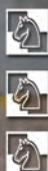


Chess Update



FEARLESS FIROUZJA

**ALIREZA FIROUZJA SCORES 15/18
IN THE ST. LOUIS BLITZ THEN WINS
THE SINQUEFIELD CUP AND AN
EXTRA \$100,000 FOR TAKING
THE 2022 GRAND CHESS TOUR**



A New Champion - Harry Grieve was a fully deserving winner of the British



Euwe at Weston - Brian Gosling on Max Euwe's 1924 Somerset triumph



What a Day! - John Stubbs saw chess shine at Gloucestershire Cricket Club

Chess

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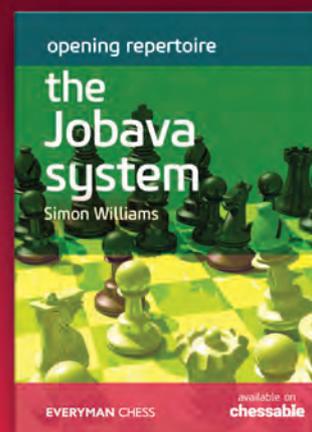
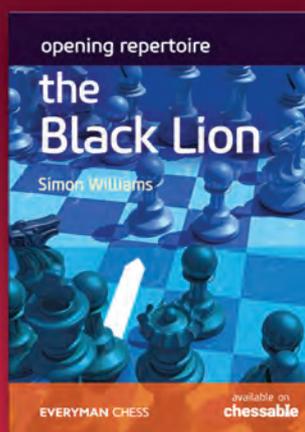
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GREAT NEW TITLES

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



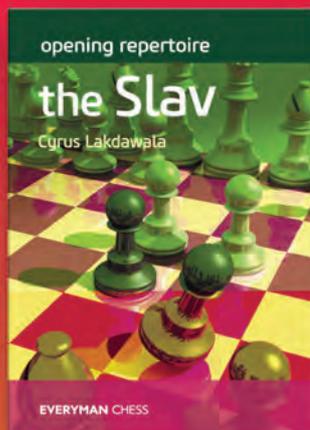
The Black Lion is a thoroughly modern counterattacking system that is a nightmare to face. This wild and aggressive line attempts to take away White's initiative from a very early stage and is guaranteed to throw your opponents off balance.

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

Paperback 336 pages

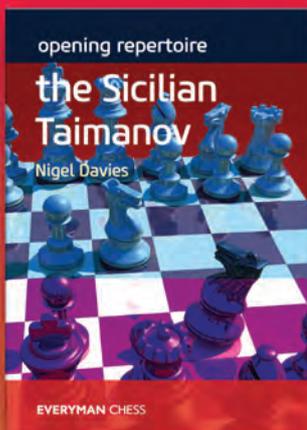
Based around the opening moves 1 d4 d5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bf4. Simon Williams (the Ginger GM) delves deep into the Jobava and offers up a complete repertoire based on this exciting new system.

Paperback 256 pages



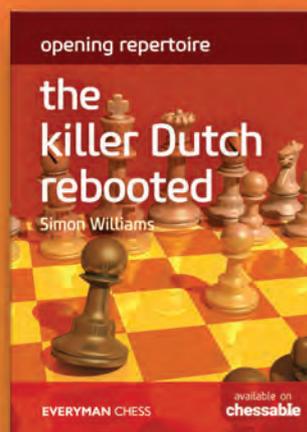
The Slav (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6) is a great choice against 1 d4 for players who are after a solid position from the opening but one that also contains dynamic possibilities.

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



COMING SOON

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

PUBLISHING September UK/Europe and October US



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A Big Win



Harry Grieve takes us through his most impressive game en route to winning the British

H.Grieve-D.Gormally

British Championship, Torquay 2022
Classical Sicilian

**1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6
5 ♘c3 ♘c6**

Danny is mainly a Najdorf player, but sometimes mixes the Classical Sicilian into his repertoire, so this did not come as a complete surprise. I have always responded with the English Attack ♘f3 before now, so my choice of the critical Rauzer variation for this game already sidestepped Danny's preparation whilst showing my intent for a sharp fight.

6 ♗g5 e6 7 ♖d2 ♗e7

7...a6 8 0-0-0 ♗d7, prioritising preparing queenside counterplay with ...b5, has been the more popular approach recently and was recommended by Sam Shankland in his Chessable course on the opening.

8 0-0-0 0-0 9 h4!?



A rare approach in this exact position, 9 f4 being the main move by far.

9...a6

9...♘d4 10 ♖xd4 h6 might be the most critical response, when White can play 11 f4!?, actually transposing back into a position that can be reached from the main line with 9 f4.

10 ♘xc6 bxc6 11 ♖h3

A novelty. The pawn storm 11 g4!? was played just three weeks earlier by Dutch talent Jorden Van Foreest against Erik Blomqvist in the Chennai Olympiad. In this game I show a different idea behind White's 9th move connected with the rook lift ♖h3-g3.

11...d5 12 ♖g3 ♖h8

This line was just a small branch of my preparation, but I recalled that Black should take the chance to trade the dark-squared



Harry Grieve remained undefeated while racking up a huge '+6' to win at Torquay. He certainly made excellent AlphaZeroesque use of Harry the h-pawn against Danny Gormally.

bishops with 12...♘h5 13 ♗xe7 ♖xe7 14 ♖d3 ♘f6. After Danny's move I had to think for myself and come up with a way to exploit the lack of ...♘h5 being played.



13 ♗e2

Logical, preventing ...♘h5 and preparing the h-pawn advance, but much better is to play it immediately: 13 h5! when capturing with 13...♘xh5 14 ♗xe7 ♖xe7 15 ♖h3 gives White a very dangerous attack down the h-file.

13...♖b8 14 ♖e3

As mentioned by Danny after the game, ...♖b6 isn't necessarily a threat I need to be worried about and after 14 h5! ♖b6 15 b3 ♖xf2? 16 ♖f3 ♖xg2 17 h6 Black's position falls apart.

14...♗g8 15 exd5

15 ♗xe7 instead prepares the ♖xg7 tactic directly: 15...♖xe7 (15...♘xe7? 16 exd5 and ♖e5 next is crushing) 16 ♖xg7! d4! (after 16...♘xg7 17 ♖g3+ ♖h8 18 ♖xb8 ♖xh4 White hasn't even won material, which put me off going down this line – but stepping back to evaluate the position at the end, the opening of the kingside will give White a crushing attack) 17 ♖g3 (17 ♖xd4? e5 forces White to give up the exchange) 17...e5 18 ♘b1 with a very complex position. I had missed the counterblow 16...d4, so it was lucky I avoided this line.

