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Chess

BORIS SPASSKY (1937 - 2025)

**An in-depth look at the
life and career of the
former world champion**

ISSN 0964-6221



Boris Spassky - John Henderson, Daniel King & John Saunders pay tribute

Mixed Times - England retain their World Over-65 Senior Team Ch. title

Real Morphy - Stewart Player examines views of the legendary Paul Morphy

Chess

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An Island First

IMs Jose & Marcos Camacho Collados enjoyed their time on the Isle of Wight

The Wightlink Isle of Wight International was a new event designed to coincide with the February half-term school holiday. We are two brothers from Spain, with Jose currently living in and representing Wales, and decided to visit the island for the first time to play in this tournament. Here we share some instructive positions from Marcos's games (Marcos was looking for his final GM norm and ended his tournament fifth ahead of several GMs), and the key game overall on board one.

It was a very well-organised tournament by Dave Lightfoot and his team, with over 100 players including many titled ones. No less important, the tournament featured many side and social activities in addition to the main event, including a weekend congress and several blitz tournaments. In general, it was a very enjoyable festival, one of the few currently happening in the UK. Perhaps there may be some improvement in the future with the scheduling of the final rounds, but overall it's a tournament and festival to be included in everyone's calendar!

And here are the games. The first two analysed by Marcos himself, featuring both a strategic battle and a tactical combination.



Play is set to get underway in the UK's newest international, which took place at Ryde School.

M.Camacho Collados-E.Kreken Round 7



In this position, I felt that if I didn't play precisely, I could end up worse due to my opponent's superiority on the queenside. I played **23 f3** to control the e4-square and hint at a possible e2-e4 push in some lines. My opponent went **23...d7** to activate the knight via b6 and a4, and I responded with **24 f4!** now that the black knight no longer controls e4. After **24...b6** (funnily the best move in this position was to come back to f6)

25 f5! White was much better, completely neutralizing Black's bishop and I won on move 46.

M.Camacho Collados-A.Golding Round 9



This was a critical position in the final round of the tournament after some inaccuracies on my part, which left me in time

trouble and a difficult position. After **32...d8?!**, I found the only way to avoid being practically lost – sacrificing a whole rook!

33 h3 ♖f5 34 xh6!

The key is that after **34...xe4**, White responds with **35 xg7!**. However, accepting the rook sacrifice was Black's only salvation, continuing with **35...f6!**.

In the game, my opponent played **34...d3?** to create counterplay along the d-file, but after **35 hh4!**, White obtained a decisive advantage and I went on to win:

35...ad8 36 g5 g6 37 eg4 xg5 38 xg5 f5 39 exf6 d7 40 h6 e5 41 xg7 f7 42 h8 d1+ 43 h2 d8 44 h7 e6 45 f7 xf7 46 xe5+ e6 47 c7 d8d4 48 d4 d4 49 xb6 xc4 50 xa5 1-0

The tournament trophy was won on tiebreak by Australian GM Bobby Cheng. This was his last exciting round against IM (and surely soon-to-be GM) Matthew Wadsworth that decided the final standings.



Swiss GM Sebastian Bogner (left) defeated Vladyslav Larkin in the final round to tie for first.



Bobby Cheng chanced his arm, but ultimately had to settle for a draw with Matthew Wadsworth.

B.Cheng-M.Wadsworth Round 9



Cheng sacrificed a knight in the opening to get some activity against Black's king. The game continued **17...♟f8 18 ♚d6+ ♜e8 19 ♚e6+ ♟f8 20 ♚d6+ ♜e8 21 ♚c7!?**, playing for a win despite being a piece down, and spending half of his remaining time in the process. The game continued for many moves with some crazy positions, eventually ending in a hard-fought draw, as Cheng and Wadsworth each won £762.50 for a share of

first place, alongside Bogner and Chatalbashev:

21 ♚c7 ♟f8 22 b3 ♜e8 23 ♚d7 ♜c8 24 ♚d8 ♟b7 25 ♚d7 ♜c8 26 bxc4 ♚xc4 27 ♚d8 ♟b7 28 ♚d7 ♜c8 29 ♚d8 ♟b7 30 ♚h4 ♜f6 31 ♚fd1 ♟a6 32 ♟f1 ♚d8 33 ♚ac1 ♚xe4 34 ♚xe4 ♜xe4 35 ♚xc6 ♟b5 36 ♚c7 a4 37 f3 ♜f6 38 ♜c5+ ♟g8 39 ♜xd3 ♜xd3 40 ♜e7 ♚d5 41 ♜xf6 gxf6 42 ♚e1 ♚d8 43 ♚d1 ♚d5 44 ♚e1 ♚d8 45 ♚d1 ♚d5 46 ♚c3 ½-½

Leading Scores:

- 1-4 Bobby Cheng (AUS),
Sebastian Bogner (SUI),
Boris Chatalbashev (DEN),
Matthew Wadsworth (ENG) 7/9
5-9 Marcos Camacho Collados (ESP),
Vojtech Plat (CZE),
Ameet Ghazi (ENG),
Thomas Beerdsen (NED),
Matthew Turner (SCO) 6½.

Ed. – Amongst the rating prize winners, we should especially highlight 13-year-old Billy Fellowes of Kenilworth, who scored 5½/9, including draws with Matthew Wadsworth and Jovanka Houska, which sufficed for a gain of a whopping 137 rating points.

BRUTAL BREVITIES

H.Brackmann-M.Wadsworth Round 2 Sicilian Taimanov

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜c6 5 ♜c3 ♚c7 6 ♜e3 a6 7 g4! h6 8 h4 ♜f6 9 ♜xc6 bxc6 10 ♚f3 ♚b8 11 0-0-0!

Fearless, and engine-approved.

11...♚a5 12 ♜c4?

But this is not. 12 g5 hxg5 13 ♜xg5 or 12 ♜f4! e5 13 g5 would have been promising for White.

12...♚xb2!



13 ♚d3?

Of course, 13 ♜xb2? ♜a3+ is a game-ender and, seemingly, 13 ♜b1! was required to stay afloat.

13...♜a3

13...♚b4! 14 ♜b3 c5 wins, whereas now 14 ♜b1! was again possible.

14 ♜d2? d5 15 exd5 cxd5 0-1

L.Fava-B.Cheng Round 5 Reti Opening

1 ♜f3 d5 2 e3 ♜f6 3 c4 e6 4 b3 ♜d6 5 ♟b2 0-0 6 ♜e2 b6 7 ♜c3 ♟b7 8 ♚c1 a6 9 cxd5 exd5 10 0-0 ♜bd7 11 ♚c2 ♚e8 12 ♚a1 ♚c8 13 d4 ♚e7 14 ♚fc1 c5

Black is already quite comfortable, but now he is allowed to seize the initiative.

15 dxc5? bxc5 16 ♜a4? ♜g4! 17 ♚e1? d4!



Thematic and brutal play, as now 18 exd4 ♜xf3 would be a killer, and if 19 gxf3 ♚h4!. Already the game is up for White.

18 ♜xa6! ♜xa6 19 exd4 ♜xh2+! 20 ♜h1 ♚f6 21 dxc5 ♚h6 22 ♚d1 ♜de5 23 ♜xe5 ♜xe5+ 24 ♜g1 ♜h2+ 25 ♜h1 ♚ed8 0-1



60 Seconds with... Anthony Mathurin



16 ♖b8+!! ♜xb8 17 ♜d8# 1-0

The best three chess books: *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Chess* by Patrick Wolff (my first chess book), *Predator at the Chessboard* by Ward Farnsworth (really helped me understand the triggers behind various tactics), and Aron Nimzowitsch's classic *My System* (helped with positional play).

Is the ECF doing a good job? I stopped playing ECF-rated games a long time ago as they did not help my FIDE rating to grow. I prefer to just play online now.

Any advice for them or FIDE? It would be great if it was just one overall rating for people on the road to master titles.

Can we get more chess on to television? Without doubt. Chess is life. There are so many creative opportunities to reflect this through TV. Without error there can be no brilliance.

