

# Chess

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# Contents

| <b>Editorial</b> Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game   | 4   |
|--|-----|
| Back to the Board  | 8   |
| Jose Vilela saw Hans Niemann clean up at the Capablanca Memorial   |     |
| How to Beat a GrandmasterPaul Littlewood on a fine win by his contemporary, Terry Chapman                        | .14 |
| Seniors Star<br>Joe Gallagher and Mark Hebden have been in great form of late                                    | .16 |
| <b>Never Mind the Grandmasters</b> Or the FMs says Carl after his draw with Steve Dishman                        | .18 |
| <b>It's Coming Home!</b> David Gilbert reports on British medals and the ACO's return to Kos                     | .20 |
| <b>60 Seconds with Jonathan Arnott</b> We catch up with the publisher of the recently printed <i>Blind Faith</i> | .23 |
| Record Breaker   | .24 |
| Stefanova Swings By!   | .26 |
| Still Dedicated  | .30 |
| Summer's Out!  | .32 |
| <b>Readers' Letters</b> Your views on records, <i>Blind Faith</i> , Eddie Price and "perpetual check"            | .34 |
| Goodbye, Grandmaster<br>Sean Marsh looks at the outstanding legacy of Yuri Averbakh                              | .35 |
| <b>How Good is Your Chess?</b> Daniel King has been enjoying <i>From Ukraine with Love for Chess</i>             | .40 |
| Find the Winning Moves24 positions to solve taken from games all over England & Europe                           | .43 |
| Super-GM Special<br>News and games from Norway Chess and the start of the GCT                                    | .46 |
| Home News  | .50 |
| Overseas News  | .52 |
| Solutions  | .53 |
| This Month's New Releases Detailed reviews of two recent instructional works                                     | .54 |
| Forthcoming EventsWill you be playing anywhere this July?  | .57 |
| Saunders on ChessOf late John has enjoyed tagging along with Kingston Chess Club                                 | .58 |

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# It's Coming Home!

#### David Gilbert reports on the ACO's return to Kos for the Amateur Championships

What a fabulous ten days. This was my eighth ACO tournament. When I've done ten I think I get to keep a Greek island, or something. This time chess was coming home. We were back at the fabulous Atlanica-Belvedere Hotel on the Greek Island of Kos for the first time since 2018. Ten days of swan dives, jack knives, with an occasional cannonball and, of course, intense chess. This is a tournament for amateurs organised by professionals. The field is split into seven rated sections, from under-1200 to the top class of 2201-2400.

The hotel was awesome. Wonderful, spacious rooms and first-class service. The food was amazing and, oh my, there were desserts, lots of desserts! On the way to breakfast each morning I must have been greeted with "Kaliméra" at least a half-dozen times by gardeners, porters, reception staff and cleaners, and that was before more greetings from the maître d' and the waiters. Funny thing, they all sounded like they were delighted to see me and that doesn't happen too often.

But let's begin by going back in time to mention the greybeards, the over-65s, who played in the ten days before I arrived on the Island. Numbers were smaller with five sections. Let's highlight one individual in particular, the winner of Group G, Wales's Peter Merrifield (masked in the centre of the three trophy winners). Peter was very emotional about his success and confided to me that he had never previously won anything in his life. It was no surprise that he flew home without boarding an aircraft!

Covid19 is over, at least for now. There were no additional forms or passes necessary at either border, and apart from the normal passport checks, we sailed through. Masks were required on the flight, but you know what, that doesn't bother me anymore. Greek law is a little less relaxed. Masks were required in taxis and inside the hotel, but not at the board, although a handful of players wore them. Disappointingly the thirteen entries from Kyrgyzstan had their visa applications blocked and were forced to withdraw. That meant the tournament was a little short of the maximum number.

Playing conditions were, as usual, excellent with plenty of space for everyone in three connected rooms. The ACO organised side events included blitz evenings, a simul, grandmaster lectures and what's not to like about having a grandmaster reliving your game with you in the analysis area?



Peter Merrifield stands next to Wilhelm Slot and shares congratulations with Karin Tast-Mendez.

There was more: a coach tour of the island on the rest day and an after-dinner talk about Kos and its place in Greek mythology. We learned how the volcanic Island of Nisyros – you can just see it in the background of the two presentation pictures – was formed during the war between the Gods and the Giants, known as Gigantomachy. Poseidon was having a right old ding-dong with the Giant Polybotes and settled the fight by breaking off a piece of Kos with his trident and hurling it at Polybotes who is now entombed beneath what we now know as Nisyros. The occasional rumblings of the volcano evidence he's still under there trying to free himself.

On to the main event and the winners:

#### **ACO World Amateur Chess Champions 2022**

Group A: Dennis Nasshan (GER)

Group B: Christoph Frick (GER)

Group C: Jarno Scheffner (GER)

Group D: Lars Tormod Haugen (NOR)

Group E: David Navarro (FRA)

Group F: Bert Talloen (BEL)

Group G: Hartmut Goldschmidt (GER)

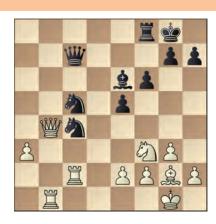
There were seven English players in the Amateurs. Five of us in Group D and two in Group E. The most successful was Andy Proudfoot from Durham who had an amazing tournament and was runner-up in Group E. More about that later on.

Jonathan Rowson's book *The Seven Deadly* 

Chess Sins describes how some players reach good positions, but demand an immediate win. Instead of improving their dominance, they want the move that wins outright. He likens this to the sin of gluttony. It can be a problem for many club players at lower levels. Here's an example from one of my games. I'd clumsily allowed my opponent a knight fork of my queen and rook. I'm the exchange and a pawn down, but I sense my opponent just wants to swap off the pieces into an easily won endgame, so as Black to move I set a last-ditch trap. I was about to feel like a thief with a handbag!

#### R.Becker-D.Gilbert

ACO Championships, Kos 2022



Black plays **31... 2a6** and sure enough my

July 2022

opponent responded as predicted with **32 學b7**, but was then shocked by **32... Zb8!**. He hadn't even had a sniff of any danger.



