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# Chess Update



## IT'S NEPO!

Magnus Carlsen will face his childhood nemesis Ian Nepomniachtchi for the World Chess Championship this November in Dubai after the Russian no.1 won the Candidates with a round to spare



Rest in Peace - Yury Lapshun and Jon Jacobs on Steinitz and Lasker, and where they're buried



Arise Nepo! - Daniel King praises the new challenger in his latest *How Good is Your Chess?*



Birth of a Union - Bob Jones on the late arrival of the WECU and the mystery of Harry Trevenen



# Chess

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# 60 Seconds with... Rosie Irwin



**Born:** 22nd June 1993, London.

**Place of residence:** Swansea, Wales.

**Occupation:** I was a dental nurse, but sadly made redundant in the first lockdown.

**Enjoyable?** Nope. I just want to get back to work ASAP.

**And home life?** Great. I live on my own with Charlie, my cat. No 'mad cat lady' Simpsons jokes, please.

**Sports played or followed:** I used to do karate, so I can take care of myself.

**A favourite novel?** *Me Before You*. It's a book about a man who is quadriplegic and his carer. They end up falling in love, etc.

**Piece of music?** Anything by Sting. Every little thing he does is magic...

**Film or TV Series?** Film – *The Green Mile*. No! I really shouldn't say that given the title of our new book. Guess I have to say *The Queen's Gambit*, which is awesome to be fair.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?** It keeps the brain active and there's always a challenge. It's never too easy. Not yet, at least.

**And the worst?** Losing. Losing multiple times in a row.

**Your best move?** I think a deflection.

**Worst move?** Getting my bishops trapped and falling into pawn forks. I don't blunder as much as I used to, though.

**Favourite game of all time?** Has to be the king walk in Short-Timman, Tilburg 1991.

**N.Short-J.Timman**

Tilburg 1991

*Alekhine's Defence*



31 ♖h2! ♜c8 32 ♙g3 ♜ce8 33 ♙f4! ♙c8  
34 ♙g5 1-0

**The best three chess books?** Never read any. I've literally written more chess books than I've read. Honestly, I've learned mainly from Jonathan coaching me and from watching YouTubers such as Anna Rudolf and GothamChess.

**Any advice for the ECF?** As a new player, literally the only reason I know about any OTB competitions coming up is because I happened to be friends with Jonathan. How many online players don't even know that they exist? Converting them to OTB players is a real challenge I imagine, and you need to put a huge amount of effort into finding who they are. Maybe reach out on chess.com, Lichess, etc?

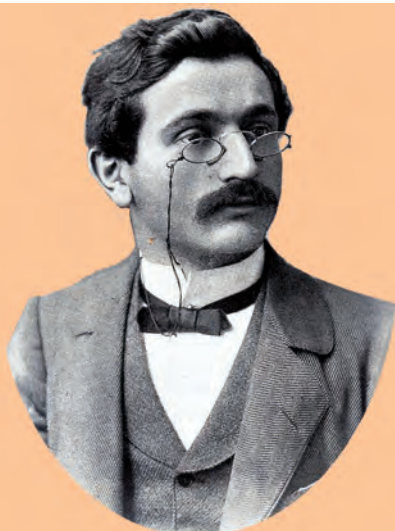
**Can chess make one happy?** Yes, at least temporarily, especially with a satisfying win.

**A tip please for new players:** Look at the entire board the entire time. Don't just focus on one part. Look around you.

*Ed.: The Queen's Gambit – Accepted! by Rosie Irwin and Jonathan Arnott is out now and available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £12.99 or just £11.79 for Subscribers.*

# Rest in Peace

IM Yury Lapshun and FM Jon Jacobs take a look at the final resting places of world champions William Steinitz and Emanuel Lasker



**Emanuel Lasker**

1868-1941

*Second World Champion*  
Buried in the Beth Olam Cemetery,  
Queens, New York

## WHERE LEGENDS LIE

*Born thousands of miles  
away in Europe, the first  
two world chess  
champions now reside in  
cemeteries in New York  
just one mile apart.*



**William Steinitz**

1836-1900

*First World Champion*  
Buried in the Cemetery of the  
Evergreens in Brooklyn, New York

When people entertain ‘American’ and ‘World Chess Champion’ in the same breath, the first name that springs to mind is Bobby Fischer. Those whose chess knowledge extends further back in time will also think of Paul Morphy. Others, attuned to the immediate past and America’s hopes for the future, may think of Fabiano Caruana, or perhaps Hikaru Nakamura or Jeffrey Xiong.

It may come as a surprise, then, that the very first two recognised world chess champions lived out their final years in the United States and are buried in New York City, within a mere mile of each other. In fact, the first champion, William Steinitz, was a U.S. citizen not only upon his death in 1900, but while contesting five of his six official world title matches.

Steinitz made a permanent move to New York from London in 1883 and became a naturalised citizen five years later. His successor as champion, Emanuel Lasker, resided in New York from 1892-94 (during which time he wrested the title from Steinitz), again from 1902-1911, and again for the final years of his life, from 1937-1941, after fleeing from Nazi Germany and later leaving the Soviet Union.

England, too, played an important role in the lives of both champions. Although raised in Jewish families in Central Europe separated

by more than 30 years, both Steinitz and Lasker not only competed in numerous English tournaments and matches, but at various times: lived and worked in England; wrote regularly about chess for English periodicals; and returned for the last hurrah of their chess careers – London 1899 for Steinitz, Nottingham 1936 for Lasker.

Their final resting places are situated in separate but adjacent cemeteries that straddle the dividing line between the New York boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Although the cemeteries are easy to locate, it is a challenge to find one’s way to the graves themselves. The cemetery maps do not display individual grave locations. We have prepared this article to assist readers who when visiting New York may wish to pay their respects to two giants of chess history.

### Steinitz’s Grave

Steinitz’s grave is marked by a box-shaped headstone whose flat summit is decorated by an etched-in chessboard, as if in death he hoped to test his famous aphorism that even God couldn’t defeat him.

