

ChessLife

ABDUSATTOROV'S CZECHMATE

Uzbek No.1 Finishes Well Clear In Prague



Adams Again at Cambridge – Mickey continued his great run of victories



How Good is Your Chess? – Daniel King previews the Toronto Candidates



Chess Coaches at the Ready! – Graff, Pandolfini, Ciocan & Lam on coaching

Chess

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60 Seconds with... GM Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant



Born: 19th July 1968 in Ochamchire, Georgia.

Place of residence: Edinburgh, Scotland.

Occupation: Chess player and chess coach.

Enjoyable? Most of the time enjoyable and rewarding; it can also be incredibly challenging and stressful!

And home life? I am married, and my daughter is now 25. It has been challenging at times to combine the life of a chess player and a home life, and I would not have managed without the support of my family, for which I am eternally grateful.

But sometimes good to escape to: To my favourite place in Scotland, the Isle of Skye.

Sports played or followed: I don't really follow or play any sports. I prefer hillwalking in Scotland as a recreational activity.

A favourite novel? It depends on many things and different circumstances in my life. Lately I have been reading biographical books and non-fiction.

Piece of music? It must be classical music. During the Covid lockdowns we watched hours and hours of online streaming from the Metropolitan Opera. Verdi operas were one of the highlights of the day.

Film or TV series? Lately I am forbidding myself to watch any TV series. The exception

was *The Queen's Gambit* on Netflix, which was worthwhile. I do enjoy watching films from the comfort of my home and prefer arthouse films, where the directors pose more questions than give answers.

What's the best thing about playing chess?

It helps to develop analytical skills and resilience, but most of all it brings joy to our lives.

And the worst? Chess as an occupation is highly demanding and unforgiving, but is not financially adequately rewarded.

Your best move? I cannot think of just one move; in terms of a best game it must be my game against Halkias on the black side of the King's Indian. The game was played in the last round at the 2008 Olympiad where I was representing Scotland for the first time and played in the Open team. I had to win to make my final GM norm.

S.Halkias-K.Arakhamia-Grant
Dresden Olympiad 2008
King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6
5 ♗f3 0-0 6 ♗e2 e5 7 ♗e3 ♗g4 8 ♗g5
f6 9 ♗h4 ♗c6 10 d5 ♗e7 11 ♗d2 ♗h6
12 f3 g5 13 ♗f2 f5 14 c5 ♗g6 15 ♗c4
♗f4 16 0-0 ♗f6 17 a4 ♗g6 18 exf5
♗xf5 19 ♗d3 g4!? 20 fxcg4 ♗g5 21 h3
♗h6 22 ♗f3 e4! 23 ♗xe4 ♗d4 24 ♗e3



24...♗xg4! 25 ♗xg6 ♗hx3+ 26 gxxh3 ♗f3+
27 ♗xf3 ♗xf3 28 ♗g3? ♗f8 29 ♗h2 ♗xg6
30 cxd6 cxd6 31 ♗f2 ♗d3 32 ♗xd6 ♗xc3
33 bxc3 ♗xd5 34 ♗b2 ♗f1 35 c4 ♗xa1
36 cxd5 ♗f1 37 ♗f2 ♗h1+ 38 ♗g3 ♗xd5
0-1

But less memorable than your worst move?
Too many to choose from, unfortunately. One

of the most memorable worst ones was rejecting a draw offer on move 18 in a game against Simon Williams at the 2004 British Championship. I was playing Black and a draw was sufficient for my second GM norm. I correctly evaluated the position as being better for Black and decided to play on. Needless to say, I lost that game and the next two.

And a highly memorable opponent? I am truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to play against chess legends like Smyslov, Spassky and Korchnoi. However, there is one game that I am often asked about by my young students, which is my 100-move win against Nakamura at Gibraltar in 2007. They just cannot believe it really happened!

Favourite game of all time? A difficult choice to make. I grew up in Georgia at the time when Kasparov was on his way to the top of the world ranking. His playing style and games were admired and studied with the utmost attention. If I have to name one game it would be Kasparov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1999.

The best three chess books: It is impossible to name only three; there are so many terrific books. The ones that have made a lasting impression are: Mark Dvoretsky's *Endgame Manual*, *My System* by Aron Nimzowitsch and David Bronstein's *International Chess Tournament, Zurich 1953*.

Is FIDE doing a good job? It's fair to say that some members of FIDE are trying their best.

Or your National Federation? My national federation is reliant on the work of volunteers who are putting in time and effort, and are constantly pointing out the lack of funding. That makes a life of a chess professional in Scotland exceedingly difficult.

Any advice for either? I am very much aware that it is much easier to give an advice rather than to follow it through, even with the best of intentions.

Can chess make one happy? "Chess, like love, like music has the power to make people happy." Whether it does or not depends on the player.

A tip please for the club player: Don't worry about results and rating, but study the games of strong players and find what works best for you.

Ed.- As we went to press, Ketu was about to compete in the 8th Menchik Memorial at the London MindSports Centre. A report next time.

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Adams Again!



