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Chess Update

Alive & Kicking!

After a long hiatus from Classical Chess Hikaru Nakamura confirmed his spot in the 2022 Candidates following success in the FIDE Grand Prix

ISSN 0964-6221



Gripping Grand Prix - The key action from all three legs of the 2022 FIDE Grand Prix



Wait Mr Postman! - Ben Graff on the history and future of correspondence chess



Like a Super-GM - Michael Adams reveals how he thinks and all about his new book

Chess

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60 Seconds with...

IM Irene Sukandar



Born: Jakarta, 7th April 1992.

Place of residence: Jakarta, Indonesia.

Occupation: Professional chess player.

Enjoyable? Yes. There have been certainly ups and downs, but that's what makes it exciting!

And home life? When I'm home, I mostly do local chess promotions, such as giving interviews, coaching clinics, and other chess-related projects.

But sometimes good to escape to: Travel! I love travelling, which I think is my second biggest passion after chess.

Sports played or followed: I play table-tennis and follow tennis and occasionally football.

A favourite novel? Oh, this is hard. I love reading genre and mainstream fiction novels, from historical romances like *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen to J.K Rowling's Harry Potter series and all Dan Brown's books.

Piece of music? I enjoy classical music, slow-pop, and Adele.

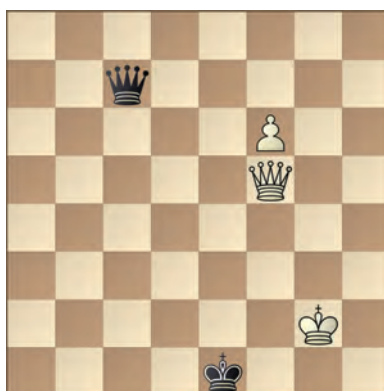
Film or TV series? *Harry Potter* – I'm obsessed!

What's the best thing about playing chess? Among other good things, chess has given me the reason and opportunity to travel and see the world. And I think it's beautiful.

And the worst? As they say, chess is a jealous mistress. If you don't pay enough attention or dedicate your time properly to it, it will show its cruelty such as making you lose 30 to 60 Elo points in one month. True story!

Your best move?

L.Moroni-I.Sukandar
Sants Open, Barcelona 2017

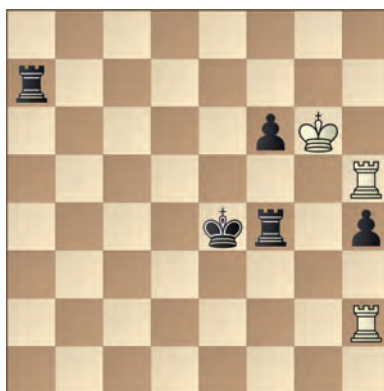


I found a way to save the game! It's not so hard to spot the move if you were given the position as a study to solve, but during the game with only seconds left on the clock, it could be easily missed.

78...♖c2+! ½-½

But less memorable than your worst move?

Pham Le Thao Nguyen-I.Sukandar
Asian Continental, Mashad 2011



Here I should have focused on trying to promote a pawn: 93...f5 would have kept the advantage for Black. Instead, **93...♖a3?** was probably not my worst ever move, but there

was just so much at stake. Had I won this game I would have become the 2011 Asian Women's Champion. Seeing how we played for almost 100 moves, I guess fatigue and stress caught up with me at the end of the game.

And a highly memorable opponent? Levon Aronian. It's a rare opportunity to be paired against one of world's class players in an open tournament, but the 2019 Gibraltar Masters made it happen for me.

Favourite game of all time? I have many, but I'd like to mention Karpov-Unzicker, Nice Olympiad 1974. Even though I'm naturally a tactical player, I have a great admiration for good positional play.



This game shows yet again Karpov's mastery in such closed positions. The idea behind **24 ♖a7!** is just timeless.

The best three chess books: *Mark Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, Garry Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors* series, and *Positional Decision Making in Chess* by Boris Gelfand.

Is FIDE doing a good job? FIDE is certainly doing better now than under previous regimes.

Or your National Federation? The Indonesian Federation keeps making efforts to progress from time to time, but there is just too much homework to be done.

Can chess make one happy? Absolutely! Most of the happiness in my life has something to do with chess, more or less.

A tip please for the club player: Play, analyse, train and repeat! It's the cycle you can't break. Focus on the improvement and worry less about rating!

Magnus Carlsen: The Greatest of All Time?

Chess & Bridge's Joao Santos and Chess in Schools's James Corrigan debate



'No!' answers Joao Santos

Notwithstanding Carlsen's enormous success and dominance in this era, a dive into chess history shows us he is still short of a couple achievements to be considered the greatest of all time or GOAT.

One of the true signs of greatness is measured by longevity at the top. Carlsen has been the world champion for the past nine years. The longest reign though belongs to Lasker who was world champion for 27 years, from 1894 when he defeated Steinitz until 1921 when he lost to Capablanca. Back then there was no formal method of selecting a challenger so this record seems unlikely to ever be broken in today's chess where champions

are expected to defend their title every two years. FIDE was formed in 1924, but it was only in 1948 when it held its first world chess championship, two years after Alekhine, the world title holder, had passed away.

The most dominant player since those days has been Kasparov who was world champion for 15 years, from 1985 when he defeated Karpov until 2000 when he succumbed to Kramnik. In their span as world champions, both Lasker and Kasparov won the title a record six times. Carlsen has won five matches so far (2013 and 2014 against Anand and 2016, 2018 and 2021 against Karjakin, Caruana and Nepomniachtchi, respectively), so it's sensible to say the present champion needs to surpass the number of world titles of

the giants of the past to be considered the GOAT. Moreover two of those title defences are blemished by draws in the classical segment, although eventually Carlsen went on to win the rapid tiebreaks convincingly against Karjakin and Caruana.

In the days of Lasker and even Kasparov, the champion had draw odds, meaning that if the match ended in a draw, they kept the title, but it only came to each of their benefit once (Lasker-Schlechter in 1910 and Kasparov-Karpov, 1987). It's also worth mentioning that Lasker is the most dominant world chess championship player of all time. Out of the seven world championship matches he played (against Steinitz in 1894 and 1896, Marshall 1907, Tarrasch 1908, Schlechter 1910,

Janowski 1910 and Capablanca 1921), Lasker finished with a score of +45 =42 -15 or 64.7% of the points possible. Carlsen is behind with 58%, a current score of +11 =43 -2 (not counting rapid tiebreaks).

