

# Chess

## BACK TO THE BOARD

Top level over-the-board chess resumed with the Biel International Chess Festival where GM Pentala Harikrishna's runner-up finish saw him return to the world top-20

ISSN 0964-6221



Back to the Day Job - Michael Adams reports in from the Biel International Chess Festival



Those were the Days - Milos Pavlovic on catching the chess bug watching Korchnoi-Spassky



The Numbers Game - Jonathan Arnott reflects on the inaugural season of the 4NCL Online

# Chess

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# Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability, with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from various recent events, not least as we look back on the exciting third leg of the Magnus Carlsen Tour that was the Chessable Masters. 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.Giri-I.Nepomniachtchi**  
Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
*White to Play*



**(2) I.Diatsintos-V.Kotronias**  
Aegean Open, Aghios Kirykos 2020  
*Black to Play*



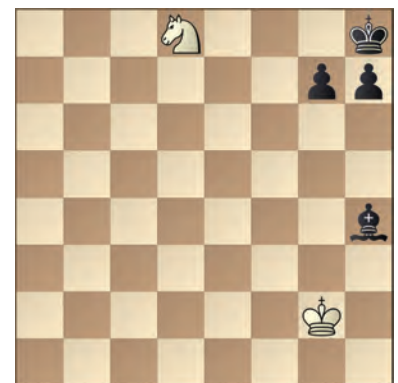
**(3) A.Grischuk-P.Harikrishna**  
Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
*White to Play*



**(4) N.Grandelius-A.Polivanov**  
Titled Tuesday (blitz) 2020  
*White to Play*



**(5) S.Lobanov-M.Matlakov**  
Titled Tuesday (blitz) 2020  
*White to Play*



**(6) V.Kramnik-M.Carlsen**  
Legends of Chess (rapid) 2020  
*White to Play and Draw*

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



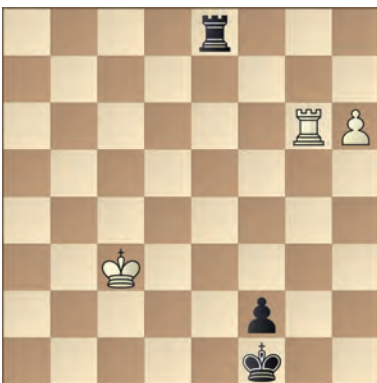
**(7) V.Artemiev-D.Dubov**  
Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
White to Play



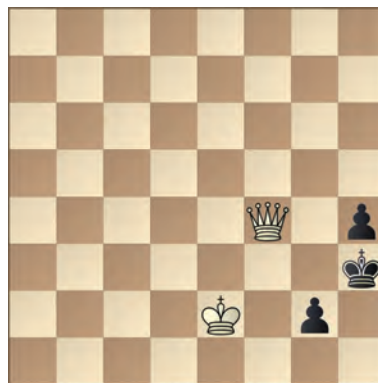
**(8) F.Caruana-T.Radjabov**  
Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
Black to Play



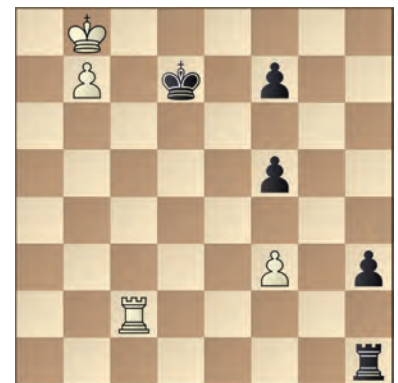
**(9) F.Caruana-I.Nepomniachtchi**  
Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
White to Play



**(10) K.Motuz-J.Markos**  
Slovakian League 2020  
White to Play and Draw



**(11) V.Murzin-T.Kuybokarov**  
Internet (blitz) 2020  
White to Play



**(12) Ding Liren-H.Nakamura**  
Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
White to Play



**(13) H.Niemann-I.Saric**  
Titled Tuesday (blitz) 2020  
White to Play



**(14) M.Carlsen-A.Giri**  
Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
White to Play



**(15) J.Tan-D.Fernandez**  
Internet (rapid) 2020  
Black to Play and Draw

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



**(16) I.Nepomniachtchi-V.Artemiev**  
 Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
 White to Play



**(17) I.Nepomniachtchi-A.Giri**  
 Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
 White to Play



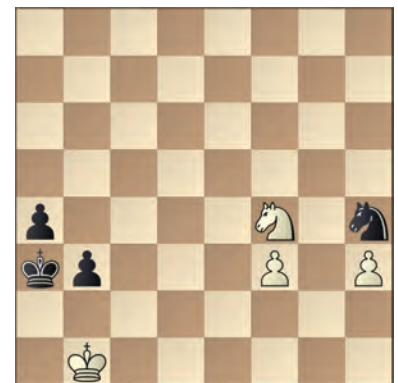
**(18) M.Vachier-Lagrave-F.Caruaana**  
 Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
 White to Play



**(19) V.Artemiev-I.Nepomniachtchi**  
 Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
 Black to Play



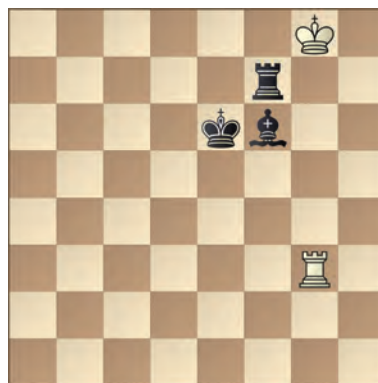
**(20) A.Giri-F.Caruaana**  
 Carlsen Invitational (rapid) 2020  
 White to Play



**(21) D.Rohlfing-I.Vega**  
 Internet 2020  
 Black to Play



**(22) M.Carlsen-J.Xiong**  
 Clutch Chess International (rapid) 2020  
 White to Play and Draw



**(23) T.Radjabov-F.Caruaana**  
 Chessable Masters (rapid) 2020  
 Black to Play



**(24) F.Caruaana-M.Vachier-Lagrave**  
 Carlsen Invitational (rapid) 2020  
 Black to Play and Draw



# Arkell's Endings

Keith Arkell's new work is devoted to the phase of the game he especially excels at

*It has long seemed to me that as the standard of play rises, so does the overall percentage scored by White. Taken to its logical conclusion, this might suggest that with perfect play, chess is a win for White. However, I think that most of us don't believe this, and that at some rarefied level the curve goes the other way.*

*We tend to assume that with ideal play, chess is a draw. When we speak of a player having the 'advantage', we may simply mean that he has a very clear plan at his disposal for putting his opponent under pressure. While the player with the slightly worse position may stand OK from an objective perspective, from a practical perspective they can have some difficult problems to solve: for example, having to find a string of 'only moves' in order to stay afloat.*

*Such issues have always guided my thinking. I rarely look to create unfathomable complications, I don't carry around an armoury of opening traps, and I don't concern myself with trying to force a win from the earliest stages. Instead, my opening repertoire and subsequent play are all about creating a framework from which I can try to acquire the tiniest of advantages, and then, inch by inch, convert that into something tangible. Unsurprisingly, I win many of my games in the ending. Very often I am not sure at what point my opponent's position has deteriorated from what was difficult but tenable, to a forced loss.*



So begins *Arkell's Endings*, recently released by Ginger GM and available from Chess & Bridge. Sean Marsh reviews Keith Arkell's second book later in these pages. Here is one of Keith's favourite endgames taken from the book, which has a foreword by Jonathan Speelman, an attractive plate section and an afterword from Simon Williams, where he demonstrates that by no means all Keith's games are positional grinds; watch for his favourite ...g5 push at your peril!

