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Chess



DUBOV DELIVERS!

Daniil Dubov defeats Hikaru Nakamura to become the champion of the Lindores Abbey Rapid Challenge

ISSN 0964-6221



Donald Macfarlane - Barry Hymer on the pride and sorrow of South African chess



Peter the Great - With chess booming online, David Smith interviewed Peter Svidler



Checkmate Covid - The ECF's fundraiser for the Red Cross went right to the wire

Chess

Founding Editor: B.H. Wood, OBE. M.Sc †
Executive Editor: Malcolm Pein
Editors: Richard Palliser, Matt Read
Associate Editor: John Saunders
Subscriptions Manager: Paul Harrington

Twitter: @CHESS_Magazine
Twitter: @TelegraphChess – Malcolm Pein
Website: www.chess.co.uk

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Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
60 Seconds with...Maria Emelianova	7
We catch up with the leading chess photographer and streamer	
Enter the Dragon	8
Top seeds China proved too strong in FIDE's Nations Cup	
How Good is Your Chess?	12
Daniel King examines Yu Yangyi's key win for China	
Dubov Delivers	16
Lindores went online, with rapid experts Carlsen, Nakamura & Dubov	
It's All in the Timing	22
Amatzia Avni shows why it's vital to time the key idea just right	
Peter the Great	25
David Smith discusses the online chess boom with Peter Svidler	
Chess and the Dance of Death	26
Tim Wall has found <i>The Seventh Seal</i> an appropriate watch of late	
Checkmate Covid-19	30
Danny Rosenbaum reports on the ECF's Red Cross fundraiser	
Why I Quit my Chess Club	31
An enjoyable short story from Julian Corfield	
Stay Home! Save Lives! Play Chess!	32
CV19 and the Government send Steve Firth to 'Chess Boot Camp'	
Donald Macfarlane	34
Barry Hymer on the Pride and Sorrow of South African chess	
Remembering A. R. B.	40
Bob Jones picks up ARB Thomas's chess career after the war	
Study the Classics!	44
Lockdown hasn't been easy, but Carl Strugnell has used it well	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	46
Carl reflects on the future of the chess book and his own collection	
Find the Winning Moves	48
Can you do as well as the players in the Nations Cup and 4NCL?	
Home News	52
Chessable White Rose topped the group stage of the 4NCL Online	
Overseas News	53
Wesley So won the first outing of Maurice Ashley's 'Clutch Chess'	
Solutions	54
This Month's New Releases	55
Sean Marsh looks back to the Match of the Century	
Saunders on Chess	58
John has fond memories of playing chess at school	

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60 Seconds with... Maria Emelianova



Born: Yekaterinburg, Russia is what it's called now, but back in 1987 it was Sverdlovsk, USSR.

Place of residence: I spend the majority of my free time in Yekaterinburg and in London, but otherwise I follow the professional chess circuit around the world.

Occupation: Chess photojournalist and Twitch Partner streamer.

Enjoyable? Very much – I love travelling, taking photos and making content with my community.

And home life? It's nice to sit back and reflect on life sometimes, recharge, read a book and start generating new ideas. When I am at home, I do a lot of streaming in chess, chatting, Lego and video games, and connect with chess fans and other streamers.

But sometimes good to escape to: In my case both travelling for work and returning home is an escape in a way, but when I go for a proper vacation it's usually to northern Italy, by the sea or a lake.

Sports played or followed: I became a WFM at 16, but then decided to put things on hold, if while still playing club and university chess, and later on followed the game closely through my work as a photographer. Now I am back in chess, taking lessons from GM Vladimir Dobrov, and hoping to play for England in the future having recently changed federation. As a spectator, I enjoy watching tennis and winter sports, especially figure

skating and biathlon.

A favourite novel? Tolstoy's *War and Peace*.

Piece of music? Rachmaninoff's 'Four Pieces'.

Film or TV series? *Star Wars* (original trilogy) and *Black Mirror*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? The ability to speak the same language with people from all parts of the world, just like it is in photography. That's why I love both.

And the worst? Not being able to get over a blunder, especially when you need to sleep.

Your best move? My best move was to go to the Chess Olympiad 2010 where I found out my passion for photography, but – ah, you meant a chess one! I am solving a lot of puzzles on my streams and even do competitive solving matches with other streamers. Recently in an online game that helped me to spot this pretty tactic.



Black's bishop is pinning my knight on f3, but the undeveloped kingside of the opponent immediately gave me an idea: **8 ♖xe5!** Now the best move for Black was 8...dxe5 and after 9 ♗b3 I would have a strong initiative. Instead, **8...♙xd1? 9 ♙b5+ ♘d7 10 ♙xd7+ ♗xd7 11 ♘xd7 ♙xd7 12 ♙xd1** left me with an extra knight.

But less memorable than your worst move? Worst moves are usually not moving at all. I am a terribly slow thinker; think the Grischuk school, but nowhere near as good in time trouble.

And a highly memorable opponent? I recently played a hand-and-brain match with Alexandra Kosteniuk against Pia Cramling and her daughter Anna on stream, where

Alexandra's reaction to my moves was priceless. Both Pia and Alexandra are such legends I'll never forget that day.

Favourite game of all time? Probably the 'Opera Game' by Paul Morphy. I often sacrifice many pieces the same way, but it doesn't always work out that beautifully.

The best three chess books: Garry Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors* series, *My 60 Memorable Games* by Bobby Fischer and my favourite book as a child, *Journey to the Chess Kingdom* by Averbakh and Beilin.

Is FIDE doing a good job? It's going in the right direction, but it's difficult in the given circumstances. They have started to work with online chess platforms, and we now have more tournaments for all levels. There are challenges, but I hope they can modernise and ride the 'chess boom' which only seems to be accelerating.

Or your National Federation? Both the Russian and English Chess Federations have done a lot of fundraising events recently, which makes me happy to be able to help and be part of both.

Any advice for either? Greater modernisation and more transparency from FIDE would be welcome. Compared to the previous administration, Dvorkovich's is a breath of fresh air. I'd also love to see English Chess thriving again, but it's probably hard to do without governmental involvement. The Russian attitude towards chess, especially for didactic purposes, is something many chess playing countries could benefit from.

Can chess make one happy? Probably not. Chess is just a tool and a waste of time unless you really throw yourself into the game.