Can chess make one happy? Chess is an emotional and psychological roller coaster, with the ability to elevate you to cloud nine or dump you in chess purgatory!

A tip please for the club player: Keep playing all types of formats. Analyse your games too, once the emotions have ebbed away!

Ed. – Look out for Anthony on Chess Masters on BBC2 on Mondays at 8pm, as well as the iPlayer.



Born: April 7th 1978, London.

Place of residence: Birmingham.

Occupation: Chess coach.

Enjoyable? Absolutely. I enjoy helping students develop mental and emotional resilience, also tapping into their creativity to problem solve, while enjoying the game in a fun format. After all, success is a journey, not a destination.

And home life? There are daily life challenges, the same as everybody else.

But sometimes good to escape to: The chessboard, the place where time stands still. I could complete a 24-hour chess marathon!

Sports played or followed: I'm an Arsenal fan and hope we will win the Champions League!

A favourite novel? Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*.

Piece of music? 'Chariots of Fire' by Vangelis.

Film or TV series? *Scarface* and, of course, *The Traitors* and *Chess Masters: The Endgame*.

Will the current wave of chess popularity continue? Chess has survived for millennia.

Its growth will be directly proportional to its introduction to new people. Let that sink in!

What's the best thing about playing chess? The exhilaration of victory after an exciting battle. What a rush!

And the worst? The pain of seeing a winning game or advantage slip through my fingers into oblivion. Aaaargh!

Your best move? Coaching Adyita Verma to win the Under-8 British Championships in 2012.

And a highly memorable opponent? Nigel Short – what a legend.

Favourite game of all time? It's got to be the Opera Game, Paul Morphy against the Duke and Count.

P.Morphy-Duke of Brunswick & Comte de Vauvenargues

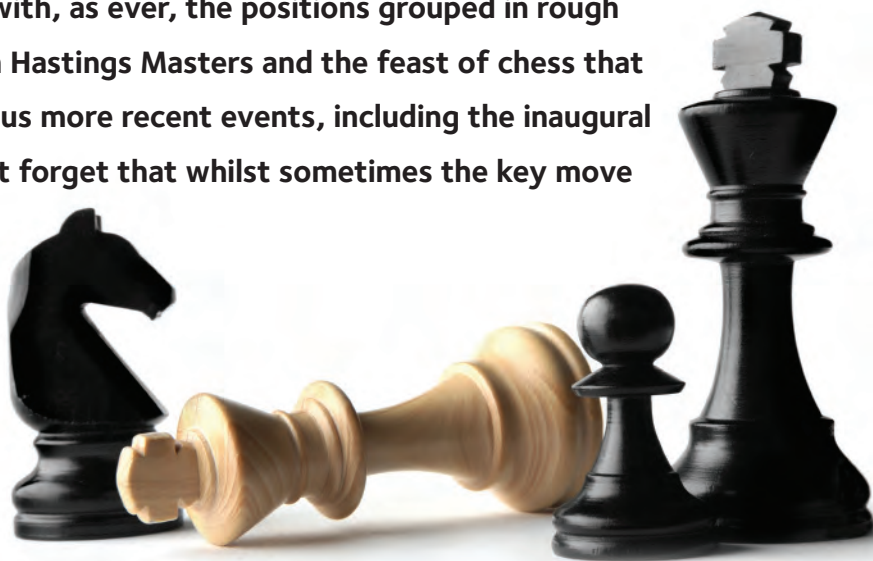
Paris 1858
Philidor Defence

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 ♙g4?! 4 dxe5 ♙xf3 5 ♖xf3 dxe5 6 ♙c4 ♘f6? 7 ♖b3 ♖e7 8 ♘c3 c6 9 ♙g5 b5? 10 ♘xb5! cxb5 11 ♙xb5+ ♘bd7 12 0-0-0 ♜d8 13 ♜xd7! ♜xd7 14 ♜d1 ♖e6 15 ♙xd7+ ♘xd7

Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. We revisit the Caplin Hastings Masters and the feast of chess that was Tata Steel, while also taking in various more recent events, including the inaugural Cheadle Open won by Keith Arkell. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just pick up a pawn.