The game continued 33 營xc7 罩xb1+34 盒f1 ②xc7 35 含g2 ②b5 36 e3 ②bxa3. Black is a piece up and the game was soon over. I didn't even look at the alternatives to 33 營xc7, but in the analysis area GM Spyridon Skembris suggested that 33 盒h3! would have kept White in the game: for example, 33...盒xh3 34 營d5+ or 33....盒xb7 34 盒xe6+ 含f8 35 罩bc1 營d6 36 盒xc4. That's a difficult move to find at under-1800 level, but all too often we're not even looking.

I said earlier, there would be more about Durham's Andy Proudfoot and here it is. Andy has been playing the "Black Lion" (I'm not really sure what that is; Ed. – Keep an eye out for Simon Williams's upcoming book on the opening for Everyman Chess!), but this looks like the Old Indian? Whatever it is, Andy bamboozled his opponent in the last round to get the win he needed for overall second place in Group E.

#### U.Exterbrink-A.Proudfoot

ACO Championships, Kos 2022

Old Indian Defence

1 🖄 f3 d6 2 c4 🖄 f6 3 🖄 c3 🖄 bd7 4 g3 e5

#### 5 d3 åe7 6 åg2 c6 7 e4 h6 8 0-0 營c7 9 h3 g5 10 ఏh2 ఏf8 11 åe3 ॾg8 12 f3

White wants to play  $\bigcirc$  g4, but 12 d4 looks more to the point.

#### 12...🗓g6 13 🗓g4 🖺h5

13... 国h8 or 13... h5 look OK for Black.

#### 14 ⊈h2

White should have gone for the more aggressive 14  $\triangle$ xh6  $\Xi$ h8 (if 14... $\triangle$ xg3 15  $\triangle$ xg8  $\triangle$ xf1 16  $\Xi$ xf1) 15  $\triangle$ f5 when he has won a pawn and found an excellent square for his knight on f5.

14...∮g7 15 ∰d2 ≦h8 16 ∮f2 f5



#### 17 🖾e2?

The losing move. 17 exf5 🖾xf5 18 🖄fe4 looks pretty equal.

#### 17...f4

Oops! The bishop on e3 is lost.

# 18 gxf4 gxf4 19 ∅xf4 ∅xf4 20 ≜xf4 exf4 21 ∰xf4 ≜g5 0-1

After 22 響g3 包h5 White is pushing up the daisies.

#### Coming-Up

Next up for the ACO is their World Seniors (50+) Championships from 1-10 October 2022 at the superb Fodele Beach Resort and Water Park on Crete. Now doesn't that sound good? At the time of writing there are 186 registrations for 190 places, but there are always a few withdrawals along the way.

Durham CC's Andy Proudfoot collects the second place trophy for his fine effort in Group E.

Check out the website: amateurchess.com/senior/.

# Reflections and Analysis by Daniel King

Once again, I enjoyed my experience at the latest ACO event, this time on Kos. It was a great hotel, beautiful weather and friendly atmosphere at the tournament. Now and again, some great chess was played too!

#### T.Fleischmann-K.Winter

ACO Championships, Kos 2022 King's Indian Defence

## 1 d4 🖄 f6 2 c4 g6 3 🖄 c3 🚉 g7 4 e4 d6 5 🚉 e2 0-0

The King's Indian. Prepare yourself for a full-blooded fight.

#### 6 <u></u> **≜**e3

This line has become quite trendy over the last few years. White bolsters the centre, delays the development of the king's knight, and prepares to launch either the g- or h-pawn into the fray.

#### 6...∮∑a6

Sound development. Knights on the rim aren't always dim. Black also retains flexibility: depending on how White continues, Black could respond with ...e5 or ...c5,

#### 7 q4

Sound the trumpets, the g-pawn is launched into battle. 7 h4 has also been played here, with the same aggressive intention: take the fight to Black before he takes the fight to you.

#### 7...c5

Black needs to counter in the middle.

#### 8 d5!

If 8 g5? ②g4! is a typical King's Indian trick: 9 ②xg4 cxd4 10 ③xd4 (10 ③xc8? dxe3 wins) 10...③xd4 11 營xd4 ②xg4 12 f3 ②b4 13 營d2 ②h5. The bishop is well placed here, stopping White's kingside attack and hindering development.

#### 8...e6

Countering in the middle.

9 g5



White has to push on, otherwise there is no point in advancing with g2-g4. This is a critical moment: backwards or forwards?

9...⊕h5



Daniel King was one of three GMs in the analysis area, here helping Klaus Link (with the white pieces) from Germany and Austria's Norbert Frühauf, who were both taking part in Group C.



In Group D, Frits Bakkes (NED) and David Fowler (Marple) enjoy the excellent playing conditions.

Correct! Black cannot afford to retreat passively: on d7 or e8 the other pieces would be blocked. For better or for worse, the knight must leap forward.

#### 10 âxh5

The knight should be removed or it would always have the option to jump into f4 at a later stage.

#### 10...gxh5

Already at move 10, another critical juncture in the game.

#### 11 **≝xh**5

Who could resist taking a pawn and sending the queen towards the enemy king?

But it is a dreadful mistake!

11 ②ge2! would have been better, looking to leap to f4 or g4 and then h5 − and the knight is really menacing. The position is still very messy, but bringing all the pieces into play would have been the best policy for White.

Incidentally, having spent a couple of weeks looking at games by amateurs in Kos, I can say that this was the error that occurred most often: too many times development was neglected for material gain. We all know we shouldn't grab that dodgy pawn, but so often it proves too hard to resist.

#### 11...Øb4

An excellent move, bringing the knight into play with tempo. White's queen has to retreat.

#### 12 **₩d1** exd5



White faces a dilemma. No matter how he recaptures, the situation is unpleasant.

#### 13 cxd5

13 exd5 全f5 is also unpleasant, but 13 公xd5 is the best try — at least the dangerous knight is eliminated. Even so, it is a difficult position for White: for example, 13..公xd5 14 cxd5 全xb2 15 置b1 全c3+ 16 全d2 全xd2+ 17 營xd2 f5 and the position opens with White's king still in the middle.

#### 13...c4!

Securing the knight's position on d3.

#### 14 **ਊ**d2 **②**d3

A classic Octopus Knight, paralysing White's forces with its tentacles.

#### 15 **ਊc2** b5



With the king staggering around, opening the position is exactly right. Allowing the pawn avalanche isn't a great prospect, but taking also doesn't turn out well. The finish is pure joy.