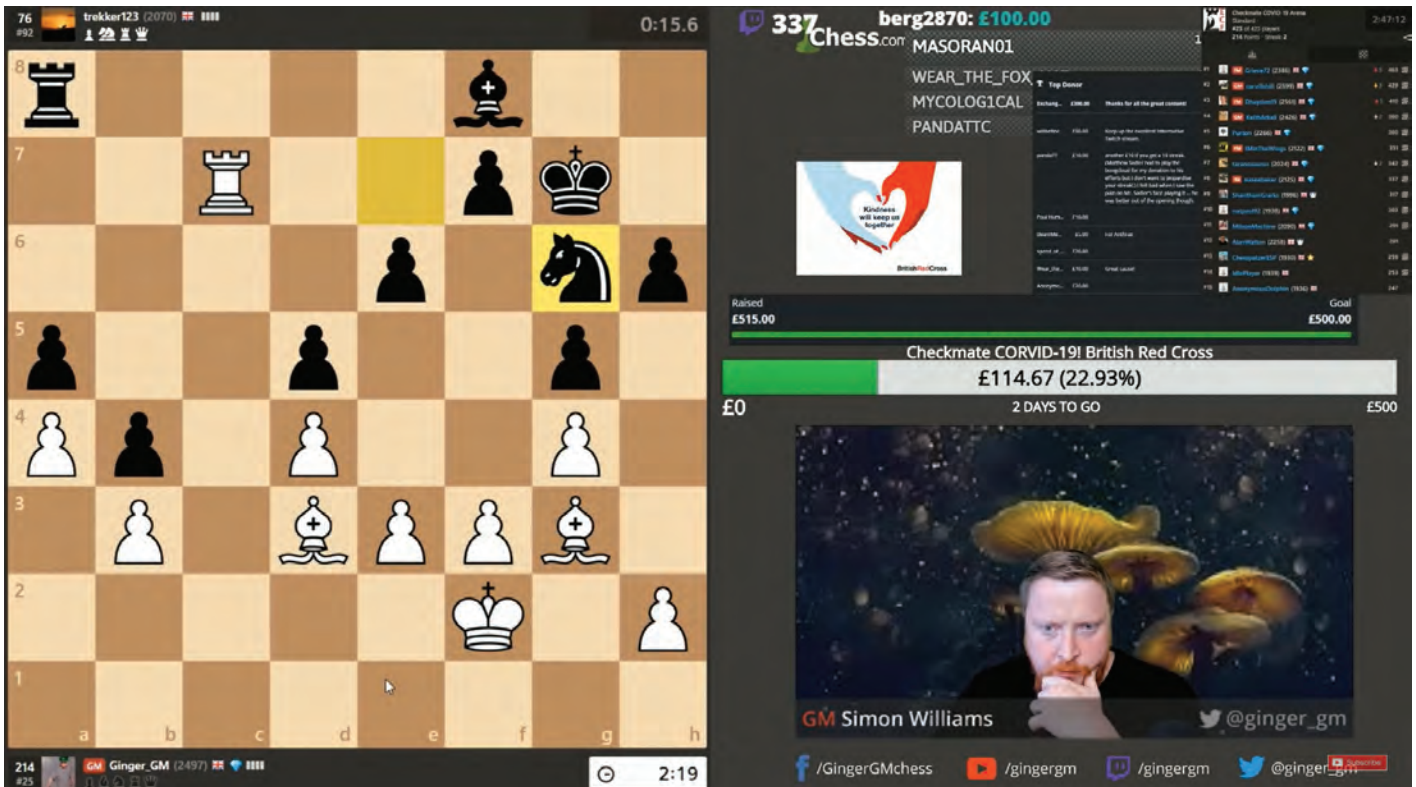
A tip please for the club player: Work on all aspects of the game and don't only play, but analyse! And if you are learning an opening, don't try it out in blitz or bullet, but play slower games and, again, always analyse and search for improvements afterwards.

Ed. - To find out more about Maria, do just visit photochess.com or follow her via twitch.tv/photochess.



Checkmate Covid-19

The ECF's fundraiser for the British Red Cross went right to the wire. Danny Rosenbaum reports on a lot of chess



Simon Williams was one streamer who helped cover the whole 24 hours of the marathon. It must have been late at night as Harry is still on h2!

It was arguably the greatest cliff-hanger the chess world had ever seen. After 24 hours and 9,872 games, with 459 players competing, the Checkmate Covid-19 tournament in aid of the British Red Cross all came down to the very last second and just one point.

It was The Crucible 1985 all over again. When an almost endless battle saw Dennis Taylor pot the final black to snatch the World Snooker Championship from the seemingly invincible Steve Davis. Fast forward nearly 35 years to the Checkmate Covid-19 chess marathon on Chess.com organised by the ECF, and it is FM Harry Grieve who is metaphorically the one with his spectacles upside down.

With just 30 seconds to go he wins to level the standings with GM Danny Gormally at the top of the table. The seconds tick by and he is paired with Ben Purton (who also had a fantastic tournament, finishing fifth). If the game remained unfinished in the half a minute left for the event it would abort with no additional score for either player.

As the tournament clock ticked inexorably down, Grieve wanted a draw. Rather, he needed a draw. Operating on no sleep and pure adrenaline, it felt like he was fighting for his life as he had to overcome one major

obstacle to him achieving a draw and therefore outright victory: you can't offer a draw before 20 moves.

Amazingly, with one second left Grieve managed to get the draw he needed. He had spent just eight seconds on his 21 moves.

To onlookers like myself, already spinning from a lack of sleep, it had the feel of a strange optical illusion as Grieve's score changed, just a blink of an eye before the tournament result was declared: Harry Grieve – 517 points; Danny Gormally – 516 points; and back in third on 444 points was FM David Haydon.

It was now 5pm on Sunday 24th May.

24 hours earlier and nobody knew what lay ahead. Hundreds of fresh, well-fed and rested players, armed with water, coffee and maybe other beverages, arrived at the starting line ready for the chess marathon. Top players had worked out their tournament strategy. Not whether to play the Spanish or the Italian, instead it was whether to try to stay up the whole night to keep amassing the points; or whether to get in a well-timed nap and hope for more efficient scoring to make up for the lost hours.

It was an Arena tournament which meant that players could leave and rejoin whenever

they wanted. They simply had to play five-minute-a-side games as often or as little as they liked.