Another sign of greatness is to show supremacy across different generations, especially against the younger generation. It demonstrates that your level has passed the test of time. Born only in 1990, Carlsen has not faced this challenge yet. He defeated Anand then has shown superiority among players of his generation (all his challengers since Anand were born in the 1990s), but how will he perform against the younger generation? Chess history tells us he's likely to lose his title. Even an all-time great like Kasparov couldn't overcome the challenge, eventually losing his title to Vladimir Kramnik, his junior by some 12 years.

Lasker too was unable to do it when he collapsed facing the 20-year-younger Capablanca. In fact, in the history of world championship matches, there have only been five occasions where the older player kept the title against a challenger who was more than 10 years his junior. Steinitz defeated Chigorin twice and also Gunsberg, despite age gaps of 14 and 18 years. The other world champion to accomplish this feat was Botvinnik (b.1911) when he drew his match in 1951 against Bronstein (b.1924), and then again in 1961 when he won a rematch against Tal (b.1936).

Were Carlsen to win a world title against a player born in this millennium that would be a good argument for his claim to be GOAT, but whether he can remains to be seen. In this dispute for who is the greatest ever chess player it is often mentioned too that Carlsen has set the highest rating ever, a mighty Elo of 2882 in 2014, surpassing Kasparov's maximum rating of 2851 in 1999.

While this is impressive in favour of Carlsen, it must be said that the 13th world champion was ranked no.1 in the world uninterrupted for 19 years from 1986 until his retirement in March 2005, including sharing the top spot position with Kramnik in the January 1996 list, both on 2775. Kasparov first came to the no.1 spot in 1984, but briefly lost it back to Karpov in 1985.

For his part, Carlsen became the world number one in January 2010, lost the top spot to Anand a few months later, but has been the undisputed no.1 in the rankings since July 2011. However, questions remain: how will the rest of his career unfold and is the Norwegian Champion going to be dethroned in the near future or is he going to break Kasparov's longevity record as no.1

The Elo rating system was officially introduced by FIDE in the 1970s. Despite Carlsen's all-time best rating, an important point to take into consideration in this question of who is the GOAT, is to look at who had the biggest rating gap versus his contemporaries, leaving no room for rating inflation or other factors. The biggest gap between no.1 and no.2 in the world was established by Fischer in 1972. In the July list

of that year the American champion had a monumental lead of 125 points (2785 to Spassky's 2660). No such dominance has been seen since. Kasparov's biggest Elo gap happened in January 2000, when he was 82 points above Anand's 2769, while Carlsen record stands at 74 points (in the October 2013 list Carlsen was rated 2870 and Kramnik 2796).

In conclusion, although Carlsen is in a good position to become the greatest player of all time he is not there yet.

'Yes!' Exclaims James Corrigan

I confess I was until recently a Magnus Carlsen GOAT sceptic, but there is no greater zeal in a convert, so preaching the gospel to those unsure or doubting is a task I relish. It is axiomatic that Carlsen qualifies as at least a contender for the title of GOAT. His games are superb. His brain genius. His superiority over his peers dominating. But that is true of all the historical contenders. Morphy astounded the world more than Carlsen. Steinitz contributed more to chess theory. Kasparov was rated number one for longer. Much of what can be said to be true of Carlsen, was/is true of his predecessors, but I am going to demonstrate some of the reasons why Carlsen is just that little bit extra special.

One of the factors which persuaded me that Carlsen warranted the title of GOAT was the comparison of the development of his chess in circumstances between him and his peers. The other contenders for the GOAT title – Karpov, Kasparov (especially) and Fischer – all enjoyed a learning environment with an impressive chess pedigree.

For Karpov and Kasparov, it was under the Soviet system, in which they enjoyed a privileged position, state patronage, collaboration and competition with scores of other great grandmasters of the Eastern Bloc. In the case of Fischer's, his exceptional promise was identified early and fortunate in his residency of New York City, he was able to attend and learn at the world-famous Marshall Chess Club.

Whilst this not to say that Magnus Carlsen didn't grow up in a nurturing environment (his family upping sticks to help his chess career flourish), he did not enjoy the same impressive chess institutions of other contenders for the title. That he managed to ascend to become world champion and contender for GOAT makes this all the more impressive.

Carlsen did show an advanced intellect and aptitude to chess at an early age, but he was, relative to his contemporaries, quite a slow starter. He did not take to the game as quickly nor as enthusiastically as some of his other peers. He played in European and World Youth Championships in 2002 and 2003, and had a range of results from third to ninth. How normalised we are to Carlsen's chess greatness that we can be surprised and slightly disappointed by a mere ninth place. That he was able to overcome a slightly stalled start in what educationalists like to call 'those crucial and formative early years' to

become the world champion is testament to his raw chess skill and dedication.

A sterling indicator for me of Carlsen's superiority is his longest unbeaten streak in classical chess: 125(!) games. Not just besting, but absolutely trouncing the previous record set by Ding Liren of 100 games. There are 2800-rated grandmasters, and then there is Carlsen.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the most obvious and irrefutable proof of Carlsen's superiority; his attainment of the highest Elo rating of all time. I know precious little of statistics, so I will make no assertion about historical comparisons between Carlsen and the other contenders, or over the undulating effects of rating deflation and inflation over time. I am struck, however, that as of the time of writing, there are only three players on the active chess circuit with a rating of 2800+.

Considering that the difference in rating between the top-ranked player (Carlsen) and the tenth (Richard Rapport) is over 100 points, it makes it far trickier for Carlsen to earn rating points from his peers even with wins. A case in point would be Carlsen's recent brilliant performance at Wijk aan Zee, where against a stellar line-up he scored a stupendous and undefeated 9½/13. For his efforts he accrued a paltry 3.1 point rating gain.

Carlsen recently announced that he is aiming to reach 2900. I am not sure if he can do it, but if any man can do it, it is him. As chess players we all know that we bring our 'A game' against better opponents. Kasparov could be pitted against Karpov, Alekhine against Capablanca, but there is no challenger quite so close in the case of Carlsen. Perhaps this is specious reasoning, but part of me thinks that if he does fail in his efforts to reach 2900, it won't all be his own fault.

If you are still unconvinced, I quite understand. Why take on authority the praises of a humble chess tutor? We all know who the greatest chess authority is: it is the computer. Let's ask the computer who the GOAT is. A few years ago the whizz brains at chess.com constructed a tool called the Computer Aggregated Precision Score (CAPS). This nifty program applies a value to the factors of what makes a good game, comparing what move the top engine thinks is best to what was played (how many best moves, how few blunders, etc). It is the omniscient conclusion of CAPS that the GOAT is Carlsen, with a slight but definite lead in standard in play over his rivals.

I hope I have been able to offer some compelling justifications as to why Magnus Carlsen warrants the title of Greatest of all Time. Credit too to the opposing counsel, with Joao's point about Kasparov's stamina in dominating the opposition especially pertinent. I hope Carlsen is able to match it or best it, but that point is yet to be proven.

