

Volume 86 No. 2 May 2021 £4.95

[www.chess.co.uk](http://www.chess.co.uk)

# Chess

## FORWARDS AND BACKWARDS IN TIME



1921, not 2021 - John Saunders became engrossed researching the 1921 Varsity match

Gillian Moore - Ben Graff wonders if Gillian could be Britain's answer to Beth Harmon

Two-Move Trap - Geoff Chandler caught up with talented 10-year-old Freddy Gordon

# Chess

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Chess Magazine (ISSN 0964-6221) is published by:  
Chess & Bridge Ltd, 44 Baker St, London, W1U 7RT  
Tel: 020 7486 7015  
Email: info@chess.co.uk, Website: www.chess.co.uk

Twitter: @CHESS\_Magazine  
Twitter: @TelegraphChess - Malcolm Pein  
Twitter: @chessandbridge

## Subscription Rates:

### United Kingdom

1 year (12 issues)	£50
2 year (24 issues)	£90
3 year (36 issues)	£125

### Europe

1 year (12 issues)	£60
2 year (24 issues)	£115
3 year (36 issues)	£165

### Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues)	£75
2 year (24 issues)	£145
3 year (36 issues)	£210

Distributed by:  
LMPI (North America)  
8155 Larrey Street, Montreal (Quebec),  
H1J 2L5, Canada - Tel: 514 355-5610

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors. Contributions to the magazine will be published at the Editors' discretion and may be shortened if space is limited.

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## FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read  
Cover image: Pexels.com

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Printed in the UK by The Magazine Printing Company using only paper from FSC/PEFC suppliers [www.magprint.co.uk](http://www.magprint.co.uk)

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# Back at the Board!

## The 2021 Israeli Championship took place over the board. Yochanan Afek reports

The 40th Israeli Chess Championships took place in the Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Haifa in March, symbolising a cautious return to tangible chess, as well as normal life in general following the rapid and successful national vaccination campaign in Israel. The tournament was organised by the Israeli Chess Federation and kindly supported by the national sports authority, the national lottery and the local municipality.

Besides the natural joy of playing over-the-board chess again, the 46 men and women were competing for titles, norms and a prize fund of 100,000 Israeli new shekels, of which the first prize was 20,000 NIS (approx. £4,300).

The only accompanying event, in accordance with the pandemic regulations, was a simul given by GM Danny Raznikov against 20 local amateurs, in which he scored +16 =4.

### The Open Championship

32 players, including 10 grandmasters and six international masters, competed in the nine-round open section. It involved invited players alongside young talents who had qualified from the preliminary stages, as well as two members of the Israeli women team, WGM Marsel Efroimski and WIM Michal Lahav, who preferred a tough challenge to participation in the Israeli Ladies Championship. The oldest participant was three-time champion, the evergreen IM Nathan Birnboim, who is now 70, which made him some 56 years older than the youngest player, IM Eytan Rozen.

After a somewhat slow start with 2½/4, GM Victor Mikhalevski won four in a row, defeating, amongst others, then clubhouse leaders Tamir Nabaty and Avital Boruchovsky, before finishing with a draw against Ori Kobo to reach 7/9 and bring home a second championship title at the age of 48. Half a point behind Mikhalevski were FM Ido Gorshtein and GM Tamir Nabaty, with GMs Avital Boruchovsky and Ori Kobo 6 a further half point back.

Following a whole year of almost no live chess activity, all the players demonstrated a remarkable appetite and joy for the real thing. The number of decisive games was exceptionally high, albeit often owing to unusual blunders, especially in the final third of the event. Quite a few players, notably the older ones, were out of form due to what seemed to be a result of a continuous lack of competitive practice and an overdose of online

superficial rapid and blitz activity. Even the top players, such as the 2638-rated Tamir Nabaty, fell victim to being in bad shape at times, as may be seen in the following miniature.

### V.Mikhalevski-T.Nabaty

Round 7  
*Reti Opening*

1 ♖f3 d5 2 g3 ♙f5 3 ♙g2 c6 4 ♘h4 ♙g4 5 c4 dxc4 6 ♗a3 e5?!

The unusual set-up of the white knights tempts Black to take over the centre, creating potential future targets on e5 and f5. A less ambitious setting should therefore have been chosen, such as 6...g6 7 0-0 ♙g7 8 ♗xc4 ♗f6 9 d4 0-0.

7 ♗xc4 ♗d7 8 d4 ♙b4+?

The first misguided step in weakening the dark squares.

9 ♙d2 ♗e7 10 ♗e3 ♙e6 11 ♗ef5 ♙xf5 12 ♗xf5 ♙xd2+ 13 ♗xd2 ♗f6 14 ♙h3!?



14...g6??

Already a fatal error, although 14...exd4 15 ♗b4! 0-0-0 16 ♗d6 is not fun either.

15 dxe5! ♗xe5 16 ♗d6+ ♙f8 17 f4 1-0

The knight is trapped. This was a decisive moment in the battle for the top honours.

The penultimate round saw as many as 11 of the 16 games end decisively. On top board, Mikhalevski widened the gap between himself and the chasing pack to a full point.

### V.Mikhalevski-A.Boruchovsky

Round 8  
*King's Indian Attack*

1 ♖f3 d5 2 g3 e6 3 ♙g2 ♗f6 4 0-0 b5 5 d3 ♙e7 6 e4 c6 7 e5 ♗fd7 8 h4 0-0

9 ♙e1 b4 10 ♗bd2 c5 11 ♗f1 ♗c6 12 ♗1h2 a5 13 ♙f4 a4 14 c4 ♗b6 15 ♗e2 ♙b7 16 h5 ♗a5 17 ♙ac1 ♙a7?



Black had to prevent the opponent's next move by means of 17...h6!. The typical dangers of a sacrifice on h6 or the breakthrough g4-g5 are more likely to be dealt with than the permanent weakness of the dark squares which now occurred.

18 h6! g6 19 ♗g4 ♗d7 20 ♙ed1 ♙e8 21 ♗e3?

Correct is 21 ♗d2! to allow ♙g5: for example, 21...d4 22 ♙g5 ♙xf3 23 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 24 ♙xf3 when White is better.

21...♗a8?

Returning the favour. Instead, 21...d4! is strong as 22 ♗d2?? allows 22...♙xf3! 23 ♙xf3 g5!, trapping the bishop.

22 ♙g5! ♙f8 23 ♗f4 ♗c6



24 cxd5

24 d4! cxd4 25 cxd5 exd5 26 ♙f6! clears g5 for the knight.

24...exd5 25 ♙f6 ♗e7?

This accelerates the end, but Black was, of course, in dire straits anyway.

26 e6! fxe6 27 ♗fe5 ♗xe5 28 ♙xe5

♠f5 29 ♖f6+ ♕f7 30 g4! ♙xh6 31 ♖h2  
 ♜h8 32 ♜xc5 ♙g7 33 gxf5 1-0

18-year-old FM (and IM elect) Ido Gorshtein secured a fine and most enjoyable result, winning the silver medal in Haifa while scoring his first GM norm. In round 3 he met one of the favourites, Evgeny Postny. The game was more or less equal when White noticed a tempting target on the kingside and rushed to challenge it.

### E.Postny-I.Gorshtein

Round 3



#### 32 ♖e1?

Correct was 32 ♜d2 ♜xd2 33 ♙xd2 ♖c7 and the position remains equal.

#### 32...♙f2! 33 ♜d2??

Overlooking the threatened fork.

#### 33...♖b7!

The double threat on both sides of the board forces the fall of White's knight.

34 ♜xf2 gxf2+ 35 ♖xf2 ♖xb3 36 ♖f4 ♖b1+ 37 ♙h2 ♖b7 38 ♖e5 h5 39 c5 ♖c6

Despite being a piece down, White fought on and only laid his arms down on move 55.