Solutions on pages 54.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) B.Hare-W.Lesser
Leeds 2025
Black to Play



(2) G.Trueman-L.Nyamandi
Cheadle 2025
White to Play



(3) N.Yakubboev-A.Pijpers
Wijk aan Zee 2025
White to Play



(4) D.Lee-Y.Zhu
Cheadle 2025
Black to Play



(5) A.Alamri-A.Byron
Cheadle 2025
Black to Play



(6) S.Weber-R.Mounce
York 2025
Black to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



(7) Le Tuan Minh-I.Nepomniachtchi
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2025
White to Play



(8) Y.Kim-V.Verbin
Hastings 2024/25
Black to Play



(9) S.Melaa-K.Shubin
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2025
Black to Play



(10) A.Nezis-H.Bryant
Huddersfield 2025
White to Play and Draw



(11) J.Malek-A.Kaplan
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2025
White to Play



(12) S.Gunarathne-T.Quaite
Huddersfield 2025
White to Play



(13) P.Golubka-A.Jing
New York 2025
White to Play



(14) M.Burrows-N.Rastogi
Hastings 2024/25
White to Play



(15) A.Zlatin-E.Deutsch
Israeli League 2025
White to Play

Harder Puzzles for the Club Player – Solutions on page 54



(16) A.Duarte Fernandez–S.Moral Garcia
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2025
White to Play



(17) E.Rosen–S.Shankland
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2025
White to Play



(18) Geo.Moore–D.Plotnikov
Cheadle 2025
White to Play



(19) E.Gurel–I.Bulmaga
Wijk aan Zee 2025
White to Play



(20) A.Balaji–L.Varnam
4NCL, Coventry 2025
White to Play



(21) Nguyen Thai Dai Van–Lu Miaoyi
Wijk aan Zee 2025
White to Play



(22) E.Gurel–N.Yakubboev
Wijk aan Zee 2025
White to Play



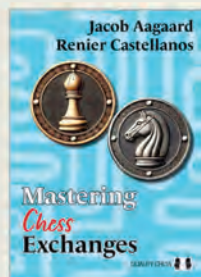
(23) Max.Turner–Mat.Turner
4NCL, Peterborough 2025
White to Play and Draw



(24) M.Hamer–M.Siva
Blackpool 2025
White to Play



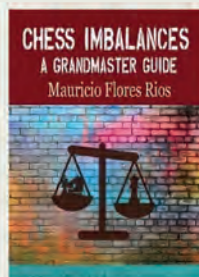
NEW FROM QUALITY CHESS



Mastering Chess Exchanges by Jacob Aagaard & Renier Castellanos

Few books have dealt with the topic of exchanges in chess, leaving this important part of chess strategy a mystery to most. In *Mastering Chess Exchanges*, grandmasters Aagaard and Castellanos break down the topic into crystal-clear themes, including piece preferences, tension, weaknesses, colour complexes, king safety and endgames, illustrating the concepts with illuminating examples.

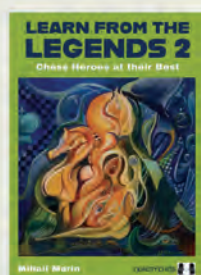
368 pages €27.99 (hc) €32.99 (hc) €23.99 (eBook)



Chess Imbalances by Mauricio Flores Rios

Material imbalances are a fundamental part of almost every chess game, yet have not received much attention in chess literature. In this illuminating book, GM Mauricio Flores Rios breaks down this universal topic into categories such as bishop vs knight, opposite-coloured bishops, possessing and playing against the bishop pair, and various scenarios with a queen or rook being traded for several pieces.

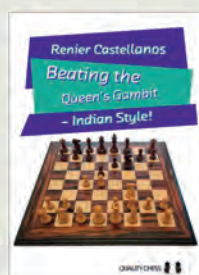
464 pages €29.99 (hc) €34.99 (hc) €25.99 (eBook)



Learn from the Legends 2 by Mihail Marin

When *Learn from the Legends* was published in 2004, it became an instant classic, and Mihail Marin became known as one of the world's finest chess authors. In this new book, the Romanian GM shines the spotlight on five more all-time great players: Leonid Stein, Lev Polugaevsky, David Bronstein, Paul Keres, and Lajos Portisch.

