

Chess



THE SAGA CONTINUES

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& CHESS.COM FOR DEFAMATION**



Checkmate! - Darryl Accone on how and why AI ripped the soul out of chess

The Comeback - Jonathan Rowson explains why he's back from retirement

Meeting Nona - David Rowson interviews the legendary Nona Gaprindashvili

Chess

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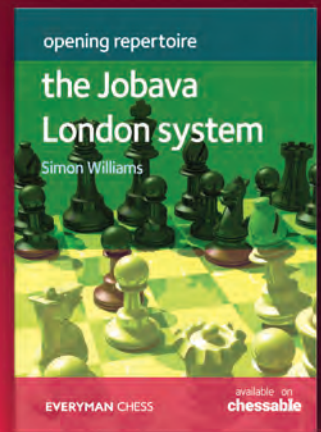
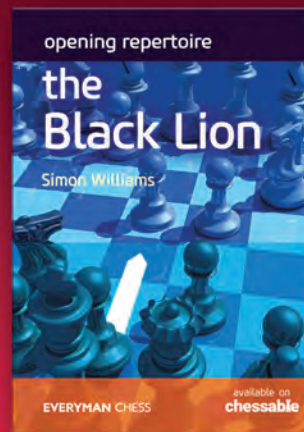
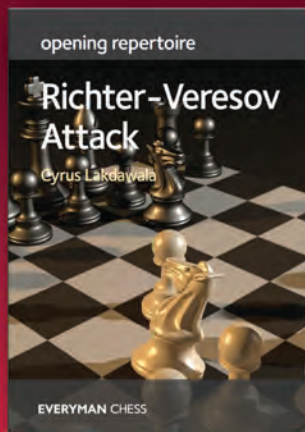
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GREAT NEW TITLES

OUT NOW

The Richter-Veresov Attack is characterized by the moves 1 d4, 2 Nc3 and 3 Bg5. In this book Cyrus Lakdawala focuses on traditional treatments which generally eschew f3 in favour of more classical development with moves such as Nf3, e3 or even Qf3.

Paperback 416 pages



The Black Lion is a thoroughly modern counterattacking system that is a nightmare to face. This wild and aggressive line attempts to take away White's initiative from a very early stage and is guaranteed to throw your opponents off balance.

The Black Lion is essentially a contemporary and aggressive interpretation of the Philidor Defence (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6).

Paperback 336 pages

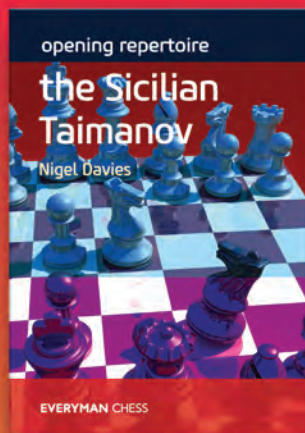
Based around the opening moves 1 d4 d5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bf4. Simon Williams (the Ginger GM) delves deep into the Jobava and offers up a complete repertoire based on this exciting new system.

Paperback 256 pages



The Slav (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6) is a great choice against 1 d4 for players who are after a solid position from the opening but one that also contains dynamic possibilities.

Paperback, 448 pages



The Sicilian Taimanov (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6) is a very flexible Black system in the Sicilian Defence. Nigel Davies examines all aspects of this highly complex opening and provides the reader with well-researched, fresh, and innovative analysis.

Paperback, 272 pages



Simon Williams (the Ginger GM) has played the Dutch Defence all his life and is considered one of the world's leading experts on this very dynamic Black counter. Here he shares his extensive knowledge, holds nothing back and carves out a formidable repertoire for aggressive black players.

Paperback 288 pages



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The In-Form Masters

Harry Grieve, Matthew Wadsworth and Shreyas Royal all did well in West London

Thanks to the efforts of Tournament Director Lance Leslie-Smith and the London Mindsports Centre in Ravenscourt Park, the inaugural Mindsports Masters Chess Festival took place in the first half of September, headlined by GM and IM norm tournaments. As we've already seen in these pages, the organiser and sponsors pulled off quite a coup by tempting Jonathan Rowson out of retirement.

In a competitive top section, nobody was able to make a GM norm, but the IM norm score of 5/9 was match or surpassed by all of Harry Grieve, Maciej Czopor and especially Shreyas Royal, who made his first norm. The British Champion, for his part, remained undefeated, rather butchered Jonathan Rowson's Caro-Kann and also played a lovely long-term rook sacrifice against Royal.

H.Grieve-S.Royal

Round 6

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♘f6 5 d4!?

An old line, but not a bad choice against Grieve's young opponent.

5...exd4 6 0-0 ♙e7 7 e5 ♘e4 8 ♘xd4 ♘xd4 9 ♗xd4 ♘c5 10 ♘c3 0-0

Royal knows his stuff and theory has long considered this line to be fine for Black, which it is, but White's upcoming piece activity is not to be underestimated from a practical perspective.

11 ♙b3 ♘xb3 12 cxb3! d6 13 ♙f4 dxe5 14 ♗xe5 ♙d6 15 ♗d4 ♙xf4 16 ♗xf4 ♙e6 17 ♙ad1

A logical novelty and deviation from the games of Igor Kovalenko who has patronised this variation of late, while testing both 17 ♙ac1 and 17 ♙fe1.

17...♗e7 18 ♙fe1 c6 19 ♙d3!



With Black having ruled out ♘d5, White clearly needs a decent plan and Grieve elects to go after the black king.

19...♙fe8 20 ♙g3 ♙h8 21 h4!?

Hurling Harry into the fray. While Black is rock solid here, he is also at risk of finding himself a bit passive and low on counterplay.

21...♙ad8 22 ♙ee3 h6 23 ♘e4!?

Suddenly 24 ♙xg7! is threatened, and if 24...♙xg7 25 ♙g3+ ♙h7 26 ♘f6+ ♙h8 27 ♗hx6#. Royal attempts to parry the sacrifice, but actually fails to.

23...♗f8?

Nothing too bad would have been happening to Black after the calm 23...♙g8 and there was also 23...♗b4! (pinning the knight on e4 and enabling the black king to slide away via f8 if needed) 24 ♙h2 ♙d5 when 25 ♙xg7! ♙xg7 26 ♗f6+ would have seen White forcing perpetual check, as with 26...♙g8!? 27 ♗hx6! ♙xe4 28 ♙g3+ ♙g6 29 ♙xg6+ fxg6 30 ♗xg6+.

24 ♙xg7!!



A stunning blow.

24...♗xg7 25 ♘f6 ♙d1+ 26 ♙h2

Black might be a rook up, but has absolutely no defence to the threat of ♙g3, picking up his queen.

26...♙ed8 27 ♙g3 ♙1d4

The best try, especially as 27...♗f8? 28 ♙g8+! forces mate in two.

28 ♙xg7!

Grieve has it all worked out. White now threatens mate on h7 and so will emerge with a rampant queen against the two rooks.

28...♙xg7 29 ♗e5!?

Good enough, although White might also have saved the h-pawn with 29 ♘e4! ♙8d5 30 ♗g3+ ♙f8 31 f3 and only then invaded with the queen-and-knight team.

29...♙f8?

29...♙xh4+! 30 ♙g3 ♙h1 feels risky for Black, but White actually doesn't have

anything totally devastating here and, for example, 31 ♘h5+ ♙f8! 32 ♗c5+ ♙g8 33 f3 ♙h7 (even 33...♙xh5!? 34 ♗xh5 ♙h7 comes into the equation) 34 ♘f6+ ♙g7 35 ♗e7 ♙d2 is still very much game on, clearly better though White is with such an attacking force.