Ido Gorshtein even took the sole lead for a round after defeating top seed Nabaty prior to suffering his only defeat of the competition when White spotted Black's key defensive piece and hurried to liquidate it.

### A.Boruchovsky-I.Gorshtein

Round 5



#### 33 ♜xc5!

An instructive exchange sacrifice.



Watched by IM-norm-making Yeshaayahu Tzidkiya, Viktor Mikhalevski is deep in thought. The 2014 Israeli Champion and noted theoretician showed that even aged 48, he still packs a punch.

#### 33...♖xc5

Or 33...♜xc5 34 ♜e6 ♖f7 35 ♖e5 ♜a7 36 ♜xb6! ♙g8 37 ♜e6 ♙h7 38 ♖e3 ♖f8 39 ♖xc5 ♖d8 40 ♜c6 ♖a8 41 c4 ♖b8 42 ♜e6 when Black is hopelessly lost.

#### 34 ♜e6 ♖f7 35 ♙c6 ♜a6 36 ♖e2 ♜xc6

A counter exchange sacrifice, but also a case of too little, too late.

#### 37 dxc6 ♖e8 38 ♖a6 ♙f7 39 ♜e1 ♙g8 40 ♖b7 1-0

Stopping the passed pawn will sooner or later cost Black his c7-pawn, thereby allowing White a second passer.

19-year-old IM Yair Parkhov was, besides the new champion, the only player to remain unbeaten throughout the entire tournament. On his way to sharing sixth place, he missed a couple of opportunities. The following was especially instructive.

### I.Gorshtein-Y.Parkhov

Round 8



#### 28...♙g8?!

Missing the moment for the natural 28...h4! 29 gxh4 (or 29 g4 ♙g3 30 ♜c2 ♖xf4!

31 exf4 ♜e1 when Black wins owing to the lethal threat of ...♙h1#) 29...♜xe3 30 ♜xe3 ♜xe3 31 ♜xe3 ♖xf4 32 ♜e1 and in this winning position the most straightforward and elegant method is: 32...♙g4+ 33 ♙f1 ♙g3+ 34 ♙g1 ♙e4! 35 ♙xe4 ♖h2+ 36 ♙f1 ♖h1+ 37 ♙e2 ♖xg2+ 38 ♙d1 dxe4 39 ♖e2 ♙f2+ 40 ♙c2 ♙d3!!, and wins.

#### 29 ♖b1 ♙h6

Black has chosen to continue manoeuvring, searching for a second weakness around the enemy king.

30 ♖c1 g5 31 ♙fd3 ♙hg4+!? 32 fxg4 ♙xg4+ 33 ♙g1 ♖xg3 34 ♙f2 f5 35 ♙cd3 ½-½

Black has nothing better than splitting the point by, for example, 35...♙h2 36 ♖xc6 ♙f3+ 37 ♙f1 ♙h2+ and it's perpetual check.



A fine performance from 18-year-old Ido Gorshtein, a member of the Kfar Saba Club. The teenager only lost once and took the silver medal with 6½ points, in the process unsurprisingly achieving his first GM norm.

## The Women's Championship

Yuliya Shvayger's victory in the 14-player Women's Championship came as no surprise. None of her rivals were able to pose a serious threat as the gap of about 250 rating points to her closest challenger unsurprisingly proved a substantial one. Shvayger lost just one game, in the third round against young Michelle Katkov, who went on to tie for third on 5½/9. The defending champion won the remainder of her games to end up two points ahead of the field and so successfully retain her title.

Both new champions emigrated to Israel in their youth from Belarus (Victor) and Ukraine (Yuliya), and they are both members of the dominant chess club of the southern capital of Beer Sheba.

### A New Record

A unique record was set in the last round of the open section. The game between Eytan Rozen and Marsel Efroimski lasted some 233 moves and seven and a half hours. After just 25 moves a queen endgame was reached and by move 70 White had queen and three against queen and two with all the remaining pawns on the same side. Unlike in Vachier-Lagrave against Donchenko at Wijk, which I presented earlier this year in these pages, Black held tight and eventually obtained a half-point.

No prizes or norms were at stake, but "After a year of forced absence, we were just eager to carry on the joy of playing a real game, reluctant to leave the board," explained Marsel, half-jokingly afterwards. This was arguably the longest official classical game ever played in Israel, and possibly also the third longest one in the history of competitive chess (so one may say they were playing for something after all).

Longer games are: Ivan Nikolic vs Goran Arsovic, Belgrade 1989 (269 moves, 20 hours, a draw); Alexander Danin vs Sergei Azarov, Czech League 2016 (239 moves, White won); and another game, Lauren Fressinet vs Alexandra Kosteniuk, Villandry 2007, lasted 237 moves (Black won), but was a rapid clash. All three battles involved rook and bishop against rook.

The previous Israeli record was set in the game Yaakov Mashian vs Idael Stepak, played in the semi-final of the Israeli Championship at Tel Aviv in 1980, which lasted 193 moves over 24 hours and 30 minutes. Stepak won the eventual queen ending and consequently qualified for the final. Your reporter, who would have also qualified had Mashian drawn, attended all the nightmarish adjournments sessions.

This saga, nevertheless, had a happy ending after all when, following the withdrawal of a couple of invitees, both Mashian and yours truly eventually made it to the 1980 final in any case. The Mashian-Stepak encounter also broke an earlier 30-year-old record in which an Israeli player was involved: Moshe Czerniak vs Herman Pilnik,



With WGM Marsel Efroimski and WIM Michal Lahav playing in the main event, and despite being busy of late with academia, 26-year-old IM Yuliya Shvayger was a hot favourite to defend her women's title. The Beer Sheba star did so comfortably, outclassing the field and amassing '+7'.

Mar del Plata 1950, which lasted 191 moves and ended in a draw following... a rook and bishop versus rook ending.

### Attacking Joy

Rather than inflict those 233 moves of Rozen-Efroimski upon readers, it would be more fitting to finish in the prevailing spirit of the 2021 Israeli Championships, where everyone simply enjoyed being back at the board – and attacking chess was often to the fore.

WGM Marsel Efroimski is currently the highest-rated Israeli female player and was one of two women who elected to compete in the Open Championship.

#### M.Efroimski-N.Parnes

Round 7  
Pirc Defence

1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♘f6 3 ♘c3 g6 4 ♙f4 c6 5 ♗d2 ♘bd7 6 ♘f3 ♙g7 7 ♙h6 0-0 8 h4 e5 9 h5 ♘xh5 10 0-0-0 ♙xh6 11 ♗xh6 ♗f6 12 dxe5 dxe5



13 ♗xd7!  
Removing a key defender.  
13...♙xd7 14 ♗xh5!

Two exchange sacrifices in a row, but this second rook is, of course, taboo due to the pin.

14...♗f4+ 15 ♗xf4 exf4 16 ♖h1 f6 17 ♙d3 ♙g7 18 ♘e2 g5 19 e5 h6 20 exf6+ ♗xf6 21 ♘xg5!



21...♙g4  
Or 21...hxg5 22 ♖h7+ ♙g8 23 ♗d7 f3 24 gxf3 ♗xf3 25 ♖xb7 ♗xf2 26 ♘g3 with an easy win.

22 f3 hxg5 23 ♖h7+ ♙g8 24 fxc4  
And White went on to convert her advantage on move 37.

Quite a few of the fatal errors were quite special and even instructive, not least the following. A 20-move miniature is rather rare when an IM meets a GM.