15...exd5 (See diagram at top of next column)

The point of my last move is what Danny had originally missed – the positionally desirable recapture 15...cxd5? fails to 16 ♗xe7 followed by the ♖e5 fork whichever way Black recaptures. All the tactics for White revolve around the hanging rook on b8, despite the focus seemingly being on the kingside.



16 h5

16 ♖e5? ♗d6 leaves White with no follow-up, whilst 16 ♗xe7 ♜xe7 prevents the ♖e5 trick as seen after 15...cxd5, although here White can head for the ending with 17 ♜xe7 ♗xe7 and even 18 ♗a4! ♖b4 19 ♖a3 ♗xh4 20 ♗b6 will win the a6-pawn and give White a strong queenside passed pawn. This would probably have been the best approach, accepting the achievement of forcing the ...exd5 recapture and then taking my positional advantage into an ending. Instead the text move gives Black a chance to keep the queens on the board...

16...f6

16...♗xg5 17 ♜xg5 ♜xg5+ 18 ♗xg5 was what I was expecting, which I thought would be a slightly better version of the ending noted above for me without the pawn on h4 hanging to ...♖b4 ideas. Danny understandably

doesn't want to defend passively like this, but instead allows a tactical shot.

17 ♗f4



17...♗d6?

17...♖b4! as suggested by Danny keeps Black fighting after 18 a3 ♗xf4! 19 ♜xf4 ♗d6 20 ♜h4 ♗xg3 21 ♜xg3. **18 ♗xg7! ♗e8** 18...♗xg7 19 ♜g3+ ♗h8 20 ♗xd6 followed by regaining the exchange on b8 or f8 gives White an extra pawn and a crushing position.

19 ♜g3

19 ♗d3!? is a nice tactical option I considered, but does commit White to an exchange sacrifice after 19...♗xg7 20 ♜g3+ ♗h8 21 ♗xd6 ♖b7 with the black rook no longer hanging on f8. Although White has great play on the dark squares here, there is a much simpler option in the original position.

19...♗xf4+ 20 ♜xf4 ♜b6



21 h6!?

When first calculating 18 ♗xg7, I played the move once I was sure that 21 ♜c7! was winning – Black really needs to trade the queens due to the mate threat on h7, giving White an extra pawn and a positionally winning ending. In the game I invested more time into calculating 21 h6 to try and finish the game cleanly, although the engine even prefers this endgame line.

21...♜xb2+ 22 ♗d2 ♖b4 23 ♗d3! 1-0

Not the only way, but a nice final touch. Some people were surprised that I played the move in just 14 seconds, but as well as being the most direct attacking move, it also prevents any of the tricks Black might have in other lines with ...♗xe2+ or ...♗d4+. With no more active tries in the position, Danny resigned.

Double GM Norm for Conor Murphy!

As we mentioned in passing last month, Charlton's Conor Murphy had a quite superb Olympiad for Ireland. IM Murphy raced to 6/6, his victims including Amin Tabatabaei and Matthias Bluebaum no less, before finishing on 7½/9, which equated to a whopping 2704 performance and, being an Olympiad, not one, but two GM norms.



C.Murphy-J.H.Lee
Chennai Olympiad 2022
Sicilian Kan

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 a6 5 c4 ♗f6 6 ♗c3 d6 7 ♗e2 ♗e7 8 ♗e3 b6 9 0-0 ♗b7 10 f3 0-0 11 ♖c1 ♗bd7 12 a3 ♜c7 13 b4

Thematic expansion while White continues to keep an eye on Black's two key Hedgehog pawn breaks, ...b5 and ...d5.

13...♗ac8 14 ♗d2 ♗b8 15 ♗h1 ♗fe8 16 ♗c2 h5!?

A novelty, not that that the consistent 17...h4! 18 h3 would have been too bad at all for Black in Shabalov-Macieja, Bermuda 2004, had he now gone 18...♗e5.

18 ♖b1 ♗a8?!



White takes control after this and while 18...♗e7 would have been a little retrograde, better than 18...d5! 19 cxd5 exd5 20 exd5 b5.

19 ♗a4! d5?

The South Korean IM gets in his ideal break...

20 exd5 exd5 21 c5!

...But this powerful advance reveals that it was mistimed. Note too just how well Murphy has had to calculate and judge things from afar.

21...bxc5 22 bxc5 ♗xc5

The critical test as if, of course, 22...♗xc5? 23 ♗b6.

23 ♗xc5 ♗xc5 24 ♗f5!



24...♗ce4!?

Going all-in and even after 24...♗e6 25 ♖cb2 ♗c6 26 ♗d6 Black would have been unlikely to have survived.

25 fxe4 ♗xe4 26 ♗d4!

An only move, but also a decisive one at that in conjunction with White's calm follow-up.

26...♗xf2+ 27 ♗g1! f6 28 ♖cb2 1-0



60 Seconds with... FM Harry Grieve



Born: Guildford, 12th April 2001.

Place of residence: Camberley, Surrey.

Occupation: Just graduated from university and now taking a year to focus on chess.

Enjoyable? I feel lucky to be able to spend a year doing what I love, and hopefully making more progress along the improvement journey at the same time.

And home life? Constantly travelling and playing tournaments can get tiring, so it's great to have somewhere peaceful to return to with family.

But sometimes good to escape to: Somewhere I haven't been to before! I love travelling and seeing new places.

Sports played or followed: Tennis especially, but also snooker, golf, badminton... the list goes on.

A favourite novel? I mainly just read non-fiction – sports autobiographies in particular.

Piece of music? Hard to pick! One I often listen to before a game to get into the zone is 'Can't Hold Us' by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis.

Film or TV series? *The Apprentice*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? The same as playing any sport probably – the pressured situations it creates when

everything is on the line. When people give up playing chess, I think this is what they miss that is difficult to recreate in everyday life.

And the worst? When hard work being put in doesn't translate to results on the board. You just have to trust in the process and have patience, but it can be painful!

Your best move? Only the flashy ones come to mind – I have no recollection of how my king made it to g3, but here I saved half a point:

F.Rocco-H.Grieve
Hampstead 2017



35...♙xh1+! **36 ♖xh1 ♜h8+** **37 ♔g1 ♞h3+** **38 ♜f1 ♞f4!** and White has nothing better than repeating moves: **39 ♔g1 ♞h3+ ½-½**

But less memorable than your worst move? Unfortunately, yes. Already having lost an ending a clear pawn up against future GM Max Warmerdam in the previous round, I then threw away another full point here.