30 ♘h7+ ♙g8 31 ♘f6+ ♙f8 32 h5!



Preserving what is now an important pawn and Black won't be able to safeguard both h6 and his king for long.

32...♙d2 33 ♘e4 ♙e2 34 f3 ♙d5 35 ♗h8+ ♙e7 36 ♗f6+ ♙d7 37 ♘c3!

Favourable simplification beckons.

37...♙d2 38 ♘xd5 cxd5 39 ♗xf7+ ♙c6 40 ♗f6+ 1-0

Black must either drop h6 or shed a rook (40...♙d6 41 ♗c3+).

Royal's best game saw him outplay a Russian Grandmaster in fine positional fashion ahead of upping the ante at just the right moment.

S.Royal-A.Cherniaev

Round 3

Modern Defence

1 d4 d6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 c4 ♙g7 4 ♘c3 e5 5 e3

A solid choice. White simply wants to play chess and the game now takes on the contours of a reversed King's Indian Attack against the French type situation.

5...♘d7 6 ♙e2 ♘gf6 7 0-0 0-0 8 b4!

Queenside expansion is White's main trump card in this line.

8...♙e8 9 ♗c2 a5!?

A fairly committal choice and 9...exd4!? might be a better one, intending 10 exd4 d5! or 10 ♘xd4 ♘e5.

10 b5 b6 11 dxe5

11 ♙a3!? followed by ♙ad1 is endorsed by the engines, and if 11...exd4 12 ♘xd4

♙b7 13 ♙f3.

11...♗xe5 12 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 13 ♙f3 ♗b8?!

Keeping pieces on, but Black would be fine had he preferred 13...♙f5! 14 ♗e2 ♙e4.

14 ♙b2 ♗e8 15 ♗ad1



The queenside pawns might be fixed, but White can easily expand in the centre and ideas of a timely ♗d5 or ♗e2-d4 may well prove problematic for Black to meet.

15...♙g4?! 16 ♙xg4 ♗xg4 17 h3 ♗e5

Black is being outplayed and even 17...♗f6 18 ♗fe1 followed by e3-e4 and ♗d5 begins to look quite unpleasant for him.

18 ♗d5!

Suddenly f4-f5 is a threat and White has very much seized the initiative.

18...♗d7 19 ♙xg7 ♗xg7 20 ♗c3+ f6

20...♗g8 was the other evil when even 21 e4!? is possible, leaving Black rather bottled up after 21...♗xe4 22 ♗fe1 ♗e6 23 ♗e3.

21 ♗d4! ♗f8 22 h4!



White's pieces flow to good attacking squares and all the while Black finds himself devoid of counterplay.

22...♗f7 23 h5 ♗c5 24 ♗g4?



13-year-old Shreyas Royal had no IM norms when he entered the MindSports Masters. Most impressively, he now has three after success too in Croatia and at Hull - see Overseas News.

Giving Black a potential lifeline. 24 ♗f4! was the way to do things, and only if 24...♗e6 25 ♗g4.

24...♗d7 25 f3 ♗e6??

Now it becomes a massacre, in contrast to which involving another defender with 25...♗f5 would have kept Black fully on the board, if still suffering in the long run after 26 ♗h4 g5 27 ♗h2! followed by g2-g4.

26 h6+! ♗xh6 27 ♗xf6 ♗d8 28 ♗h4+



Clearly it's all over if the king retreats, but heading forwards merely makes it mate in four.

28...♗g5 29 f4+! ♗xh4 30 ♗e1# 1-0



Matthew Wadsworth has bounced back most admirably from that final round in Torquay.

MindSports Masters IM Event - London - Friday 9th to Wednesday 14th September (category 2, average rating = 2291)																
	Player	Title	Country	Elo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts	TPR
1	Matthew Wadsworth	IM	ENG	2423	#	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	½	1	7.5	2549
2	Borna Derakhshani	FM	ENG	2367	½	#	½	1	1	½	½	½	1	1	6.5	2448
3	Roland Bezuidenhout	FM	RSA	2269	0	½	#	1	½	0	1	1	1	1	6	2418
4	Dong Bao Nghia	CM	VIE	2294	0	0	0	#	½	1	1	1	1	1	5.5	2370
5	James Holland		ENG	2247	0	0	½	½	#	½	½	1	1	½	4.5	2296
6	Peter Large	IM	ENG	2298	½	½	1	0	½	#	½	½	0	½	4	2247
7	David Henry Maycock Bates	CM	MEX	2253	0	½	0	0	½	½	#	0	1	1	3.5	2215
8	Lara Schulze	FM	GER	2288	0	½	0	0	0	½	1	#	½	1	3.5	2211
9	Daniel Johnson		SWE	2211	½	0	0	0	0	1	0	½	#	1	3	2175
10	Antanas Zapolskis	IM	LTU	2257	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	#	1	1943



60 Seconds with... Darryl Accone



That moment just before the game begins, when the potential for beauty exists and beckons.

And the worst? The instant the game begins, and grubby considerations like winning intrude.

Your best move? Stopping playing, starting to play over the good and the great games with proper care and attention.

But less memorable than your worst move? Like life, chess is too full of regrets, of should-have-dones and might-have-beens, sadly all indelible in the mind.

And a highly memorable opponent? One of the early chess computers, the first that I played. The sense that this was an alienating activity, not chess, was palpable.

Favourite game of all time? David Bronstein versus Alexander Zaitsev, Emanuel Lasker centenary tournament, Berlin 1968.

19...e4 20 ♖e2 ♗g5 21 c4 a6 22 ♜xa3 ♙xe2 23 ♚xe2 ♜d7 24 d4 exd3+ 25 ♚xd3 ♜c5 26 ♙f4 f6 27 ♚d4! b6 28 ♜e1+ ♚d8 29 ♜e6 ♜e5 30 ♙xe5 fxe5+ 31 ♜xe5 ♜xc4+



32 ♚d5! ♜c5+ 33 ♚e6 ♜xe5+ 34 ♚xe5 ♚d7 35 ♚d5 a5 36 ♜a4 h5 37 ♜f4 1-0

Born: 28 February 1960, Pretoria, South Africa.

Place of residence: Johannesburg, South Africa.

Occupation: Writer, editor, scholar.

Enjoyable? Working with words and ideas never feels like work, so yes – very enjoyable.

And home life? Books, baroque recorder, five cats, and wary bird life and insect mini-kingdoms in the garden. As Cicero said, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."

But sometimes good to escape to: Before Covid, the mountains or the sea. After, home too snug to leave.

Sports played or followed: Luciano Spalletti's Napoli at football, and Ireland and France in rugby union.

A favourite novel? There's no separating these three: *Don Quixote* (John Rutherford's translation), *Moby-Dick* and *The Great Gatsby*.

Piece of music? Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 (K271, 'Jeunehomme').

Film or TV series? Fellini's *La Strada*.

What's the best thing about playing chess?

D.Bronstein–A.Zaitsev Berlin 1968 *Sicilian Rossolimo*

1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 e6 3 ♘f3 ♘c6 4 ♙b5 ♘d4 5 ♙d3 ♘xf3+ 6 ♜xf3 ♙d6 7 ♜e3 e5 8 ♘b5 ♜e7 9 b4 cxb4 10 ♜g3 ♙b8 11 ♜xg7 ♜f6 12 ♜xf6 ♘xf6 13 a3 d5 14 f3 ♜g8 15 g3 ♙h3 16 exd5 ♙g2 17 ♜g1 ♙xf3 18 d6 bxa3 19 ♜f1



The best three chess books: Réti's *Modern Ideas in Chess*, Tal's *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal* and *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by David Bronstein and Tom Fürstenberg.

