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# Chess

## RESULT!

**MAJOR INVESTMENT TO TRANSFORM  
FUTURE OF ENGLISH CHESS ANNOUNCED**



Mercurial Mickey - Class tells as Michael Adams wins a hard-fought British Championship



How *not* to win - Terry Chapman explains how tournament success eluded him at Leicester



Slow Burner - Julian Way on on learning from the precise, strategic play of Amos Burn



# NEW IN CHESS BOOKS



## 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.



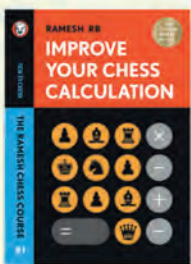
## Spassky's Best Games – A Chess Biography *Alexey Bezgodov & Dmitry Oleinikov*

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 Bezgodov and Dmitry Oleinikov contains 61 of his best games and a biographical sketch of 140 pages.



## 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*

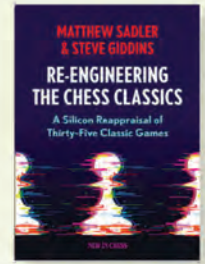


## Exciting Opening Tactics *Dean Ippolito*

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.

## 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.



## 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.



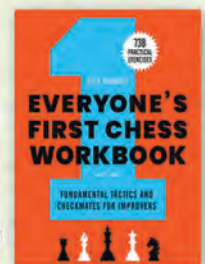
## The Give and Take of Chess Tactics *Joel Benjamin*

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!



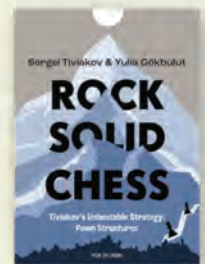
## Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers *Peter Giannatos*

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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# 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.

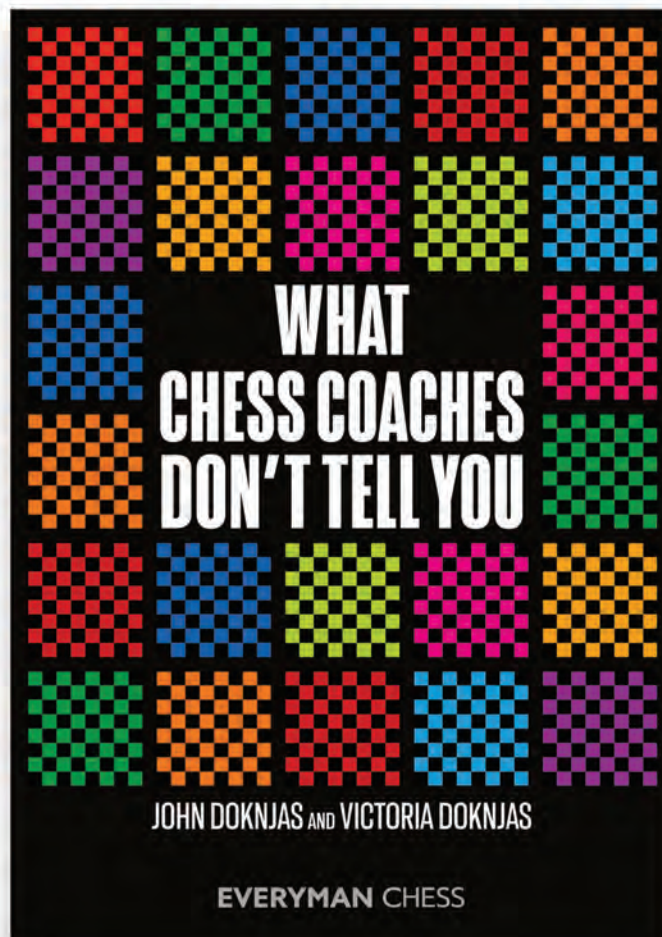
*NM Vladimir Drkulec, President,  
Chess Federation of Canada*

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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# A Pivotal Encounter

One of the success stories of the British was Steven Jones, who annotates a key win

The eighth round of the British was a tough proposition, facing a strong improving IM who beat me in our previous encounter in 2021. I had three different Sicilians to prepare for and ended up in a rich line of the Paulsen I had previously never ventured into.

**S.Jones–T.Kanyamarala**  
British Chess Championship,  
Leicester 2023  
*Sicilian Kan*

**1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 a6 5 ♕d3 ♙c5 6 ♗b3 ♙a7 7 0-0 ♗c6**

This is one of Black's three moves often played in the position. Arguably, 7...♗e7 is safest as it does not entice White's aggressive next. Examples of how the game can develop include 7...d6 8 ♖g4 ♗f6 (if 8...♗f6 9 ♙g5 ♗h6 10 ♗h4 ♖g6 11 ♙e2) 9 ♖xg7 ♗g8 10 ♗h6 and 7...♗e7 8 ♗e2 ♗bc6 9 ♙e3 0-0 10 ♙xa7 ♗xa7 11 c4 d6 12 ♗c3.

**8 ♖g4 ♗f6?!**

8...♗f6 9 ♖xg7 ♗g8 10 ♗h6 ♗e5 11 ♙e2 is a more popular interpretation of the position.