H.Grieve-S.Elgersma
Dutch Open, Dieren 2017



28 ♜e6?? ♜e8 0-1

And a highly memorable opponent? Baskaran Adhiban at the Reykjavik Open this year. I managed to hold a draw with Black and although he was struggling in the tournament and we had another round that afternoon, he still analysed the game with me afterwards in high spirits.

Favourite game of all time? Too hard to choose just one – personally I've never been one for studying the 'classics', as chess has evolved so much even just in the last 10 years. There are great games being played every day in events which we can follow online, so there's no shortage of current material to learn from.

The best three chess books: There are so many, but just to name some more recent publications: *The Secret Ingredient* by Markos and Navara, *Thinking Inside the Box* by Aagaard and *Think Like a Super-GM* by Adams and Hurtado are all excellent.

Is FIDE doing a good job? I think the situation is improving.

Or your National Federation? It's been good to see more norm events in England in the last couple of years, as well as better opportunities for female players. We have some very talented juniors and a good number of 2400+ players coming through who could boost England's total of GMs if given the right opportunities.

Any advice for either? Keep getting feedback from the players, and embrace the current growth in chess.

Can chess make one happy? Not by itself perhaps, but as a major part of a balanced life – absolutely!

A tip please for the club player? Have confidence, whoever you play – most people set too much store by the rating system when deciding how they feel about an opponent. If you go into every game believing that you can win, you will be a dangerous opponent to face.

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What a Day!

Thanks to John Stubbs, chess in Bristol learnt a few lessons from the first ChessFest and enjoyed a bonanza of a day at Gloucestershire County Cricket Club

When I heard that Gloucestershire County Cricket Club were going to hold their first Cricket Community Day, I thought to myself: this sounds like a good opportunity to put on some chess, and watch some one-day cricket.

I contacted Community Partnership Officer, Jon Hook, to see what he thought of adding some chess to the day. I mentioned free chess lessons, blindfold chess, and a blitz challenge. Being a very enthusiastic person, Jon simply said: "Great, fantastic – you're in!" The only thing he couldn't quite get his head around was how someone could play chess with a blindfold on.

Here we go then... It was time for Bristol's own miniature ChessFest on Wednesday, August 10th. I got my son Oli and leading local player IM Chris Beaumont on board. Not too difficult. As well as both giving free chess lessons, Chris agreed to play the odd game of blindfold chess, and Oli would offer a blitz challenge.

Two weeks later, at a pre Community Day meeting, I listened to all the activities the Army, RAF and Police were going to put on: mini assault course, reaction wall; let alone all the hardware on view. Then to the chess bit. I gave my spiel to the (mainly) armed forces officers in the room. It seemed to go down quite well; lots of smiles and nodding berets.

When Jon asked me if there was anything we particularly needed for the day, my experience of ChessFest 2021 told me that as well as asking for some trestle tables and chairs, we definitely needed some shade. He offered us space in a large open-air marquee, including a clear view of the cricket. Perfect! Just two more things to do: borrow some chess sets and clocks from Downend Chess Club, and go online and order a nice silk blindfold for Chris.

The beauty of the Community Day was that as well as all the various activities for the visitors and community to try out, there was also a 50-over cricket match between Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire. What could be better, cricket and chess?

The Big Day

We arrived to set up at 9.00am, with lots of people rushing round with walkie-talkies at the ready. We headed for our appointed marquee, quickly set up, and after watching the heavy artillery arrive, admired the



Yes, that really is the legendary, whole-hearted former England bowler David 'Syd' Lawrence taking his first steps with the royal game after Chris Beaumont introduced him to pawn chess.



We can't quite make out any cricket on the distant outfield, but can certainly see lots of happy faces in the ever-busy chess tent at the Gloucestershire Cricket Community Day.

Gloucestershire and Notts players doing lots of exercises, and smacking some balls around in the nets.

The match started at 10.30 am and things started quietly for us. We were now beginning to worry that maybe nobody would visit us in our lovely marquee.

We shouldn't have worried, and by 11 am I soon realised that I hadn't brought along enough chess sets. I even had to start taking a list of who was next in line, waiting to play chess or get a lesson. By lunchtime, more

adults had started to arrive. They didn't get too close, and had to be cajoled into taking a seat at a chess board, receive some instruction, or try some blitz.

By the afternoon, the army and police started to pop in. They had fancied themselves a bit, and wanted to take Oli on at blitz. They looked confident (well, he did give them five minutes to his one). It doesn't take long for experienced chess players to get respect from novice chess players, especially when they can see how quickly they can

make the moves, let alone be able to play a full game with a silk blindfold on.

It has to be said that it was a good day, with lots of banter and fun. I hadn't even had time to watch any cricket! At tea someone told me that Gloucestershire were chasing 295, and were already 115 for 4, with less than 30 overs left. It didn't look good.

Time for a coffee and cake. When I returned I was taken aback to see the cricketing legend that is Dave (Syd) Lawrence march in. With a huge smile on his face, he said: "Who is going to teach me how to play, then?"

He got the jackpot, and Chris spent an hour teaching him how all the pieces moved, and then they had a couple of pawn games.

Syd, newly elected President of Gloucestershire CCC, told us that he had always wanted to learn chess, but had never had the time. He obviously drew a lot of attention, and couldn't stop laughing as the youngsters, and Chris, kept him in check. After thanking us all, and posing for a few photos, he was off to go and do other presidential-type things.

Syd's last words were: "I am going to have to get some more lessons with you guys, and bring my wife along next time!" Did you know that Syd was the last bowler to get Viv Richards out in test cricket?

By 5.30 pm we started to pack up, and it



Blindfolded or not, Chris Beaumont proved quite the hit, here seen well on the way to revealing the downside to White's early kingside play and next to yet another blitz game for Oli Stubbs.

was now time for me to finally watch a bit of cricket. It had been wall-to-wall sunshine all day, and with ice creams firmly in our hands, Chris, Oli and I got to watch the 39th and 40th overs of the second innings. Gloucestershire's amazing fifth wicket stand

had taken them from 115 for 4 in the 20th over to reach the winning score of 296 for 5 in the 39th over. At least we saw them hit the winning four.

There could be no doubt: it had been a very successful Community Day.