## 21. Arkell-Bradbury

In this game against an English IM who returned to active chess a few years ago, I applied my tried and tested methods in the Carlsbad structure to grind out a win.

**Keith Arkell - Neil Bradbury**  
EACU Open, Newmarket 2019  
*Queen's Gambit Declined*

**1** ♖f3 ♗f6 **2** c4 e6 **3** ♘c3 d5 **4** cxd5 exd5 **5** d4 c6 **6** ♙g5 ♙f5 **7** e3 ♗bd7 **8** ♙d3 ♙xd3 **9** ♖xd3

Theory dismisses this position as about equal, or at best only very slightly better for White, but my familiarity with the arising structures gives me a good chance to gain the upper hand.

**9...♙e7 10 0-0 h6**

Normally Black would castle here, but now, by capturing on f6, I would be able to follow up with either 12 ♗e5 or 12 b4.

**11** ♙xf6 ♗xf6 **12** ♗e5 0-0 **13** ♖f5



This doesn't look very ambitious, but I am playing for an endgame in which I can probe on the queenside without having to worry about counterplay.

**13...♖c8 14 ♖xc8 ♗axc8**

My opponent doesn't make any serious mistakes in this game, but this felt like a minor one since the action will most likely take place on the a-, b- and c-files, so the other recapture was likely preferable.

**15** ♗fc1 ♙d6 **16** ♗d3 ♗fe8 **17** b4 ♗d7

I had calculated 17...♗e4 18 ♗xe4 dxe4 19 ♗c5 b6 (or 19...♙xc5 20 ♗xc5 when b4-b5 will follow, with overwhelming positional pressure) 20 ♗a6 with the plan of attacking Black's c-pawn.

**18 a4**

I wasn't sure about the consequences of 18 b5 c5 19 ♗xd5 cxd4 20 exd4 ♗xc1 21 ♗xc1 and then something like 21...♗e2. I'm a pawn up, but it all looks a bit loose, so instead I formulated a plan to fix c6 as a long-term weakness.

**18...♗b6 19 a5 ♗c4 20 b5**



Threatening to undermine Black's whole queenside with a5-a6, so more or less forcing the following sequence.

**20...a6 21 bxa6 bxa6 22 ♗a4 ♗b8**

22...♗xa5 23 ♗ac5 just plays into my hands.

**23** ♗ac5 ♗b5 **24** ♗xa6 ♗a8 **25** ♗ac5 ♗axa5 **26** ♗a5 ♗xa5



And so we have arrived at base camp –

the successful conclusion of the minority attack. I have one pawn island against two; Black has active pieces, so a direct assault against c6 is obviously impossible. The correct procedure therefore is to probe on the kingside in order to inflict a second weakness, or at least to gain some space over there.

### 27 g4

This is by far the best pawn move. If 27 h4 h5 it will be hard to make progress, as breaks with e3-e4 or g2-g4 will involve ruining my own pawn structure.

### 27...♖c4 28 ♖g2 ♜f8 29 h4 ♜e7 30 h5

Not only does this move fix a target on g7, but experience of playing these kinds of positions, literally hundreds of times, has taught me that there are certain mating nets Black needs to be wary of.

### 30...♖b2

I felt this was a little impatient, enabling me to activate my rook. It was better to sit tight and await events.

### 31 ♖a1 ♖xd3 32 ♖a7+ ♜f6 33 ♖xd3 ♖b3 34 ♖e1 ♖b6

Neil played this quite quickly, but I wasn't sure whether he should be playing 34...c5 instead. Actually I had a similar game at Harrogate about four months earlier where I managed to win from the structure which would have arisen after ...c5.



In Arkell-Sumit I was able to exploit my positional trumps as follows: 26 g4 ♖a5 27 ♖d1 ♖e7 28 ♖b1 h6 29 ♖g2 ♖f6 30 ♖g3 ♖a3 31 ♖d1 ♖a5 32 h4 ♖g7 33 ♖b1 ♖a3 34 ♖b8+ ♜h7 35 ♖d8 ♖a5 36 g5 ♖b5 37 ♖d7 ♖g8 38 gxh6 ♖xh6 39 ♖e5 ♖b3 40 ♖xf7 ♖g7 41 ♖g5 ♖e5+ 42 ♖g2 ♖b5 43 f4 ♖c3 44 ♖f3 ♖e1 45 ♖e6 ♖c3 46 ♖c7 ♖b7 47 ♖d8+ ♖f7 48 ♖xd5 ♖f6 49 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 50 ♖d5 ♖h7 51 ♖d6+ 1-0.

### 35 ♖f3 ♖b8 36 ♖d7 ♜e6 37 ♖d8



One of Keith Arkell's favourite openings is the Exchange Queen's Gambit. His new book also features a win in the commonly resulting Carlsbad structure against GM Neil McDonald.

My opponent's position has rapidly become critical. I now threaten 38 ♖e8+ ♜f6 39 ♖e5 when he will either be mated or face heavy material losses.

### 37...♖d6 38 ♖c8

This was a bit lazy. As soon as I had released the rook, I regretted not playing 38 ♖e8+. A few moves earlier I had already calculated such lines as 38...♜f6 39 ♖e5 ♖a6 (or 39...♖xe5 40 dxe5+ ♖g5 41 ♖g3 with 42 f4 mate to follow) 40 ♖d7+ ♖g5 41 ♖g8 g6 (41...♜xg4 42 ♖xg7+ ♜xh5 43 ♖f6+ ♜h4 44 ♖g4# won't do) 41 ♖g7, and Black will soon shed too many pawns.

### 38...♜f6

There was a chance to prolong the game with 38...f5, but I could still keep up the pressure with 39 g5.

### 39 ♖h4

After this move, heading for f5, I could no longer see any way for Neil to avoid losing material. His c-pawn, g-pawn, bishop, and even his king have come under increasing pressure, all because his pieces were tied down to the defence of the c6-pawn – a product of White's typical minority attack in the Carlsbad structure.

39...g6 40 hxg6 fxg6 41 ♖g8 ♜f7 42 ♖xg6 ♖f8 43 ♜f3 ♖a6 44 g5 hxg5 45 ♖xg5 ♖a2 46 ♖f5+ ♜e8 47 ♖g6 ♖d6 48 ♖h5



I have to be careful to prevent the break ...c5 at a moment when the d-pawn is safe from capture.

### 48...♜d7 49 ♖h4 ♖b4 50 ♖h7+ ♜e6 51 ♖g6 ♖c2

I was pleased to see this as it enables my knight to reach its ideal post, back on d3. On 51...♖d6 I intended 52 ♖h6 when only an engine might be able to hang on.

### 52 ♖f4+ ♜d6 53 ♖d3 ♖c4 54 ♖b7 c5 55 ♖b6+ ♜c7 56 dxc5 ♖xc5 57 ♖b5 1-0

Either Black enters a lost king and pawn endgame, or he loses the d-pawn.

Arkell's Endings is available from Chess & Bridge for £17.99 or £16.19 for subscribers.