Michael Adams continued his great run of success at the University Arms, Cambridge

The 2nd Cambridge International Open again took place in February and was staged at the fine setting of the University Arms Hotel next to Parker's Piece, an area of common land seen by some as the birthplace of modern football. For a second year, Michael Adams was held to a draw in the opening round, but battled back to triumph overall, albeit only on tiebreak this time around. For the former long-time English no.1, it continued his extremely fine run of form dating back to last May, which has seen him win the English Championship, British Championship, World Over-50 Championship, London Chess Classic and now, once again, at Cambridge too.

52-year-old Adams wasn't at his sharpest when he squandered a couple of very good chances against FM Rafe Martyn in round one, but Indy Southcott-Moyers was then outplayed in smooth fashion before a second successive white for the top seed yielded a somewhat sharper game against his former second.

M.Adams-P.Wells Round 3 Sicilian Scheveningen

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6 6 ♙e2 d6 7 ♙e3 ♙e7 8 ♚d2

A sharper and more critical course than the main lines of the Classical variation with 8 0-0 0-0 9 f4 e5.

8...a6 9 0-0-0 ♘xd4

The fearless engines indicate that 9...♙d7 10 g4! ♘xd4 11 ♚xd4 e5 12 ♚b4! also favours White, so possibly 8...a6 is just too slow.

10 ♚xd4 e5 11 ♚d3 b5?!

White is quick to take control after this, so the Najdorf-like 11...0-0 was probably a better try, and if 12 ♙g5 ♙e6 or 12 ♚hg1!? b5 13 a3 ♙e6 14 g4 ♘d7 when White shouldn't be more than slightly for choice.

12 ♙g5!



12...b4

Rolling the dice rather than give up a whole pawn with 12...♙e6 13 ♘b1 0-0 (13...b4 14 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 15 ♘d5 ♙xd5 16 ♚xd5 ♙e7? 17 ♚c6+ is even worse for Black) 14 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 15 ♚xd6 ♚a5 when 16 ♚d2 ♚b6 17 ♙f3 keeps White's nose in front.

13 ♙xf6 bxc3 14 ♙xe7 cxb2+ 15 ♘b1 ♘xe7!?

A better practical try than enduring lengthy suffering in a clearly worse scenario after 15...♚xe7 16 ♚xd6 ♚xd6 17 ♚xd6 ♙e6 18 ♚hd1 ♘e7 19 ♚b6.

16 f4!

Adams goes up a gear and finds the only way to call Black's ambitious play into question.

16...exf4 17 e5 d5 18 ♙f3?!

18 ♚hf1 would have left White somewhat for choice, and if 18...♙e6 19 ♚xf4 ♘f8 20 c4!.

18...♚a5?!

18...♙e6! 19 ♚a3+ ♘e8 20 ♚d4 ♚c8 21 ♚hd1 ♚c7 doesn't seem especially clear.

19 ♙xd5 ♚d8 20 ♚e4 ♚b8

The best try, as 20...♙f5?! 21 ♚xf5 ♚xd5 22 ♚xf4 ♚xe5 23 ♚hf1 f6 24 ♚g3! feels rather ropery for Black.



21 ♙c4?

21 ♙b3! was the route to a clear plus, and if 21...♚xd1+ (or 21...♚b4? 22 ♚xh7) 22 ♚xd1 ♙g4 23 ♚d5 ♚c3?! 24 ♚xf4.

21...♚b4?

Such a complex position must have been a nightmare to play with the pretty quick time control. The tempting text move loses, whereas 21...♚xd1+! 22 ♚xd1 ♙g4 would seemingly have been fine for Black, and much more than that if 23 ♚d5? ♚c3 followed by ...♙f5.

22 ♚xf4! ♚xc4 23 ♚xc4 ♙e6 24 ♚h4+

A saving and decisive check.

24...f6 25 exf6+ ♘f7 26 a4 ♚c8 27 fxg7 ♙a2+!?

27...♙f5 28 ♚hf1 wins, so Wells opts to go down in a blaze of glory.

28 ♚xa2 b1 ♚+ 29 ♚xb1 ♚b6+ 30 ♚a1 1-0



Last year he scored 8/9, this time 7/9 was enough for Mickey to triumph on tiebreak.

Adams was then held to a draw by Matthew Turner and dropped a further half-point when he misjudged an early rook activation from well-prepared local teenager Lorenzo Fava, ahead of offering a draw in a slightly worse position after 22 moves. He would then survive a definite bullet against IM Richard Pert, ahead of drawing with second seed, 21-year-old Italian GM Francesco Sonis, before winning when it really counted as he annihilated Daniel Fernandez's Caro-Kann.

With two rounds to go, 51-year-old Sergei Tiviakov led by half a point, but would unusually overpress against Martin Haubro, who would have arguably the tournament of his life. That win catapulted the 29-year-old Danish IM into the clubhouse lead and he would draw a hard-fought encounter with Peter Roberson in the final round to finish with a 2540 performance. Haubro would be joined on 7/9 by Adams, who outclassed Jonah Willow in the critical phase (the time control was a brisk 90 minutes for all the moves plus 30 seconds a move, to allow for three double-round days), and by Tiviakov, who outplayed Sonis.

While Shreyas Royal's quest for a third and final GM norm suffered thanks to defeats at the hands of IM Craig Hanley, who was making a welcome comeback, and Haubro, other young stars stole the chance to shine, Ruqayyah Rida finishing as the top female player on 5½/9.

