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Chess Festivity – Yochanan Afek reports from the Prague International Chess Festival



Fifty Years Ago – Douglas Griffin tells the story of the famous 1973 Leningrad Interzonal



Perfect Pairs – Lorin D'Costa explains all about a successful SPTW Mixed Pairs Invitational

NEW IN CHESS BOOKS



NEW!

Tales of a Bygone Chess Era Genna Sosonko

'Each new story of Genna Sosonko is the preservation of grains of our chess life', says Garry Kasparov. No writer can tell you more about legends such as Tal, Korchnoi or Bronstein and personalities such as Chepukaitis or Nikolaev. This 840-page hardcover edition is a collection of the portraits Sosonko wrote for New In Chess, plus 100 pages of stories published elsewhere. A must-have for every chess aficionado.



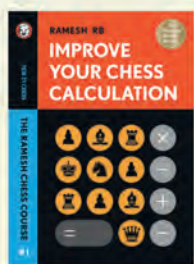
The Give and Take of Chess Tactics Joel Benjamin

A chess tactics manual with a twist. Usually, tactics training involves puzzles with a clear solution. White wins brilliantly, or Black wins. But in real life, chess is messy. Sometimes tactics work, and sometimes they don't. That's why former US Champion Joel Benjamin tells the complete story of attack, defence, and counterattack!



A White Repertoire vs the Open Sicilian Ivan Saric

The Open Sicilian is not a phonebook crammed with computer lines, but a textbook full of 21st-century chess wisdom. GM Ivan Saric covers the entire range of Sicilians, from obscure sidelines to the main lines: the Najdorf, the Taimanov, the Rauzer, the Kan, the Sveshnikov and the various Dragons. His approach is very ambitious, and he supports his claims with deep analysis and illuminating and elaborate verbal explanation.



Chess.com 2022 Book of the Year Ramesh RB

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

"An absolute divine masterpiece" – *Andras Toth*



Exciting Opening Tactics Dean Ippolito

This book introduces you to exciting weapons such as the *Fried Liver Attack* and the *Center Fork Trick*. Experienced American chess coach Dean Ippolito knows how adult improvers should play the opening, and what they can expect from your opponent. The tactical fireworks will also help you to develop your general understanding of the opening.

Tribute to the Fifth World Champion Jan Timman

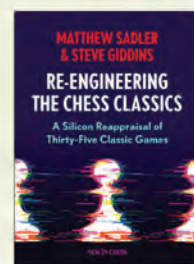
The first outstanding collection of games of this 'efficient, man-eating tiger', as the American master William Napier once called Euwe, World Champion from 1935 until 1937. It offers eighty of his games annotated by Jan Timman, who knew Euwe very well. Timman made many discoveries in Euwe's most famous games but has also unearthed several lesser-known brilliancies.



NEW!

New Insights in Classic Games Matthew Sadler & Steve Giddins

Matthew Sadler and Steve Giddins used the collective power of Leela, Komodo, and Stockfish to re-engineer classic games of fan favourites such as Fischer, Spassky, Larsen, and Capablanca. With these modern engines, the authors have generated dozens of new insights and positional chess lessons that will help every club player and expert to improve their game.



Spassky's Best Games – A Chess Biography Alexey Bezdodov & Dmitry Oleinikov

World Champion Boris Spassky was a chess genius and a perfect gentleman, gracious in defeat after he lost his title to Bobby Fischer in 1972. This wonderful new biography by Alexey Bezdodov and Dmitry Oleinikov contains 61 of his best games and a biographical sketch of 140 pages.



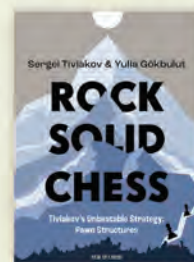
Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers Peter Giannatos

The perfect first chess workbook for adult improvers and other beginners. Coaches might find the book, with 738 exercises, very useful as well. It features a complete set of fundamental tactics and checkmate patterns. A treasure trove of chess knowledge and enough lessons to keep you busy for a year!



The unbeaten grandmaster Sergei Tiviakov

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



Chess

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How's That? 9/9!

Magnus Carlsen was third in the rapid, but dominated a quality field at blitz in Zagreb

Zagreb hosted the third leg of the Grand Chess Tour, the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz. Just like he'd done in the previous, Superbet Rapid & Blitz event, it rather felt like Magnus Carlsen needed to give the field a head start before he could produce his best chess. Carlsen did begin the rapid by crushing Dommaraju Gukesh, but suffered brutal back-to-back defeats at the hands of Fabiano Caruana and Alireza Firouzja on the second day ahead of getting the better of Vishy Anand. He also won his last two games, against Jan-Krzysztof Duda and Constantin Lupulescu, to get on a roll as he finished the rapid section on 5½/9, half a point behind Caruana and Ian Nepomniachtchi.

The very next day, playing his current favourite time control, blitz, Carlsen was at his imperious best, winning all nine games and not exactly against a shabby line-up: Caruana, Duda, Gukesh, Ivan Saric, Anand, Nepomniachtchi, Firouzja, Richard Rapport and Lupulescu were all defeated. Even the champ had to admit that he'd "had good days in terms of quality of play, but this feels really special."

Carlsen cruised to 5/6 on the final day before slightly taking his foot off the pedal and only finishing the blitz with 15/18 for a 3002 performance. Comparisons with Bobby Fischer's legendary 19/22 at Herceg Novi 1970 were inevitable, but we tend to agree with Leonard Barden in his *Guardian* column that Fischer's play was of higher quality. Carlsen's 9/9 was most impressive, but did see him ride his luck at times, especially early on: Caruana picked the wrong square for his king on move 94 having defended very well in a pawn-down queen ending, Duda blundered a key pawn on move 36 in a very messy position, Gukesh turned a drawn rook endgame into a lost pawn one, and Saric even missed a fairly obvious forced win prior to blundering the game away.

We should though give much credit to Carlsen's sheer will to win and his relentless pressure induced a blunder from Anand, while Nepomniachtchi and Firouzja were rather crushed before Rapport and Lupulescu were ground down. Carlsen's second win against the Russian was even more devastating.

I.Nepomniachtchi-M.Carlsen Zagreb (blitz) 2023 *Nimzo-Larsen Attack*

**1 b3 g6 2 ♖b2 ♜f6 3 e4 d6 4 f4?! ♕g7
5 ♜f3 0-0 6 d3 e5!**



Daniel King portrays the carefree, blitz-loving 2023 version of Carlsen later in these pages.

This powerful counterstrike is why a queenside fianchetto and the Grand Prix Attack don't combine well.

7 fxe5 ♜g4 8 ♜bd2 ♜c6

8...♜e3!? 9 ♖b1 ♕h6 must also have been tempting at blitz, and gets silicon approval.

9 ♖e2 ♜gx5 10 d4

Now e4 quickly comes under pressure, but even 10 0-0-0!? ♜e8 11 ♜e1 a5! leaves Black doing well.

10...♜xf3+! 11 ♜xf3 ♜e8 12 0-0-0 ♕f5



White's centre is collapsing, since Black can meet 13 ♜d2 with 13...♜xe4 14 ♜xe4 d5.

13 e5 dxe5 14 ♜xe5?

14 dxe5 ♖e7 15 ♖e3 was grim, but likely necessary.

**14...♜xe5 15 dxe5 ♖g5+ 16 ♖b1 ♕xe5
17 ♕xe5 ♜xe5 18 ♖c4?**

Naturally not 18 ♖xe5?? ♕xc2+!, but

18 ♖f2 ♜ae8 19 ♕d3 would have dragged play into a miserable endgame after 19...♕xd3 20 ♜xd3 ♜e2 21 ♖g3.