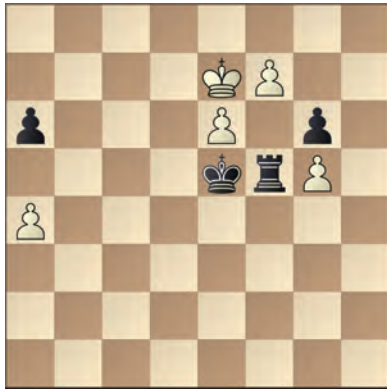
#### T.Haimovich-O.Kobo

Round 4  
Tarrasch Defence

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 c5 4 e3 ♘f6 5 ♘f3 a6 6 cxd5 exd5 7 ♙e2 ♘c6 8 0-0 ♙d6 9 dxc5 ♙xc5 10 b3 0-0 11 ♙b2 ♙a7 12 ♗c1 ♗e8 13 ♘a4 ♘e4 14 ♘d4 ♗g5 15 ♘f3??



**T.Nabaty-A.Solomon**  
Round 9



15...♖xf2!! 16 ♗xf2

The alternatives are hardly better. Neither 16 ♗xg5 ♗xd1 17 ♖cxd1 ♗xe3+ 18 ♖h1 ♗xg5 nor 16 ♖xf2 ♗xe3 offer White any hope.

16...♗xe3+ 17 ♖e1 ♗xg2 18 ♖c3 ♗g4 19 ♖xe3 ♖xe3 20 ♗c1 ♗xf3 0-1

After 21 ♖xf3 ♖e8 22 ♖f2 ♗g1+ 23 ♖f1 ♗xh2 24 ♖f2 ♗g1+ 25 ♖f1 ♗g3+ 26 ♖f2 ♗d4 White is fatally double pinned.

Finally, let us see how Tamir Nabaty recovered from his bitter defeat at the hands of Mikhailovsky to eventually ascend nonetheless to the medal podium with a respectable third place. His game against Asif Solomon was fairly equal in most of its stages, but a single fatal error in the rook ending led to the following position. Still there is just a narrow winning path for White.

73 a5!

73 ♗d7!? also seems to win, despite losing time, but the thematic try is, of course, 73 f8♗? when 73...♖xf8 74 ♗xf8 ♗xe6 75 ♗g7? (75 ♗e8 a5 76 ♗d8 ♗f5 77 ♗c7 ♗xg5 78 ♗b6 ♗f4 79 ♗xa5 still draws) 75...♗f5 76 ♗h6 a5 is a reciprocal zugzwang position with White to play – and lose.

73...♖f4 74 f8♗ ♖xf8 75 ♗xf8 ♗xe6 76 ♗g7 ♗f5 77 ♗h6 1-0

It's the same reciprocal zugzwang, but now it's Black to play and lose the game, if not the IM norm which Solomon had already secured.



Kudos to 70-year-old IM Nathan Birnboim (pictured above right), from the Ashdod club and the eldest participant. The three-time former champion finished seventh with 5½ points and even fought in the last round for a GM norm, albeit alas without success against Ido Gorshtein..

**25<sup>TH</sup> 4NCL CONGRESS**  
Friday 9 July to Sunday 11 July  
to be held at The Woodland Grange Hotel, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN  
For further information please visit:  
**www.4ncl.co.uk**



**A little bird just told me**

A round-up of what the top players and chess personalities have been saying on Twitter

**Dom Joly - @domjoly**

I have started a chess controversy on my @twitch channel chat with @ginger\_gm last night. If we call the piece a rook, as chess snobs insist we do, why do we "castle?" #chess

**Simon Williams - @ginger\_gm**

They say never meet your heroes. \*\*\*\* that. Tonight's stream was one of my favourite streams of all time. What an absolute legend @SteveSnooker is, and a bloody good chess player! YouTube video coming out soon.

**Magnus Carlsen - @MagnusCarlsen**

Well that backfired! Congrats and well played @anishgiri.

**Hikaru Nakamura - @GMHikaru**

Huge congrats to @anishgiri for his win of the Magnus Invitational. Well done! If you missed the tiebreaks and want to see the shock at the blunder, it's up on my 2nd youtube channel here: [youtu.be/NoyR1wx6yZ0](https://youtu.be/NoyR1wx6yZ0) It's a little channel, Anish, but maybe it'll catch up to you soon!

**Anish Giri - @anishgiri**

Guys, do subscribe to the second YT channel of my man Hikaru! He needs to grow the second game too.

**chess24.com - @chess24com**

Vladimir Kramnik calls flagging "a loser's mentality"! The 14th World Champion talked to the young players starting the Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour in one week's time. Also, which two Soviet players of his generation were considered most talented?

**Nigel Short - @nigelshortchess**

I met the Duke of Edinburgh just once, at Buckingham Palace, at a celebration of British sporting excellence. I can recall the entire conversation. Prince Philip: "Chess? Why not gardening? It's outdoors and you get plenty of exercise!"

**Norway Chess - @NorwayChess**

Norway Chess 2021 is scheduled for September. We look forward to over the board chess again!

**Shaun Press - @shaunpress**

2021 O2C Doeberl Cup – Australia's biggest tournament is back, with 325 players returning to the board @FIDE\_chess.

**Chess History - @MrMarksTV**

Draws in chess is not a fault of chess, but it's a fault of chess players – Alexander Alekhine.



# 60 Seconds with... Aga Milewska



**But less memorable than your worst move?** I always put my worst moves into the 'recycle bin' part of my memory.

**And a highly memorable opponent?** Malcolm Pein. I see him all the time, but play him rarely.

**Favourite game of all time?** Kasparov's Immortal against Topalov.

36 ♖f1! ♜d2 37 ♜d7 ♜xd7 38 ♜xc4  
bxc4 39 ♜xh8 ♜d3 40 ♜a8 c3 41 ♜a4+  
♜e1 42 f4 f5 43 ♜c1 ♜d2 44 ♜a7 1-0

**The best three chess books:** *My System* by Aron Nimzowitsch, Anatoly Karpov's *Caro-Kann Defence: Advance Variation and Gambit System*, and *Think Like a Grandmaster* by Alexander Kotov.

**Is FIDE doing a good job?** Switching from a 64-player knockout to a proper match format for the women's world chess championship was a big improvement. By keeping the match format, as well as making more space for women's and girls' tournaments, they will be on the right track.

**Or your National Federation?** The ECF has come on a long way since I first moved to the UK, especially performing well for supporting junior chess and top level international tournaments. Onwards and upwards!

**Any advice for either?** As the ECF's Alternate Director of Women's Chess, I'll just say we do a good job. I'm so relieved these days to see a better grading system.

**Can chess make one happy?** If you are prepared to take the crushing lows with the dizzying highs then yes.

**A tip please for the club player:** Play opponents better than you, and when you lose to them, ask them to show you where you went wrong afterwards.

*Ed. – Chess in Schools and Communities have adapted well and continued to provide chess tuition in a great many schools during the pandemic. If you haven't caught up for a while with the fine work done by Aga and her colleagues, do just enjoy perusing chessinschools.co.uk.*

## G.Kasparov-V.Topalov Wijk aan Zee 1999 Pirc Defence

1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♞f6 3 ♞c3 g6 4 ♜e3 ♜g7  
5 ♜d2 c6 6 f3 b5 7 ♞ge2 ♞bd7 8 ♜h6  
♜xh6 9 ♜xh6 ♜b7 10 a3 e5 11 0-0-0  
♜e7 12 ♜b1 a6 13 ♞c1 0-0-0 14 ♞b3  
exd4 15 ♜xd4 c5 16 ♜d1 ♞b6 17 g3 ♜b8  
18 ♞a5 ♜a8 19 ♜h3 d5 20 ♜f4+ ♜a7  
21 ♜he1 d4 22 ♞d5 ♞bx5 23 exd5 ♜d6



24 ♜xd4! cxd4 25 ♜e7+! ♜b6 26  
♜xd4+ ♜xa5 27 b4+ ♜a4 28 ♜c3 ♜xd5  
29 ♜a7 ♜b7 30 ♜xb7 ♜c4 31 ♜xf6  
♜xa3? 32 ♜xa6+ ♜xb4 33 c3+ ♜xc3 34  
♜a1+ ♜d2 35 ♜b2+ ♜d1



**Born:** Augustow, Poland, 2nd January 1985.

**Place of residence:** London.

**Occupation:** Office Manager at Chess in Schools and Communities.

**Enjoyable?** In the run up to organising big events, no; but once they get started, yes!

**And home life?** I spend my time with my dog Milo and trying to persuade my son that chess is better than *Fortnite*.

**But sometimes good to escape to:** The seaside or a lake. Having been born around lakes, I find the water calming.

**Sports played or followed:** Just chess. I used to watch chessboxing, but I cannot stand to see my friends getting punched.