Is FIDE doing a good job? It's a thankless job given charged global geopolitics and a recalcitrant, abdicating world champion.

Or your National Federation? Chess is certainly well supported in some parts of South Africa, specifically around Cape Town in the Western Cape.

Any advice for either? Pass.

Can chess make one happy? If one practises it for the love of it, in the best sense of being an amateur: as a lover who loves truly and faithfully.

A tip please for the club player: Study and savour Anatoly Karpov's best games, where there is so much to glean about strategic vision, structural harmony, piece co-ordination and seamless, flowing beauty.

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Quality Chess wins ECF Book of the Year!

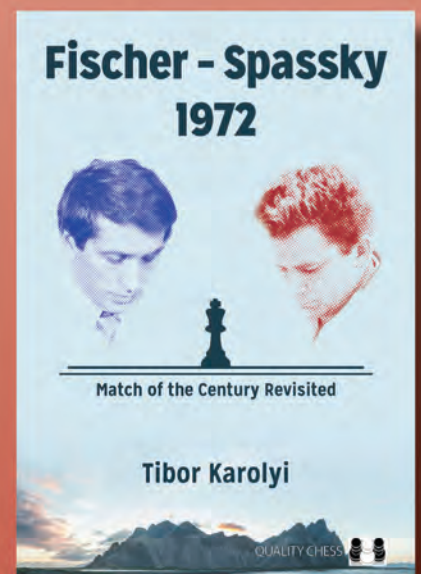
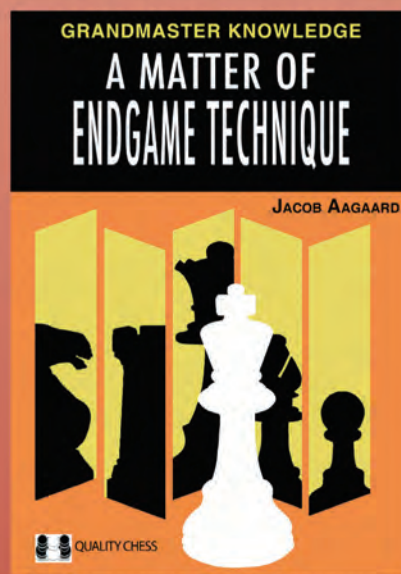
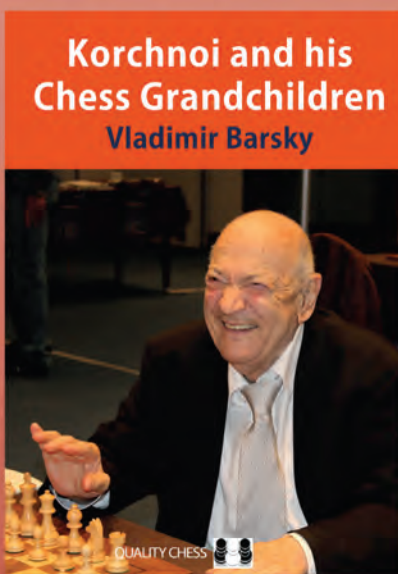
Think Like a Super-GM

The *2022 ECF Book of the Year* combines the chess insights of an elite grandmaster with a scientific investigation into thinking at the chess board. Chess puzzles were shown to Michael Adams and a range of players of varying abilities, with everyone's solutions and detailed thought processes recorded.

Super-GM **Michael Adams** and researcher **Philip Hurtado** invite you, the reader, to solve the same puzzles, then compare your solutions and thought processes to those of Michael and the other solvers. Each puzzle solution receives detailed commentary from Michael. Next, Philip Hurtado presents the valuable statistical data and Michael Adams offers detailed insights into the differences in thinking process between stronger and weaker players, making this a chess improvement book like no other.



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Live Success!

Peter Hornsby explains all about the start and now success of the World Chess League

At the end of the 2015 summer term, I, as the outgoing President of Durham University Chess Club, attempted to arrange a friendly match against York University to celebrate the end of the exam period. However, Sheffield University and Leeds University were also interested in playing some matches, so with the help of fellow students, a small scale rapidplay team competition was set up for students to take place at the University of York. It was labelled 'The Northern Universities Chess Championship' (NUCC), inviting teams from across the UK. There were 32 students representing a handful of other universities on the 14th of June 2015, which resulted in Durham University prevailing over York University in a thrilling finale to claim the inaugural title.

As we reach near the end of 2022, the tournament has since rebranded into 'The World Chess League.Live' and has established itself as one of the top online chess competitions in the world, thanks to sponsorship from Chess.com and Chess & Bridge. It is free to enter and has fundraised for Oxfam in the process. Scores of titled players have played in it, most notably GM Andrew Tang, wunderkind GM Daniel Dardha, former UK Champion GM Keith Arkell, and GM Simen Agdestein, who is Magnus Carlsen's former chess coach. This season, top-twenty GM Leinier Dominguez Perez no less has registered for the Cuba Live Chess team.

Over 250 teams have taken part so far, with well-known sides such as Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge Universities competing, along with amateur, junior and international teams from across the world from Kauai Island to Kyrgyzstan. Nearly 100 teams have signed up for the 2022-2023 season which kicked off in September. The league is set up in a Swiss system, with one match a month, which gives everyone a unique opportunity to take part in some extraordinary match-ups.

Most extraordinarily, Kyiv Chess Club played their scheduled league match in the following week after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the match was featured on Sky News along with an interview with their captain Andriy Baidikov. They emphatically defeated Dundee City 23-3 over 13 boards.

Warwick University also played against Kyiv Chess Club last season. Their board one is FM Sam Chow, who played against IM Viktor Skliarov and managed to salvage a draw for his team. That thrilling game:



Our Executive Editor no less joined South Africa's Andrew Horne and the Chess Heroes team to commentate on Chess.com on a gripping finale to the 2021/22 World Chess League.Live.

Notes by Jonathan Blackburn

S.Chow-V.Skliarov Warwick University vs Kyiv Queen's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♞f3 b6 4 g3 ♟b7 5 ♟g2 ♟e7 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♞c3 ♞e4 8 ♟d2 ♞xc3 9 ♟xc3 d6 10 ♞c2 ♞c8 11 e4 ♞d7 12 ♟fe1 c5 13 d5 e5 14 ♟f1 ♟a6 15 ♞d3

With neither player having used much time on the clock thus far, White has a typical space advantage, but here allowed Black to create some play on the queenside.

15...b5 16 cxb5 c4!

The point.

17 ♞e3 ♟xb5 18 ♟fb1 ♞c5 19 ♞d2 ♟d8 20 ♟f1 ♟b6 21 ♞e1



Black's minor pieces are all active and he has a chance to activate more pieces. Can you see how?

21...♞a4?

Not like this. After 21...f5!, bringing the f8-rook into the game and targeting the weakness on f2, there is no good way to defend.

22 ♟b4 ♟d4 23 ♟xd6

Sam rightly snaffles a pawn as his pieces start to find useful squares and create threats.

23...♞d8 24 ♟e7 ♟e8 25 ♟a3 ♞a6 26 ♞f3 ♟ac8 27 ♟h3 c3 28 ♟xc8 ♞xc8 29 ♞xd4 exd4 30 bxc3 ♞xc3



While White is an exchange up for now, the rook on b1 looks difficult to save, at least without giving away more white pawns and Black's pieces remain incredibly active, aided by that pawn on d4. Sam now makes a good decision to give the exchange back on his terms and so retain very good winning chances.