18...♜d8 19 ♕e2? b5!



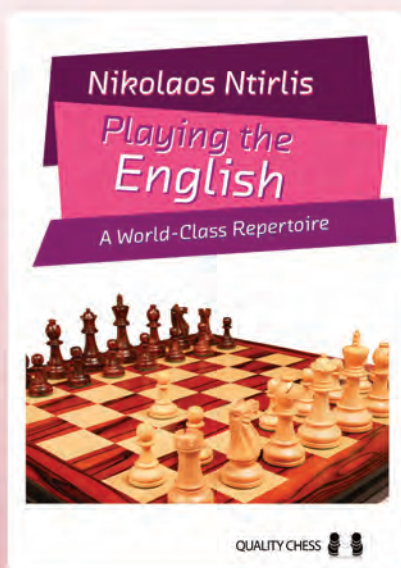
Whoops! All of a sudden the white queen is rather overloaded.

20 ♖xc7 ♜c8 0-1

Carlsen thus picked up \$40,000 having finished with 26/36, three and half points clear of Nepomniachtchi. The Grand Chess Tour now takes a break, but resumes on November 12th with the Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz followed by the Sinquefeld Cup. After what happened there last year, you might well assume that Carlsen won't return as a wild card, with the Tour currently being led by Caruana who has scored 20 points and only played two of the three events so far, unlike closest pursuers Duda and Rapport.

Coming soon from Quality Chess!

Playing the English



The English Opening arises after 1.c4, and is a great practical weapon for players of all levels. White dictates the opening from the very first move, and often reaches positions where superior understanding of themes and plans is more important than the latest computer-generated analysis.

Playing the English – A World-Class Repertoire provides a complete repertoire with 1.c4. Each chapter begins with an introduction outlining the most important plans, concepts, pawn structures and even thematic endgames that may arise, so you will be equipped with both the strategic and theoretical knowledge needed to crush your opponents.

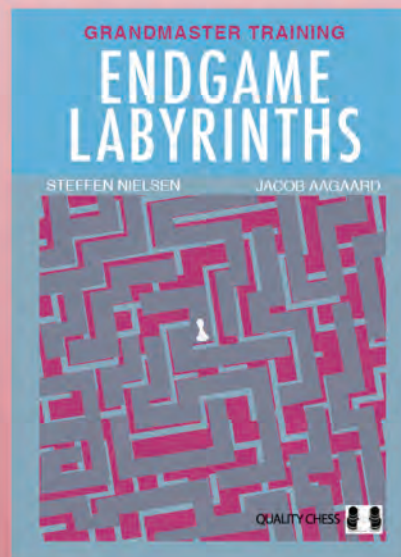
Nikolaos Ntirlis is an award-winning author, openings expert and Correspondence IM. He has taught the English to students ranging from club players to Grandmasters, and this repertoire is specifically tailored towards practical rather than correspondence players.

Endgame Labyrinths

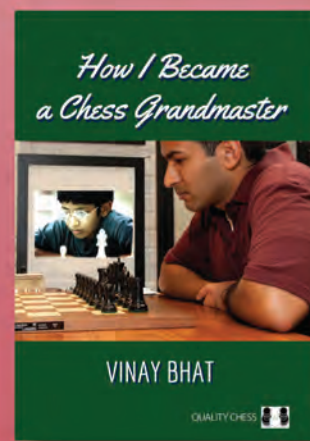
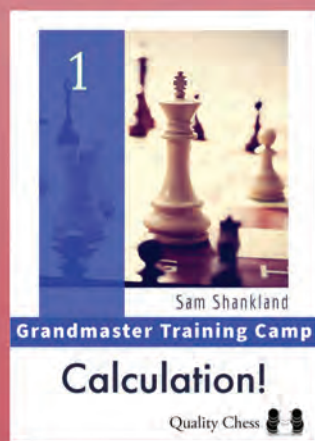
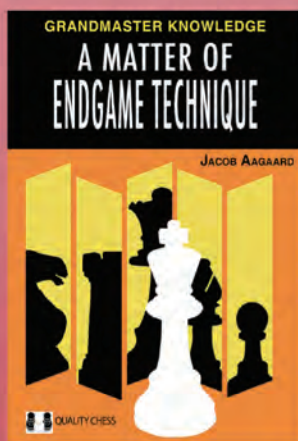
Endgame Labyrinths presents the reader with 1002 endgame studies, selected and truncated with their usefulness for the practical player in mind. It took years of extensive selection, analysis and refinement to compile the study book offering the greatest possible value for the practical player.

Steffen Nielsen is the reigning World Champion in endgame composition. He is also a strong club player, with a good understanding of the difficulties practical players face over the board.

GM Jacob Aagaard is one of the leading chess writers and trainers of his generation. His students continue to thrive at all levels and his books are used all over the world, by top players and amateurs alike.



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Perfect Pairs

Lorin D'Costa explains all about the 1st SPTW Mixed Pairs Invitational

Saturday 17th June 2023 saw a rather unusual event take place at the London MindSports Centre in Hammersmith, London. Eight pairs of the UK's top male and female players came together to take part in an exhibition event, sponsored by She Plays To Win (SPTW), a non-profit organisation whose aim is to encourage more girls to learn, play and benefit from chess.

The Pairs

GM Ravi Haria (2552) & Bodhana Sivanandan (1792)

IM Marcus Harvey (2462) & Alisha Vyas (1643)

IM Harry Grieve (2441) & Emily Maton (1766)

IM Matthew Wadsworth (2428) & Abigail Weersing (1932)

IM Shreyas Royal (2427) & Cassie Graham (1961)

FM William Claridge-Hansen (2345) & Olga Latypova (1780)

Aaravumudhan Balaji (2334) & FM Akshaya Kalaiyalahan (2155)

Murugan Thiruchelvam (2275) & WIM Lan Yao (2278)

England's latest grandmaster, Ravi Haria, was the only GM on show. He was paired with 8-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan, who has made a meteoric rise in the past year, winning international junior events as well as taking a stunning second place in December's English Women's Blitz Championship.

Other interesting pairs were England Women's International WIM Lan Yao paired with Murugan Thiruchelvam, who was making his return to OTB chess after 20 years. *CHESS* readers may remember his exploits as a top junior back in the late 1990s and early 2000s. It was great to see him back playing.

British Champion, IM Harry Grieve was paired with GCSE student Emily Maton, board one of the SPTW Lionesses team who came seventh in their inaugural season in Division 4 of the 4NCL.

None of these pairs won the event...



Harry Grieve and Emily Maton were one of the pre-tournament favourites and reached the final.

The Groups

The format was two all-play-all groups, with the top two teams in each progressing to the semi-finals. Group A comprised: Murugan and Lan, Shreyas and Cassie, Ravi and Bodhana, and William and Olga. Group B featured Aaravumudhan and Akshaya, Matthew and Abigail, Harry and Emily, and Marcus and Alisha.

Games were 20 minutes per team, with a 5-second increment per move, and *with the players taking it in turn to move*. With the quality on show it was no surprise to see many of the games go right down to the wire. The first round saw this first hand as Aaravumudhan and Akshaya built up to a completely winning position, only to lose on time.

In the time scramble, Black's 41...♙h5-h8 has just allowed a nice tactic.

42 ♖xg6+! ♖xg6 43 ♖xg6+ ♘f8 44 ♖xd6 ♙b2 45 ♗d5 0-1

Unbelievably, while playing this winning move, White lost on time. A lucky escape for Emily and Harry.

