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England: Triple World Champions - Nigel Povah reports from the World Senior Teams



ChessFest rocked Trafalgar Square - A photo report on a superb day of al fresco chess



Action-Packed Menchik Memorial - Harriet Hunt was at the London MindSports Centre

Chess

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Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
Honouring Vera	8
Harriet Hunt reports from an action-packed Menchik Memorial	
60 Seconds with... Lula Roberts	12
We catch up with the Twitch star ahead of her Olympiad debut	
Mighty Manx	14
The 2021/22 4NCL Champions are Chess.com Manx Liberty	
England: Triple World Champions	16
Nigel Povah on a most successful trip to the World Senior Teams	
Gold Rush!	21
Keith Arkell reports from the England 50+ gold-winning side	
Nepo's Next...	24
But will Magnus play the man who dominated the 2022 Candidates?	
Find the Winning Moves	26
Puzzles to solve taken from games played all over England & Europe	
ChessFest	30
A photo report from the UK's largest single-day chess event	
The High Summer Open	32
A summer and chess-themed short story by Ben Graff	
Lethal Weapon	34
Julian Way explores the chess wizardry of David Janowski	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	36
Carl enjoyed his visit to Chartres and seeing Gawain Jones win	
How to Beat a Grandmaster	38
Paul Littlewood shows how Dharshan Kumaran stunned Tony Miles	
How Good is Your Chess?	40
Daniel King pays tribute to the inspirational, late Yuri Averbakh	
Another Memorable Game	44
A correspondence game was quite a classic, as Neil Hickman explains	
Naka's Back	46
Hikaru Nakamura couldn't challenge, but still did well in Madrid	
The Badmaster	47
Stewart Player on that most entertaining of writers, G.H. Diggle	
Have You Read the Book?	48
Bob Jones watched <i>The Queen's Gambit</i> then read the book	
Home News	49
Major success for Peter Wells, Northumberland and Murad Abdulla	
Studies with Stephenson	51
Brian presents a lovely composition by Sergij Didukh	
Overseas News	52
Michael Adams's team Baden-Baden once again won the Bundesliga	
Forthcoming Events	53
Solutions	54
This Month's New Releases	55
Sean Marsh reviews Jeremy Silman's latest and impressive tome	
Saunders on Chess	58
John reminds us that the first Olympiad was staged in London	

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Honouring Vera

Harriet Hunt reports from an action-packed Caplin Menchik Memorial WGM Tournament

Following closely behind the two all-play-all WIM tournaments reported in the June issue of *CHESS*, a third closed women's event, this time offering the opportunity for WGM norms, took place at the MindSports Centre in Hammersmith in the second half of June. Once again, immense credit for organising this event goes to ECF Director of Women's Chess, Aga Milewska, with support from International Director Malcolm Pein.

Aga's vision brought together a very international 10-player field, including four English players, Ketī Arakhamia-Grant from Scotland, and players from Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, and Ukraine. The tournament was generously sponsored by Caplin Systems, whose CEO, John Ashworth, made several visits during the event and spoke in an impressively knowledgeable and nuanced way about chess and women's participation. John also treated the players and guests to a traditional Polish dinner of *barszcz* (beetroot soup) and *pieczona kaczka* (roast duck) at the nearby Polish cultural centre.

Presided over by International Arbiter Shohreh Bayat, the tournament ran smoothly in the excellent venue of the MindSports Centre, if not entirely calmly. A few rounds were played to a backdrop of loud building work on the neighbouring property. Attempts by the organisers to negotiate with the builders were met with the response that "they weren't being funny, but they had a *job* to do" and a suggestion that the players should wear noise-cancelling headphones.

The date of the final round of the tournament, June 26th, marks the anniversary of the death of the first Women's World Champion, Vera Menchik, in an air raid on London in 1944. There have been surprisingly few events in Britain honouring Vera Menchik, who has always struggled to shake off being perceived as a foreigner. Born in Russia in 1906 to a Czech father and English mother, she moved to Hastings as a teenager after the Russian revolution, but did not become a British citizen or represent the British Chess Federation until 1937, following her marriage to Rufus Stevenson. In recognition of Menchik's multinational heritage, the Czech Embassy hosted the players for a reception and their First Secretary, Martin Hosek, paid more than one visit to the tournament.

The last two rounds of the tournament clashed with the rescheduled final 4NCL weekend. With Katarzyna Toma and Zoe Varney ambitiously committed to playing both events, three games were scheduled in advance so they could leave for Daventry on

the Friday evening. This made it quite unclear who was leading at any time, as everyone had completed different numbers of games.

The majority of players in the line-up had styles tending towards the aggressive and tactical: combined with the unforgiving time control (all moves in 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move), this led to some highly exciting chess, if a bit random in places.

I started the tournament well, but two disastrous losses in the middle rounds left my overall result a long way short of what I might have hoped for. In the meantime, my old rival Polish IM/WGM Joanna Dworakowska made better use of her chances and finally snatched tournament victory. Joanna and I have faced one another over more decades(!) than we would care to remember, and she has played in many women's Olympiads and European Team Championships in medal-winning Polish teams. Joanna has also been relatively inactive in recent years, and her path to victory saw some impressive tactical play, but she also survived some decidedly questionable positions, probably the result of rustiness.

Joanna got off to a flying start against young German talent Lara Schulze in the first round.

J.Dworakowska-L.Schulze Round 1



This position arose from a Richter-Rauzer, where Joanna has just played **23 f4**. Lara missed the strength of White's next; she should instead liquidate her 'good' bishop with **23...fxd4** **24 fxh4** **a5** **25 Wd2**, when White has just an edge.

Black could also try **23...xh7** when White should play **24 Wd2!**, keeping some advantage (**24 Tg3?** **Tg8!** gets nowhere).

23...a5? 24 Tg3!

Lining up an unstoppable and crushing sacrifice on g7. White is winning.

24...xh7 25 Tg7+! **xg7 26 Wg3+** **xh7 27 xf6 Tg8 28 Wd3+ Tg6 29 hxg6+ fxe6 30 Txe6+**

Sacrificing the second rook!

30...xh6 31 Wh3# 1-0

However, Lara recovered from this reverse to finish in overall third with 6/9. Another player of the younger generation who could be very satisfied with her tournament was the lowest-rated player, 19-year-old Kamila Hryshchenko. As reported in the June issue, Kamila has recently arrived in England from eastern Ukraine, and this was her first tournament in the country. Her score of 5½/9 was enough for her first WIM norm – many congratulations to her. Kamila's best game was the following win over WGM Katarzyna Toma.

K.Toma-K.Hryshchenko

Round 7

Pirc Defence

1 e4 g6 2 d4 f6 3 c3 d6 4 f4 f6 5 f3 0-0 6 d3 c5 7 d5 a6 8 e2 T8 9 0-0 c7 10 a4 d7

Unusual; Black usually seeks queenside play with 10...a6.

11 h1 Wc8 12 c4

12 d2 is a sensible alternative.

12...b6 13 e5

I quite like the interesting pawn sacrifice **13 f5!**? **gxf5 14 e5 dxe5 15 xe5** with compensation.

13...fe8 14 g5

White's position is optically pleasant, but it's not easy to restrain Black's counterplay and make progress. Other continuations that should be considered are **14 e3**, **14 e4 Wb7 15 Td1** and **14 b5**.

14...g4 15 e1 h6 16 ge4 a6 17 Wh4 b5 18 axb5 axb5



19 ♟e2

A critical position where I think White's best chance is the complicated 19 f5 gx5 20 ♟g3 bxc4 21 h3 f4 (21...dxe5 22 hxg4 f4 23 ♟f5 is also unclear) 22 ♟xf4 ♟f5 23 ♟xe7 dxe5 24 ♟xh6 and White is a piece down in this wild position, but seems to be holding the balance.

19...♟xe2 20 ♟xe2 f5

Very impressive play from Hryshchenko, who has strategically outplayed her experienced opponent to reach a position where Black's pieces have substantially greater dynamism.

21 exf6 ♟xf6 22 f5

Initiating a piece sacrifice that should prove unsound.

22...♟xe4 23 ♟xh6 ♟xf5?

But the way to refute the offer was 23...gx5 24 ♟f4 ♟f7, when White is out of ammunition.

24 ♟xg7 ♟xd5 25 ♟xe4?

25 ♟h8+ ♟f7 26 ♟f5+ ♟xf5 (or 26...gx5 27 ♟h7) 27 ♟xb8 ♟xg7 28 ♟xb5 is roughly level.

25...♟xg7 26 ♟g3 ♟e5



Hryshchenko is a clear pawn up with better placed pieces, which she coordinates pleasingly geometrically to convert her advantage.

27 ♟f3 ♟f6 28 ♟a7 ♟e6 29 h3 ♟h8 30 ♟g1 ♟h4 31 ♟f2 ♟d4 32 ♟b7 b4 33 b3 ♟e3 34 ♟a1 ♟e5 35 ♟aa7 ♟d5 36 ♟b8 ♟f4 0-1

Kamila's success reflected the general trend of close games with unpredictable results between players even with large rating differentials. 22-year-old Zoe Varney played with admirable fearlessness and energy against the titled players, but lost a number of promising positions through an insufficient sense of danger at critical points. Nevertheless, Zoe has made great strides forward recently, encouragingly for her English Olympiad team debut in Chennai.