Evergreen Cemetery, where Steinitz lies, sprawls across 225 acres and houses the remains of a half-million people. Opened in 1850, it is non-denominational and is divided

into sections for various religions and ethnic groups. Steinitz’s grave is in a section called Bethel Slope.

The main entrance gate is situated at 1629 Bushwick Avenue at Conway Street, Brooklyn, near the northern terminus of Eastern Parkway and the southern terminus of the Jackie Robinson Parkway. The grounds are open from 8am to 4:30pm daily. The cemetery office is open from 8 to 4:30 on weekdays, from 9 to 1pm on Saturdays, and is closed Sundays.

The nearest major subway station is Broadway Junction, served by the A, C, J, and L lines. Leave the station via the Van Sinderen Avenue exit, walk left a short distance to Broadway and bear left, then take the first right on to Conway Street. After ascending one long block to Bushwick Avenue, you will see the entrance gate.

Inside, continue up the main road until you see a grey stone chapel that houses the cemetery office in front and rest rooms around the back. Bear left, passing the chapel/office on your right and a gazebo-like structure and Chinese headstones on your left. Upon reaching a circle marked by a Memory Gardens sign, turn right into the circle and bear left at the first fork (near Foale mausoleum), continuing along the circle. Turn left at the Bethany Street sign, just beyond a



tall monument on the left whose base reads, 'Hombberger'. Proceeding along Bethany Street, you will see a sign on the left reading, 'Grave of William Steinitz / First World Chess Champion'. It was placed there by Kurt Landsberger, grand-nephew of Steinitz, who wrote or edited two important books about the champion.



Walking left at the sign across the lawn among the headstones, after approximately 200 feet you will see Steinitz's headstone. It is of an unusual, rectangular solid shape, and its square flat summit bears an engraved chessboard angled toward the approaching visitor. Engraved beneath the chessboard are the German words depicted in the photo, which translate to, 'Here rests in peace William Steinitz, Born 14 May 1837, Died 12 August 1900.' On the day we visited, the board held a small stone left by a well-wisher – an ancient Jewish mourning tradition with many possible interpretations.

The birth year displayed on the headstone is inaccurate: published sources agree that Steinitz was born in 1836. (At birth he bore the name 'Wolf', which he later changed to Wilhelm and eventually to the anglicised William.) His exact date of birth is also subject to some controversy since Steinitz himself once wrote that he was born on May 17. However, a birth registry on a Czech government website and Steinitz's U.S. passport application both give the date as May 14.

A series of grave numbers etched into curb stones along the left-hand side of Bethany Street provide another pointer of where to turn off the street to find Steinitz's grave. However, the sign directing visitors to the grave displays an incorrect number, 5893; the actual grave number is 5896.

The chessboard that crowns Steinitz's headstone displays chessmen etched on to four of its squares: a king on e4, queen on a8, rook on d5, and knight on a5, along with a plus (+) sign on e5. Although the pieces' colours are not evident and they do not comprise a legal chess position, the display might nevertheless signify that in death Steinitz



*Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised that William Steinitz, so often the champion of what was then considered suspect and strange at the chessboard, should have a most unusual tombstone.*

finally got the opportunity to test his famous boast that even God could not defeat him.

### Lasker's Grave

A simpler, traditional headstone marks the grave of Emanuel Lasker. The multiple stones resting on its crest when we visited suggest that admirers from the chess world still come by to pay their respects to the man who held the chess crown for almost 27 years after dethroning Steinitz in their initial match in 1894.

Lasker is buried in Beth Olam Cemetery, one of a dozen or more memorial parks placed side by side in a three-mile stretch of northeastern Brooklyn and southwestern Queens. The three Manhattan synagogues that established Beth Olam in the 1850s continue to jointly manage it as well as host active congregations. A fraction of Evergreen's size, it occupies a little over 12 acres and holds almost 8,000 graves. Lasker lies in the section administered by Congregation Shearith Israel, in Row 24, Grave 81. Other eminent people buried in Beth Olam include Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo and Emma Lazarus, the author of the poem affixed to the base of the Statue of Liberty.

The following directions lead to Lasker's grave site from the 'lower' or south-eastern entrance, one of two entrance gates situated on different portions of Cypress Hills Street between the Jackie Robinson Parkway and Jamaica Avenue. That entrance is not marked with the Beth Olam name, but displays only a weathered, obsolete metal plaque on its right-hand stone pillar and the number '13' spray-painted in black on its left-hand pillar.

If driving, take the Cypress Hills Street exit (Exit 3) from the Jackie Robinson Parkway and go right, heading south-east along Cypress

Hills Street. The entrance will be the second gate on your right. Note that the published address for Beth Olam Cemetery, 2 Cypress Hills Street, does not correspond with any existing building and might not work properly in a vehicle's GPS. Driving is not permitted within the cemetery, but visitors can park in the traffic circle near either entrance.

By public transport, Beth Olam can be reached via the B13 bus line along Cypress Hills Street (get off either at Cypress Avenue and walk south, or at Jamaica Avenue and walk north), or by taking the J train to Cypress Hills station. From the subway station, walk south-west on Jamaica Avenue to Cypress Hills Street, turn right, continue a few blocks and look for the unmarked cemetery entrance on your left.

Beth Olam is open from 9:30am to 4pm daily except for Saturdays and Jewish holidays. Requests for information before or during a visit can be directed to either Shearith Israel synagogue (212-873-0300) or B'nai Jeshurun synagogue (212-787-7600).

Upon entering the gate, mausoleums marked 'Aaron Buchsbaum' and 'Sylvester' will be visible to the left of the road, and one marked 'Leipzig' will be visible at right. At the end of the uphill road is a circle with two tall vertical monuments standing at its far end. Proceed beyond the far end of the circle and make a quick right on to the pathway just beyond the first mausoleum, marked 'Zion D. Bernstein'. Continue on that pathway, passing a row of hedges at right followed by a sturdy tree. Roughly 20 feet beyond the tree, turn left on to a narrow concrete walking path. Upon reaching the fourth row of parallel headstones to the right of the concrete path, turn right, leaving the concrete path.