Marcus and Alisha, also in Group B, strolled to a nice positional win over Matthew and Abigail.

M. Harvey & A. Vyas - M. Wadsworth & A. Weersing
Round 1



Marcus and Alisha have nurtured their bishop-pair patiently and now decided it was time to strike.

46 g4! fxd4 47 ♗xg4 ♗d6 48 f5 exf5 49 ♗xf5 ♗xf5 50 ♗e8+ 1-0

A. Balaji & A. Kalaiyalahan - H. Grieve & E. Maton
Round 1





Olga Latypova and William Claridge-Hansen played some good chess and only narrowly failed to qualify from Pool A for the semi-finals in part due to being hit by a dangerous blow in 21...b3!

Black loses the rook on c8 (50 ♖xf5 was also winning).

Group A saw Ravi and Bodhana grind out a knight versus bishop ending against Murugan and Lan, but only after Ravi had almost blundered into mate in one!

The second round saw another interesting tactical game which could have gone either way.

**W.Claridge-Hansen & O.Latypova
- R.Haria & B.Sivanandan
Round 2**



We pick up the action with William and Olga a pawn up. Ravi and Bodhana now go for the best practical chance.

21...b3! 22 axb3 ♖c5 23 ♖c3
Amazingly enough, 23 ♖f2 ♖xb3 24 ♖xf6 was completely winning for White, if very hard to see and analyse with no time. The main idea is 24...gxf6 25 ♖xf6+ ♖h7 26 ♖xf7+ ♖h6 27 ♖f8+ ♖h5 28 g4+.
23...♖a6 24 e4 ♖xb3
Or just 24...♖xb3 25 ♖d2 ♖d3.
25 ♖c2 ♖b6 26 ♖b1 ♖c5 27 ♖c2
27 ♖a3 was the only defence, relying on the point 27...♖a4?? 28 ♖f8+ ♖h7 29 ♖xg7#.

27...♖a4 28 b3 ♖c5 29 ♖a2 ♖a5+ 30 ♖b1 ♖xb3 0-1

Elsewhere Matthew and Abigail got in the most brutal attacking game of the day, as a black king appeared on f5 in a Kings Indian.

**M.Wadsworth & A.Weersing -
A.Balaji & A.Kalaiyalahan
Round 2
King's Indian Defence**

1 d4 g6 2 c4 ♖f6 3 ♖c3 ♖g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♖ge2 h5 6 ♖g5 ♖bd7 7 ♖d2 e5 8 d5 a6 9 h4 0-0 10 ♖g3 ♖e8 11 ♖e2 ♖h7 12 ♖h6 ♖e7



Now Matthew and Abbey got to go on a brutal king hunt starting with the tactic...
13 ♖xg7 ♖xg7 14 ♖xh5!
...With the point 14...gxh5? 15 ♖f5+.
14...f5 15 ♖xg6 ♖xg6 16 ♖xf5 ♖xf5 17 exf5+ ♖xf5
Aaravumadhan said he couldn't contemplate 17...♖g7 18 g4, but I did have a double take there was a black king on f5.
18 ♖h6 e4 19 g4+ ♖e5 20 0-0-0 ♖f7 21 ♖b1

It was even possible to do without this move and not fear the queen swap, i.e. 21 ♖he1 ♖f4+ 22 ♖xf4+ ♖xf4 23 ♖xe4+ ♖f3 24 ♖d3+ ♖g2 f4 ♖d6 26 ♖e2+ ♖g1 27 ♖d1#.
21...♖df8 22 ♖he1 ♖g6 23 f4+ ♖f6 24 ♖xe4+ ♖f7 25 ♖xg6+ ♖xg6 26 ♖g1



The queens might be exchanged, but the pawns can still roll.
26...♖g7 27 ♖df1 ♖xh4 28 ♖h1 ♖g6 29 f5 ♖e5 30 g5 ♖xc4 31 f6+ ♖xf6 32 gx6+ ♖f7 33 ♖h7+ ♖f8 34 f7 ♖e5 35 ♖h8+ 1-0

Round 3 saw the comedy moment of the day. After Shreyas had met 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♖c3 ♖f6 4 d4 ♖b4 5 ♖xe5 with 5...0-0, Ravi motioned to Bodhana to take a time-out (each pair were permitted a one-minute time-out per match), only for Bodhana to shake her head, prompting Ravi to exclaim, "That's three times in a row she's refused me!" Respect she had for her GM partner, but Bodhana was willing to call the shot.

Despite winning against Murugan and Lan to finish on 50%, William and Olga found themselves out of contention for a top-two placing in their group.

The Knockout Stages

The semi-finals looked like they would be close on paper and so it proved, as Harry and Emily took on Ravi and Bodhana, while Shreyas and Cassie faced Marcus and Alisha. The most hard-fought game of the day was the 91-move epic in the first of those clashes. Somehow Harry and Emily advanced despite not standing better for most of the game.

**H.Grieve & E.Maton -
R.Haria & B.Sivandan
SPTW Pairs (rapid), London 2023
Slav Defence**

1 c4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 cxd5 cxd5 4 ♖c3 ♖f6 5 ♖f3 ♖c6 6 g3 e6 7 ♖f4 ♖d6 8 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 9 ♖g2 0-0 10 0-0 ♖d7 11 ♖c1 ♖ac8 12 ♖d2 ♖e4 13 ♖f4 ♖xf4 14 gxf4 f6 15 a3
Here Bodhana allowed Ravi his first time-out!



Rising star Bodhana Sivanandan is coached by Jonathan Speelman and is very dedicated to her chess. She must also have learnt plenty playing alongside Ravi Haria, if not about time-outs!

15...♖d6 16 ♜c2 ♗e8 17 ♗h3 ♖d8 18 b3



91 ♖f6 was the way to win, and if 91...♗g5 92 ♖d7! ♗g4 93 ♖e5+ ♗f4 94 ♖f7. 91...♖d8?

91...♗g4! 92 ♗xe6 ♗h5 was the final chance to draw.

92 ♖f8 1-0

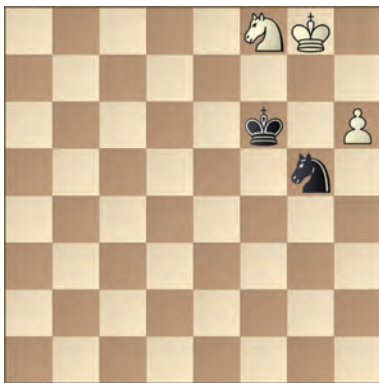
An extremely hard-fought game. Ravi and Bodhana had pressed throughout, but it was Harry and Emily who advanced to the final.

In the other semi-final Shreyas and Cassie built up a nice opening advantage and it took a lot of resilience from Marcus and Alisha just to stay in the game. This plucky pair took their chance once they got it and didn't look back.

18...♗g6

Ravi berated himself for missing 18...♖b5! 19 ♜fc1 ♖xa3 20 ♜a2 ♖b5 with a clear pawn advantage, but in any case Black was soon pressing.

After many adventures, the following tricky position was reached.



Here 87...♖f7 88 h7 ♖h6+ 89 ♗h8 ♖f7+ 90 ♗g8 ♖h6+ is a draw, but instead further errors were exchanged as the four players continued to frantically blitz out the moves: 87...♗f5? 88 ♗g7 ♗e5 89 ♗g6 ♗f4 90 ♖h7 ♖e6 91 ♗f6?