**9 ♗c3 ♗e7**

Deviating from the 9...d6 10 ♗g3 ♗e5 11 ♙e2 of Morozevich-Andreikin, World Blitz Championship, Astana 2012.

**10 ♙g5 ♖g6 11 ♗h4**

White should not be concerned about moving the queen again. In such positions, g4 is not actually a great square for her; she went there to disrupt Black's kingside and now needs a new home with her job done.

**11...f6 12 ♙d2 ♖f7**



I think this is a good moment to take stock of the position. This might be as much to do with taste as objectivity, but I already have some suspicions about the black position.

Expanding on the kingside would leave the king with no safe home, so we can presume Black will soon castle short.

White is going to play f2-f4 to take central control. Black then cannot really play ...d6 as in combination with ...f6, the e6-square would be too tender and f4-f5 will be too powerful at the right moment. Rook lifts via f3 also seem potentially powerful.

So Black is going to have to solve his development of the queenside bishop by moving his b-pawn. But this has a serious drawback too. In Sicilians where Black plays ...b7-b5 he typically needs either:

- i. White to have castled queenside; or
- ii. Black's dark-squared bishop on the a3-f8 diagonal.

Otherwise, a2-a4 is usually too dangerous. If White has castled long then there is no risk of this and if the bishop is still controlling the b4-square, then Black can push the pawn on without it becoming too weak.

Here I think we see the combination of the bishop on a7 and move ...f7-f6 create novel positional problems. It is still playable I am sure, but there are issues that need to be worked around.

**13 ♗h1 b5 14 f4 ♙b7 15 ♗h3!**

The start of a plan to probe the black queenside that has been weakened by ...b5.

**15...0-0 16 ♙e3**

Exchanging the dark-squared bishops weakens Black's entire queenside complex.

**16...♗fc8 17 ♗c5 ♙xc5 18 ♙xc5 ♗a5**

**19 ♖e3 ♗g6**



**20 b4?!**

A better sequence might have been 20 a4 ♗c4 21 ♙xc4 bxc4 22 a5, but even stronger is 20 b3!. This is a really nice idea, removing ...♗c4 ideas before hitting out with a2-a4.

**20...♗c4?!**

20...d6! 21 ♙xd6 ♗c4 22 ♙xc4 ♗xc4 23 ♙c5 f5 gives Black good activity and compensation.

**21 ♙xc4 bxc4 22 ♗a4?!**

This phase of the game is very instructive. All of the moves make perfect positional sense, but the devil is in the detail, and if Black had been a bit more sensitive to tactical opportunities he could have improved his position rapidly.

**22...f5?!**

The critical line seems to be 22...d6! 23 ♙xd6 ♗d7 24 ♗c5 ♖xd6 25 ♗xb7 ♖xb4 26 ♗ab1 ♖e7 27 e5.

**23 e5!**



Tarun said that he missed this move when he chose not to play 20...d6 and now missed future opportunities, believing he was already losing. The black queenside is unsalvageable

**23...♗h4 24 ♗f2 h6 25 ♗b6 ♗h7 26 ♗xc4?! ♖g6 27 ♖g3 ♗h5 28 ♗d6**

28 ♗b6 ♗g8 29 ♗xa8 ♙xa8 30 ♖h3 would have been objectively best, but also given Black an improved version of the game.

**28...♙c6**

28...♗xc5! 29 bxc5 ♙c6 supplies real compensation.

**29 ♗xc8 ♗xc8 30 c4 ♗g8**



We have a situation where I know I am winning objectively, but Black's play has



Often deep in thought, Steven Jones has long been an excellent calculator and danger to all titled players, but can also manoeuvre adroitly as Tarun Kanyamarala found out to his cost.

become very simple: win the g2-square at all costs. The next phase of the play is less obvious for White, as the extra exchange does not have a clear way of telling quickly. In an ideal world I would quickly sacrifice a rook back for the bishop, but this is not easy to arrange. Instead, after much thought, I managed to find a way of holding on the attack long enough to get the queenside pawn mass up the board.

**31 ♖e7 ♗g6 32 ♘d6 ♗h4 33 ♖h3! g5**

Of course, 33...♗xg2?? fails to 34 ♖xh5 ♗xf4+ 35 ♖f3.

**34 ♖e7!**



Black is paralysed. The pins down the h-file and h4-d8 diagonal prevent him from reorganising anything, and now White's queenside and grip on the d-file take the day.

**34...♗g7 35 a4 ♖f7**

Or 35...♗xa4 36 b5! axb5 37 ♖d2

and things are easy with the bishop frozen out the game.

**36 ♗f6 ♖g6 37 b5 ♖e4**

Step one is complete: the bishop has been pushed from the defence of the weak d-pawn.

**38 ♖d1 ♖e8**

38...♗xg2 39 ♖xg2 gxf4 40 ♖xd7+ ♖e8 41 ♖d8+ ♖f7 42 ♖xg8 also wins.

**39 fxg5**

39 ♖a3! is even better.

**39...♖h5 40 ♖e1 hxg5 41 ♖d2 ♖g6**

**42 ♖a3 ♖g7 43 ♖xe4 ♖h7 44 ♖c5 fxe4**



**45 ♖c8+**

Another way of doing it was 45 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 46 ♖c8+ ♖f7 47 ♖xd7+ ♖g6 48 ♖e8+ ♖h6 49 ♖g7+! ♖xg7 50 ♖xh5.