Among the players were eight grandmasters: Matthew Sadler, Michael Adams, Gawain Jones, Simon Williams, Danny Gormally, Keith Arkell, Luke McShane, and John Emms. It was wonderful to see them all participating. Many not entering to compete for a prize, but simply to support the British Red Cross and at the same time enable other players, whether juniors, club or even those who have never played over the board, the rare chance to play against the top flight.

Chess.com has around 38 million members and the figure has been growing by around 40,000 a day since lockdown. Many of the new enthusiasts have never seen a grandmaster before except perhaps Yoda in *Star Wars*. However, who knows, inspired by events like this, some of the many unrated or lowly-rated players who joined the tournament may themselves become a grandmaster of the future. As Irving Chernev put it: "Every chess master was once a beginner."

There were also numerous streamers covering the tournament. Many of them, including Dagne Ciuksyte, Maria Emelianova,

Gawain Jones, Thomas Rendle, Matthew Sadler and Natasha Regan, Simon Williams, ChessPitPod (Phil Makepeace), and ChesspatzerUK (Jacques Tivillier) raised large sums for the British Red Cross, cumulatively in the thousands of pounds. They also managed between them to cover the whole 24 hours of the tournament.

Checkmate Covid-19 raised over £11,000 for the British Red Cross and their activities during the pandemic working with the NHS, providing for the vulnerable, and supporting those in emotional need.

Chess.com not only provided a huge amount of support, but also donated \$500 of prizes and \$500 directly to the funds raised. As well as organising the event, the ECF donated £300. A list of 'thank-yous' and prizes appears on www.englishchess.org.uk. Even that already long list of gratitude should be longer, with numerous people within the ECF, such as Nigel Towers and this magazine's very own Malcolm Pein, being most helpful in making the event such a success.

It was wonderful to see the number of people who donated. One anonymous donor gave £500. Just as striking was the quantity of donors. Literally hundreds of people contributed. Most donated through the ECF Tiltify page or the registration form for the tournament, but others like the Blue Coat School in Liverpool had their own fundraising pages.

Having mentioned the top three and the fifth player, I should name check the fourth place, Keith Arkell, not least because he had the excellent taste to choose a subscription to *CHESS* as his prize. The full tournament standings and all the games can be accessed at: tinyurl.com/yc8gtu3u.

It was heartening to see the positive feedback afterwards the tournament, whether it be messages on chess.com, emails or the Twittersphere.

There were numerous funny and peculiar games, often due to imbalances in rating, or simply time trouble, but this game from British Champion Michael Adams was one that stood out for me aesthetically.

M.Adams-'Killerm3000'

Checkmate Covid-19 Blitz
Trompowsky Attack

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♙g5 ♚e4 3 ♙f4 e6 4 f3 ♘f6
5 e4 d5 6 e5 ♘fd7 7 c3 c5 8 ♙e3 ♘c6
9 f4 b6 10 ♘f3 ♙b7 11 ♙b5 h5 12 0-0
♘e7 13 ♙f2 ♘f5 14 a4 h4 15 a5 ♙c8
16 axb6 axb6 17 ♙a7 ♙c7 18 ♘a3 c4
19 ♙a4 ♙d8 20 ♙a6 ♙b8 21 ♘b5 ♙c8
22 ♙a1 ♙xa6 23 ♘c7+ ♙d8 24 ♘xa6



Black, who thus far had played a good game against the British Champion, now decided to also put something on the a-file.

24...♙a8?

What did Mickey Adams play here as White to gain a devastating advantage? Other moves do work, but it is by far the strongest and most attractive.

25 ♙xd7+! ♙xd7 26 ♙xa8+ ♙e7 27 ♘b8 ♙b5 28 ♙1a7+ ♙d8 29 ♘c6# 1-0

These days there are as many games played online in one day as in the whole of the last 10 years of over-the-board chess put together. The challenge, as I see it, is to build on the growing popularity of the game to secure a healthy future, both online and over the board. It is my genuine hope that events like this one will not just help wonderful causes like the British Red Cross, but will, *en passant*, attract new enthusiasts to all levels of the game of chess.



He must have been rather tired by 5pm Sunday afternoon, but Harry Grieve had triumphed - just!

Why I Quit my Chess Club

by Julian Corfield

It was the last round of the Little Brockhampton Club Championship and I was playing Blenkinsop. As every year, at stake was which of us was to occupy last place and who the second-to-last. Now, our first team has a 14 year old by the name of Maximus Talson: he is both an outstanding player and an obnoxious little brat.

Having won his game in a miniature, Maximus wandered around the hall, casting smug looks as he surveyed the other games. When he reached our game he burst into laughter and claimed that we had set up the board incorrectly at the start.

Now I've never seen that it matters what the colours of the corner squares are: after all, 64 squares are 64 squares, either way. Rather than restart the game, we thought it simpler just to turn the board through 90 degrees and carry on. In doing so we inadvertently knocked some of the pieces on to the floor and weren't quite sure how to reconstruct the position. By the way, Blenkinsop had earlier unnecessarily promoted a pawn to a bishop rather than a queen, which just goes to show what a weak player he is.

We had reached the following position and reluctantly agreed to have the game adjudicated by Maximus as the caretaker wanted to lock the hall and get home.



As Black, I claimed a win as I had a mate in one with 273...♙a1#. To my amazement, Blenkinsop also claimed a mate in one by promoting his a-pawn. So the result depended upon whose move it was and upon this we couldn't agree.

To my disgust Maximus instantly declared it as a win for White, whoever was to move, meaning that, yet again, I occupied last place in the championship. On hearing of this outrageous travesty of justice, I got up and stormed out of the club, never to return.

What could Maximus have been thinking?

Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability, with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from various recent events, including the FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup and the successful 4NCL Online League, and should help to keep you sharp for any blitz and until over-the-board chess returns.

Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just win a pawn. **Solutions on pages 54.**



Warm-up Puzzles



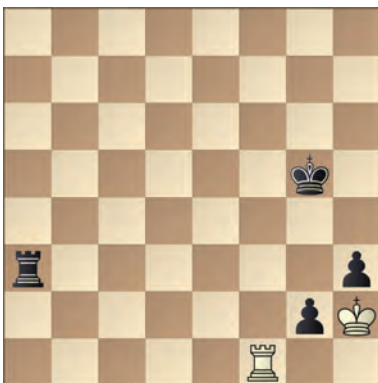
(1) L.Webb-J.Rogers
4NCL Online 2020
Black to Play



(2) F.Berkes-K.Kristensen
Gilleleje 2020
White to Play



(3) P.Hampton-P.Roberson
English Online Blitz Championship 2020
Black to Play and Draw



(4) D.Zhang-R.Makarian
Chess.com (rapid) 2020
Black to Play



(5) P.Harikrishna-J.Cori
Online Nations Cup (rapid) 2020
White to Play



(6) P.Gayson-G.Moore
4NCL, Daventry 2020
White to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



(7) I.Novikov-J.Polasek
World Senior Team Ch., Prague 2020
White to Play



(8) F.Caruana-Wang Hao
Online Nations Cup (rapid) 2020
White to Play



(9) M.Donnely-R.Buckler
Coventry 2020
White to Play



(10) T.Munkhzul-A.Fier
Chess.com Titled Tuesday (blitz) 2020
Black to Play and Draw



(11) V.Sivuk-C.Krishna
Moscow 2020
Black to Play



(12) C.Palmer-P.Hopwood
Internet 2020
Black to Play



(13) L.Ftacnik-M.Hebden
World Senior Team Ch., Prague 2020
Black to Play and Draw



(14) R.York-Weaving-K.Smallbone
4NCL Online 2020
White to Play



(15) E.Van Haastert-T.Warakomski
Amsterdam 2020
Black to Play

Harder Puzzles for the Club Player – Solutions on page 54



(16) Xiphos-rofChade
Top Chess Engines Competition 2020
Black to Play and Draw



(17) V.Anand-I.Nepomniachtchi
Online Nations Cup (rapid) 2020
White to Play



(18) L.Supi-M.Carlsen
Chess.com (blitz) 2020
White to Play



(19) A.P.Lewis-T.Wall
4NCL, Daventry 2020
White to Play



(20) S.Ansell-D.Gormally
ECF Red Cross Online Fundraiser (blitz) 2020
White to Play



(21) D.Wilson-J.Santos
Chess England Online (blitz) 2020
Black to Play and Draw



(22) I.Smirin-A.Givon
Israeli League 2020
Black to Play



(23) M.Bluebaum-L.Van Foreest
German Bundesliga 2020
White to Play



(24) Lc0-Stockfish
Top Chess Engines Competition 2020
White to Play and Draw



Solutions

to Find the Winning Moves (pages 48-50)

1) Webb-Rogers

After 1 ♖f4-f3! ♜h5+ 2 ♜e4 Black would have had no more than a draw, but after 1 ♖f4-e4? he was able to win: **1...♜g2+ 2 ♖d4 ♙e3+! 3 ♖c3** (or 3 ♖xe3 ♜xc2) **3...b4+! 0-1**

2) Berkes-Kristensen

1 ♜c4+! ♙d5 2 c7! was a key intermezzo, White's mighty passed c-pawn quickly proving decisive: **2...♞d7** (or 2...♙xc4 3 ♙xc4+ and 4 cxd8♞) **3 ♞xd4 ♞f7 4 ♜c5 b6 5 ♞d6 ♙b7 6 ♙e7 ♞d5 7 ♞xd5+ ♙xd5 8 ♙a6 1-0**

3) Hampton-Roberson

White had just blundered with 1 ♙e6-d5?, allowing Black to save himself thanks to stalemate: **1...♞xh3+!** (or 1...♞g3+!, and if 2 ♖g1 ♞e1+ 3 ♖h2 ♞g3+) **2 ♖g1 ♞xg2+! 3 ♙xg2 ½-½**

4) Zhang-Makarian

Any move wins, apart from the game's 1...gxf1♞? ½-½ and 1...gxf1♙, as well as promoting the pawn on g1 and 1...f3?. The quickest win is **1...gxf1♙+! 2 ♖g1 ♙a2!**, and if 3 ♖xf1 h2 or 3 ♖h1 ♙g3+ 4 ♖g1 ♙g2#.

5) Harikrishna-Cori

1 ♙xe5! 1-0 Black's queen is fatally overloaded, as if 1...dxe5 (or 1...♞xe5 2 ♞xf8+) 2 ♙xd7 ♞xd7 3 ♞xf8+. 1 ♙xf6! also works, and if 1...fxf6 2 ♙xf6 ♞xf6 3 ♙f1 ♞g7 4 ♙f8+.

6) Gayson-Moore

1 ♙h1! (threat: 2 ♙h6#) **1...gxf4 2 gxf4 1-0** 2...♙g6 3 ♙ch7 mates, while 2...♙g8 3 ♙h6+ picks up the black bishop for starters.

7) Novikov-Polasek

1 ♙b5! (always examine all checks, captures and forcing moves!) **1...♞e6 2 ♙b8+ ♙f8 3 ♙xb3! 1-0** The potential skewer on the a2-g8 diagonal decides.

8) Caruana-Wang Hao

1 ♙xh7+! ♖h8 (1...♙xh7? 2 ♞xf7+ ♖h8 3 ♞h5 forces Black to part company with his queen) **2 ♙f5 ♙xf5 3 ♞xf5 ♖g8 4 h5!** left White a pawn up and still with a virulent initiative. Caruana was quick to wrap up proceedings: **4...♞c6 5 ♙xf7! ♖xf7 6 g5 ♞d7? 7 ♞g6+ 1-0**

9) Donnelly-Buckler

1 ♙xb4! (preparing to activate the queen thus is the simplest way to win, although 1 ♞e2 ♙xa4 2 h4 should also be an easy enough win in the long run) **1...axb4** (White has too many extra pawns after 1...♙d1 2 ♙xb6+

♖c7 3 ♞xd1 ♙xd1+ 4 ♖f2) **2 ♞xb4 ♙xe3 3 a5** (the queen is rampant; Black can't hang on to his loose rooks and bishop) **3...b5** (if 3...♙e8 4 ♞xb6+ ♖c8 5 ♞xe3) **4 cxb5 1-0** 4...♙d1+ 5 ♖f2 ♙ed3 6 a6+ ♖b6 7 bxc6+ ♖xc6 8 ♞b7+ is totally hopeless, as is 4...♙e8 5 ♞e7+ ♖c8 6 b6 ♙d7 7 ♞c5+.