S.Royal & C.Graham - M.Harvey & A.Yvas
SPTW Pairs (rapid), London 2023
Grünfeld Defence

1 ♖f3 ♖f6 2 g3 d5 3 ♗g2 g6 4 d4 c6 5 0-0 ♗g7 6 c4 0-0 7 ♖c3 ♗f5 8 ♗b3 ♗b6 9 ♗xb6 axb6 10 ♖e5

10 cxd5 cxd5 11 ♖e5 seems more natural.

10...dxc4 11 ♖xc4 ♖bd7 12 e4 ♗e6 13 ♖e3 ♖b8



A sad move to have to play, but d4-d5 was coming to trap the bishop on e6. Post-match analysis saw Shreyas and Marcus disagree on the assessment of the position. I guess that's chess for you – both players are happy with their position, so let's play.

14 d5

After 14 e5 ♖e8 15 f4 f6 Stockfish does give '+1.2', but Marcus was adamant it's all OK for Black.

14...♗c8 15 ♖c4?

This natural move allows Marcus and Alisha back in the game. Instead, 15 e5! ♖xd5 16 ♖exd5 cxd5 17 ♖xd5 wins a pawn, due to the tactic 17...♗e5 18 ♖xe7+ ♗g7 19 ♖xc8 ♜xc8 20 ♗xb7.

15...♖fd7!

Alisha finds the correct remedy.

16 ♗g5 b5 17 ♖d2 ♜e8 18 a3 ♖e5 19 ♜ac1 ♖d3 20 ♜c2 ♖xb2!

Now it's Black in the driving seat.

21 ♖cb1 ♖d3 22 ♖b3 ♖e5 23 ♗c1 ♖c4 24 dxc6 ♖xc6 25 ♜d1 ♗e6 26 ♖c5 ♖d4 27 ♖xe6 ♖xe6 28 ♖c3 ♖xa3 29 ♗xa3 ♜xa3 30 ♖xb5 ♜b3



Marcus said he was hoping to avoid the trick 31 ♖c7 ♜c8? (31...♖xc7 32 ♜xc7 ♗e5 is better) 32 ♖xe6! ♜xc2 33 ♜d8+ ♗f8 34 ♜xf8#, but Shreyas and Cassie went for something else.

31 ♗f1 ♖g5 32 ♖c7 ♜b8

32...♜c8 33 ♖e6 isn't the same as the previous variation in view of 33...♖f3+ 34 ♗g2 ♖e1+ 35 ♗xe1 ♜xc2.

33 ♗c4 ♜b2 34 ♜xb2 ♗xb2 35 ♜d7? ♖f3+ 36 ♗g2 ♖e5

Winning a piece and the game.

37 ♜d2 ♖xc4 38 ♜c2 b5 39 ♖xb5 ♜xb5 40 ♜xc4 e5 41 ♜c2 ♗d4 42 ♜c8+ ♗g7 43 ♜c2 ♜b2 0-1

The final saw GCSE students Alisha and Emily find themselves taking each other on for the top prize of £250, despite having only finished their last GCSE exam just the day before. Backed up by the current British Champion, Harry Grieve, and Marcus Harvey, who had seemed to gel well with Alisha in terms of playing style, it looked like a final worthy of the competition. And so it proved, with Alisha finding the winning tactic with both teams down to a minute each.

**M.Harvey & A.Vyas -
H.Grieve & E.Maton**
SPTW Pairs (rapid), London 2023
Sicilian Kopec

1 e4 c5 2 d3 f3 d6 3 c3 d6 4 d3 d6
5 0-0 g4 6 e1 g6 7 h3 xf3 8 xf3
9 g7 9 c2 0-0 10 d3 c7 11 d2 b5
12 f1 a5 13 f4 d7 14 e3 b6
15 ab1 a4 16 e2 fe8

16...a3 breaks up the white pawns.
17 d4 a3 18 b3 a5 19 h6+ xh6
20 xh6 xb3 21 axb3 a2 22 a1 d7
23 e3 a6 24 f4

24 d4 was surely a little safer, but 24 f4 signals the intention to go for it.
24...e6 25 d4 xb3 26 dxc5 dxc5

27...c4 28 xc5 xb2
28...d6! 29 h2 d1 was apparently winning for Black, but not easy to see.
29 d4 e5 30 fe5 ae6 31 d5 c4
32 exa2 xc3 33 xb5 xe5 34 d7



27 e2
There was also 27 xc5!?, based on the point 27...xb2? 28 e5 f6 29 e6+ h8 30 f7 g8 31 ed1 xc3 32 g7+! xg7 33 d8+ g8 34 xg8#.

Now comes the crucial moment of the final.

34...e7?
Marcus later admitted that "I didn't see immediately that we had a winning tactic. It only dawned on me seconds before Alisha played the winning move."

Instead, 34...xe4 appears sufficient to hold for Black: for example, 35 f1 d4+ 36 xd4 xd4 37 a7 e5.

35 xe7!
And game over just like that.
35...d4+ 36 h1 c8 37 a7 d6
38 a8 1-0

So a fantastic tournament ended with 16-year-old Alisha Vyas triumphing alongside Marcus Harvey. It was noted in advance that they both are strong at shorter time controls,

and so it proved as they handled some tricky positions throughout the tournament to win the 1st SPTW Mixed Pairs Invitational. Well done, Marcus and Alisha!

The aim is to hold the event next year and make it part of the chess calendar. It was great to see everyone analysing, playing and enjoying chess just as it should be – with greater gender parity and respect for one another.

She Plays To Win is seeking sponsorship to help grow its reach across the UK and support girls of all ages and levels. For further information see sheplaystowin.co.uk or contact Lorin at sheplaystowinuk@gmail.com.



Alisha Vyas and Marcus Harvey kept their nerve the best in both the semi-final and final, running out worthy winners of the £250 first prize.



The MindSports Centre once again proved its worth as a venue and did a fine job of hosting the 1st SPTW Pairs Invitational. No wonder that star organiser Lorin D'Costa (fourth from the left) looks happy and, yes, that is Murugan Thiruchelvam bearded right in the middle of the back row.



60 Seconds with... IM Andrew Martin



Born: 18th May 1957, Forest Gate, London

Place of residence: Bramley, Surrey.

Occupation: Chess.

Enjoyable? Of course.

And home life? Solid.

But sometimes good to escape to: No need for any escapism.

Sports played or followed: Still playing cricket and swim daily. Previously badminton. A bit of online chess.

A favourite novel? I don't read novels generally.

Piece of music? All sorts.

Film or TV series? *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three*, Walter Matthau version.

What's the best thing about playing chess? Fun!

And the worst? Losing after making a mistake or mistakes. Being outplayed is a different thing.

Your best move? Having a family.

But less memorable than your worst move? Divorce. Nothing can touch that for sheer hell.

And a highly memorable opponent? I have respect for all opposition. No real favourite.

Favourite game of all time? Fischer-Larsen, Game One from their Candidates semi-final. An astonishing French.

R.Fischer-B.Larsen
1st matchgame, Denver 1971
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 ♟b4 4 e5 ♗e7
5 a3 ♟xc3+ 6 bxc3 c5 7 a4 ♗bc6 8 ♗f3
♟d7 9 ♟d3 ♗c7 10 0-0 c4 11 ♟e2 f6
12 ♗e1 ♗g6 13 ♟a3 fxe5 14 dxe5
♗cxe5 15 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 16 ♗d4 ♗g6
17 ♟h5 ♗f7 18 f4 ♗he8 19 f5 exf5
20 ♗xd5+ ♗f6 21 ♟f3 ♗e5 22 ♗d4
♗g6 23 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 24 ♗xd7 ♗ad8
25 ♗xb7 ♗e3+ 26 ♗f1 ♗d2 27 ♗c6+ ♗e6



28 ♟c5 ♗f2+ 29 ♗g1 ♗xg2+ 30 ♗xg2
♗d2+ 31 ♟h1 ♗xc6 32 ♟xc6 ♗xc3
33 ♗g1+ ♗f6 34 ♟xa7 g5 35 ♟b6 ♗xc2
36 a5 ♗b2 37 ♟d8+ ♗e6 38 a6 ♗a3
39 ♟b7 ♗c5 40 ♗b1 c3 41 ♟b6 1-0

The best three chess books: Too difficult. Nothing with computerised analysis in it, anyway.