392 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc) €19.99 (eBook)



Beating the Queen's Gambit - Indian Style! by Renier Castellanos

This book advocates the 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 move order for Black. By waiting for 3.♘f3 or 3.g3 before playing 3...d5, Black reduces White's options. This is the companion work to the recent *Playing the Nimzo-Indian*. Together, the two books offer a complete, counterattacking and dynamic repertoire for Black against 1.d4.

321 pages €27.99 (pb) €32.99 (hc) €23.99 (eBook)



NEW FROM POPULAR CHESS



Benoni Mayhem by Andrew Martin

The hallmark of this opening is that Black makes the positional concession of allowing White a central majority and hopes for counterchances via active piece play in return. However, as the very experienced chess coach and author Andrew Martin demonstrates in this highly engaging book, there are many other weird and wonderful ways to handle these 'Benoni structures'.

320 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc) €19.99 (eBook)



The London System by Cyrus Lakdawala

A big advantage of playing the London is that (unlike other lines these days) it is highly unlikely you will get caught out in the opening. White's position is very solid and the early play revolves far more around plans and concepts than having to defuse engine-inspired bombs that have been lobbed into your position.

336 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc) €19.99 (eBook)



Accelerated Dragon by Nigel Davies

Highly experienced chess trainer Nigel Davies outlines a repertoire for Black in the Accelerated Dragon. This is a creative opening where complications can arise at an early stage. A complete repertoire for Black against 1.e4 based on a strong, aggressive line where 'natural' moves can be disastrous for White.

392 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc) €19.99 (eBook)



The Semi-Slav by Nicolas Yap

The Semi-Slav (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 c6) is a line that provides a good balance between solidity and dynamism. The opening is undoubtedly sound but also contains plenty of latent aggressive possibilities. Nicolas Yap outlines a complete repertoire for Black in this complex, modern variation.

400 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc) €19.99 (eBook)

difficulties of getting this knight back into the game.

21 ♖e3 ♜f6 22 g5 ♜h5 23 ♜d5 ♜f5 24 ♜he1

White's more harmonious central play looks rather ominous.

24...♜f7 25 ♖a7 ♜bf8 26 ♜b3!

Tal now exploits the weaknesses around Spassky's vulnerable king.

26...b5 27 ♜a3 ♜xf4



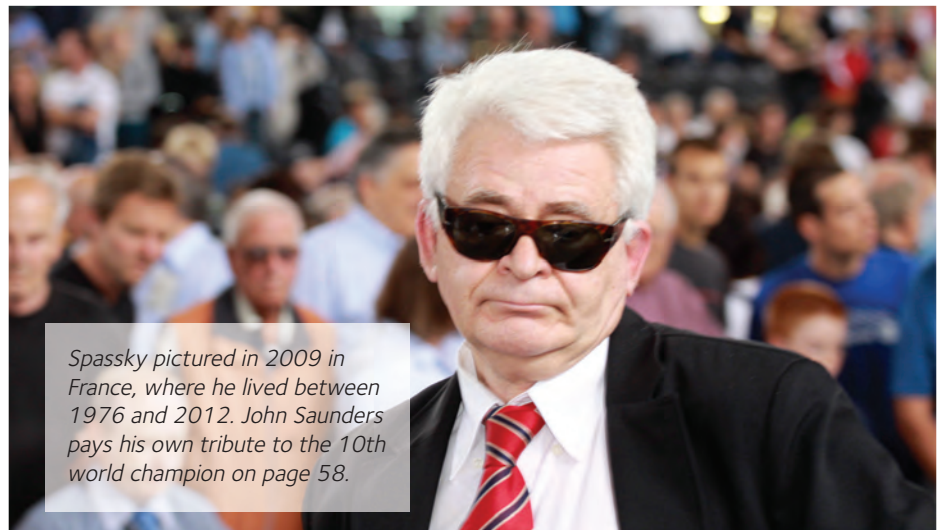
28 ♜xe7!