## 16 ②xb5 \( \bar{2}\)b8 17 a4 a6 18 \( \hat{2}\)d4 \( \bar{2}\)xb2+ 19 \( \hat{2}\)c3 \( \bar{2}\)a5+ 20 \( \hat{2}\)xc4 \( \hat{2}\)e5# 0-1

Well played, Kevin: a ruthless exploitation of just one inaccuracy by White. That's what can happen with the King's Indian.

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# 60 Seconds with... CM Jonathan Arnott



Born: 12th January 1981, Sheffield.

Place of residence: Sheffield.

**Occupation:** I run Steel City Press, a book publishing and ghostwriting company. Also a chess coach.

cness coacn.

**Enjoyable?** If it doesn't seem fun, I'm not doing it. I try to take on interesting projects, not necessarily profitable ones.

**Sometimes good to escape to?** To actually play some chess. What else?

**Sports played or followed:** Watching: cricket, boxing. I've also played for the British team a number of times in the World Stratego Championships, which is a mind-sport.

**A favourite novel?** Surprisingly for a publisher, no. I like some Dickens, some John Wyndham, and Orwell's 1984 back when it was an ominous warning not an instruction manual.

**Piece of music?** Jay Ungar's 'Askokan Farewell'. Used as the soundtrack for Ken Burns's documentary about the American Civil War. Can't hear that piece without being moved.

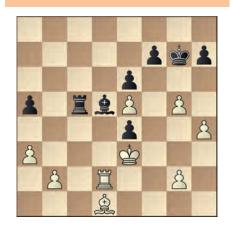
**Film or TV series?** *Game of Thrones* (except the dire final season).

What's the best thing about playing chess? The way that the beauty and creativity of the game meets the competitive spirit, in a way that's open to everyone. The feeling you get when finding a creative way to win.

**And the worst?** That moment between a blunder and losing a game, when it's not quite resignable, but deep down you know your resources will fall short and you get to experience the agony of defeat in slow motion.

Your best move? In practical terms I very much enjoyed playing 28... a8 and holding a draw against an IM from a position where I had no right to expect anything. Found by process of elimination, as ... a8 usually is.

**J.Dworakowska-J.Arnott**Gibraltar 2010



**But less memorable than your worst move?** Hardly: there have been so many worst moves, and only a few candidates for best moves, making the good ones are more memorable.

And a highly memorable opponent? I'd say Jonathan Rowson, because I'm a fan of his thinking about the game (and due to my frustration about having misplaced my draw against him in a computer mishap).

**Favourite game of all time?** I was there in 2011 when Korchnoi rolled back the years at Gibraltar to destroy Caruana with the black pieces.

The best three chess books: Rowson's Seven Deadly Chess Sins, The Wisest Things Ever Said About Chess by Soltis, and, more because I find it's so useful for my students, I'll say Silman's Complete Endgame Course, though Dvoretsky's is objectively far superior.

**Is FIDE doing a good job?** It has the same problems as most world governing bodies: it does the things it does well enough, but is often expensive and lacks the flexibility and imagination to really develop with the times.

**Or your National Federation?** The ECF is by no means perfect, but I think they're trying to do a lot of the right things and I'm definitely seeing improvements in junior chess in particular.

Any advice for either? I don't know enough about what's going on behind the scenes to be sure, but attracting sponsorship is such a specialised skill. Are we providing the right 'shop window' for the ECF? Do we do enough to match events to what sponsors want to sponsor, rather than just ask them to pay for what we'd be doing anyway?

**Can chess make one happy?** Neglecting chess can make one *un*happy.

A tip please for the club player: You'll doubtless already know the concept of 'talking to your pieces' to determine which squares they belong on. That idea helps you to evaluate the strength or weakness of a proposed trade, and to identify a plan. But to really improve, you need to talk to your opponent's pieces! Strong players routinely seek out ways to limit the scope and potential of the opposing forces and prevent them reaching critical squares.



Ed. – Steel City Press have recently released Blind Faith by Chris Ross, which is in stock at Chess & Bridge, retailing at £19.99 or £17.99 for Subscribers.

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# Stefanova Swings By!

# It's not every day a world champion is in town, but Antoaneta Stefanova gave a special simul in London. SPTW Founder Lorin D'Costa reports

It is not often a world champion visits these shores to give a simultaneous exhibition against our top juniors. Boris Spassky came in 1979, Anatoly Karpov in 1982, Garry Kasparov in 1986, and Hou Yifan in 2015. Rare occasions indeed.

As such, I was pleased to announce that Sunday 8th May would see the 2004 Women's World Champion, Antoaneta Stefanova, come to London to give a simultaneous exhibition against 29 selected girls representing She Plays To Win.

Antoaneta flew in from Sofia to take on the SPTW girls at the London Mind Sports Centre in Hammersmith. These girls included England junior internationals, county players and underrated junior stars who all took on the former champion.

Players were selected via a number of ways: top girls according to their age category, special online qualifying tournaments, attendance in our weekly SPTW tournaments and monthly Grand Prix success in these events. Wildcard places were offered to some girls based on parents simply writing to me with reasons why their daughter should get a place.

In the end, after four and a half hours' play, Antoaneta prevailed by 28½-½ against her 29 opponents, with 14-year-old Emily Maton making a fantastic draw.

Ety remarked to me afterwards how she was impressed by the level of the girls she had faced, and how many of her games were extremely tough. Certainly 12-year-old Michelle Chan and 10-year-old Ruqqayah Rida can count themselves unlucky not to have got at least a draw in their games, plus 7-year-old Anna also had the former champ in some trouble during their game.

Lots of fun was had, as well as the girls gaining a fantastic experience. The hope is these girls will now be inspired to further their chess, and maybe even one day become world champion themselves like Ms. Stefanova.

I would like to thank the J.M. Mouskos Foundation and the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust for their financial support in helping the event take place.

Let's have a look at some of the games.

#### A.Stefanova-Z.Veselow

London (simul) 2022 Queen's Indian Defence

1 🖄 f3 🖄 f6 2 g3 d5 3 💄 g2 e6 4 0-0 💄 e7



Zoe goes for a sensible and solid option.

#### 5 d4 0-0 6 b3 b6 7 c4 🕸b7 8 🖄e5 🖄bd7 9 🕸b2 c5

Thematically challenging the white centre in Tartakower Defence style.