Is FIDE doing a good job? A loaded question.

Or your National Federation? The ECF is very well-meaning, staffed by amateurs who are generally professional in other spheres of life and give up a lot of time voluntarily. Those who complain should be willing to step up and do the work themselves.

Can chess make one happy? As part of the bigger picture, yes.

A tip please for the club player: Play for fun and pleasure above results.



A little bird just told me

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

Chess24.com - @chess24com

"To win every single game in one day, I don't think I've ever done that and probably won't do it again." #GrandChessTour #SuperUnitedCroatia

Magnus Carlsen - @MagnusCarlsen

Thanks for another great event, always love coming to Zagreb! Going 9/9 yesterday felt very special, and 6/9 today was also nice.

Maurice Ashley - @MauriceAshley

Precision chess in the #FIDE Women's World Chess Championship between champion Ju Wenjun and challenger Lei Tingjie leaves the contestants tied 2-2 after four fighting draws. The action is getting more tense!

FIDE Online Arena - @FideOnlineArena

After Richard Rapport emerged victorious at the Europe & Africa World Chess Armageddon Series, @thelittlehat was genuinely happy for him, and we got lucky enough to capture her heartwarming reaction when Richard entered the Studio for his final interview.

Fiona Steil-Antoni - @fionchetta

It was an absolute pleasure getting to make the ceremonial first move of the last round of Dortmund @ChessTrophy for Vladimir Kramnik - the only time you will ever see me play 1.c4!

Nate Solon - @natesolon

"[Opposite of sound chess strategy] works at my level." No, it doesn't. If it worked at your level, you'd be at the next level.

Hodder Non-Fiction - @HodderNonFic

The real life story of female chess champion @JenShahade travelling the world to compete in a male-dominated sport with the most famous players of all time. For fans of #TheQueensGambit Chess Queens is now available in paperback.

Women's Chess Coverage - @OnTheQueenside

The last time a tie in the World Championship was broken in the last two games was Anand-Topalov in 2010. For the Women's World Championship, it's never happened!

OUT NOW

WHAT CHESS COACHES DON'T TELL YOU

John & Victoria Doknjas

Reading *What Chess Coaches Don't Tell You* can broaden your horizons in the essential areas of chess study, and ideally let you better evaluate what your chess coach is teaching you. And if you don't have a chess coach, this book will provide you with an excellent foundation for serious chess study.

Highly recommended as a work of love created by two people who know what they are talking about.

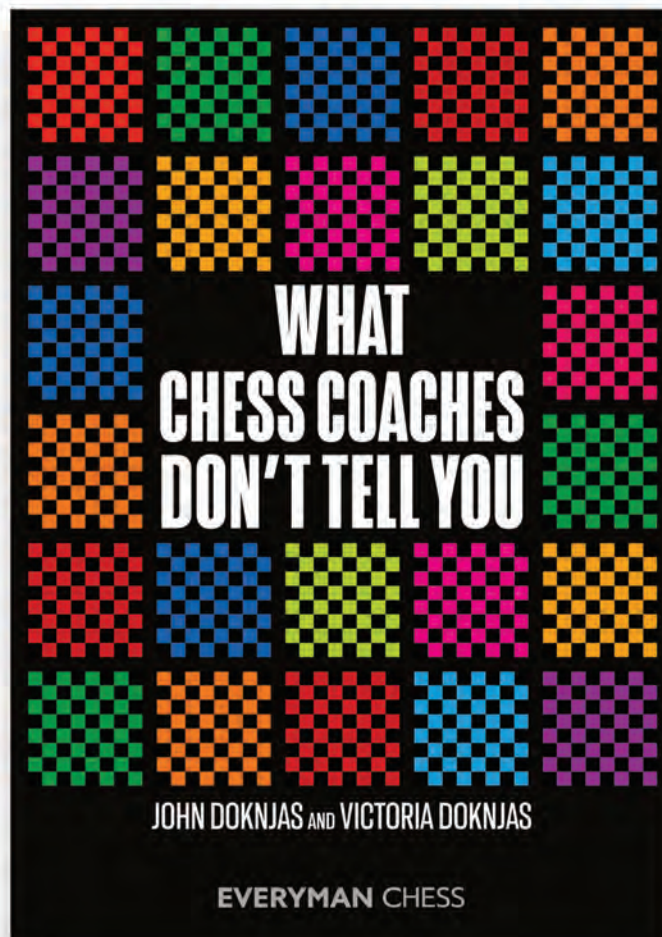
*NM Vladimir Drkulec, President,
Chess Federation of Canada*

Most chess books teach openings, endgames, tactics, but very few books teach players how to work on chess by themselves. This is what makes this work so unique and innovative...

*IM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux, 2022
World U18 Champion*

... a must-read for those who are either just starting out in chess or those who feel stuck and have not made any progress lately

*WGM Maill-Jade Ouellet, 2019
Woman Continental Champion*



Full of rich practical wisdom, the book guides non-experts in chess to more meaningfully support the chess players in their lives to stay focused on developing their practice.

*Elena Holmgren, Mom of Emilian
Holmgren, 2023 Victoria U14 Youth
Chess Champion*

In their masterpiece, *What Chess Coaches Don't Tell You*, the dynamic duo of Victoria Doknjas, MBA and Juniors to Masters Chess Academy Co-founder, and her son John Doknjas, FIDE Master and established chess author, have unlocked the mysteries of the puzzling and confusing world of chess coaching

*NM Josh Sinanan, President,
Washington Chess Federation*



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Over 15,000 attended ChessFest at London's Trafalgar Square, making it the UK's largest chess event. The event was organised by Chess in Schools & Communities and sponsored by XTX Markets.



Despite the grey skies, the Provibers kept everyone entertained as they acted out two of Mickey Adams and David Howell's best wins.



The rain came, but didn't hang around for long. Not that it would have mattered, with most people willing to tough out a downpour for more chess.



FM Mike Klein, aka FunMasterMike, of ChessKid fame put on an interactive puzzle rush on the stage, with prizes for those speedy solvers who did the best. Many children enjoyed taking part as they warmed up to take on the slowly tiring titled players giving simuls around the fountains.



All day long, from 11am until 6pm, there was a queue for a time-odds blitz game in the 'Beat the Master' marquee and there were also regular queues for the various, sometimes tandem simuls, like those given by two famous British players above, Stuart Conquest and Luke McShane.



Not everyone that came to ChessFest is a diehard chess fan; some were new to the game, whilst others had never even played before. Help was at hand as the 'Teaching Zone' had 35 Chess in Schools tutors on rotation to offer free lessons, covering everything from how the pieces move to the nuances of the Accelerated Dragon. "Now I finally know my rook and pawn endgames much better" admitted one relieved tutor.



How to Beat a Grandmaster

Paul Littlewood recalls a classic attacking King's Indian victory by John Nunn

Like many of us who were very active in the eighties and nineties, John Nunn had a break from serious chess at the start of the 21st century and has only just taken the game up seriously again by competing at senior level. He has just added the European version to his title of World Over-65 Champion and is now a regular member of the Over-65 England team.