**A favourite novel?** *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer.

**Piece of music?** Oh, too many to name. It's totally dependent on my mood.

**Film or TV series?** *Queen's Gambit* of course.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?** That I can exclude everything else and just focus on the game.

**And the worst?** Making silly mistakes.

**Your best move?** Checkmate!

# Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability, with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come mainly from various recent tournaments, not least the 4NCL Online League and the Magnus Carlsen Invitational. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just win a pawn.

**Solutions on pages 54.**



## Warm-up Puzzles



**(1) A.Goss-B.Connell**  
Bunratty Online Blitz 2021  
*Black to Play*



**(2) D.Garcia Ramos-M.Maurizzi**  
Barcelona 2021  
*Black to Play and Draw*



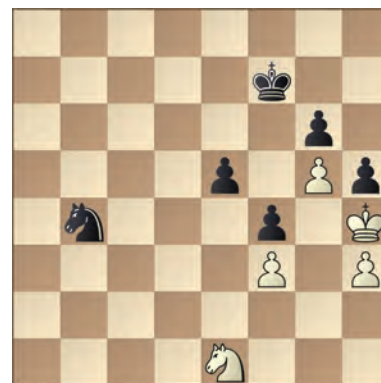
**(3) T.Radjabov-W.So**  
Opera Euro Rapid 2021  
*Black to Play*



**(4) S.Melaugh-R.Renji**  
Bunratty Online Blitz 2021  
*White to Play*



**(5) T.Radjabov-M.Vachier-Lagrave**  
Opera Euro Rapid 2021  
*White to Play*



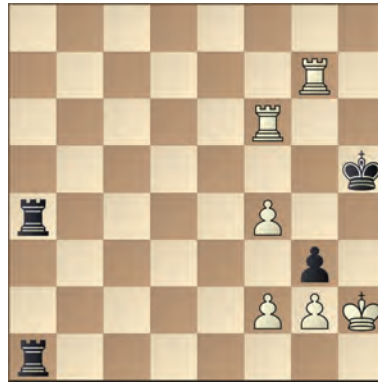
**(6) NN-S.Whitehead**  
Internet (blitz) 2021  
*White to Play and Draw*



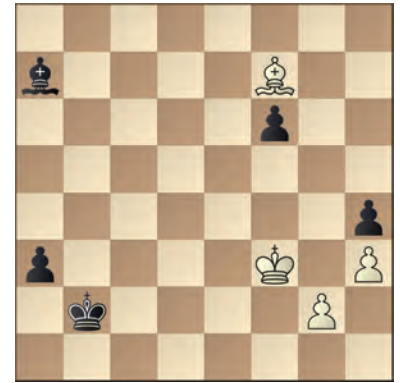
Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



**(7) A.Rich-D.Adam**  
4NCL Online Congress 2021  
*White to Play*



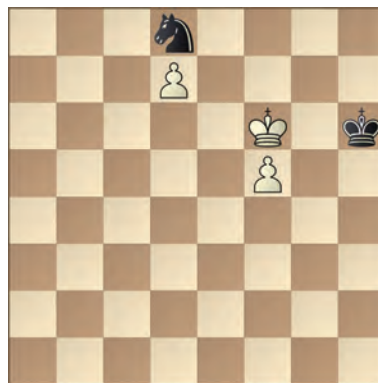
**(8) N.Spyropoulos-G.Shahade**  
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2021  
*White to Play*



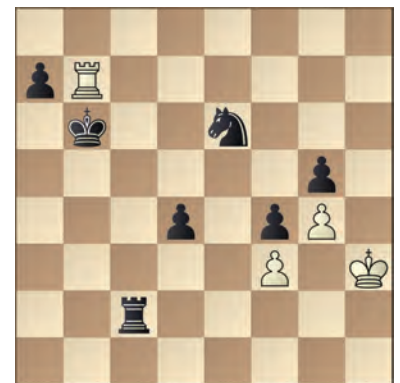
**(9) J.Rothwell-G.Oswald**  
4NCL Online League 2021  
*Black to Play*



**(10) L.Aronian-H.Nakamura**  
Airthings Masters 2020  
*White to Play*



**(11) M.Keetman-C.Kennaugh**  
4NCL Online League 2021  
*Black to Play and Draw*



**(12) J.Van Foreest-T.Radjabov**  
Magnus Carlsen Invitational 2021  
*Black to Play*



**(13) 'Rodrigostein'-O.Robson**  
Internet 2021  
*Black to Play*



**(14) I.Lysyj-A.Shomoev**  
Barnaul (rapid) 2021  
*White to Play*

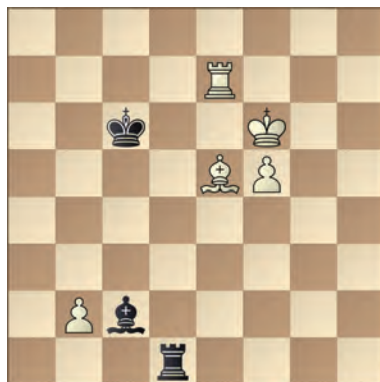


**(15) R.Sturt-A.Fier**  
Florianopolis Open 2021  
*White to Play*

## Harder Puzzles for the Club Player – Solutions on page 54



**(16) W.So-A.Giri**  
Magnus Carlsen Invitational 2021  
Black to Play



**(17) S.Mamedyarov-D.Dubov**  
Magnus Carlsen Invitational 2021  
Black to Play and Draw



**(18) A.Donchenko-F.Caruana**  
Wijk aan Zee 2021  
Black to Play



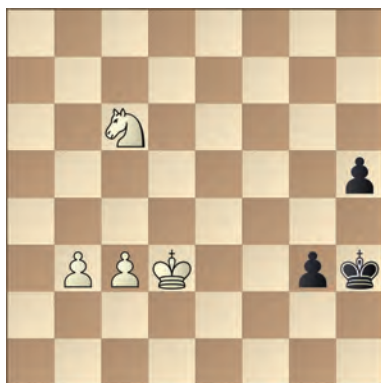
**(19) Br.Thorfinnsson-H.Stefansson**  
Icelandic Cup, Reykjavik 2021  
White to Play



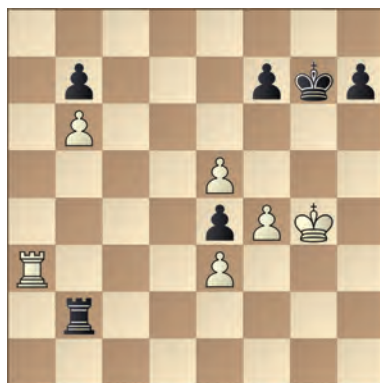
**(20) S.Shankland-Ding Liren**  
Opera Euro Rapid 2021  
Black to Play