Forthcoming Events

Sep 30 - Oct 2 Northumberland Congress, North Shields
northumberlandchess.wixsite.com/congress

October 1 Swindon Rapidplay
swindonchessevents.yolasite.com

October 6 Hendon Blitz
hendonchessclub.com

October 7-9 Fareham Congress
castlechess.co.uk

October 8 Golders Green Rapidplay
goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

October 9 Newry Rapidplay
ulsterchess.org/events

October 11 Muswell Hill Rapidplay
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

October 14-16 Crewe Congress
crewechessclub.co.uk/congress-entry/

October 14-16 Cornwall Autumn Congress, Penzance
cornwallchess.org.uk/congress/autumn/autumn-2022.shtml

October 14-16 Dundee Congress
dundeecongress.co.uk/index.htm

October 14-16 Hull 4NCL International Congress
4ncl.co.uk/fide/information_hull_2022.htm

October 16-22 Guernsey Rapidplay
guernseychessfestival.org.gg

October 16 Kensington Rapidplay
chesscircuit.substack.com/p/kensington-fide-rapid-chess

October 22-23 4NCL (Divisions 1, 2 & 3W), Daventry
4ncl.co.uk/2223_dates.htm

October 22 Poplar Rapid
spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub/

October 28-30 Scarborough Congress
scarboroughchess.uk

October 30 Birmingham Rapidplay
rapidplay.birminghamchess.org.uk

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

And for the Online Connoisseur:

October 2-10 European Club Cup, Mayrhofen
eccc2022.at; Carlsen, Erigaisi, Harikrishna, Mamedyarov, MVL, etc.

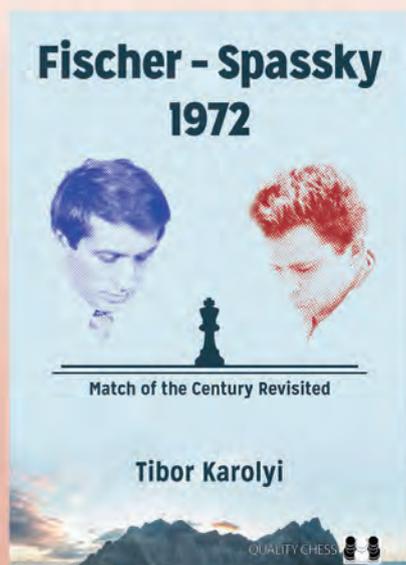
October 22-23 German Bundesliga
schachbundesliga.de;
 Adams, Keymer, Jones, McShane, Rapport, Watson, etc.

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.

Two new books from Quality Chess!

Fischer – Spassky 1972

Match of the Century Revisited



The World Championship match in Reykjavik 1972 was played at the height of the Cold War. The image of a lone American genius defeating the Soviet machine captivated a worldwide audience unlike anything else in chess history. Exactly fifty years later, **Fischer – Spassky 1972** takes a fresh look at both the chess and the human aspects of this monumental match.

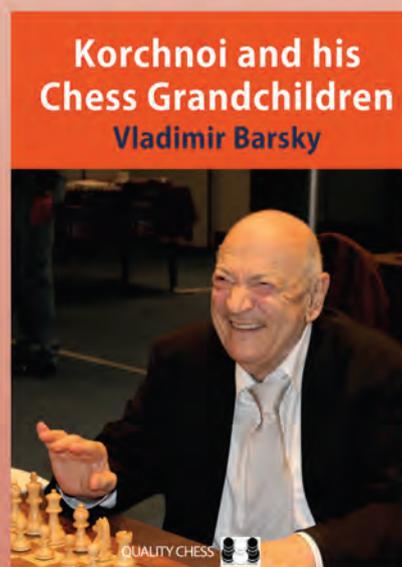
Bobby Fischer is one of the greatest players of all time. His astonishing journey up to the 1972 match was documented in **The Road to Reykjavik**. In this volume, award-winning author **Tibor Karolyi** completes his study of Fischer's career with in-depth analysis of the legendary Reykjavik match and the controversial Fischer – Spassky 1992 rematch.

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Korchnoi and his Chess Grandchildren

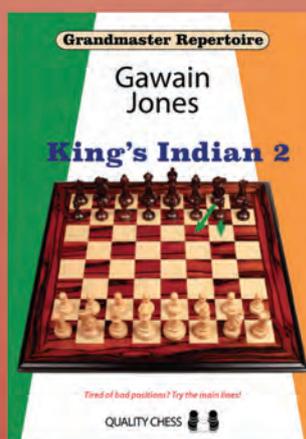
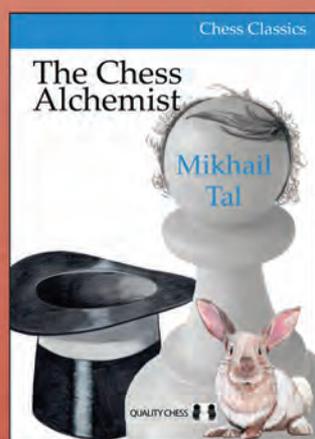
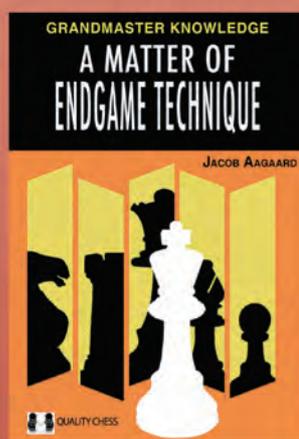
This book features 25 of Viktor Korchnoi's best games from the latter stages of his glorious career. The annotations are mainly in Korchnoi's own words, with insightful additions from other top players and the author. Between the annotated games are numerous articles and interviews – some with Viktor, and others featuring top players talking about the great man.

Viktor Korchnoi is a legendary figure in chess, and is often considered the strongest player never to become World Champion. He was already an elite player in the 1950s and remained a formidable force well into the 21st century, capable of beating top players who were young enough to be his grandchildren.



Out now in hardcover only

Also available



Quality Chess books are available from

QUALITYCHESS.CO.UK

The London Chess Centre and other specialist chess retailers



29) Muzychuk-Roebers

A dramatic position in what was a very dramatic game. After 1 ♖h3+? ♗e2 2 ♗xd3 ♗xd3 3 ♗xf2 ♗xf7 only Black was pressing for a win, whereas 1 g6! would have won, and if 1...♗g5 2 ♖h3+ ♗g3+!? (2...♗e2 3 g7 ♗xf1 4 g8♗ sees the new queen cover back down the g-file) 3 ♗xg3+ fxg3+ 4 ♗h3! ♗f4+ 5 ♗h4 ♗xg6+ 6 ♗g5 or 1...♗e2 2 g7! ♗xf7 3 ♖h8.