K.Arakhmia-Grant-Z.Varney

Round 7
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6 3 ♟b5 a6 4 ♟a4 ♟f6 5 0-0 ♟e7 6 d3

An alternative to the usual 6 ♟e1, this line has become popular recently with many top players.

6...b5 7 ♟b3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 ♟e1 ♟a5 10 ♟c2 c5 11 ♟bd2 ♟c6 12 ♟f1 h6 13 ♟g3

13 ♟e3 is an alternative plan.

13...♟e8 14 h3 ♟e6 15 d4

15 ♟h2 has been tried by several players in this position to avoid the following central liquidation, after which Black seems quite comfortable.

15...cxd4 16 cxd4 exd4 17 ♟xd4 ♟xd4 18 ♟xd4 ♟c8 19 ♟b3 d5 20 e5 ♟d7



This position has occurred a number of times in practice, and White has not scored particularly well.

21 ♟e3

21 ♟h5 is maybe the most testing.

21...♟c5 22 ♟d1 d4 23 ♟f4

Keti presumably wanted to avoid the very equal position after 23 ♟xd4 ♟xd4 24 ♟xd4 ♟xb3 25 axb3 ♟xe5 26 ♟xd8 ♟cxd8.

23...♟b6

This line is quite well-trodden, and the moves up to here have been seen before in Puranik-Arjun, Barcelona 2019. Keti's next move deviates from the 24 ♟f3 of that game, which also turned out well for Black.

24 ♟h5 d3! 25 ♟e4 ♟b4 26 ♟d6

26 ♟e3 generates some kingside threats, but after 26...♟d4 27 ♟xh6 ♟xe5 Black is in control.

26...♟xe1?!

26...♟xd6 27 exd6 ♟xb3 28 axb3 ♟d4 keeps a comfortable plus for Black.

27 ♟xe1 ♟xb3 28 axb3 ♟xd6 29 exd6 ♟xe1+ 30 ♟h2



An interesting position. Although Black is nominally ahead on material, White seems to have enough to hold the balance, as shown by 30...♟e6 31 ♟d5 g5 32 ♟d2 ♟d8.

30...♟c2?!

There is nothing wrong with this move, but the annotation is for a failure to appreciate White's tactical possibilities.

31 ♟g4 ♟f6??

31...♟e6 is now really advisable: 32 ♟xh6 ♟g6 33 ♟xd7 ♟xf2 34 ♟e8+ ♟h7 35 ♟e4 should lead to equality.

32 d7

And now White is completely winning.

32...♟xg4+ 33 hxg4 ♟d1 34 d8 ♟+ ♟h7 35 ♟d4 g6 36 ♟f6 d2 37 ♟xf7+ ♟h8 38 ♟e5# 1-0

Slovenian WIM Teja Vidic had a tournament she'd rather forget, finishing scoreless, but her game against the eventual winner hung on a knife-edge of spectacular tactics.

J.Dworakowska-T.Vidic

Round 7

Giuoco Piano

1 e4 e5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6 3 ♟c4 ♟c5 4 c3 ♟f6 5 d4 exd4 6 e5 d5 7 ♟b5 ♟e4 8 cxd4 ♟b4+

8...♟b6 is more popular in recent top-level games.

9 ♟d2 ♟xd2+

9...♟xd2 is more commonly played.

10 ♟fxd2?!

A strange choice. 10 ♟bxd2 looks more natural.

10...0-0 11 ♟xc6 bxc6 12 0-0 ♟b8 13 ♟b3?!



White is attempting to impose structural superiority on the queenside, but Black's position has plenty of dynamic resources.

Better was 13 f3 ♟xd2 14 ♟xd2.

13...f6 14 f3 ♟g5 15 ♟c3

Stronger was 15 f4 ♟e4 16 ♟c3.

15...fxe5 16 dxe5 ♟e6 17 ♟d2 d4 18 ♟e2

And here 18 ♟e4 looks more natural and better.

18...c5 19 ♟ac1 ♟d5 20 f4 ♟b7

Black has a great position.

21 ♟f2 ♟bd8

The direct 21...♟f7, intending to pile up with ...♟bf8, was also good.

22 ♟a5 ♟a8 23 h4?

Worried about ...♟g5 coming, but this creates further weaknesses. White should try 23 ♟d3.

23...♟e4

Probing White's position, though again 23...♙f7 is stronger.

24 ♖h2?



24...d3?

Watching from the sidelines, I spotted the lovely combination 24...♙e5!! 25 fxe5 ♗xf2 and White is helpless against Black's threats: for example, 26 ♗g1 d3, picking up a knight with an overwhelming position, or 26 ♗d3 ♗xg2+ 27 ♖h3 ♗xe2 28 ♗xe2 ♖f4+ and wins. 25 ♖g3 ♗g6?!

25...♗b4 keeps some advantage, but it's hard psychologically for Black to change tack when her focus has been the kingside.

26 f5 ♗g4 27 fxe6 ♗xf2 28 ♗xf2 d2



Looks winning for Black?

29 ♗d1!!

Driven by necessity, but an amazing resource.

29...♗xd1?!

Black is completely lost after this move. 29...♗f8 30 ♗xd2 ♗xh4+ 31 ♖g1 ♗xg3 holds the balance, with the white e-pawns counteracting Black's kingside prospects.

30 ♗f7+ ♖h8 31 e7

There is no defence to the back-rank threats.

31...♗g1+ 32 ♖xg1 d1♗+ 33 ♖h2 h6 34 ♖f5 ♗g8 35 e8♗ ♗xe8 36 ♗xg7# 1-0

UCL history student, WIM Lan Yao, has recently transferred federation from her native China, and will also be making her debut for the English team in Chennai. Lan has a great chess understanding and played unflappably competently to lead the tournament with 6½/8 going into the final round. Needing just a draw both to secure

victory and her first WGM norm, she had Black against Joanna Dworakowska. On 6/8, Joanna needed to win to overtake her.

J.Dworakowska-L.Yao

Round 9

King's Indian Attack

Having played my own round 9 game against Katarzyna Toma in advance, I was commentating live on this game with WIM Natasha Regan on the ECF Twitch channel.

1 ♖f3

A surprise. Joanna usually plays 1 e4, but Lan Yao had been scoring very well with the Sicilian Taimanov.

1...♖f6 2 g3 e6 3 ♖g2 d5 4 0-0 ♖e7 5 d3 0-0 6 ♖bd2 c5 7 e4 ♖c6 8 ♗e1 ♗c7 9 c3 b5 10 ♗e2

10 ♖f1 is the main line.

10...♖b7 11 e5

A standard idea in the King's Indian Attack, but Black's counterplay on the queenside is very quick in this particular position, so closing the centre may be premature.

11...♖d7 12 ♖f1 d4



Given the tournament situation (White needing a win, Black needing a draw), I suspect Lan was very happy with the outcome of the opening. She is already creating weaknesses on the queenside, while White is some way off a clear plan of action.

13 ♖f4 dxc3 14 bxc3 b4!

Another strong strategic move.

15 cxb4 ♖xb4

15...cxb4 to establish a queenside pawn majority also looks tempting, but I think the text is the best.

16 ♖e3 ♖d5

There is no hurry to play this move. 16...♖b6 looks stronger, as White will probably kick the knight with 17 a3 ♖d4d5 anyway.

17 ♖xd5 ♖xd5

The position is pretty equal, but it's hard for Joanna to find a plan that doesn't involve further minor piece exchanges.

18 h4 ♗c6 19 h5 ♗ab8

There is no real reason for Lan to avoid 19...h6 here, and she should probably play this now or over the next couple of moves.

20 ♗ec1 ♗b4 21 ♗c2 ♗fb8 22 ♗ac1



Inserting 22 h6 g6 is probably a good idea for White, although she has to contend with the possibility of 22...g5.

22...♗b1

Perhaps too impatient to Hoover. 22...h6! looks strong here as it's hard for White to find a move that doesn't worsen the position of her pieces.

23 ♖d4 ♗xc1+ 24 ♗xc1 ♗b7 25 ♖xd5 ♗xd5 26 ♖b3

White's pieces look a little more coordinated now, with the knight handily blocking the b-file and exerting pressure on c5. It's easy to miss or underestimate her next idea, so this is the point where Black has to play incisively.

26...♗d8?!

26...g5! 27 hxg6 hxg6 28 ♗e4 and now, unlike in the game, the rook has remained more active on the b-file: 28...♗b4! 29 ♗xd5 exd5 with a level position.

27 ♖a5 h6?!

Now a bit late. Black should try 27...♖b8 28 h6 ♗xd3 29 ♗xd3 ♗xd3 30 ♗b1 ♖d7 31 ♗b7 when White's activity on the b-file and back-rank threats compensate for the pawn minus.