Hopefully I have recruited another *CHESSE* reader to the school that believes Carlsen is best. Perhaps I'd best not persuade too many of you, however; I still want to be able to argue the toss with fellow chess fans in the pub...

Think Like a SUPER-GM



Michael Adams reflects on his recent foray into chess book writing

I was excited to see my book *Think Like a Super-GM*, written with Philip Hurtado, finally appear in print. I didn't really have any plans to write a book, when I was emailed out of the blue by Phil, but I was immediately impressed with his concept. I felt the resulting book would not be like any other that I had seen, and now it is on the shelves, I remain convinced that is the case. The only problem is that it is not so simple to explain exactly what it is about, so I will try to give a little more information here, beginning with how the project came about.

In his youth, Phil who eventually became a 2100 strength player himself, had come across the book *Thought and Choice in Chess* written by Dutch psychologist Adriaan de Groot. Adriaan conducted a fascinating experiment, where he asked famous chess masters and amateurs to think aloud, whilst finding the best move available in selected positions. De Groot gathered data from Alekhine, Keres, Euwe, and other top GMs at the 1938 AVRO tournament, as well as a number of weaker but still expert players.

Phil wanted to replicate this experiment with a wider range of players, and also broaden the scope by asking participants to assess the position after choosing their move. He had already recorded the answers and thoughts of players of an array of strengths before he contacted me. He compiled over 1100 position commentaries by the end of the project. Andrew Greet mentions in his thoughts about the book that reading these reminded him of the TV program *The Master Game*, for those of you who like me are old enough to remember it. It is pretty interesting to listen to another player's thinking process.

Phil had a number of theories that he wanted to put to the test, with the huge amount of data he painstakingly recorded in both Spanish and English – Phil was brought up in Madrid and also acted as translator for some of the puzzle solvers. One of his aims was to estimate the Elo rating of solvers from the results of their solutions to solving the main 40 puzzles. Some of the other insights gleaned included detailed conclusions about the speed with which top players find



It's not just super-GM Mickey Adams's thought processes which you get to see in his new work.

candidate moves, how they verify their choices, how accurately they assess positions, and how many correct moves they calculate, all contrasted to the results of players of different rating bands.

Initially my role was a small part of his larger project, as I agreed to solve all the puzzles in the book, as one of the GMs taking part, alongside Julio Granda, Eduardo Iturrizaga, Renier Vazquez, and Keith Arkell. The book is certainly intended for players of all strengths, and some puzzles are a lot more complicated than others. The solutions and thoughts of solvers cover a large portion of the Elo scale. I also agreed to provide brief comments on the solutions, as a co-author on the book.

When we did the puzzle solving, and got on well, I felt that I had more I could usefully contribute to the project, and wanted to add my own introduction, and supply some of my own rather more chess intuition-based

conclusions on the intriguing commentaries of others. As things progressed my role increased further, partly because the now rather detailed write-ups of solutions to the puzzles – as well as the 40 already mentioned, there are another 15 to solve in the later chapters of the book –take up a large percentage of the final pages.

Phil's original concept, hard work in data collection, statistical analysis, and own insights on the positions, were also instrumental, and he was also key in setting up the final chapter of the book, introducing the extra variable of monitoring the eye movements of participants of various strengths as they solved puzzles. This made for a very interesting day, and I spent a lot of time watching the videos of solvers when adding my contributions to this chapter later. Quality Chess thoughtfully printed this section in colour to really demonstrate the squares focused on.



Position 44 White to play – Level 8

Puzzle Commentary by Phil

That Super-GMs evaluate better is a fact which has been demonstrated throughout this book. The stronger a player is, the closer their evaluations are to those of *Stockfish*. Of all the participants in these puzzles, Michael Adams was the one who gave the overall closest evaluations to that of the chess engine. In this particular puzzle, players rated under 2100 thought unanimously that White was better. Many strong players, including Juan Reyes and Keith Arkell, also thought that White was better, both evaluating the position with +0.6. The first player to recognize that the position was easier to play for Black was Michael. The game continuation and Michael's analysis provide convincing evidence for this.

Philip Hurtado (Elo 1924)

00:15 I have my rook on the open file. That is good.

00:25 My bishop on g2 is also good, putting pressure on c6.

00:30 Black is pointing with his bishop at my e2-pawn.

00:45 I have to be careful with 1...♖b8 and ...♗b1+.

01:00 Black will definitely want to activate his rook.

02:00 1 ♖d6 might be dangerous because of ...♗b8. I could play 1 h3 and then 2 ♖d6 with a slight advantage.

Also 1 c5 looks good, as it stops Black's pawn from running away. I am definitely better here.

The plan of h3, g4 and g5 is also good. But 1 h3 ♗e6...

05:00 I think 1 c5 is great. It will look after my rook when it lands on d6. Also 1 ♖b2 with the idea of ♖b7 looks promising. Not 1 h3. I don't want his bishop to improve its position.

08:00 My candidate moves are either 1 ♖b2 or 1 c5.

I think I'll go for 1 c5 because then 2 ♖d6 can attack the weak c-pawn.

Oh no! If 1 c5 ♗d7. Oh, but I have 2 ♗a4 – although my knight would be out of play there. Maybe the best move is 1 ♖b2 after all.

10:00 I play 1 ♖b2 with some advantage.

Evaluation: +0.35

Nathanael Paul (Elo 1993)

00:30 First impression is that the game is very level. Although White's rook is on the open d-file and Black's rook is more passive.

01:15 Black has a more active bishop. 1 ♖d6 forcing Black's bishop to go passive on d7 or else play his pawn to c5.

01:40 If 1 ♖d6 ♖b8 he loses a pawn.

02:30 1 ♖d6 ♗d7 holds things together but Black gets tied up a bit. And I can play 2 c5 to defend the rook against an eventual ...♗e7. (Goes into deep thought.)

04:15 1 ♖d6 ♗d7 2 ♗e4 ♗xe4 3 ♗xe4 ♗e7 4 c5 and White has a pleasant position, leaving Black very passive.

06:10 1 ♖d6 ♗d7 2 ♗e4 ♗e7 Hitting the rook. 3 ♗xf6 ♗xd6 4 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 5 ♗h3+!

08:00 However, after that whole line we have equal pawns, and Black's king is closer to the pawns, and might actually be winning.

08:55 So: 1 ♖d6 ♗d7 2 ♗e4 ♗e7 3 c5 and if Black plays 3...♗e8, I can either retreat or play 4 ♖xd7 ♗xd7 and 5 ♗h3+.

09:45 In this case White has a better knight and an outpost as well as pressure.