30) Flores-Onischuk

1...♗d4! 2 ♗xc8+ ♗g7 3 ♖f1 (the only real try in view of 3 ♗xd4+? ♗xd4 followed by mate and 3 ♗c1 ♗xf2+ 4 ♗f1 ♗xe1 5 ♗xe1 ♗xh2) 3...♗e5! (3...♗g5 4 ♗xd4+ ♗xd4+ 5 ♗h1 ♗f4 is good, but not quite a killer in view of 6 ♗c3+! ♗h6 7 ♗xd2 ♗xd2) 4 ♗g3 ♗e3+ 5 ♗f2 (if 5 ♗h1 ♗xg3 6 hxg3 ♗h6+) 5...♗h6 6 f4 (6 ♗g3 ♗xg3 7 ♗c3+ ♗d4! should now be winning, and if 8 ♗xd2 ♗xd2 9 hxg3 ♗e2+) 6...♗xf4 7 h4 ♗h3+ 8 ♗g2 ♗f4! 0-1

31) Vokhidov-Vera Siguenas

After 1 gxh5+? ♗h7 2 ♗e3 ♗e6 3 ♗f5+ Black would most likely have drawn had he now found 3...♗g7!, but 1 ♗e7+! would have won, and if 1...♗g7 (or 1...♗h6 2 ♗f5 ♗c1+ 3 ♗h2 ♗f4+ 4 g3 ♗xg3+ 5 ♗g2!) 2 ♗g8+ ♗h6 3 ♗f5 followed by ♗g6+ or again the resource 3...♗d1+ 4 ♗h2 ♗f4+ 5 g3 ♗xg3+ 6 ♗g2!.

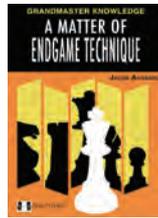
32) Lalic-Kalaiyalahan

1 ♗xf7!! (1 ♗xe6!? fxe6 2 ♖xe6 ♖xe6 3 ♖xe6 ♖f8 4 ♗g3 actually also favours White, but is much less clear) 1...♗xf7 (1...♖f8 2 ♗g5 wins fairly straightforwardly in view of 2...♖xf6 3 ♗xh7!) 2 ♖xe6 ♖xe6 (likewise, 2...♗b8 3 ♖xb6+ ♗xb6 4 ♖e7 is pretty devastating, and if 4...♗f8 5 ♗e6 ♗d8 6 ♗g3+ ♗a8 7 ♗c7) 3 ♖xe6 ♗d7 4 f7! (the sting in the tail and arguably main point behind ♗xf7) 4...♗xf7 (4...♗b8 5 ♖e8+ collects the loose black queen, with an easy win after 5...♗xe8 6 fxe8♗+ ♖xe8 7 ♗g3+ ♗a8 8 ♗d7) 5 ♖e8+ ♗c7 6 ♗c8+ ♗b6 7 ♖xh8 ♗f4 8 ♗c5+ ♗a6 9 ♖a8+ ♗b7 10 ♗c8+ ♗b6 11 ♗d8+ 1-0

33) Knight-Dargan

1...♗xf3!! 2 exf3 (there's no good way to decline as shown by 2 0-0 ♗c5+ 3 e3 ♗h5 4 ♖f2 ♗e5!) 2...♖d3 3 ♗e2? (the critical test of Black's play, but objectively White should have preferred to grovel on a pawn down and with a miserable position after 3 0-0 ♗xc3 4 ♗xc3 ♖xc3) 3...♗xc3! 4 ♗xd3 ♖d8+ 5 ♗c2 ♗f5+! (Dargan continues in inspired fashion) 6 ♗xc3 ♖d3+! 7 ♗c2 (7 ♗b4 a5+ 8 ♗a4 b5+! forces mate: 9 ♗xa5 bxc4+ 10 ♗b6 ♗b5+ 11 ♗c7 ♗a5+ 12 ♗c8 ♖d8+ 13 ♗b7 ♖d7+ 14 ♗xc6 ♖c7#) 7...♖d6+! (precise to the end as Black keeps the white king fully restricted) 8 ♗c3 ♗xf3+ 9 ♗b4 c5+ 10 ♗xc5 a5! (this neat silent advance completes the mating net) 11 ♗b5 ♗c6+ 12 ♗xa5 ♗c5+ 0-1

This Month's New Releases



A Matter of Endgame Technique

Jacob Aagaard, 896 pages
Quality Chess

RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

Every now and then, a chess book comes along which simply demands attention. *A Matter of Endgame Technique* certainly falls into that category – and for a variety of reasons.

The physical appearance of the book is startling. The page count is extraordinarily high, the paper is of a high quality and the sturdy, hardback binding ensures the book can be read without the whole thing falling apart. There is no way this massive tome can be ignored, if displayed in a bookshop or a congress bookstall.

What sort of material can be expected to hold the attention over nearly 900 pages? The blurb provides some clues:

“The most hated cliché in chess is: *And the rest is a matter of technique*. In *A Matter of Endgame Technique* Grandmaster Jacob Aagaard deals with one of the few things chessplayers hate even more – losing a winning position. No serious chessplayer is new to the misery of spoiling hours of hard work in a few minutes...”

Furthermore, “*A Matter of Endgame Technique* offers the second-best happiness – the misfortune of others – as well as deep explanation of the underlying patterns of how and why we misplay winning endgames. At just under 900 pages, this hardcover book is actually six books in one, explaining the technical and practical areas of chess endgames plainly, simply and deeply. Endgame theory is well covered elsewhere; this book is all about technique and devoid of material to memorise.”

“Six books in one” goes some way to explaining the mammoth proportions of the book and, perhaps eccentrically, “The book contains only six chapters, all of which could have been published as individual volumes.”

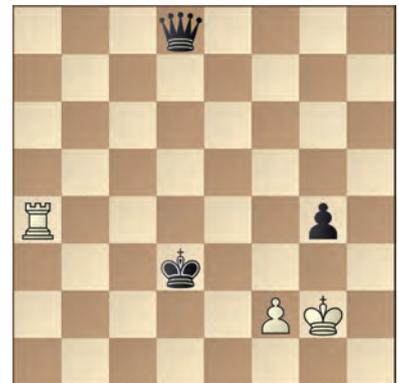
The six chapters in question are: Endgame Elements, Lack of Technique, Fortresses, Rook vs. Bishop, Exchanges and Illustrative Games. The chapters have exercises, from ‘easy’ to ‘brain crusher’ and an absolute gold mine of highly instructive illustrative

examples of endgame play.