It's never a good sign when Tal sacrifices a knight deep in the heart of his opponent's position – and here it just strips all the defences from around the black king.

28...b4 29 ♜xa6 ♜xe7 30 ♜b7+ ♖e8 31 ♜xc6+

It's just a matter of time now, as Tal's forces penetrate the black camp.

31...♜d7 32 ♜xe7+! ♖e7 33 ♜e4+ ♜e6 34 ♖d4



Spassky pictured in 2009 in France, where he lived between 1976 and 2012. John Saunders pays his own tribute to the 10th world champion on page 58.

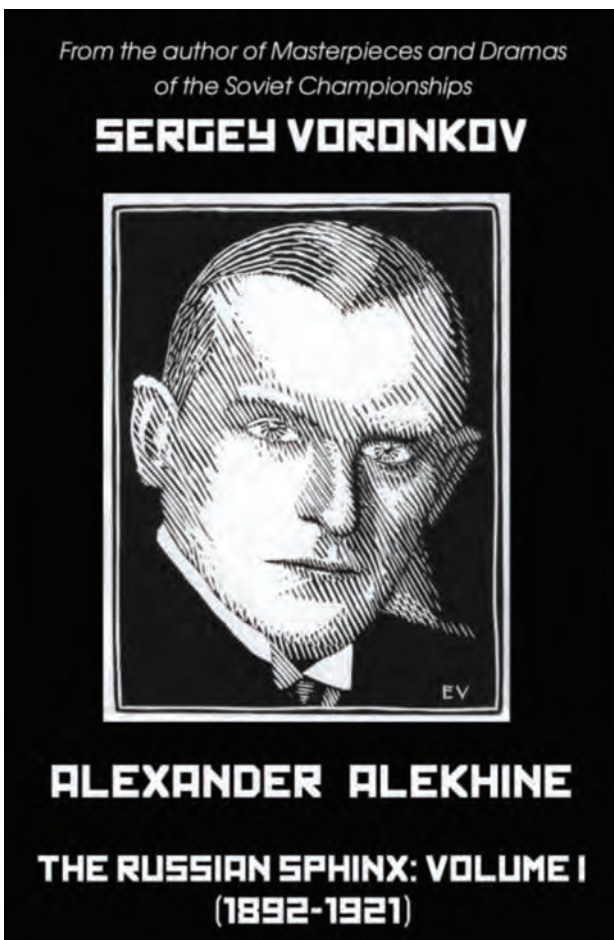
The bishop coming to f6 is going to prove to be a killer.

34...♜f5 35 ♖f6+ ♖f7 36 ♜xb4



All but forcing Spassky into succumbing in a hopelessly lost rook and pawn ending. But for the large crowds growing around the board, the ensuing time scramble proved to be a bonus. For posterity, let's play out the rest of the game.

36...♜xg5 37 ♖xg5 ♜xg5 38 ♜xd6 ♜xd6 39 ♜xd6 ♜g1+ 40 ♖d2 ♜g2+ 41 ♖c3 h5 42 a4 g5 43 a5 ♜g3+ 44 ♜d3 ♜g1 45 b4 ♖e6 46 b5 ♜a1 47 ♖b4 ♖f5 48 b6 g4 49 hxg4+ hxg4 50 ♖b5 ♖f4 51 b7 ♜b1+ 52 ♖c6 g3 53 ♜xg3 ♖xg3 54 a6 ♖f4 55 a7 ♖e5 56 b8♜+ 1-0



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Awesome Alexakis

The Wood Green Invitational delivered a couple of very impressive performances

Second seed, the 21-year-old Greek IM Dimitris Alexakis made his second GM norm as he rather dominated the Wood Green Invitational, once again organised by Lawrence Cooper and hosted by the Oddfellows Hall in Stafford. The tournament was also one of the last events to receive DCMS-funded support via the ECF before the grant ran out on March 31st.

Alexakis didn't allow a fairly brutal defeat at the hands of GM Ameet Ghasi in round four to derail him; if anything it acted as a spur to drive him to win his final five games and so finish some two points clear of top seed Matthieu Cornette. 10-year-old Supratit Banerjee also impressed, taking his chance with both hands when Marcus Harvey overpressed in round two. Banerjee went on to win in 87 moves and would finish on a highly creditable 3/9 for a 2340 performance. He was though rather outclassed by the overall winner.