**(21) J.Adair-P.Ackley**  
4NCL Online League 2021  
White to Play



**(22) D.Goltsev-F.Dowgird**  
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2021  
White to Play



**(23) F.Caruana-J.Van Foreest**  
Wijk aan Zee 2021  
White to Play



**(24) A.Firouzja-D.Anton Guijarro**  
Wijk aan Zee 2021  
White to Play



# Solutions

to Find the Winning Moves (pages 40-42)

## 1) Goss-Connell

1...♖c1+! 2 ♗e2 ♜b2+ 3 ♜f3 ♖c3+ 4 ♗e4 ♜e2+ 5 ♗d5 ♜e5# 0-1

## 2) Garcia Ramos-Maurizzi

White has just thrown away all his hard work by capturing a black knight on e6: 1...♜a3+! 2 ♗c4 (or 2 ♗c2 ♜b2+ 3 ♗d3 ♜e2+ 4 ♗c3 ♜b2+ 5 ♗c4, transposing) 2...♜b4+ 3 ♗d5 ♜d6+ 4 ♗e4 ♜f4+ (a classic stalemate theme, as the desperado queen encircles the white king which is unable to escape) 5 ♗d3 ♜d2+ 6 ♗c4 ♜b4+ 7 ♗d5 ♜d6+ 8 ♗xd6 ½-½

## 3) Radjabov-So

1...♗d3+! 2 ♜xd3 (2 ♗xd3? ♜xd2+ wins even more material) 2...♗xd3 3 ♜xb2 ♜xc3 4 ♗xd3 ♜xd3 saw Black going on to exploit the extra queen.

## 4) Melaugh-Renji

1 ♗f8! (not the only winning move, but by far the most incisive) 1...a3? (1...♜xb7 2 ♜xb7 ♗xf8 3 c6 also wins) 2 ♗xg7+ ♜xg7 3 ♜xg7# 1-0

## 5) Radjabov-Vachier-Lagrave

1 ♜xe7+! ♜xe7 2 ♜xg8 ♜f3 (or 2...♜g4 3 ♗xe7 ♗xe7 4 ♖c8) 3 ♖d8+! ♗xd8 4 g8♜+ (now the loose rook on f3 will fall) 4...♜e8 5 ♜g5+ 1-0

## 6) NN-Whitehead

After 1 ♗c2? ♗c6 there was nothing to be done about 2...♗e7 and 3...♗f5#, but 1 ♗d3! would have drawn, in view of 1...♗c6 (or 1...e4 2 ♗xf4 e3 3 ♗g3) 2 ♗xe5+! when 2...♗xe5 would, of course, be stalemate.

## 7) Rich-Adam

1 ♗xf7! (1 ♗xh5? gxh5 is only unclear in view of 2 ♗h7? ♗g4) 1...♗xf7 (1...♗xf7 2 ♜xg6+ ♗f8 3 ♗xh5! forces mate) 2 ♜xg6+ ♗f8 3 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 4 ♜xf6 regained the piece, leaving White two pawns to the good and still with a devastating initiative.

## 8) Spyropoulos-Shahade

1 ♜xg3! is the simplest win followed by 2 ♜h3# or 1...♜a3 2 ♜g5+ ♗h4 3 ♜h6#. 1 ♗xg3 and even 1 ♗h3 also win, but not the game continuation: 1 fxg3? ♜h1+! 2 ♗xh1 ♜a1+ 3 ♗h2 ♜h1+! 4 ♗xh1 ½-½.

## 9) Rothwell-Oswald

1...♗b8! is the simplest way to win, followed by ...♗g3 or 2 g4 hxg3 3 h4 f5 4 h5 ♗e5, and 1...f5!? 2 g3 hxg3 3 ♗xg3 ♗e3 also works, whereas the game was to see White able to pull off a slightly fortuitous save: 1...a2? 2 ♗xa2 ♗xa2 3 g3! hxg3 4 ♗xg3 (Black will no longer be able to keep his

f-pawn and halt the h-pawn) 4...♗b3 5 h4 ♗c4 6 ♗g4 ♗d5 7 ♗f5 ½-½.

## 10) Aronian-Nakamura

1 ♜xa6! 1-0 If 1...♜xa6 2 c8♜+ or 1...♜c8 2 a5 b4 3 ♜b6 followed by a6 when White's pawns prove much the more potent.

## 11) Keetman-Kennaugh

Black had defended a tricky endgame most impressively, but now erred: 1...♗h7? 2 ♗e7 ♗c6+ 3 ♗f7 (or 3 ♗d6 ♗d8 4 ♗c7 ♗f7 5 d8♜ ♗xd8 6 ♗xd8 ♗g7 7 ♗e7) 3...♗h8 4 f6 ♗h7 5 ♗e8 ♗g6 6 f7 1-0. Instead, 1...♗c6! would have drawn, and if 2 ♗f7 (or 2 ♗e6 ♗g7 3 f6+ ♗f8) 2...♗g5! 3 f6 ♗e5+ 4 ♗e7 ♗xd7.

## 12) Van Foreest-Radjabov

1...♗c5! would have won (1...♗c6 2 ♖c7+ ♗b5! also works), and if 2 ♖c7+ (or 2 ♖b5+ ♗c4 3 ♖b4+ ♗c3 4 ♖b3+ ♗d2 5 ♖d3+ ♗e2) 2...♗b4 3 ♖xc2 d3 4 ♖a2 ♗d4 when the d-pawn would have proved decisive, whereas the game was to see Black unable to flee the mad dog rook: 1...♗a5? 2 ♖b5+! ♗a4 3 ♖b4+ ♗a3 4 ♖b3+ ♗xb3 ½-½.

## 13) 'Rodrigostein'-Robson

1...♜xa6! (even stronger than 1...d1♜! 2 ♜xd1 ♜xb6+ 3 ♗d3 ♜g2) 2 ♜xa6 ♜b3+ (2...d1♗+! 3 ♜xd1 ♜c5+ is pointed out by the machine, and if 4 ♜d4 ♖c3+ or 4 ♗f3 ♖c3+ 5 ♗g4 h5+ 6 ♗g5 ♗g7) 3 ♗e2 (or 3 ♜d3 ♖c3 4 ♜xc3 ♜xc3+ 5 ♗e2 ♖c1 and wins) 3...d1♜+! 4 ♗xd1 ♜g2+ 5 ♗e1 ♜xg3+ 6 ♗d1 ♜f3+! 7 ♗c1 ♜f1+ (hunting down the hapless white king to its doom; 7...♜xf4+ also does the business) 8 ♜d1 ♖c4+ 9 ♗b1 ♖b4+ 10 ♗c1 ♖b2# 0-1

## 14) Lysyj-Shomoev

A fine pendulum finish: 1 ♜e3! ♗f8 (Black cannot prevent the white rook swinging one way or the other, as if 1...♖d2 2 ♜h3) 2 ♖d3 1-0

## 15) Sturt-Fier

Play concluded: 1 ♜e1? ♖c2+ 2 ♗d6 ♖d2+ 3 ♗xc6 (3 ♗e7? fails to hide from the checks in view of 3...♜e2+! 4 ♜xe2 h1♜) 3...♗a7 4 ♗c7 ♖c2+ 5 ♗d6 ♖d2+ 6 ♗e7? ♖b2? 7 ♗d6 ♖d2+ 8 ♗c7 ½-½. Instead, the only way to win was the forcing 1 ♜a1! ♖c2+ 2 ♗d6 ♖d2+ 3 ♗e7 ♖e2+ 4 ♗xf7 ♖a2!? (or 4...♗a7 5 ♖b1) 5 ♜xa2 h1♜ 6 a7+ ♗xb7 7 a8♜+, as pointed out by Daniel Fernandez and Justin Tan in their excellent 1 e4... ChessPublishing column.