11:05 1.♖d6 is my move.

Evaluation: +0.6

Keith Arkell (Elo 2429)

00:30 White would like to take the b-file in this position. The d-file can be controlled by the king.

01:00 Black would like to play 1...♖b8 himself and then move his king towards the d-file. So 1 ♖b2 is screaming to be played.

02:10 1 ♖b2 ♗e6 2 c5. If 1 ♖d6 ♖b8? I just take his pawn in broad daylight.

02:30 My candidate moves are: 1 ♖b2, 1 ♖d6. In a rapid. I'd probably have played 1.♖b2 by now.

03:30 1 ♖b2 seems to give better long-term play for White.

Evaluation: +0.6

Michael Adams (Elo 2701)

00:20 I guess I can play 1 ♖d6, or 1 c5, to fix the weakness on c6.

01:50 If 1 ♖d6 ♗e6 2 c5 ♗d7 3 ♗a4 ♗e7 4 ♗xc6 ♗xc5! might be better for Black. Or 4 ♗xc6 ♗xc6 5 ♗xc6 ♗xa2.

03:00 If 1 c5 ♗d7 the position is not so great for White. Black's king is nearer to the centre and his minor pieces are all good.

03:50 1 c5 ♗d7 2 ♗e4!? ♗e7. I don't like this too much for White either.

04:30 White could also play 1 ♖b2 ♖c7.

05:00 1...♖c7 is probably the best response.

07:30 Maybe 1 c5 ♗d7 2 ♗a4 ♗e7. Not so easy to play for either side.

09:15 1 ♖b2 ♖c7 2 c5 ♗d7 3 ♗a4. Overall, if I had this position, I would prefer to be Black.

11:00 Of all the candidate moves (1 c5, 1 ♖d6, 1 ♖b2), 1 ♖b2 is probably the safest option.

Black's side is easier to play. It is easier to find natural moves for Black such as ...♗e6, ...♗d7, ...♗e7 with lots of clear ways to improve his position. However, the position should be pretty equal with accurate play.

1 ♖b2

Evaluation: 0.0

Indicative Scoring for Position 44

Best Move	Score	Michael's Comments
1 ♖b2	10	Taking control of the b-file.
1 ♖d6	10	Looking to simplify.
1 c5	9	Gets the white pawn off a light square where it is vulnerable.

Adams Insight

At first it's natural to think White must be comfortable, but after further contemplation you should become aware that this is more optical than real. Realizing when a position looks better than it is, and that you have to be careful, is an important skill, and also nearly always the first step to limiting the damage. If you don't sense the danger, you can't mitigate the risk.

Initially, the most obvious features of the position are that White's rook is more active and the bishop on g2 eyes the pawn on c6. Further contemplation shows that the knight on c3 is not well placed though. Taking a look at the black forces, the rook is not too active, but it is useful defensively. Black's minor pieces both have solid squares to head to, and have active roles to undertake working together harmoniously. Additionally, both of White's queenside pawns can be targeted. The key factor that tips the scales in Black's favour is that his king is ready to enter the game, and is clearly superior to its counterpart. Black also benefits practically from the fact that he has several simple options available to improve the position, and his next few moves are clear, whereas the way forward for White is a lot murkier. Weighing up these factors, together as a whole, shows why White is the player who should be more cautious here.

Introducing Olga

Olga Latypova may only be 13, but she's already leaving titled players in her wake, as Lorin D'Costa explains



She Plays To Win (SPTW) is a UK Girls Chess Project which I lead, to try and encourage more girls to participate and learn chess in a fun environment. One of the many aims of SPTW is to nurture, encourage and develop our top female talent here in the UK over the coming years.

One such example is 13-year-old Olga Latypova. October 2021 saw Olga perform excellently at the British Championships in Hull, where she defeated FM Laurence Webb with the black pieces.

Olga annotates this game below, but first let's discover a little more about the Essex Under-11 Champion and the best under-12 girl in the 2021 Terafinal.

Did you enjoy playing in the British Championship in Hull?

"Playing in the British was a great experience for me as I had never really played people at the GM level before, and I had to compete for a period of about a week continuously with high-ranked players. In tournaments with weaker players, I usually begin to relax and show worse results, while the British kept my guard up. Also, it was an amazing opportunity to experience first-hand the level of these players and develop my game learning from these."

Were you happy to score 3/6?

"I think I did the best that I could. My performance surprised me a lot. I sometimes got lucky in the British: for example, with the openings that were played against me. In the game with FM Laurence Webb I hadn't prepared a line, but luckily, he chose one that I had analysed quite deeply before."

Notes by Olga Latypova

L.Webb-O.Latypova
British Championship, Hull 2021
Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 d5 4 ♗f3 ♕g7 5 h4

This aggressive opening launches an attack on the fifth move, planning to undermine Black's defences with h4-h5.

5...dxc4 6 e4

Now that the d5-pawn is out of the way, Webb grabs more space in the centre.

6...c5

A standard move in the Grünfeld where Black tries to weaken the centre by challenging it with a side pawn. At some point in this opening Black almost always targets the d4-square with either the move ...c5 or ...e5.

7 d5 b5

Taking advantage of the queen's open diagonal and the exposed white king.

8 h5



Going for an attack while the black king is uncastled. I will now push my pawns down the queenside while Webb uses his advantage on the kingside.

8...♗xh5

Accepting the sacrifice.

9 ♗xb5

Now that the knight is out of the way taking on b5 is possible as the threat of a move such as ...♗xe4 is removed.

9...♖a5+ 10 ♗c3 ♗d7

I try to improve my worst piece, the knight, by infiltrating the key outpost on d3 through the e5-square.

11 ♕d2 ♖b8 12 ♖c2 ♕a6 13 g4 ♗hf6

The line for the h1-rook is now open and Webb is ready to attack.

14 ♕h3 ♖c7

The queen finds a more useful diagonal where it can assist with problems such as the threat of e4-e5 and help to manoeuvre the knight to d3.

15 0-0-0 0-0 16 ♗de1

Trying to advance the majority in the centre. The opposite-side castling situation further threatens a dangerous attack.

16...♗b6 17 ♗g5 ♗fd7 18 f4 h6



19 ♗xf7?!

Webb loses the advantage by sacrificing the knight in the wrong place. A more accurate move would have been 19 ♗e6!, forcing Black to capture and gaining a tempo by attacking the d7-knight after 19...fxe6 20 dxe6.

19...♗xf7 20 e5

Webb attempts to finish the game by threatening both e6 and ♖xg6 simultaneously.

20...♗f8

While the f6-rook is quite enclosed, White doesn't have a fast way to exploit this.