28 ♗e4!



A very strong move. Black is now in some danger of being worse whatever she tries, and faces some critical choices.

28...♖b8

Of the alternatives, 28...♗c8 may be best, when 29 ♗c2 ♖b6 30 ♗xd5 exd5 31 ♖b7 c4 32 ♖d6 ♗d8 33 ♖f5 gives White some initiative, but nothing clear. Instead, 28...♖g5 29 ♖b7 ♗c8 30 ♗xd5 exd5 31 ♗c2 seems better for White, as does 28...♖f8 29 ♖c6 ♗xe4 30 dxe4 ♗c8 31 ♖xa7 ♗a8 32 ♖c6 ♗xa2.

29 ♗xd5 ♗xd5

29...exd5 30 ♖b1 is clearly better for White.

30 ♖b1 ♗d7 31 ♗c6 ♕f8 32 ♖b3 g5 33 hxg6 fxg6 34 g4 g5 35 ♕g3 ♖h7?!

Probably an error as Black's pieces are just as vulnerable with the king on h7 as on g8. Active counterplay was the best plan: 35...c4 36 dxc4 ♖c5 37 ♗xa7 ♖xc4 38 f3 ♕c5+ 39 ♖g2 ♗xa7 40 ♖b7 ♖c2+ 41 ♖h3 ♖xa2 42 ♖xd7 and this really is leading towards a draw.

36 ♖f1 ♕g7 37 ♖b7 ♖xd3 38 ♖e2 ♖d5?!

A quicker route to counterplay is 38...c4 39 ♖xa7 ♗b6, heading for c3.

39 ♗e7 ♖d4 40 ♗c6

Another idea to put Black under pressure is 40 f3, threatening ♕f2, but 40...♗b6 41 ♗c6 ♖d5 42 ♖xa7 c4 43 ♕f2 ♖b5 44 ♖xb6 ♖xb6 45 ♗d4 ♖g6 also looks OK for Black.

40...♖d5 41 ♖xa7



During a visit to Chess & Bridge, tournament winner, Joanna Dworakowska (left), receives the Menchik Memorial trophy from ECF Director of Women's Chess, Agnieszka Milewska.

41...h5?

Cracking under the combined pressure of the position, the clock, and the tournament situation. Instead, after 41...c4 42 ♗b4 ♖b5 43 ♗c2 ♗xe5 44 a4 ♖d5 45 ♗e3 ♖c5 46 ♕xe5 ♖xe5 47 ♖c7 ♖g6 48 ♖xc4 h5 Black's kingside pieces emerge from their cage.

42 gxh5 ♖h6

42...c4 is now well met by 43 ♖a5.

43 ♗e7 ♖d4 44 ♗c6 ♖d5 45 ♗e7 ♖d4 46 ♖a6

Finding the right route.

46...♖xh5 47 ♖xe6

White is now winning: she has an extra pawn and Black's pieces are poorly coordinated and loose.

47...♖a4 48 ♗f5 ♖xa2+ 49 ♖f3 ♕f8 50 ♖c6

50 ♖e8 is more efficient.

50...♖a3+ 51 ♖g2 ♖a8 52 e6 ♗f6 53 e7

The black bishop has been corralled for some moves and finally drops off. The rest requires no further commentary:

53...♕xe7 54 ♗xe7 ♗e4 55 ♗f5 ♖g4 56 ♗e3+ ♖h5 57 ♗d5 ♖a3 58 ♗f6+ ♗xf6 59 ♖xf6 c4 60 ♖c6 ♖a4 61 ♕e5 ♖g4 62 ♕c3 ♖f5 63 ♖f3 g4+ 64 ♖e3 ♖g5 65 ♖c5+ ♖h4 66 ♕e5 ♖h3 67 ♕g3 ♖a3+ 68 ♖d4 ♖g2 69 ♖xc4 ♖a8 70 ♖e4 ♖f8 71 ♖c5 ♖h8 72 ♖f4 ♖h3 73 ♖f5 ♖h7 74 ♖f6 ♖h5 75 ♖f7 ♖h8 76 ♖g5 ♖g8+ 77 ♖f5 ♖h8 78 ♖g7 ♖h5+ 79 ♖g6 ♖a5 80 ♖h7+ ♖g2 81 ♖h5 ♖a8 82 ♖g5 ♖f3 83 ♖h6 ♖a5+ 84 ♖h4 ♖f5 85 ♖e6 1-0

A very disappointing first loss in the tournament for Lan in this crucial game, but

she brings so much to English chess.

This left Joanna the outright winner on 7/9 – putting the icing on the *paczek* (a cake like a doughnut) of the Anglo-Polish chess links that were something of a theme of the tournament. Congratulations and huge thanks also go to Aga Milewska, who completed her International Organiser title requirements through this event.

Aga has many plans for her future women's events, which are already having vast positive impact for players in Britain and elsewhere in Europe. For now she would just like to thank the following for their support of the Menchik Memorial: Caplin Systems, Chess Trust, Friends of Chess, Czech Embassy in London, FIDE Women's Commission, Chess and Bridge Ltd, and the MindSports Centre.

Caplin Systems Menchik Memorial - London - Saturday 18th June to Sunday 26th June																
Player	Title	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts	TPR	
1	Joanna Dworakowska	IM	POL	2321	X	1	1	0	½	1	1	½	1	1	7	2440
2	Lan Yao	WIM	ENG	2259	0	X	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	6.5	2393
3	Lara Schulze	FM	GER	2284	0	½	X	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	6	2349
4	Kamila Hryshchenko		UKR	2037	1	0	½	X	1	½	0	1	½	1	5.5	2331
5	Katarzyna Toma	WGM	ENG	2309	½	½	0	0	X	1	½	1	1	1	5.5	2301
6	Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant	GM	SCO	2354	0	½	½	½	0	X	½	1	1	1	5	2259
7	Harriet Hunt	IM	ENG	2381	0	0	½	1	½	½	X	0	1	1	4.5	2213
8	Anna Marie Koubova		CZE	2117	½	0	0	0	0	0	1	X	½	1	3	2117
9	Zoe Varney	WCM	ENG	2060	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	X	1	2	2029
10	Teja Vidic	WIM	SLO	2176	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	-	



60 Seconds with... Lula Roberts



Born: 19th June 1998, Jersey.

Place of residence: Still Jersey, although I lived in England for a few years when I was getting my degree at Durham University.

Occupation: Twitch Streamer/Content Creator.

Enjoyable? I love it!

And home life? Jersey is beautiful and I can go to the beach every day when there's good weather, but housing costs more than London, so I still live with my parents, which can be a little chaotic.

But sometimes good to escape to: London, actually. Most of my friends are there now, so I'm always busy when I go, and there's way more OTB chess.

Sports played or followed: I do follow chess, of course. Apart from that I'm not into watching sports, but am a very enthusiastic, if terrible, skier.

A favourite novel? *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. I read it as a teenager and keep coming back to it.

Piece of music? I love music so it changes all the time. I'm looking forward to seeing a Soccer Mommy concert this year – my first one since Covid. I gravitate towards female vocalists and I love indie/pop.

Film or TV series? I love the Studio Ghibli films, my favourites are *Whisper of the Heart* and *Kiki's Delivery Service*. For TV maybe *Gilmore Girls* or *Buffy*. Give me a strong female protagonist.

What's the best thing about playing chess? The best thing about playing any game is probably winning, but I feel like with chess the game itself always wins out over either player. I love chess for its complexity and the challenges it poses.

And the worst? Getting tilted and losing confidence! It's crazy how a bad chess game can ruin my day.

Your best move? Being new to the game I'm pretty proud of any sacrifice I get right, but for now this 21 ♖h3 from a tournament I played last month:

T.Roberts-A.Greco
San Leo Open, Fortezza 2022



21 ♖h3! 1-0

But less memorable than your worst move? In classical OTB? So far I haven't hung any pieces, but you'll find an abundance of Botez gambits in my blitz games. Ask me after the Olympiad, I'm sure it'll change!

And a highly memorable opponent? WFM Anna Cramling gave me double knight odds in a blitz game on stream in Iceland and I still managed to get mated. We went 3-0 as hand and brain partners, though.

Favourite game of all time? I haven't seen enough classic chess games to settle on a favourite right now. I don't want to lazily say the Opera Game or something – I need more data!

The best three chess books: There's a joke on chess Twitter that I can't read after I was told by many that I wasn't "allowed" to read Silman's *How To Reassess Your Chess*. I haven't read any chess improvement books cover to cover (I've only been playing a year and a half!), but I devoured *Chess Queens* by Jennifer Shahade earlier this year.. I'm taking *Chess for Tigers* with me on the flight to India and I'm looking at a lot of Chessable courses currently.

Is FIDE doing a good job? I'd love to be informed enough to make some kind of scathing, yet well-informed comment, but I only see them clowning around on Twitter so I'll leave things there.