N.Hutchinson-R.Rida

Round 2



28...fxg2+!?

Crashing through in style, although 28...e3 would have been simple and deadly.

29 c3xg2 e3+ 30 c3h3 f3+

30...c8+! 31 c3h4 d7 was the way to force mate, and if 32 g3 e7+ 33 c3h5 f7+ 34 c3h4 f6+ 35 c3h5 f5+ 36 c3h4 g6!.

31 g3

Now it's mate, but 31 c3h4 f2+ 32 g3 (or 32 c3h5 c7!) 32...f6+ 33 c3h3 f5+ 34 c3h4 f3 would also have done the job.

31...c8+! 0-1

A deadly retreat ahead of advancing the g-pawn.

12-year-old Rida from Chelmsford then defeated Mark Hebden and drew with Peter Wells no less. She came home a point ahead of 8-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan, who won the battle of the prodigies against 9-year-old Supratit Banerjee, who has recently switched allegiance from Scotland to England.

B.Sivanandan-S.Banerjee

Round 3

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 d2 dxe4 4 dxe4 d7 5 f3 g6 6 xf6+ xf6 7 c3 c5



Another name for the future, Ruqayyah Rida, who drew with Michael Adams in a simul last year

8 e5

A critical test of the Rubinstein, to which Black responds in optimal fashion, sensibly cutting out the check on b5, as both players appear well prepared.

8...a6 9 e3 c7 10 a4+ d7 11 d7 d7 12 0-0-0 0-0-0 13 e2

And so White has the bishop-pair, but Black is extremely solidly placed and will activate his knight.

13...b6 14 c2 d5 15 b1 c4!

Borrowing an idea from related Caro-Kann positions. Black cements the knight in place, may now attack on the queenside after all, and here 16 f3 b5 17 e1 e7 18 c1 b7 19 e5 f6 was completely fine for Black in Carlsen-Tang, Internet (bullet) 2021.

16 g3 c6



17 c1!

Preserving the bishop-pair while avoiding 17 f3? e3! 18 xc6 xc2 19 f3 a3+! 20 bxa3 xa3, with an extra pawn for Black.

17...e7

Now Sivanandan begins to advance in instructive fashion, whereas after 17...h5! 18 f4 g6 19 f3 b5 20 h3 d6 Black would still have been very solidly placed.

18 f4! g6 19 f3 h5 20 h3 c7 21 hf1

Good prophylaxis, preparing g3-g4 then f4-f5.

21...b5!? 22 e2?!

Presumably intimidated by Black's last,

White rejects 22 g4! hxg4 23 hxg4 with the upper hand, and if 23...b4 24 cxb4 xb4 25 f2! and then finally f4-f5.

22...b8 23 d2 a7!

White has lost time and Black is able to generate sufficient counterplay.

24 f3 a5 25 fe1 f6 26 a3 d7 27 g2 c6 28 e2 hd8 29 g4! hxg4 30 hxg4 b4!



A critical advance and a fairly necessary one, with f4-f5 imminent.

31 cxb4 xd4??

Missing White's next, whereas after 31...axb4! 32 xd5 (32 axb4 a8!? looks a bit tricky for White, '0.00' though the engines still proclaim) 32...xd5 33 xb4 xd4 the position would have remained about equal.

32 e4!

All of a sudden White is pretty much winning, in view of 32...f6?? 33 xd4 xg2 34 xd7+ xd7 35 e3+ and 32...b6? 33 bxa5 c5 34 c1!.

32...g7 33 xc4 b5 34 c5 b6 35 xa5+

It's two extra pawns as Black begins to regret ever advancing on the queenside.

35...b8 36 xd5

Simple chess, although 36 f5! would have been more incisive.

36...xd5 37 xd5 xd5 38 c1 xd1 39 xd1 d4 40 b3 c6 41 d3!



Centralisation to keep any counterplay to a minimum. White's queenside pawns will prove a decisive asset.

41...d5 42 a4 e5 43 fe5 xe5 44 f3 e7 45 d2 g7 46 a5 e6 47 b5 g5 48 d3 f6 49 a6 e7 50 d4 g6+ 51 c1 e6 52 b6!

Hammering the final nail into the black

coffin as now 52...♖c8+ 53 ♜c3 ♗xa6
54 ♗e5+ would net a piece.



52...♖c6+ 53 ♜c3 ♗h1+ 54 ♙c2 ♗g2+
55 ♙b3 ♗h1 56 ♗e5+ ♙a8 57 b7+
♗xb7+ 58 axb7+ ♙xb7 59 ♗xe7+ ♙c6
60 ♙c4 f5 61 b4 f4 62 b5+ ♙b6
63 ♜d4+ ♙a5 64 ♗a7# 1-0

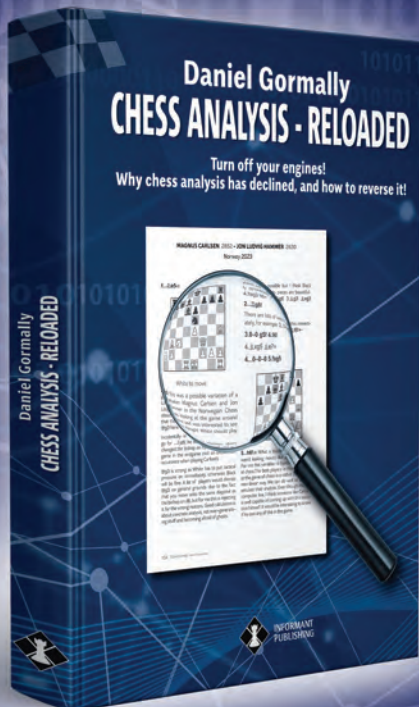
Leading Scores:

1-3 Michael Adams (ENG),
Sergei Tiviakov (NED),
Martin Haubro (DEN) 7/9
4-6 Daniel Fernandez,
Matthew Wadsworth,
Peter Roberson (all ENG) 6½



Bodhana Sivanandan drew with IM Bogdan Borsos en route to 50% and a 2124 performance.

