

Volume 88 No. 3 June 2023 £5.95

www.chess.co.uk

Chess

DING IS KING!

DING LIREN BECOMES THE NEW WORLD CHAMPION AFTER PLAY-OFF WIN



Is Everything Getting Faster? - Ben Graff on the future of standard play chess



Carving the Lewis Chessmen - Tony Reynolds commissioned an exact copy



Chess Elegy in a Churchyard - James Essinger turns poetical over retirement

Chess

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Chess Magazine (ISSN 0964-6221) is published by:
Chess & Bridge Ltd, 44 Baker St, London, W1U 7RT
Tel: 020 7486 7015 (9:30am - 5pm Monday to Friday)
Email: info@chess.co.uk, Website: www.chess.co.uk

Twitter: @CHESS_Magazine
Twitter: @TelegraphChess - Malcolm Pein
Twitter: @chessandbridge

Subscription Rates:

United Kingdom

1 year (12 issues)	£50
2 year (24 issues)	£90
3 year (36 issues)	£125

Europe

1 year (12 issues)	£60
2 year (24 issues)	£115
3 year (36 issues)	£165

Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues)	£75
2 year (24 issues)	£145
3 year (36 issues)	£210

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors. Contributions to the magazine will be published at the Editors' discretion and may be shortened if space is limited.

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FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read
Cover image: FIDE/Stev Bonhage

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Printed in the UK by The Magazine Printing Company using only paper from FSC/PEFC suppliers www.magprint.co.uk

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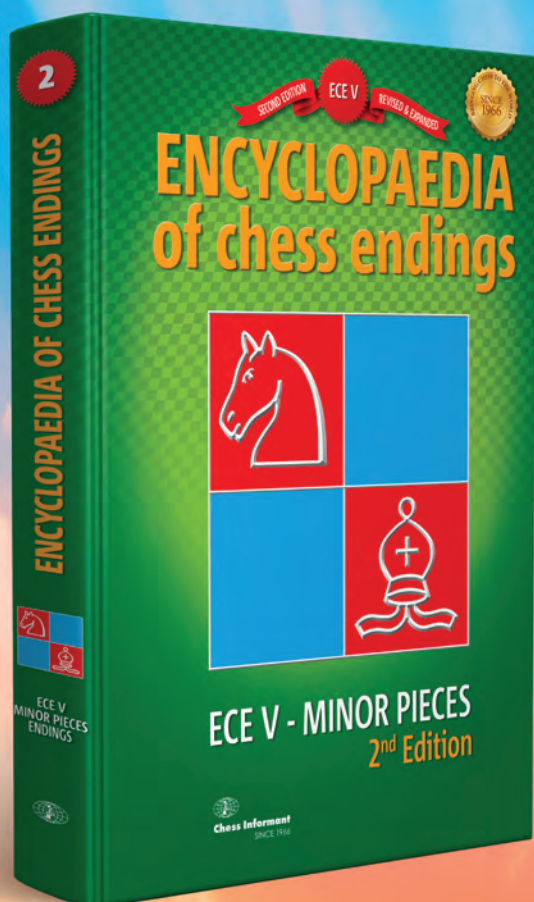
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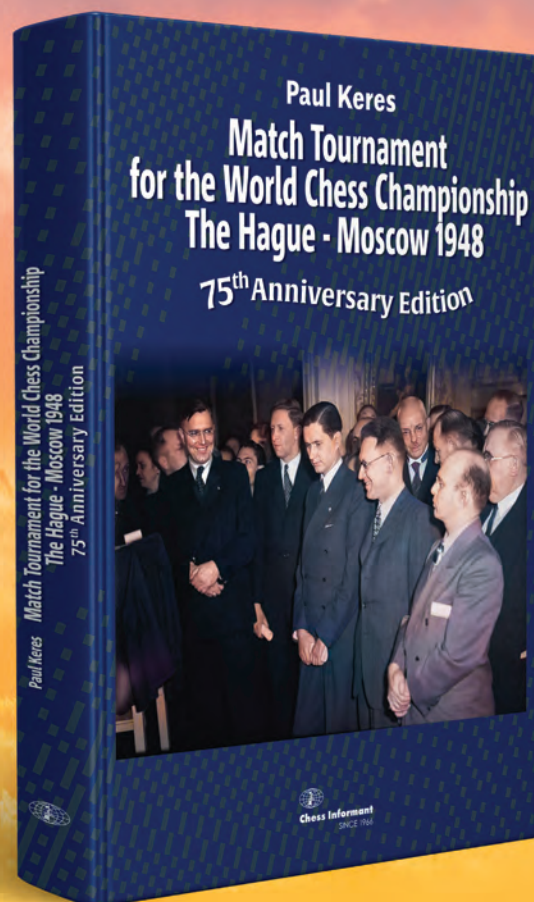


Chess Informant
SINCE 1966



Encyclopaedia of Chess Endings ECE V – Bishop & Knight

- New, completely revised and expanded edition
- 2020 examples of greatest historical and educational value
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Paul Keres Match Tournament for the World Chess Championship The Hague - Moscow 1948

This book has been acclaimed by the likes of Garry Kasparov as one of the finest works in all of chess literature. The book depicts in great detail one of the most spectacular events in history of the royal game. In this 75th-anniversary edition it has been considerably expanded with the addition of background information on the event from the Soviet archives.

**Chess Informant books are available from
sahovski.com and London Chess Centre chess.co.uk**

Mighty Manx

Led by Alexei Shirov, Chess.com Manx Liberty dominated the final 4NCL weekend

Chess.com Manx Liberty retained their 4NCL title with a devastating display come the final weekend of the season. Heading to Milton Keynes, both Manx and Chessable White Rose were on 16/16, albeit not without some fortune. As we noted in the March *CHESSE*, Manx were a little lucky to prevail 4½-3½ against White Rose's second team in round 5, a result which would ultimately prove fairly important.

The March weekend was the fourth of the season and the third held in Daventry. Perhaps Saturday rounds just aren't a Manx forte, despite most of their many overseas players arriving the day before, as they were again somewhat fortuitous to prevail 4½-3½, this time against Cheddleton.

Heading into the sixth hour of play, there had been two fairly early and four hard-fought draws, including a great scrap between Constantin Lupulescu and Simon Williams. That all left Julianna Terbe a pawn down in a rook and knight ending against Fiona Steil-Antoni, while Chess.com's fairplay analyst Matthew Turner was trying to remain active in a queen and rook endgame and so conjure up enough play to offset David Eggleston's extra knight. Eggleston missed at least a couple of good opportunities, as Turner held the draw in resourceful fashion. Terbe also looked to have defended well only for poor Steil-Antoni to walk her king into a mating net, as a draw suddenly became a cruel, unexpected loss, thereby giving Manx the two points.

The next day Manx were much more impressive, exploiting their substantial rating advantage to defeat Celtic Tigers 6½-1½, despite Terbe being outplayed by Ryszard Maciol. Two-time Romanian Champion Mircea-Emilian Parligras was in a brutal mood on board 2.

M.E.Parligras-C.Skulte Manx Liberty vs Celtic Tigers *Queen's Gambit Accepted*

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 ♘f3 ♗f6 4 e3 ♙e6!?

A rather risky sideline, one perhaps even best denoted as '!'. White responds in critical and strong fashion.

5 ♗c3 c6 6 ♘g5! ♙d5?!

Continuing to roll the dice. 6...♙g4 7 f3 ♙h5 8 ♙xc4 e6 was a more solid try in Yoo-Fedoseev, Internet (rapid) 2022, although after 9 0-0 ♗bd7 10 e4 White's advantage was still a rather pleasant one.