Or your National Federation? The Jersey Federation (JCI) is tiny and I think we are thriving, actually. I'm really proud of how far we've come with getting a Women's team together for the Olympiad for the first time.

Any advice for either? I feel like me giving advice to chess organisations is like showing up to a party three hours late and criticising the food, so I'll stay quiet for now.

Can chess make one happy? I think finding fulfilment in your interests and hobbies can bring happiness and enrich your life, so yes. It depends what chess is to you. I think chess also has the capacity to be absolutely devastating – I've had 'sitting down in the shower' moments after losing classical games.

A tip please for the club player: Self-belief is so important, and I think working on your confidence will massively improve every other aspect of your game.

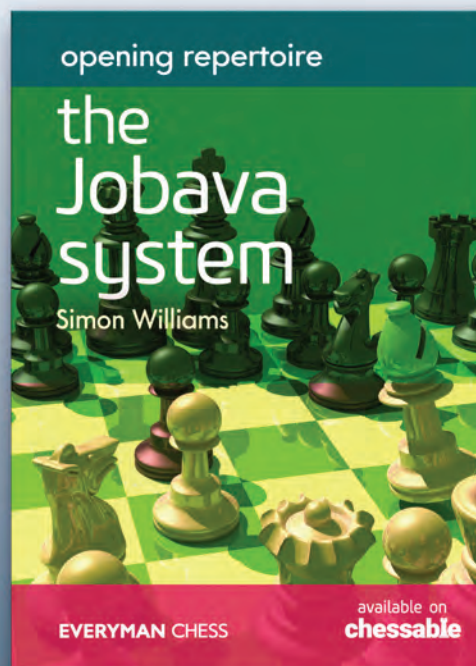
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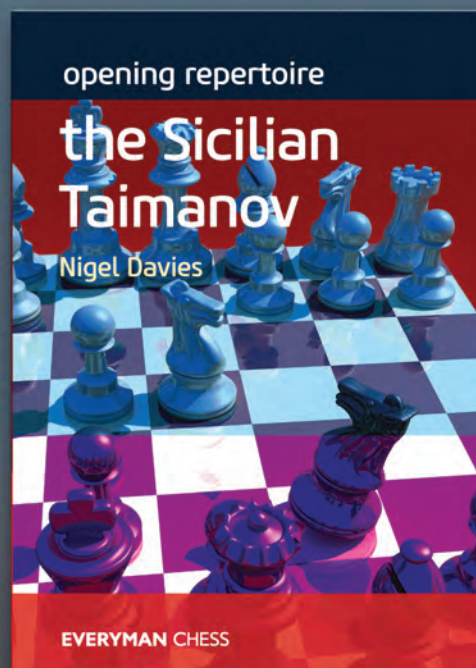
The Slav (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6) is a great choice against 1 d4 for players who are after a solid position from the opening but one that also contains dynamic possibilities.

Paperback, 448 pages



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.

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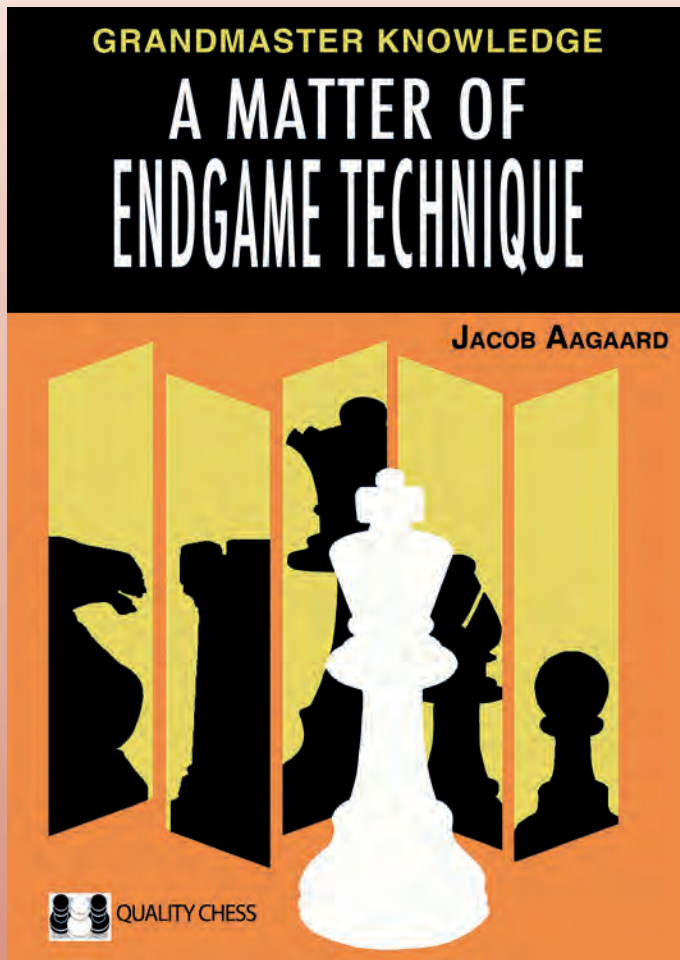
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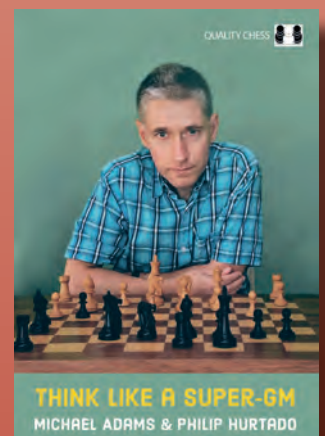
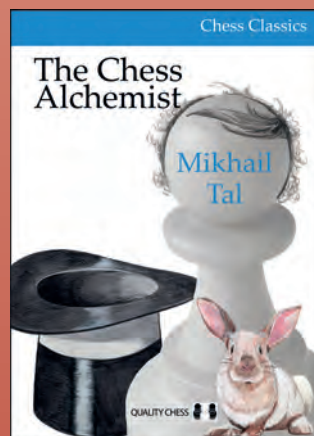
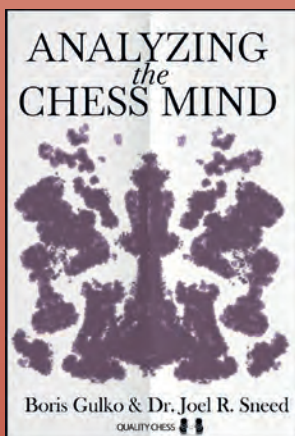
A Matter of Endgame Technique

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...

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.

Grandmaster Jacob Aagaard won the British Championship at his first and only attempt. Aagaard has won more awards than any other chess author, and is co-founder of Quality Chess and the online academy www.killerchesstraining.com.

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CHESS FEST

FRIENDS · FAMILY · FUN



Despite a searing heat and at least 32 degrees Celsius, the second ever ChessFest was staged by *Chess in Schools and Communities* in London's famous Trafalgar Square on Sunday 17th July, with sister events held in Hull and Liverpool. The UK's largest one-day chess event saw over 10,000 people visit, nearly double the number from last year.



The main component of ChessFest was live re-enactments of two very famous games that are celebrating anniversaries: Game 3 from Fischer-Spassky, Reykjavik 1972 is celebrating its 50th birthday, while Game 6 from Kasparov-Deep Blue happened 25 years ago! The moves were given a dramatic interpretation by professional actors, accompanied by commentary and a 2D chess position being relayed on the giant screen.



A raft of top players were drafted in to give lessons and simul, including WGM Katarzyna Toma, warming up for Chennai, and GM Stuart Conquest



London's iconic Trafalgar Square, at a shade over 52 acres, was perfect for a mass participation outdoor chess event – and plenty of sun!



The Mayor of Westminster, Labour's Hamza Taouzzale, made the ceremonial first move to kick off ChessFest (left), seen flanked on either side by ChessFest commentators, Chris Ward and Malcolm Pein, while (right) all day the fountains helped to keep the simul givers relatively cool.



With provision for over 500 people to play at a time and free chess lessons given by Chess in Schools and Communities' tutors, both the Casual Chess and Teaching Zones were full from start to finish. Some visitors came a fair way, but can you spot yourself or any of your club mates?



Executive Editor, Chief Executive of Chess in Schools and Communities, and ChessFest supremo, Malcolm Pein, donned a mask to give a demonstration of blindfold chess, while Editor Richard Palliser mainly gave simuls, but also briefly held court in the Challenge a Chess Master tent.

Have You Read the Book?



Having finally watched *The Queen's Gambit*, Bob Jones decided to explore the novel too

I lost count, during 2021, of the number of times I said the sentence “No, I haven’t got Netflix”, in answer to the same question from sons, siblings, club friends, etc. “Have you seen *The Queen's Gambit*? Oh, you must! It’s great. It’s all about chess, you know?” Eventually, we acquired a subscription as a 2021 Christmas present to ourselves and were free to play catch-up.