#### 10 dxc5 bxc5

Also possible were 10...②xe5 11 ②xe5 ②xc5 and 10...②xc5 11 ②c3 圖b8!.

#### 11 cxd5 exd5

Now we reach a hanging pawns situation – are the pawns on c5 and d5 strong or weak?

12 公d2 營c7 13 公xd7 營xd7 14 黨c1 營e6 15 公f3

White is better after 15 盒xf6 營xf6 16 e4 d4 17 e5 營a6 18 盒xb7 營xb7 19 公c4, though there is a passed d-pawn.

15...h6 16 罩c2 罩fd8 17 臭a3 罩ac8 18 豐c1 ②e4



Stockfish says Black is better, but as Ety remarked to me both before and after the simul, "I just want to play positions I like."
19 e3 營a6

19...a5 then ...a4 to soften up the white queenside structure was possible.

#### 

#### 25 營c4 營f6 26 急b2

Missing 26 ②xf7 **Q**a6 27 ②xh6+ **含**h7 28 **營**xe4+ **含**xh6 29 **Q**b2, but Ety didn't have time to calculate such lines in a simul.

26... âa8 27 罩xa7 罩cd8 28 豐e2 豐e6 29 曾g2 f6 30 公c4 罩d7 31 罩xd7 豐xd7 32 公b6



Sensibly exchanging off to simplify the position.

32... 曾a7 33 ②xa8 曾xa8 34 曾c4+ 會f8 35 a4 曾b7 36 a5 冨a8 37 息c3 冨c8 38 a6 曾a8 39 冨a2 冨d8 40 a7 冨d7 41 曾a6 冨d3 42 曾b6 會f7

Of course, 42... Zxc3 runs into 43 學b8+ 學xb8 44 axb8學+.

43 \backgream b8 \backgream d8 44 \backgream xa8 \backgream xa8 45 \backgream a6 f5 46 h4 \backgream f8 47 h5

Fixing the kingside pawns.

47... 2e7 48 2e5 2f8 49 2b8 2e7 50 2f1 2e8 51 2b6 2f6 52 2b7 2e7 53 2e2 2d8 54 2d2 2f6 55 2c2 2e8

The game continued with Ety infiltrating to b7 with her king and eventually winning (**1-0**). A tough fight from Zoe and I'm sure we will hear much more of the new European Schools Under-9 Champion!

#### A.Stefanova-M.Chan

London (simul) 2022 London System

#### 1 d4 d5 2 \$\dark{G}\$ f3 \$\dark{G}\$ f6 3 \$\dark{Q}\$ f4

Perhaps with a nod to the location, Ety played this opening in many of her games.

#### 3...c5 4 e3 e6 5 c3 ዿd6 6 ዿg3 c7 7 幻bd2 幻bd7

Michelle goes for the Carlsen method: playing for ...e5, but avoiding ...\(\hat{D}\)c6 which could be pinned with \(\hat{L}\)b5.

#### 8 c4

A central challenge, since 8 &d3 0-0 9 0-0 e5 10 dxe5 公xe5 11 公xe5 &xe5 12 &xe5 警xe5 13 公f3 營e7 is more than fine for Black.

### 8...0-0 9 \( \bar{2}\)c1 b6 10 cxd5 exd5 11 \( \dd{2}\)d3 \( \dd{2}\)b7

11...c4 12 b3 b5 was also possible.

#### 12 0-0 \( \bar{2}\) ac8 13 dxc5 bxc5



Another hanging pawns structure, just like we saw in the Stefanova-Veselow game. Ety was certainly challenging the girls to demonstrate their knowledge of middlegame structures!

#### 

Shoring up h7.

#### 19 g4 🖄e4

Played to avoid 19...h6 20 g5 hxg5 21 2xg5, which looks scary.

Black is also in some trouble after 22...h6 23 ②xf7! 豐xf7 24 ②d6 豐c7 25 ②xc8 豐xc8 26 罩xc5.

#### 23 wh2 wxh2+ 24 wxh2 h6 25 h3

Black shouldn't have enough counterplay after 25 罩xd8 罩xd8 26 公xf7! 含xf7 27 公e5+ 含e6 28 公xc6 罩d2.

25...g5 26 🖄a5 \( \bar{Z}\)at 27 \( \bar{Z}\)xd1 \( \bar{L}\)b5 28 \( \bar{L}\)g1 \( \bar{L}\)d3



Now matters are not so clear as the bishop hinders White's play.

#### 29 国d2 公d7 30 公e2 公e5 31 全g3 息xe2 Every exchange always helps one player

every exchange always helps one plants

In her quest to head towards a draw, Michelle could have pressed Ety with the rook lift 31...\$\textit{\omega}\$e6: for instance, 32 \$\tilde{\omega}\$c1 (32 \$\tilde{\omega}\$c3 c4 33 bxc4 \$\tilde{\omega}\$a6 34 \$\tilde{\omega}\$b3 \$\tilde{\omega}\$xc4 35 \$\tilde{\omega}\$d1 might be best) 32...\$\tilde{\omega}\$a6 33 \$\tilde{\omega}\$xd3 exd3 34 \$\tilde{\omega}\$c4 \$\tilde{\omega}\$xc4 35 bxc4 \$\tilde{\omega}\$a3 should be drawn.

#### 

An unfortunate blunder in the fourth hour of play.

Black would have been very much fighting after 38...\$\mathbb{Z}\$c6 39 bxc4 (39 \Omega\text{xa7 runs into 39...cxb3! 40 \mathbb{Z}\$xc6 \Omega\text{xc6 41 \Omega\text{xc6 bxa2}}\$39...\$\add{A}\$

39 ॾxc7 b2 40 🖾 a3 1-0

#### A.Stefanova-R.Rida

London (simul) 2022 Grünfeld Defence

## 1 d4 🖄 f6 2 🖄 f3 g6 3 g3 👲 g7 4 👲 g2 0-0 5 0-0 d5

Ruqqayah also plays the Kings Indian, but she said after the game she just felt like a Grünfeld!

#### 6 c4 e6

Not really in the Grünfeld spirit. After the game, I showed Ruqqayah some basic lines after 6...dxc4: for example, 7 🕹 a3 c3 (7... 4c6 8 4xc4 4e6 9 b3 4d5 10 4b2 a5 is another approach) 8 bxc3 c5 9 e3 4c6.