After walking approximately 60 feet along the grass between the third and fourth rows,

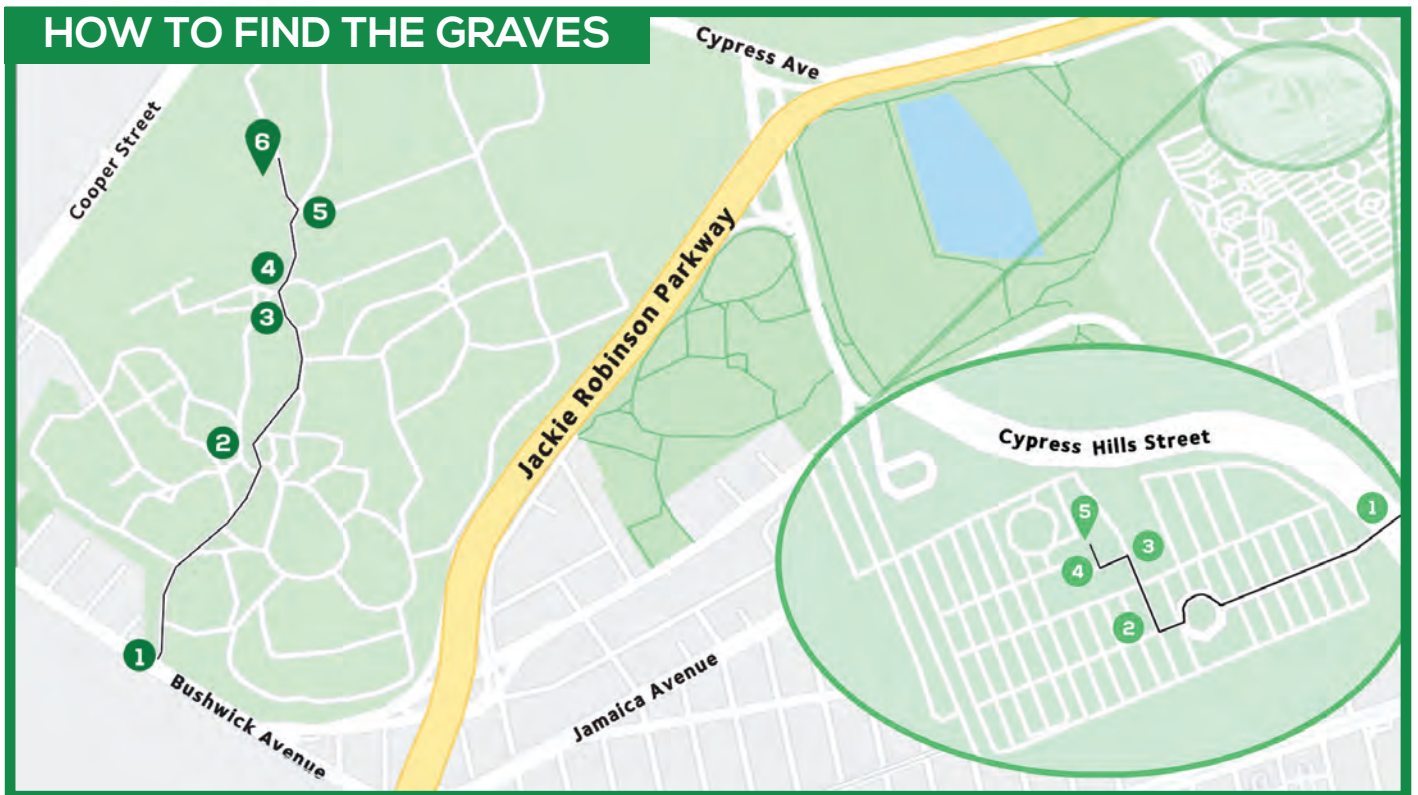


you will see Emanuel Lasker's headstone. It is dark and glossy, contrasting with the mostly light grey limestone headstones in its vicinity.


The relatively small grave marker displays no text but Lasker's name, beneath two Hebrew letters that signify 'Here lies'. A much larger one immediately behind it, marked 'Oppenheimer', may be useful as a landmark to find Lasker's headstone. (The individual beneath the large headstone, Heinz Ernst Oppenheimer, most likely bears no relation with Ludwig Leon Oppenheimer, Lasker's brother-in-law who was murdered by Nazis in Auschwitz in 1944. The surname match is coincidental.)





Emanuel Lasker's headstone also stands out and remains well visited and in good condition.




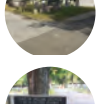
### THE ROUTE TO WILLIAM STEINITZ


- 

**1. EVERGREEN CEMETERY GATE**  
Bushwick Avenue and Conway Street, Brooklyn, New York
- 

**2. CEMETERY OFFICE**  
Bear left and continue past the office on your right and the Chinese headstones on your left
- 


**3. "MEMORY GARDENS"**  
Turn right at two-stage sign whose lower panel reads "Memory Gardens"
- 


**4. FOALE MAUSOLEUM**  
Bear left at the mausoleum marked "Foale"
- 

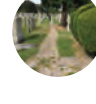
**5. BETHANY STREET**  
Go left at Bethany Street
- 


**6. STEINITZ'S GRAVE**  
Follow the sign on the left side of the road to arrive at Steinitz's grave


### THE ROUTE TO EMANUEL LASKER

- 

**1. BETH OLAM CEMETERY**  
Enter via south entrance on Cypress Hills Street, Brooklyn, New York
- 

**2. BERNSTEIN MAUSOLEUM**  
Upon leaving the circle, turn right on to the street just past the mausoleum marked "Zion D. Bernstein"
- 

**3. HEDGES**  
Turn left onto the narrow path a short distance beyond hedges and tree
- 

**4. FOURTH ROW**  
Turn right onto grass ahead of the fourth row of parallel headstones to the right of the concrete path
- 

**5. LASKER'S HEADSTONE**  
Lasker's headstone stands about 60 feet from the concrete path



# Chess in the Rising Sun

**Adapting to the restrictions posed by the pandemic, groups of chess players are playing in their local parks. Tim Wall is urging clubs to organise 'Chess in the Park' events across the UK**



*"There is a chess park in old Wallsend,  
They call the Rising Sun.  
And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy,  
And God, I know I'm one."*

**The Animals, *House of the Rising Sun*, City Hall,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, May 23rd 1964\***

Chess in the open air is a bit like some other outdoor activities – it's definitely seasonal, it's best to come prepared, and it's probably over a lot quicker than you anticipated.