# Home News

**BATTLE** – We were delighted to see the ECF unfurling their generally excellent office staff, which certainly led to an increasing number of announcements and amount of news on [www.englishchess.org.uk](http://www.englishchess.org.uk). There you should head if you would like to take part at 6.30pm on Saturday 5th September in the North of England vs South of England match on [chess.com](http://chess.com). Will the South triumph just as they did back in Birmingham in 1893 and London in 1894?

The ECF's shortlist for the Book of the Year Award features a still fairly new publisher, Elk & Ruby, appearing for the third year in a row, this time represented by Alexander Nikitin's *Coaching Kasparov*, volumes one and two. That is joined by Forster, Negele and Tischbierek's second volume of their *Emanuel Lasker* biography, as well as by two books from New in Chess: *The Best I Saw in Chess* by Stuart Rachels and David Smerdon's *The Complete Chess Swindler*. A high-quality shortlist, indeed, if one unusually not featuring a single UK-based chess publisher.

In less optimal news, we were sorry to hear via the ECF of the loss of 74-year-old David Woodruff, a stalwart of Keynsham Chess Club for decades. He held just about every role at one time or other at the Somerset Club and is estimated to have played over 1,000 matches for them. The chairman of Bourne End Chess Club, Ken Hawkins (xxviii.x.1951 - xxii.vii.2020), will also be much missed, both for his organisational acumen and his love of attacking play, not least in his favourite King's Gambit. Finally, we must sadly report that Bury Chess Club's popular president Bernard Sharples (xii.iii.1938 - xiii.vii.2020) lost his battle with cancer, having still been graded in the 150s and a most determined player until very recently.

**BRADFORD** – More sad news was the announcement of the death of Winston Williams, the originator of the Bradford Chesstival, which popularised the game in the West Riding city as chess took over Centenary Square for a day each summer, featuring simul, coaching and plenty of open-air games amongst the public. Williams (xx.ii.1958-xxix.vii.2020) was born in London, but grew up in Singapore, where he once drew with Paul Keres in a simul. He rose to Inspector in the Singaporean Police Force before moving to Yorkshire in 2003, where he quickly became known as a larger than life character and as a regular in several leagues, while also serving in various official capacities



*Prior to a local lockdown, Steve Westmoreland, who by day is a Risk Manager, had safely managed to resume play at Holmfirth Chess Club, which he runs at the Stumble Inn, Holmbridge.*

and as a tutor for Chess in Schools and Communities.

**HARROGATE** – The ECF's Checkmate Covid-19 may have been the main fundraiser for the British Red Cross, but there have also been smaller, no less worthy fundraising events involving chess online. One saw £350 raised for the Harrogate Community Trust Fund after a match between Harrogate Archbishops and Kenilworth Chess Club on LiChess, which came about thanks to the efforts of England Over-65 team-mates Mick Stokes and Mark Page. 15-year-old Mate Ther defeated Paul Lam 1½-½ on top board as Harrogate ran out winners by the narrowest of margins, 10½-9½.

**LICHESS** – More and more British events have popped up on Lichess, which is, of course, a lovely playing interface, albeit not the easiest to spectate on. Nevertheless, if tournaments identify players' handles, it can be done easily enough, as was the case for the Glorney and Gilbert Cups in July. England drew with the Netherlands in the former, but after both teams had defeated Ireland, Belgium, Wales and Scotland, England triumphed thanks to their greater board points. The Dutch, however, had a measure of revenge as they claimed the Gilbert Cup (once known as the Faber), while in the younger age group events, England claimed top honours in both the Robinson and Stokes Cups.

By the time you receive these pages, a second season of the 4NCL and Junior 4NCL will be underway on Lichess (see

[www.4ncl.co.uk](http://www.4ncl.co.uk)). Then in early September the 1st Welsh Chess Union Online League will begin, run by Mark Adams and Kevin Staveley – those interested in following some of the matches should keep an eye on [www.welshchessunion.uk](http://www.welshchessunion.uk).

In terms of completed national events, we mentioned the winners of the ECF National Online Club Championships last month, which took place under the watchful gaze of Stephen Greep and Douglas Vleeshouwer. More recently (13-19 July), the 1st Online Scottish Championships were run by Andy and Karen Howie. FM Alan Tate didn't have things all his own way, but ran out a clear winner with 5½/7, Nihad Abdullazada and Craig Stout finishing half a point behind. Tilak Ittigi triumphed with 4½/5 in the Under-1500 section, with Andrew Todd and Frederick Gordon making that same score as they shared top honours in the Weekender.

A stand-alone weekender was the one staged by Alex Holowczak and his ever sterling team on behalf of the 4NCL (10-12 July). This too took place on Lichess and attracted 172 players.

**Open:** 1 Brian Dinter (Stroud) 4½/5, 2-3 Dmitrijs Tokranovs (London), Thomas Villiers (Muswell Hill) 4.

**Major:** 1-3 Tim Valentine (Battersea), David Hall (Perth), Leon Cox (Winwick) 4.

**Minor:** 1-3 Daniel Shek (Crowthorne), Jason Liu (Dublin), Urbi Modhura (Southend) 4½.

And what, you might wonder, about the indefatigable Adam Raof? Well, his regular Golders Green Rapidplay, Hampstead Under-2200 Congress and blitz events have all





The 2016 ECF Book of the Year went to Natasha Regan and Matthew Sadler's Chess for Life. On their right is Ray Edwards; fellow judges Julian Farrand and Sean Marsh are on their left.

moved online, if not to Lichess. If you'd like to play in some, do just check out: [tornelo.com/chess/orgs/chess-england](http://tornelo.com/chess/orgs/chess-england).

**RICHMOND** – We were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Julian Farrand (xiii.viii.1935 - xvii.vii.2020). Born in Doncaster, Farrand was educated at Haberdashers' Askes before enjoying a distinguished career in the field of law, as Professor of Law at the University of Manchester, Law Commissioner, and Insurance and Pensions Ombudsman, while his second wife was Baroness Hale of Richmond. He was also a strong amateur player, as is his son Tom, and regularly did pretty well in the leading British events in the sixties and seventies.

More recently Farrand had served as one of the judges of the ECF Book of the Year, represented England in World and European

Senior Team Championships, and turned out for Barbican in the 4NCL, as well as playing for the Cavendish, Insurance and Pimlico chess clubs. He was undoubtedly a keen player, as well as one who liked to attack, a quality which helped him claim the scalps of such players as former British Champions George Botterill and Harry Golombek.

**J.Farrand-M.Franklin**  
Blackpool 1976  
*Schmid Benoni*

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘c3 c5 3 d5 d6 4 e4 g6 5 ♙e2 ♙g7 6 ♘f3 0-0 7 0-0 ♘a6 8 ♘d2 ♘c7 9 a4!

Ever a key advance in this structure, as well as the natural follow-up to White's last ahead of him bringing his knight to its ideal square.

9...b6 10 ♘c4 ♖b8?!

Slow, although even after 10...♙a6 11 ♖e1 (11 ♙f4 ♘h5!? isn't so clear) 11...♙xc4 12 ♙xc4 a6 13 ♙g5 ♘d7 14 ♖e2 White enjoys a pleasant edge.

11 ♙f4 ♘d7 12 ♖d2 ♘a6?

And this is far too slow, although Black was already in some trouble as we can see from 12...a6 13 ♙h6 b5? 14 ♙xg7 ♖xg7 15 axb5 axb5 16 ♘a5!