I asked John recently what he thought his best game against a grandmaster was, and he cited the brilliant tactical skirmish against Beliavsky, which was played in 1985 in the Hoogovens Tournament at Wijk aan Zee.

I enjoyed that game, but I was also mega-impressed when he beat one of the leading players of the time at the World Cup in Skelleftea in 1989.

L.Portisch-J.Nunn

Skelleftea World Cup 1989
King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 c4 ♗g7 4 ♗c3 0-0 5 e4 d6 6 ♗e2 e5 7 ♗e3 h6

Several English players were trying out this variation at the time, including Jonathan Mestel and myself – and it became all the rage for a few years.

8 0-0 ♗g4 9 ♗c1 ♗c6 10 d5 ♗e7

If 10...♗d4 then 11 ♗xd4 exd4 12 ♗b5 is slightly better for White.

11 ♗e1 f5 12 ♗xg4

An alternative idea is 12 f3 ♗f6 13 ♗d3 c5 14 ♗b1 with a small advantage to White.

12...fxg4 13 ♗c2 g5 14 ♗e3 ♗f4 15 ♗d2

After 15 g3 ♗f3 16 h3 h5 17 hxg4 hxg4 18 ♗c2 ♗g6 19 ♗e1 ♗f7 20 ♗g2 ♗f6 21 ♗c2 White is slightly for choice.

15...♗d7 16 b4 ♗g6 17 ♗c1 ♗h4 18 ♗h1 ♗e8 19 f3?!



Black is coordinating his pieces for a kingside attack, but as is often the case, White should not weaken his position in front of his king by making unprovoked pawn moves.

Much better was 19 c5 ♗h5 20 ♗c4 ♗f8 when Black's attack looks dangerous, but White can weather the storm by playing 21 ♗xf4 exf4 22 ♗g1 when with careful defence he should come out on top. However, this is not an easy position to play for White, as Black's dark-squared bishop has come to life, and one can understand Portisch wanting to take more concrete measures to defend.

19...gxf3 20 g3 ♗h5!

Black's attack has quickly gathered pace and he now stands better.

21 gxh4?!

Likewise, 21 gxf4? exf4 22 ♗c2 g4 23 ♗xf4 ♗xc3 24 ♗g3 ♗g6 is much better for Black. However, the last chance to defend was 21 ♗f2 when after 21...g4 Black stands better, but there is still a lot of play left in the position

21...♗xh4 22 ♗f2 g4 23 ♗f1 ♗h3 24 ♗g1 ♗g6 25 ♗g3?!



John Nunn finished on 50% at the strong GMA tournament at Skelleftea in 1989, crushing Portisch who was third behind the two 'Ks'.



Black has the initiative, but it is better to keep this knight on f1 as it is a good defender. Portisch wanted to open up the position by playing it to f5, but Nunn counters by sacrificing more material.

25...♗f8 26 ♗f5 ♗xf5! 27 exf5 ♗xf5



White is now a rook up, but there is no defence as the black attack is too strong.

28 ♗e2

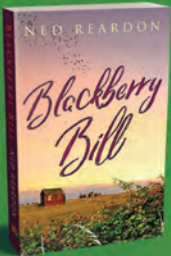
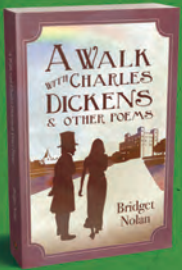
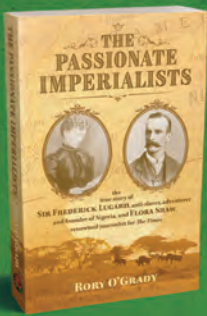
Desperation, but after, say, 28 ♗h1 g3 29 ♗g1 e4 30 ♗cf1 ♗d4 31 ♗d1 e3 32 ♗xe3 g2+ 33 ♗xg2 fxg2+ 34 ♗xg2 ♗e4 Black is winning

28...fxe2 29 ♗xe2 ♗d3 30 ♗d1 g3 31 hxg3 ♗e4 0-1

White has had enough – he is helpless against the various threats.

A brilliant game, which is a powerful indication of how strong John is in attacking positions when he has the initiative. All of us find it difficult to defend when put under such pressure and even Portisch, one of the best players of his generation, succumbed to the onslaught.

Meanwhile if you have won a game against a strong player then please send it to me (plittl@hotmail.com), and I will try to publish it in this column.



MODEL: LU MISTRY PHOTO: ANYA MISTRY

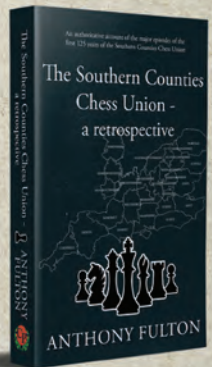
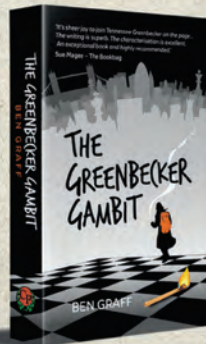


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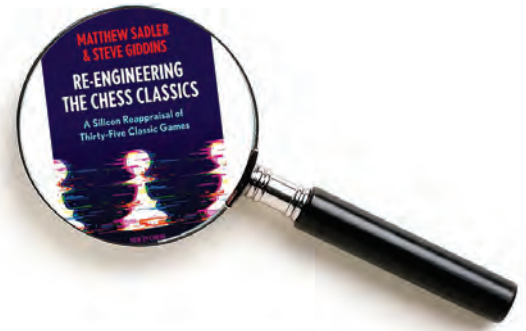


Chess Fever (ISBN 9781911546757) *The Greenbecker Gambit* (ISBN 9781913567026) *Chess Crusader* (ISBN 978-1-913567-86-6) *A History of Chess in the English Civil Service* (ISBN 978-1-913567-69-9) and *The Southern Counties Chess Union - a retrospective* (ISBN 978-1-914913-62-4) are all published by The Conrad Press Ltd. as paperbacks and ebooks. They are available from amazon, amazon kindle, from all good bookshops and from The Conrad Press website www.theconradpress.com

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This Month's New Releases



Re-Engineering the Chess Classics

Matthew Sadler & Steve Giddins, 440 pages
New in Chess
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

With a subtitle promising 'A Silicon Reappraisal of Thirty-Five Classic Games', I initially had mixed feelings about the topic of this new book. I have a love of chess history and always enjoy books by Matthew Sadler and Steve Giddins. On the other hand, I am not a fan of subjecting old games to engine analysis, which is something numerous recent books have done. More often than not, it makes me think 'so what?' and can even get in the way of enjoying the games from former times. However, there was nothing to worry about; this book takes a very different approach to the problem of reanalysing older games to today's standards.

The authors put a set of classic games under the electronic microscope, all the way from Anderssen-Dufresne, Berlin 1852, to Portisch-Chiburdanidze, Roquebrune 1998. The plan was "to analyse some of the great human games of chess history. Kasparov, in his Great Predecessors series, had re-analysed many famous games with an engine, but these were old, pre-AI machines, and whilst very good at finding unexpected tactical resources, they had little to say about positional and strategic aspects. In addition, Kasparov's books were written some 15-20 years ago, when the engines were much weaker. So we decided to select 40 grandmaster games, from the past 150 years, and see what the engines had to say about them and what lessons the human player could draw from the findings. By comparing the human decisions with those of the engines, particularly when the latter are critical of the former, we can learn a great deal about where even the best of us humans are going wrong."