31 ♖xb5!

After 31. ♖b2 ♖xe4 32 ♖e2 a6! it's Black who is better.

31... ♗xb5 32 ♖c1 ♖g4 33 ♗b2 h5

Black is in desperate need of counterplay against White's king and also prevents any back-rank mate problems. **34 ♖f1 ♗c3 35 ♗xc3 dxc3 36 f3 ♖c8 37 ♖b5 h4**

**38 ♖xc3**

Daring. Knowing the line between win or draw is very close, White needs to be super accurate. There was no rush though, as improving the king with 38 ♖g2 and then pushing the central white pawns wins slowly. However, this is rapid chess and with time ticking down, the position is difficult to fully control.

38... ♖xc3 39 ♖xe8+

By playing this line you know that there is always a risk of perpetual check.

39... ♗h7 40 ♖xf7?

This gives away the win. Instead, 40 ♖d7 is a cute way of preventing Black's intended counterplay and after 40...hxg3 41 ♖h3+ White's queen can protect the king.

40...h3

Now the net is cast and White's king has no chance of escape.

41 ♖f5+ ♗g8 42 ♖e6+ ♗f8 43 ♖xh3 ♖e3+ 44 ♗f1 ♖xf3+ 45 ♗e1 ♖xe4+ 46 ♗f2 ♖d4+

47 ♗e2 ♖e4+ 48 ♗f2 ♖d4+ 49 ♗e2 ♖e4+ 50 ♗f2 ½-½

Chess Club Politika won the recent 2021-2022 season in the play-offs this August, with the final being shown on Chess TV on Chess.com with over 3,000 viewers tuning in. IM Malcolm Pein joined the *Chess Heroes* commentary team to see them prevail 4½-3½ over SchachAttack in an absolutely thrilling match.

If you would like to join the competition or have any questions, you can email me at director@worldchessleague.live, and you can see the league table and fixtures via: worldchessleague.live.

At the World Chess League, we're already eagerly looking forward to future developments.



Forthcoming Events

Oct 31 - Nov 4 Pool Seniors Congress
poolechessclub.org.uk/poole-seniors-tournament/

November 3 Hendon Blitz
hendonchessclub.com

November 4-6 Central London Congress
<https://tinyurl.com/8eakw86p>

November 4-6 Hampshire Congress, Fareham
hampshirechess.co.uk

November 5-6 4NCL (Division 3 East), Daventry
4ncl.co.uk/2223_dates.htm

November 5-6 Witney Congress
witneychess.co.uk

November 6 Livingston Allegro
congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/205/home

Nov 11-13 Ulster Masters, Lisburn
ulsterchess.org/events

Nov 11-13 West Wales Congress, Swansea
welshchessunion.uk or call 01792 418711

November 12 Bexhill Rapid
bexhillchessclub.co.uk/index.php/tournaments/

November 12 Golders Green Rapidplay
goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

November 12 Oxted Rapid
 email: standard.fide@gmail.com

November 13 Nottinghamshire Championships, Bramcote
nottinghamshirechess.org/competitions/

November 15 Muswell Hill Rapidplay
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

Nov 18-20 Torbay Congress, Torquay
torbaycongress.com

Nov 19-20 Birmingham Open
birminghamopen.warwickshirechess.org

Nov 19-20 Ealing Congress
londonchesscongresss.godaddysites.com/ealing-fide-congress

Nov 19-20 Mill Hill Congress
chessville.co.uk

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muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

Nov 25-27 Kilkenny Congress
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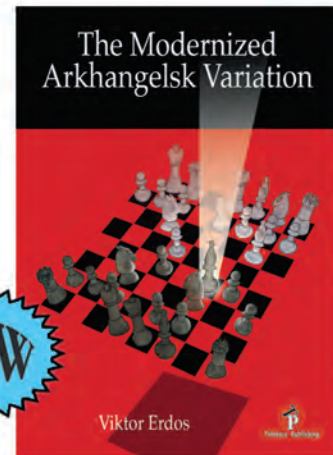
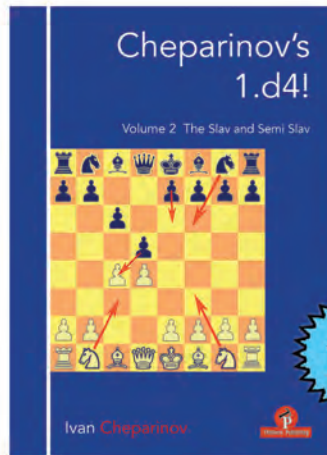
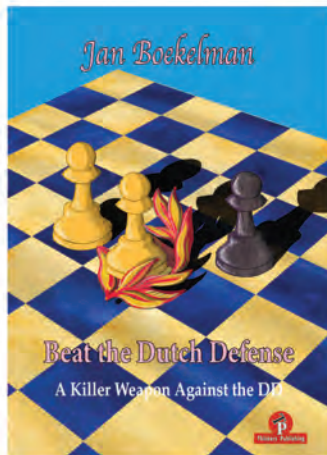
November 26 Poplar Rapid
spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub/

And for the Online Connoisseur:

Nov 14-27 World Senior Championship, Assisi
scaccomattissimo.com/assisi-2022-en/
 Bischoff, Danielsen, Nunn, etc.

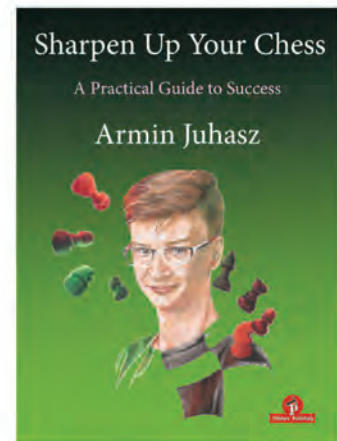
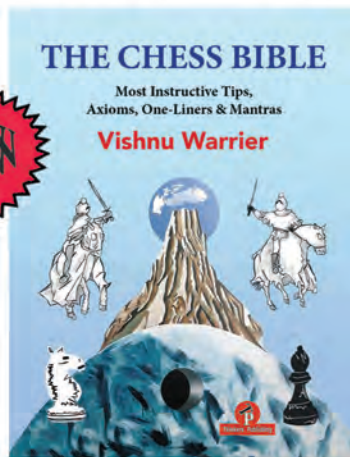
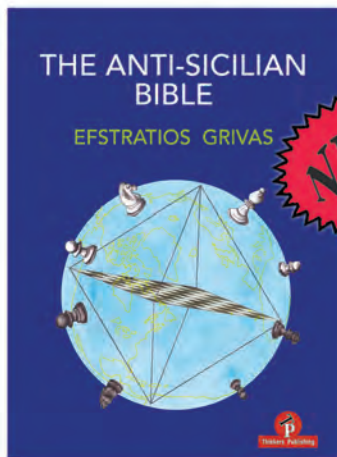
Nov 19-26 World Team Championship, Jerusalem
fide.com; China, France, India, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, USA, etc.