7-15 Jonah Willow (ENG),
Nikolas Wachinger (GER),
Matthew Turner (SCO),
Peter Wells (ENG),
Aras Vardanyan (LTU),
Eldar Gasanov (UKR),
Craig Hanley (ENG),
Ameet Ghasi (ENG),
Richard York-Weaving (ENG) 6.



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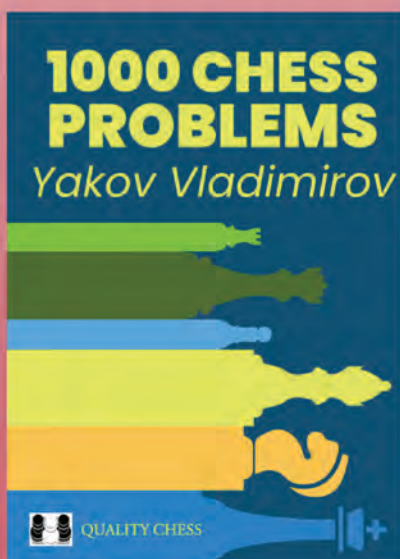
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by Stev Bonhage



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CAPTURE is available from chess.co.uk priced £65 / £58.50 for Subscribers.





A little bird just told me

A round-up of what the top players and chess personalities have been saying on Twitter

Prague Chess Festival - @PragueChess
Director of PICF @BolekBoleslav: I would like to thank all players, partners, spectators and members of the organizing team. The sixth year of PICF was extremely successful. Former world champion @vishy64theking kicked off the festival in style. We saw a lot of attractive and dramatic games, three participants of the Candidates Tournament introduced themselves in Prague and a large number of spectators came every day. What else could one wish for. Thank you and see you next year!

chess24 - @chess24com
Bu Xiangzhi was the surprise winner of the Shenzhen Masters, with Giri dropping out of the Top 10 for the 1st time since Feb 2021!

2700chess - @2700chess
Congratulations to Serbia's 24-year-old Alexey Sarana (2705.2), who scored 3/3 in the last rounds of the Israel League and crossed the 2700 mark for the first time!

John Saunders - @johnchess
Congratulations to Oxford University who beat Cambridge University in the 2024 (142nd) Varsity Chess Match. This was their 59th win and they are now only one behind Cambridge who have won 60 and have led in the series since 1996. Tom O'Gorman won a record-equaling 4th win of 4.

Fiona Steil-Antoni - @fionchetta
Such a pleasure catching up with @takawirachess and meeting Russ from @thegiftofchess in New York a couple of days ago (thank you for the book and chess set)! Go check out the incredible work they do and consider supporting if you can!

Dadaz - @dadazchess
We congratulate the @ghanachess for hosting the Africa Chess games which have been concluded today in Accra, Ghana. The Africa games drew players from many of the countries where @thegiftofchess has distributed chess sets. We set aside chess sets to give to the winners to support chess clubs in their communities. We also congratulate @FIDE_chess for being there to support the games. Congratulations all!

MrDodgy - @ChessProblem
Surprise! I will be doing high quality commentary on the 8th Menchik Memorial. I will definitely NOT be showing incredible and unreasonable bias towards Keti, Fiona & Bodhana!

Lukeing Good

Luke McShane scored an unbeaten 2/3 at the latest Bundesliga weekend in late February, two comfortable draws with the Berlin and this sparkling effort

L. McShane-V. Baidetskyi

Werder Bremen vs MSA Zugzwang
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 d2 c5 4 gf3 cxd4 5 exd5 ♖xd5 6 c4 ♗d6 7 0-0 ♜f6 8 ♜e1!? Aiming for more than the pawn-regaining 8 ♜b3.

8...♜c6 9 ♜e4 ♗b4?!
A slightly strange choice, whereas 9...♜e4 10 ♜xe4 ♜e7 11 ♜f4 ♗c5 12 ♜d3 would only leave White with sufficient compensation for the pawn.

10 b3 ♜e7 11 ♜b2 b5?
This asks too much of Black's position, although he would still have been worse even after 11...♜d7 12 ♜xd4 ♜xd4 13 ♜xd4 ♗a5.

12 ♜d3 ♜b7
12...0-0?! runs into 13 ♜xd4! ♜xd4 14 ♜c3, with a monstrous initiative for White.
13 a4! bxa4 14 ♜xa4 ♗b6 15 ♜xd4 ♜d8 16 ♗a1 Richard Reti's favourite square for the queen and now Black comes under pressure right across the board.