While the talk among most of my friends this spring was along the lines of 'When are the beer gardens reopening?', among a smaller sub-set, the buzz was that we could finally get together for a game of al fresco over-the-board chess.

## Not by online chess alone

With online league matches these days ending all-too-often in a mouseslip blunder, a few choice words and more alcohol units than in Bridget Jones' diary, the craving for some real-life plastic-on-rubber 'n' thwack-on-DGT action grows more intense.

In early April – with indoors chess still a few weeks away, according to the UK government's Covid-19 lockdown easing plan – the picnic tables at the Rising Sun Country Park in Wallsend seemed like an inviting option.

## 'We'd play chess anywhere, anytime'

With me on that Sunday afternoon in the park was my former Wallsend team captain, Phil Welsh, who back in the nineties had inducted me into the wild ways of the Rising Sun – not the park, but the pub of the same name, several hundred metres away.

Upstairs is where we quaffed many a pint of Worthington's... and won the Northumberland League. The notorious Rising Sun gang included Dave 'Countdown' Ledger, Jon 'Quiz Machines' Nelson, Jonty 'Blackjack' King and Andy 'Stage Door' Lawson.

We'd play chess anywhere, anytime. On



*Forest Hall Chess Club members enjoying life outside at the Rising Sun Country Park.*

the 19th floor of a city centre, multi-storey tower block to the backrooms of seedy nightclubs, and everywhere in between. Mostly in Tyneside pubs, though.

These days, with the passing of the years, and especially with Covid, we're into a more socially distanced chess scene. And that's probably a good thing. Because there's actually never been a better time for chess clubs to 'take it outdoors'.

## A breath of fresh air

For a start, we all need that fresh air in our lungs, a healthy walk and the relaxing real-life chat with friends that we've been missing for the last year. If we can do it with chess, even better.

The pandemic has already changed so many of our pre-lockdown habits, and there has never been a better time to ditch the old one of hidden-away chess clubs, with admittance only granted by knowing the right answer to the secret password question,

"What's your ECF grade?"

When we play outdoors in the park, we're visible and accessible. From New York's Washington Square Park to Moscow's Neskuchny Sad (it literally means 'Not-Boring Garden'), chess friends and hustlers alike meet, enjoy a few games and engage in conversation. That social side of chess is what's missing at too many 'hush-hush, please be quiet' old-style chess venues, and definitely missing when we play online from home, left to rage lonely against the machine when the WiFi connection fails and the screen freezes.

## From eight to 88

In the weeks since my current chess club, Forest Hall, started playing outdoors at the Rising Sun Country Park, we've had a wide range of players come along, from literally eight to 88 years young. Sometimes it's sunny, sometimes blustery – and sometimes rain stops play. But we keep coming back.

And I'm pleased to say that a steady

stream of reports is now coming in of other clubs around the country starting up 'Chess in the Park' days.

From York's Rowntrees Park to Wimbledon's Merton Abbey, chess enthusiasts are going outdoors, armed with sets, clocks, gazebos, umbrellas and warm clothes – ready for anything.

### Organise your own 'Chess in the Park'

So, why not get together with a few friends or clubmates, and organise your own 'Chess in the Park' activity? It's the perfect way to recruit new members to your over-the-board chess club after months of online play and to really connect with the community.

Outdoors chess will receive a huge boost this summer with the London Chess Classic Outdoor Festival, organised Friday 16th to Sunday 18th July, and run by Chess in Schools and Communities. The festival will include 1,200 schoolchildren playing 'pop-up' chess in cafes and parks, a 'Mad Hatter's Chess Party', giant chess sets and live video linkups with other cities.

But 'Chess in the Park' doesn't have to start or finish that weekend – it can go on any day, or any weekend, throughout the



Over-the-board chess has also resumed on a small scale in Sheffield – see Home News.

summer. So, if you would like to organise your own 'Chess in the Park' event and link up with the London Chess Classic Outdoor Festival, please drop me a line to: [timpeterwall@gmail.com](mailto:timpeterwall@gmail.com). I will send you details of 'Chess in the Park' activities in your area, and

let you know how you can get involved in the campaign to take chess outdoors across the UK.

*\*A special re-imagining of 'House of the Rising Sun' was recorded by 'Chess in the Park' Records.*



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# Recognition – The 2021 ECF Awards



## The Chairman of the ECF Awards Committee, Stephen Greep, explains all about the awards' new look and how you can nominate an individual or organisation

May saw the publication of the ECF 2021 Awards Programme. This has been a difficult year for chess, but the ECF Awards offer an opportunity to demonstrate how much amazing work has been going on in such difficult circumstances and for the ECF to recognise this and celebrate success. The awards bring with them a clear statement of intent that they "Are a way for the ECF to recognise contributions to the promotion and development of chess. They should demonstrate high quality and measure excellence and significant achievement."

This year the awards have a new look about them. The President's Award for Services to Chess continues to top the list, but there are four new awards reflecting key ECF priorities – Contributions to Accessible, Community, Junior and Women's Chess. These, together with the existing awards of Club and Small Club of the Year, Congress of the Year and Contribution to Online Chess (the latter being introduced last year), make up a series of nine awards that should continue to be the format of the ECF awards for years to come. The award of Magazine of the Year has been discontinued.

The committee has been rebalanced to reflect more diversity with a better gender and age balance, as well as a range of playing skills. The new committee is: Stephen Greep (Chairman), Julie Denning, IM Ameet Ghasi, WFM Sarah Longson, WFM Natasha Regan,

IM Jack Rudd and Nigel Towers. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to three stalwarts of the Awards committee who have made a significant contribution in recent years who have now stepped down, Roger Edwards, Stan Goodall and William Metcalf; also to Mike Truran and Nigel Towers in particular who have helped shaped this new look series of awards.