**45...♖f7 46 ♖xd7+ ♖g6 47 ♖g8+ ♖f5**

**48 ♖xh7+ 1-0**

The e-pawn can be picked up by the white king, so it is game over.



## A little bird just told me

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

### Peter Wells - @GMPeteWells

Exciting last round at the #BritishChess-Championship. Congratulations to Lan Yao on retaining her title in a strong field featuring some encouraging performances for the future of English women's chess. Kudos too to Steven Jones on a superb 6.5, likely to mean clear second place.

### Natasha Regan - @NatashaRegan123

Some pictures from the European Senior Teams champs in Swidnica that finished last week. England got 2 golds (50+ and women 50+) a silver (65+) and a bronze (50+), and was awesome at arbiting too!! @ecfchess @ecfwomen @ShohrehBayat

### 2700chess - @2700chess

18 y/o Keymer (2720.4 +19.4) beats Carlsen in Round 4.1 #FIDEWorldCup and moves to World#24 on the live rating list with TPR of 3050(!).

### Express Sports - @IExpressSports

"No matter how many Indians get to the next level, get to the Candidates or maybe even enter the World Championships and become the World Champion, @vishy64-the king sir will always be the special one," @DGukesh told The Indian Express recently.

### Hikaru Nakamura - @GMHikaru

I'm playing the brilliant and strong @rpragchess today as the #fideworldcup progresses to the 4th round. Watch @gmjlh and @fionchetta cover it at kick.com/gmhikaru and send energy!

### Viswanathan Anand - @vishy64theking

And Praggnanandhaa does it! Eliminating one of the pre tournament favourites Hikaru Nakamura to go through to the next round. A truly impressive performance by Prag! @FIDE\_chess #FIDEWorldCup

### ChessWAG - @ChessWAG

Wonderful to hear @TelegraphChess and @SarahLongson5 on @BBCr4today. I would love to see the @ecfchess work harder at retaining women in the game. It's notable how quickly they disappear once reach teenager-dom. #WomenInSport

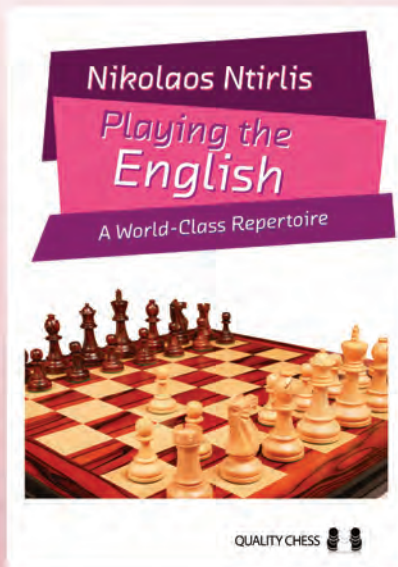
### Eliot Wilson - @EliotWilson2

Cynicism is always easy. Some have dismissed the government's £500k grant to chess as a gimmick. But listen to what @TelegraphChess said: for those it affects, this is transformational. It's @INEOSGrenadiers marginal gains, as I write in @CityAM.



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## 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.

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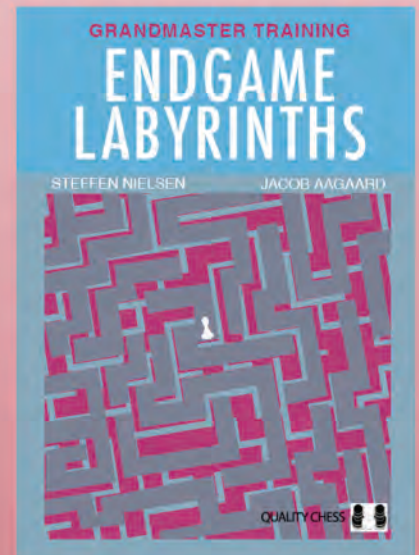
**Nikolaos Ntirlis** is an award-winning author, openings expert and Correspondence IM. He has taught the English to students ranging from club players to Grandmasters, and this repertoire is specifically tailored towards practical rather than correspondence players.

## Coming soon – Endgame Labyrinths

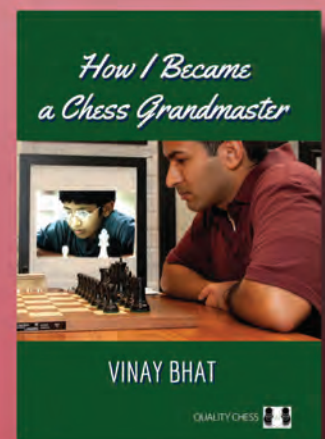
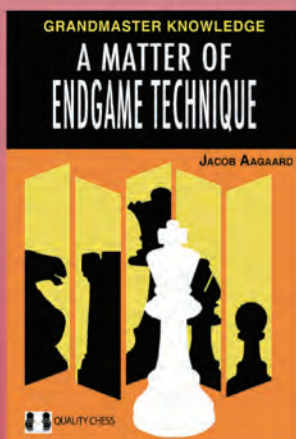
**Endgame Labyrinths** presents the reader with 1002 endgame studies, selected and truncated with their usefulness for the practical player in mind. It took years of extensive selection, analysis and refinement to compile the study book offering the greatest possible value for the practical player.