16...♜b4 17 ♜f5!!



Luke in action at the 2023 London Chess Classic.

17...♜xe4

Likewise, 17...♜xd3 18 ♜xg7+ ♜f8 19 cxd3 is superb for White and 17...exf5? would fail to 18 ♜xf6+ gxf6 19 ♜xe7+! ♜xe7 20 ♜xb4! ♗xb4 21 ♜a3, picking up the queen with a decisive advantage.

18 ♜xg7+ ♜f8 19 ♜xe4 ♜d2?

19...♜xe4 20 ♜xe4 ♜g8 was grim, but also the only real try.



20 ♜xb4!

A further sacrifice and almost a decisive one.

20...♜xb4

20...♗xb4 21 ♜c3 is equally hopeless, and if 21...♗d6 22 ♜xd2 ♗xd2 23 ♜xe6+ fxe6 24 ♗xh8+.

21 ♜xb7 ♜g8

21...♗xb7 22 ♜a3 ♜xa3 23 ♜xe6+ fxe6 24 ♗xh8+ is a game-ender.

22 ♜f3 ♜xc2

Black also finds himself out of tricks after 22...♗xf2+ 23 ♜h1 ♜xc2 24 ♜f1.

23 ♜d4 ♗a5? 24 ♜c5+!



A neat blow and a decisive one at that.
24...♗xc5 25 ♜xe6+! fxe6 26 ♗f6+ ♜e8 27 ♗xe6+ ♜d8 28 ♗xg8+ 1-0

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This Month's New Releases

Korchnoi Year by Year: Volume II (1969-1980)

Renette & Karolyi, 518 pages, Elk and Ruby
RRP £41.95* **SUBSCRIBERS £37.75**

This book has been eagerly anticipated, ever since the release of the exemplary *Korchnoi Year by Year: Volume I (1945-1968)* (Elk and Ruby, 2023). The chess achievements mapped out in the first volume (of four) would have been more than enough for most elite players, but Korchnoi was just warming up. This volume “encompasses Korchnoi’s famous world championship fight with Karpov at Baguio City in 1978, his candidates final matches against Karpov in 1974 and Hübner in 1980, as well as the related candidates cycles and major tournament performances.”

The depth of research is clear: “Like in Volume I, original material is provided from interviews with key protagonists and their relatives, while sources in Russian, German, Dutch and Hungarian as well as English are used to paint the most comprehensive portrait of Korchnoi available.” Indeed, the book offers a plethora of information which will be new even to Korchnoi’s most ardent of fans.

This is a big book. The authors do not skimp on any aspect of the 11 years of Korchnoi action, whether it is battling with his bitter rivals in Candidates matches (he played three such matches with Tigran Petrosian in the period in question, for example), or the wider story of his life, including his sensational defection from the Soviet Union in 1976 (and the subsequent trials and tribulations of the wife and son he left behind), after sharing first place at the IBM tournament in Amsterdam. His preparation for this alarming leap wasn’t quite in keeping with the depth of his chess preparation. “At the closing ceremony, while sitting beside Miles, Korchnoi asked him how ‘political asylum’ was spelt in English.”

The most notable event covered is the infamous battle of Baguio City – which saw Korchnoi and his small team of helpers take on world champion Anatoly Karpov, backed by the formidable might of the Soviet chess machine. It remains the most exciting and interesting match in the history of the world chess championship to date. Draws did not count and six wins were needed for victory. Korchnoi fought back from 2-5 down to level the scores, thanks partly to his unparalleled endgame skill, but then lost the 35th and final game, just when the match initiative seemed to be firmly in his hands. Needless to say, the

whole contest receives comprehensive coverage from Renette and Karolyi.

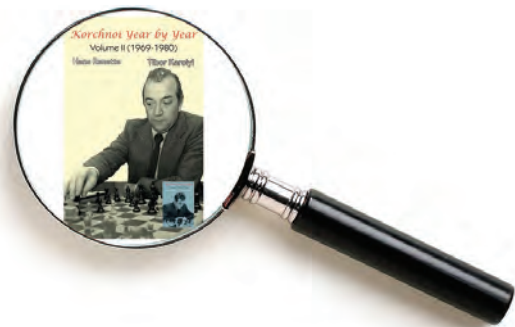
Korchnoi achieved all of this at a comparatively advanced age, reaching his absolute peak in his mid-40s (to put this into context, Garry Kasparov retired from competitive chess when he was 41). Indeed, this volume still does not bring Korchnoi’s story to its conclusion. There was still one more title match to come and many more years trying to battle his way through various Candidates cycles to try and get back to the summit.

There are ways in which this book could have been improved. First, the lack of tournament and match crosstables takes something away from the excitement of the contests. It is always interesting to see, for example, the form of the highlighted player’s rivals over the course of a tournament.

Second, although the photographs are excellent (with many published for the first time), I feel there is room for improvement with the captions. For example, the photographs from Pete Tamburro’s archive, taken in 1974, show Korchnoi with a suspiciously full head of hair. This is because he was experimenting with hair pieces at the time, but without the explanation the images make a strange impression. Additionally, further details could easily have been added to some of the pictures taken at tournaments. For example, the one on page 286, showing “Korchnoi contemplating his move with Portisch observing (1978)” is from Korchnoi’s game with Tony Miles (the game is featured in the book; it was a fabulous win for Korchnoi). It is the sort of extra detail I always find interesting.