21 ♖e4 ♖b7

The queen and rook are now lined up against the b2-pawn and I have ideas such as a future knight sacrifice to open the b-file.

22 e6

This move opens the diagonal for my g7-bishop, piling pressure on to the b2-pawn.

22...♗f6 23 ♕g2



23...♗xd5!

I give back the knight, opening the line for the queen. If 24 ♗xd5 ♖xb2+ 25 ♕d1 ♗xe6 is possible, chasing the white queen away from the protection of the king.

24 ♖xd5? ♖xb2+ 25 ♕d1 ♕b7

There is no good way to save the bishop on g2.

26 ♖xb7 ♗xd7 27 f5 ♖b8 28 ♕e4 ♗d8 29 ♗d5 c3 30 ♕c1 ♖xa2 0-1

This Month's New Releases



Miguel Najdorf: Life, Games & Stories

Zenon Franco, 720 pages

Thinkers Publishing

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

In November 1944 BH Wood offered this opinion of the Polish-Argentinian maestro: "Najdorf is a born chess genius and, with a little of the self-discipline which he so strikingly lacks, capable of winning any world championship". Certainly the most voluble of all the great classical grandmasters, ready to ask anyone within earshot – players or spectators – how he stood in a game, Miguel Najdorf easily stands comparison with Keres for the dynamism, fluidity, and sheer attractiveness of his play. And, like the Estonian, was prevented from achieving the ultimate goal by political circumstance rather than ability.

To some extent the comparison ends there. While the tall, elegant Keres was known for his reserve, Najdorf was described by the *Clarín* newspaper as "small in stature, great in chess, excitable, sturdy, restless, an inexhaustible talker, a smiler, a shouter". And, while Keres embraced the war-time tournaments, Najdorf, during his enforced exile in South America, lost his entire family and friends to the Nazi death camps. Indeed, finding himself in Buenos Aires after the Olympiad in September 1939, unable to return home and unable to speak Spanish, Najdorf displayed remarkable resourcefulness, bartering drink, perfumes, and neckties, and all augmented by ordinary and blindfold simul.

By 1941, following the advice of a friend, Najdorf began to sell insurance, eventually proving so successful that, according to Lissowski, later in his career, "He was spoken of as the richest man in the entire chess elite". It could be argued that the weaknesses in his play, particularly in the endgame, could be accounted for by such demands, not giving him the time for proper study, nor having a state stipend or an entire school of support to fall back on.

As mentioned, Keres would be forever compromised by his war years – "will they cut off my head?" – while Najdorf made the mistake of defeating Botvinnik in the last round at the Staunton Memorial at Groningen in 1946, betting 500 guilders that he'd do so, and nearly costing the Soviet Champion first place. Never one to forgive or forget, Botvinnik used all his considerable influence to ensure Najdorf was not one of the participants in the World Championship Match Tournament two years later, prompting British Champion, Harry Golombek, to say that this was an omission of "considerable magnitude by FIDE", adding, "Najdorf is a great master

Successful businessman, raconteur, and also one of the great chess players: Miguel Najdorf.

with a wealth of original ideas and the strong will power that all Champions must possess. Possibly he might not have won the tournament, but he would have been a dangerous rival for the winner".

Indeed, Najdorf had been consistently racking up big scores wherever he played, and would continue to do so, whether in Prague, Venice, Bled, New York, Amsterdam and Havana. In the last two, in 1950 and 1952, his chief rival was Reshevsky, the self-styled 'Messiah of Chess', though never the most popular of players. At Amsterdam, Reshevsky accused Najdorf of helping his opponents in adjourned analysis – probably true – and the even smaller deity proved handy in a punch-up, eventually chasing Najdorf down the street. The two would soon contest two matches for the title 'Best in the West', the American winning both times, though in the first Najdorf was distracted by an extra-marital affair, and the second would go to the wire.

It has to be remembered that at this point Najdorf was in his early forties, and his real chance at the title was lost in 1948. He did compete at the Candidates in 1950 and 1953, though, arguably, without great success. In the latter, however, he did win the first brilliancy prize – against Taimanov – and to a large extent the game reflects his strengths and his creed.

In his early years, Najdorf's chief mentor was the great Polish player, Tartakower, who imparted some highly general principles on planning and maintaining the initiative. And as Najdorf pointed out with regard to the Taimanov game: "The enthusiast may be thinking that conducting the attack was a matter of mathematical calculation or long

variations. Far from it! I was simply trying to bring all my pieces over to the kingside, in the knowledge that, generally speaking, no position can resist as an assault by superior forces".

As Tartakower himself said, "In truth it is not so much intuition or calculation, but simply chess vision (a kind of inner sight) which assists him". Or as one of Najdorf's South American colleagues said, "he plays like a clairvoyant".

M.Najdorf-A.Kotov

Mar del Plata 1957

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 e3 0-0
5 ♘bd7 9 ♖e2 a6 10 a4 ♘b6 11 ♙b3 cxd4
12 exd4 ♙d7 13 ♙d1 ♖c8 14 ♙d3 ♘bd5
15 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 16 ♖e4 ♙c6 17 ♘e5
♘f6 18 ♖h4 ♙d5? 19 ♙g5 ♙e7 20 ♖h3
♖e8



21 ♖d1! ♔a5 22 ♗h5 ♜ed8 23 ♙xf7+ ♜f8 24 ♗h6! ♚e8 25 ♜f4 ♙f6 26 ♗xg7+! ♚e7 27 ♗xe8 ♗xg7 28 ♜xh7 1-0

Such inner sight would remain with Najdorf throughout his career. In 1965, for example, he won at Mar Del Plata with 12½/15, a point and a half ahead of Stein and Smyslov, while a year later he would hand Fischer one of his worst defeats, at the Piatigorsky Cup. At the Leipzig Olympiad some years earlier, Fischer had blown a winning position, and, always the brat, at the end of the game had swept the pieces off the board. Accepting the draw, Najdorf told him he'd never play in South America again and such was his standing this promise was kept for ten years though eventually he relented.

So, what of Franco's new book, subtitled 'El Viejo'? It should really be compared with the 2005 Batsford production, *Najdorf: Life and Games* by Tomasz Lissowski, Adrian Mikhalchishin and Miguel Najdorf.

Markedly different in size and appearance, the Batsford version looks almost utilitarian in comparison, though closer scrutiny reveals that Thinkers have put almost all their efforts into making theirs look good, but at the expense of grammar and punctuation, where the errors are more than enough to try "God's patience and the King's English". It is as though the publisher has taken the injunction – the play's the thing – much too far. There are a few inconsistencies as well; the very welcome crosstables, for example, stop abruptly at Groningen 1946 with no explanation.