#### 7 b3 c5 8 cxd5

Or even 8 dxc5 🕮e4 9 🖾d4.

#### 8... 🗘 xd5 9 😩 b2 🖏 c6 10 🖏 a3 🖏 db4 11 e4

This might have run into 11...2xd4, so instead 11 e3 was much safer.

11... \( \bar{\text{2}}\) b8 12 e5 cxd4 13 \( \bar{\text{2}}\) c4 b5 14 \( \bar{\text{2}}\) d6 \( \bar{\text{2}}\) xe5 \( \bar{\text{2}}\) xe5 \( \bar{\text{2}}\) xe8 \( \bar{\text{2}}\) xe8

#### 17 ∰e2 ≜g7 18 ∰xb5 公c2 19 ≌ad1 e5



Black has emerged a pawn up.

20 a3 f5 21 &d5+ &h8 22 罩d2 e4 23 &c4 d3 24 &xg7+ &xg7 25 營e5+ 營f6 26 營a5 f4 27 營xa7+ &h8 28 營b7 罩ce8 29 營a6 營g5 30 營b5 罩e5 31 h4 營f6

31...運xb5 32 hxg5 運xg5 was also strong, and if 33 曾g2 fxg3 34 fxg3 ②e3+.



#### 35...f3?

Falling for the trap, whereas the game would very much have continued after 35... 28f6 36 曾d8+ 含g7 37 曾c7+ 含h6!? (37... 含h8 38 曾d8+ 含g7 39 曾c7+ is a repetition) 38 曾xf4+ 2xf4 39 兔xh3.

#### A.Stefanova-E.Maton

London (simul) 2022 Slav Defence

#### 1 d4 🖄 f6 2 🚉 g5 d5 3 e3 🖄 bd7 4 🖄 f3 g6

From the Trompowsky to the Torre and soon we have a Grünfeld or, more accurately, unusual sort of Schlechter Slav.

#### 5 c4 c6 6 cxd5 cxd5 7 公c3 ዿg7 8 ዿd3 a6 9 ፯c1 ∰b6

9...b5 then .... \$\delta\$ b7 was better as the black queen gets kicked around a bit in the game.

10 營d2 0-0 11 0-0 e6 12 公a4 營d8 13 營b4 b5 14 公c5 營b6 15 罩c2 息b7 16 公e5 公xc5

If 16...එxe5 17 dxe5 එe4 18 එd7.

Or just 17 dxc5 豐c7 18 c6 息c8 19 f4. **17...**罩**fc8** 



18 &xf6 &xf6 19 公d7 營d8 20 公xf6+ 營xf6 21 黨xc8+ 黨xc8 22 a4 &c6 23 axb5 &xb5 24 &xb5 黨b8 25 營d6 黨xb5 26 黨c1 h5 27 b4



#### 27...罩b7?

28 \( \begin{aligned}
28 \( \begin{aligned}
26 & \begin{aligned}
26 & \begin{aligned}
27 & \begin{aligned}
28 & \begin{aligned}
28 & \begin{aligned}
26 & \begin{aligned}
28 & \b

Emily tactfully offered a draw before Ety could see that 32 營d8 or 32 營e5 were winning for her!



Tallulah Roberts came down to London and the Mind Sports Centre to take on Antoaneta.

Most of the girls were of primary or secondary school age, the exception being Tallulah Roberts. 'Lula' as she is known, is a regular twitch streamer and promoter of female chess. She has only been playing for 18 months, but has the chess bug. You can catch very easily see Lula stream quite often on Twitch: https://www.twitch.tv/lularobs.

Many girls took the opportunity to purchase my new book, *She Plays To Win*, and have Antoaneta sign it. The book is available from Chess & Bridge, with 10% of proceeds going to SPTW to fund their activities for girls such as this simul.

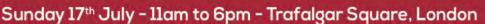
The best game prize was awarded to Emily Maton for her draw. Emily won a limited

edition Beth Harmon Queen's Gambit notebook for her efforts.

I would like to thank Ety for giving up her time from her busy schedule to come to London and provide the girls with this wonderful opportunity. Events like these require a real team effort, and many parents are now offering to help She Plays To Win, both on the day of the event, as well as in the background via the day to day running of the charity.

Parents who would like to hear of the events SPTW are doing should sign up via our joining form: sheplaystowin.co.uk/join-sptw. Finally, if anyone is interested in sponsoring SPTW in any way, do just contact me via sheplaystowinuk@gmail.com.





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# This Month's New Releases



#### **Analyzing the Chess Mind**

Boris Gulko and Dr. Joel R. Sneed, 224 pages Quality Chess

RRP £26.99 SUBSCRIBERS £24.29

Quality Chess are definitely on good form at the moment and here is another very interesting book, following hard on the heels of *Think Like a Super-GM* (Adams and Hurtado), which we reviewed last month.

The names of the two authors will be familiar to followers of chess literature, as Grandmaster Gulko and Doctor Sneed are already well known for their three volumes in the *Lessons with a Grandmaster* series (Everyman Chess; 2011, 2012 and 2015). This new book aims a little deeper.

"Analyzing the Chess Mind is an exploration of psychology in chess. Psychology affects the chess moves we make, as the authors entertainingly illustrate in expertly annotated examples, but our personal chess psychology is not fixed. We can improve our chess psychology, and the authors show how."

The authors' credentials are perfect for the task in hand. Grandmaster Gulko has a Master's degree in Psychology from Moscow State University (in a more oft-quoted fact, he also has a plus score against Garry Kasparov; 3–1 in wins, with several draws). Doctor Joel R. Sneed is a Professor of Psychology at the City University of New York and also keen amateur chess player.

Although it all sounds more than a shade on the highbrow side, the material is actually very accessible. There are 12 chapters and they cover topics from 'Perception' through to 'Improving Your Chess Psychology'. Each chapter presents relevant games or, more commonly, snippets with pertinent annotations. Every chapter is interesting; there is certainly no flab here and the whole book reads very well.

One of the great levelling and encouraging episodes in chess literature is seeing examples of great players making mistakes similar to our own. Not from the point of view of being a chess vulture, but rather to put our own mistakes in context and to make them easier to deal with than enduring a lifetime of regret. Reading the chapter on 'Problems in Self-Confidence', I was intrigued by the number of games featuring Tigran Petrosian, one of the most successful players in the history of chess.