Lest the reader feels an uncomfortable sense of responsibility when encountering this massive tome, the author provides a little piece of advice: “I am trusting readers to understand that this book is many things, and you do not have to read all of it, simply stick to the sections that pique your interest.”

The trick is definitely to focus on what is most relevant to each individual reader at the time. For instance, anyone who has seen their winning position crash against a drawing fortress will find numerous ways to watch for the signs and stop it happening in the first place, as well as plenty of advice on how to break it down before it becomes unbreachable. Here is a case in point.

E.Pipia-M.Boyer Konya 2018



Towards the end of a very long game (played, incidentally, at the World Youth Under-16 Olympiad), White missed the best move (104 ♖xg4), and opted to check the king instead.

104 ♖a3+?

“Once the king comes to the second rank, White's fortress will never hold, due to how the game ended.”

Black's winning plan is very instructive. White may have thought the fortress secure, but it turns out not to be the case.

104...♗c2 105 ♖g3 ♗d5+ 106 ♗g1 ♗f3!

And Black won.

Another way to read the book would be to flick through the pages and stop randomly; I tried this method too and never failed to find an example of great interest.

Incidentally, this is definitely not a collection of classic endings played by world

champions such as Capablanca, Fischer and Karpov. "I don't use famous games to explain chess ideas. When I see a book full of examples I already know, because they have been in many books already, I mentally turn off. I do not want this experience for you."

Along the way, Aagaard expresses typically forthright opinions on a number of players. On Grischuk, for example, he writes, "Some people think his clock-handling is cool or entertaining. I just find it stupid. The most intelligent person in the room showing no intelligence. It really is awful to watch."

Annotating a game in which Short wins Bacrot's queen, but allows serious counterplay with a rash move, Aagaard comments: "Short here showed the lack of impulse control you would expect from a child, happy to have won the queen, or from a senior player, tired after four hours of full effort, who gives in to an impulse and then has to live with the mistake for the rest of the game." Short still went on to win the game, but he certainly could have done so sooner.

Recurring themes help the learning process. One in particular keeps jumping out: "Once the winning position has been achieved, many lose concentration." This is important from two angles: it reminds us to concentrate just as much, if not more, to avoid letting the point slip away (Karpov was particularly good at this). Also, in bad positions, keep putting up resistance as the opponent could easily become tired or lazy.

Two of the best games in the book feature terrific battles between Bent Larsen and Tony Miles (one win each), and they demonstrate both sides of the aforementioned coin. This one, which has Larsen nursing a dangerous passed a-pawn, finishes with a fine twist.

B.Larsen-A.Miles Bled/Portoroz 1979

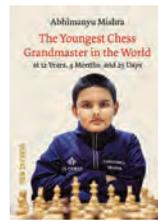


Aagaard describes this as "The glorious moment that all Danish schoolboys know." Larsen forced resignation with **60 a7!**, as after **60...♙xa7 61 ♖c8** forces the black king away from his bishop, leaving it defenceless.

It is hard to imagine how much time and effort has gone into creating this extremely impressive book. It is monumental, a real *tour de force*. It is not even the end of the story; *A Matter of Middlegame Technique* by Jacob

Aagaard is also in the pipeline, but it should be noted that the Quality Chess website says: "This book has been postponed to 2023, on account of not wishing to kill the author..."

Sean Marsh



The Youngest Chess Grandmaster in the World

Abhimanyu Mishra, 208 pages
New in Chess

RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

Abhimanyu Mishra became the youngest chess grandmaster in the world on 30th June 2021, at the age of 12 years, four months and 25 days. That is a remarkable achievement by anyone's standards. So is having a book published, just over one year later.

The blurb sets the scene: "In this book, he explains the extraordinary training methods of his father, who not only helped Abhi develop his talents and fighting spirit but also selected his professional chess coaches to constantly improve his skills. Together they travelled from New Jersey to Budapest, Hungary, for the last part of the journey – a non-stop barrage of chess games to secure the necessary results."

ChessBase maestro Frederic Friedel praises the young grandmaster in his foreword, stating this: "This book is a precious collection of anecdotes, with insight into some of his best games. It is an opportunity to get to know a unique chess talent who is on his way to the very top."

There are eight chapters, starting with Out of the cradle, onto the board and then ending with Through the eyes of my mentors. 27 annotated games provide an insight into Mishra's growing strength and there is a fine selection of colour photographs.

Anyone expecting the book to contain nothing but juvenilia will be nonplussed by first the prose and then the quality of the games. Here is a sample of the former.

"Bruce Lee famously said, 'Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless like water.' When my father said this to me for the first time, I was taken aback. Why would he ask me to forget everything I had worked so hard to learn? When I asked him the same question, he just smiled and said that I'd understand the true meaning soon. Soon enough every word of it made so much sense to me. It began to resonate with my life, with my perspective towards chess. Considering my experience of all these years I can vouch for the life altering power of keeping an open mind."

It is not entirely clear whether or not the words come directly from Mishra; the text is credited to both Abhimanyu and Swati Mishra (his mother), and the book has been edited by Deeksha Vats. There is certainly depth and maturity on display here. "Big or small, in chess or in life, problems need solutions or

they become bigger before you even realize. I seem introverted but the truth is that I am not. The shroud of quietness is mere focus on my game, when I avoid engaging in conversations lest I get distracted."

The first game is from the Chesskid.com Nationals Under-8 of 2016. Mishra could have still played in the Under-6 event, but already showed ambition and the desire to perform at a higher level. In the game, he showed some fine combinative touches to defeat a Sicilian Dragon.

Soon, having broken the barrier to become the world's youngest International Master, the race was on to go one better and become the youngest grandmaster. One thing is immediately apparent when looking through the games; unlike many young players, Mishra not only has tremendous patience, but he also relishes the endgame phase. Needing to win as Black against a strong player to secure his final GM norm, Mishra first chose the Grünfeld Defence ("the sharpest line possible"), and then proceeded to outplay his opponent in a tricky bishop versus knight ending.

L.Mendonca-A.Mishra Budapest 2021



48 ♖e5??

"Falling into my carefully laid trap. 48 b4 was winning."

48...♗f3+!