**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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# 60 Seconds with... Steven Jones

**Born:** Warrington, 1992.

**Place of residence:** Basingstoke.

**Occupation:** Project Manager, for a market consultancy company called Uptake Strategies.

**Enjoyable?** Yes! Maintaining a chess/work balance has always been tricky, but since starting at Uptake last October I've found things much easier to juggle. It's a client-facing role and I enjoy working with people, so it suits me perfectly.

**And home life?** I'm very lucky with my day-to-day. I've been with my long-term partner for ten and a half years now and she is the biggest positive influence in my life, chess-wise and beyond. We moved into our house about three years ago, I have some wonderful friends, and I really can't complain.

**But sometimes good to escape to:** Tough one! I don't really do 'downtime', as I like being busy and having personal projects to work on. If I'm not playing chess then I can get pretty avid about video games or trying to meet up with friends, but I don't really relax by doing nothing.

**Sports played or followed:** I've been a big Manchester United fan, growing up where I did in the world with a family from Manchester, but I also love tennis, cricket, boxing, Formula One... You name it, I'll watch it! I used to play football and swam, but you get to the point where chess doesn't leave time for other hobbies, and of all the games in the world, chess has something fundamentally special about it.

**A favourite novel?** *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

**Piece of music?** I like to find songs for each big tournament I play and play them on repeat every day to create a pattern, which has led me to listening in quite a broad, scattergun way. Ben Howard's *Every Kingdom* album was released around when I started university, so I'll go with it, for both its quality and being tied to a very positive time in my life.

**Film or TV series?** I think film, as in general the best films I have watched really stick in my mind that little bit more.



**What's the best thing about playing chess?** The immersion. I love getting completely absorbed in the game to the point where the sense of self gets lost and there is no outside world. Everything narrows and becomes about the game, which is a wonderful place to exist. It's why even though the speedier time controls can be fun, I think they are ultimately a less enjoyable variation of the game.

**And the worst?** The drawing margin. It's a shame that chess has such an inherent drawing property, and I really don't like that offering draws in chess is a thing.

**Your best move?** I played my favourite sequence when I was a junior, with an ECF grade of 86. I don't have the full score, but I was so happy that I can recall the game and that the date was October 14th.



**J.Vernon-S.Jones**  
Warrington League 2006



Here I found **17...♖xe4! 18 ♜xe4 ♔xa3!!** which I still look back on fondly nearly two decades later. The point is, of course, that after **19 bxa3**, I am mating by force with **19...bxa3+ 20 ♔c1 ♜b2+ 21 ♔b1 a2#**. My opponent fought on with **19 c3**, but lost soon after.

**But less memorable than your worst move?** There are so many bad blunders I can think of! This has always been my Achilles' heel, playing lousy simple moves that ruin hard work. I had a moment last year that really takes the cake though, leaving my queen completely en prise because I was thinking about finesses around c-pawn exchanges in an equal position.

**T.Seymour-S.Jones**  
Leamington Spa 2022



I had one of my moments that has held me back, and just didn't identify that **15 ♜d1** had attacked my queen for the second time and so played **15...dxc4??**. Not a fun thing to do.

**And a highly memorable opponent?** John Littlewood. He had come to the junior club I was a part of a few months before I played him and gave a lecture which was so informative to start. I then had the chance to face him in a rapidplay game that summer and managed to draw as Black. He smiled at me afterwards and remarked that I had

improved since his lecture. That was my first game against a titled player and during the game I felt so alive; it was just a pleasure to be at the board with him and have that opportunity. I still have the game record in my trophy cabinet.

**Favourite game of all time?** My favourite game I have played has to be the first time I ever played the King's Indian. I played an IM at the 2015 London Classic that I had lost to as Black in a Nimzo-Indian the year before, and had just finished getting the KID ready for its debut. I could never have expected the game to have been so wild [Ed. – *Do check out Haugli-Jones in this month's PGN download!*], my opponent's king castled short and ended up on b1, me with a rook against a queen, but dangerous attacking chances. It was just such a fun game to be involved in.

**The best three chess books:** I love Jonathan Rowson's books which have made a huge impression on me. I think I'd give *Seven Deadly Chess Sins* the nod as my favourite book of his. I also love *How to Become a Deadly Chess Tactician* by David LeMoir and had the pleasure of meeting David when playing in the British Chess Championships as a junior. And for the final spot I will go with *The Sveshnikov Reloaded* by Dorian Rogozenko. It is such a good book to get to grips with the opening even if some lines don't quite hold up 18 years later. It helped me find my favourite answer to 1 e4, so it has to make the cut.

**Is FIDE doing a good job?** I think we always see the areas we would like to be different and grumble, but in lots of ways, yes. There are fantastic events they run, in particular the FIDE World Cup and Olympiad are great, and it is easy to forget that it is relatively recent to when we didn't have a unified world championship title, so that's all really positive.