13 ♙h6

Thematically exchanging off Black's best piece.

13...♘b4 14 ♙xg7 ♖xg7 15 f4



It's high time for the ideal pawn break. Black is already in huge trouble and perhaps he now had to try the rather desperate looking 15...f5!? 16 e5 a6.

15...♘f6 16 ♙f3 e6 17 dx6 ♙xe6 18 ♘e3 ♖d7?

The final error and Farrand was never going to miss the tactic this permits.

19 f5! gx5 20 ex5 ♙xf5 21 ♙c6! ♘xc6 22 ♘xf5+ 1-0

22...♘h8 23 ♖h6 is devastating as if 23...♘e8 24 ♖xf8#.

## Reader's Letter



### COVID 19 zugzwang and false accusations of cheating online

It was unexpected fun to read about public health, pandemics and the possible false accusations of cheating in the July article by Tim Wall entitled 'Chess and the Dance of Death'. Although I have been playing chess for 56 years, I have rarely used chess analogies in my 42-year career in medicine, public health and epidemiology, even in my scientific articles and books. My latest paper, however is entitled 'COVID-19 zugzwang: potential public health moves towards population (herd) immunity' (open access at: [tinyurl.com/y49c4lak](http://tinyurl.com/y49c4lak)).

The word 'zugzwang' is very rare in medical scientific writing, but it seemed perfect for the quandary we are in. Given the

ongoing pandemic everyone needs to know about Covid, even those obsessed with online chess, which is only plagued by computer viruses, and I hope the article will help chess players understand the disease better.

Tim Wall discussed accusations of cheating at chess online and the problem of false positives. The algorithms used by online platforms are screening tests. There is a massive theory and advanced techniques for evaluating such tests in medicine and public health, underpinned by epidemiology (the science of studying disease patterns in populations). To help the public and clinicians understand the difficulty of testing for COVID-19, my colleagues and I published a paper with a title starting with the words 'Test Test Test' (accessible at [tinyurl.com/y68j8ahc](http://tinyurl.com/y68j8ahc)).

We provided 12 simple tables for people to assess how likely that a positive test is accurate. This depends on the accuracy of the test system (algorithms in the case of online chess), and how common cheating is.

Let us assume a test has 99% accuracy in both picking up cases (cheats), and in stating a person is not a case (not a cheat). Let us assume 1% of the population of chess players are cheats. What is the statistical likelihood that if the algorithm says a person is cheating that he/she is actually cheating? The answer can be found in table A3 (supplementary file), as 50%. This number would be lower if the percentage of cheating was less than 1%.

It is imperative that the accuracy of these algorithms is evaluated scientifically and the information published. Again, I hope this epidemiological article will help chess players.

*Raj Bhopal (Emeritus Professor of Public Health, University of Edinburgh, and, more importantly, member of the Edinburgh Chess Club)*



# Solutions

to Find the Winning Moves (pages 26–28)

## 1) Giri-Nepomniachtchi

**1 ♖xf5! exf5 2 ♜f2+ ♟f6 3 ♜xh1** left White a piece ahead.

## 2) Diatsintov-Kotronias

**1...♗g4!** (or just **1...♞xb2 2 ♞xb2 ♗g4!**)  
**2 ♞xe5** (2 ♗xg4 ♞xb2 3 ♞xb2 ♗xb2 also leaves Black the exchange up) **2...♗xf2+ 3 ♟h2 ♗xe5+ 4 g3 ♗xd1 5 ♗xd1 ♗d8 6 ♗e2 ♗f6 0-1**

## 3) Grischuk-Harikrishna

**1 ♞xe6! 1-0** White goes a whole rook ahead as Black cannot allow **1...fxe6** (if **1...♞xf4 2 ♞e8+ ♟g7 3 ♞xf4**) **2 ♞f7+ ♟h8 3 ♞e8+ ♟g7 4 ♞f7#**.

## 4) Grandelius-Polivanov

**1 ♗xd5!** (a preliminary **1 h6!**? is also quite strong) **1...♞d8** (**1...exd5 2 ♞xd5+** collects the loose rook on e4; never forget LPDO!)  
**2 ♗f6+ ♗xf6 3 ♞xd8** (3 ♞c2!? ♗c6 4 ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 5 ♟h3 does the business too)  
**3...♗xd8 4 ♗xd8 ♟f8 5 ♞b8** saw White pocket a pawn and reach a winning endgame.

## 5) Lobanov-Matlkov

**1 ♗a6+!** (rather than the game's **1 ♞f6?** when **1...♞f4** would have left Black doing pretty well) **1...♟b6** (if **1...♟xa6 2 ♞xc7**) **2 ♞b8+ ♞xb8 3 ♞xb8+ ♟xa6 4 ♞d6+ ♞b6 5 ♞xd7** leaves White with far too active an extra queen, not to mention passed h-pawn.

## 6) Kramnik-Carlsen

Kramnik eventually managed to draw after **1 ♗e6?**, but as pointed out by Judit Polgar in the Chess24 commentary, **1 ♗f7+! ♟g8 2 ♗h6+!** would have drawn immediately, and if **2...♟f8** (Black has a similar problem after **2...gxxh6**) **3 ♗f5 ♗f6 4 ♗xg7!**, leaving Black with the wrong-coloured rook's pawn.

## 7) Artemiev-Dubov

**1 ♗d5! ♗xd5** (White suddenly has too many threats, as clearly Black cannot allow **1...♞xc7? 2 dxc7**) **2 ♗xd5 ♗f7 3 ♗c6! 1-0** **3...♞xc7 4 dxc7 ♞e8** fails to, amongst others, **5 ♗e7+**.

## 8) Caruana-Radjabov

The game finished: **1...♞f5+? 2 ♗g4 ♞f3+ 3 ♟xh4 ♞xf2+ 4 ♟g5 ♞f5+ 5 ♟h4 ♞f2+ 6 ♟g5 ♞f5+ 7 ♟h4 ♞f2+ ½-½**. The way to pry apart the white king and rook was **1...♞f3+! 2 ♟xh4 ♞xf2+ 3 ♗g3 ♞h2+**, and if **4 ♟g4 ♟g6!**, forcing mate in short order.

## 9) Caruana-Nepomniachtchi

**1 ♞e8!** (a bolt from the blue as **1...♗xe8? 2 ♞xf7+ ♟h8 3 ♗xe8 ♞xd4 4 ♗f6** wins the black queen) **1...♞d7 2 ♞xc8 g5 3 ♞d2! ♞a6 4 ♞b4 c5 5 dxc5 ♞xd6 6 cxd6 ♞xc8 7 ♗xb7 ♞xh3 8 ♞xa4** was two extra pawns,

after which Caruana converted with ease.

## 10) Motuz-Markos

White spotted that he could promote, but unsurprisingly after **1 h7? ♟e2 2 ♗g8 ♞e3+ 3 ♟c4 f1 ♞ 4 h8 ♞** Black's ability to check first, and with White's queen stranded in the corner, meant that it wasn't so hard to force mate: **4...♞f7+ 5 ♟d4** (or **5 ♟c5** when one winning technique is **5...♞c7+ 6 ♟d5 ♗d3+ 7 ♟e4 ♞e7+ 8 ♟f5 ♞f3+ 9 ♟g6 ♞e6+ 10 ♟g5 ♞f5+**, etc) **5...♗d3+ 6 ♟e5 ♗d5+ 0-1**. However, the simple **1 ♗d2!** would have corralled the black king and drawn: **1...♗d8+ 2 ♟c2 ♟e2 3 ♞e6+ ♟f3 4 ♞f6+ ♟g2 5 ♞g6+** leaves Black without any improvement on going round in circles.