10) Munkhzul-Fier

1...♙b7! (the game's 1...e5? might have been punished by 2 ♙a6) **2 ♙d7 e5 3 ♙xc8 ♙xc8** is an easy draw, since Black can always, if necessary, give up his bishop for the c-pawn.

11) Sivuk-Krishna

1...♙xh2+! 2 ♖h1? (2 ♖xh2? ♙f3+ 3 ♖g3 ♙g8+ mates, and even after 2 ♖f1 ♙b8 3 ♙a5 ♙g6 White shouldn't survive) **2...♙b8** (or just 2...♙g8) **3 ♞c4 ♙e5** (winning further material, in view of 4 ♙xh4? ♞d1+) **4 g4 ♙xg4 5 ♞xe6 ♙f3+ 6 ♖g2 ♙h2+! 0-1**

12) Palmer-Hopwood

1...♞e3+! 2 ♖h1 ♙f2+ (2...♞xg3! is even quicker, and if 3 hxg4 ♙xg4 4 ♖g1 ♙e3) **3 ♖h2 ♙eg4+! 4 hxg4 ♙xg4+ 5 ♖h3 ♙e5 6 ♙c1** (it's also going to be mate after 6 ♙f3 ♙h5+ 7 ♙h4 ♙xh4+! 8 ♖xh4 ♙f6 9 ♙c1 ♞xe2) **6...♙h5+! 7 ♖xg4 ♙g5+ 8 ♖h4 ♞xg3# 0-1**

13) Ftacnik-Hebden

1...♞d3! (and not 1...♞g7? due to 2 ♖h4! when it's surprisingly hard to find a move for Black, as shown by 2...♙d7 3 f5 gxf5 4 ♞xf5+ ♖h8 5 ♙e8+ and 2...♞g8 3 ♙e7 ♞g7 4 ♙xf7 ♞xf7 5 f5!, which is winning) **2 ♖h4 ♞c2!** (waiting with 2...♖g7 will also do) **3 ♖h3 ♞d3 4 ♖h4 ♞c2 5 ♖h3 ½-½**

14) York-Weaving-Smallbone

1 d6+! ♖c6 2 ♙xc5+! ♖xc5 3 ♙d5+ ♖b6 4 ♙a4 ♙xd6 (now White wins a piece; 4...h5 5 c5+ ♖a6 6 ♙xd7 ♙xd7 7 a4 is also quite hopeless for Black, while 4...♖a6 at least makes White find 5 ♙b5+! ♖b6 6 a4! and only then 7 c5+) **5 c5+ ♖a5 6 ♙xd6! 1-0**

15) Van Haastert-Warakomski

1...♙h1+! 2 ♖xh1 ♞h6+ 3 ♞h3 (or 3 ♖g1 ♞e3+ 4 ♖f1 ♙h8 when there's nothing good to be done about the threat of 4...♙h1#) **3...♙f2+ 4 ♖g1 ♙xh3+ 0-1** The extra queen would quickly prove too strong after 5 gxf3 ♙g8+ 6 ♖f2 ♞h4+ 7 ♖e2 ♙g3.

16) Xiphos-rofChade

1...♙d3+! (Black would by no means be assured of a half-point after 1...♞d6+ 2 ♞xd6 ♙xd6 3 h4) **2 ♖h4** (and not 2 ♖f4?? ♙a4+ 3 ♙e4 ♙xe4+ 4 ♖xe4 ♞d5+ 5 ♖f4 ♙f3#)

2...♙xh3+! (stalemate will save the day) **3 ♖xh3 ♙h2+! 4 ♖g3 ♞g1+** (4...♙g2+ also works, and transposes after 5 ♖f4 ♙f2+ 6 ♙xf2 ♞xf2+) **5 ♖f4 ♙f2+ 6 ♙xf2 ♞xf2+ 7 ♖g5** (7 ♖e5 ♞d4+ 8 ♖e6 ♞d5+ would force an immediate draw) **7...♙h4+!** (another only move, but thanks to his need to keep his queen defended, White can't dodge the checks) **8 ♖g6 ♞h5+ 9 gxf5 ½-½**

17) Anand-Nepomniachtchi

1 f5! ♙xc4 (1...gxf5 2 ♞g5+ ♖h8 3 ♞f6+ ♖g8 4 ♙g5 is absolutely crushing too) **2 e5 ♞d7** (after 2...♙xf1 White can even go 3 ♙xf1) **3 f6 1-0** 3...♖h8 4 ♞h6 ♙g8 prevents mate on g7, but fails, as so often, to 5 ♙g5.

18) Supi-Carlsen

1 ♞c6! 1-0 The less aesthetic 1 c5! also wins, and if 1...♙xc5 2 ♙a8+ ♖d7 3 ♙xd8+ ♖xd8 4 ♙xc7+ or 1...♞xc5 2 ♙xd6 ♞xd6 3 ♞g4+ ♞e6 4 ♙a8+ ♖d7 5 ♞xd4+ ♞d6 6 ♙xd8+ ♖xd8 7 ♞xg7 ♞f6 8 ♙a8+. After the Brazilian GM's 1 ♞c6! Black resigned as even 1...bxc6 2 bxc6 ♞b1+ 3 ♙xb1 leaves him unable to avoid mate down the a-file.

19) Lewis-Wall

After 1 ♞c8 ♞xh2! 2 ♞xf8+ ♖h5 White realised he had nothing better than perpetual check: 3 ♞e8+ (or 3 ♖e1 ♞g1+ 4 ♖d2 ♞xf2+ 5 ♖c1 ♞f1+ 6 ♙d1 ♞xc4+ 7 ♖b1 ♞d3+ when there's no good way for White to dodge the checks) 3...♖h6 4 ♞f8+ ♖h5 5 ♞e8+ ½-½. However, **1 h4!** would have won, and if **1...gxf3 2 ♞c8 ♙g7** (Black's problem is that 2...h2 runs into 3 ♞xf8+ ♖g6 4 ♞f6#, while 2...♙e7 3 ♖g1! decisively halts the onrushing h-pawn) **3 ♙xg7+** (3 ♖g1 h2+ 4 ♖h1 ♙xb2 also wins, with care, such as 5 ♙xe4! ♙xe4 6 ♞f8+) **3...♖xg7 4 ♞d7+!** (4 ♖g1? h2+ 5 ♖h1 ♙h3! saves the day for Black) **4...♙f7** (or 4...♞f7 5 ♞xf7+ ♙xf7 6 ♖g1 ♙d8 7 ♙xe4), when **5 ♖g1** is an only move, but also one which leaves Black helpless to prevent the b-pawn from deciding matters.