In all, there are 140 games and fragments, with very accessible annotations, revealing the struggle inherent in virtually every game Korchnoi played.

Korchnoi’s style changed considerably as he intensified his efforts to become champion of the world and the authors have analysed his evolving style of play, as well as his games. “Many new discoveries are made in the analysis. In particular, the authors identify that Korchnoi worked hard to improve his endgame ability significantly during the time that he was boycotted in tournaments by the Soviets, which is most surprising given that he was in his mid-forties by then, and was the best player of his time at endgame tactics. Further, the authors found that his reputation as a pawn grabber was highly exaggerated, and that he carried out a huge number of king attacks on the h-file. They also discovered that Korchnoi more than matched Karpov for



openings in the 1978 title bout despite the unprecedented preparation of the Soviet chess machine, and that the key reason he lost that match was time trouble.”

There are also numerous examples of Korchnoi sacrificing material, when the outcome remained far from clear. Several games in this book show him sacrificing pieces for two or three pawns, and then grinding out wins in unusual endings. Elsewhere, his improved tactical skill enabled him to play moves nobody else would dare, especially considering the quality of his opponents and his habitual severe time-trouble.

V.Korchnoi-T.Petrosian

1st matchgame, Velden 1980



The significance of the 40th move is partly lost in the current climate of strange time controls and the obsession with increments. The point is that it was only at this mythical move number that players would receive more time on the clock. Therefore, most players would keep things as sensible as possible when in time trouble and approaching the magical number of moves, but Korchnoi played every move as if his life depended upon it. The additional problem was that players in desperate time-trouble often lost track of the moves and sailed beyond move 40, inducing panic for the faint hearted.

Korchnoi played the remarkably committal move **41 ♖xg6!**. “Korchnoi was not sure whether he had made his 40th move and played this sacrifice instantly.” True, Korchnoi had the simple follow-up of **41...fxg6** **42 ♜e6**, winning back the material, but it takes enormous self-belief to play such a move under the circumstances. After further adventures, the game was drawn on move 59. And this was the first game of the match!

Post-Baguio, Korchnoi's form became more variable, partly because he lacked invitations to top tournaments (organisers had a choice between having Korchnoi or Soviet players at their events; the two had become immiscible outside of candidate and world championship matches).

The road to the next title match, in 1981, was rocky. Korchnoi once again defeated Tigran Petrosian and Lev Polugaevsky, but with much more of a struggle than in the previous cycle. Then there was the Candidates' Final against the enigmatic Robert Hübner, who unexpectedly resigned the match despite still having good chances. It is at this point that the second volume draws to a close.

This is a remarkable book about an extraordinary player. The chess world no longer has such characters. Forget the cod-sensationalism of *The Queen's Gambit*; the story of Viktor Korchnoi is far more interesting and thoroughly deserving of a television series of its own, for anyone who is brave enough to make it.

Meanwhile, this book is a must-buy for anyone interested in chess history, extraordinary personalities and games which are full-bodied struggles from the first move to the last.

Sean Marsh

*Ed. – A hardback version of Korchnoi Year by Year: Volume II is also available, retailing at £53.95 or £48.55 for Subscribers.



Understanding Chess Exchanges

Amir Bagheri & Mohammad Salehzadeh

Quality Chess

356 pages, hardback

RRP £29.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.55**

This is an unusual book on a neglected subject. The blurb asks several questions which club players should find to be of interest:

"Have you ever wondered how chess grandmasters always seem to know which pieces need to be exchanged? Or how an attack is influenced by the number of pieces on the board? When should we keep the queens on, and when should we switch to an endgame?"

This book aims to bridge the knowledge gap between 'us' and 'them' when it comes to understanding the subtle art of exchanging pieces, as it "shares expert insights into using exchanges as a strategic weapon. Your newfound knowledge will then be tested using exercises taken from elite modern practice. With a particular focus on Magnus Carlsen – the master of exchanges – this book reveals the principles behind a vital part of chess strategy."

The material is presented over the course of five substantial chapters: Exchanges and Piece Activity; Exchanges and Space; Exchanges and Attack; Exchanges and Lasting

Advantages; and Exchanges and Initiative. There are also exercises at the end of the chapters to test the reader's new skills.

The authors have a fresh approach, consistently providing the reader with excellent prose explanations throughout the book and keeping variations to an accessible minimum. They also go tastefully beyond the main mission of the book: "Of course, in this book, we will not only talk about exchanging pieces. It is impossible to conduct any discussion on strategy without firm knowledge of the basics, and we will very often dip our toes into many different aspects of positional chess, trying to shed light on as many basic principles as possible."

I was expecting to see more classic examples from players such as Tigran Petrosian, Bobby Fischer and Anatoly Karpov, but as the authors explain, the games from deeper into chess history were not their main hunting ground when assembling the material: "Most of the games in this book were played in the modern era, many even featuring young, up-and-coming talents that are still on their rise to the top. We did not want to rely on the already heavily discussed classics: chess is an insanely rich game, and instructive games are played every day by the strongest players of our time. Why not try to learn directly from them?"

Time for an example. This is a position from chapter five, on Exchanges and Initiative. Take a look at the position and think about what you would play as White.