There are though things I would like to see done differently, mainly around reducing the amount of closed all-play-all events for players in the world's top 20 or so. I just get bored watching the same guys play each other for the dozenth time that year, and much prefer watching Swiss tournaments and seeing how the 2700s demonstrate what makes them 100-200 points stronger than the average GM. I don't want chess to be a closed field and for there being too few events for players to take a shot against the big boys – if we did the British Championships like that then I wouldn't be doing this interview right now – so that would be my biggest hope for change.

**Or your National Federation?** There are some fantastic people in English chess. I think what the ECF does really well is run a congress calendar that allows chess to be played broadly, and is reputable, while wanting chess to thrive with no personal gains getting in the way. Not every federation can say that, so I want to be appreciative of those qualities.

As a later developer in chess though, I felt there were few resources available to me, and I have had to outwork and have more desire than players I could have caught more easily with some structured support. Ultimately I didn't do enough to earn that, so that's on me, but I feel that there isn't enough interest in the non-prodigy types. It isn't hard from a talent recognition point of view to take the ten juniors with the biggest ratings and see they have aptitude, but there isn't enough thought going into which players are going to love the game the most, who is going to put it ahead of their education, and who, from my outside perspective, has the softer skills to be worth investing in. I think if we also start promoting players with those dispositions we would have more success in developing English chess overall.

**Any advice for either?** My overarching advice is that chess is a special game to those who play it. Our game isn't the most aesthetically beautiful to the uninitiated, so building bottom up makes way more sense than top down. If you want more high-level players and engagement, focus on introducing chess and making an extra few hundred casual players. A percentage of them will get it in the blood, and will drive for more, and they'll push each other. Things like speeding up the game or trying to fast-track GMs out of juniors wouldn't be my idea of how we nurture our game.

**Can chess make one happy?** Tremendously! It's so precious to me. I got lucky that I found my dream pastime at a young age. It hurts too, and I think the challenging oxymoron is that the people who enjoy it the most will also feel the most negative emotions, because it means so much. It's worth persisting though. I have made education and career decisions that support my chess over economics, and I have no doubts it has created a happier version of myself.

**A tip please for the club player:** Be introspective! I think having a strong identity as a player, about you do well and what you don't, and what you will need to do to improve, is an important skill in any field, but especially in chess. Outside advice can be useful, but you need to know your game better than anyone else and have these thoughts on what you are going to do next processing in the back of your mind around the clock.

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# This Month's New Releases



## Max Euwe's Best Games

Jan Timman, 304 pages  
New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

When thinking of the great world champions of chess, Max Euwe's name is one of the most likely to slip the mind. Even if he is remembered, it is usually with the caveat that he only beat Alexander Alekhine because the latter was inebriated during their 1935 title match and easily won back the crown when he had a rematch, in which he was sober, in 1937. Additionally, finishing rock-bottom of the 1948 world championship match tournament does little to change the initial impression that Euwe just happened to be in the right place at the right time back in 1935, when Alekhine was pointedly avoiding the highly anticipated rematch with Jose Raul Capablanca.

Yet this is all rather too simplistic. For a start, it was hardly a novelty for Alekhine to play while under the influence of alcohol. Then there is the point that Euwe defeated Alekhine twice in tournament games between their two matches and the fact that his tenure on the throne lasted longer than that of both Vasily Smyslov and Mikhail Tal.

Jan Timman's new book presents a very positive appreciation of Euwe, by means of 80 well-annotated games, spanning his early years (the first game is from 1920) all the way to a game against Genna Sosonko in 1975, in which the 74-year-old former champion let a considerable endgame advantage slip away to a draw.

Timman has already written about his personal memories of Euwe in *Timman's Titans* (New in Chess, 2017) and this new book focuses almost entirely on the games, so there is no overlap between the two volumes.

Euwe's depth of preparation is one of the reasons he was able to become such a powerful player. This was despite his status as an amateur player. Timman's excellent notes reveal the style of Euwe, whose fine attacking style (leading Reuben Fine to describe him as an "efficient, man-eating tiger") will surprise those who have not previously examined his games. In the following snippet, one would be forgiven for

thinking the names of the players had been inadvertently transposed.

## M.Euwe-A.Alekhine Stuttgart 1937



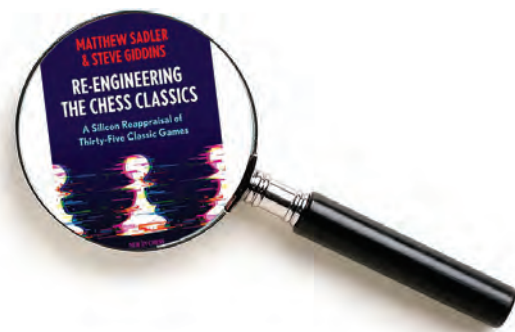
White sacrificed a pawn and built up a fabulous attack, which even the great Alekhine cannot repel. It is as if the (then) former world champion is having to play against one of his own powerful attacks.