20) Ansell-Gormally

1 ♙d1? ♙c8 was merely very unclear in the game, but **1 ♙xh7!** would have won, and if **1...♙xh7** (1...♞d4 2 ♙d1 and 1...♙c8 2 ♙h8+ ♖xf7 3 ♙xc8 are no improvement) **2 d7 ♞d4** (or 2...♖e7 3 ♙xh7) **3 ♙xh7 ♞xd7 4 ♙h8+! ♖xf7 5 ♙h7+ ♖e8 6 ♙xd7 ♖xd7 7 f4** with an easily won endgame.

21) Wilson-Santos

1...♞f4! 2 ♙f3! ♙b1+! (an only move and one White had been relying on, as he would force mate if 2...♞xf3? 3 ♞xe5+) **3 ♖g2 ♙b2+!** (White's far more active king and d-pawn should decide in the event of 3...♞xf3+? 4 ♞xf3 ♙xf3 5 ♖xf3 ♙c1 6 ♖e4 ♙xc4+ 7 ♖e5) **4 ♞xb2 ♞xf3+ 5 ♖h2** and now **5...♞f4+** would have forced perpetual check, since after **6 ♖g2 ♞f3+ 7 ♖g1 ♞g3+ 8 ♖f1** (and not 8 ♞g2?? ♙f3+) **8...♞f3+ 9 ♞f2 ♙h1+ 10 ♖e2 ♞e4+** White must return with his king to f1, not allow 11 ♞e3?? ♞xe3+ 12 ♖xe3 ♙xc4+ and 13...♙d6.

22) Smirin-Givon

After the game's 1...a4? White would have been OK had he found 2 bxa4! ♖xa4 3 f4. However, 1...♗xe5! 2 ♗xe5 ♗a6!, as pointed out by Michael Roiz in his ChessPublishing column, would have won: for example, 3 ♖b2 (3 ♗e2 ♗xd6 4 ♗d1 fails to 4...♗c3+ and 3 ♗f3 ♗xd6 4 ♗e2 to 4...♗xf3, intending 5 gxf3 ♗d2 6 ♗e3 ♗xe2! 7 ♗xe2 ♗c3+ or 5 ♗xf3 ♗c3+ followed by 6...♗d3+ or 6 ♖a1? ♗d2) 3...♗xd6 4 ♗b1 (4 ♗e2 ♗d3+! 5 ♖xa2 ♗c1+ 6 ♖b2 ♗xe2 7 ♖c2 ♗d4+ 8 ♖c3 e5 should also be winning in view of White's still undeveloped kingside) 4...♗d1 when White

is the exchange up, but has absolutely no good way to untangle, as shown by 5 ♗e3 ♗c1 6 ♗c3 ♗cd3+ 7 ♗xd3 ♗xd3+ 8 ♖c2 ♗xh1.

23) Bluebaum-Van Foreest

1 e4!! ♗e7 (1...dxe4? 2 ♗g3+ ♖h8 3 ♗h5 ♗e8 4 ♗h6 gives White an attack which will result in mate, and even after 1...♗xf1 2 ♗g3+ ♖h8 3 ♗h5 Black is defenceless, as shown by 3...♗e8 4 ♗h6 ♗e7 5 ♗g6+ and 3...fxe5 4 ♗xd8 ♗axd8 5 ♗h6 ♗f7 6 exf5 exf5 7 dxe5 ♗c4 8 e6) 2 ♗g3+ ♖h8 3 ♗h5 ♗e8 (to deal with the threat of ♗g6+, since 3...♗g8? fails to 4 ♗f7+) 4 ♗h6 ♗c6 (4...fxe4 5 ♗g6 also fatally overloads the

defence) 5 ♗xc6 ♗xc6 6 e5 1-0

24) Lc0-Stockfish

1 ♗d2!! (only this will do; after 1 ♗c8+? ♖b5 2 ♗b7+ ♖a4 the black king runs up the board to safety, and 1 ♗d4? b1♗ 2 ♗c8+ fails to 2...♗d6 3 ♗d8+ ♖e6 4 ♗e8+ ♖f5 when it's impossible to prevent the king from edging round to the rear of the d-file) 1...b1♗ 2 ♗c8+ ♖d6 (naturally Black cannot stray on to the b-file) 3 ♗d8+ ♖c5 (after 3...♖e5 4 ♗e7+ White will either keep checking the king, which can no longer reach d2 or d1, or win on the spot with 4...♗d4?? 5 ♗e3#) 4 ♗f8+ ♖d4 5 ♗f4+! (stronger than 5 ♗g7+ as, of course, it's stalemate if the queen is taken)

This Month's New Releases



Match of the Century: USSR vs. World

Tigran Petrosian & Aleksandar Matanovic,

260 pages

Chess Informant

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Given the strangeness of the year, it would be quite understandable to forget anniversaries for something as trivial as chess. Fortunately, this new book, a '50th Anniversary Edition', managed to fight its way through in good time to commemorate one of the most notable events of the last century.

When the match was agreed, the mighty Soviet Union, with its stockpile of world champions (and David Bronstein as an ultimately unused reserve), were favourites to beat the team comprised of the best players from the Rest of the World. The latter received a substantial boost when it seemed Bobby Fischer had decided to play after the usual questions about his special conditions plus his request for "A picture of the lighting in the tournament hall, a list of the prizes, the authority of team captain Euwe, etc."

In fact Fischer kept everyone guessing until the eve of the first round. Bent Larsen felt he should play on board number one instead of Fischer. This may sound strange given Fischer's undoubted brilliance, but he had hardly played for the two years before the match and this was still before he resumed his chase for the ultimate title; the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal and record-breaking Candidate's matches were still ahead of him – as was another contest to be dubbed the Match of the Century, Fischer's match against Spassky.