This is clearly a lot deeper and much more instructive than simply pointing out hitherto unrecognised blunders and analytical errors from former times. Indeed, the authors were able to delve into the elements of games which were not necessarily of an overly tactical nature: "The AI machines can change our whole perception of the strategic and technical pattern. For that reason, we have included many strategic games and some technical endgame grinds, where it is often not obvious to the human player where the loser went wrong. The engines are really useful at pointing out the turning points in such games."

The engines in question are *Leela*,

Stockfish and *Komodo Dragon* and they were let loose in a series of engine matches which produced a plethora of spin-offs from the mainline games presented in the book.

It is possible to simply enjoy the classic games all over again with the new and excellent annotations, but the engine games provide a series of what can be described as 'alternative futures', pushing the passage of play into all sorts of different directions. For instance, readers may be interested to know if Dufresne could have avoided being on the receiving end of the beautiful finish to the Evergreen Game – and, if so, where were the moments when he could have improved his defence and could he have even saved the game? Or how about the third game of the famous Fischer-Taimanov Candidates match of 1971; did Taimanov really miss a way to tear down his opponent's King's Indian Defence?

Of the many interesting moments in the book, I found this one to be particularly instructive.

E.Znosko-Borovsky-A.Alekhine Paris 1933



Alekhine gives a lengthy explanation of Black's best plan and went on to win in what appears to be very comfortable fashion (0-1, 55). However, the authors rightly point out that "One of the things which computers have shown us is how extensive are the defensive resources in chess."

There are some fascinating new twists and turns, and they start with the very next move. What could be simpler than opposing the rook on the open file?

22 ♖d1

Yet control of the d-file turns out to be irrelevant and Alekhine immediately switched to a different avenue.

22... ♗g8

Alekhine then used his h-pawn to trade on

g3, effectively swapping a potentially weak isolated pawn for a stronger counterpart, but the engines preferred to push the pawn all the way to h3, where it will prove to be a constant thorn in White's kingside and even set up endgame bishop sacrifices on g3.

This is all further evidence of the extremely creative way in which the engines use the rook's pawns and goes far beyond throwing them forward to assist an early middlegame attack.

The postscript – What can we learn? – summarises the salient points from the games, revealing the six most important themes based on the improvements provided by the engines, such as 'grab space!'

Anyone who enjoyed *Game Changer* by Matthew Sadler and Natasha Regan (New in Chess, 2019) and *The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement* by Matthew Sadler (New in Chess, 2021) will definitely feel at home in this new book and for everyone unfamiliar with the two previous books...well, where have you been?

Sean Marsh



Spassky's Best Games: A Chess Biography

Alexey Bezgodov & Dmitry Oleinikov,
284 pages, New in Chess

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Boris Spassky, the 10th world champion, may now be inactive, but he has enjoyed a long and very successful career in chess, which has not been without its mysterious and controversial elements.

Rumours of a forthcoming autobiography have abounded for several years, but these have been watered down by Spassky's alleged extreme laziness and, in more recent years, very bad health. Additionally, despite playing such consistently excellent chess throughout the 1960s and earning the title of world champion at the second attempt, against Tigran Petrosian, his great friend and rival, Spassky appears to be destined to be best remembered as the man who very famously lost the title to Bobby Fischer in 1972 and then helped his 'frenemy' return to chess, albeit temporarily, 20 years later.

Yet there is a lot more to Spassky than

merely being a famous runner-up. His results in the Candidates matches of the 1960s were extremely impressive, as he dispatched a whole range of top players in tremendous style on his way to finally taking the ultimate title.

Why don't we have more books about Spassky and his wonderful games? Why isn't there a deeper investigation into his controversial life and career? His bizarre antics in the extraordinary 1977/78 Candidates Final against Viktor Korchnoi were clearly intended as a last, desperate attempt to prevent Korchnoi from reaching the 1978 title match against Anatoly Karpov (which Korchnoi came close to winning, a feat that would have had catastrophic consequences for Karpov's career). What we don't know is how many of Spassky's actions – against someone who had always been his friend – were the result of direct orders from above.

There were plenty of other controversial incidents too; remarkably so for a man who is usually remembered as being a perfect gentleman. He played suspiciously badly against Karpov, but had the temerity to finish above him in the Linares tournament of 1983, thus breaking the unwritten(?) rule of the time, which essentially meant his fellow Soviets didn't try too hard to finish above him in tournaments during his tenure as world champion.

Unfortunately, most of the controversial parts of Spassky's life are probably never going to be explained, but we still have his games to enjoy. This welcome new book is presented in two main parts. The first gives a biography of Spassky, written by Dmitry Oleinikov, director of the chess museum in Moscow, and the second offers just over 60 games, annotated mainly by Alexey Bezgodov, with Dmitry Kryakvin and Steve Giddins adding a smaller number of their own Spassky favourites.

Remmelt Otten was a driving force behind the creation of this book. "When I took over from Allard Hoogland as the publisher of New In Chess, one of my goals was to create an attractive and accessible overview of Spassky's illustrious career in one volume. This book is exactly what I had hoped for."

He, too, admits the story of Spassky's life (to date) is frustratingly incomplete. "What remains shrouded in mystery is why in 2012 Spassky left France to return to Russia. Maybe one day we will know with certainty why and how he 'escaped'. Sadly, there seems to be little hope that Spassky himself will provide the answer to this question."

Garry Kasparov provides a short foreword in which he says: "Boris Spassky was my first chess idol" and credits his great predecessor with certain choices in his early opening repertoire, such as the Tarrasch Defence to the Queen's Gambit. Vladimir Kramnik goes much further, with six pages of memories from the times he spent with Spassky, which provides a notable insight of his life and ethos.

"In 2002, Boris invited me to stay for a week at his dacha in Grenoble. I had a short break between tournaments, there was no point in travelling to Moscow, and I gladly accepted the invitation. Spassky said: 'Come, we can work on chess!' To be honest, I

suspected that we wouldn't be doing much, but this did not put me off – it was interesting to talk with Boris. Indeed, we did not really sit at the chessboard. We ate well, played tennis and took long walks."

Spassky's opening choices were rich and varied. He could provide a model example of an almost perfect victory in a Ruy Lopez one day and then in the next game as White he would return to his old favourite, the King's Gambit, with which he never lost a serious game, with victims including David Bronstein, Bobby Fischer and Anatoly Karpov. He would also experiment extensively with Black, even at the highest level. Who else would try the Hippopotamus Defence against Tigran Petrosian in a title match?

Alexey Bezgodov, in his introduction to the games' section of the book, makes several interesting comments on Spassky's approach to the openings, such as this one, on the subject of Spassky's relatively toothless approach to tackling the Petroff Defence.

"In the aforementioned main match of his life against Petrosian, Spassky twice used a harmless continuation against the Petroff Defence, with the exchange of queens, and twice the game quickly ended in a draw. Garry Kasparov, Isaak Boleslavsky and Zenon Franco have all expressed confidence that, if the discussion in the Petroff had continued, Spassky would have chosen a different, more dangerous continuation. However, Boris answered my direct question without hesitation – he would have continued to exchange queens. Spassky, with his amazing instinct, understood that Petrosian himself would abandon the Petroff. And so it happened, which eventually led Petrosian to defeat in the match."

To understand that Petrosian, one of the most patient of all champions, would 'blink first' despite the lack of difficulties in the line in question was quite remarkable foresight by Spassky. Stories such as these represent the best parts of the book; they provide information which has not been revealed elsewhere.