## 16) So-Giri

1...d4! 2 ♜xd4? (if 2 ♗g4 ♜e1+ 3 ♜xe1

♜xe1+ 4 ♗h2 ♗d3 and while 2 ♗f1 avoids losing material, unsurprisingly White's cause is still hopeless, not least in view of 2...♗a4 and ...♗c3, or 2...♜e2!? followed by 3 ♖d2 d3 or 3 ♜a1 ♗e4 4 ♖xd4 ♖a8 5 ♖b1 ♜e5 when Black's attack should be decisive, as shown by 6 ♖d3 ♗xf2 7 ♖d8+ ♖xd8 8 ♜xd8+ ♗h7 9 ♖d5 ♜f4) 2...♜xe3! 0-1 Black either collects the loose rook on d4 or wins thanks to 3 ♖xd8 ♜e1+.

## 17) Mamedyarov-Dubov

1...♜f1! 2 ♖c7+ (White is curiously short of a good move and something like 2 ♗c3 ♖xf5+ 3 ♗e6 ♖f4 should be an easy draw for Black thanks to his activity and the opposite-coloured bishops) 2...♗d5 3 ♖xc2 ♖xf5+! 4 ♗xf5 ½-½ 4 ♗e7 would have avoided the stalemate, but after 4...♜xe5+ 5 ♗d7 ♜e3 6 ♗c7 ♖b3 White isn't, of course, going to win.

## 18) Donchenko-Caruana

1...♗a3! 2 ♜xa2 (2 bxa3 fails to 2...b2+ 3 ♗c2 ♜b3+ 4 ♗d2 ♖c3+ 5 ♗d1 ♜xd4+) 2...bxa2 3 ♗c2 ♖b8! (3...a1♜? 4 ♗b4+ ♗b4 5 ♖xa1 ♗b6 6 ♗f3 would fight on) 4 ♖d8+ (desperation in view of 4 ♗c3 ♗xb2) 4...♖xd8 5 bxa3 c3! 6 ♗g3 ♖d2+ 7 ♗b3 ♗c5+ 0-1

## 19) Thorfinnsson-Stefansson

The game concluded: 1 ♜f6? a2 2 ♖f1 ♖c5+? 3 ♗h1 ♗e5 4 ♗e3? (4 h3! was essential when White would still have been OK in view of 4...a1♜ 5 e8♜+! ♜xe8 6 ♖xa1) 4...♜xc3 5 ♗f5 gxf5! 6 exf5 a1♜ 7 fxe6 ♜xf1+! 0-1. Instead, 1 ♗h5! would have won because of the point 1...a2 (or 1...gxh5 2 ♖b8+ ♖xb8 3 ♜g3+ ♗h8 4 ♜xb8+) 2 ♗f6+ ♗h8 3 ♜xa2!, and if 3...♜xa2? 4 ♖b8+.

## 20) Shankland-Ding Liren

1...♜ca7? 2 ♗b5 ♖xa5 3 f4! ♖a3+ 4 ♖6d3 saw White able to save himself and a playing-in-the-middle-of-the-night Ding later even lost. Instead, 1...♖c6! would have won, and if 2 ♗b7 ♖xd6 3 ♖xd6 ♖xa5 followed by ...♗h5-f4, or even the immediate 1...♗h5! followed by ...♗f4 or 2 ♗b5 ♖xa5 3 ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 4 ♖xd7+ ♗e6 5 ♖d2 ♖a3+ 6 ♗e2 ♗f4+ 7 ♗d1 ♖a1+ 8 ♗c2 ♖g1 when the win becomes clear.

## 21) Adair-Ackley

1 ♗xg6! ♗xd2? (or 1...fxg6 2 d7 overloading the black rook and so leaving White winning after, say, 2...♗d5!? 3 dxc8♜! ♗xb2+ 4 ♗b1 ♗xd2+ 5 ♖xd2 ♖xc8 6 ♗xb2 when there's just no defence with ♗d4 on the way and Black's king so hopelessly exposed, and if 6...♜a3+ 7 ♗b1 ♗f8 8 ♖h8+ ♗e7 9 ♖h7+ ♗f6 10 ♖f7+ ♗e5 11 ♗d4+! ♗d6 12 ♖xb7) 2 ♗e7# 1-0

## 22) Goltsev-Dowgird

1 ♗d4! (only this way; instead, 1 ♗e5? g2 2 ♗f3 ♗g3 3 ♗e3 h4 left Black fast enough and with a stalemate trick in the game: 4 ♗g1! h3 5 ♗e2+ ♗h2 6 ♗f2 ♗h1 7 b4

g1♖+! 8 ♘xg1 h2 9 ♘f3 ½-½) **1...g2** (instead, 1...h4 2 c4 g2 3 ♘e2 ♖h2 transposes, while here 3...♖g4 fails to 4 ♖e3! h3 5 ♖f2, and even 1...♖g2!? 2 c4 h4 3 c5 h3 4 c6 h2 5 c7 h1♖ 6 c8♖ should be winning – with care: for example, 6...♗f1+ 7 ♖e4 ♗e1+ 8 ♘d5 ♗a5+ 9 ♖c4 ♖h2 10 ♘e2 g2? 11 ♗h8+) **2 ♘e2 ♖h2 3 c4** leaves White too fast in view of **3...h4** (or 3...g1♖ 4 ♘xg1 ♖xg1 5 c5 h4 6 c6 h3 7 c7 h2 8 c8♖ h1♖ 9 ♗c1+ ♖h2 10 ♗h1+ ♖h1 11 b4) **4 c5 h3 5 c6 ♖h1 6 c7 h2 7 c8♖ g1♖** when it will be checkmate, not stalemate: **8 ♗c6+! ♗g2 9 ♘g3+ ♖g1 10 ♗c1+! ♖f2 11 ♗e3#**.

### 23) Caruana-Van Foreest

After 1 f5? ♗g2+! 2 ♖f4 h5! Black was able to generate sufficient counterplay to hold: 3 ♖xe4 h4 4 ♗a1 h3 5 ♖f3 ♗b2 6 ♗h1 h2 7

♖g3 ♗b5! 8 ♖f4 ♗b2 9 ♖f3 ♖h6 10 ♖f4 ♗f2+ 11 ♖g4 ♗e2 12 ♖f3 ♗b2 13 ♖g3 ♖g5 14 e6 fxe6 15 fxe6 ♗xb6 16 ♗xh2 ♗xe6 ½-½. Instead, White should have gone 1 ♗a1! ♗xb6 2 f5 or even **1 ♗a8! ♗g2+** (1...♗xb6 2 f5 followed by 3 f6+ wins as Black will eventually lose his f-pawn, as after 2...♗b2 3 f6+ ♖g6 4 ♗g8+ ♖h6 5 ♖f5! ♗f2+ 6 ♖xe4 b5 7 ♗g7) **2 ♖h4 ♗h2+** (or 2...♗e2 3 f5! ♗xe3 4 ♖h5 when White combines threats of mate and against f7, and wins, as with 4...♗h3+ 5 ♖g5 h6+ 6 ♖g4 ♗h1 7 f6+ ♖h7 8 e6!) **3 ♖g3** when there just isn't a defence, as demonstrated by Glenn Flear: **3...♗e2** (3...♗b2 4 f5 h5 5 f6+ ♖g6 6 ♖f4 followed by ♗g8+ would again be crushing) **4 f5! ♗xe3+ 5 ♖f4 ♗b3** (Black is also too slow after 5...♗e1 6 ♗b8!, and if 6...e3 7 ♗xb7 e2 8 ♖f3 ♗f1+ 9 ♖xe2 ♗xf5 10 ♗e7 followed by e6 and/or b7) **6 f6+**

**♖h6 7 ♗a1!** and once again White's initiative is a decisive one, since it would quickly be mate in the event of **7...♗xb6? 8 ♖f5**.