Having already read John Henderson’s excellent take on the film in the December 2020 *CHESS*, identifying the actual games used in the film, I was already pretty well clued up as to the basic plot and the characters. That said, I did find the sight of people playing for the U.S. Championship like a game of 10-minute skittles a bit off-putting at first, but, of course, one can’t expect a TV audience to sit around for half an hour waiting for the coup de grâce to be struck in each game. One has to suspend one’s disbelief.

However, the film undoubtedly ratcheted up the tension as it went along, and most telling of all, I found, was the way in which Beth Harman, the heroine, displayed no triumphalism at the end, no running around waving her arms in the air or jumping up and down after her unlikely victory against the Soviet World Champion, Vasily Borgov. And, likewise, her Russian opponent was utterly gracious in defeat – the perfect gentleman.

Perhaps most telling of all was the way in which after that climactic game, Beth, walking in the Moscow street outside to unwind, spotted an old Russian guy, like a character out of *Dr Zhivago*, sitting at a chess board, pondering a move. “When she stopped at his table he looked at her inquisitively, but there was no recognition. She sat behind the black pieces and said carefully in Russian, “Would you like to play chess?” (the book’s last sentence).

My first response afterwards was to get a copy of the novel. I’d come across the name Walter Tevis several times over the years, without knowing the first thing about him or who he was. In these situations I usually go to the Abe Books website, and, true to form, there were numerous copies of all his books available online from various outlets. I immediately purchased a small library including *The Hustler* (1959), the film of which introduced Paul Newman as a new star



Beth Harmon's character has much in common with that of The Queen's Gambit author Walter Tevis.

to the silver screen, opposite Jackie Gleason as Minnesota Fats. Also *The Steps of the Sun*, the last of his science fiction stories.

Reading *The Queen's Gambit* is quite a different experience from passively watching the series. There are things in the book that would never pass the film censor, while in a book the author can say exactly what the hero is thinking and feeling in a way that would not work for an actor on stage.

From time to time, well-known writers receive, among their regular post, a letter from a student, saying something like: “I’m about to leave college with a degree in creative writing, and I want to be a writer, but I’m not sure what to write about. I thought maybe sports reporting, or politics. Would you have any suggestions? P.S. I’ve read all your books.”

If the letter-writer gets a reply at all, which is unlikely, it will say something that could be summed up in just five words – Write About What You Know. That’s certainly what Walter Tevis would say, and exactly what he did.

Walter Stone Tevis was born in 1928 in San Francisco, near the Golden Gate Bridge. His parents were Walter Stone Tevis and Anna Elizabeth. He had a sister Bett, three years

younger. His father was an appraiser, or valuer, usually with particular reference to land and properties.

All went well with the family until two things happened close together. Young Walter, then aged 10, was diagnosed with a potentially serious rheumatic heart condition which needed constant monitoring. At the same time the father received a time-limited opportunity to acquire some land in Kentucky. Actually, the Tevis family, often with the added name ‘Stone’, can be traced back in Kentucky over 200 years, so it really was his home state and this was a once in a lifetime opportunity that he couldn’t risk losing. He was between a rock and a hard place, and the parents decided the best option was to leave their son in the care of Stanford Children’s Convalescent Home, known locally as the Con Home, leaving them free to sort out a land deal in Madison County, Kentucky.

Young Walter spent a year in the Con Home, where it was standard practice for staff to administer small green tablets of phenobarbitone in the form of little green tablets, up to three times a day, in the belief that this would help them relax, sleep at night and generally be more biddable (the children not the staff, that is). It certainly did that all

right, but at that time the extent to which it made the children addicted to the tablets wasn't fully appreciated. The practice was stopped immediately once its full consequences were known.

When the year was up, young Walter was much improved and was free to rejoin his family in Kentucky, so was put on a train alone for the 3,700km journey from San Francisco to a town and state he did not know. At high school he palled up with fellow student Toby Kavanaugh, whose large house included a pool table and the two played often, also later in life when Toby came to own his own pool room in Lexington. It was a passion for them both.

In the local library Tevis got hooked on science fiction stories and took to writing them himself, showing a great creative imagination, and sending them for publication in a range of literary magazines: for example, *Esquire* (1954), *Galaxy* (1957), *Playboy* and *Omni* (1980). In those early years, writing short stories did not interfere too much with his work as a Professor of English at Ohio University.

In the 1980s, as his fame as a writer grew, he gave interviews to major newspapers like the *San Francisco Examiner* and *The New York Times*, in which he analysed his passions. In the *Examiner* he felt that, early on, he took to drink as way of recapturing the feelings that

phenobarbitone had given him as a child, but he couldn't write when drunk so he beat that habit in the 1970s thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous, took to chess and became a C class player (c.1500 rating), even winning a \$250 prize in one tournament (c.\$2,000 today).

Talking about himself Tevis reportedly told *Book Beat* in 1983 at about the time *The Queen's Gambit* was published, "I think most people that take up the game of chess in a very serious way if they have personality problems – when they're trying to stay away from something else in life. Y'know, getting rid of some of that anxiety by displacing it in something that was relatively safe".

He told *The New York Times*, "I consider *The Queen's Gambit* to be a tribute to brainy women. I like Beth for her bravery and intelligence. In the past many women have had to hide their brains [...] but not today."

By this time, the early 1980s, he had retired from university life for two reasons. His income from writing was assured, which allowed him to devote himself fully to longer projects and he had married again, Eleanora, née Walker. Secondly while he may have beaten the booze and the green tablets, it was the demon weed that got him in the end – he'd been diagnosed with lung cancer. In fact, it was a race to get *The Queen's Gambit* finished before it was too late. It was

published in 1983 and Tevis died the following year. There was a bidding war for the film rights, but no studio could imagine a film that would draw in the crowds and fill cinemas to watch a girl playing chess. But then, nearly 40 years later, along came Netflix and showed how.

It's difficult to ignore the fact that everything the young Beth Harman did in the story, Walter had done before in real life: the orphanage/Con Home, the little green pills, the separation from family, the drink, the thrill of the won game. He was simply writing about what he knew.

The same point was made recently by Tom Thurman, a documentary maker for Kentucky Educational Television (KET), when interviewed about his plans to make a one-hour documentary on Tevis. Commenting on Tevis's early life, Thurman remarked it "was a very tragic story, but it's obviously something that he worked his way through with the character of Beth because you don't need a crystal ball to make the connection between his upbringing and Beth's and what she went through, early in her life, being orphaned".

Thurman acknowledged the help he'd received from the two Tevis children, Will and Julie, now in their 60s, who, are fully occupied in monitoring their father's legacy in matters of accuracy, publishing rights, taste, finances etc.



Home News

BRIDGEND – Peter Wells won his final four games, overcoming Welsh Champion and White Rose 4NCL team-mate Jose Camacho Collados in the last round to win the 17th South Wales International (July 7-12).

Leading scores: 1 Peter Wells (Swindon) 8/9, 2 Keith Arkell (Paignton) 7, 3-7 Jose Camacho Collados (Cardiff), John Richardson (Hendon), Jack Rudd (Barnstaple), Hugh Murphy (Rushden), Andrei Maksimenko (Ukraine) 6.

J. Camacho Collados-P. Wells Bridgend 2022



33 ♖b3?

White looks to be under pressure, but actually wouldn't be doing too badly after 33 ♙h3. Instead, he was to overlook a tactic.

33... ♙xd4! 34 ♖h1?

Collapsing, although it's hard to believe 34 ♖g3 ♙g7 35 ♙h3 d4 wouldn't have led to the same result.

34... ♖xf2 35 ♖f1 ♖xe2 36 ♖h3 ♙g7 37 ♖g3 ♖xg2+! The simplest.

38 ♖xg2 ♖xg2 39 ♙xg2 ♙c3 40 ♖f2 d4 41 ♖a2 e3+ 42 ♙g3 d3 43 ♖a7+ ♙f8 0-1

DARLINGTON – Well marshalled by Tim Wall, Northumberland won their first County Championship as they defeated Yorkshire in Darlington on July 2nd. Yorkshire staged a late fight back to only go down on board count, but were always up against it, Danny Gormally and David Eggleston outplaying your Editor and Andrew Ledger on the top boards.

Yorkshire had the consolation of winning the Under-1850 Championship as they defeated Middlesex 9-7 in Ullesthorpe. Essex won the Under-2050 and Under-1450 titles, overcoming Surrey 8½-7½ and 7-5 at Wanstead House. That same venue also saw Surrey crush Warwickshire 13½-2½ in the Under-1650 section, while Minor Counties

Champions are Devon who defeated Norfolk 9-7 in Knaphill, Surrey.

DUNDEE – Tushar Roul triumphed at the Dundee Allegro on July 10th, which was part of the Scottish Chess Tour.

Leading scores: 1 Tushar Roul (East Kilbride) 5/5, 2-4 Ross Blackford (Dunbar), Andre Babin (Dundee), Rhian Hughes (Newport-on-Tay) 3½.