The authors explicitly state that the ninth world champion lacked self-confidence and they present a number of examples as evidence, including this one, from his 1971 Candidates match against the man who would soon be king.

#### R.Fischer-T.Petrosian

1st matchgame, Buenos Aires 1971



Petrosian played 16... \$\( \Delta\$ f5?. "One of the most important moments in the history of chess!" The point is that Petrosian had surprised Fischer with an early novelty, given to him by Chebanenko. Instead, 16.. \$\Delta\$ xg2 would have continued the pre-game analysis and led to a better (albeit complicated) position for Black. Indeed, the key line would have given Fischer problems with his king safety, which was always the last thing he wanted. Petrosian was outplayed in the endgame and Fischer started the match with a very important victory (1-0, 40).

"We can imagine that Petrosian, in this moment, checked 16...\(\frac{\pi}{2}\)xg2 and was worried that Fischer would see something Petrosian did not see, so he turned his attention to equalizing with the hope of reaching a draw. It was a terrible psychological mistake that may have changed the course of chess history, as Petrosian won beautifully with White in Game 2. Had Petrosian taken a strong lead in the match, would Fischer have fought back to win?"

This is a shade fanciful, of course (a wounded Fischer might have played a quieter defence than the Grünfeld in the second game), but there is no doubt that Petrosian's lack of self-confidence manifested itself at other times in the match too. Now, we tend to remember it as a typically one-sided Fischer success, but the first five games definitely favoured Petrosian, despite given him merely an equal score.

It is all very interesting and offers a significant degree of resonance. I cannot be the only other player who has been absolutely convinced that a particular move is the best, only to (inexplicably, with post-game hindsight) play something less effective

instead. Incidentally, the mainly-prose concluding chapter offers advice on how to improve one's self-esteem and self-confidence, as well offering possible solutions to the other psychological barriers highlighted in the other chapters.

This is a fine book and one which should make you *think*. Just the knowledge that so many other, and much stronger, players than ourselves encounter the same problems is encouraging in itself, but coupled with the suggested ways to jump such hurdles make this a very interesting and useful book and one in which the authors have skilfully avoided making too deep. Very impressive.

Sean Marsh



**Blind Faith** 

Chris Ross, 424 pages, Steel City Press RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99** 

We are so used to seeing books by titled players that it can come as some surprise when a book is published by an untitled one. Chris Ross will, however, be known to many players on the tournament circuit, but for those wanting to know a little more about him, the book's blurb should be of use:

"Chris Ross has come a long way from the back streets of Middlesbrough to a senior administrative role at Sheffield Hallam University, helping the education of those with a wide range of disabilities. A former teacher, Chris's natural ability to educate has developed many of his colleagues in UK chess clubs – and not least, fellow members of the Braille Chess Association."

There is a clue (and there is another in the title), for anyone who doesn't know Chris; he is blind. That has never been a barrier on his road to self-improvement in chess and there is no doubt that he consistently developed into a stronger chess player over the course of many years.

Two factors are commitment and dedication. Another is revealed in more of the book's blurb: "Many years ago Chris elected to follow Botvinnik's advice by writing deep analysis to his games: initially to better understand his own style, but later because his highly detailed annotations are also highly instructive for weaker players."

July 2022

This advice has always been pertinent for club players, but very few people bother to spend time on their own games, writing variations and jotting down thoughts. The temptation to simply run the games through a chess engine and tell one's friends how many missed wins there were is usually too strong and bypasses the intention to actually put in the effort.

Annotating his own games has certainly helped Chris and therefore it should revalidate the original advice. The book is a collection of Chris' annotations to 80 of his games, following his journey to self-improvement.

"My intention is to allow the reader to begin with me at a relatively early stage in my development, when I began in my early twenties to really step up my game, and see how, since the early 2000s to the present day, I've traversed that path of chess improvement."

He doesn't fall into the trap of using blindness as an attention-seeking device: "Naturally there are systems in place to enable visually impaired and blind chess players to participate in the sport and this helps people like myself immensely, empowering us to play on a pretty level field. I do not wish to list all the current and historical blind players who have also succeeded in our glorious game, and I do not wish for this volume to be a self-acclaiming manuscript. The actual playing process for visually impaired chess players is not complicated. There are adjustments made to playing conditions to enable the process. Equipment has to be adapted and moves announced."

It is an interesting book, but there are faults. I have known Chris, a fellow Teessider, for many years. It came as no surprise to find his solitary win against me was included in the book. What is not mentioned is that, due to extreme transport difficulties on the night, I ended up with 31 minutes on my clock to Chris's 90 (with no increments or additional time afterwards). As context to the game, this is all important. Without the details, the annotations (which were, incidentally, tactlessly emailed to me the morning after the game was played) give the impression that the time-trouble came about as a result of White's increasing pressure.

The problem with all of this is that it makes me wonder what else is missing from the book. Do other games suffer from similar omissions?

Additionally, as the book covers a journey, it would have been good to see much more biographical information. Mention of "the back streets of Middlesbrough" is derogatory in tone, but this aspect of the story is left to the imagination. Was it as bad as it sounds and, if so, why? The problem is that a games collection by an untitled player needs a little more than just chess; Chris's character comes across as somewhat stifled without more of his personal story.

It would also have been useful to find out how the games were chosen. Did some games mean more because of the individual result, the sporting aspect, a tough battle, or a personal score to settle? The game titles could do without the juvenile puns on people's names too, especially as humour is absent from the main body of the work.

However, most readers will be interested in nothing more than the pure chess. Here is a sample from a game in which Chris, by his own admission, unusually decided to play in a more tactical fashion than normal. The unspoken caveat is that, as all players on the North East circuit know, playing against the uncompromising James Simpson is never going to result in a quiet game.

#### C.Ross-J.Simpson

Cleveland Congress, Hartlepool 2003



"Incredibly, all of Black's major pieces are focussed towards the exposed white king, but yet they cannot deliver a fatal blow due to the control of the rook on d2 and the white queen's presence on the g-file. Only calm calculation can justify allowing such positions to occur, as well as an inherent belief in the technical abilities of your own skill."