## 11) Murzin-Kuybokarov

The key feature is that White must avoid **1 ♟f2?? g1 ♞+!** and the game's **1 ♞g5?? g1 ♞!** **2 ♞xg1 ½-½**, which was also stalemate, with the simplest win **1 ♞e3+** (or **1 ♞f5+**) **1...♟h2** (**1...♟g4 2 ♟f2 h3 3 ♞g3+** is trivial) **2 ♞e5+** when there won't be any stalemate tricks if the king returns to h3, but **2...♟h1** (**2...♟g1 3 ♞d4+** transposes) **3 ♞e4 ♟g1 4 ♞d4+** is clearly hopeless, and if **4...♟h2 5 ♞xh4+ ♟g1 6 ♟f3! ♟f1 7 ♞f2#**.

## 12) Ding Liren-Nakamura

Black has just blundered with **60...♞a1-h1** (**60...♞a3** was the easiest way to draw); retribution was swift: **1 ♞a2!** (simple chess) **1...♞b1** (or **1...h2 2 ♟a7 ♞b1 3 ♞xh2 ♞a1+ 4 ♟b8 ♞a3 5 ♗d2+ ♟e7 6 ♞c2! ♟d7** when one win is **7 ♞c7+ ♟d8 8 ♞xf7 ♞xf3 9 ♞f6! ♞a3 10 ♗d6+ ♟e7 11 ♟c7 ♞b3 12 ♞b6**) **2 ♟a7 1-0** **2...h2 3 ♞xh2** would transpose to our previous line and otherwise Black's king is far too slow, as shown by **2...♟e6 3 b8 ♞ ♞xb8 4 ♟xb8 ♟e5 5 ♞h2 ♟f4 6 ♞xh3**.

## 13) Niemann-Saric

**1 ♗xg6!** (Black was hoping to hang on in a grim position after something like **1 ♞h1 ♞e8 2 ♞g4 g5 3 ♗e2 ♞g6**) **1...♗b4+** (necessary desperation, in view of **1...♟xh7? 2 ♞h5+ ♟g8 3 ♞h8+ ♟f7 4 ♗e5+ ♟f6 5 ♞h4+ g5 6 ♞h6+ ♟f5 7 g4#** and **1...♞f5 2 ♞h8+**) **2 axb4 ♟xh7 3 ♞h5+ ♟g8 4 ♞h8+ ♟f7 5 ♗e5+!** (continuing to attack; with such an exposed king, unsurprisingly there's simply no defence for Black) **5...♟e8 6 ♞h5+ ♟e7 7 ♞g5+ ♞f6** (or **7...♟e8 8 ♞g6+ ♟e7 9 ♞xg7+ ♟e8** when **10 ♗b5+!** brings the final pieces into play most aesthetically) **8 ♞xg7+ ♟e8 9 ♗g6 ♞f5 10 g4 ♞f3 11 ♗g2 ♞f6 12 ♞g8+ ♟d7 13 ♗e5+** and Black should by now really have finally resigned.

## 14) Carlsen-Giri

**1 ♞a8!** (the pin will prove deadly; **1 ♞xc5?**

**♗d7** and **1 ♗xf7? ♞g4+ 2 ♟h2 ♞h4+ 3 ♟g3 ♞g4+ 4 ♟f3 ♞f4+ 5 ♟e3 ♞xf6** would have been much less effective) **1...♟c7 2 d6+! ♟d7 3 ♗xf7 ♞g4+ 4 ♟h2 ♞f4 5 ♟g3! ♞xf6 6 ♗h5** forced the win of a piece, Carlsen going on to convert after **6...♞f4 7 ♗g4+ ♟xd6 8 ♗xc8 ♞xc4 9 ♗xb7**.

## 15) Tan-Fernandez

As shown by Daniel Fernandez in his notes for ChessPublishing, **1...♞b3+!** (**1...♗c3+? 2 ♟b2 ♗d1+ 3 ♟a3 ♞a5+ 4 ♟b4 ♞b5+** was seen in the game where both players missed that **5 ♟a4!** wins, as after **5...♗c3+ 6 ♟a3 ♟c2 7 b8 ♞** the newly-created queen prevents mate on b3) **2 ♟a2** (**2 ♟a1 ♗g3 3 b8 ♞ ♞xb8 4 ♞xb8 ♗xh1** leaves White out of pawns) **2...♗c1+ 3 ♞xc1 ♞xb7** draws. After **4 ♞c6** Black can even go **4...♞h7 5 ♞xa6 ♟e3** when White shouldn't even be able to reach rook and bishop against rook, as we can see from **6 ♞g6 ♗d7! 7 ♞g3+ ♟f2 8 ♞g2+ ♟e3 9 ♞xh2 ♗d2+**.

## 16) Nepomniachtchi-Artemiev

**1 ♗e3!** (**1 ♗xd3 ♞g1+ 2 ♟e2 h6** keeps the game going) **1...♞c3** (of course, if **1...♞xe3? 2 ♞c8#**) **2 g3! ♗xe3** (hopeless, but so would be **2...d2 3 ♞xa7**) **3 ♞a8+ 1-0**

## 17) Nepomniachtchi-Giri

After **1 ♞g1? f6 2 ♗d6 ♗f3+ 3 ♞xf3 ♞xd6 4 ♞g4 ♞e7** White had only enough play to draw in the game, but with **1 ♟f2!** (or even **1 ♗d2!**), he would have won, and if **1...♞f6** (**1...f6 2 ♗d6g1** leaves Black helpless against the threat of **3 ♞g8+**) **2 ♗d6g1 ♞g6 3 ♞h3 ♞f6 4 ♞h2!** when **♞h2-g8+** is a huge threat and **4...f3 5 ♞g3 ♞g6 6 ♗xe5+ dxex5 7 ♞xe5+ f6 8 ♗d5** a simple win, with **8...♞f7** once again allowing a deadly **9 ♞g8+!**

## 18) Vachier-Lagrave-Caruana

**1 g6+!** (**1 ♞e6!**? is also fairly convincing, and if **1...h5+ 2 ♟xh5 g6+ 3 ♟g4 fxe6 4 ♗f6+ ♟g7 5 ♗d8** with a winning attack) **1...♟xg6** (allowing mate, but Black's king would also have been most perilously placed after **1...♟g8 2 gxf7+ ♟xf7 3 ♗e5+ ♟f6 4 ♞1d5**) **2 ♗f8+ ♟f6 3 e5+! ♟xe5** (if **3...♟e7 4 ♞xe6#**) **4 ♗6d5+ ♟f6 5 ♞f5# 1-0**