The Franco book does have some good qualities, not least in having twice as many games as the older Batsford work. The photos are excellent, and the notes are bright and accessible, though perhaps a bit thin, certainly compared to those by Adrian Mikhalchishin which maintain a fine balance between detail and general thought. Indeed, in the overall assessment of the two volumes, Batsford's offering reads like a model of accuracy and concision, which should tell one a great deal, and is far cheaper if you can still find a new copy for £17.99.

Najdorf's play has a special quality, particularly in terms of middlegame brilliance, and brings to mind both Nimzowitsch and the 19th century romantics – a heady combination offering both instructive value and enormous entertainment. The Thinkers work may not be ideal in terms of production, but the games are truly outstanding.

Stewart Player



**Petrosian Year by Year:
Volume II (1963-1984)**

Tibor Karolyi & Tigran Gyozyalyan,
516 pages, Elk and Ruby
RRP £33.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £30.59**

This book has been eagerly anticipated ever since the first volume was released in 2020. Tigran Petrosian, the ninth world champion, had a style of play which has still never been matched. It is good to encounter a new book of his games, as each one helps us to understand more about his unique style.

Petrosian Year by Year: Volume I (1942-62), by the same authors (Elk and Ruby, 2020), is an extraordinary book, examining the early life and games of the great champion, taking the story up to the point at which Petrosian became one of the world's finest players.

This second and concluding volume covers the years and events with which readers who enjoy chess history should be familiar, to some extent. It was a period of great activity at the top of the chess world.

"In Volume II, we start by looking at how Tigran beat the great but aging Botvinnik, and how he defended his title against Spassky. He became the first world champion to retain his title with a win since Alekhine in 1934 against Bogoljubov. We look at his tournaments and games in detail as the world champion. We also look at all his Candidates matches, including his historical matches against Fischer and Korchnoi. We will follow him all the way to his final event, in 1983."

Petrosian's tremendous success in title matches is often overlooked. Botvinnik may well have been ageing, but he was still extremely strong. In fact, some of the games from his later years are amongst the best he ever played. Petrosian defending the title against Boris Spassky in 1966 was an extremely noteworthy achievement too. He was the only player between Alexander Alekhine and Anatoly Karpov to win two consecutive title matches. He also performed exceptionally well at the Chess Olympiads, winning nine gold medals and one silver, losing only one of his 129 games (on time, in a drawn position, against Robert Hübner at Skopje, 1972).

Yet Petrosian rarely appears in lists of chess fans' top 10 players, partly because he is overlooked in favour of players with a more exciting style of play. All the better, then, to become more acquainted with his games, in which many positional and tactical lessons await the reader. This volume examines 175 games (some are fragments), and they come complete with excellent and highly instructive annotations. The authors do not clutter the prose with long, unnecessary lines of analysis, which nobody is ever going to use. Instead, they focus on what really matters.

The games are replete with Petrosian's trademarks, from extreme prophylaxis to perfectly timed exchange sacrifices. There is also a succinct commentary on each of the featured tournaments and matches. A fine selection of photographs – some of them previously unpublished – augments a fine work, although some have lost their quality and have an unfortunate, pixelated look about them.

Petrosian's trio of 1960s title matches was followed by a great rivalry with Viktor Korchnoi, which was prominent throughout the 1970s, when they met in Candidates matches no fewer than four times. Their first

match, in 1971, remains controversial. Petrosian won one game and the other nine ended in draws. There were rumours that Korchnoi was rewarded with foreign tournaments for agreeing to take a dive, but, if so, it is strange that he never wrote about it after his defection from the Soviet Union.

The inference is that the people in power saw Petrosian as a better last line of defence to prevent Bobby Fischer reaching a title match against Spassky. Whatever the truth of that situation may be, Korchnoi gained copious amounts of revenge when he won bitter Candidates matches in 1974, 1977 and 1980. In fact, the matches are indicative of Petrosian's chess career throughout the 1970s and into the early 1980s. He was still more than capable of brilliant play, but from a sporting point of view his results were often disappointing, with a high percentage of dull draws.

Interestingly, Yuri Averbakh had spotted a change in Petrosian, possibly induced by the strain of playing three consecutive title matches and which manifested itself in the Candidates Final against Fischer, which had started reasonably well for Petrosian: "I noticed in his behaviour the same signs that were observed towards the finish of his second match with Spassky. He became easily excitable and extremely irritable. The impression was that Tigran was finding it hard to endure the increasing tension. This meant that at any moment a crisis could be expected, and it arrived in the 6th game."

Tying in with this theory is the following, which should have been a great masterpiece, but instead was spoiled by Petrosian missing a winning move at the critical moment.

T.Petrosian-D.Bronstein
Soviet Team Ch., Moscow 1974



Petrosian had already sacrificed a knight and then his queen, leaving Bronstein having to display extreme resourcefulness to stay afloat.

46... ♜f4!

"The only move. On 46... ♜h3?? 47 h5 would win."

47 ♚e2 ♜c1

"Another only move."

48 ♜gg7?

"Petrosian allows a perpetual check. An unfortunate end to an inspired masterpiece. Unfortunately Petrosian misses a fantastic idea, 48 ♜g5!!; which wins." The game was drawn on move 57.

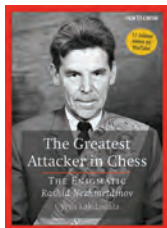
It is an extraordinary game and one which was new to me. I imagine it would have made it into plenty of anthologies if White had found the win. It is typical – and admirable – of the hardworking authors to bring hitherto uncelebrated games to our attention, rather than lazily dredge out the usual examples.

Unfortunately, Petrosian died of cancer in 1984 at the young age of just 55, so the story ends with his sole victory from his final tournament – a crushing of Ljubomir Ljubojevic at Niksic, 1983. Rather poignantly, the authors point out that this tournament brought his final encounter with Spassky – 30 years after the first time they played against each other.

However, even then there are still two more sections of the book to come. The first examines Petrosian's great skill in the art of exchanging pieces at exactly the right time and the second presents 30 test positions for the reader to try.

Whether you are already familiar with many of Petrosian's games or not, this excellent book deserves your attention.

Sean Marsh



The Greatest Attacker in Chess

Cyrus Lakdawala, 288 pages
New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

This month's other biographical book, subtitled 'The Enigmatic Rashid Nezhmetdinov', features a player with a completely different style to Petrosian's. Indeed, they were polar opposites in that respect. Fittingly, the authors of the respective works have very different styles also. The serious of tone of Tibor Karolyi and Tigran Gyozyalyan gives way to the magniloquence of Cyrus Lakdawala.