#### 45 gxf7+ ⊈f8

"Black chooses to avoid further tactics by attempting to shield behind the f7-pawn. Here are some variations to demonstrate why snatching the sacrificial pawns can only favour White, at least from a practical perspective: 45... \$\delta xf7 46 \delta f4+ \delta f5 47 \delta xf5 exf5 48 e6+! \$q6 (if 48... \$\div xe6 there follows this possible line: 49 罩e2 營xe2+ 50 含xe2 罩e8+ 51 當f2) 49 響xb8 響e4 (after 49...豐xe6 50 罩e2 豐xe2+ 51 \$xe2 d3+ 52 �e3 �xq5 53 豐d8+ �q6 54 豐xb6+ 할q5 55 d8+ 알q6 56 xa5 White cleans \$h5 53 營h7+ \$q5 54 營q7+ \$h5 55 營h7+ 會g5 56 營g7+ and presumably White will have to settle for a perpetual."

#### 46 **≜**f6

"Further entombing the black king. There is no salvation now. Black can only chuck pieces in the way to hold up the inevitable."

#### 46...≜g6 47 ∰xg6 ⊑h2+

"And, finally, White's queen's rook performs its last act by shielding the king along the second rank, preventing any further invasions by the black queen."

#### 48 **ġg3 1-0**

It is a big book and one which offers value for money. The main mission appears to be inspiring other club and tournament players to do some serious work on their own games. If a player has the discipline and desire to follow the example set by Chris then chess improvement is almost certain to follow.

Sean Marsh

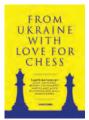


#### Emanuel Lasker Volume 3: Labors and Legacy

Richard Forster, Michael Negele & Raj Tischbierek, 480 pages, hardback RRP £54.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £49.45** 

This is the final part of what has been, quite frankly, a most impressive and comprehensive study of the life of the second world champion. The third volume covers Lasker's story from 1914 up until his death in 1941, while also reflecting on his chess and scientific writings. Subtitled 'Chess, Philosophy and Psychology', there are contributions from Fernand Gobet, Mihail Marin and Sergey Voronkov and a look at 'Lasker and Judaism' by Ulrich Sieg.

It's also possible to purchase all three volumes of Forster, Negele and Tischbierek's monumental work together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £150.00 or just £135.00 for Subscribers.



#### From Ukraine with Love for Chess

Ruslan Ponomariov (ed.), 208 pages, paperback

RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.16** 

Ukraine's leading chess players have not stood still during the terrible conflict engulfing their country. Indeed, they have pulled together in this new work designed to raise money for various Ukrainian charities. The reader is reminded of Ukraine's three gold medals at the Olympiad, as well as of the depth and strength of Ukrainian chess. Contributors include overall project co-ordinator Ruslan Ponomariov, as well as Vasyl Ivanchuk, Anna and Mariya Muzychuk, Pavel Eljanov and Vladimir Tukmakov. Daniel King has certainly been greatly impressed by this worthy project – see this month's How Good is Your Chess?

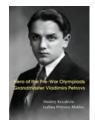
#### Grandmaster Repertoire: King's Indian 2

Gawain Jones, 664 pages, paperback RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29** 

Leading King's Indian expert Gawain Jones's repertoire is now complete in book form thanks to Quality Chess. Here the King's Indian player is shown how to meet all White's

alternatives to the Classical and Sämisch, not least the Fianchetto variation. There is also extremely handy coverage of not just how to handle the likes of the Torre and Trompowsky, but also both 1 ©f3 and 1 c4. Throughout Jones's coverage is once again both theoretically detailed and contains thorough explanation of all the key strategic motifs.

Do note that a hardback version is available too, retailing at £31.50 or £28.35 for Subscribers, while if you're a King's Indian aficionado and somehow yet to purchase the first volume, both volumes can be purchased together from Chess & Bridge for £52/£46.80 for Subscribers.



#### Hero of the Pre-War Olympiads: Grandmaster Vladimirs Petrovs

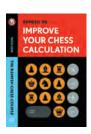
Dmitry Kryakvin & Galina Petrova-Matisa, 160 pages, paperback

RRP £15.95 SUBSCRIBERS £14.35

The life of the Latvian Grandmaster Vladimirs Petrovs (1908–1943) ended in tragedy, dying of pneumonia while serving a 10-year sentence of hard labour, after which the Soviet Union did its best to expunge his name from the historical record. Petrovs was a world-class player in the 1930s and we can now enjoy many of his best and most instructive games thanks to the efforts of Russian GM Kryakvin. The second part of this work features a translation of Galina Petrova-Matisa's recollections of her husband, as well as her quest to find out what happened to him during the war.

Elk & Ruby have also released a related work, The Lubyanka Gambit by Sergei Grodzensky (420 pages, paperback, RRP £25.95, Subscribers - £23.35), which reminds us of the many talented chess players who sadly lost their lives during the Soviet purges. Grodzensky's detailed research brings to life many forgotten names from those who were executed or sent to the Gulag, including Petr Izmailov and Arvid Kubbel, as well as Petrovs. This translation of Grodzensky's 2004 Russian work is not just an important release, but a fascinating read. It also contains some 72 games, as well as Grodzensky's memories of his one-time schoolteacher, Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

If you prefer your Elk & Ruby works in hardback form, both the Petrovs book and *The Lubyanka Gambit* are available as such for an extra £10, or an additional £9 for Subscribers.



#### Improve Your Chess Calculation

RB Ramesh, 336 pages, paperback RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25** 

You may remember Ramesh winning the British Championship back in 2002, since when he has become one of the world's leading chess coaches, working especially with the extremely talented current generation of Indian teenagers. He is also an expert on calculation, with one former pupil, Daniel Naroditsky, crediting Ramesh with making "a seismic shift" in the precision of his calculation. Improving your calculation is hard work, but Ramesh is an excellent guide and this new release from New in Chess cannot fail to make its readers a lot sharper.



#### Key Concepts of Chess: Pawn Structures Vol.1

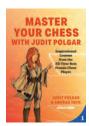
Herman Grooten, PC-DVD; running time: 6 hours, 30 minutes

RRP £26.95 SUBSCRIBERS £24.25

The famous Dutch IM, author and trainer's appearance in the ChessBase studio is a notable one. All club players who struggle strategically at times should find Grooten's material clear and highly accessible. The emphasis is on certain common types of structure and how best to handle the pawns in each one. Topics include getting rid of doubled pawns, playing against a backward pawn and how to handle pawn tension.