There is expanded guidance and a list of key criteria that the judges will be particularly looking for when assessing all nominations. The awards are based not on the number of votes but on evidence-based achievements, demonstrated by the citations made. One-line nominations are exceedingly unlikely to win an award and yet last year 20% of all nominations consisted of a single line citation. One nominee received a significant number of remarkably similar one-line nominations. The current guidance makes it particularly clear that these awards are for excellence and must be backed up by solid evidence.

The awards cover the period 1st June 2020 - 31st May 2021, and nominations must be with the committee Chairman, Stephen Greep (sjgreep@gmail.com) no later than 30th June. All the information required to make a nomination for any of the ECF Awards can be found on the ECF website ([www.englishchess.org.uk/nominations-invited-for-this-years-ecf-awards](http://www.englishchess.org.uk/nominations-invited-for-this-years-ecf-awards)).

Apart from a trophy, winners will be able



Graham Bromley with his 2020 President's Award for Services to Chess, but who will win this year? It's time to get nominating!

to use the new award logo and will be announced in the ECF newsletter and on the ECF web site (winning citations will also be included in the ECF Yearbook). A list of all the previous winners and winning citations may also be found on the ECF web site ([www.ecfresource.co.uk/ecf-awards/](http://www.ecfresource.co.uk/ecf-awards/)).

*Ed. – We'll hear more from Stephen and discover all the winners later this summer.*

♖ ♘ ♙ ♚ Check Out... ♗ ♞ ♝ ♜

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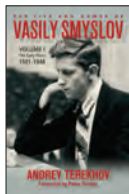
**"I really like this site and highly recommend it to everyone!" - GM Ruslan Ponomariov**

a better try when Black would have had to have found 3...♖e6!, and if 4 ♗g7 ♕d5, as pointed out by Justin Tan) 2...♕d5 3 ♕d3 ♕c5 4 ♖a1 ♖b6 5 ♕c4 ♖xa7 6 ♖xa7 ♕xa7 7 ♕xb4 ♖b6 8 ♕c4 ♕c6 9 ♕d4 ½-½.

However, 1 ♖c6! ♖c8 2 ♖b7 would have won, even after 2...b3! 3 ♕d3! (or 3 ♕f4!) 3...♕g7 (3...♖xa7 4 ♖xa7 ♖h8 is a better try, if still gradually winning for White after 5 h4 g5 6 h5! ♖xh5 7 ♕e4!, as given by Tan on

ChessPublishing) 4 ♖b8 b2!?! (4...♖xa7 5 ♖xa8 ♖xc6 6 ♖a3 ♖e5+ 7 ♕e2! is also a technical win) 5 ♖xb2 ♖xa7 6 ♖a2 and White wins material since he's preventing the check on d8.

# This Month's New Releases



## The Life and Games of Vasily Smyslov: Volume I

Andrey Terekhov, 536 pages  
Russell Enterprises

RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

Subtitled 'The Early Years 1921-1948', this magnificent labour of love displays the seventh world champion's early life in chess as it has never been known before. Smyslov won the world championship in 1957. Thereafter, in his series of classic books, he curated an image of his own play as governed by harmony, clarity, and endgame mastery. Valuable though Smyslov's own writings are, FM Andrey Terekhov paints a different and no less fascinating portrait of the early Smyslov.

The book consists of a series of biographical chapters interspersed by 49 deeply annotated games, further fragments, and appendices on Smyslov's opening and endgame play (the latter contributed by GM Karsten Müller). Terekhov's work is remarkable both in range and depth. For comparison, he covers in 536 pages the period of Smyslov's career that Kasparov in *My Great Predecessors* deals with in just 10.

Quoting many magazine and newspaper commentaries that reflected on the extraordinary speed of his rise to the top, Terekhov shows that the young Smyslov was known primarily as a creative and even impetuous attacking player. Terekhov draws on Smyslov's own archive and countless other sources to present fresh material on every page, beginning with the topic of Smyslov's family.

Such is Terekhov's attention to detail – and to human interest – that we even read a selection of fanmail from female students when Smyslov first achieved fame in the chess-obsessed Soviet Union. The author gives lucid, well-documented accounts of chess politics, too. For instance, we learn of the context in which Botvinnik, disappointed by his poor result in the 1940 USSR

Championship when Smyslov finished strongly in third place, manoeuvred to arrange an 'Absolute' USSR Championship the following year.

Tournament tables and a fine selection of photographs adorn the book throughout. The bibliography is excellent. Terekhov's treatment of Smyslov's games is no less impressive than his reconstruction of Smyslov's early career. The games tend to be prefaced by pen-portraits of Smyslov's opponents, which bring the encounters to life. Some of the games are well known, but a few are published here for the first time. Others were published in Soviet magazines, but then forgotten. Terekhov frequently draws on manuscript annotations that Smyslov left unpublished and has also tracked down many notes by other annotators.

Using all the past annotations at his disposal together with *Stockfish*, Terekhov seeks the 'truth' about each game. This results in lengthy annotations at times, but also in top-quality analysis and impressive discoveries. I turned at once to Smyslov's games with Black against Fridstein (Moscow 1944/5) and Reshevsky (USSR-USA radio match 1945), which I had studied when I wrote my book *Play the Slav*. Here I found that Terekhov provides significant improvements on all previous annotations, including those of Kasparov.

A spot-check of Terekhov's treatment of the opening of the following game shows the strength of the author's syncretical method, and to a lesser extent its difficulties. In six densely-packed pages, Terekhov provides practically a manual for playing the Fantasy Variation with White.

### V.Smyslov-I.Kan Sverdlovsk 1943 Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 f3

Smyslov's use of this tension-raising move has recently attracted attention: Bezgodov's *The Extreme Caro-Kann* (2014), which recommends it for White, features a photo of our hero.

3...e6 4 ♖e3 dxe4 5 ♖d2 exf3 6 ♖gxf3



♖f6 7 ♖c4

Terekhov prefers 7 ♕d3, citing a further inspirational game.