Regarding Spassky's strange and extremely lucrative 'world championship' match against Bobby Fischer in 1992, it is well known that Fischer won a fabulous first game, but then Spassky was able to hit back strongly. "The sixth game was critical. I played for a draw with White, but Bobby played so badly that my position became winning. This gave me a chance to lead with three wins and two draws [...] I wanted to win the match, but [...] I was afraid: Bobby might just leave the match and chess forever [...] Bobby escaped and his creative energy was restored. He regained his confidence." Or, as Nikitin, one of Spassky's seconds, put it: "We were afraid that Bobby would quit playing and leave and our bank accounts would be left crying."

Within the first 28 games, there is the inevitable crossover with Bernard Cafferty's excellent *Spassky's 100 Best Games* (Batsford, 1972). The games from beyond that period still show some of the old Spassky sparkle, with some concluding quickly after a deadly tactical blow, such as the one seen here.

B.Spassky-H.Pfleger Munich 1979



17 ♕xf7+! ♖xf7 18 ♔h5+ g6 19 ♗hx7+ ♕f8 20 h4 1-0

This is a good, solid collection of Spassky's best games with very accessible annotations and a decent overview of his life. Therefore, the book delivers exactly what the publisher intended it to do and makes for a very enjoyable reading experience. Yet the full story of Spassky remains tantalisingly just out of reach and unless he really has been working on his autobiography then this is more than likely to remain the case.

Sean Marsh



A Complete Opening Repertoire for Black after 1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6! – Volume 2: Ragozin & Anti-Catalan

Dariusz Swiercz, 456 pages, paperback
RRP £33.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £30.55**

The Polish-American Grandmaster completes his detailed repertoire for Black against 1 d4 with this second volume for Thinkers Publishing. After 1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 Swiercz advocates 3 ♗f3 d5 then 4 ♗c3 ♕b4 and 4 g3 ♕b4+, explaining the key motifs for each side while presenting plenty of new ideas and especially supplying a pretty solid and reliable if not undynamic set of lines.

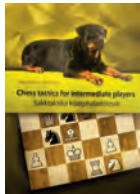


Chess Informant 156 – Mesmerized

Chess Informant, 350 pages, paperback
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £36.95**

The latest 'Informator' continues to supply not just all the classic languageless sections, not least the hundreds of latest important opening developments, but a number of features and some very interesting ones at

that. Both Danny Gormally and Indian GM Shyam Sundar reflect on the world championship match, there are detailed surveys on the English Opening, Maroczy Bind and Sämisch King's Indian, and Douglas Griffin looks back at the crazy draw that was Vaganian-Gulko, Baku 1977.



Chess Tactics for Intermediate Players

Andras Meszaros, 132 pages, paperback
RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

This new work is published by Hungarian Chess World and pretty much does what it says on the cover, the Hungarian IM presenting 504 positions to solve with the solutions at the end.

In the same series, there's also *Endgame Tactics, Sacrifices, Tactical Training for Beginners, Tactics 1x1 and Typical Mates*, all of which retail at £9.99 (Subscribers – £8.99), or you may wish to purchase all six from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £55 or just £49.50 for Subscribers.

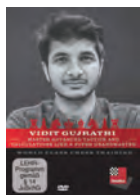
Also now available in English is Meszaros's *Traps in the Opening*, which presents 250 opening traps over its 228 pages. This is a pretty definitive set of the most common opening pitfalls to avoid and retails at £19.99 or £17.99 for Subscribers.



J.R. Capablanca: A Biography 1888-1925 & J.R. Capablanca: A Biography 1926-1942

Egon Varnusz, 164 & 152 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Recently released too from Hungarian Chess World is this two-volume games collection on the third world champion by the late Hungarian IM Egon Varnusz. It covers many classic Capablanca masterpieces, with the first volume devoted to the great Cuban's 'First Golden Age' and the second on 'At the Top: Games 1926-1942'.



Master Advanced Tactics and Calculations Like a Super Grandmaster

Vidit Gujrathi, PC-DVD; 5 hours, 26 minutes
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

This latest ChessBase DVD is devoted to advanced tactics and calculation. We see the strong Indian Grandmaster tackling a number of positions and so can observe when he

relies on intuition and when brute calculation is required. Sitting alongside Vidit is the leading Indian presenter and chess journalist Sagar Shah, who asks some pertinent questions and aims to break down the super-GM's thinking in a way fully accessible to the club player. The presenters also offer 95 specially selected positions for users to solve, ones which along with the detailed solutions should certainly help to improve pattern recognition as well as calculation.



Origins: Ruy Lopez: Book I: Black Avoids 3...a6

Carsten Hansen & Cyrus Lakdawala, 172 pages, paperback

RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

The prolific authors have once again teamed up, here with the first work in a new series, 'Chess Opening Origins'. The goal is to present a "big picture" and so educate the reader in the history, development and key ideas of the opening in question, in this case the Lopez without ...a6, so, yes, there is plenty of coverage of the Berlin Wall. Recommended especially for the club player keen to finally switch to the Spanish and become familiar with its main motifs and some essential theory.

Also new is *Modern Endgame Studies* by Jacques Mieses (112 pages, paperback, RRP £11.99, Subscribers – £10.79), which has been translated, updated and edited by Carsten Hansen, thereby shining a light on the 100 classic studies which the great German-British player selected to illustrate many crucial facets of endgame play.

On the theme of the endgame, there's also *Chess Endgame Planning* by Carsten Hansen and Cyrus Lakdawala (248 pages, RRP £18.99, Subscribers – £17.09), which looks like a very worthy and useful practical work. Strong players often know exactly what to aim for in an endgame and here the emphasis is on teaching that 'feel' to the club player, so that readers will know when to dig in and when to defend actively, as well as how to better judge potential exchanges and learn more about the subtle art of grinding.



Rolf Martens: Chess Genius – Maoist – Rebel

Axel Smith, Frederik Danelius & Calle Erlandsson, 384 pages, hardback
RRP £46.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £42.25**

This fascinating new work from Thinkers Publishing looks at the life and chess of Rolf Martens (1942-2008), a player with an almost

mythological status within the world of Swedish chess. Martens shot to fame when he won the 1967 Swedish Championship whilst playing extremely quickly, but it wasn't long before he'd stopped playing to become a left-wing political activist. Martens would return to chess, but as an analyst, coming up with an amazing array of outlandish opening ideas, including the Norwegian Rat, the Snake Benoni and 1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 a6!?. Beautifully illustrated throughout, *Rolf Martens: Chess Genius – Maoist – Rebel* is a most enjoyable read and should especially appeal to all actual or wannabee chess mavericks.



The Essential Sosenko

Genna Sosonko, 840 pages, hardback
RRP £52.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £47.65**

This lavish new hardback brings together Genna Sosonko's large cannon of work for New in Chess – published in such books as *Russian Silhouettes* – with some additional writing from the great storyteller, and on such players as Bronstein and Spassky. In total there are some 59 pen portraits, revealing much about certain famous players, as well as what chess was really like during its heyday in the Soviet Union. Sosonko worked with such greats as Tal and Korchnoi ahead of emigrating to the West in 1972 and remains arguably the expert on the post-war Soviet world of chess. All fans of chess history will surely but enjoy this new work, while we can but echo Garry Kasparov in his Foreword as he hopes "that Genna will be able to save many more characters and destinies for the future."



What Chess Coaches Don't Tell You

John & Victoria Doknjas, 384 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

There have certainly been a number of fascinating chess books published of late, including too this latest release from Everyman Chess. As the mother of three strong players and as someone who has run her own chess academy, Victoria Doknjas knows all too well all about chess improvement and how each player has their own specific needs. By teaming up with FM son John, she aims to help all aspiring players train better, beginning by working out suitable goals and learning how best to analyse your own games. Useful advice is also given on creating an opening database, getting the best out of training games and developing a will to win.

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