Who was Rashid Nezhmetdinov and why do we need a book about his games? The book's blurb answers the first question: "Rashid Nezhmetdinov (1912-1974) played fearless attacking chess. With his dazzling style, the Soviet master already was a legend during his lifetime, but international fame largely eluded him. Only once did he get permission to show his exceptional talent in a tournament abroad."

As for the second question, the short answer is: 'entertainment' as anyone who examines the contents of this book will almost certainly confirm. "His games, full of tactical pyrotechnics, are his legacy and have reached an ever-growing audience."

Anyone familiar with the basics of Nezhmetdinov's games may already know of his extraordinary victory over Lev Polugaevsky, with the black pieces, at Sochi 1958; his notable habit of being able to 'out-

Tal Tal', and the fact that he never became a grandmaster. He also had wins against Spassky, David Bronstein and Efim Geller.

With both *Nezhmetdinov's Best Games of Chess* by Rashid Nezhmetdinov (Caissa, 2000), and *Super Nezh* by Alex Pishkin (Thinkers Press, 2001), both being out of print and difficult to find at reasonable prices, it is good that New in Chess are bringing the fabulous tactical games to a whole new audience.

The cover could have been improved. The blob claiming "17 million views on YouTube" is nothing to do with the book, but refers instead to a single game: "Nezhmetdinov's shocking strategic queen sacrifice, in 1962 against Chernikov, as shown on Agadmator's YouTube channel, has become the best-watched chess video of all time with millions of views." Secondly, the photograph used is the same one on the cover of the aforementioned *Super Nezh* and something more original would have been preferable.

Lakdawala starts with a short biography and then splits the main content into three parts: Early years 1929-1949; Peak strength, 1950-1960; Final period, 1961-1973. He makes the interesting point that Nezhmetdinov's best chess was played when he was already in his forties.

There are 116 games (some are fragments), and the annotations are, generally speaking, light, but they do a decent job of engaging the reader. There are various exercises along the way, similar in style to the *Everyman Move by Move* series of books.

This snippet gives an example of both Lakdawala's prose and Nezhmetdinov's sharp tactical eye.

R.Nezhmetdinov-L.Aronin

Gorky 1950



"You are on trial for your life for a murder you committed in front of a police station and 30 witnesses, most of whom recorded you with their cell phone video cameras. Your victim fought back and your blood was found on her and on the knife you used to stab her. I just described Aronin's position's chance of being found Not Guilty by the jury.

"We have tempting options, all highly favourable for White, like 30 ♖xf7, or 30 ♖d4. Yet there is an even stronger move. Find

White's optimal continuation."

The answer is **30 ♖h8+!**, after which Black resigned, due to 30...♗xh8 31 ♕xf7+ winning the queen.

The book would be much shorter with simpler prose, of course, yet I have spoken with a number of club players who enjoy the friendly nature of Lakdawala's style. Whether or not the style of the prose grates upon the reader, the book is recommended to anyone who simply wants to see a fabulous array of attacking games.

Sean Marsh



Calculation Training Booster

Robert Ris, PC-DVD; running time: 5+ hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

If you've done little calculational work of late, leading Dutch chess trainer and ChessBase presenter Ris may well have the answer. He supplies a number of tricky positions for the user to ponder and attempt to delve deeply into. In total 29 positions are presented, but these are rarely of the simple white to play and win in x moves type scenario. Instead, users are forced along the way to come up with defensive resources for the other side, as well as to spot flaws in their own initial calculations.



Countering The Queen's Gambit

Michael Prusikin, 208 pages, paperback

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Subtitled 'A Compact (but Complete) Black Repertoire for Club Players against 1.d4', this new work from New in Chess provides exactly that. German GM Prusikin begins with a detailed look at the key concepts in two important pawn structures: the Carlsbad and the Tartakower. He goes on to map out a handy repertoire with the venerable Queen's Gambit Declined before completing his coverage with a look at countering not just the Catalan, but impressively all White's other main alternatives to 1 e4.

In less optimal news from the great Dutch chess publishing house, we were sorry to learn that *New in Chess Yearbook 142* (256 pages, paperback, RRP £26.95, Subscribers – £20.65) will be the last in the legendary series. Within Managing Editor Peter Boel looks back on 38 years of theoretical developments, while there are all the usual

features, including one of the 23 opening surveys being by New in Chess legend Jan Timman on 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♗b5 ♗f6 4 0-0 ♗xe4 5 d4 ♗d6 6 ♗a4 e4.



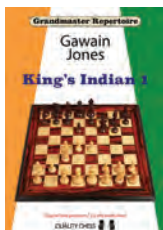
Fabiano Caruana: 60 Memorable Games

Andrew Soltis, 448 pages, paperback
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

It should be said that this isn't such a cheeky title, Soltis having already written *Magnus Carlsen: 60 Memorable Games* for publisher Batsford. Caruana might not quite be Carlsen's equal, but he still combines excellent calculation with a fine classical style. As such, the club player can learn plenty from how he sets about winning, with Soltis a typically fine guide for the journey through 60 classic Caruana games.



In what we hope may see a return by Batsford as a regular publisher of chess books, they have also recently re-released *1000 Checkmate Combinations* by Victor Henkin (352 pages, paperback, RRP £15.99, Subscribers – £14.39), a new edition of a classic Russian work.



Grandmaster Repertoire: King's Indian 1

Gawain Jones, 688 pages, paperback
RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

Gawain Jones reported on his latest adventures with the King's Indian Defence in our February pages, since when Quality Chess have turned his *Lifetime Repertoires: King's Indian Defense* into book format. That can have been no easy task considering the size of this first of two volumes, but Jones writes well, supplying a wealth of verbal description to go alongside plenty of variations. Indeed, the club player would learn plenty just from reading the key text passages and studying the main lines. More advanced players and real King's Indian aficionados will, of course, want to play through everything and may, as such, prefer a hardback version of the first volume, which is available from Chess &

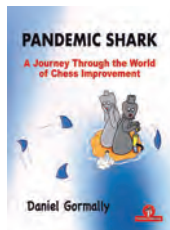
Bridge for £31.50 or £28.35 for Subscribers.



Ljubojevic's Best Chess Games

Zenon Franco, 264 pages, paperback
RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

Younger readers may not be too aware of Ljubomir Ljubojevic, but to those playing in the seventies, eighties and nineties, he was not just a world-class player but also an entertainer. Under his own Zenonchess Ediciones imprint, Franco turns to his favourite move-by-move format to present 40 of Ljubojevic's best games, many of which still impress with their energy, as well as creativity.