7 e4 h6 8 exd5 hxg5 9 dxc6 ♗xc6 10 d5 ♗a5?

The old adages about the rim are true here, but even 10...♗e5 11 ♙xg5 ♗d6 12 ♗d4 g6 13 0-0-0! would have left White clearly for choice.

11 ♗a4+ ♗d7 12 ♙xg5 ♗b6?!



13 ♙xc4!?

Parligras is determined to sacrifice and win

in style. He might also have obtained a dominant position with 13 0-0-0, intending d5-d6.

13...♗xb2 14 0-0! ♗xc3 15 ♙b5

White's piece sacrifice is likely to only be temporary; just consider the unfortunate location of both black knights.

15...♗c7 16 d6! ♗xd6 17 ♙f4

Parligras is alert to the threat of mate and already Black would just appear to be a goner, as shown too by 17...e5 18 ♗ad1.

17...♗h4! 18 ♗ad1 ♗xf4 19 ♙xd7+ ♗d8 20 ♗xa5+ ♗b6 21 ♙a4+! ♗c8 22 ♗c1+ ♗b8 23 ♙d7!



Finishing in style.

23...♗xa5 24 ♗c8# 1-0

The day before White Rose had been somewhat less impressive, eventually scraping past the Tigers 5-3 after turning round a number of tricky positions in the run-up to the time control at move 40 and then for a long while after. They also had to dig deep to win a critical encounter with The Sharks in round 8, one which reflected well on

4NCL 2022/23 - Division 1														
Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	MP	GP
1 Chess.com Manx Liberty	X	4½-3½	4½-3½	5-3	5½-2½	5½-2½	5½-2½	6½-1½	4½-3½	6-2	7½-½	6½-1½	22	61½
2 Chessable White Rose	3½-4½	X	3½-4½	4-4	4½-3½	4½-3½	7-1	5-3	6½-1½	6½-1½	6-2	7-1	17	58
3 Cheddleton	3½-4½	4½-3½	X	4-4	4-4	4-4	6-2	5-3	7-1	5½-2½	7-1	5-3	17	55½
4 Wood Green	3-5	4-4	4-4	X	3½-4½	6½-1½	6½-1½	5-3	6½-1½	6-2	6-2	6½-1½	16	57½
5 The Sharks	2½-5½	3½-4½	4-4	4½-3½	X	4-4	6-2	4-4	5½-2½	6½-1½	7-1	6½-1½	15	53½
6 Wood Green Youth	2½-5½	3½-4½	4-4	1½-6½	4-4	X	4½-3½	5½-2½	7½-½	6-2	4½-3½	4½-3½	14	48
7 Blackthorne	2½-5½	1-7	2-6	1½-6½	2-6	3½-4½	X	4-4	4½-3½	5-3	6-2	6-2	9	38
8 Celtic Tigers	1½-6½	3-5	3-5	3-5	4-4	2½-5½	4-4	X	4½-3½	3½-4½	4½-3½	3½-4½	6	37
9 Chessable White Rose II	3½-4½	1½-6½	1-7	1½-6½	2½-5½	½-7½	3½-4½	3½-4½	X	4-4	6-2	5½-2½	5	33
10 Gonzaga	2-6	1½-6½	2½-5½	2-6	1½-6½	2-6	3-5	4½-3½	4-4	X	2½-5½	5-3	5	30½
11 Cambridge University	½-7½	2-6	1-7	2-6	1-7	3½-4½	2-6	3½-4½	2-6	5½-2½	X	5½-2½	4	28½
12 West is Best	1½-6½	1-7	3-5	1½-6½	1½-6½	3½-4½	2-6	4½-3½	2½-5½	3-5	2½-5½	X	2	26½

both teams. Six of the eight boards were extremely hard-fought, with Ameet Ghasi's victory over Jose Camacho Collados on board 7 being surpassed by wins for Jose's brother, Marcos, over Tom Rendle and a crushing victory for John Emms as White Rose ran out 4½-3½ winners.

J.Emms-R.Makkar
White Rose vs The Sharks
Caro-Kann Defence

1 c4 ♖f6 2 ♜c3 c6 3 e4

Preparing to move from the English into the Pseudo-Panov, a Panov-Botvinnik where White holds back on d2-d4.

3...d5 4 cxd5 cxd5 5 exd5 g6!?

Keith Arkell has done fairly well with such a fianchetto approach in general against the Panov, but 5...♗xd5 6 ♖f3 ♘c6 is the main line.

6 ♗c4 ♗g7 7 ♖f3 0-0 8 0-0 a6

8...♗a6! might be a better try, although it's not clear that even here Black can equalise after 9 ♖b3 ♘c7 (or 9...♘c5 10 ♖a3 ♘ce4 11 ♗e1) 10 a4 b6 11 ♗e5.

9 a4 ♖a5?!

This might even have been well met by 10 ♗a3! and 9...b5! 10 axb5 ♗b7 would be one way Black might look to improve.

10 ♖e2 ♗g4 11 h3 ♗xf3 12 ♖xf3 ♘bd7 13 d4



Only now does the d-pawn advance and Emms must have been delighted with how the opening had gone, White having the two bishops and still the extra, albeit doubled d-pawn.

13...b5

The point of Black's play, but it is easily dealt with.

14 ♗b3 b4?

A serious positional error. 14...♖b4! was the right way to try and regain the pawn when 15 ♗a3! ♖xd4 16 axb5 axb5 17 ♗xa8 ♗xa8 would have left Black suffering, but after, say, 18 d6 ♗e8 19 dxe7 ♖b4 20 ♗a2 ♗xe7 21 ♗d1 he would have retained definite chances to eventually hold.

15 ♗e4! ♗ac8

Unfortunately for Makkar, 15...♗xd5 16 ♗c5 would have been pretty strong, and if 16...♗5b6 (and not 16...♗7b6?? 17 ♗b7) 17 ♗e3 e6 18 ♗fc1 when White would have dominated the board.



Teenager Rajat Makkar will surely become an IM sooner or later, but had no answer to the experience and positional nous of John Emms.

16 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6?

16...♗xf6 17 ♗e3 ♗e8! followed by ...♗d6 was likely the last chance to mount any real resistance.

17 ♗e3 ♗c7 18 ♗ac1

It's all too easy for White. That hole on c6 is going to cost Black dearly.

18...♗fc8 19 ♗c6



19...♗xc6

After 19...♗b8 White can either simply go 20 ♗c5 ♖b6 21 ♗fc1 or 20 ♗xf6!? exf6 21 ♖xf6 ♗d7 22 ♖f3 followed by ♗g5 or ♗h6.

20 dxc6 ♗b8 21 d5! ♗xb2 22 d6!

Crashing through in crushing fashion.

22...exd6 23 ♖xf7+ ♗h8 24 ♗d5 ♖c7 25 ♖xc7 ♗xc7 26 ♗b1 1-0

There might not have been an assembled pack of photographers present or any commentary arranged by the 4NCL, but there could be little doubt that the potential title decider in round 9 between Manx Liberty and White Rose was a big deal for both sides, extra spice being added by the two online chess monoliths who part sponsor the two teams, Chess.com and Chessable.

Rumours swirled that Anish Giri – in London to give a simul at the start of May – might appear, but Manx were happy to only strengthen by again involving Alexei Shirov, who continues to dazzle and play at a high level at the age of 50, as well as the Hungarian GM Viktor Erdos. For their part, White Rose brought in Norwegian Grandmaster Johan-

Sebastian Christiansen, while Jose Camacho Collados replaced Gawain Jones on board 2 just two days before the weekend.