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

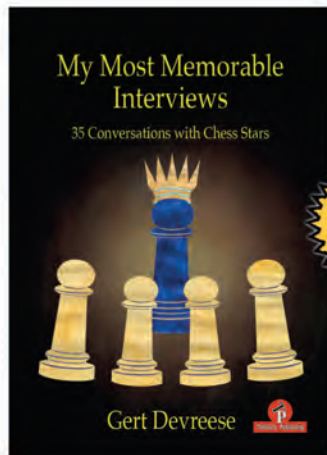
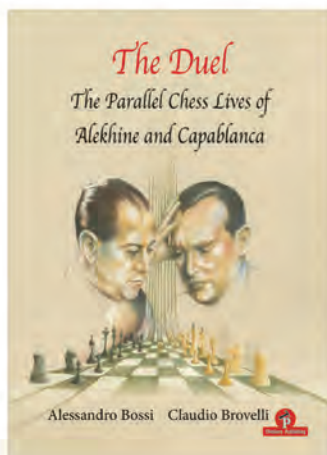


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Another Memorable Game



Neil Hickman takes a look at a game from the maverick of British chess

This is another game which would have found its way into *Memorable Games of British Chess*, published by Amazon, if, firstly, I hadn't been anxious to get the book ready in draft as a present for Mike Poulton, doyen of Wymondham chess, during his last illness in 2018; and, secondly, I had been able to locate the score. The game was published by *CHESS* in 1975, without notes, under the laconic heading: "Danger: this game could cause permanent brain damage". It was omitted from the index to that volume of *CHESS*, and I am grateful to Colin Purdon on the English Chess Forum for supplying the reference to it (Volume 40, p.110, since you ask).

This game could only have been perpetrated by Michael Basman. It was a favourite of the young James Plaskett, who was a clubmate of mine more years ago than I like to contemplate.

There may be a few people out there who aren't familiar with Basman – after all, one opponent I encountered during lockdown, who was from Birmingham no less, messaged me: "I don't know who Tony Miles is LOL" – so a few words may not be out of place. He was born in 1946; he is of Armenian descent, the family name having been Anglicised from Basmadjian.

Mike Basman played on top board for England in the Student Olympiad at Harrachov, 1967, when the England team thrashed the USSR 3-1 en route to the bronze medals; and a few months before that had secured a creditable third place in the Hastings Premier, behind Botvinnik and Uhlmann, having taken Botvinnik to the verge of defeat in their individual game.

Interviewed afterwards, Botvinnik mused: "One can gain outstanding success in practical play only by mastering the art of creating original situations. Quite likely only Basman of the English masters strives for this sort of thing." Perceptive man, Botvinnik.

Basman tied for first place in the British Championship in 1973, losing the play-off to William Hartston; he played on top board for England against France in 1975, and gained the International Master title in 1980.

Having been reasonably orthodox at the start of his chess career, Basman later made a name for himself with bizarre openings, including the Grob, 1 g4!?, the Creepy Crawly, which involves a3, h3 and c4, and the St. George Defence, 1...a6, with which Tony Miles famously downed Karpov.

He later put enormous effort into encouraging junior chess, unfortunately

falling foul of the VAT authorities in the process and suffering financial ruin.

By way of background to this game, one should perhaps note that Basman's victim, J.E. Nicholson, was the reigning British Under-21 Champion, so no pushover. But he gets treated with a degree of disrespect which verges on the outrageous.

J.Nicholson-M.Basman
Evening Standard
 London Chess Congress 1974
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 ♘e7

Basman was to become extremely notorious for wild pawn advances on the wings. In this game he concentrates on the centre in approved fashion...for a while.

3 c4 d5 4 ♘c3 dxe4 5 ♘xe4 b6 6 ♘f3 ♙b7 7 ♘c3 ♘g6

Tempting White to advance on the kingside. It wasn't until the advent of *AlphaZero* over four decades later that we fully realised how dangerous h-pawn hacks actually were.

8 h4 ♙e7 9 h5 ♘h4 10 ♘xh4 ♙xh4

11 ♙g4 ♙f6 12 ♙e3 ♘d7 13 0-0-0 ♙e7 14 ♙d3 c5 15 ♙e4



Understandably, *Fritz* reckons White is considerably better here. However...

15...cxd4!?

Nobody but Basman would have contemplated this move. *Fritz* proposes something like 15...♙xe4 16 ♘xe4 cxd4 17 ♙xd4 0-0-0, when Black's king is draughtier than White's, but it is probably difficult for White to demonstrate a clear-cut win.

16 ♙xb7 dxc3 17 ♙xa8 0-0 18 ♙e4 ♙b4
 Threatening mate – but White can avoid

the mate by winning another piece.

19 ♙xd7



Naturally. Computer assessments are utterly meaningless in a game like this, because what Black is saying to his opponent is: "Yes, you and I both know you have a won game, but you can't find the winning line with the clock ticking, can you?" For what little it is worth, *Fritz* assesses the position at about '+9.1', rather more than a queen's worth of advantage to White.

19...♙a4!?

19...♙xb2+ 20 ♙d1 ♙a1+ is far too pedestrian for Basman.

20 ♙d4??

Exactly as hoped for, White cracks. 20 h6, demonstrating the strength of the h-pawn hack, actually forces mate after 20...g6 21 ♙xg6! (a risk-free sacrifice in material terms, given that White is two pieces to the good to start with) 21...hxg6 22 ♙f3. But White, presumably remembering all the manuals which suggest that the way to break an attack is to give back some of the material, makes a move which 'on general principles' looks excellent. It retains a material advantage and blocks the threatening-looking long diagonal.

Unfortunately, playing a position as sharp as this on general principles tends to come unstuck. So it proves.

20...♙xd7

Even Basman isn't going to refuse a free rook. And White's advantage is now "only" '+3'.

21 bxc3

Eliminating the mate threats on d2 and b2, while supporting the bishop. White was probably starting to feel that he could breathe.

21...♙xd4 22 cxd4?

22 ♙d1 ♙d8 23 ♙xd4 maintained a sufficient advantage to win. Was White

counting on Black now taking on d4? Surely not; though remember the heading in *CHES*.
22...f5

Not, of course, 22...♖xd4?? 23 ♗xh7+ when even Basman's Houdini skills would be insufficient.

23 ♗xf5 exf5 24 ♖f3 ♗c8



The strong placing of Black's rook on the c-file is worth more than the extra pawn. White's psychological task is now almost impossible. Having been winning hands down about four or five moves ago, he now has rather the worse of a heavy piece ending with lots of weak pawns to defend.

25 ♖c3 ♖a4 26 c5

Best. Nicholson doesn't go down entirely without a fight.

26...♖xa2 27 ♗e1?