This was Magnus Carlsen against Dmitry Andreikin, at the 2018 World Rapid Championship in St. Petersburg.

35 ♖g3!

A surprise. We hear and read so much about the importance of the bishop-pair that it seems strange to allow Black to eradicate one of them. One point is that the more natural 35 ♗g3, defending h4 and keeping the bishop on the board (be honest; is that move you would have played, virtually automatically?), gives Black better chances of holding on after 35... ♗e6 36 ♗f3 ♗c5, when "White will need to spend a lot of time to activate his king now that the bishop occupies the g3-square." Carlsen went on to win (1-0, 61).

It is all about keeping the pieces as active as possible. This is not the only game in the book to show one side giving up the

traditional advantage of the bishop-pair for the greater good. This is a typical example of what makes this book so instructive. I certainly found myself thinking about exchanging in different ways, despite the need to remove prejudice (such as giving up a bishop in the above example) from the equation. Therefore, I can recommend this book to club and tournament players who are looking for ways to improve their game, which don't involve simply chopping and changing their openings. Well played, Quality Chess.

Sean Marsh

A Repertoire against the Queen's Gambit Declined with 4. ♗g5

Iniyan Panneerselvam, PC-DVD; running

time: 6 hours, 32 minutes

RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

Indian GM Iniyan Panneerselvam maps out a fairly comprehensive repertoire for White with 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3. Most notably after 3... ♗f6 he advocates not the Exchange, but 4 ♗g5, heading for the old main line, 4... ♗e7 5 e3 0-0 6 ♗f3 h6 7 ♗h4, where Black can choose between the Orthodox, Lasker and Tartakower defences. There's also decent coverage of Black's third move alternatives, including 3...a6 and the fairly trendy 3...a6.



Chess Analysis: Reloaded

Daniel Gormally, 268 pages, hardback

RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

Danny Gormally must have had a busy autumn. Last month we noted that Thinkers had released his *Tournament Battle Plan* and now he has a fascinating new book out from Chess Informant Publishing. Realising that he had become overly dependent on the engines, Gormally set about aiming to regain his love of chess and ability to analyse. Along his journey, many subjects are touched upon and there's much material of use to the club player, not least the discussion of how their analysis methods differ from those of a GM. The book concludes with the fascinating if mind-boggling 'Impossible Quiz', where we get to see some of the world's best chess players confronted by some seemingly extremely complex positions.



Dream Moves

Miron Sher, 304 pages, paperback

RRP £24.99? **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49?**

The late Miron Sher (1952 - 2020) was a Soviet (Ukrainian), then American Grandmaster

and leading coach, who worked with such famous names as Fabiano Caruana, Robert Hess and Peter Heine Nielsen. Sher also taught at various schools in New York, so the subtitle of 'Eye-Opening Chess Lessons for Improvers' makes a lot of sense. He had five favourite topics around which the book is based: unprotected pieces, in-between moves, open files, the 20% rule concerning passed pawns, and dream moves. Containing 100 illustrative games and 300 exercises, *Dream Moves* certainly should sharpen up the club player while also deepening their chess understanding.

Imagination In Chess

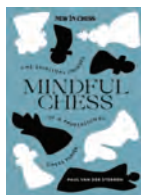
C. D. Locock, 116 pages, paperback
 £11.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £10.79**

In a series now entitled 'Alexander Game Books Classics', this is the latest older work (first published in 1939) to receive both a new algebraic edition and the Carsten Hansen editorial treatment. Locock aims to help the weaker club player appreciate the need to sacrifice, presenting 60 striking positions designed to both inspire the imagination and also illustrate various typical mating patterns. A one-time British Amateur Champion as well as experienced coach, Locock concludes with a list of 'chess maxims', essentially a list of dos and don'ts which even in 2024 will be of much help to those fairly new to the game.

Improve Your Pieces

R. B. Ramesh, PC-DVD; running time: 4 hours
 RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Subtitled 'A Winning System You Need to Know', the famous Indian trainer as well as former British Champion R. B. Ramesh visited Hamburg to record this DVD, which is partly devoted to the important topic of how to improve your worst-placed piece. The examples are largely excellently chosen and will ensure that viewers can better coordinate and improve their pieces, aided in part by Ramesh's rules of thumb, not least on comparing pieces, as well as memorable phrases such as "the jobless piece".



Mindful Chess

Paul van der Sterren, 128 pages, paperback
 RRP £14.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.45**

Back in our February pages, Sean Marsh reviewed *In Black And White*, van der Sterren's collection of best games. This work is somewhat shorter and different, but arguably no less important, covering as it does the question of whether meditation or mindfulness will help your chess. Having spent thousands of hours after his active chess career studying Buddhist literature, if anyone is going to be able to answer that question and help on such fronts, it will be Paul van der Sterren, whose chapters include

such topics as Nonduality, the black hole, The power of concentration, and The gateway to the unknown.



Opposite-Colored Bishop Endings

Alexey Bezgodov, 196 pages, paperback
 RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

We doubt that many readers' eyes will light up at the title of this new release from Elk and Ruby, but it would be a mistake to ignore Russian Grandmaster Bezgodov's work. With the aid of 174 positions, he has written a training work for the stronger club player and above designed to improve their endgame skills. There are pure opposite-coloured bishop endings aplenty, but also many with other pieces added. Next time opponents head for the seeming safety of an opposite-coloured bishop endgame, Bezgodov's readers will know how best to grind away, while they will also be well versed in how to defend such often deceitfully simple positions.