As one might have expected considering the seasons both teams had endured and enjoyed, a hard-fought match ensued. Erdos was slightly worse, but held against Christiansen on top board. That was to be one of seven draws in total. White Rose looked to be doing well on board four, but Daniel Alsina Leal, who had flown in the night before straight from the Chessable Sunway Formentera Chess Festival, lost his footing and large advantage against Matthew Turner, something which Shirov never looked like doing on board 2.

A.Shirov-J.Camacho Collados
Manx Liberty vs White Rose
Sicilian Chameleon

1 e4 c5 2 ♗c3 e6 3 ♗ge2 ♗c6 4 g3 d5 5 exd5 exd5 6 d4 ♗f6 7 ♗g2 h6?!

There's a good reason why 7...cxd4 8 ♗xd4 ♗g4 is the main line here, when Black's activity should offset the IQP.

8 0-0 ♗e6 9 ♗e1

White's pieces flow to good squares and 9...♗d6 10 dxc5 ♗xc5 11 ♗f4 had left Shirov clearly better in the earlier Shirov-Sztokbant, Internet (blitz) 2022. Camacho Collados's ambitious choice though can only have left such an aggressive player as Shirov salivating.

9...g5?! 10 ♗a4! c4

This doesn't especially help, but 10...cxd4 11 ♗xd4 ♗xd4 12 ♖xd4 b6 13 f4! would also have spelt bad news for Black.

11 b3

Thematic undermining and the first of three powerful pawn breaks deployed by Shirov over the next six moves.

11...cxb3 12 axb3 b6?!

There's not really time for this, but 12...♗g7 13 ♗c5 0-0 14 ♗xb7 ♖c8 15 ♗c5 would have bagged a clear pawn and 12...♗e7 13 ♗c5 ♗c8 14 ♗c3 also left Black firmly under the cosh, in view of 14...0-0? 15 h4!.

13 h4! gxf4 14 f4!



It's well worth a pawn to seize the initiative so and now Black quickly comes under significant pressure in the centre.

14...hxf3 15 fxg3 fxc8 16 c4

The aforementioned third powerful advance. 16 f4 would also have been very strong.

16...f4

This doesn't especially help, but good advice for Black was already hard to come by.

17 ex6 fxe6 18 xe6+ f7 19 cxd5 dxd5 20 xc6!

A petite combinaison to bring White ever closer to the full point.

20...xc6 21 h5+ g7 22 xd5 g6 23 e5+ f6



Now 24 f4 would be pretty crushing, but true to style Shirov found something even more forcing and brutal.

24 c5! a5?

Losing the queen, but 24...xe5 25 xa7+ would have been all over too, and if or 25...f8 26 d7+ or 25...e7 26 xe7+ f8 27 b7!? bxc5 28 f4. 25 c7+ 1-0

That left Manx in pole position and White Rose even lost again the next day, 4½-3½ to Cheddleton. In contrast, Manx sailed serenely on their way as they sealed top spot by overcoming Wood Green 5-3. Andrew Greet defeated Terbe on bottom board, but the damage was done at the top end where Shirov, Balasz Csonka and Erdos defeated, respectively, Jon Speelman, Matthew Wadsworth and David Haydon. The next day Manx supremo, IM Dietmar Kolbus, could even afford to play himself, as well as allow quick draws on boards 2 and 4. Despite that, they defeated The Sharks 5½-2½, with Shirov overcoming the in-form Ameet Ghasi to make it 3/3 for the weekend, and crucially those two draws allowed both Peter Roberson and Harry Grieve to make GM norms. We'll have more on their fine achievements and the 4NCL next month.



Forthcoming Events

June 1 Hendon Blitz

hendonchessclub.com

June 2-4 EACU Congress, Newmarket

adrianelwin.co.uk/EACUCongress/FIDECongress.html

June 2-4 London League Weekend Congress

londonchess.org.uk; venue: MindSports Centre

June 2-4 South Lakes Congress, Barrow-in-Furness

barrowchessclub.co.uk/southlakes.htm

June 2-3 The Dean Allegro & Blitz, Edinburgh

congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/279/home

June 3 London Rapidplay, Acton

londonfidecongress.com/london-fide-rapidplay-1

June 4 Dumfries Allegro

congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/268/home

June 4 Dundee Invercarse Allegro

congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/277/home

June 6 Muswell Hill Rapid

muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

June 11 Birmingham Rapidplay

rapidplay.birminghamchess.org.uk

June 16-18 4NCL Congress, Daventry

4ncl.co.uk/fide/information_30.htm

June 17-18 Ealing Congress

londonfidecongress.com/ealing-fide-congress

June 17-18 Ilkley Chess Festival

ilkleychesscentre.com/events

June 17 Golders Green Rapidplay

goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

June 18 Ribble Rapidplay, Leyland

congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/281/home

June 18 Ringwood Rapidplay

ringwoodchessclub.org.uk/rapidplay/

June 20 Muswell Hill Rapid

muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

June 25 Cleethorpes Rapidplay

congress.org.uk/congress/169/enter

Jun 30 - Jul 2 Crewe Congress

crewechessclub.co.uk/congress-entry/

July 1 Aberystwyth Rapidplay

aberchess.co.uk/events/rapidplay/

July 1 ECF County Championship Finals

www.englishchess.org.uk/counties-championship-2023/

July 1 Poplar Rapid

spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub/index.asp

And for the Online Connoisseur:

May 30 - Jun 9 Norway Chess, Stavanger

norwaychess.no/en/; Abdusattorov, Carlsen, Caruana, Firouzja, Giri, Gukesh, Mamedyarov, Nakamura, So & Tari.

June 20-30 Prague International Chess Festival

praguechessfestival.com; Deac, Gelfand, Harikrishna, Keymer, Navara, Nguyen, Robson, Shankland, Vallejo & Wang Hao.

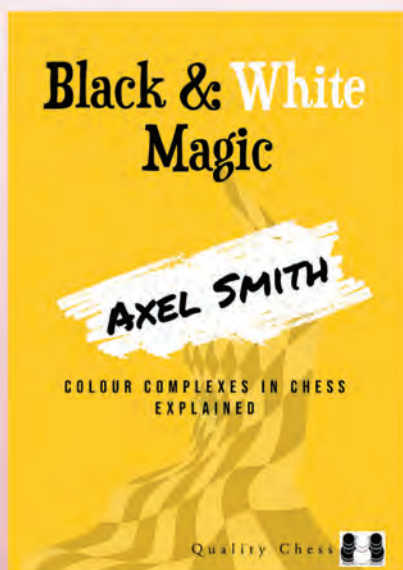
June 24 - Jul 2 Dortmund Sparkassen

sparkassen-chess-trophy.de; Caruana, Eljanov, Kollars & Kramnik.

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

New 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.

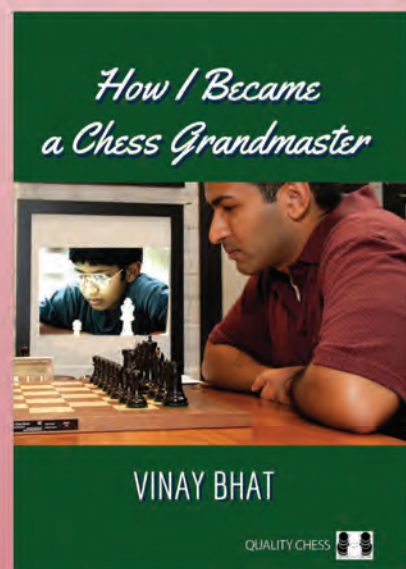
The Swedish grandmaster breaks down colour complexes into sub-topics such as blockades, opposite-coloured bishops and exchange sacrifices, with carefully chosen exercises to test and reinforce the reader's newfound understanding. Use **Black & White Magic** to dazzle your opponents!