## 19) Artemiev-Nepomniachtchi

**1...♗b1!** (a lovely interference tactic) **2 ♟g1** (**2 ♞xb1?** also deals with the threat of **2...♞e1#**, but allows Black to demonstrate his main point with **2...♞d3+ 3 ♟g1 ♞xb1+**, while **2 ♗e2?** fails to **2...♞d1+! 3 ♗xd1 ♞e1#** and even **2 ♞c1!**? **♞e1+ 3 ♞xe1 ♗xe1 4 ♗d5 ♗d3+ 5 ♟e1 ♞g4 6 ♟d2 ♞d4** is quite lost for White) **2...♞e1+ 3 ♗f1 ♞d3 4 ♞g4+ ♟h8 5 ♗e2 ♞xe2 6 ♞xb1** (White has done well to maintain material equality, but is now undone on f2 and because of the presence of a rook on h1) **6...♗c5 7 h4 ♞xf2 8 ♞e1 ♞f4+ 0-1**

## 20) Giri-Caruana

**1 ♞f6+!** (**1 ♗d2? ♞b7** isn't so effective) **1...♟h6** (**1...♟g8 2 ♗d2 ♞b8 3 ♗d7 ♞f8 4 ♞e6+ ♟h8 5 ♞c7** is clearly hopeless)



**2 ♖g2!** (threatening 3 ♖xg6+!) **2...♗b8?** (2...♗b7 3 ♖g5 ♗e7 was the only defensive try, although White would be winning with his extra pawns after 4 ♖xf5 ♗xf6 5 ♖xf6) **3 ♖g5! 1-0** There's precious little to be done about 4 ♖h5+! ♗xh5 5 ♗g5#.

### 21) Rohlfig-Vega

Did you plump for the obvious move, as per the game, namely 1...♗xf3?, and if 2 ♗d3 ♗d2+? The problem is that after 3 ♗a1 the h-pawn saves White: 3...♗f3 4 ♗b1 ♗d2+ 5 ♗a1 ♗c4 6 h4! b2+ 7 ♗xb2 ♗xb2 8 h5 ♗c4 9 h6 ♗d6 10 h7 ♗f7 11 ♗b1 ♗b3 12 ♗a1 (a useful endgame defence to know; Black can't flush the king out of the corner) 12...a3 13 ♗b1 a2+ 14 ♗a1 ♗a3 15 h8♗ ♗xh8 ½-½. As such, the only way to win was to bring the king round with **1...♗b4! 2 ♗d5+** (2 ♗d3+ ♗c3 3 ♗c1 a3 reveals another key point: Black will have time to mate the king on a1 after 4 ♗xb3 ♗xb3 5 f4 a2+ 6 ♗a1 ♗f3 7 f5 ♗d4 8 f6 ♗c2#) **2...♗c4 3 ♗b6+ ♗b5 4 ♗d5 ♗c5 5 ♗c3** (or 5 ♗e3 a3 6 f4 ♗f3 7 ♗d1 ♗c4 when White has to fatally give way with his king after 8 ♗b2+ axb2 9 ♗xb2 ♗h4 and 8 ♗c1 ♗d4 9 h4 a2 followed by ...♗c2 is hopeless too) **5...a3 6 ♗e4+ ♗c4 7 ♗d2+ ♗c3 8 ♗e4+ ♗d3 9 ♗c5+ ♗c4** finally dodges the checks, leaving Black with a straightforward win after **10 ♗a4 ♗xf3**

**11 ♗b6+ ♗d3 12 ♗a4** when he can even showboat with **12...a2+ 13 ♗b2 a1♗+! 14 ♗xa1 ♗c2** (snaring the white king in a mating net) **15 ♗b2 ♗e1**, leaving nothing much to be done about 16...♗c1 and 17...♗c2#.

### 22) Carlsen-Xiong

Play concluded: 1 ♗f2? h5 2 gxh5 gxh5 3 ♗e1 (3 ♗e3 h4 is the problem for White) 3...h4 4 ♗g2 ♗c6 5 ♗h3 ♗xb7 6 ♗g4 ♗g3 0-1. Instead, the calm **1 ♗d2!** was the only way to draw, and if **1...♗c6** (if 1...♗a7 2 ♗f4 or 1...h5 2 gxh5 gxh5 3 ♗g5!, halting the h-pawn, and after, say, 3...♗c6 4 ♗e1 ♗xb7 5 ♗d2 ♗g3 6 ♗xd3 h4 7 ♗e2 h3 8 ♗f1 ♗c6 9 ♗d2 ♗d5 10 ♗g1 ♗d4 11 ♗g5 ♗d3 12 ♗f1 Black can only win f3 by giving up his h-pawn) **2 ♗f2 ♗a7+ 3 ♗e1 ♗xb7 4 ♗g5 ♗c6 5 ♗d2 ♗d5 6 ♗xd3** with a fairly easy draw, most likely along the contours of our previous variation.

### 23) Radjabov-Caruana

White had just blundered with 109 ♖g6-g3 (the rook needed to go to g2 or g1), and Caruana immediately pounced: **1...♗a7! 2 ♗e3+** (2 ♗b3 ♗d4! cuts out the check on b6 and wins after, for example, 3 ♗b4 ♗d7 4 ♗a4 ♗d8+ 5 ♗h7 ♗f7 6 ♗h6 ♗d5! followed by 7...♗g7+ or here 4 ♗b8 ♖g7+ 5 ♗f8 ♗h7 6 ♗e8+ ♗f6 7 ♗g8 ♖g7+ 8 ♗h8

♖g5 9 ♗h7 ♗h5+ 10 ♗g8 ♗g6 11 ♗e6+ ♗f6) **2...♗e5 3 ♗f3** (3 ♗e1 ♖g7+ 4 ♗f8 ♗h7 is similar, and if 5 ♖g1 ♗c7 6 ♗g8 ♗c8+ 7 ♗h7 ♗h8+ 8 ♗g6 ♖g8+, picking up the white rook) **3...♖g7+ 4 ♗f8 ♖g4!** (threatening 5...♗d6+) **5 ♗e3 ♗a4 6 ♗g8 ♗h4 0-1** Instructive technique and there's unsurprisingly coverage of rook and bishop against rook in *Arkell's Endings*, it being one of Keith Arkell's favourite endgames.

### 24) Caruana-Vachier-Lagrave

**1...g5!!** (unsurprisingly this study-like defence wasn't found with only seconds remaining; after 1...♗g7? 2 ♗c7+ ♗h6 3 e7 ♗d4+ 4 ♗e2 ♗e4+ 5 ♗d2 White was able to dodge the checks: 5...♗d4+ 6 ♗c2 ♗a4+ 7 ♗c3 ♗a3+ 8 ♗d4 ♗b4+ 9 ♗d5 ♗b5+ 10 ♗d6 ♗d3+ 11 ♗c6 ♗e4+ 12 ♗d7 ♗d5+ 13 ♗d6 ♗b7+ 14 ♗e6 ♗c8+ 15 ♗f7 ♗f5+ 16 ♗f6 1-0, and 1...♗c2+ 2 ♗f3 ♗b3+ 3 ♗e4 would have led to a similar outcome) **2 ♗f8+** (2 e7+ ♗g7 is Black's other calm idea when 3 fxg5 ♗c2+ leaves White unable to dodge the checks, as shown by 4 ♗e3 ♗c3+ 5 ♗e4 ♗c2+ 6 ♗d5 ♗d3+ 7 ♗c6 ♗a6+! 8 ♗d7 ♗b7+ 9 ♗d8 ♗a8+ 10 ♗d7 ♗b7+ 11 ♗e6 ♗b3+) **2...♗h7 3 ♗f7+ ♗h6 4 ♗f6+ ♗h7 5 fxg5 ♗c2+** and here too White proves unable to flee the checks, as **6 ♗g3 ♗d3+ 7 ♗f3 ♗d6+ 8 ♗g4 ♗xe6+** is just a fairly easy draw.