EDINBURGH – While celebrating its 200th birthday, Edinburgh Chess Club played host to the 127th Scottish Championship (July 2-10). As we'll discover in more detail next month, a number of players unsurprisingly looked quite rusty, but there could be no doubt that St Andrews student Murad Abdulla was a worthy winner. The 2017 and 2018 Champion tied for first with fellow FM Keith Ruxton on 6½/9, but had the superior performance rating. Lennart Koehn was third, a point adrift, with a number of titled players finishing on just '+1', IMs Douglas Bryson, Angus Dunnington, Roddy McKay, Mark Orr and Craig Pritchett, as well as FMs Neil Berry and Andrew Burnett.

KENILWORTH – For a second 4NCL Congress in a row at Kenilworth (July 8-10),

Mark Hebden got the better of Danny Gormally and claimed the top prize.

Open: 1 Mark Hebden (Leicester) 4½/5, 2-7 Danny Gormally (Alnwick), Gary Quillan (Liverpool), Roland Bezuidenhout, Mikhail Sedykh (Lewisham), Matthew Payne (Worthing), Callum Brewer (Brighton) 4.

Major: 1-2 John Garnett (Stockton), Zak Tomlinson (Doncaster) 4½, 3 Matthew Holmes (Witney) 4.

Minor: 1-3 Paul Salisbury (Wetherby), Manel Fernando (Swindon), Magnus Borissow (Guildford) 4½.

LONDON – The 'In Memoriam' blitz tournament again took place at that legendary London chess venue, the Kings Head, on Saturday 21st May thanks to the support of David Norwood. The sponsor battled through to the semi-finals where he was eliminated by GM Alexander Cherniaev. Stuart Conquest reached the semis too before being knocked out by Michael Adams, who made short work of Cherniaev in the final, winning 2-0.

S. Conquest-T. Rendle

Kings Head (blitz) 2022

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘d2 a6 4 ♘gf3 ♘f6 5 ♙d3 c5 6 0-0!? Unusual, but swift development is rarely a bad policy in blitz. 6...♘c6

The critical test must be 6...c4! 7 ♙e2 dxe4 when 8 ♘g5 ♗xd4 9 ♘dxe4 ♗xd1 10 ♗xd1 ♘bd7 11 ♙xc4 b5 should be OK for Black, despite the hole on d6.

7 ♗e1

Continuing to insist on a fluid central situation and now 7...cxd4 8 e5 (8 exd5! ♗xd5 9 ♘c4 ♗d8 10 ♙f4 supplies some compensation) 8...♘d7 9 ♘b3 ♗c7 10 ♙f4 was probably the critical continuation.

7...dxe4 8 ♘xe4 cxd4 9 ♘xf6+ gxf6

And not, of course, 9...♗xf6?? 10 ♙g5.

10 ♙e4 ♙c5?!

Risky and 10...♙e7 was likely a better try, and if 11 ♙f4 e5.

11 ♙f4 ♙d7

Now 11...e5 might be met by 12 ♙xc6+!? bxc6 13 ♘e5 fxe5 14 ♗xe5+ ♙e7 15 ♗f3, which feels very dangerous for Black, although the silicon opines matters are under control after the fearless 15...0-0.

12 a3



Tom Rendle aims for revenge over Stuart Conquest as they warmed up with some blitz at ChessFest.

Threatening b4. Black is a pawn to the good, but is about to have significant weaknesses right across the board.

12...a5?!

12...e5 13 ♙g3 ♙e7 was the lesser evil, remaining more compact

13 ♗d2 ♗b6 14 ♙g3! ♗d8?

Not for the first time in such positions, 14...h5! was required to stave off the invasion.

15 ♗h6 ♙e7 16 ♗g7 ♗f8 17 ♗ab1 ♗c5 18 ♗xh7

Regaining the pawn with a huge advantage since Black is bottled up and devoid of counterplay.

18...♙d6 19 ♙h4 ♙e7 20 ♗bd1 ♗b6 21 b3 ♗c5 22 ♗g7 ♗xa3 23 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 24 ♗xf6 ♗e7 25 ♗h6 ♗c5 26 ♘g5!



It's high time to begin to harry the black king.

26...♙e7 27 ♗h4 ♙e8

Unfortunately for Black, 27...♗h8 fails to 28 ♘xe6+! ♗xh4 29 ♘xc5, but in any case there's no defence.

28 ♘h7 ♗h8 29 ♘f6+ ♙e7 30 ♘g8+! 1-0

Ukrainian Eldar Gasanov was stunned by Peter Finn as fellow grandmaster Alexander Cherniaev triumphed at the Golders Green Rapidplay on June 18th.

Open: 1 GM Alexander Cherniaev (Hackney) 5½/6, 2-4 Eldar Gasanov (West London), Mikey Watson (Petts Wood), Peter Large (Epsom) 5.

Major: 1 Rock Yu 6 (Newham), 2 Ronit Sachdeva (Guildford) 5, 3 William Drennan (Battersea) 4½.

Minor: 1 Orest Stus (Ukraine) 5½, 2-4 Sujan Nargund (Richmond), Thomas Aoun (Imperial College), Aahan Sinalkar (Coulsdon) 4½.

Cherniaev also won the £100 first prize on July 2nd.

Open: 1 Alexander Cherniaev (Hackney) 5½/6, 2-3 Yichen Han (Oxford), Evangelos Kostopoulos (Greece) 5.

Major: 1 Alexander Funk (Hendon) 5½, 2-3 Rock Yu (Newham), Alexander Nikolov (Surrey) 5.

Minor: 1 Sujan Nargund (Richmond) 5, 2-5 Jason Birbas (south-east London), Delroy Bennett (Lewisham), Pierre Nedellec (Barnet), Alexander Horwood (Harrow) 4½.

Despite the rail strikes, 16 players still made it to another Adam Raof event, the Muswell Hill Rapidplay on June 21st. Hendon's Oscar Pollack defeated Cherniaev as he top-scored with 5½/6, finishing half a point ahead of Ernest Ignatovic. It was then the turn of Israeli Ido Porat to make 5½/6 on July 12th with fellow IM Peter Large half a point behind.

MALPAS – The World Senior Team Championships in Acqui Terme (June 20-29) not only attracted seven English teams, but sides representing Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Scotland finished on 10/18 in the Over-50 Championship, with IM David Levy making a welcome return and scoring 50% on bottom board, while the Welsh second team, Wales Cymru, could only draw three matches. The main story, however, was Charles Higgin of Malpas & Oswestry Chess Club belying his 1926 rating as he scored 3/8 on top board, defeating FM Andrew Burnett and also drawing with his first grandmaster in Alex Baburin.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON – The National Schools Championships Final made a welcome return on Thursday 30th June and Friday 1st July. Westminster School defeated Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School (Elstree) 4-2 in the final round to finish on 4½/5 and claim the title. King's College School (Wimbledon) and Wilson's School (Wallington) both won three and drew two matches, with the former taking second and the Richard Haddrell Trophy on tie-break.

a rook ahead, but completely busted due to his exposed king: 5 ♖g2 ♗d2+ 6 ♘h1 exf3 or 5 ♘h1 ♗h4 6 ♗c2 exf3 7 ♘h2 ♙c8!.

23) Svane-Kotronias

Play concluded 1...♗xd4? 2 ♙xd4 ♙d5? 3 ♘h7! ♙d2 4 ♘f6+ ♘h6 5 ♙e3+ 1-0, but there was an incredible way to save the game: **1...♗c3!!**. Now the white knight can't really

move and Black is fine after **2 ♗xg2** (or 2 ♗e1 ♙h1 3 ♗e2+ ♙f3!) **2...♗xg2+ 3 ♙xg2 ♗xe3 4 ♘xe6 ♗xe5 5 ♘c7 ♗e2+**.

24) Gavrilescu-Caruana

1 c4!! (the only way to win, as we can see from 1 ♗f5 e3 2 ♗f6+ ♙e5 3 ♗xf7 ♗xa5, while in the game White even found himself losing after 1 a6?? e3! where 2 ♗b4 should

have been simply met by 2...e2! – 2...f5? 3 ♗d4+! let White right back into the game – 3 ♗e4 e1♗ 4 ♗xe1 ♗xe1 5 a7 ♗a1 6 a8♗ ♗xa8 7 ♗xa8 f5 when White is just too slow) **1...e3** (1...♙e6 2 a6 also wins, and if 2...e3 3 ♗b3! or 2...f5 3 c5 f4 4 c6) **2 c5+ ♙e6 3 ♗b3!** is a second only move to win, but it does so, and if **3...♗xa5 4 ♙b6!**, as pointed out by David Fitzsimons.

This Month's New Releases



Silman's Chess Odyssey

Jeremy Silman, 540 pages
Siles Press

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

International Master Jeremy Silman should be a familiar name to fans of chess books, but the blurb of this new work, subtitled 'Cracked Grandmaster Tales, Legendary Players, and Instruction and Musings', will help to jog the memories of those who now only have eyes for books on opening theory.

"From the bestselling author of *How to Reassess Your Chess* and *Silman's Complete Endgame Course* comes a new offering. Part instructional, part history, and part memoir, International Master Jeremy Silman pays homage to the game he loves. Chess is a strategic battle, a struggle for power and dominance. It can become an obsession, or can simply be a game to be enjoyed. When played at its highest level it is an art form. In *Chess Odyssey* Silman touches on all these aspects of the game."