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.

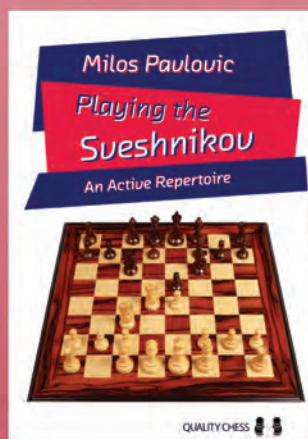
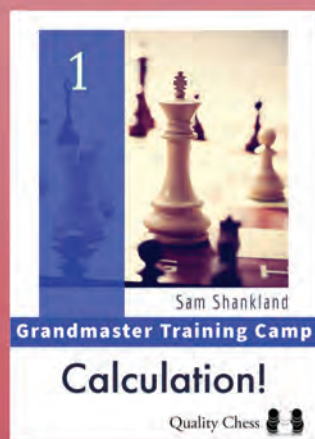
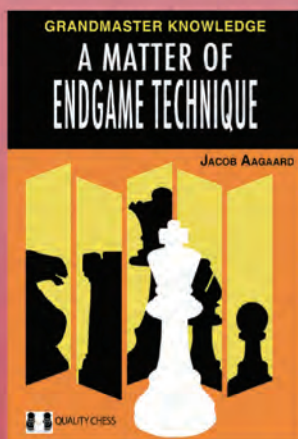
How I Became a Chess Grandmaster

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





60 Seconds with... IM Ameet Ghasi



Born: 4th February 1987, Birmingham.

Place or residence: Teddington, Greater London.

Occupation: Chartered Accountant.

Enjoyable? Not as much as chess!

But sometimes good to escape to: The Peak District.

Sports played or followed: I do badminton and cycling, and follow basketball (Huge Golden State Warriors fan), and cricket.

A favourite novel? *Lord of the Rings*.

Piece of music? No single favourites...but love the Beatles and Bollywood music.

Film or TV series? TV series: *Homeland*, *24*, *Fauda*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? Winning.

And the worst? Poor tournament performances, and specifically the feeling that your annual leave could have been better spent.

Your best move? None come to mind; I don't

tend to have very deep ideas.

And a highly memorable opponent?

Fabiano Caruana, at the World Blitz Championship last December.

Favourite game of all time? Giri vs Carlsen

at the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals in 2021. I can't quite put into words the fascination I have for this game, but I find Magnus's unique development and inclusion of all the minor pieces after the queen sacrifice to be quite majestic, and quite hard to replicate (even after watching the game on YouTube several times). Also, strongly recommend studying Arkell-Holland, High Wycombe 2012 [Ed. – See this month's PGN download file].

A.Giri-M.Carlsen
Meltwater Tour Final 2021
(Game 5, blitz)
Sicilian Rossolimo

1 e4 c5 2 d4 f3 d6 3 b5 e6 4 0-0 g7 5 d4 cxd4 6 dxd4 b6 7 e3 dxd4 8 a4 dxb5!? 9 b6 axb6 10 d2 d6 11 e5 ddf5 12 e4 d6 13 g4 h4 14 f4 h5 15 h3 hxg4 16 hxg4 d5 17 exd6 a5 18 c4 f5 19 b4 dxb4

20 d7+



20... dxd7 21 d6+ dxd6 22 xd6 d6 23 ad1 c8 24 g5 g6 25 f2 f7 26 c7+ ce7 27 d8 dx8 28 dx8 xa4 29 c7



29... e5 30 fxe5 e6 31 xb7 xc4 32 xb6 xe5 33 e2 c6 34 e3 d5g6 35 h2 c4 36 b2 e6 37 f3 e4 38 b7 e6 39 g1 g4+ 40 h2 xg5 41 b6 d5 42 e3 g2+ 43 h3 g4 44 h2 f4 45 d4 g5 46 d6 f3 47 d7 f5 48 g4 e6 49 d1 e5 50 wh4 f2 51 g2 d5+ 52 f1 c4+ 53 g2 f1 w+ 0-1

The best three chess books: No individual favourite books, but my favourite chess author is the one and only Mike Fox of Addicts' Corner fame.

Any advice for FIDE or the ECF? Air-conditioned venues only!

Can chess make one happy? I don't believe chess can make anyone entirely happy, but for me happiness without chess is also out of the question.

A tip please for the club player: Don't obsess about computer evaluations, especially in the openings.



BRITISH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Thursday 20th to Sunday 30th July

The Venue, De Montfort University, Leicester

British Championship

Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th July

9 round Swiss with rounds starting at 2.30pm each day, aside from round 9 starting at 10am on the final Sunday. First 40 moves in 90 min, then 30 min added with 30 sec increments from move 1. Prizes/awards for the British Open & British Women's Champions.

Major Open

Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th July

9 round Open Swiss Championship with rounds starting at 2.30pm each day, aside from round 9 starting at 10am on the final Sunday. First 40 moves in 90 min, then 30 min added, with 30 sec increments from move 1.

British Over 50 & Over 65 Championships

Monday 24th to Sunday 30th July

7 rounds over 7 days with rounds starting at 2.30pm each day, aside from round 7 at 10am on the final Sunday. First 40 moves in 90 min, then 30 min added, with 30 sec increments from move 1.

Seniors 50+ – born 31/12/73 or earlier
Seniors 65+ – born 31/12/58 or earlier

British Junior Championships:

U16, U14, U12, U10, U8

Tuesday 25th to Saturday 29th July

7 rounds over 5 days with one round on Tuesday at 2.30pm, Thursday at 9.15am, and Saturday at 9.15am, and two rounds on Wednesday and Friday at 9.15am and 2.30pm. All moves in 90 min with 30 sec increments per move.

Weekday Morning Congress

Monday 24th to Saturday 29th

Three sections – Open, U1900, U1600. Six rounds over 6 days with one round per day starting at 9.15am. All moves in 90 min with 30 sec increments per move.

Weekender Congress

Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd July

Four sections – Atkins/Open, Penrose/U2000, Soanes/U1750 and Yates/U1500. 5 rounds over 3 days. All moves in 90 min with 30 sec increments per move.

Weekday Afternoon Congress

Monday 24th to Saturday 29th

Three sections – U2050, U1750, U1450. Six rounds over 6 days with 1 round per day starting at 2.30 pm. All moves in 90 min with 30 sec increments per move.

Rapidplay Events

Fri 21st, Mon 24th, Sat 29th July

Three sections in each event – Open, U1750, U1450
Each event will be a 7 round Swiss Rapidplay.

Blitz Events

Fri 21st, Mon 24th, Thurs 27th (Juniors only), Sat 29th July

9 rounds Swiss tournament. Two sections in each event – Open, U1600. All moves in 3 min with 2 sec increments.

Commentary, Coaching and Bookstall

Spectator seating for top boards with GM commentary in a separate room at the venue. Junior Coaching available for the junior championship period. Bookstall by Chess and Bridge.

Social Chess and Festival Programme

There will also be a full social chess and festival programme during the championships, including: outdoor/ drop-in chess and GM Simuls, Chess Film Festival at the Phoenix Cinema and Arts Centre, Social and team chess evenings, Problem Solving Competition with the BCPS, National Chess Library visits, Quiz Evening, Leicester Heritage tour organised by DMU.