# This Month's New Releases

## Arkell's Endings

Keith Arkell, 160 pages  
Ginger GM

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Keith Arkell, one of the most popular grandmasters on the circuit, has returned to the world of print in this long-awaited follow-up to his debut book. Seven years ago I reviewed *Arkell's Odyssey* (Keveler Chess, 2012) on my blog and commented thus:

"Annotations to the games are brief. Too brief really, which is OK in the context of adding a little chess colour to the story and completely excusable if a serious study of Keith's games will someday see the light of day. You don't need to be a Karpov or a Korchnoi after all, Keith; your games, together with a full explanation of how to convert slight advantages and exactly how you manage to keep just enough going would make an excellent and highly instructive book – a fitting companion volume to *Arkell's Odyssey*."

It would appear that I was not alone in thinking that way. Indeed, Simon Williams, the Ginger GM himself, clearly believes in the project as he has branched out from his usual

DVD-based delivery to publish the book.

Jonathan Speelman provides an interesting forward, setting the scene very nicely when he says of Keith: "His whole approach to chess is to aim for endgames – they should be playable, but don't have to start advantageously – in which he can slowly outplay the enemy."

Anyone who has played in a weekend chess congress in which Keith was also participating will recognise the scene of him grinding out yet another endgame win, often in the last game of the round to finish. Many a local hero will tell the tale of "almost holding him" when in fact at the very moment they thought they were almost safe, in reality the game was only just beginning.

It is never easy trying to hold a position together when facing a technically superior opponent. As Keith explains: "While the player with the slightly worse position may stand OK from an objective perspective, from a practical perspective they can have some difficult problems to solve: for example, having to find a string of 'only moves' in order to stay afloat."

Furthermore, it is clear from the start that opponents must be ready for a long game, as



Keith is not going to use his grandmaster power with the aim of creating miniatures with the latest novelties of opening theory: "Instead, my opening repertoire and subsequent play are all about creating a framework from which I can try to acquire the tiniest of advantages, and then, inch by inch, convert that into something tangible." Naturally, this leads to many wins in the endgame – giving enough choices to fill several books.

Before getting to the games themselves, we are introduced to some words of wisdom from the author, including an interesting piece on 'Arkell's Hierarchy of Pawns' and his stance on his chosen method of annotating his chess battles.

"My intention has been to reproduce my thoughts at the board – sometimes with analysis, including where flawed, and other times with assessments, judgements and uncertainty. With a few exceptions, I have avoided objective assessments or computer-generated variations. Where words are appropriate, I've used them, and where variations are appropriate, I've given the lines which I saw at the board."

Typically, the annotations start when the

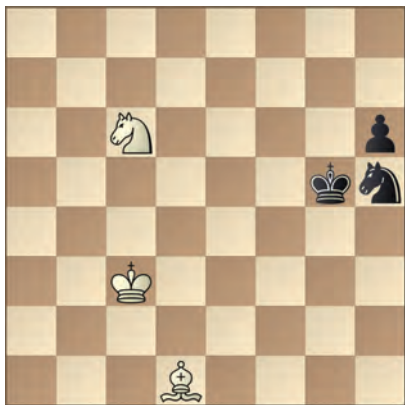
endgame phase has been reached. The first game is a big clash with Mihai Suba, in which Keith somehow ground out a win with two rooks and a pawn against two rooks. This material distribution was reached on move 57; at that moment the extra pawn stood on g3. By the time Suba resigned it was already move 109 and the pawn had made it all the way to...well, g5. "This endgame lasted more than 11 hours and caused a long delay to the prize-giving", but a win is a win.

Keith retains his self-effacing qualities in print, just as he does in real life, admitting at one point during an ending that "I inched forward at a pace which would frustrate even a tortoise." However, it is the grim determination which helps to bring in the points and this is also true of chess at the highest level.

"If you study the great endgame players, such as Magnus Carlsen and Anatoly Karpov, you cannot fail to observe their endless patience. Maintaining the tension rather than committing oneself to immediate action tends to have a wearisome effect on the opponent, as well as forcing them to defend accurately to avoid further damage."

Some of the endings have to be seen to be believed. For instance, the 126-move marathon against Carey Groves, in which Keith managed to win with bishop and knight against knight and pawn, has strong study-like characteristics.

### K.Arkell-C.Groves Jersey International 1985



This is the position after 73 moves and it is White's turn. There are not many players who would be able to win from here.

Of course, Keith's great speciality is rook and bishop against rook, which he has reached – and won – more than twenty times. The finale of such an ending is also on the front cover, although this time it looks very much like Keith is on the receiving end.

The production is enhanced by a selection of photographs showing Keith and his friends both over the board and in more leisurely settings. Overall, *Arkell's Endings* is entertaining, instructive and accessible. Now it is time to start nagging him to write another book. *Arkell's Practical Openings for Weekend Congresses*, anyone?

Sean Marsh

### Mastering Positional Sacrifices

Merijn van Delft, 320 pages

New in Chess

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Mention sacrifices and most chess players will picture queens offering themselves in return for a fancy checkmate, or perhaps images will be summoned up of Tal giving away knights and bishops on the b5- and e6-squares of anyone foolish enough to play the Sicilian Defence against him.

However, there is a type of sacrifice that often falls through the gaps of both chess literature and experience. The positional sacrifice, "That somewhat mysterious-looking resource", is a rare guest at the chess table, partly because it is so hard to understand. In 2020, instant gratification is a staple for the masses in popular culture and giving something for (apparently) nothing is counter-intuitive.

Yet chess players should not fear delving into the depths in this work subtitled 'A Practical Guide to a Vital Skill in Chess', especially if beauty is on the agenda: "This non-forcing tool is not just a surprising and highly effective way of creating a decisive advantage during a game. Positional sacrifices are also instruments of superior beauty."

Merijn van Delft presents his instructional material in four parts, namely: fundamental themes; typical positional sacrifices; testing the limits; and training material. It takes a very good author to make this particular subject so accessible. Merijn is certainly up to the task. He has been presenting quality material on the ChessBase website for more than a decade and has been a chess trainer for more than twice that time; his skills in presentation and communication are obvious when reading this book.

There are certain characteristics to a positional sacrifice, with one standing above the rest: "Essential to a positional sacrifice is that the side that sacrifices does not profit immediately in a tactical way." This is not an easy concept for most players to absorb, but the easiest example to use in context is the Benko Gambit, in which Black sacrifices a pawn on move three, but often doesn't feel the benefit until deep into the endgame.

Here are two more thematic positional sacrifices – both played in the same game.

### S.Karjakin-T.Radjabov Sochi 2008



The position is instantly recognisable as one arising from a Dragon, which is inherently tactical in nature. Yet two typical ideas fall under the umbrella of the positional sacrifice. As the author rightly says, "The exchange of dark-squared bishops would instantly give White a winning attack," which explains the next move.

**17 ♖h6 ♗f6!**

"The first thematic positional exchange sacrifice. The minor pieces are more essential in the defence than the rooks."