7...♖bd7

Rather than allow the grip Smyslov achieved in this game and another given by Terekhov, Black should strike back with 7...b5! 8 ♖ce5 ♖d5! 9 ♕d2 f6!.



His thematic comment is spot on: "securing the position of the d5-knight and controlling the e5- and g5-squares are the keys to this position." However, Terekhov makes the strange claim that 7...b5 has never been played. Johnsen and Hansen's new repertoire book *Win with the Caro-Kann* instead quotes the game McCollum-Therrien, USA 1998, which continued 8 ♖ce5 ♖d5 9 ♕d2 f6 10 ♖d3 ♕d6 11 g3 0-0 12 ♕g2 ♖b6 and White's compensation was inadequate, a conclusion Terekhov effectively agrees with.

Terekhov prefers 10 c4, devoting a paragraph to prove that 10...fxe5 11 cxd5 exd5 12 ♕xb5!! is playable for White, but as he admits, 10...bxc4 is simple and favours Black. So can we consider the 7 ♖c4 line refuted? Probably, but the further sacrifice 10 ♕d3?! fxe5 11 0-0 looks a dangerous practical try, since Black lags in development and his king has no safe home.

8 ♕d3 ♖d5

8...b5 is still better, as Terekhov says, but he doesn't mention 8...c5, on which Bezgodov focuses. In view of the next note, 8...♖d5 seems to me not to deserve Terekhov's '?!'.

9 ♕g5!?





**9...♖c7**

Again Terekhov perhaps harshly calls this move dubious. He analyses 9...♗e7 10 ♘d6+ in depth, correcting notes by Reuben Fine in the process, but since 9...f6 is better, was that necessary?

**10 0-0 h6?**

This is the real culprit, weakening Black's kingside; either 10... f6 or 10...b5 was still OK.

**11 ♗d2 ♗e7 12 ♖ce5 ♗5f6?**

12...0-0 13 ♖e1 was also unappetising, but Black's best was 12...♗xe5 13 ♗xe5 0-0 14 ♖h5 f5 15 ♗xh6 ♗f6 according to Terekhov, who picks holes in Fine's analysis.

**13 ♖e1 ♗xe5 14 ♗xe5 ♗d7 15 ♖g3 g5? 16 ♖h3! ♗f8 17 ♗xf7?!**

Spectacular, but 17 ♖xh6 wins much more simply. Terekhov speculates that this may be why Smyslov omitted the game from his books.

**17...♗xf7 18 ♗g6 ♖d6 19 ♗h1 0-0-0 20 ♗xf7 e5 21 ♖xh6**

And Smyslov eventually converted his material advantage. Terekhov's analysis of this game could have been a bit more concise and I've questioned a couple of his emphases, but this is still impressive work.

Is anything left out of this comprehensive book? Understandably in a chess biography, Terekhov does not excavate the more troubling aspects of the political context that would have affected Smyslov. In *Smyslov on the Couch* (Elk & Ruby, 2018, pp. 32-33), Genna Sosonko recounts that in the 1970s he gave Smyslov a copy of Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago*. Smyslov responded gloomily: "Solzhenitsyn was spot on, spot on. My father graduated from the Saint Petersburg Institute of Technology too, before the revolution. Many of his university classmates were arrested in Moscow and Petersburg. He tried to protect me from all of that [...] but I figured something was up". Still, perhaps we'll learn more about this in due course, since further volumes of Terekhov's work are happily still to come. This is chess history at its best.

*James Vigus*

**U Cannot Be Serious – Avant-Garde Strategy in Chess**

Gerard Welling & Michael Basman, 304 pages Thinkers Publishing

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

International Master Mike Basman is a unique character in the world of chess. From

his early promise, which saw him as a serious candidate to become Britain's first grandmaster, through his switch to highly eccentric openings, such as the Grob (1 g4), his years spent making the UK Chess Challenge the world's largest chess tournament and the endgame featuring the infamous £300,000 VAT bill, it has been quite a story. This made the current book one of the most anticipated of the year, but unfortunately it is flawed and disappointing.

Where to start? The title. Why the truncated version of 'you'? Why bother using a clichéd phrase stemming from John McEnroe, which instantly undermines one of the main selling points of the book – Mike's originality? The very first line of the introduction stumbles badly too: "Modern chess is getting to be more and more a young man's game." In the current climate, this offers a shade too much of a block upon which people will stumble.

According to the blurb: "This book is written with the intention to introduce the reader to the creative chess ideas of Michael Basman. He gave up more intense regular tournament chess around the turn of the millennium, to concentrate his energy on the development of school chess."

Co-author Gerard Welling played in two tournaments with Mike – the Biel Masters in 1979 and the Liege Open in 1981 – and the pair discussed Mike's unusual ideas on depth. "We discussed the ideas which has given me a clearer idea of the man's way of chess thinking than before – because the multiple outright rejections in the past and on the net are clear proof that it is not so easy to understand new and creative ideas."

Yes, we do get to see Mike's remarkable ideas in action, the most interesting of which are the ones from recent years, because Mike's earlier efforts have already been covered in his own books. The games are entertaining, of course – and it always comes as something as a surprise when we encounter a 'normal' tactical device in Mike's games.

**S.Edwards–M.Basman  
Atkins Open, Coventry 2015**



**22...♗xh2+!** (and 0-1, 25).

Yet a book about Basman needs to give so much more. To some chess players he is an

unsung hero; an underground warrior, flying the flag for the common man. Others see him as a harmless eccentric, not to be taken seriously. The story needs to be told properly. I wanted to read more about the mercurial man behind the ideas, complete with the triumphs, the disasters, the outrageous moments – and the embarrassing ones, too. Unfortunately, I was left with very little of an impression of the man himself.

There are editorial flaws too, not least the mistaken belief that Mike's middle name is James, when it is actually John. The first name I saw in the index had the wrong initial, which is at odds with the correct version given in the book.

It is unfortunate, but this book represents a missed opportunity. Michael John Basman's story is still waiting to be told.