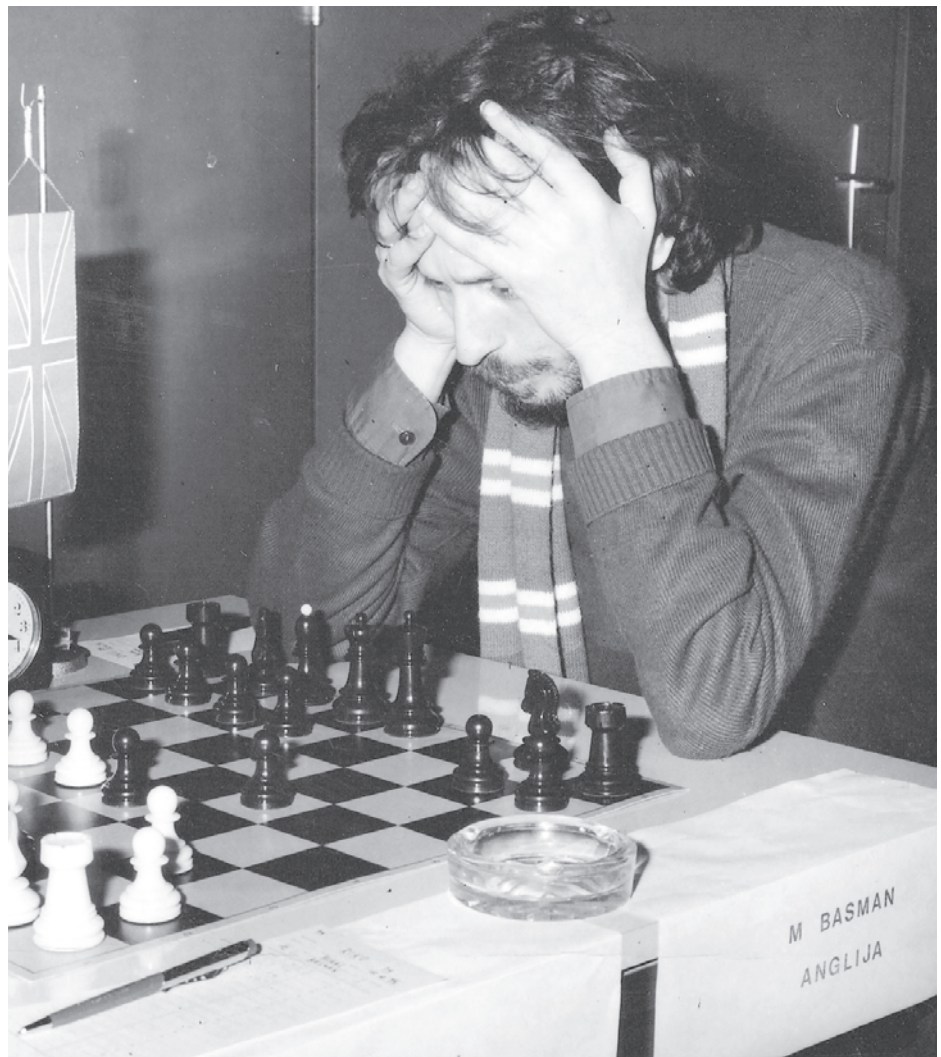
White needed to find the difficult move 27 h6.

27...bxc5 28 dxc5 ♗b8

Threatening mate. White could resign.

29 ♗d3 ♖a1+ 30 ♗d2 ♗b2+ 31 ♗c3

♖a3+ 32 ♗d4 ♗b4+ 0-1



Mike Basman in action in southern Slovenia in 1979, playing at the Ribnica International. There he opened 1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 f5 3 d4 e4 4 g3 Bb4 as Black against Vladimir Bukal, which is orthodox enough, but by then Mike had already begun to experiment with 1 b4 and 1 g4.



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7 g7 ♖g8 8 ♔g6 ♖a3 9 ♖f6+ ♔xe5
10 ♖f5+ ♔e4 11 ♖g5 ♖xh3 one plausible
way play might fizzle out to a draw.

24) Cordova-Bacrot

1...♔h7! (1...♖d5+? 2 ♔h2 ♔h7 was similar in the game, but now after 3 ♖b1+ ♔g8 4 ♖xa3 White was able to scramble enough counterplay, the game ending in stalemate after 4...♖d2 – or 4...♖d1 5 ♖a8+! ♔g7 6 ♖b2+ – 5 ♖e1 ♖d1 6 ♖a5 ♖f3 7 ♖a8+ ♔h7 8 ♖h8+! ♔xh8 9 ♖e8+ ♔g7 10 ♖h8+! ♔xh8 ½-½) 2 ♖b1+ (2 ♖xa3 ♖d5+ 3 ♔h2 ♖d1 is a simple win) 2...♔g8! wins, since after 3 ♖b8+ ♔g7 4 ♖b3 ♖c6+ White must either acquiesce to his king falling under a fatal late attack (5 ♔h2 ♖d5!), or to a lost rook ending: 5 f3 ♖xf3+ 6 ♖xf3 gxf3+ 7 ♔xf3 ♖a4 followed by ...♔f6-g5.

Errata

Our apologies for the gremlins creeping on to page 27 last month and so preventing us from naming the correct players in puzzle no.16. That should have appeared as follows:

C.Murphy-J.McPhillips

Wood Green Invitational, Stafford 2022



White to play

1 ♔xf7! ♔xf7 (or 1...♔xf7 2 ♖xb7) 2 ♔xd6 left the bishop on b7 hanging and White a pawn up with a dominating position.



This Month's New Releases



Prepare to Win

Jonathan Arnott, 226 pages
Steel City Press

RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

Steel City Press continues to make an impact on the world of chess publishing and their latest book, subtitled 'A club player's guide to winning at chess before move one', offers a plethora of ideas and schemes to help club and tournament players to prepare for their future chess battles with a little more professionalism.

The blurb sets the scene: "Most of experienced teacher and coach Jonathan Arnott's wins against IMs and GMs have come as a result of precisely this preparation. In some cases, a game has literally been won and lost before a single move was made over the board."

There are lots of interesting ideas in this unusual book and plenty of useful tips, too – such as this one: "Don't fall into the trap of feeling that you need to 'punish' every inaccuracy by your opponent. Some mistakes punish themselves, and over-reacting can be an even bigger mistake than your opponent's."

The chapters cover a large range of ways to prepare for games and how best to use the tools which are at the disposal of all chess players. There is, for instance, a helpful summary of the main online resources, such as Lichess and Chessable. Tying in with this is the chapter on 'Countermeasures'. It shows, among other things, an interesting way to try to wrong-foot future opponents by playing other lines instead of one's favourites against certain openings and weaker opponents, to give misleading percentages in databases. The logic behind the plan is that future opponents may waste valuable preparation time looking at lines which are not going to be played.

Top-level games are not used very often in the book; the majority of games are Arnott's own and this helps him to explain his ideas for preparation more directly. An exception is made, late in the book, "To demonstrate how the different techniques we've learned can be applied. It is, though, an example which fits with the rather bold title of this book: the game was indeed, to all intents and purposes, won by Kasparov before it began."

G.Kasparov-V.Anand

World Championship (Game 10),
New York 1995



Kasparov, who was struggling to impose his will on Anand up until this point (eight draws and one win for Anand from the first nine games preceded this one), uncorked some serious preparation just when he needed it most.

14 ♔c2 ♖xc3 15 ♔b3

Offering a rook, which Anand captured after...

15...♔xb3 16 ♔xb3 ♔d4 17 ♖g4 ♖xa1

...But the prep was certainly not yet over.

18 ♔h6!

Kasparov was in his element and, with several more moves still to come from his homework, the over-the-board problems proved too many for Anand to solve (1-0, 38).

The increase of confidence gained after proving one can out-prepare the opponent – especially in a match – should not be underestimated. Kasparov went on to win three more games, draw five and retain his title by a very comfortable margin.

Some of the editing is rough around the edges. For example, the quotes at the start of the chapters are not always adequately attributed. The Sherlock Holmes quote about "The curious incident of the dog in the night-time" is from *The Adventure of Silver Blaze* by Arthur Conan Doyle, which should have been an easy one to check. That would also have helped to correct the misquote; Holmes says: "That was the curious incident", which is not prefaced by the word 'indeed'.

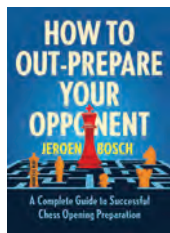
Also, the games given in the section on references and final advice could do with dates, events and a consistent approach to the presentation of the players' names ("Lagrange – Nepomniatchi" being the worst

offender of all, for a variety of reasons).

I find such things important, but I suspect most club players won't. They would prefer to see if they can utilise the ideas in this book to improve their own chess performances. Grandmaster Gawain Jones provides an entertaining foreword, the closing words of which, in particular, are appropriate to quote here:

"Armed with the recommendations of this book it will become even tougher for us titled players to out-prepare your opponents. On behalf of all professionals can I selfishly ask that you disregard Jonathan's advice?"