"Now, completely in shock, he makes the final error."

49 gxf3??

49 ♖f6! or 49 ♖f4! would have held."

49...exf3 50 ♙h4 g5!

"I think he had missed this nice move" (and 0-1, 55).

I found Mishra's annotations to be honest and to the point. He doesn't fall into the trap of presenting long lines of analysis to try to impress the reader.

This is an interesting book, offering a fresh angle on the progress of a rapidly improving chess prodigy. Presumably, there is a lot more to come from Mishra and we can only wonder just how far he can go. The contents of this book represent just the start of what should be a remarkable journey. Accept the fact that one can learn a lot from someone so young and this highly readable book should be of great interest.

Sean Marsh



3.h4 against the King's Indian & Grünfeld
Sipke Ernst, PC-DVD; running time: 4 hours
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Pushing Harry as early as move three is bound to raise eyebrows, especially at club level, but 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 h4!? really is quite viable, as well as a good surprise weapon. Chessable have already released a course on this dangerous sideline, Carsten Hansen a book, and now it's the turn of ChessBase and Dutch Grandmaster Ernst to do likewise. If you're an aggressive player or one who revels in early mess and wouldn't mind avoiding the Grünfeld, 3 h4!? could well be worth a look.



Chess Classics: Games You Must Know
Dorian Rogozenco, PC-DVD;
running time: 8 hours
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

It may be a while since you heard of Rogozenco's name, but that's possibly because he has been coaching the German team for many a year. Rogozenco is also a regular contributor to *ChessBase Magazine* with the 'Chess Classics' section. Here he selects the best of that material while recording some new, which leaves the viewer with 33 classic chess games to enjoy. For those feeling they could do with brushing up their chess education over the winter, this new DVD might well be the tonic.

Talking of *ChessBase Magazine*, no. 209 has just been released from Hamburg. This PC-DVD is also available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £17.95 or £16.15 for Subscribers. Inside there is coverage of the Candidates, a special tribute to the play of the Muzychuk sisters, practical tips from Jan Markos, and plenty of opening ideas, including coverage from Daniel King of 1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘c3 d5 3 ♗f4 c5 4 e4!?.

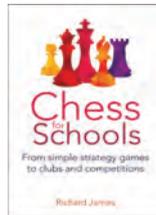


Chess for Kids

Jennifer Kemmeter, 192 pages, paperback
RRP £12.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.69**

This workbook is designed to introduce children to chess and does what it says on the

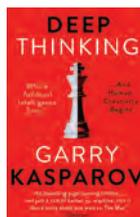
tin very well, which is perhaps not such a surprise when we discover that Kemmeter is a successful children's author who wrote the popular series *Build It!* and *Play It!*. Such principles are very much to the fore in her chess book, which gradually introduces the pieces, rules, and key strategies and tactics. There is a clear emphasis on 'learn by doing', which means various mini games and exciting exercises, while throughout the book is certainly colourfully and clearly illustrated.



Chess for Schools

Richard James, 224 pages, paperback
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

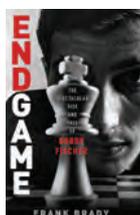
Richard James is famous in the UK chess world not just for *Addicts' Corner*, but arguably even more so for his pioneering work with Richmond Junior Chess Club. Crown House Publishing, who also did a fine job with Barry Hymer and Peter Wells's *Chess Improvement: It's All In The Mindset*, are responsible for this important release. James believes that chess is not suitable for all primary school children, but that there are ways to help realise who it might suit. These methods are fully revealed here, as is all manner of useful material pertaining to parents, developing links between schools, and especially to the enjoyment which older children can get from chess. Up to date in terms of educational research, *Chess for Schools* will provide a fascinating and thought-provoking read for parents and those who teach chess in schools.



Deep Thinking

Garry Kasparov, 304 pages, paperback
RRP £10.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £9.89**

Written in conjunction with Mig Greengard, Kasparov tells his side of his famous struggle against *Deep Blue* for the first time. Unsurprisingly he explains how the odds were against him, but does also reveal the various mistakes he made before branching out to tell the story of AI, how he's fully embraced it, and how mankind can make the best use of it.



Endgame: The Spectacular Rise and Fall of Bobby Fischer

Frank Brady, 464 pages, paperback
RRP £10.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £9.89**

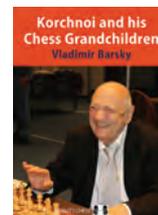
A reprint of Frank Brady's famous account of Bobby Fischer which first appeared in 2011. Brady, of course, knew the young Fischer very well and is ideally placed to draw together the often contradictory strands of his life. If you haven't yet read *Endgame* and have only just a slight interest in Fischer, this fascinating account with its attempt to explain just who Bobby Fischer was comes highly recommended.



Fischer - Spassky 1972:

Match of the Century Revisited
Tibor Karolyi, 520 pages, paperback
RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

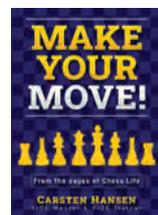
50 years on this is the 'Match of the Century Revisited' and unsurprisingly the combination of Karolyi and Quality Chess has done a fine job. Fischer's astonishing ascent to take on Spassky was well chronicled by Karolyi in *The Road to Reykjavik* and now the Hungarian IM takes an in-depth look at both the famous 1972 match, as well as that infamous Fischer-Spassky rematch of 1992. Do note too that if you prefer your classic chess books in hardback form, that is possible for £31.50 or £28.35 for Subscribers.



Korchnoi and his Chess Grandchildren

Vladimir Barsky, 384 pages, hardback
RRP £29.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.55**

Another notable release from Quality Chess and a fine tribute to the late, great Viktor Korchnoi. Leading chess journalist and IM Barsky has drawn together material from a number of interviews with Korchnoi, as well as a discussion of him from various leading players. The book features 25 classic Korchnoi games, with the annotations heavily built on his own, as it becomes clear just how Korchnoi was able to maintain such a level into the 21st century that he could still outplay grandmasters who were young enough to be his grandchildren.



Make Your Move!

Carsten Hansen, 132 pages, paperback
RRP £15.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £14.39**

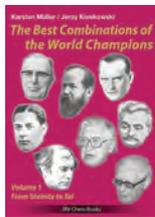
The subtitle reveals much: 'From the pages of *Chess Life*'. In total there are over 200 positions to solve taken from Hansen's *Chess Life* column. The positions are grouped in blocks of nine, each containing three easy, three medium and three difficult positions, with full solutions provided for each.