**31...f4 32 exf4 a5 33 f5 a4 34 f6 g6 35 h4 ♗xd6 36 ♜xd6 h5 37 ♞e6 1-0**

This defeat must have hurt Alekhine. With the rematch for the title just a couple of months away, Euwe was clearly on excellent form. He won this four-player tournament, ahead of Efim Bogoljubow, Alekhine and Friedrich Sämisch. Timman claims, "In Stuttgart, Euwe had shown that he was really the strongest player in the world" and points out that he began the rematch as not only the highest-ranked player in the world (according to the Chessmetrics website), but also the favourite to win again. However, despite a promising start, Euwe could no longer hold back the resurgent Alekhine and the title changed hands again.

Euwe was past his prime when he played in the famous 1953 Zurich Candidates tournament, but he was already 52 years old. That did not prevent him from winning some very notable games and his victories against Efim Geller, Mark Taimanov and Miguel Najdorf are all given the full Timman treatment.

A number of excellent photographs are sprinkled throughout the book and the livery is in keeping with *Spassky's Best Games*, also published by New in Chess, which we reviewed last time, so presumably this is going to be an ongoing series. It is good to see the underappreciated games of Max Euwe receive



some attention at last. This book should help chess fans to fill in potential gaps in their knowledge and see Euwe in a whole new light.

Sean Marsh



## Korchnoi Year by Year Volume I (1945-1968)

Hans Renette & Tibor Karolyi, 550 pages  
Elk and Ruby

RRP £41.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £37.75**

Elk and Ruby continue their admirable commitment to chess history with the first of four volumes on the man whose career outlasted all of his contemporaries, battled for success in the world chess championship across many decades and who was, without any shadow of doubt, one of the most brilliant and uncompromising players of all – the great Viktor Korchnoi.

Such was the length of Korchnoi's career that this first volume, despite a hefty page-count and 181 games (or game snippets), only takes the story to 1968 – a decade before he reached his peak. Yet even during this time scale, Korchnoi had already played in two cycles of the Candidates, won the Soviet Championship three times, beaten just about everyone (Paul Keres was always 'the one who got away'), and won numerous other strong tournaments.

Korchnoi was fearless, both on the board and away from it, controversial, ambitious, and severely self-critical. 'Viktor the Terrible', 'The Leningrad Lip'...he had nicknames long before they became popular in the worlds of snooker and darts. He was so outspoken that it is remarkable he was allowed to continue for so long under the Soviet regime.

In this book, there is the formidable collaboration of respected author and chess historian Hans Renette and Tibor Karolyi, who excels at writing about the games of chess giants. Here, they explain their respective reasons for taking on such a massive project. In Renette's words:

"First of all, I remember well the book with his 400 games published shortly after his defection. I played over many of these games in the early 90s and found them both intriguing as well as difficult. Secondly,



Korchnoi's longevity as a chess player was a true challenge. Initially, it was my purpose to focus on his stay in the West, but for obvious reasons a complete biography is far more interesting and with the availability of the most important Russian chess magazines and translation software, this became feasible."

Indeed, *Korchnoi's 400 Best Games* (Batsford, 1978) remains an inspirational book and one which should be in the library of every Korchnoi fan. Even at 400 games, it only took the story of his career up to the eve of his first title match with Anatoly Karpov.

Karolyi is equally enthusiastic and, given his highly impressive output to date, he is certainly in a very good position to judge the strength of Korchnoi in comparison to numerous other top players:

"There is so much to learn from his games. I have written books on Soviet world champions Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Karpov and Kasparov, and judge Korchnoi the second-best among those players at openings, behind Kasparov, as well as the second-best in endgames, behind Karpov. Arguably, nobody was a greater and more fearless fighter than him. Probably no other player produced as many exciting fighting games as Korchnoi. There was never a dull moment when he played chess, with countless superb games."

There was never a dull moment away from the chess board either and the authors present numerous tales which may be new to most readers, such as this one.

"Viktor the Terrible was a womanizer, and when a stunning beauty once tried to interview him and pass a long waiting line at a signing session, he complied as long as she would join him for a coffee later on. She agreed and posed her first question: 'Do you still play chess?' Korchnoi turned his head, growled and his eyes filled with blood. 'If you ever want to become good at your job, I suggest you do your homework.' There was no more room for questions and he was even unwilling to hear her voice anymore. She became scared and left in tears. Also at the board, Korchnoi was renowned for his 'dirty mouth', such as his famous attack on Sofia Polgar. Throughout the book, the reader will encounter many more such stories and recollections of people who met and knew Korchnoi."

Careful study of Korchnoi's games from this period reveal far greater depths to his game than the stereotypical suggestion that he simply grabbed material and waited for the correct moment to launch a counterattack. We frequently see him castling long and launching early attacks, with the h-file being the rather surprising territory often chosen by such a famed counterpuncher.

Korchnoi's openings were combative too. In later years, after 1 e4, he was often found on the black side of the French Defence or Open Ruy Lopez, but earlier on he really mixed it up as Black, with the Sicilian appearing very frequently (in various forms too, including the Dragon; it wasn't by any means a one-off surprise weapon which backfired against Karpov in game two of their

1974 Candidates match), and the Alekhine Defence being relied upon in some very important games. We also have the rare sight of Korchnoi using the King's Indian and Benoni against 1 d4, especially when he took great delight in tearing those defences apart when he had the white pieces.