Sean Marsh



How to Out-Prepare Your Opponent

Jeroen Bosch, 416 pages

New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

This new book, subtitled 'A Complete Guide to Successful Chess Opening Preparation', contrasts very nicely with *Prepare to Win*, although the general ethos is similar, if not identical. The following questions will no doubt be familiar to most readers.

"The number of hours you can spend on opening preparation is endless. Books, videos and databases offer hundreds of ever-widening variations. But how do you find your way through this labyrinth? Where do you start? And, maybe even more importantly: where do you stop?"

Fortunately, according to the blurb, help is at hand: "International Master Jeroen Bosch provides a solution to those questions. He presents a structured approach to the study of openings and the preparation for a club match or a tournament game." Furthermore, he "Provides you with all the tools you need to dominate the opening phase of the game: how to use move orders and how to use tactics. He explains when to play a main line, when to come up with an opening surprise, or when to risk a gambit. And much, much more."

There are chapters covering subjects such as novelties, preparing for specific opponents, and the pros and cons of heading for the main lines or sticking to more universal systems. There is only a small amount of material that overlaps with *Prepare to Win*, the most prominent of which is the use of the same Kasparov-Anand game mentioned above.

Jeroen Bosch, who will be known to most readers for his excellent and entertaining *New in Chess* series on *Secrets of Opening Surprises*, writes well and his material is always fully accessible, even when he is covering the deepest grandmaster theory. This is the case in chapter eight, 'Entering the main lines', in which one of the topics he examines concerns the recent Sicilian Najdorf games of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. As one of

the absolute experts on the line, Vachier-Lagrave would have every right to expect more than a mere half point from the five games in question, but the miserable score reflects just how tough it can be at the highest levels when presenting opponents with a static target

The author makes the valid point that players below the top level (and certainly at club level), will find it much harder to prepare properly as White, especially in such theoretically heavy lines such as 1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♕f6 5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♕g5. An alternative approach is to put some work into a more obscure sideline and one of those covered in this book is 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♗c3 ♕f6 4 a3, instead of the more common 4 ♕b5. There are some interesting twists here – and not just because a subsequent ...♕b4 is firmly ruled out.

Interesting material awaits, whichever style of preparation resonates most with the reader; the author does not try to convince anyone that one method is better than the other, but prefers to provide enough sensible advice, backed up by copious examples, to cater for all.

There is also a chapter devoted to 'The opening strategy of Magnus Carlsen'. The outgoing world champion bucked the trend for reliance on the ever-deepening preparation of main lines and is still able to play virtually anything in the opening and enjoy considerable success. This is all in stark contrast to the Kasparov era. Bosch quotes Benjamin, when the latter says, "Carlsen doesn't seem to care if he gets an advantage from the opening. He trusts his superior skills, looking to outplay his opponents later in the game."

Bosch adds a new twist and aims to prove "That Carlsen (on the whole) obtains exactly what he wants from the opening. [...] Granted, we are talking about a different type of opening strategy than Garry Kasparov's, but that is another matter."

It is interesting to see, in the illustrative games, Carlsen emerge from the opening with *something*, whether it is a slightly better minor piece or enough potential dynamism to push for a win against elite players with the black pieces. This comes hand-in-hand with a willingness to experiment very early on, such as in this game.

S.Shankland-M.Carlsen
Wijk aan Zee 2019
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗c3 a6!?

The Janowski variation has become more popular of late, after a century of neglect. Carlsen has another high-class waiting move in mind too.

4 cxd5 exd5 5 ♖f3 h6!?

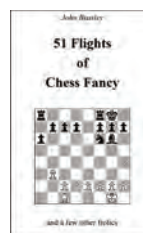


Moving both of the rook pawns by move five is precisely the sort of thing we advise our juniors and novices not to do. Yet there is logic here and it works out well for Carlsen. One point is that White's typical ♕g5 is ruled out and another is that Black can develop his own bishop to d6, rather than the more passive place on e7. The game was eventually drawn, but Carlsen got an easy game by steering the game effortlessly into territory in which he was more familiar than his opponent.

Bosch's final chapter rounds up various points, such as how much time to spend on studying openings, how should it be done and when to use an engine to assist preparation.

This is a big book, but one which will reward careful study. The chapters can be read in any order. Don't be deterred by the number of games from the chess stratosphere; Bosch amplifies the salient points and provides club and tournament players with plenty of food for thought, backed up with an abundance of illuminating material.

Sean Marsh



51 Flights of Chess Fancy

John Beasley, 72 pages, paperback

RRP £7.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £7.19**

This new self-published work, subtitled 'And a few other frolics', presents a number of endgame studies, as well as several chess problems, jokes and curiosities. Written to be a fun read, Beasley's new book is bound to entertain especially those who like to solve some impressive looking studies and problems.

Talking of chess studies, Chess & Bridge have recently stocked a few copies of three classic works by T.G. Whitworth, *Leonid Kubbel's Chess Endgame Studies*, *The Platov Brothers: Their Chess Endgame Studies* and *Mattison's Chess Endgame Studies*. All were available for just £5.00 when we went to press, but do please check in store or on chess.co.uk before placing an order as availability was limited.



Beat the Dutch Defense

Jan Boekelman, 260 pages, paperback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

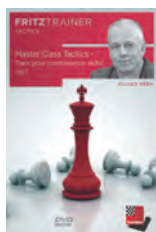
Subtitled 'A Killer Weapon Against the DD', this new release from Thinkers Publishing advocates tackling the Dutch Defence head on, with the Staunton Gambit no less, i.e. 1 d4 f5 2 e4. Based on the impressive bibliography, Boekelman has certainly done his research and also made full use of all the latest engines and TCEC games to help hone what is a pretty dangerous looking repertoire for White. If you really want to attack next time you face the Dutch, Boekelman's sharp Staunton repertoire may well fit the bill.



Bobby Fischer 60 Best Games

Karsten Müller, 222 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

We dare say that publisher Joachim Beyer Verlag was no doubt keen for Müller to select 60 games and the German Grandmaster's selection of Fischer's best games does differ somewhat from *My 60 Memorable Games* (Simon & Schuster, 1969), not least with the inclusion of seven games from the famous Fischer-Spassky 1972 match and six more from their 1992 rematch. This production contains many fine black and white photographs, the games are both highly impressive and instructive, and Müller is ever an excellent analyst, but at times the typeset can be found wanting and looking a little like a ChessBase output.



Master Class Tactics: Train your combination skills! Vol.1

Oliver Reeh, PC-DVD; running time: 6 hours
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

German IM Reeh writes the 'Tune your Tactics' in *ChessBase Magazine* and here presents some of his favourite positions from there. On this DVD, Reeh introduces 36 positions for viewers to solve before returning with hints, if required, and to map

out full solutions. There's a bonus database included too, featuring many more training positions, ones which should also help the club player to improve their calculational and combinational skills.

There's also an accompanying DVD, *Master Class Tactics: Train your combination skills! Vol.2*, which retails at the same price and sees Reeh this time providing 39 interactive and instructional positions for viewers to solve.



Masterpieces and Dramas of the Soviet Championships: Volume III (1948-1953)

Sergey Voronkov, 524 pages, paperback
RRP £36.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £33.25**

The first two volumes of Voronkov's detailed account of the fabled USSR Championships were both released to significant acclaim and now Elk and Ruby have released a third volume, taking coverage into the 1950s. This was the era when the likes of Averbakh, Korchnoi and Petrosian began to make a name for themselves. Voronkov writes well about such figures, as well as many lesser known ones, while also including 77 games and fragments, many annotated by the players themselves.

