main stylistic types, Müller and Engel return, joined by German FM Rafiee, with a book which should really help to ensure the reader knows whether they're an activist, pragmatist, theorist or reflector. Realising whether you like to calculate or more trust your intuition will help, as will, of course, solving the exercises here. The authors don't just help you recognise your style, but also aim to help you make the most of it, such as by knowing what type of positions to aim for. There is also plenty of good advice on both how to achieve a more universal style and on how to adjust your game depending on the characteristics of your opponent.

Publisher Joachim Beyer Verlag have also

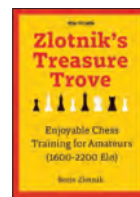
recently released another work by Karsten Müller, *Typical Sicilian: Effective Middlegame Training* (160 pages, paperback, RRP £21.95, Subscribers £19.75). Here Müller's focus is the Open Sicilian, if only that classic version where Black has a centre marked by pawns on d6 and e6, the Scheveningen centre if you prefer. He explains in typically lucid fashion the key plans and manoeuvres for both sides, while also aiming to improve the reader's Sicilian middlegame understanding by presenting 150 exercises.



The Life and Games of Carlos Torre

Gabriel Velasco & Taylor Kingston,
588 pages, paperback
RRP £35.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £32.35**

This is a revised and expanded edition of a painstakingly detailed work first published by Russell Enterprises in 2001. Thinkers Publishing have certainly gone the extra yard to accommodate even more photographs and diagrams, as well as a wealth of new material. Not only have the annotations been updated with the help of *Stockfish*, but several more by Torre himself have been uncovered, as has an interview with the great Mexican player from 1927. If you enjoy your chess history or have ever wanted to know more about the name behind the Torre Attack, Velasco and Kingston's coverage of the life and games of Carlos Jesus Torre Repetto (1904 – 1978) comes highly recommended. You may even prefer a hardback version, which is available for just an extra £4.00 or £35.95 for Subscribers.



Zlotnik's Treasure Trove

Boris Zlotnik, 248 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

Once the head of a famous Moscow chess school, Boris Zlotnik is the reason why the family Caruana relocated to Madrid in 2004. Zlotnik hasn't just worked with elite players however, far from it and this work is subtitled 'Enjoyable Chess Training for Amateurs (1600-2200 Elo)'. Enjoyment is certainly at the forefront of this book, as well as Zlotnik's desire to help his readers enjoy the many rich possibilities which chess can throw up. His discussions of both the difference between professionals and amateurs and of factors which determine success at chess are fascinating, as well as insightful, as are his general tips, be that advice covering positional play, putting up resistance, allowing oneself to be creative or studying the opening.

New in April from Quality Chess!



Black & White Magic

GM **Axel Smith** came to the realization that understanding colour-complex strategies is one of the key differences between strong and weak players. After many years of delivering lectures and training material to his students, Smith produced a Chessable course on the topic, which has been extensively edited and reorganized by Quality Chess to produce this book.

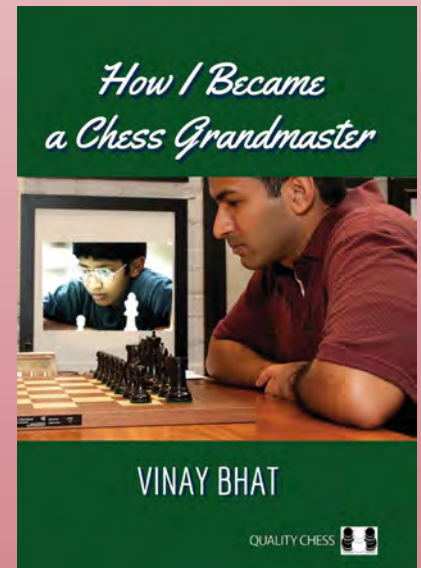
The Swedish grandmaster breaks down colour complexes into sub-topics such as blockades, opposite-coloured bishops and exchange sacrifices, with carefully chosen exercises to test and reinforce the reader's newfound understanding. Use **Black & White Magic** to dazzle your opponents!

GM **Axel Smith** is the award-winning author of *The Woodpecker Method*, *Pump Up Your Rating*, *e3 Poison* and *Street Smart Chess*. Using the Woodpecker as part of his training, as an adult he improved from a rating of 2100 to becoming a Grandmaster.

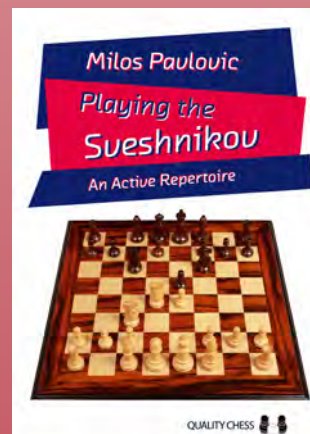
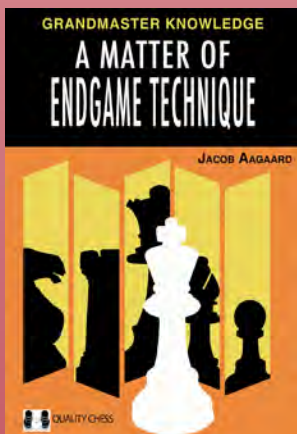
How I Became a Chess Grandmaster

GM **Vinay Bhat** tells his personal story, charting his path to improvement and the struggles he had to go through. With numerous photographs and anecdotes, **How I Became a Chess Grandmaster** is a book that entertains as it instructs. Follow the inspirational rise of a young player from novice to Grandmaster to carve out your own path to improvement and achieve your chess goals.

GM **Vinay Bhat** became a National Master at the age of 10 and an International Master at 15 – at the time the youngest American IM since Bobby Fischer. He later went on to gain the ultimate title of Grandmaster in his mid-twenties.



Also available



Quality Chess books are available from

QUALITYCHESS.CO.UK

The London Chess Centre and other specialist chess retailers