For further information, visit: www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk

GREAT NEW TITLES FROM EVERYMAN CHESS

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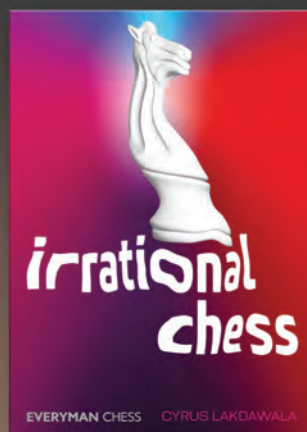
The English Defence (1 d4 e6 2 c4 b6) is a dynamic, counter-attacking line, initially investigated by English grandmasters. José González provides an excellent analysis of this complex opening and carves out a powerful repertoire for Black covering all lines after 1 d4.

Paperback 320 pages



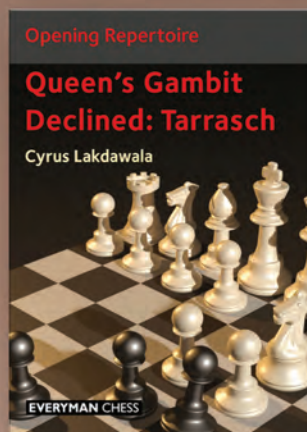
Understanding pressure play is crucial for capitalising on tiny advantages as well as being able to avoid going downhill in slightly inferior positions. In this book, the highly experienced author and coach Neil McDonald analyses the finest examples of pressure play. In doing so he teases out the fundamental concepts that enable players to torture their opponents mercilessly.

Paperback 352 pages



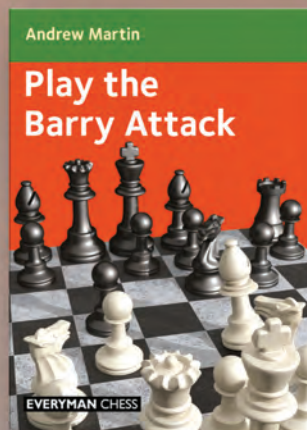
In this collection of brilliantly unconventional and irrational games, the positions appear almost random. Kings have gone walkabout, pieces are on bizarre squares, huge pawn rollers are sweeping all before them. How can you navigate a path in such a game? Prolific chess author and coach Cyrus Lakdawala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

Paperback 400 pages



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

Paperback 304 pages



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

Paperback 320 pages



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Overseas News

ARMENIA – The 4th Stepan Avagyan Memorial was a pretty strong all-play-all in Jermuk (May 3-11), won by top seed, 22-year-old Sam Sevian with 6/9. Nodirbek Yakubboev, Amin Tabatabaei, Haik Martirosyan and Robert Hovhannisyanyan shared second a point adrift, with Andrey Esipenko back on 50%.

AUSTRALIA – The strong Armenian GM Hrant Melkumyan won one of Australia's premier tournaments, the Doeberl Cup in Canberra (April 6-10), racking up 8/9 to finish half a point ahead of 22-year-old Uzbekistani-Australian GM Temur Kuybokarov. There was then a point gap to third where the Aussie trio of James Morris, Rishi Sardana and Frederick Litchfield were joined by Daniel Fernandez.

AZERBAIJAN – While Hans Niemann suffered, rising 17-year-old Indian star Leon Luke Mendonca triumphed on tie-break at the Baku Open (May 3-13), where he finished on 7/9 alongside Serbia's Aleksandar Indjic and Vladislav Kovalev who was, of course, playing under the FIDE flag. Half a point behind were S.P. Sethuraman and the best of the home players, 19-year-old Mahammad Muradli, while 17-year-old Divya Deshmukh became the twelfth woman from India to become an IM as she scored her final norm.

GERMANY – The Bundesliga concluded over the weekend of April 29th and 30th and saw a big win for Viernheim in the penultimate round as they defeated Baden-Baden 5½-2½. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov drew with Levon Aronian on top board, Jan-Krzysztof Duda held Maxime Vachier-Lagrave on board two and the damage was done lower down. Anton Korobov defeating Michael Adams, while Bassem Amin and Dennis Wagner won on the bottom two boards, overcoming Arkadij Naiditsch and Alexander Donchenko. Unfortunately for Viernheim that still left them a match point behind Baden-Baden, who crushed Remagen 6½-1½ the next day to win the league with 28/30.

KAZAKHSTAN – Astana hosted the Satty Zhuldyz Rapid and Blitz alongside the world championship match (April 20-25). Arjun Erigaisi racked up a huge 9/11 to win the rapid, finishing a point ahead of Levon Aronian. Alexander Grischuk was a further point behind with Vladimir Kramnik, making a welcome appearance, the only other player to finish on a plus score. Haik Martirosyan dominated come the subsequent blitz, finishing on 15½/22, which left him half a point ahead of former compatriot Levon Aronian, who took first place overall.



ROMANIA – As we prepared to go to press, Fabiano Caruana triumphed at the opening leg of the 2023 Grand Chess Tour, the Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest (May 6-16). Caruana was a worthy winner with an undefeated 5½/9 in what was a rather draw-laden event. In contrast and unsurprisingly, Ding Liren and Ian Nepomniachtchi looked exhausted and struggled, competing just six days after their match had ended. A full report next time.

Meanwhile we recently came across an interesting new book by the Kazakh GM and leading arbiter Bolat Assanov, *The Championship Diaries*. This collection of short stories takes readers behind the scenes at world championship matches, leading tournaments and FIDE meetings, with the great majority highly believable.

SPAIN – Vladimir Fedoseev triumphed on tiebreak at the Sunway Formentera Open (April 18-28), after he had finished on 7/9 alongside three Indian GMs, Venkataraman Karthik, Venkatesh Pranav and Luke Leon Mendoca. In this well-run event, the UK was represented by Indy Southcott-Moyers and Jonathan Arnott who both finished on a respectable '-2'.

Another strong event was the sixth Salamanca Chess Festival (April 25-29), which persisted with its unusual time control of 40 minutes per player with a five-second increment throughout. Kirill Alekseenko got the better of Jaime Santos Latasa on tiebreak after both had finished on 5½/7, half a point ahead of Vassily Ivanchuk and Veselin Topalov, with Anna Ushenina the highest-scoring female player on '-1'.

SWEDEN – Nowadays part sponsored by TePe, whose chairman, Joel Eklund, some may remember from his days as an active player in Oxford, the 28th Sigeman & Co tournament

took place in Malmo (May 10-14). Once again, it featured a pretty impressive line-up and this year saw something of a clash of the generations. In the final round, Boris Gelfand ground down Abhimanyu Mishra in 125 moves and a queen and pawn endgame to record his first win. That allowed Peter Svidler to take first with an unbeaten '+2' after finding a neat way to force a draw against early leader Dommaraju Gukesh, one of a great many unbalanced games in what was a very entertaining event.

D.Gukesh-P.Svidler Malmo 2023



40...♖e7! 41 ♜c8+ ♙g7 42 ♚xe7 ½-½

Now it's perpetual check, but Black would be fine after 42 ♖d6 ♜e8 43 ♜xe8 ♙xe8.

Along with the popular Saint Petersburg resident, home star Nils Grandelius also had a good tournament, but the star of the show, despite his last-round reversal, was 14-year-old Mishra as the world's youngest-ever GM enjoyed something of a breakthrough result.

V.Keymer-A.Mishra
Malmo 2023
Semi-Slav Defence

1 c4 c6 2 ♘f3 d5 3 e3 ♘f6 4 d4 e6 5 ♜bd2 ♙e7 6 b3 0-0 7 ♙b2 ♜bd7 8 ♙d3 b6 9 e4 dxe4 10 ♘xe4 ♙b7 11 ♖e2 c5 12 0-0-0!? ♜c7 13 ♙b1 ♘xe4 14 ♙xe4 ♘f6 15 ♙c2 cxd4 16 ♘xd4 ♜ad8 17 f3 a6 18 g4 ♙c5 19 ♜d3 b5!? 20 ♜hd1 bxc4 21 bxc4 ♙xd4?