**18 fxc4 ♗xc4 19 ♗xf8? ♗xf8 20 ♖e3 ♗xc3!**

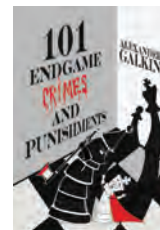
Soon after the first typical positional exchange sacrifice, the second one follows, everything played in true Dragon spirit. Black eliminates the option of a ♗d5 jump, taking the sting out of White's play" (0-1, 52).

In fact the more one goes through the book, the more it becomes apparent that positional sacrifices are indeed more prevalent than first thought. Think of the early ...c5 pawn sacrifice in the Sämisch King's Indian, for example – or the ...♗xf3 ideas common to the French Defence.

Merijn includes all of the classic examples of such sacrifices and brings in an abundance of other material. It should be remembered that "Playing a positional sacrifice will always require courage", but the most valuable advice is that, after sacrificing, one should "Just continue with your normal moves and act like nothing has happened."

It has been a very good year for New in Chess and this new book continues the positive trend. It is fully accessible and offers instruction and fun in equal amounts.

Sean Marsh



### 101 Endgame Crimes and Punishments

Alexander Galkin, 216 pages, paperback

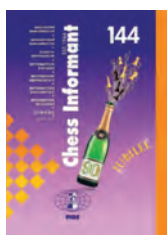
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.19**

GM Alexander Galkin is an award-winning coach, not least for his work with Russia's leading juniors. As such, this is not a basic primer on endgame tactics, but one written to help improve the skills of those rated over 1900 and is likely of use to those of up to about 2300 level. The games are largely very recent and feature an assortment of elite players. In general Galkin analyses why the first move made in each case was a mistake, largely because it underestimates the opponent's counterplay and then, after presenting the outcome, returns to the beginning to examine the correct initial continuation.

Elk & Ruby have also released a companion work, *111 Middlegame Crimes and Punishments*, written by Galkin in conjunction with WIM Anastasia Travkina (236 pages, £18.99 or just £17.19 for Subscribers). This is also aimed at the stronger club player and



above, and runs along similar lines to the aforementioned endgame work, but with the emphasis this time on improving the reader's tactical and positional play in the middlegame.



### Chess Informant 144

Sahovski Informator, 352 pages, paperback  
RRP £32.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.69**

This 'Jubilee' edition of the latest 'Informator' pays tribute to the Editor-in-Chief and long-time driving force behind the leading Belgrade chess publishers, with Aleksandar Matanovic having recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Elsewhere there is the usual annotated collection of recent leading games, many featuring important novelties, as well as contributions from the likes of Pentala Harikrishna and Danny Gormally.

As is the case these days, if you'd also like the material for *Chess Informant 144* in CD form, do just add £10.00 to your order or you can have the CD alone for only £9.99 (£8.99 for Subscribers). Also newly arrived from the same publishers is *The Power of Defence and the Art of Counter in 64 Pictures* by Nikola and Dejan Nestorovic (352 pages, hardback, £32.99 or £29.69 for Subscribers), which presents 64 detailed annotations of famous and less famous examples of both good defence and strong counterattacks. The notes are in fairly detailed English, so if you wanted to put in some graft and improve your defence, this work from a father and son IM and GM team might just help.



### ChessBase Magazine 196

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

The latest issue of *CBM* features annotations from Duda, Giri and Firouzja, as well as video presentations from regular contributors Mihail Marin and Simon Williams. There is also a special tribute to Bobby Fischer, while Robert Ris takes a look at Daniil Dubov's new interpretation of the Tarrasch for Black.



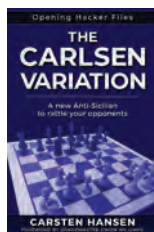
### Evgeny Vasiukov:

#### Chess Champion of Moscow\*

Alexander Nikitin, 156 pages, paperback

RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

Russian chess legend Nikitin takes a break from covering the career of the young Garry Kasparov to pay homage to his good friend and former sparring partner, Evgeny Vasiukov, who passed away in May 2018. Vasiukov may not be a household name in the west, but perhaps for his work as a second of Karpov's, but he was no mean player in his own right, winning the Moscow Championship six times and the World Seniors back in 1995, as well as a number of other major tournaments. Nikitin particularly emphasises how Vasiukov's style could be even almost swashbuckling on occasion (think Chigorin or Morozevich, not Karpov), while the book is illustrated with a number of fine photographs.



### The Carlsen Variation

Carsten Hansen, 128 pages, paperback

RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Subtitled 'A New Anti-Sicilian to rattle your opponents from the get-go!', Carsten Hansen's latest work presents an alternative after 1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 d6 to 3 f4 and 3 g3 for Anti-Sicilian fans. He shows that Vugar Gashimov's weapon, revolutionised by Magnus Carlsen, has real bite, namely 3 d4!? cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♘c6 5 ♗d2, intending b3, ♘b2 and 0-0-0.



### The Exciting Budapest Gambit

Simon Williams, ChessBase PC-DVD;

running time: 6 hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

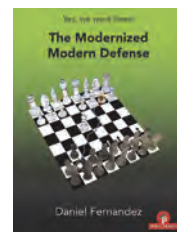
The popular presenter confesses at the start of this new DVD that until recently he knew little about the Budapest Gambit, but he is now rather enthralled by it, having discovered a number of new ideas while studying the existing literature on 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♘g4. In typical fashion, Williams presents Black's main ideas and introduces viewers to some lovely attacking gems before presenting a fairly detailed repertoire for Black, including providing options with both 4 ♘f4 ♘b4+ and 4...g5!?

### The Modernized French Defense Volume 2: Against the Tarrasch

David Miedema, 216 pages, paperback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

Having already examined the Winawer, the Dutch IM continues to explore his favourite French Defence for Thinkers Publishing, here focussing on how Black should best meet 3 ♘d2. Miedema follows in the footsteps of Korchnoi and Uhlmann, mapping out a detailed repertoire with 3...c5 4 exd5 exd5 for Black.



### The Modernized Modern Defence

Daniel Fernandez, 376 pages, paperback

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

The English GM believes that the Modern isn't just an opening, but a philosophy. Fernandez certainly likes to be creative and enjoy his chess, so it's no surprise that the Modern is one of his favourite weapons. Here he lays out a repertoire with 1 e4 g6, combining choice transpositions into the Pirc with a number of pure Modern systems for Black.

We were also delighted to see *The Modernized Marshall Attack* (232 pages, £23.99 Subscribers – £21.55) appearing in the same Thinkers series, it being by a contributor to this very issue, Milos Pavlovic. The Serbian GM and highly respected theoretician presents a repertoire for Black with his favourite 1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♘b5 a6 4 ♘a4 ♘f6 5 0-0 ♘e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♘b3 0-0, focussing chiefly on 8 c3 d5, but also demonstrating how to handle 8 a4, 8 d3 and 8 h3 as Black.



### Winning Quickly with 1.b3 and 1...b6

Ilya Odessky, 464 pages, paperback

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

You might associate the Nimzo-Larsen, as well as Owen's and the English Defence, with offbeat play, but perhaps not winning quickly. Nevertheless, as experienced author and 1 b3 expert Odessky reveals in his latest work for New in Chess, both 1 b3 and 1...b6 can easily lead to some rather romantic chess, in which tactics and early attacking chances abound. The author freely admits that not all his recommendations are one hundred percent sound, but they should still pack a definite punch at faster time limits and even at a slower rate of play at club level.

\* - Please note that stock of this new work is limited, so you're best contacting Chess & Bridge prior to making an order.