### 24) Firouzja-Anton Guijarro

**1 ♘e7!** (or 1 ♘h8+!?, and if 1...♗xh8 2 ♗xg7+ ♖f8 3 h6 followed by ♘g6(+) or 1...♖f8! 2 ♘8g6+ ♖f7 3 ♘e7!, transposing) **1...♘g5+!?** (1...♖xe7 2 ♗xg7+ ♗xg7 3 ♗xg7+ ♖f8 4 h6! followed by ♘g6+ is an easy win thanks to White's ideal coordination and mighty h-pawn) **2 fxg5 ♖xe7 3 gxf6+ ♖xf6 4 ♗g6+ ♖f7 5 ♘f3** (decisively improving the worst placed piece; ♘g5+ or ♘e5+ will follow) **5...♗df8 6 ♘e5+ ♖e7 7 ♗xg7+ ♗xg7 8 ♗xg7+ ♖f6 9 h6 ♗h8 10 ♖g4! ♗xh6 11 ♗d7 1-0** The black knight cannot escape without allowing mate on f7. A model lesson in the art of coordination from Firouzja.

# This Month's New Releases



### Playing the Caro-Kann

Lars Schandorff, 344 pages

Quality Chess

RRP £22.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.25**

Coverage of the Caro-Kann has increased of late and we have two new books on the subject this month. It has been just over a decade since Schandorff's wrote *Grandmaster Repertoire 7 – The Caro-Kann* (Quality Chess, 2010) and as he himself puts it in the introduction, "It is about time to revisit this remarkable opening."

This is not merely the older book with a few new bits and pieces bolted on: "The easiest approach would have been to update the old work, but instead I have chosen to write a completely new book that reflects the current state of affairs where Black plays the Caro-Kann to get a complicated, dynamic game instead of merely a solid one."

That's to say the entire repertoire has changed. "Some of my recommendations are the same as before. That's because they are simply the best!" This time, in contrast to the Gambit book's suggested repertoire (see below), we find 3...♗f5 the recommendation against the Advance variation which is, in the author's opinion, "both positionally sounder and more in the spirit of the opening" than 3...c5.

Remarkably, Schandorff's original recommendation of 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 dxe4 4 ♘xe4 ♗f5 has been replaced by 4...♘f6 5 ♘xf6 exf6, giving fans of this line a veritable bonanza of new material across this month's two Caro-Kann books. This book likes the 9...h5 mentioned in the Gambit book too.

Black is advised to play 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6 against the dangerous Panov Attack, which is "characterised as an intelligent waiting move" keeping the options open for the light-squared bishop. Forcing lines soon appear after 6 ♘f3 ♗g4 and Black may have to tolerate a dull ending or two. This makes the repertoire less combative than Johnsen and Hansen's in some respects, but the counter-argument would be that 5...♘c6 is sounder than 5...g6. Incidentally, just as the name of Tartakower has been erased from the 5...exf6 variation, so too has the name of the sixth champion of the world vanished from the Panov-Botvinnik Attack.

Schandorff is a very good writer. His books are very accessible and give the reader confidence by making them believe he really is on their side, a stance backed up by the use of the lines in his own games.

This book opts for game snippets and references as opposed to the full, model game approach used by Johnsen and Hansen. In general, I prefer the latter approach, but this book is definitely not a lazy database dump; Schandorff's prose explanations are excellent and will help the reader gain a true understanding of the Caro-Kann.

Sean Marsh



### Universal Chess Training

Wojciech Moranda, 360 pages

Thinkers Publishing

RRP £31.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.79**

What constitutes instructional value is a perennial question in chess literature, and increasingly so with a glut of training manuals and methods produced over the last few years. One can think of Panchenko, Zlotnik, Kalinin, and Sakaev, to name but the most exotic. All, of course, promise new levels of understanding and rating hikes, and demand considerable graft on the part of the reader, but distinct schools of thought appear to be emerging, notably around how material is organised.

One such group, which includes Karsten Müller, Jonathan Rowson, and even Ray Cheng, sees great benefit in reproducing game circumstances within the learning process. Müller, for example, presents a brief overview of key strategic motifs at the outset – prophylaxis, exchanges, outposts, and the like – then leaves the reader to determine which will apply in given test positions, with their evaluation then compared to the game's progress.

Falling squarely in this category is this new tome from Thinkers Publishing. The 90 positions supplied by Polish Grandmaster and

coach Wojciech Moranda have been chosen according to 'difficulty' rather than thematically, "to further your learning curve", as the author argues that offering hints "about the topic of an exercise will bias the person solving them, and in so doing neutralize the learning effect".

This is questionable. In a review praising Cheng's work, for example, Jeroen Bosch wrote that: "In a normal game situation, the player does not have somebody standing by him, telling him 'This position contains a good tactical move', or 'You need to find a defensive move'". But the whole point of training and instruction, surely, is that you do have someone standing by and offering guidance, or it's only the same lack of understanding that's recreated.

Learning occurs best through a systematic appraisal of structures and motifs: with the material organised thematically, pattern recognition can be developed in a coherent fashion so that said structures become not simply readily identifiable, but second nature. Fumbling in the dark at the very beginning appears of little value.

Unduly harsh? Certainly, there are very useful examples and nuggets of knowledge throughout Moranda's book – though the tests seem rather difficult for the 1600–1900 bracket. In talking about regrouping the worst-placed piece, for example, he notes the immediate synergy that occurs for the other pieces, and also that when static elements become unfavourable, then it's time to complicate matters. However, in keeping with the test selection, these are randomly identified. Indeed, all the examples mention the motifs, but then there follows two to three pages of analysis as the game's course supersedes any notion of what's trying to be taught.

As with many of Thinkers' books, *Universal Chess Training* includes a fair amount of verbal explanation to complement the variations. While normally admirable, this does, however, require more than a nodding acquaintance with the English language; the back-cover blurb of the book, for example, says that the "90 unique, hand-picked puzzles" are "extensively annotated and peculiarly organized" (though that may be more accurate than first thought). If a book costs over £30, you'd hope a decent translator would have been employed.

Stewart Player



**Win with the Caro-Kann**

Sverre Johnsen and Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen, 240 pages  
Gambit Publications  
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Gambit's book says "The Caro-Kann is a rare beast among chess openings. While repeated as a sound and safe way to start the

game, it also avoids symmetry or simplification. This allows Black many ways to keep the game unbalanced and play for a win."

This is a very good point. Anyone who plays the Caro-Kann and the French Defence will know the feeling after each of the respective Exchange variations. It is certainly much easier to face the rest of the game with combative confidence in the asymmetrical Caro-Kann version.

Johnsen will be known to readers for the previous books he wrote for Gambit, which include the popular *Win with the Stonewall Dutch* (Gambit Publications, 2014; co-authored with Ivar Bern). Hansen is a chess trainer and, according to the book, was also the Magnus Carlsen's first coach.

The book starts with the classical approach for White (1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3), and works its way through the Advance, Exchange and Panov before finishing by rounding up the more unusual second and third moves.

There are two recommendations against 3 ♖c3 or 3 ♖d2, which merely transposes. The Capablanca Variation (3...dxe4 4 ♗xe4 ♕f5) remains a solid option, but the most interesting part concerns what the authors have dubbed the 'Korchnoi variation', with 4...♗f6 5 ♗xf6+ exf6.

Readers of a certain age will remember this as the Tartakower variation. It is a little strange to name it after Korchnoi, who used the line very rarely indeed. His classic win against Torre at the 1978 Olympiad springs to kind, as does game 20 of his 1978 title match against Karpov, in which he had to defend extremely well to hold to the draw.