There was a danger of losing both of the Rest of the World's top players in 1970 if both were upset, but remarkably Fischer decided to play on board two and everything was finally

ready for the match itself. It wasn't particularly harmonious on the Soviet side either. Mikhail Botvinnik was offended at being placed on board eight (he thought anything lower than board four was unsatisfactory). He also refused to be photographed with the rest of the team just before they set off to Belgrade, with the words: "No! I will not be photographed with this...gang!"

Four memorable rounds of chess were then played over 10 boards. The USSR team finally emerged victorious to the tune of 20½-19½.

This book is a revised version of the original Chess Informant book, with several additions by editors Douglas Griffin and Igor Zvegljic. The player biographies have been expanded, and the original notes by the Soviet players have been translated into English, as have some other articles about the match. There are also some post-match comments from the players at the end of the book and brief summaries of what happened to them after 1970.

The newly translated notes are very interesting. Botvinnik's no-nonsense approach manifests itself again when his opponent, Matulovic, dares to play the Dutch against the former champion in the fourth round. "Clearly, Matulovic ought not to have played the Dutch Defence, knowing that I am an expert in it. If he wanted to avenge himself for the defeat in the first round he ought to have chosen another opening." The game was drawn after 63 moves.

Some of the games have left a deep impression on the chess world. These include Fischer's sensational use of the Exchange Variation to beat Tigran Petrosian's Caro-Kann in the first round and Boris Spassky's extraordinary crush of Larsen's own opening in round two, with the highly memorable

14...♗h1! sacrifice (Larsen resigned after just three more moves).

There are plenty of other games that deserve to be remembered. When Spassky ducked – or was not allowed to play in – the final round, Larsen played a beautiful game against the reserve player, Leonid Stein; Najdorf played in excellent style to beat Tal in round two; Keres and Ivkov contested a fascinating minor piece ending, also in round two; Matulovic found a stunning way to achieve a draw having stood worse for most of the 93 moves of his third round encounter with Botvinnik. See if you can find it too.

M. Matulovic-M. Botvinnik USSR vs Rest of the World



White to play and draw

The book is beautifully presented, with numerous photographs, a sturdy hardcover and ribbon bookmark. However, there are some editorial blips. For example, the spelling of Korchnoi's name is inconsistent on page 173; Ivkov's 3...♗g4 has become 3...♗g4

on page 241.

The closeness of the final score will have been a shock to some and wake-up call for others. As the book points out, it was a mere six months later that a young Anatoly Karpov shared first place with Leonid Stein at the Alekhine Memorial tournament in Moscow. Yes, the Fischer storm was still coming, the title would be lost, but ultimately the future was in safe, Soviet hands.

I enjoyed revisiting the past and reading the twin sets of notes for all of the games. This event really was an extraordinary moment in chess history and I can recommend this book to anyone seeking a little escapism from our current times and challenges. It may even come as a shock to some people to see that the world's top players were more than capable of playing excellent chess half a century ago.

Sean Marsh



On the Origin of Good Moves

Willy Hendriks, 432 pages

New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Subtitled 'A Skeptic's Guide to Getting Better at Chess' (pardon the Americanism), this new book is from an established and successful author. Willy Hendriks' previous book, *Move First, Think Later* (New in Chess) won the English Chess Federation Book of the Year award in 2012 and his follow-up has been eagerly anticipated.

Where does the scepticism come in? The blurb offers guidance, as we learn of an agenda against the first world champion of chess:

"Willy Hendriks agrees that there is much to be learned from the pioneers of our game. He challenges, however, the conventional view on what the stages in the advancement of chess have been. Among the various articles of faith that Hendriks questions is Wilhelm Steinitz's reputation as the discoverer of the laws of positional chess."

The title is a deliberate attempt to summon up a vision of Charles Darwin and he even makes an appearance towards the end of the book, when the author discusses the question of 'revolution or evolution', while the introduction details the author's intention: "The game of chess has a rich history. Of all the different interesting aspects of this history, this book will focus on the development of our knowledge of the game and our capability to play it well."

This exploration examines the games of great players from Greco onwards, and many excellent games (and snippets) are given as evidence of their prowess. Despite the large page count, there is no room to offer more than the briefest bibliographical coverage for

the giants from history. Stylistically, despite the potentially weighty subject matter, the author tries to keep the prose light. In some cases it crosses the line; there is a significant amount of times when "I guess" is used, which is sloppy.

There is, indeed, an agenda against Wilhelm Steinitz, but claiming the styles of his predecessors and rivals (including La Bourdonnais, Howard Staunton, Adolf Anderssen and Paul Morphy) are more modern than is generally considered to be the case is nothing new. Even Bobby Fischer paid homage to Staunton and found his games "completely modern".

Emanuel Lasker defeated Steinitz in two world championship matches and replaced him at the top of the chess world. It is quite natural for champions to play down the achievements of their predecessors, but *Lasker's Manual of Chess* (1925) adopted a different approach to the situation, with the second champion of the world freely acknowledging the greatness of the first.

Hendriks analyses some of Lasker's prose on the subject of Steinitz and uses his observations to build up his claims of retro continuity, which in the author's eyes has seen the parts of Steinitz's play and attendant theories with the greatest longevity survive in the man's legacy (the sound positional ideas), while the more eccentric elements of his play (such as his wandering king in the Steinitz Gambit – 1 e4 e5 2 ♖c3 ♗c6 3 f4 exf4 4 d4 ♖h4+ 5 ♔e2 – to choose an easy example) have been swept under the carpet.

Another Steinitz original which didn't quite allow itself to be swept away was this unusual idea in the Two Knights' Defence, which formed a centrepiece in his ongoing battles and debates with Mikhail Chigorin.

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♗c4 ♖f6 4 ♗g5 d5 5 exd5 ♗a5 6 ♗b5+ c6 7 dxc6 bxc6 8 ♗e2 h6 9 ♗h3



The king's ability to look after himself is tested in this line, as opposed to the standard 9 ♗f3, as after castling on the kingside he will have to endure a draughty residence after ...♗xh3, one of the points being Steinitz's great belief in the bishop-pair. Incidentally, Fischer, another fan of the bishop-pair, brought the idea back to life in 1963.

Blame is laid at Lasker's door for the perception of the cherry-picked legacy of Steinitz: "Instead of recognizing the slow evolution of positional knowledge, conventional chess history sees in Steinitz's theory – or what gets presented as such – a sudden revelation and revolutionary break with the past. Others contributed to this version of history as well but, thanks to the success of his *Manual*, Lasker seems to be the main perpetrator."