Korchnoi very rarely accepted early draws and every game in this book shows a full chess struggle in action. There is a feast of fighting chess, with Korchnoi resolutely refusing to do things the simple way (again, just as he was away from the board). The authors have done a wonderful job of bringing these older games to life for the enjoyment of the reader. The annotations do not make the common mistake of vanishing down rabbit holes full of endless variations, but remain deliberately on point.

There are so many exciting moments which could be quoted in this review and this one is typical.

### L. Shamkovich-V. Korchnoi USSR Championship, Leningrad, 1960



The game has already seen a lot of action and Korchnoi has somehow managed to survive thus far. However, after White's last move (28 ♖c3xg7), "It looks like Black has been caught."

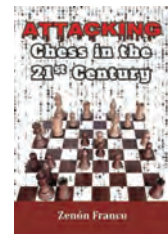
Korchnoi still found an incredible resource with 28... ♗f3+!! and after 29 ♙xf3 ♗xd1+ 30 ♙e3 ♗c1+ Shamkovich blinked first with the inferior 31 ♙d3?? ("After 31 ♙f3 White would threaten ♙f8 and checkmate, so Korchnoi would have nothing better than to give perpetual check") and Korchnoi was able to demonstrate a path to a winning ending after 31... ♗b1+! 32 ♙e3 ♗g6!. There was still plenty of work to be done, but Korchnoi rarely let winning endings slip away (0-1, 51).

Little wonder the authors comment that this game "showed that his fans needed iron nerves."

This is a highly recommended book and one of the absolute highlights of 2023. In fact, it is the best so far [Ed. – *And Korchnoi Year by Year: Volume I is also available in hardback format if you prefer, retailing at £53.95 or £48.55 for Subscribers*]. Even the most diligent of Korchnoi fans will learn a lot from this book and don't forget – there are going to be three more volumes, with more

than 400 games still to come. Exemplary work, even by Elk and Ruby's extremely exacting standards.

Sean Marsh



### Attacking Chess in the 21st Century

Zenon Franco, 254 pages, paperback

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Franco examines 36 modern games with the aim of improving the reader's attacking ability, to which end his use of a move-by-move format, with a number of useful questions and exercises as well as answers sprinkled throughout, makes good sense. The games are grouped by four main chapters: the king in the centre, kings castled on the same side, kings castled on opposite sides, and attack, defence and counterattack. Published by Zenonchess Ediciones, the author's Spanish has received a typically excellent translation from Phil Adams and a hardback edition is also available, retailing at £34.95 or £31.45 for Subscribers.

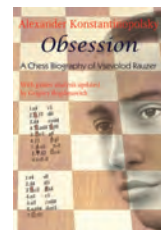


### Illuminating Chess

Fred Lucas, 192 pages, hardback

RRP £45.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £40.50**

This is a lavishly produced collection of impressive images from the acclaimed chess photographer Fred Lucas. Thinkers Publishing have ensured that the format does full justice to the content, with each image accompanied by a short description from Lucas which explains what he was aiming for. If you like a striking coffee table-style chess book, *Illuminating Chess* may well fit the bill.



### Obsession:

### A Chess Biography of Vsevolod Rauzer

Alexander Konstantinopolsky, 240 pages, paperback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

Along with the work on Korchnoi reviewed above, this is another notable release from Elk & Ruby. Vsevolod Rauzer (1908 - 1941) was a strong chess player in the late 1920s and



up until 1937, the year when he tied with author Konstantinopolsky for second behind Levenfish in the Soviet Championship and also the final one in which he played chess. Rauzer's obsession with the game and especially his contributions to opening theory, for which we largely remember him, would drive him mad before he perished in the Siege of Leningrad. His good friend and analysis partner, Konstantinopolsky, would live until 1990, writing up the story of Rauzer's tragic life and annotating 96 of his best games. Those notes have now been revised by IM Grigory Bogdanovich for this new English translation which is also available as a hardback, retailing at £35.95 or £32.35 for Subscribers.



**Opening Repertoire:  
Queen's Gambit Accepted**

Nicolas Yap, 448 pages, paperback  
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

This is a dynamic as well as thorough new repertoire with the Queen's Gambit Accepted published by Everyman Chess. Yap advocates meeting 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 with the Nakamura-pioneered and fashionable if also

shocking 3...b5!?, while 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 e3 is countered by 4...a6 and 3 e3 by 3...e5. Yap's peak rating to date is 2300 and while in recent years he has been unable to compete in tournaments, his love of the game is clear, as is his affection for the QGA in this "ambitious, maximalist repertoire" for Black which also helpfully covers what to do when White rejects 2 c4 in favour of, say, the London.



**The Perfect Pirc-Modern**

Viktor Moskalenko, 256 pages, paperback  
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

This is a new edition, 10 years after *The Perfect Pirc-Modern* first appeared. 33 of the 42 illustrative games are new and even those that remain have been revised and updated, often with a number of striking new ideas. Moskalenko's belief in the Pirc and Modern, as well as their many dynamic possibilities, shines through throughout, while he highlights not just the most important lines, but also the key pawn structures and piece deployments. Dangerous ideas for White, as well as Black, are pointed out too and both those new to the Pirc and Modern and long-time aficionados should find much of interest in Moskalenko's typically

lively latest work.