There's also a companion DVD, *Key Concepts of Chess: Pawn Structures Vol.2* (running time: 3 hours, 40 minutes; RRP £26.95; Subscribers – £24.25), where Grooten switches his attention to how handle the pieces, looking at various important manoeuvres, such as rook lifts and the d4-d5 break in IOP positions.

Also released of late by ChessBase is Komodo Dragon 3, which is the strongest version of Komodo yet seen, again relying heavily on neural network chess evaluations. This PC-DVD contains not just the Komodo engine, but the Fritz 18 interface and so has all the analytical, database, playing and training functions many will require. It's available from Chess & Bridge for £89.95 or £80.85 for Subscribers.



#### Master Your Chess with Judit Polgar Judit Polgar & Andras Toth, 510 pages, hardback

RRP £34.95 SUBSCRIBERS £31.45

Chessable have taken a major step by publishing this book themselves, which is based on Polgar's bestselling online course. The work is designed to inspire those fairly new to the game, as well as to help intermediate players progress. Topics include opening disasters, calculation, strategy, sacrifices, attacks and topics. The 31 chapters conclude with one of test positions, while throughout the reader is given various questions to ponder before reading on.



#### Movers and Takers: A Chess History of Streatham and Brixton 1871-2021

Martin Smith, 116 pages, paperback RRP £12.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.25** 

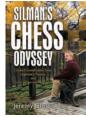
The Streatham & Brixton chess blog is quite famous, but there is also very much an active club of that name, the separate Streatham and Brixton Chess Clubs having merged in 1946. This self-published work tells the history of not just the club, but plenty of its more famous and colourful members over the decades. There's also a handy appendix of games and it will be interesting to see if this fascinating read leads to any other major clubs following suit and publishing a detailed account of their own history.



#### Opening Repertoire: The Sicilian Taimanov

Nigel Davies, 272 pages, paperback RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09** 

Davies maps out a complete repertoire for Black against 1 e4 in this new Everyman Chess release. 1 e4 c5 2 \$\tilde{\Delta}\$13 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 \$\tilde{\Delta}\$xd4 \$\tilde{\Delta}\$c6 is a flexible version of the Sicilian, underpinned by a number of key strategic concepts. It is also a great favourite with Chris Ross, who features elsewhere in these pages. Davies is typically strong at covering the key ideas, while supplying easily enough theory for the club player to take up the Taimanov.



**Silman's Chess Odyssey**Jeremy Silman, 540 pages, paperback
RRP £34.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.49** 

There can't be many club players who haven't read one of Silman's famous books, not least *How to Reassess Your Chess*, and now Silman is back with this part instructional work, part history and part memoir, subtitled 'Cracked Grandmaster Tales, Legendary Players, and Instruction and Musings'. The legendary players are Anderssen, Kolisch, Zukertort, Tarrasch, Steinitz, Lasker, Marshall, Spielmann, Alekhine, Flohr and Geller. Silman's thoughts on their play and games makes this work worth its price tag, let alone those on his own tournament experiences and chessplaying criminals, while throughout there are a number of excellent photographs.



The Chess Alchemist
Mikhail Tal, 384 pages, hardback
RRP £29.50 SUBSCRIBERS £26.55

Oleg Stetsko has collected 80 games annotated by Mikhail Tal in a number of

different places and thanks to publisher Quality Chess, those notes by the Magician of Riga can now be enjoyed by a new generation of chess players. Many of the annotations have never appeared in English before and they contain, unsurprisingly, some absolute attacking gems.



# **The Passed Pawn: Power of the Passer** Efstratios Grivas, 240 pages, paperback RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

The Greek Grandmaster and leading chess trainer's latest work for Thinkers Publishing sees him looking at passed pawns. Do you know how best to blockade a passed pawn, as well as how to seek counterplay when facing one? Grivas supplies three useful chapters looking at passed pawns in a middlegame setting before there are 12 devoted to such pawns in endgames, looking at topics like the outside passed pawn and

handling separated passed pawns.



# The Significance of France for the Development of Chess in Europe

Herbert Bastian, Frank Hoffmeister and Jean-Oliver Leconte (eds.), 304 pages, hardback

#### RRP £44.95 SUBSCRIBERS £40.45

The publishers of *Emanuel Lasker*, Exzelsior Verlag, have also recently released another fascinating work and one likely to be of interest to all who like their chess history. In March 2021 an online conference was held to mark the hundredth anniversary of the French Chess Federation, featuring contributors from major European chess historians. Their revised lectures, seven in English and five in French, make up this substantial academic volume, with Richard Eales's thoughts on 'Philidor and British Chess 1750–1850' but one highlight.



# **Forthcoming Events**

July 1-10 Irish Championships, Dublin www.icu.ie/home

July 2-10 Scottish Championships, Edinburgh chessscotland.com/events/

**July 2 Golders Green Rapidplay** goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

July 3 Cleethorpes Rapidplay congress.org.uk/congress/169/home

**July 7-12 South Wales International, Bridgend** welshchessunion.uk or call 01443 772750

July 8-10 4NCL Congress, Leamington Spa 4ncl.co.uk

**July 10 Kensington Rapidplay** chesscircuit.substack.com or call 07855 036537

**July 12 Muswell Hill Rapidplay** muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

**July 14-19 Wood Green Invitational** Oddfellows Hall, Stafford

July 17 ChessFest, Trafalgar Square www.chess-fest.com

July 19 Muswell Hill Rapidplay

muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

July 23 Poplar Rapid

spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub/

July 31 Kensington Rapidplay

chesscircuit.substack.com or call 07855 036537

July 31 Livingston Allegro

congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/184/home

And for the Online Connoisseur:

June 17 - July 5 FIDE Candidates, Madrid

fide.com; Caruana, Ding Liren, Duda, Firouzja, Nakamura, Nepomniachtchi, Rapport, Radjabov.

July 14-22 Biel Chess Festival

bielchessfestival.ch; Abdusattorov, Esipenko, Gukesh, Kamsky, Keymer, etc.

July 20-24 Grand Chess Tour, Zagreb Rapid & Blitz

For more details see: grandchesstour.com; Carlsen, Firouzja, Nepomniachtchi, Saric, So, MVL, etc.

July 29 - August 10 Chennai Olympiad

The world cup of chess - chessolympiad.fide.com

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

www.chess.co.uk 57