This is a celebratory book; a sort of turbocharged Fred Reinfeld, at his best. Silman's love of chess shines very clearly throughout the book. There are four main parts, namely: Cracked Grandmaster Tales; Legendary Players; Portraits and Stories; Musings, Theory, Instruction, and FAQs.

There is so much to enjoy in this fine book, including plenty of stories from Silman's own meetings with a galaxy of chess stars. There is, for example, a frustrating tease of potential new books from one of the greatest characters of all. "Larsen and I stayed in touch [...] and I did my best to persuade him to write more books. Unfortunately, the work we discussed never materialised, and he died in Buenos Aires at the age of seventy-five."

There is also the story of an 11-year-old Judit Polgar taking the initiative in the analysis of their drawn game, a trip to Disneyland with Mikhail Tal, and the amusing tale of Silman playing a game in Delhi against a shopkeeper, complete with old Indian chess rules, which came as a surprise to Silman at the time.

Silman's personal selection of 11 legendary

players includes just three world champions (Wilhelm Steinitz, Emanuel Lasker and Alexander Alekhine), but finds room for some giants who are often overlooked. These are Adolf Anderssen, Ignatz Kolisch, Johannes Zukertort, Siegbert Tarrasch, Frank Marshall, Rudolf Spielmann, Salo Flohr and Efim Geller. It gives the reader the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate chess stars and games which are relatively uncelebrated. Each player receives plenty of coverage and there are many sparkling games, such as this one, played by the player dubbed by Silman as "the lethal gentleman".

R.Spielmann-J.Moller Gothenburg 1920



Naturally, the game started as a King's Gambit. In this position, Black has just played 9...♙g4, attacking the queen. Spielmann immediately initiated further complications with **10 ♘xe4 ♙xf3 11 ♘xf3 ♗h6 12 ♘f6+ ♙d8 13 h4**.

"Computers think this Queen sacrifice is trash, and that may be right if you're playing a computer. But if you're playing a human (even a strong human), the sacrifice is fun and offers real chances to overwhelm your opponent." Indeed, Spielmann won after a further 15 moves.

It is a very big book, with lots of annotated games and plenty of photographs, all of

which help to make it even more appealing.

I suspect *Silman's Chess Odyssey* will sell very well – and I hope it does. In days such as these, where we see the same players on a seemingly never-ending circus tour, armed to the teeth with early repetitions in the Berlin Defence, Silman's enthusiastic love letter to chess may remind more of us why we liked the game in the first place.

Sean Marsh

The Lubyanka Gambit

Sergei Grodzensky, 420 pages
Elk and Ruby

RRP £25.95, **SUBSCRIBERS £23.45**

Elk and Ruby continue to publish chess history books of the highest calibre. This one is a new edition of a book first published in Russian in 2004. "It describes the careers and life stories, based on archival documents and witness testimony, of Soviet chess composers, players and famous amateurs who were repressed by the Soviet authorities, ending up either executed or sent to the Gulag."

Hardly a feel-good chess book like Silman's, then; but an important one for a plethora of reasons, which are still expanding due to the current highly-charged atmospheres of sensitivities.

There are 145 compositions and 72 games along the way and it would be very surprising if many – indeed, if any – are already familiar to readers. The book's genesis dates back to 1989 and "is the result of many years of research in the following areas: identifying chess figures who were repressed, analyzing the cult of personality with respect to chess (specifically, the impact of lawlessness and arbitrariness on chess life in the country), collecting the best works of chess players and composers who fell victim to such arbitrariness, and collecting memories of how chess helped people survive the labor camps."

A lot was lost at the time, but Grodzensky has long been on a mission to unearth the past. "It is our duty to pull back from oblivion as many names as possible of people whose destinies were broken during the era of

totalitarianism. Among the victims of terror are many cultural figures. And chess players could not avoid the repressions, many of them falling down a steep path.”

There are chapters devoted to a whole range of characters, from the more familiar names of Vladimir Petrovs and Petr Izmailov (both of whom have Elk and Ruby books devoted to them), to the controversial Nikolai Krylenko and Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

Time cannot be rewritten, but history often is, and, with it, even the names of people, as highlighted in the chapter on Georgy Schneiderman – The Surname That Cost His Life.

“You could be arrested for many ‘crimes’ under Article 58. For a ‘political joke’ (not just for telling one, but even for hearing one), or for an ambiguous joke, for a gesture that seemed suspicious to someone. And one famous chess player was sentenced on the basis of this article because of his surname! Moreover, for a surname that he had himself chosen in adulthood.

“In the Russian-language book *People and Chess* by Vladimir Zakand Yakov Dlugolensky (Leningrad, 1988) which covers the chess history of St. Petersburg/Petrograd/ Leningrad, G.G. Schneideman-Stepanov (1907-1941) is included in the list of Leningrad masters. However, in fact there was never any chess player with this double-barreled surname. Until the middle of 1937, we find the name of Leningrad citizen G.Stepanov in the tournament tables, and after that – the name of fellow Leningrad citizen G. Schneideman.”

The full story of the player’s surname and why it influenced the path of his life, changing “a red-cheeked fun fellow” to “one with sad eyes” can be found in the book (hint: a German-sounding name wasn’t an advantage when living in Russia in 1940), together with tales of skullduggery and the naming of a “snitch” (new to this edition), who had a detrimental effect on Schneideman’s fate. Some of his impressive wins against better-known players such as Ilia Kan, Victor Baturinsky and Alexander Tolush are included too.

Here is an interesting snippet.

A.Tolush-G.Schneideman Leningrad Championship 1940



How can Black break through the blockade?
60...h3!!

“Threatening 61...hxg2 62 ♖xg2 ♜e4”.

61 ♖xh3 f3+

“White resigned, since 62 ♖g3+ would be followed by 62...♜xg3+ 63 fxg3 f2, while 62 ♖g1 would lose in view of 62...♜a1+ and 63...♜xa3.”

The author concludes the chapter in wistful fashion: “I can only dream of a time when our fellow citizens will no longer care what a person’s surname is: Stepanov, Schneideman or any double-barreled name.”

The Lubyanka Gambit is a remarkable book, full of extraordinary material. On one level, the chess can be enjoyed in isolation, but the real fruit here is the evidence produced by diligent chess archaeology. The tragic story of Schneideman, relayed above, is just one of many.

In an age when we are coming dangerously close to repeating so many mistakes of the past, any reminders of human errors from the past are worthy of our attention. Burying the past only leads to the same mistakes being repeated. This book may not sell as many copies as an opening tome and some will find the subject matter disturbing, but I found it fascinating and I am sure it will have a similar appeal to anyone interested in the darker side of chess history.

Sean Marsh



A Complete Black Repertoire against 1.d4

Robert Ris, PC-DVD; running time: 7 hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Dutch IM Ris is an excellent presenter and here maps out a repertoire for Black with the Queen’s Gambit Accepted, 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4. The total length of the DVD is impressive and no wonder when we consider that all White’s alternatives to 2 c4 are covered in some detail. And which QGA lines is the repertoire based around? 3 e4 is met by 3...e5, 3 e3 likewise by 3...e5, while against 3 ♖f3 ♖f6 4 e3 Ris eschews 4...e6 5 ♗xc4 c5 in favour of 4...♗g4 5 ♗xc4 e6, which he believes is underrated.

There’s also a companion DVD, *A Complete Black Repertoire against 1.♖f3 & 1.c4* (RRP £26.95, Subscribers – £24.25), which is likely to appeal to even those not interested in the QGA. The cornerstones of Ris’s repertoire are 1 ♖f3 d5 followed by 2 c4 d4 and 2 g3 ♖c6!?, while against 1 c4 he opts for further aggression in the shape of a reversed Grand Prix Attack formation, 1...e5 2 ♖c3 ♖c6 3 ♖f3/g3 f5!?

Cheparinov’s 1.d4! Volume 2: The Slav & Semi-Slav

Ivan Cheparinov, 480 pages, paperback

RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

The man who once helped to ensure Veselin Topalov was at the cutting edge of theory continues to present a repertoire with 1 d4 d5 2 c4 for Thinkers Publishing. Here Cheparinov’s focus is on all the different types of Slav against which he likes to advocate an aggressive and rather theoretical approach, not least after 2...c6 3 ♖f3 ♖f6 4 ♖c3 dxc4 5 a4 ♗f5 6 ♖e5 and 4...e6 5 ♗g5.

Endgame Strategy

Mikhail Shereshevsky, 368 pages, paperback

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

This is a ‘Revised and Expanded Edition of a Chess Classic’ according to the sub-header – and it’s impossible to disagree. New in Chess have already bought Shereshevsky to the attention of a new generation with the excellent *The Shereshevsky Method to Improve in Chess* and his endgame advice is likely to prove equally popular. While Vladimir Kramnik pens a foreword, the most impressive feature of this new edition is that Shereshevsky himself has done the updating, adding in a great number of examples from the 21st Century. In short, this is a general endgame guide, not one to theoretical positions, so the reader will, for instance, learn plenty about the principle of two weaknesses, knowing when to calculate and when to assess, and how best to defend.