*Sean Marsh*



**The Exchange French Comes to Life\***

Alex Fishbein, 240 pages

Russell Enterprises

*[\* – We are experiencing delays receiving some titles from Russell Enterprises. Please check on the Chess & Bridge website or with the shop to see when this book will be in stock.]*

When a player sits down at the chess board, armed to the teeth with the sharpest variations of the French Winawer (1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗c3 ♗b4), the very least welcome sight is undoubtedly 3 exd5, the dreaded Exchange Variation. It is, without doubt, the most annoying exchange variation arising from *any* chess opening. A decent player with white can usually hold a stronger opponent to a dull draw.

In this new work subtitled 'Fresh Strategies to Play for a Win', Alex Fishbein hopes to take things a step further by bringing the variation to life. Is it really possible to promote the Exchange Variation as a worthwhile option for White? I was intrigued to see if there were new developments to help it on its way.

In his thoughtful forward, John Watson, a renowned expert on the French Defence, comments that "I suspect that most readers of this book will be pleasantly surprised to find out how rich the play can become in the French Exchange Variation. That alone is enough to reward a careful reading, and Fishbein's careful exposition of lines and strategies will undoubtedly translate into extra points over the board." Watson's own books on the French Defence (*Play the French*, 4th edition, Everyman Chess, 2012, being the most recent) are essential reading and his opinion on the subject is valuable.

The first chapter introduces key ideas and concepts via seven illustrative games, showing how the opening has developed over the years.

The first game shows Chigorin in action against Alapin, back in 1906. The seventh game features Carlsen in an online game against Meier. With Kasparov also in the mix – beating Korchnoi at Tilburg, 1991 – it is clear the Exchange Variation has a rather more interesting history than one would have imagined.

The introductory chapter did its job; it drew me in. It also set the tone for the rest of the book, which utilises explanatory prose rather than offering confusing thickets of variations. The next eight chapters analyse the variations lines and deviations after 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5. These include attempts by both sides to change the symmetrical structure in the most natural way: c2-c4 for White;...c7-c5 for Black.

Particular attention is paid to the resulting pawn structures. This is particularly important when it comes to the isolated queen's pawn positions and Fishbein explains various nuances which are easy to miss. Kasparov's famous pair of games – against Korchnoi and Short – still deserve attention. The new idea came after 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 ♖f3 ♙g4 5 h3 ♙h5 and now, instead of the passive 6 ♙e2?! with which Gurevich played against Short in the last round of the 1990 Manila Interzonal, there is major improvement in 6 ♖e2+!



This was Gurevich's own improvement. He worked for Kasparov at the time, which makes it easier to understand why the 13th world champion adopted the variation. The point is that the obvious 6...♙e7 loses a pawn to 7 ♖b5+ and 6...♖e7 7 ♙e3! ensures White will not only keep the queens on the board, but will also be able to castle queenside very quickly.

Aggressive players can overreact with Black. The aforementioned Kasparov-Korchnoi encounter left the latter fuming: "How could I lose against this drawn variation? And how could the world champion play this drawing line?"

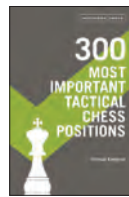
There is also a chapter on 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 exd5, which is dubbed 'The Delayed Exchange Variation'. Fishbein admits he is "not a huge devotee of this variation", but nevertheless presents "some interesting and hidden ideas". It could be a useful surprise weapon against Winawer fans.

The final chapter, titled Your Repertoire File, is of particular interest. According to the author: "This book introduces a new way (at

least, one I haven't seen in print) of constructing your repertoire. The final chapter, Chapter 11, contains the precise variations and move orders that I advise players to remember. Of course, exactly how much you remember will be a function of your skill, memory, and other factors. But Chapter 11 contains, in one place and a concise form, all the specific moves that it makes sense to know." It acts as turbocharged, extended index to the book, enabling the reader to understand and remember the main ideas and transpositions.

This is a fine effort which is sure to change opinions on the Exchange Variation. Indeed, when I started this month's reviews, I never imagined a book on this variation would prove to be more interesting and satisfying than a book all about Mike Basman.

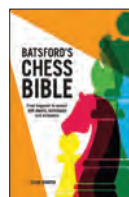
Sean Marsh



### 300 Most Important Tactical Chess Positions

Thomas Engqvist, 288 pages, paperback  
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

It's good to see that Batsford are maintaining their rich chess tradition and any work by the creative and lucid Thomas Engqvist has to be of interest. Aiming squarely at the club player, the Swedish Grandmaster wants not just to improve a basic grasp of tactics, but explains how to calculate better and even how to whip up an attack seemingly of out of thin air à la Mikhail Tal. Simply studying one or two of Engqvist's positions a day should quickly pay off for many readers.



### Batsford's Chess Bible

Sean Marsh, 208 pages, hardback  
RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

Sean is not only kept busy with reviewing duties, but continues to play a pivotal role for CSC and also these days writes the Chessable blog. Somehow he's still found time to see a new version of his introductory work for Batsford appear. Subtitled 'From beginner to winner, with moves techniques and strategies', the book begins by paying tribute to Bob Wade's classic *Playing Chess* (Batsford, 1974), before introducing the pieces and moves ahead of some basic tactical and positional motifs. As well as covering a few classic openings and games, Sean most certainly doesn't neglect the rich history of the royal game, with readers likely to come away having not just fully grasped the basics of chess, but also developed a strong interest in its characters and complexities.

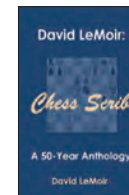
Batsford have also reprinted *Chess: The Art of Logical Thinking* (256 pages, paperback), in which Neil McDonald analyses 30 top-level games with the aim of improving the reader's ability to plan. Now back in stock at Chess & Bridge, *Chess: The Art of Logical Thinking* is available for just £14.99 or £13.49 for Subscribers.



### Checkmate: TV Season Two

Anna Richardson & Simon Williams (hosts),  
DVD, running time: 4 hours  
RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

At long last the second series of *Checkmate* is out, most professionally produced by Alan Byron's Screenbound production company. Over nine episodes, an intriguing mix of players, including Nigel Short, Mariya Muzychuk and Richard Rapport battle it out for the £20,000 first prize, with Richardson interviewing them after each game, while Simon Williams presents the best bits of the chess action.