**The Surprising Janowski Variation  
(3...a6) in the Queen's Gambit Declined**

Fabien Libiszewski, PC-DVD;  
running time: 6 hours, 30 minutes  
RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

The French Grandmaster has visited the ChessBase studio to record (in English) a repertoire for Black with 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3/♘f3 a6, a line which has even caught Magnus Carlsen's interest in recent years. Sometimes the resulting play is quite like the classical interpretation of the QGD, but in plenty of places it is much more dynamic and should throw white players on to their own resources at an early stage of the game.

Also just released from Hamburg is *Power Strategy 3: From Middlegame to the Endgame*, in which Mihail Marin explores the important stage of the game that is the transition towards the endgame, offering much useful advice along the way on such topics as when to simplify and how quickly can the kings become active. This PC-DVD runs to five hours and 30 minutes of footage while retailing at £28.95 or £26.05 for Subscribers.



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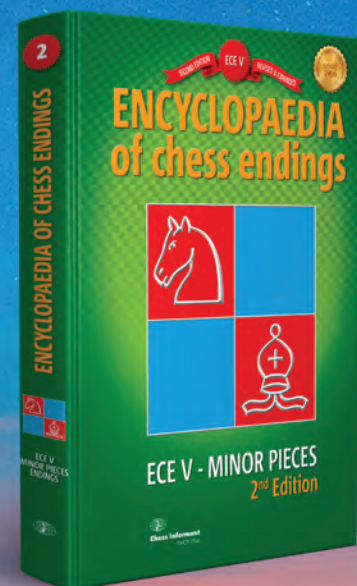
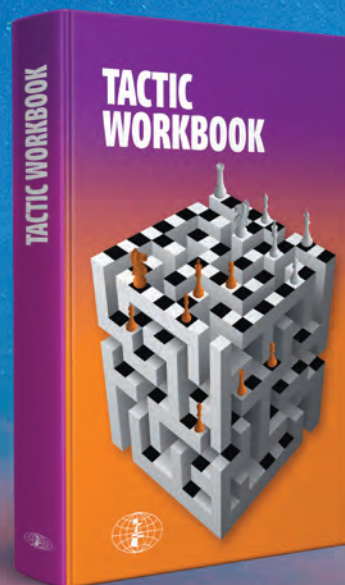
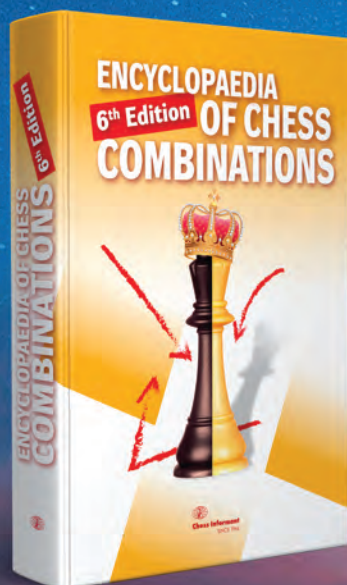
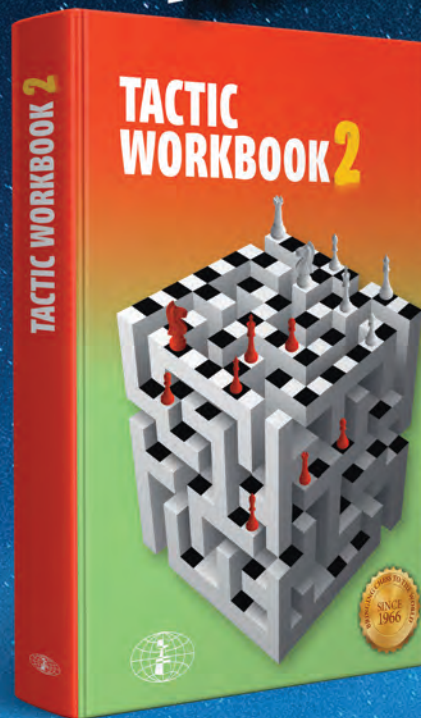
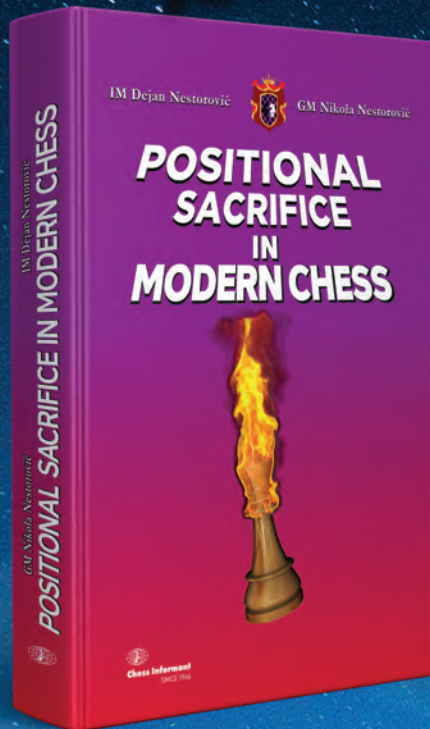


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