Origins: Ruy Lopez: Book II: Specialty Lines after 3...a6

Cyrus Lakdawala & Carsten Hansen,
 176 pages, paperback
 RRP £21.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.79**

This overview style work covers the various options for both sides between 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 a6 and 4 ♗a4 ♖f6 5 0-0 ♗e7 6 ♚e1. As such, there's decent coverage of the Exchange and Worrall which White may deploy, as well as the likes of the Archangel and Open variations at Black's disposal.

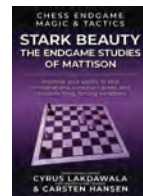


Play Like A Champion

Jennifer Shahade, 388 pages, hardback
 RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Subtitled 'Chess Tactics from the Greats', this new work from Mongoose Press sees famous two-time American Women's Champion, and these days well-established author, Jennifer Shahade present 700 positions to solve, taken from the games of one hundred pioneering female chess players. As such, readers get to enjoy and learn a little about such greats as Vera Menchik and Hou Yifan, while the tactics will help both those fairly new to the game and the club player, as

they cover such themes as removal of the guard and double attacks.



Stark Beauty: The Chess Endgame Studies of Herman Mattison

Cyrus Lakdawala & Carsten Hansen, 128 pages, paperback
 RRP £15.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £14.39**

This work stands in stark contrast to the same authors' effort on the Lopez. Here the highly experienced team of Lakdawala and Hansen aim to "improve your ability to find combinations, construct plans, and calculate long, forcing variations". They do this only by using material from the famous Latvian endgame composer and strong player Herman Mattison (1894 - 1932). Based on Mattison's play and compositions, the reader should find their calculation and combinational vision improve, as well as their ability to come up with a decent plan.

The Evergreen Philidor

Christian Bauer, PC-DVD;
 running time: 6 hours, 59 minutes
 RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

The strong French Grandmaster has long specialised in slightly offbeat openings, not least 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 d6. After 3 d4 Bauer presents a fair bit of coverage of 3...exd4 4 ♗xd4 ♖f6 5 ♗c3 ♗e7, which may quickly become surprisingly sharp. He also devotes plenty of this almost seven-hour-long DVD to a 1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♖f6 3 ♗c3 e5 move order, examining there 4 dxe5, 4 f4, 4 g4 and especially the Hanham variation, 4 ♖f3 ♗bd7 5 ♗c4 ♗e7, which generally leads to plenty of manoeuvring in a semi-closed position.

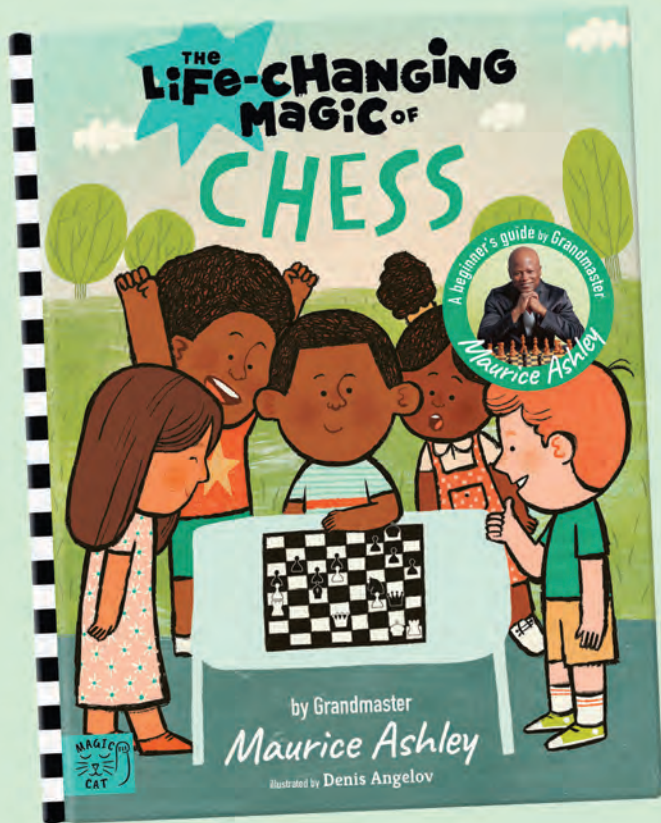


The Richter-Veresov Attack: ♖d3 Variation

Eric J. Fleischman, 284 pages, paperback
 RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

This is a long awaited release and also from Mongoose Press. American National Master Fleischman is a big fan of the these days rather neglected Veresov Attack, i.e. 1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♗c3 d5 3 ♗g5, rather than the more trendy 3 ♗f4. He likes to follow up with an early ♖d3, especially in the main line with 3...♗bd7 4 ♖d3. Fleischman is quite enthusiastic about his favourite attacking set-ups, but also doesn't stint on the theoretical coverage and, as such, those looking for a new aggressive opening as White will find a repertoire against all Black's main defences. Note too that copies of this work may be in short supply - please contact Chess & Bridge before placing an order.

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