D.Alexakis-S.Banerjee Stafford 2025 Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 ♟f5 4 ♞d2

This sideline is a favourite of Wesley So's. It may look a little ponderous but placing the knight on b3 will slow down Black's natural pawn break, ...c5.

4...e6 5 ♞b3 ♞d7 6 ♞f3 ♞c7 7 ♟e2 a6?!

Covering b5 before going ...c5 costs Black too much time. Vincent Keymer has twice used the immediate 7...c5 against So, while 7...f6!? 8 0-0!? fxe5 9 dxe5 ♞xe5 10 ♞bd4 0-0-0 was pretty unclear in Mishra-Shankland, Biel (rapid) 2024.

8 0-0 c5 9 c3

Securing d4, although White might also have played for a lead in development with 9 ♟e3!?, and if 9...cxd4 (9...c4 10 ♞bd2 h6 11 c3 is likely also an edge for White; one plan is ♞h4 and f2-f4) 10 ♞bxd4 when 10...♞xe5? 11 ♞xf5 exf5 12 ♞xd5 would

be most inadvisable for Black.

9...♞e7?!

9...c4! was necessary, although 10 ♞bd2 h6 11 ♞e1! ♞e7 12 ♞c2 g5 13 ♞e3 ♟g6 14 b3! cxb3 15 c4!? was still rather promising for White in Mamedov-Suleymanli, Nakhchivan 2022.

10 ♞xc5!

Correctly opening the position with Black still some way from completing development.

10...♞xc5 11 dxc5 ♞xc5 12 ♞d4



12...♞c7

12...♟g6 might look more secure, but 13 ♟e3 ♞c7 14 ♞c1 followed by c3-c4 would leave Black under heavy pressure too.

13 ♞a4+ ♞c6

13...♞d7!? was presumably rejected due to 14 ♟b5. Black actually isn't losing more than a pawn after 14...♞c6 15 ♟e3 ♟g6 16 ♞xc6 ♞c8 17 ♞b3 axb5 18 ♞a7 ♞a8 19 ♞fd1!, fairly grim though this would have been for him.

14 ♞xf5 exf5 15 ♟f4

The opening has not been a success for Black and clearly e5-e6 is a threat.

15...0-0-0 16 b4!

White can afford to give up e5 to attack, since 16...♞xe5 17 b5 axb5 18 ♟xb5 ♟d6 19 ♞ab1 would offer excellent promising compensation. However, better this or 16...f6!? than what Banerjee now tries.

16...♟e7? 17 b5 axb5 18 ♟xb5 d4!?

19 ♞ab1!

Refusing to be distracted from breaking through with ♟a6.

19...g5

Likewise, 19...dxc3 20 e6 ♟d6 21 ♟a6! ♞a5 22 ♞b5 should be winning.

20 ♟a6!



20...bxa6

20...♞a5 21 cxd4 gxf4 22 ♞fc1 is all over too.

21 ♞xa6+ ♟d7 22 e6+!

The most classy and crushing finish.

22...fxe6 23 ♟xc7 ♟xc7 24 cxd4 ♞b8

25 ♞fc1 ♞xb1? 26 ♞xc6+ 1-0



Supratit Banerjee in action against Ameet Ghasi in a blitz event on the Isle of Wight.

Wood Green Invitational - Stafford - Wednesday 5th - Sunday 9th March (Category 8, ave. rating = 2443)