Prepare To Win

Jonathan Arnott, 226 pages, paperback
RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

This new release from Steel City Press comes with a foreword from Gawain Jones no less, who admits that "Armed with the recommendations in this book it will become even tougher for us titled players to out-prepare our opponents." The subtitle is also worth noting: 'A club player's guide to winning at chess before move one'. Preparation is now something that even affects the average-to-stronger club player, players who may well learn plenty from Arnott's advice on such topics as how to locate a potential opponent's games and how to predict what line they may play.



The Best Combinations of the World Champions Vol 1: from Steinitz to Tal

Karsten Müller & Jerzy Konikowski, 192 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Joachim Beyer Verlag's latest English language release sees the acclaimed authors tackle the play of the early world champions. Readers get to solve a number of instructive positions taken from their games, with this first volume containing some 260 positions, as well as many annotated games. Some of these really are a treasure trove as Müller and Konikowski cover such fascinating and important topics as the 'Steinitz king',

Lasker's phenomenal defensive capabilities and Smyslov's superb grasp of the endgame.

The companion volume, *The Best Combinations of the World Champions Vol 2: from Petrosian to Carlsen*, runs to 240 pages while being available at the same price from Chess & Bridge. This time there are 288 combinational positions, as well as again a wealth of other material to enjoy, not least the sections on how Fischer exploited endgames advantages often through small combinations and Karpov's great ability to restrict his opponent's play.



Opening Repertoire: Richter-Veresov Attack

Cyrus Lakdawala, 416 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Following hot on the heels of *The Jobava System*, which we reviewed last month, Everyman Chess have released another 'Opening Repertoire' devoted after 1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♗c3 d5 not to the trendy 3 ♗f4, as covered by Simon Williams, but rather the good, old 3 ♗g5, the Veresov Attack. Lakdawala already gave the opening some coverage in his earlier *A Ferocious Opening Repertoire*, but here largely rejects lines with an early f2-f3 in favour of relatively more solid set-ups featuring e2-e3 and ♗f3 or ♗f3. As usual, Lakdawala presents a complete repertoire with 1 d4, mapped out with the use of deeply annotated games, and those who do decide to add the Veresov to their repertoire should not find their understanding of the key ideas lacking.

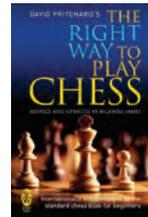


The Hungarian Dragon

Junior Tay, 124 pages, paperback
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Junior Tay explained what the Hungarian Dragon was in these pages last month, demonstrating that meeting 1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 g6 6 ♗e3

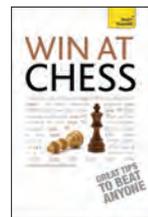
with 6...♗c6 7 f3 h5! has much more to it than just surprise value. Existing Dragon players may well wish to jump on the bandwagon and whether or not you currently play 5...g6, Tay's work will provide all you need to know to play this tricky line.



The Right Way to Play Chess

David Pritchard, 240 pages, paperback
RRP £8.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.09**

Publisher Right Way have brought Pritchard's classic 1950 guide to chess back into production. Thousands of players have progressed from beginner to decent club level thanks to Pritchard's helpful advice, which has now been thoroughly revised and updated by Richard James no less, who also adds a helpful new chapter on how to teach and encourage young players.



Win at Chess: Teach Yourself

William Hartston, 288 pages, paperback
RRP £12.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.69**

It's certainly the time for classic chess books to gain a new lease of life, with Hartston's 1980 work receiving an interactive make over. *Win at Chess: Teach Yourself* still takes the reader from learning how the pieces move to appreciating basic strategies and checkmates, but it also now contains a number of specific tips as well as extra exercises to solve. Very handily for those trying to learn chess whilst multitasking, Hartston offers one, five and ten-minute introductions to the key principles.

IM Bill Hartston's companion work *Improve Your Chess: Teach Yourself* has also received a makeover from Teach Yourself, an imprint of Hodder Education. Here 176 pages are given over to 75 easy-to-follow lessons, with the work retailing at £9.99 or £8.99 for Subscribers, while Hartston has also made available some bonus material for readers via the Teach Yourself website.



HULL 4NCL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Friday 14 – Sunday 16 October 2022

Canham Turner Conference Centre, University of Hull, Cottingham Rd, Hull, HU6 7RX

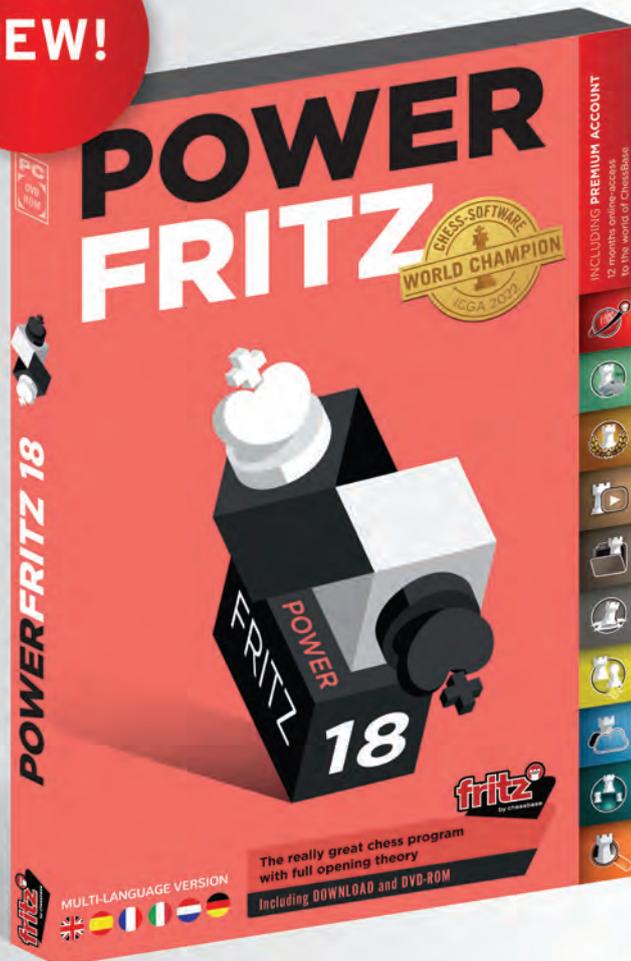
3 sections - all of 5 rounds: **Open (FIDE/ECF rated), U2000 (FIDE/ECF rated), U1700 (ECF rated)**

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