Elsewhere, we are told: "The average master of today would surely stand a good chance against Steinitz or Chigorin." This falls into the trap of not comparing like with like. Any average master travelling back through time would be shocked by the playing conditions. If Steinitz and Chigorin managed the reverse trip and had access to modern materials and good conditions then any games against average masters would be interesting indeed.

As entertaining as the games are, the central premise lacks the strength to convert the series of essays into a narrative of chess evolution and the book falls somewhat short of the mark.

Sean Marsh



A Modern Guide to Checkmating Patterns

Vladimir Barsky, 256 pages, paperback

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Vladimir Barsky is well known as a chess writer, but this IM was once a pupil of Viktor Khenkin (1923-2010), and now explains Khenkin's classification of the most common checkmating patterns. Using 150 examples, Barsky's explains how to identify potential mating nets and key attacking line-ups before 850 puzzles reinforce the material learnt.

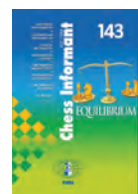
Chess Informant 143

Aleksandar Matanovic (ed.),

336 pages, paperback

RRP £32.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.69**

All the latest novelties and leading games again appear in the latest 'Informator'. There are also columns from the likes of Gormally, Navara and Sokolov, while once more if you prefer your coverage on a CD, that is available for £9.99 (Subscribers – £8.99), or you can have the material in both journal and CD form for £42.99 (£38.69 for Subscribers).





Emanuel Lasker Volume 2

Richard Forster, Michael Negele & Raj Tischbierek, 452 pages, hardback
RRP £54.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £49.45**

The most detailed ever biography of Emanuel Lasker continues to appear in a fully revised and updated English edition. In this volume the second world champion is very much seen as a games player, as we learn all about his love of, and ability at, bridge and Go. Chess too features, not least one of Lasker's greatest successes, his 'comeback' victory at New York, 1924.

If you're yet to obtain *Emanuel Lasker Vol. 1*, both volumes are available to purchase from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £99.95 or just £89.95 for Subscribers.



In the Zone: The Greatest Winning Streaks in Chess History

Cyrus Lakdawala, 400 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

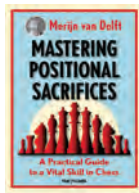
As ever, Lakdawala provides entertaining but also instructive coverage of a great many fine games in his latest work. He also explores just how such winning streaks, by the likes of Carlsen, Kasparov, Morphy and Pillsbury, arose and why they came to an end. If you fancy overpowering your next opponent or just improving your creativity, a study of some seriously impressive winning streaks in Lakdawala's company might just come in handy.



Komodo Chess 14

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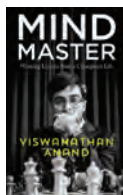
Presented once again within the latest Fritz-style interface, Mark Lefler and Larry Kaufman's engine continues to go from strength to strength. The 'Monte Carlo Tree Search' version of *Komodo* learns as it goes along, while last year the program became the World Chess Software Champion. Club players may also be interested in the seven 'personalities' *Komodo* can now adopt when being used as a sparring partner.



Mastering Positional Sacrifices

Merijn van Delft, 320 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

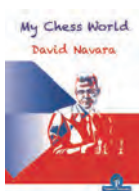
The popular and successful Dutch coach believes that mastering positional sacrifices is a vital skill. He is certainly quite an expert on them, presenting a wide range of inspirational examples, while revealing how deadly they can be and exactly how to identify when the moment is right to be brave and make that positional sacrifice.



Mind Master

Viswanathan Anand, 286 pages, hardback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

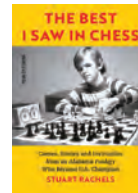
Subtitled 'Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life', this new work from India follows hot on the heels of *Quality Chess' The Anand Files*. Anand writes candidly and with the wit and warmth that has made him such a popular figure in the chess world. He looks back on and tells some fine stories from his chess career, in this largely biographical work. Notably Anand tries to help the reader learn as he goes along, addressing a great array of practical topics and revealing how he himself has studied.



My Chess World

David Navara, 616 pages, paperback
RRP £33.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £30.55**

We are truly spoilt for best game collections this month, as the popular Czech no.1 reveals himself, like Vishy Anand, to be an excellent author. Navara sets the scene for each game, but the main beauty lies in his often rather detailed notes, in which there is very much an emphasis on textual explanation, not long variations, even if they too do have their place at times. Navara focusses almost solely on games played with a classical time control and is far from afraid to explore in depth his losses as well as wins against the world's elite.



The Best I Saw in Chess

Stuart Rachels, 416 pages, paperback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Stuart Rachels won the 1989 U.S. Championship at the age of just 20 and appeared destined for the top, but just three years later would quit chess to pursue a career in philosophy. Like with so many who stop playing, Rachels didn't cease following chess and we can now enjoy the full story behind his early retirement, as well as his thoughts on the chess world since then. The bulk of this work, however, covers Rachels' career, including games with the likes of Anand and Kasparov. A gripping read throughout, Rachels concludes by presenting 110 principles of play, guidelines which should help all strengths of reader.



The Modernized Grünfeld Defense

Yaroslav Zhrebukh, 304 pages, paperback
RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

The Ukrainian-American Grandmaster has spent plenty of time over the past five years analysing his favourite dynamic opening, the Grünfeld. Zhrebukh has now checked and updated all that work, turning it into a repertoire for Black and Thinkers Publishing. Throughout he draws heavily on variations and assessments, but is most certainly not afraid to explain the key ideas in clear English.

Thinkers Publishing have certainly been busy of late. We've also recently received copies of *The Grandmaster Mindset* by Alojzije Jankovic (200 pages, paperback, £21.95, or just £19.75 for Subscribers), in which the Croatian Grandmaster takes readers inside his thought processes, aiming to deepen the club player's mindset, so that you, for instance, counterattack rather than defend when next attacked.

Also just in stock at Chess and Bridge is Alexander Ipatov's *Unconventional Approaches to Modern Chess Volume 2* (348 pages, paperback, £29.95 or £26.95 for Subscribers), in which various unusual ideas for White are explored, be they in the main lines after 1 d4 or something less regular, including the Jobava-Prié Variation, a couple of surprises in the English and a look at 1 b3.