Yet again, Elk and Ruby have gone the extra yard production wise, this third volume containing over 200 photographs and contemporary cartoons. As such, you may wish to purchase it in hardback format, which is also possible from Chess & Bridge for £49.95 or £44.45 for Subscribers.



Opening Repertoire: The Killer Dutch Rebooted

Simon Williams, 288 pages, paperback
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Nowadays known, of course, as the Ginger GM, Simon Williams has been enthusiastically advocating his beloved Classical Dutch for almost 20 years. His latest work is a revised and updated version of his Chessable course, which presented a complete repertoire for Black after 1 d4 f5, based especially around meeting 2 g3 ♖f6 3 ♗g2 with 3...e6 4 ♖f3 ♗e7 5 0-0 0-0 6 c4 d6. After 7 ♗c3 Williams demonstrates that 7...♗e4 is still fully viable and this work is likely to be required reading for Classical Dutch players looking to revise and update their repertoire. The initial detailed coverage of key ideas for

Black means that this new Everyman Chess release will also help those looking to take up something new and dynamic against 1 d4.



The Anti-Sicilian Bible

Efstratios Grivas, 520 pages, paperback
RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

It's been a typically busy late summer for Thinkers Publishing, with Greek GM Grivas's latest work a large repertoire for Black against the anti-Sicilians. Grivas begins by working his way through White's lesser second moves, presenting sensible counters for Black, before moving on to the likes of the Grand Prix, 2 c3 and the Rossolimo. Throughout he combines theoretical coverage with explaining the key early middlegame motifs and even the experienced 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 Sicilian player may find plenty of new ideas within.



The Checkmate Patterns Manual

Raf Mesotten, 376 pages, hardback
RRP £36.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £32.25**

Sean Marsh explained in our September pages how Chessable had created their own imprint to help bring some of their best-selling courses alive in book format. They've continued to do so this autumn, not least with this course which was a big hit when written by Belgian club player Mesotten. He explains the main types of mate, many with exotic names, such as the Anastasia, Swallow's Tail and Vukovic, before presenting 1,000 exercises to make sure that the reader has fully mastered all the key checkmates. The production, by New in Chess, is first rate, with the colour diagrams often enhanced with visual cues.

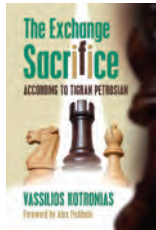


The Dragon Sicilian

Anish Giri, 248 pages, hardback
RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

While somewhat less detailed than Gawain Jones's two-volume Dragon repertoire for Quality Chess, Anish Giri's Chessable course has

also been pretty popular and even helped to get such an experienced Dragon practitioner as William Watson interested in meeting the classic Yugoslav main line, 1 e4 c5 2 d3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 dxd4 d6 5 dxc3 g6 6 e3 g7 7 f3 0-0 8 d2 d6 9 e4 with 9...d4!? 10 e4 e6. Elsewhere, Giri advocates meeting 9 0-0-0 with 9...d5 and covers not only all White's options against the Dragon, but various anti-Sicilians too, making this a complete repertoire for Black against 1 e4.



The Exchange Sacrifice According to Tigran Petrosian

Vassilios Kotronias, 304 pages, paperback
RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

The ninth world champion was renowned for his ability to sacrifice the exchange and often for positional, not attacking, compensation. In this new work for Russell Enterprises, leading Greek GM and highly experienced author Kotronias puts 36 of Petrosian's exchange sacrifices under the spotlight, aiming to assess their soundness, as well as seeing what lessons can be drawn. This work can also be seen as a collection of well annotated classic Petrosian games, featuring many ideas which may shock but also can only inspire.

Russell Enterprises have been busy too revising and reformatting a classic chess book, Fred Reinfeld's *The Immortal Games of Capablanca* (256 pages, paperback, RRP £26.95; Subscribers – £24.25), which is

now in algebraic format and an easy-on-the-eye layout.



The Makogonov Variation: A Ruthless King's Indian killer

Cyrus Lakdawala & Carsten Hansen, 268 pages, paperback

RRP £18.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.05**

Two popular authors continue to combine for the latter's 'Opening Hacker Series'. It might be stretching things to describe 1 d4 d6 2 c4 g6 3 d3 g7 4 e4 d6 5 h3 as the choice of a hacker, but the Makogonov system is quite an aggressive choice by White, who will often seize some early space on the kingside with g2-g4. Lakdawala and Hansen explain all the key ideas across 46 annotated games, while also mapping out a quick repertoire for White to help readers hit the ground running.



The Modernized Arkhangelsk Variation

Viktor Erdos, 408 pages, paperback
RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**
Fabiano Caruana and Gawain Jones have

both made good use of 1 e4 e5 2 d3 d6 3 b5 a6 4 a4 d6 5 0-0 b5 6 b3 c5!?, as has the strong Hungarian Grandmaster and Manx Liberty 4NCL regular Viktor Erdos. In this new release for Thinkers Publishing, Erdos maps out a detailed repertoire with his favourite "Ark", featuring plenty of new ideas, while also recommending lines for Black should White deviate from the main line Lopez on move four or five.



The Most Exciting Chess Games Ever

Steve Giddins, 200 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

For 20 years, *New in Chess Magazine* has been asking each player featured in their 'Just Checking' feature to name their favourite game. 45 of the best of those have been selected for this new book and, as Terry Chapman writes in his foreword, "These games will stretch and expand your vision of what is possible on the chess board." Where the games have already been featured in *New in Chess*, those notes are reproduced; for the rest, Giddins has supplied annotations, writing in his typically clear and insightful fashion.



Readers' Letters



October CHESS

A most entertaining issue. I had three brief comments.

In the piece on Euwe's games at Weston-super-Mare, the game against Znosko-Borovsky. In the key position on move 31...



...where Euwe might have played 31...e3!

(instead of 31...xc4?), it wasn't obvious to me until I put it into an engine why 32 f1, defending the rook on d4 a second time, wasn't a defence to the X-ray attack mentioned in the text. In fact it is – 32...xg2+ then loses for Black. Instead 32...xc4! wins; White can't take twice on c4 without getting back-rank mated (or if he exchanges twice on d8, 35 dxc4 still gets mated), and otherwise his position is falling apart. I think that should have been mentioned in the notes. (My engine prefers 32 h4 to the exchange sacrifice 32 fxd5, but they all lose).

The picture of a young James Essinger (who must have been at Oxford at the same time that I was, so I'm sorry I don't remember him from the university chess club or college matches) on p.43 looks astonishingly like that of a teenage Daniel Radcliffe in the Harry Potter movies. He must be tired of people pointing that out!

Finally, Tim Kett writes (p.47) "How much the rest of the chess world has closed – and

continues to close – the gap between themselves and Europe (if only chess were a mirror of a similar narrowing in economic terms, those of a liberal political persuasion may be sorely tempted to wonder)."

But in fact there has been a considerable narrowing of the economic gap between many of what we would once have called developing countries and Europe. Among the obvious examples are India and China (so mirroring chess rather well). But many African countries survived the financial crisis of 2008 better than the Europeans (not many highly-leveraged banking systems in Africa), and the EU debt crisis slowed Europe further. Although inequality within several advanced economies has widened, inequality between countries has narrowed since the 90s, as more poorer countries have become integrated into the international economy. Zimbabwe has had a rather choppy run, however, so this comment does not detract in any way from their result in pipping Norway being a great surprise. I thought Andorra's result also surprisingly strong given the population.

Anyway, a great read.

Peter Andrews, Kingston upon Thames



DGT

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