How to Out-Prepare Your Opponent

Jeroen Bosch, 416 pages, paperback

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

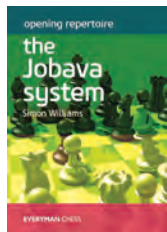
Bosch is an excellent writer, as well as openings expert, and in this work subtitled ‘A Complete Guide to Successful Chess Opening Preparation’ tackles how the stronger club player should prepare their openings. The focus is not so much on direct preparation for an individual opponent, but rather how an opening repertoire should be developed at home, especially when time is a constraint. Bosch looks at when a gambit or opening surprise might be effective, as well as when it’s a good idea to enter a main line. He also presents detailed coverage of Carlsen’s opening repertoire and whatever your current repertoire, it’s hard to believe that you won’t find plenty of useful pointers and questions to ponder in this important new work from New in Chess.



King's Kalashnikov Sicilian

Daniel King, 192 pages, hardback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Chessable have made an excellent decision to turn our star columnist's course on 1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♟xd4 e5 5 ♟b5 d6 into book format while also publishing it under their own imprint. As one would expect from a combination of Daniel King and Chessable, the explanation is extremely clear, beginning with several model games before White's lesser fifth moves are dealt with. Notably after 5 ♟b5 d6 6 ♟1c3 a6 7 ♟a3 King recommends 7...♟e7 rather than 7...b5, while against 6 c4 he advocates set-ups based around ...g6. If you're looking for a new and dynamic variation to try, King's Kalashnikov should fit the bill.



Opening Repertoire: The Jobava System

Simon Williams, 256 pages, paperback
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

The elite haven't yet fully tired of 1 d4 ♟f6 2 ♟c3 d5 3 ♟f4, at least in the Champions Chess Tour, and the Jobava London or, if you prefer, Jobava-Prié Attack remains an excellent choice for the club player. White's set-up is both aggressive and full of easy-to-grasp concepts, such as occupying e5 and a well-timed dxc5. Williams begins by running through all the major strategic motifs before giving a complete repertoire for White with 1 d4. Note too that while this book is largely the same as the Chessable course 'The Jobava London System', the coverage has been significantly updated to reflect theoretical developments.

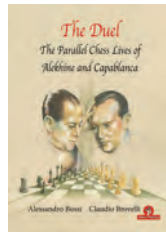


Opening Repertoire: The Slav

Cyrus Lakdawala, 448 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The Slav is a staple of the Lakdawala repertoire and he has previously written *The Slav: Move by Move* for Everyman Chess. Here he maps out a different repertoire for Black, albeit one based around meeting 1 d4 d5 2 c4 with 2...c6 3 ♟f3 ♟f6 4 ♟c3 dxc4 5 a4 ♟f5. Lakdawala meets 6 ♟e5 with the solid 6...♟bd7 7 ♟xc4 ♟b6 and after the important earlier alternative 4 e3 there is a small surprise: 4...e6 5 ♟c3 ♟bd7 6 ♟d3 ♟e7, nicknamed 'Ulf's Variation' and with which Lakdawala once held Kasparov to a draw. There are fewer lengthy passages of prose than normal in a work by the prolific

Californian IM, but all the key motifs are still clearly explained in this book which is quite sizeable due to the excellent decision to also cover Slav set-ups against the flank openings.



The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alekhine and Capablanca

Allessandro Bossi & Claudio Brovelli,
308 pages, paperback
RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

This fascinating new work sees the Italian authors take a detailed look at the lives of two great players whose fates will always seem intertwined, Jose Raul Capablanca and Alexander Alekhine. By the time the story reaches St. Petersburg 1914 the different personalities of the two great champions are already becoming clear. All 49 head-to-head encounters between the two are presented with light commentary, but this is essentially a chess book best read cover to cover. The prose is enchanting and the authors have definitely done their research, with a great number of quotes from Alekhine, Capablanca and their contemporaries included.

The Essence of Chess Strategy Volume 2: Pawn Structures

Boroljub Zlatanovic, 494 pages, paperback
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Like Cheparinov's work, this is another large book from Thinkers Publishing. Serbian IM Zlatanovic has long been an expert in exploiting doubled pawns, as well as a firm believer in Philidor's maxim that pawns are the soul of chess. His many carefully chosen examples will certainly help to improve your understanding of not just the humble foot soldier, but pawn structure in general and a number of important related topics, such as exploiting a pawn majority.

The French Defence: Structures, Tactics and plans Vol. 1

Mihail Marin, PC-DVD; running time: 4 hours, 50 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Any appearance by Mihail Marin in the ChessBase studio in Hamburg makes one sit up and take notice, and here he aims to improve the French player's understanding. That opening is, of course, fairly strategic, but a number of common tactical motifs regularly crop up, as presented here via 41 games, featuring over 100 exercises, many to do with attacks on g7 and h2, as well as those key pawns breaks, f4-f5 and ...g5.

In *The French Defence: Structures, Tactics and plans Vol.2* (RRP £26.95, Subscribers – £24.25), Marin continues to cover some very important French themes, this time presenting, in over four hours of coverage and 38 games, various important tactical

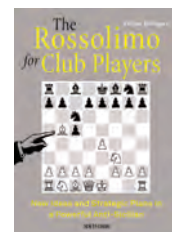
devices to do with the central pawn chains, as well as an isolated black pawn on d5 and Black's notorious light-squared bishop.

The Match of All Time: Fischer-Spassky 1972

Gudmundur Thorarinsson,
240 pages, paperback

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

New in Chess have certainly been busy of late and this book is quite a coup. Fifty years on from the match of the century, the chief organiser and then chairman of the Icelandic Chess Federation has penned a highly personal account of what happened in Reykjavik. Thorarinsson puts the match in context by looking a little at all the great players who came before Fischer, which serves to show just how dominant the Soviets were by the start of the 1970s – with the exception of Fischer. The reader then gets to see how the match came about before the dramatic start of events in Reykjavik receives plenty of coverage. Thorarinsson's work is bound to prove popular with all Fischer fans and is also available in hardback format if you prefer for £33.95 or £30.55 for Subscribers.



The Rossolimo for Club Players

Victor Bologan, 272 pages, paperback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Whether you dislike the Open Sicilian or simply want to avoid the Sveshnikov, meeting 1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6 with 3 ♟b5 is a sensible choice. The Rossolimo remains a fairly popular choice at all levels, meaning that a fair body of theory has built up on it, one which Bologan aims to simplify while also presenting plenty of new ideas, as well as clear explanation of the main strategic motifs. While the contents page could be clearer, handily two lines for White are supplied against each of Black's main defences: 3...d6 4 ♟xc6+ bxc6 5 0-0 and 4 0-0 ♟d7 5 ♟e1 ♟f6 6 h3; 3...e6 4 0-0 ♟ge7 5 c3 and 4 ♟xc6 bxc6 5 b3; 3...g6 4 0-0 ♟g7 5 ♟e1 and 4 ♟xc6 dxc6 5 h3.

Trompowsky Attack & London System

Viktor Moskalenko, 200 pages, paperback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Moskalenko's books are always refreshing and this is no exception, bursting with energy while presenting plenty of new angles for White after 1 d4 ♟f6 and then both 2 ♟g5 and 2 ♟f4. The Trompowsky fills just over half the book, with the author keen to explain the importance of understanding a number of key structures. The layout with its shaded boxes and weapons, plans and puzzles won't be for everyone, but there's no doubt an awful lot of ideas and theory have been packed into a relatively small space.



The Chessable British Chess Championships

When: 8 to 21 August

Where: The Riviera International Centre in Torquay

There's something for everyone: the Championship, Major Open, Junior Championships, 50 Plus, 65 Plus, Weekday Congresses, Rapidplay, Junior Rapidplay and Blitz tournaments. We will also have commentary from the Championship, live boards, coaching and a supporting programme of social chess activities. Torquay and the wider locality also have a wide range of activities to cater for all interests.

All the details and entry form at <https://bit.ly/britishchamps>

Events and prizes include -

[Chessable British Championship](#) (13 - 21 August)

1st £5,000; 2nd £2,500; 3rd £1,500; 4th £1,000; 5th £1,000; 6th £750

Top placed female players - 1st £1,000; 2nd £500; **top placed Under 21** - 1st £500; 2nd £250

Championship rating prizes - 2201-2350 £300; 2051-2200 £300; 2050 and under £200

[Chessable Major Open](#) (13-21 August) - 1st £750; 2nd £400; 3rd £250

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[Chessable Junior Champs](#) U16/14/12/10/8 – (8-12 August) – each event 1st £240; 2nd £120; 3rd £60

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... together with rapidplay and blitz events plus a whole lot more! The full prize list for all events is at

<https://bit.ly/britishprizes>

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