Pandemic Shark

Daniel Gormally, 232 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

Danny Gormally has developed a reputation as a brutally honest but also entertaining and insightful author, qualities which are to the fore in his latest book for Thinkers Publishing, subtitled 'A Journey Through the World of Chess Improvement'. The dearth of OTB chess and the amount of time spent at home in 2020 and 2021 caused Gormally to ponder how amateur chess players approach chess, as well as the typical mistakes they make and how they might improve. The result is most welcome advice on such topics as calculating that one key move further, not moving the same piece too often and how to avoid becoming impatient at the board.

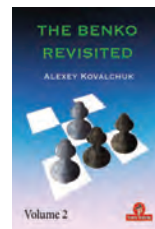


Play the O'Kelly Sicilian

Andrew Martin, 278 pages, paperback
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Meeting 1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 with 2...a6 is likely to carry a fair amount of surprise value – at all levels. Martin sets the scene with a 'Timeline of the O'Kelly Sicilian', which features 29 complete games which should whet the appetite, as well as reveal whether

you think the O'Kelly might suit you. The highly experienced author and club player favourite then maps out a repertoire for Black against 3 d4, 3 ♗c3, 3 c3, 3 c4 and White's lesser third moves. At times a secondary line is included for Black: for instance, 3 c4 might be met by 3...♗c6 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♗xd4 e5 or 3...d6 4 d4 ♗g4. The result is a repertoire work which explains the key ideas behind the O'Kelly while mapping out easily sufficient theory for the club player to do well with their new Sicilian surprise.



The Benko Revisited: Volume 1

Alexey Kovalchuk, 424 pages, paperback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

Russian FM Kovalchuk has been busy working with the latest games and engines to bring coverage of the Benko Gambit right up to date. The result is a highly detailed two-volume repertoire for Black for Thinkers Publishing, featuring a large number of new ideas. This first volume will be especially welcomed by the club and tournament Benko practitioner, containing as it does coverage of how to meet White's alternatives after 1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 c5 to 3 d5 and especially 2 ♗f3 c5 3 d5 b5 4 ♗g5, all rounded off by an examination of White's fourth move alternatives to 4 cxb5 in the Benko proper.

The Benko Revisited: Volume 2 has also been released, mapping out over its 350 pages a full repertoire for Black after 1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6. This volume is also available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £27.95 or £25.15 for Subscribers.



The Bishop Pair: Power of the Sun

Efstratios Grivas, 248 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

As part of the 'TP Endgame Academy', Grivas aims to introduce the reader to certain fairly advanced training concepts, all of which are applied to positions featuring the bishop-pair. As the bibliography and introduction make clear, this is a thoroughly researched work from the FIDE Senior Trainer and Greek GM. Chapters include: Bishop Pair Versus Bishop & Knight; Bishop Exchange; and Bishop Pair fails. Throughout there are a number of handy pointers, the most important of which are emphasised by SOS tip bulbs. The choice of games is also

excellent and overall it's hard not to believe that all players from average club player upwards won't learn much from Grivas's fine coverage.

Thinkers Publishing are, of course, ever most busy and have also released of late Boroljub Zlatanovic's *Bishop Versus Knight: Volume 2*, which examines various multi-piece endgames, centred around having rooks then queens present as well as minor pieces. Like with Grivas's new book, Zlatanovic's coverage should improve the piece play and coordination of those who really study it, with this 276-page work available for £24.95 or £22.45 for Subscribers.



Think Like a Super-GM

Michael Adams & Philip Hurtado,
464 pages, hardback

RRP £29.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.55**

This is a major new release from Quality Chess and a fascinating read, as we get to see exactly how a range of both amateur players and various grandmasters approach a large number of positions. Co-author Hurtado is rated around 2000, but has put a vast amount of effort into this production, recording the thoughts of each player as they analysed. Also, as will have become clear from pages 34 and 35 of this issue, Britain's leading chess player has played a major role too, and there is unsurprisingly plenty to be learnt from Adams' thoughts and later reflections on each position.



Understanding Middlegame Strategies

Vol.3: The Hedgehog

Ivan Sokolov, PC-DVD;
running time: 5+ hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The leading chess trainer and former world-class player is fully aware just how complex Hedgehog positions can be to handle, with even the likes of Anand, Kasparov and Kramnik having mishandled them. Hedgehog structures can arise from a number of openings and despite being fairly rarely seen at club level, all levels of viewer should learn much about not just the Hedgehog, but planning and chess in general from Sokolov's well thought-out coverage.

While in Hamburg, Sokolov also recorded *Understanding Middlegame Strategies Vol.4: Dynamic Pawn Structures – Part 1* (RRP £26.95; Subscribers – £24.25), which examines a number of key structures, including those with hanging pawns and Sicilian structures after a ♟xf6 gxf6 exchange, over the course of five and a half hours. ChessBase have also released in PC-DVD format, *ChessBase Magazine 206* (RRP £17.99; Subscribers – £16.19), which contains special sections on Levon Aronian and Wijk aan Zee, while featuring such fine presenters as Daniel King and Mihail Marin.



Forthcoming Events

**Apr 30 - May 2 4NCL Divisions 1-3, at multiple venues:
Daventry, Leamington Spa, Milton Keynes**

For more information, please visit: 4ncl.co.uk

May 1 Kensington Rapidplay
chesscircuit.substack.com or call 07855 036537

May 4-8 English Seniors Championships, Kenilworth
www.englishchess.org.uk/english-seniors-championships/

May 6-8 County Durham Congress, Darlington
durhamchesscongress.co.uk or call 07852 192072

May 7 Golders Green Rapidplay
goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

May 8 Ribble Rapidplay, Leyland
congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/174/home

May 10 Muswell Hill Rapidplay
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

May 13-15 Frome Congress
someretchess.org/frome_congress/FromeHome.html

May 15 Livingston Allegro
congress.org.uk/congress/161/home

May 17 Muswell Hill Rapidplay
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

May 19-22 English Championships, Kenilworth
www.englishchess.org.uk/english-championships-2022/

May 22 Crewe Rapidplay
crewechessclub.co.uk

May 27-29 EACU Congress, Newmarket
adrianelwin.co.uk/EACUCongress/FIDECongress.html

May 28 Poplar Rapid
spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub/

May 29 Kensington Rapidplay
chesscircuit.substack.com or call 07855 036537

And for the Online Connoisseur:

May 3-9 TePe Sigeman, Malmo
tepesigemanchess.com; Adams, Grandelius, Shirov, van Foreest, etc.

May 3-13 Superbet Chess Classic Romania, Bucharest
grandchestour.org; Aronian, Caruana, Firouzja, Nepomniachtchi, etc.

May 17-24 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland, Warsaw
grandchestour.org; Anand, Caruana, Duda, Korobov, Rapport, So, etc.

May 30 - June 11 Norway Chess, Stavanger
norwaychess.no/en/; Carlsen, Rapport, Giri, Radjabov, MVL, etc.

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