The Panov Attack, 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4, is met by 4...♗f6 5 ♖c3 g6, which is an ambitious line. Similarly, the Hansen variation, named after one of the co-authors, is based on an audacious pawn move: 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 dxe4 4 ♗xe4 ♗f6 5 ♗xf6 exf6 6 c3 ♕d6 7 ♕d3 0-0 8 ♗e2 ♜e8 9 ♖c2 h5!?



"This move was first played by Andrei Chigvintsev in 2014, but the variation didn't come to real attention until Irina Krush played it in 2017." Hansen has "used it in approximately 20 over-the-board tournament games, with only two losses."

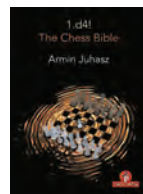
It is a startling move at first glance, but what is the point? A major factor is Black's dissatisfaction with the alternative methods

of defending h7. 9...g6, for example, invites 10 h4. After 9...h5, Black's h-pawn will even advance to h4, to cramp White's kingside. The knight will head to f8 via d7 and may even emerge at h7, before continuing the journey to g5. Suddenly the knight and the h-pawn will coordinate to assist a kingside attack. It is a very unusual and interesting idea.

The material is split into 30 lessons, with each one featuring a model game. There is a section at the end of each lesson called a 'Theory Magnifier' which provides additional information. This novelty works well as it keeps the model games uncluttered.

Summing up, fans of the Caro-Kann should be delighted to see two new and well-written books on their favourite opening. There is only a little overlap with the recommendation of 5...exf6 in both volumes, but otherwise the repertoires vary considerably. Apart from those aspects, it will be down to the preferred choice of author(s) and whether the reader prefers full, model games or a larger variety of shorter game references. Either way, I suspect there will be a serious resurgence of interest in the 5...exf6 (formerly Tartakower) variation.

Sean Marsh



**1.d4! The Chess Bible**

Armin Juhasz, 284 pages, paperback  
RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Hungarian IM Juhasz presents a work which aims to help the reader with 'Mastering Queen's Pawn Structures'. It is not a complete repertoire, but does present most of a repertoire with 1 d4, not least as Juhasz advocates the Catalan Opening. He also takes a look at how to meet the Slav, King's Indian, Grünfeld and Dutch, while deploying quite an innovative approach. Each chapter begins with model games followed by some theory, then more model games, as well as some exercises and even a homework section. Juhasz also doesn't fail to cover the typical endgames which may arise and it will be interesting to see how popular his approach and repertoire proves with club players.



**1.e4! The Chess Bible: Volume 1**

Justin Tan, 464 pages, paperback  
RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

Never a company to duck a challenge, Thinkers Publishing have also brought out a 1 e4-based repertoire, but this is quite a

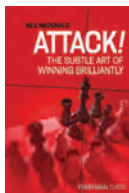
different beast from Juhasz's work. As ChessPublishing subscribers will be quite aware, Australian GM Justin Tan is quite an expert on 1 e4 and his coverage in the first part of this three-volume repertoire for White with the move is fairly theoretical. Tan doesn't neglect to mention the main ideas, but detailed coverage, not complete games, is his focus as he does his best to bash the Alekhine, Nimzowitsch, Pirc, Modern and Philidor, presenting a number of important refinements and new ideas for White along the way.



**Alexander Alekhine: Complete Games Collection Volume 2, 1921-1925**

Alexander Alekhine, 344 pages, hardback  
RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

The early 1920s not only saw plenty of success for the future fourth world champion, but also was also rather an active time for him. Thanks to the efforts of the Russian Chess House to track down a number of fairly obscure sources, we are now able to enjoy all of the games which Alekhine played and annotated between 1921 and 1925, some now appearing in English for the first time.



**Attack!**

Neil McDonald, 368 pages, paperback  
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Neil McDonald is an excellent writer and his books have long been popular with club players. This new one, subtitled 'The Subtle Art of Winning Brilliantly', is once again packed full of fine examples, all most clearly explained. The reader learns how to build up their attacks, trap enemy kings in the centre, create bridgeheads to divide the defensive army, and gain momentum. Especially of use will likely be the chapter on how to attack against a fianchettoed bishop, while there are a number of quite amazing as well as instructive games included, not least a King's Gambit miniature won by a young Alexei Shirov.



**Back to Basics: Chess Openings**

Carsten Hansen, 252 pages, paperback

RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Popular author Carsten Hansen's latest work is self-published and a little different to the Konikowski book reviewed below. Hansen does take a look at most of the major chess openings, but he is also concerned with ensuring his readers really know their opening principles and there is even some very handy guidance on how best to go about studying opening theory.



**Chess Informant 147**

Chess Informant, 352 pages, paperback  
RRP £32.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.69**

The latest 'Informator' has a floral cover for spring and is even titled 'Awakening'. Inside are not just the latest annotated leading games, novelties, endgames and studies, but a number of fine articles. Chess historian Douglas Griffin pays tribute to Lubos Kavalek, Jonathan Speelman covers Wijk aan Zee and Gawain Jones reflects on the success of the 4NCL Online League.

If you'd also like or even prefer your *Chess Informant 147* in CD form, that too is available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £9.99 or just £8.99 for Subscribers.



**Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings B2**

Chess Informant, 424 pages, hardback  
£39.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.99**

Also new from the famous Belgrade-based publishing house is the latest edition of *ECO* or, more precisely 'ECO B2'. That means everything from B50-B99 or, if you can't remember your ECO codes so well these days, 1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6, so the popular and pretty theoretical Classical, Dragon, Najdorf and Scheveningen branches of the Sicilian.



**Foxy 192: The Norwegian Rat Part 1**

Ron Henley; DVD, running time: 3 hrs, 49 mins  
RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

American GM Ron Henley returns to the recording studio to explain all about Magnus Carlsen's favourite online blitz weapon, 1 e4 g6 2 d4 ♗f6!?. In the first part of 'Magnus

Carlsen's Secret Weapon', Henley demonstrates some of the world champion's many wins with the so-called Norwegian Rat, while taking a look at the 'Rat Accepted', 3 e5 ♗h5 4 ♗e2 d6! 5 ♗xh5 gxh5 6 ♖xh5. That leaves Black with surprisingly decent compensation after 6...dxe5 7 ♖xe5 ♗g8, with Henley also mapping out a repertoire should White deviate on move 5.

If you'd like to add the Norwegian Rat to your repertoire, do be aware that there are also two companion DVDs, *Foxy 193: The Norwegian Rat Part 2* (running time: 2 hours, 38 minutes) examines 3 ♗c3 d5 4 e5 ♗e4 while retailing at £14.99 or £13.49 for Subscribers, as does *Foxy 194: The Norwegian Rat Part 3* (running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes), where Henley takes a look at White's remaining options.



**Mikhail Tal: The Street-Fighting Years**

Alexander Koblenz, 176 pages, paperback  
RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

We imagine that this latest English edition by Elk and Ruby will quickly prove popular. Mikhail Tal remains one of the most loved of all the world champions, which is no surprise considering his attacking style. Here his second Alexander Koblenz takes the reader on a journey from Tal's junior success up to winning the world championship and even his rematch with Botvinnik in 1961. First published in the USSR in 1963, the work sees Koblenz not only provide a ringside account, but annotate some 77 games and fragments, with the annotations now updated thanks to the latest technology and efforts of IM Valeri Bronznik.



**Quick Course of Chess Openings**

Jerzy Konikowski, 332 pages, paperback  
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Polish-German FM Jerzy Konikowski has found a number of his books translated into English of late by German publisher JBV (Joachim Beyer Verlag) Chess Books. Konikowski largely writes for the club player, here attempting the arguably impossible: a quick overview of all the most important chess openings. Some theory is provided, but the key coverage concerns the fundamental points and typical motifs which underpin each opening. If you feel widening your overall opening knowledge could be of use, Konikowski should be a good guide.