Inserting 21...h6! 22 h4 before exchanging is counterintuitive, but the point becomes clear after 22...♙xd4! 23 ♜xd4 ♜xd4 24 ♜xd4 ♖g3 when Black has enough counterplay.

22 ♜xd4 ♜xd4 23 ♜xd4 ♜b8



The board is on fire. White's attacking chances and dark-square play should trump Black's attack down the b-file, but in such a sharp position just one misstep can, of course, prove fatal.

24 g5! ♖b6 25 ♖e5 ♙xf3 26 ♜d6! ♖g1+ 27 ♜d1 ♖b6 28 ♜d3?!

Thus far the 18-year-old German no.1 has done everything right, but this wasn't the most clinical continuation. Correct was 28 ♜f1 ♘e8 (28...♘h5 29 c5 is also quite hopeless) 29 c5! (and not 29 ♜xf3?? ♖g1+) 29...♖b7 30 ♜xf3 ♖xf3 31 ♖xb8 ♖h1+ 32 ♙c1 and wins.



The position is already quite unbalanced, but ultimately Gukesh was unable to defeat Svidler and so finished half a point behind the eight-time Russian Champion at an exciting Sigeman.

28...♖g1+!

The best try as 28...♙e4 29 c5 ♖xb2+ 30 ♖xb2 ♜xb2+ 31 ♘xb2 ♙xd3 32 ♙xd3 ♘d5 33 ♙xa6 is surely a winning ending for White.

29 ♙d1?

Overlooking a resource, whereas after 29 ♜d1! White would still have been doing very well, and if 29...♙xd1? (alternatively, if 29...♖b6 30 ♜f1! after all and even 29...♖a7!? 30 gxf6 ♙xd1 31 ♙xd1 ♜d8 32 ♙b3 ♖g1+ 33 ♙c1 should be winning for White) 30 ♖xb8+.

29...♜c8! 30 ♜c7?

Continuing down the wrong path. Instead, matters would have remaining most unclear after 30 ♙c1 ♙xd1 (or 30...♙e4 31 ♜b3 h5!), a silicon resource if ever there was one, and if 32 gxf6 ♜d8) 31 ♜xd1 ♖g4 32 gxf6!? ♖xc4+ 33 ♙d2.



30...♙e8!!

The only square that wins, since 30...♜a8?! 31 ♖d8+! ♘e8 32 ♖d4 would have enabled White to fight on in an inferior ending after 32...♖xd4 33 ♜xd4 ♙xd1 34 ♜xd1 ♜c8 35 ♜d7 f6!.

31 ♜d2

White is also out of tricks after 31 ♜d8 ♙xd1 and 31 gxf6 ♙e4.

31...♙xd1 32 gxf6 ♙h5+ 33 ♙c1 ♙g6+ 34 ♙b2 gxf6

Black's king is now fairly safe, unlike its counterpart, and with opposite-coloured bishops favouring the attacker, Mishra made no mistake from here on.

35 h4 ♙g7 36 c5 ♖g4 37 ♖b7 ♖f4!? 38 ♙a3

Black's connected passed pawns would prove decisive after 38 ♖xf7+ ♙xf7 39 ♜d7+ ♜e7 40 ♜xe7+ ♙xe7 41 ♙xf4 e5.

38...♖c4 39 ♙b2 ♖xc5+ 40 ♖b4 ♜c8 41 ♜d6 a5 42 ♖xc5 ♜xc5 43 ♙d4 ♜c4 44 ♙b3 ♙d3 45 h5 a4+ 46 ♙a3 ♙e2 47 h6+ ♙xh6 48 ♙xf6 ♙g6 49 ♙e7 h5 50 ♜d8 ♙g7 51 ♙f8+ ♙h7 52 ♙e7 h4 53 ♙f6 ♙g6 54 ♙e7 h3 55 ♜h8 ♙g4 0-1

USA – Headed up by Hikaru Nakamura, Gotham Knights were unbeaten in the closing stages of Chess.com's PRO League (May 12-14), overcoming the Shanghai Tigers in the final of what was another strong edition of the leading online league.

28th Sigeman & Co 2023 - Malmo, Sweden - 4th to 10th May - Category XVII (average rating = 2673)													
	Player	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts	TPR
1	Peter Svidler	FID	2683	*	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	4½	2773
2	Abhimanyu Mishra	USA	2550	½	*	½	½	1	½	0	1	4	2740
3	Dommaraju Gukesh	IND	2730	½	½	*	½	1	0	½	1	4	2714
4	Nils Grandelius	SWE	2660	½	½	½	*	½	1	½	½	4	2724
5	Jorden van Foreest	NED	2680	½	0	0	½	*	1	1	½	3½	2671
6	Arjun Erigaisi	IND	2701	0	½	1	0	0	*	1	½	3	2618
7	Boris Gelfand	ISR	2678	0	1	½	½	0	0	*	½	2½	2570
8	Vincent Keymer	GER	2700	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	*	2½	2566

This Month's New Releases



Chessboard Combat

Joel Benjamin, 224 pages
New in Chess

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

This book, which aims to educate the reader on the give and take of chess tactics, is a reaction to the instant gratification of the online chess world. As the author explains:

"Chess students love a Puzzle Rush. And solving tactics puzzles certainly helps you improve your pattern recognition and will help you find good moves in tournament games. But there is a downside to most tactics puzzles – we always know who is supposed to win! Chess in real life is different, not just because no one taps us on the shoulder and tells us to look for a tactic. Sometimes tactics work, and sometimes they don't. Sometimes your opponent has a few tricks up their sleeve, too."

The exercises and games presented by Benjamin take a different approach: "This book shows the reality of chess tactics. It explores a chess player's challenges over the board: attack, defense, and counterattack! It exposes the actual give-and-take nature of chess tactics."

Essentially, the material has been selected to show that nearly every game represents a full-on struggle and not just one big tactic in a critical position. Benjamin shows how games have many twists and turns, and that even players at the highest level repeatedly miss the most efficient moves and tactics – a point strongly emphasised by the recent world championship match.

Nine chapters cover a plethora of tactical topics, including 'Trying Too Hard to Win' and 'Back Rank Tactics'. The following example is from the particularly entertaining chapter showing that 'The King is a Fighting Piece'. As the title suggests, we are offered plenty of examples showing wandering kings which prove to either be very good at dodging bullets, despite being deep in enemy territory, or even taking an active part in direct attacks against their royal counterparts. The examples are not from the games of club players either, where virtually anything goes, but from a considerably higher level.

A. Shirov - V. Anand

Leon (rapid) 2011



"What's so interesting about a king hiding in the corner? How about when it is the corner on the far side of the board? Alexey Shirov missed a once in a lifetime chance to avert checkmate in a seemingly impossible manner."

Shirov played **39 ♖f2?** and succumbed after **39...♗f5+ 40 ♖xf5 gxf5 41 ♔h5 ♗c7 0-1**. Yet he could have survived with the extraordinary riposte **39 f7+!! ♕xf7 40 ♔h7!!** "and the white king carves out enough territory to stave off checkmate." Indeed, Black would have had to settle for a perpetual check in this line. As Benjamin says, "You would have to say Anand played this beautifully, and yet there was still a moment for Shirov to escape. Even the most hopeless looking situations can still permit a resource."