### Chess Scribe: A 50-Year Anthology

David LeMoir, 268 pages, paperback  
RRP £15.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £14.39**

*Chess Scribe* is an entertaining read, as well as one which will surely indirectly improve readers' tactical and attacking play. Those are two areas in which David LeMoir has always excelled at the chess board, and here he presents a collection of his favourite annotations and articles, spanning half a century. See pp. 36-37 for more details.



### Greatest 440 Puzzles

Csaba Balogh, 216 pages, paperback  
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Chess Evolution do like their puzzle books with Balogh's latest collection subtitled 'The Best Online Tactics of 2020'. Readers will likely want to progress from the 'Easy' to the 'Medium' to the 'Hard' chapters, with full solutions given to each position and pretty much every standard type of sacrifice appearing at least once.

Also just out from Chess Evolution is Efstratios Grivas's *Grivas Opening Laboratory Volume 6* (RRP £23.95; Subscribers –



£21.55), in which the Greek GM continues to map out his detailed 1 d4 and 2 c4 repertoire for White, here tackling the main lines of the QGD, as well as the Semi-Slav.



### Opening Encyclopaedia 2021

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £89.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £80.95**

The *Opening Encyclopaedia* contains all of the theoretical articles and surveys from each issue of *ChessBase Magazine*. On this easy-to-navigate DVD, users will find almost 8,500 of them, as well as all the games featured in each. There's undoubtedly a survey if not many on just about every minor variation and these days the *Encyclopaedia* also contains some 22 hours of video footage. Those who like their theory and/or to peruse opening analysis should note that it's also possible to upgrade from *Opening Encyclopaedia 2020* for £64.95 (£58.45 for Subscribers and do make sure that you know the serial number when ordering from Chess & Bridge).

Also just out is *ChessBase Magazine 201* (RRP £17.99; Subscribers – £16.19), which looks at Anish Giri's victory in the Magnus Carlsen Invitational and also pays tribute to Vassily Ivanchuk. Mihail Marin's strategy column takes the viewer back to the super-strong 1991 Linares tournament, while on top of all the usual features and opening surveys, a number of new ideas for White are presented in the Belgrade Gambit, 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♗c3 ♗f6 4 d4 exd4 5 ♗d5!?



### Play the Budapest Gambit

Andrew Martin, 384 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99? **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99?**

This is arguably Andrew Martin's best work to date. The popular coach and presenter gives a real cri de cœur as to why 1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 e5 is an excellent choice at club level. Martin accepts that grandmasters should only use the opening as a surprise weapon, and is not afraid to admit when White is better, but believes that matters are far from easy in White in practice, whether Black follows up with 3 dxe5 ♗g4 or even the Fajarowicz Gambit, 3...♗e4!?. All the key ideas for both sides are mapped out and more before Martin tackles the theory in some detail, including some fascinating new ideas.

### Puzzle Quest 2020

Ivan Ivanisevic, 304 pages, hardback

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

This training work features over 500

positions for readers to solve with the Serbian Grandmaster hoping not only to make solvers sharper, but especially to improve their evaluation skills. The positions are given chronologically, but categorised for difficulty on a 1-5 scale and while some do feature a stunning sacrifice, others require the right strategic path to be found.



### The Flexible Open Spanish

Sipke Ernst; PC-DVD, running time: 6 hours

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Dutch Grandmaster Sipke Ernst presents a repertoire with his beloved 1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♗f6 5 0-0 ♗xe4 for ChessBase. Carlsen and especially Mamedyarov played this way as Black in the recent Magnus Carlsen Invitational. The forcing nature of the Open Lopez makes ideal for helping to neutralise higher-rated opponents, although Ernst is also at pains to point out that it's also a good choice for outplaying lower-rated ones. He usefully maps out too a mini-repertoire for Black lest White ducks the Open variation with 5 d3 or the Exchange Lopez.



### The Grünfeld Formula

Andrew Martin; PC-DVD,

running time: 6 hours

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

What is the Grünfeld formula? It is based on Viktor Korchnoi's advice that you could do far worse than "Play Grünfeld against everything apart from 1 e4". As such, Martin looks at Black setting up with 1...♗f6, 2...g6 and aiming for ...d5, even when White doesn't play 1 d4 and 2 c4. In short, he shows how such an approach can work well against the London, Torre and even the Trompowsky, while also mapping out a repertoire for Black against White's first-move alternatives to 1 d4 and 1 e4, including even advocating 1 ♗f3 ♗f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♗c3 ♗g7 4 e4 e5!?



### The Modernized Italian Game for White

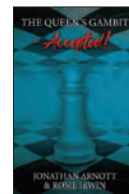
Alexander Kalinin & Nikolai Kalinichenko,

384 pages, paperback

RRP £30.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.85**

1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♗c4 has arguably been *the* opening of the past half decade or

so, and White is continuing to pose questions with the Giuoco Piano. In this work for Thinkers Publishing, the Russian authors tackle all the most common plans and positional motifs for both sides, which will make the reader fully aware of the importance of White's light-squared bishop, while also learning how to, for instance, deal with a black knight bound for f4. The choice of examples is generally excellent, with the authors relying heavily on verbal explanation ahead of finishing the work by mapping out a fairly detailed repertoire for White.



### The Queen's Gambit – Accepted!

Jonathan Arnott & Rosie Irwin,

224 pages, paperback

RRP £12.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.69**

This is not a work about 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4, but rather a pretty decent read and a book which would make a nice present for any friends or relatives looking to learn a little more about chess. Rosie Irwin was inspired to do just that after being captivated by Netflix's *The Queen's Gambit*. Like Beth Harmon, Rosie, who is featured on page 25 of this issue, has had her own demons, but also rapidly developed a love of the game. Here we see how an adult who only knows how to move the pieces might progress from 300 or so to a pretty healthy 1300 rating, as Rosie has done. As we follow Rosie's story, her coach, Jonathan Arnott, explains the most important things which he taught her, be it the value of king safety or how to know when to launch an attack.

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