In a book full of interesting chess and fine writing, this quote strikes a chord: "One of my favourite books when I was a child was *Chess Traps, Pitfalls and Swindles* by I.A. Horowitz and Fred Reinfeld. Full of colourful descriptions of Caissic battles, it imprinted upon me the give-and-take nature of chess tactics."

I like this, because I still use the old books for teaching too and it has become somewhat tiresome to see the likes of Fred Reinfeld having their instructive tomes described as potboilers, when in fact most of them still contain material which is still extremely useful.

Don't be fooled into thinking grandmasters – even those belonging to the world's elite – always play smooth games, which flow from start to finish. Benjamin reminds us of the *real* struggle seen in a game of chess, in which virtually every game will feature manifold cases of "the give and take of chess tactics".

Sean Marsh



How I Became a Chess Grandmaster

Vinay Bhat, 342 pages
Quality Chess

RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

This is a refreshing chess autobiography about a player who may not be one of the most well-known of grandmasters, but whose story and games are both entertaining and instructive. The blurb will help the uninitiated:

"Vinay Bhat rose through the ranks of American chess in the 1990s and 2000s, overcoming plateaus, competitive challenges, and academic and professional commitments, before achieving the highest title in chess. Follow Vinay's path to improvement and the struggles he had to go through, to carve out your own path to improvement and achieve your chess goals."

His progress through the ranks was speedy; he "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." It should be noted that American chess still cannot – or will not – shake off the ghost of Bobby Fischer, even though more than half a century has passed since his greatest success.

Bhat gives a very honest account of his rise through the chess ranks and subsequent switch to a career outside of chess. He has no axe to grind, as he is no longer a professional player, and this leaves him with no barriers when it comes to discussing his strengths, weaknesses and opening preparation.

In one section he discusses his relatively poor memory, exploding the myth that grandmasters are capable of remembering a lot more than the rest of us can.

"In December 2008, I was going over a recent endgame of mine with everybody in the GM-House. I had an extra pawn against GM Alexander Stripunsky in a rook-and-pawn endgame with pawns on both sides of the board. I chose to follow a rook-on-the-side technique, based on an example I attributed to a Karpov – Seirawan game that Karpov converted. My own endgame finished in a draw, and I was confused because I was certain I had

seen that very similar technique work before. None of us could find such a game though! It became a running joke when we forgot something to say, 'but Karpov – Seirawan!'”

The memory problem became more prominent when Bhat decided to expand his opening repertoire. Rather than sail down the absolute main line of the French Winawer, he relied on an old idea by David Bronstein in the following game, despite knowing that it had a flaw.

R.Sangma-V.Bhat Delhi 2009



Black played **12...♟f5?!**, even though he was aware “that Khalifman had published a refutation starting with **13 ♖g1**. That is indeed the best move, but I viewed it as the first of many difficult moves to find over the board, and so I took the chance. My decision was likely helped by some of the self-imposed pressure I was putting on myself to generate imbalances against slightly lower-rated players.”

The gamble paid off; as White played **13 ♖b1** and Black followed an old idea of Bronstein's with **13...♞a6!**, heading to e4 via c5 in some cases. Black won after 41 moves and Bhat's name became strongly associated with the Winawer variation of the French Defence. So much so, in fact, that even long after he had switched to **1 e4 e5**, Vishy Anand still asked Bhat about Winawer games which he himself had recently played.

The broadening of his opening repertoire led to a new system of short summaries to assist in preparation: “A final note is something I did to help myself avoid Karpov – Seirawan snafus in the opening: a one-page summary did wonders for me in solidifying some of the concepts I wanted to keep in mind and even sometimes a critical move or pattern. These summaries have come in handy even as I have been playing less frequently.”

Remarkably, Bhat has been a self-confessed ‘chess tourist’ since December 2010, having switched to a career in the data industry and now playing in just one rapidplay event per year and only one classical event over the course of the last 11 years.

It is not always easy for chess professionals and fans to understand why anyone would want to step away from doing something they love, but here again Bhat shows his common sense, by explaining that

he was never ranked higher than number 250 in the chess world and even though “the data industry has no ratings, so I can't say for sure, but I have a solid case for having surpassed that.”

Regarding transferable skills between his chess and non-chess careers, Bhat says “The biggest thing that's helped me is that chess can be unforgiving if you don't put in the work to improve yourself.”

This is an enjoyable book and a rare account of the chess career of a grandmaster who never quite reached the top of the tree, but who undoubtedly had many interesting stories to tell and games to show. All in all, it makes for a very refreshing change from reading about the usual suspects.

In addition to Bhat's interesting games and anecdotes, we also find numerous photographs, none of which I recall seeing prior to reading this book. Oh, yes – and one more item of interest; Bhat, just like Joel Benjamin, also learned a lot from the books of Fred Reinfeld (and Irving Chernev) in his formative years. Maybe it is time to lose the currently trendy and snuffy attitude towards the pioneers of educational chess writing?

Sean Marsh



Calculation Training for 1400-1600 Players

Robert Ris, PC-DVD;

running time: 4 hours, 21 minutes
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Leading Dutch chess trainer and IM Robert Ris returns to the ChessBase studio to continue his ‘Chess Calculation’ series, here focussing on those rated 1400-1600, or the average club player if you prefer. In total Ris presents 180 interactive exercises, some of which contain more than one question, and most of which are accompanied by a hint – if required. All the most important types of tactical device are featured, including pins, X-rays, interference and removing a key defender, and solving the exercises can but improve pattern recognition and speed up calculation.

Ris has also recorded *Calculation Training for 1000-1400 Players*, which should be more suitable for those fairly new to the game, players who want to avoid blundering while exploiting their opponent's blunders. This PC-DVD contains some 296 exercises, while running to 6 hours, 36 minutes of video and is also available for £26.95 or £24.25 for Subscribers. Once again, Ris focusses on the key tactical possibilities, just at a lower level and so, for instance, presents plenty of positions to solve devoted to both double attacks and mates.

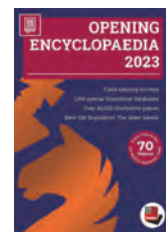


ChessBase Magazine 213

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Tournament highlights in the latest edition of *CBM*, which is ‘for May/June 2023’, include the European Individual Championship and the WR Masters in Düsseldorf. There's a special feature on Vishy Anand, featuring 26 annotated games, as well as contributions on the 15th world champion from Mihail Marin and Karsten Müller. Other highlights include advice on fighting on in lost positions by Jan Markos and Sergey Grigoriants's survey of **1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 ♟f6 4 ♗g5 h6!?**.



Opening Encyclopaedia 2023

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £119.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £107.95**

This is a product for those who really like their openings and to pour over them using ChessBase. The *Opening Encyclopaedia* now contains some 7,444 opening surveys, as well as 1,396 special opening articles. The latest version contains 66 new articles and 384 new or updated surveys. Also included is 29 hours of video, as well as a very handy feature by Dorian Rogozenko devoted to the current opening trends amongst the elite.

If you'd like to upgrade from *Opening Encyclopaedia 2022* that is possible at Chess & Bridge. Please just supply the serial key when you upgrade, which can be done for £74.95 or £67.45 for Subscribers.

Also recently released by ChessBase is *Komodo Dragon 3.2*, based on a ‘Neural Network Chess Evaluation’ and which retails at £84.95 (Subscribers – £76.45). The engine is apparently about 20 Elo points stronger than *Komodo Dragon 3* and especially much better in unbalanced positions, which could be handy if you like to analyse fairly obscure gambits. The program also comes with the *Fritz 18* interface and it's possible for users of *Komodo Dragon 3* to upgrade for just £19.95 (Subscribers – £17.95) by quoting their serial key when doing so.





Opening Repertoire: The English Defence

Jose Gonzalez, 320 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The English Defence is suddenly topical or at least this is the second new book of late on the opening made famous by the likes of Basman, Keene, Miles, Plaskett and Spielman. Last month we listed Semko Semkov's *Playing for a Win with ...b6* and now another work devoted to the rich and unbalanced world of 1 d4 e6 2 c4 b6 has been published by Everyman Chess. Mexican Grandmaster Gonzalez has long lived in Barcelona and his love of the unbalanced nature of the English Defence shines through in his first book. Notably he doesn't just map out a complete repertoire against 1 d4 and 1 c4, but also provides a full serviceable repertoire based around the Fort-Knox variation lest White dares to meet 1 d4 e6 with 2 e4.



Openings: Queen's Pawn Games

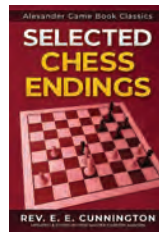
Jerzy Konikowski & Uwe Bekemann, 300 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

The aim of this new work is to explain the key ideas behind the various queen pawn systems, so that the reader can handle them on either side of the board. Of course, many of these openings are especially popular at club level and Konikowski and Bekemann examine the Trompowsky, Veresov and even Blackmar-Diemer, as well as the Colle, London and Torre. For each opening they cover the basic theory and especially the ideal piece configurations and middlegame plans for both sides.

Also just out from Joachim Beyer Verlag is *The Italian Opening for White* (122 pages, RRP £17.95, Subscribers £16.15) by Justus Bargsten, which is also aimed squarely at the club player. The focus is on a slow approach from White in the Giuoco Piano, presenting a mixture of theory and especially the key strategic ideas behind the various possible piece groupings and plans for both sides.

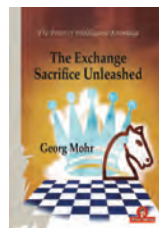
Selected Chess Endings

Rev. E. E. Cunningham, 120 pages, paperback
RRP £8.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.09**



We suspect that Sean Marsh will be delighted to see Carsten Hansen's new series, 'Alexander Game Book Classics', in which the American-Danish FM has revised and edited a number of classic books, while converting them from descriptive into algebraic notation. First published in 1903, Bridgnorth Chess Club member, the Reverend Edward Ernest Cunningham selected one hundred endgame positions which he considered needed to be mastered to become a proficient chess player. Cunningham's book was a classic in its day and will still teach the club player much about the final stages of the game.

Also published in the same series are *Instructive Positions From Master Chess* by Jacques Mieses (152 pages, RRP £11.99, Subscribers £10.79), which covers many classic games played up to the mid-1930s and on which Hansen's new analysis and perspective is especially welcome, as well as J.H. Blake's *Chess Endings for Beginners* (104 pages, RRP £8.99, Subscribers £8.09).



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The exchange sacrifice is perhaps the most famous of all the named sacrifices available and is certainly quite common in grandmaster games. It's seen less often in club chess, especially in its positional guise, but that need not be the case, especially if you allow the experienced Slovenian Grandmaster Georg Mohr to be your guide. His coverage is both enjoyable and detailed, beginning with exchange sacrifices for the attack then those that aid the defence (think Petrosian!), before there is a fascinating chapter devoted to them in the endgame. Mohr also looks at the exchange sacrifice in a number of common openings and structures, as well as the squares they're most likely to occur on, while arguably the most fascinating section is that devoted to the positional exchange sacrifice. This new work is also available in hardback for £39.95 or £35.95 for Subscribers.

The Nimzo-Indian Bible for White: Volume 1

Milos Pavlovic, 412 pages, paperback
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Our occasional contributor and leading theoretician Milos Pavlovic accepted the task from Thinkers Publishing of presenting a thorough repertoire against the Nimzo-Indian for White. He decided that three lines would fit the bill: 4 ♗d2, 4 ♖c2 and 4 e3. The first of these was long considered a toothless sideline, but has been very topical in recent years and now receives just over 100 pages of coverage from Pavlovic. The rest of this first volume is devoted to 4 ♖c2 and against 4...d5 the Serbian Grandmaster looks at both 5 cxd5 and 5 a3, while after 4...0-0 he examines both 5 e4 and 5 a3.

There's also *The Nimzo-Indian Bible for White: Volume 2*, which runs to 296 pages and retails at £29.95 (Subscribers – £26.95). While this volume devoted to 4 e3 is unlikely to be popular with the same white 1 d4 and 2 c4 players as *Volume 1*, experienced Nimzo-Indian aficionados may well want to consult both volumes and together they are available for the special price of £63.00 (Subscribers – £56.70) from Chess & Bridge. Pavlovic's coverage is certainly theoretical and he has uncovered a number of new ideas, even in some of the fairly established variations after 4 e3 0-0 5 ♗d3 d5 6 ♗f3 c5 7 ♗d3.



Typical Opening Mistakes

Ruslan Ponomariov, PC-DVD;
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Mistakes will always happen, even early in the game, but we can aim to reduce them by following certain guidelines, as recorded by the famous Ukrainian Grandmaster on a recent visit to Hamburg. Ponomariov draws widely on his own games as he looks at some useful general opening topics, like assessing the importance of the centre and king safety. He also provides plenty of psychological advice, not least when discussing how best to react to an opening surprise and how to play against a certain opponent. Other notable and very useful sections are devoted to over preparation and pawn structure in this series of mini-lectures, which should be especially of interest to coaches and improving players who are serious about their preparation and openings.

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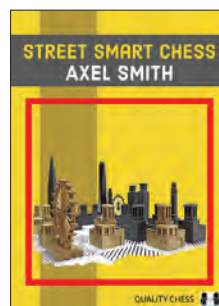
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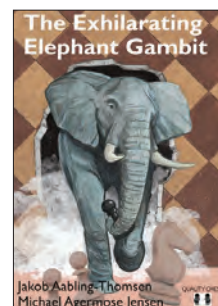
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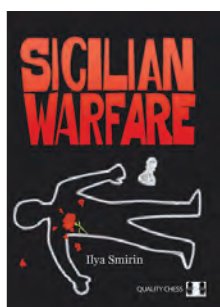
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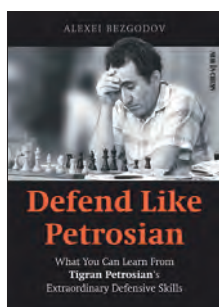
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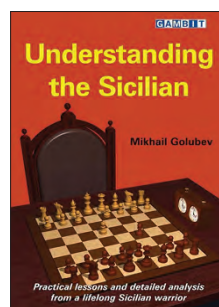
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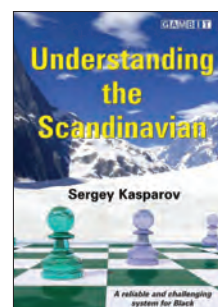
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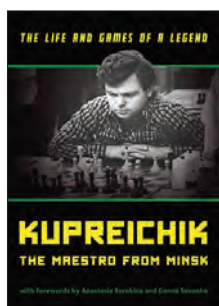
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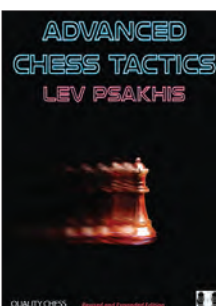
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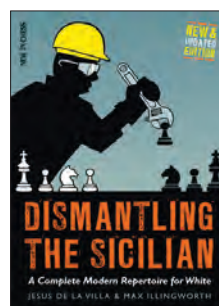
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