	Player	Title	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts	TPR
1	Dimitris Alexakis	IM	GRE	2507	#	½	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7½	2709
2	Matthieu Cornette	GM	FRA	2527	½	#	0	0	½	1	1	½	1	1	5½	2514
3	Ameet Ghasi	GM	ENG	2505	1	1	#	0	½	½	0	1	½	½	5	2479
4	Eldar Gasanov	GM	UKR	2469	0	1	1	#	½	½	½	½	½	½	5	2483
5	Krzysztof Raczek	IM	POL	2428	0	½	½	½	#	½	½	1	1	½	5	2488
6	Jonah Willow	IM	ENG	2450	0	0	½	½	½	#	½	1	1	1	5	2486
7	Filip Boe Olsen	IM	DEN	2468	0	0	1	½	½	½	#	½	½	0	3½	2361
8	Stanley Badacsonyi	FM	ENG	2334	0	½	0	½	0	0	½	#	½	1	3	2330
9	Supratit Banerjee	CM	ENG	2250	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	#	1	3	2340
10	Marcus Harvey	IM	ENG	2495	0	0	½	½	½	0	1	0	0	#	2½	2272



Solutions

to Find the Winning Moves (pp.26-28)

1) Hare-Lesser

1...♟d3+! 0-1 Mate follows on f2.

2) Trueman-Nyamandi

1 ♖xd7! 1-0 If 1...♚xd7 2 ♜f8+.

3) Yakubboev-Pijpers

1 ♖h6+ ♕h8 2 ♜g8+! ♜xg8 3 ♜f7# 1-0

4) Lee-Zhu

1...♜xg2+! 2 ♕h1 (2 ♜xg2 ♜e2+ 3 ♕h1 ♕h3 is equally hopeless) 2...♜e2 3 g4 ♖d8 (or 3...♜xf3 4 ♖d3 ♜xd3 5 ♜xg2 ♖d2+) 4 ♜c7 ♖d7! 0-1

5) Alamri-Byron

1...♜xe3! 2 ♕h3 (or 2 ♜xe3 ♜xg4+) 2...♜xe2 3 ♜xe2 ♖fd8 left Black a clear piece to the good.

6) Weber-Mounce

1...♜xd4! 2 ♖d3 (2 exd4 ♜xd4+ 3 ♖f2 ♜xe4 is fairly straightforward for Black, and if 4 ♜xc7? ♖ac8 5 ♖d6 ♜c4) 2...♜b3 (2...♕xf4!? 3 exf4 ♜xe4! 4 ♜xe4 ♖e8 5 ♜xb7 ♜e2+ 6 ♕h1 ♜xd2 also wins) 3 ♜xb3 ♜xe4 4 ♖ad1 ♕xf4 5 ♜xf4? (5 exf4 ♖d4+ 6 ♕h1 ♖e2 7 ♕c1 ♜e4+ 8 ♜f3 would fight on, albeit in a pretty grim position) 5...♜xf4 6 ♕c3? ♜a4 0-1

7) Le Tuan Minh-Nepomniachtchi

1 ♜xb8! ♜xb8 2 ♜xc8+ ♜e8 3 ♜xe8+ ♕xe8 4 e5 1-0

8) Kim-Verbin

1...♜g4! 2 f3 (both 2 h3 ♜xf2+ 3 ♜xf2 ♕xf2 and 2 ♜f3 ♜h4 3 h3 ♜xf2+ 4 ♕h2 ♕g4 5 ♜g3 ♜xg3+ 6 ♕xg3 ♜xd3 7 hxg4 ♖fb8 should be lost in the long run) 2...♜xh2! 3 ♖e1? ♜g4 0-1 One of several winning moves; White can't avoid mate and save the queen.

9) Melaa-Shubin

1...♜h4! (1...♜h4!? 2 ♜xh4 ♖xh4 3 ♕g5 ♕xa2 4 ♕xh4 ♜xh4 5 b3 ♜f3 also works) 2 ♖xd5? (this leaves White down the exchange and with an awful light-squared bishop, although even after 2 ♜g5 ♜xg5 3 ♕xg5 ♕xa2 4 ♕xh4 ♜xh4 5 b3 ♜f3 6 ♕b2 ♜xb3! 7 cxb3 ♜xe5 8 ♕c3 f5 Black would surely have won, with such a strong knight and three pawns for the exchange) 2...♜xg4 0-1

10) Nezis-Bryant

1 ♕f4! (the only move, and not 1 f4? ♕c4 2 e5 f5!) 1...♕xf2 2 e5! ♕d4 (or 2...fxe5+ 3 ♕xe5 ♕xh4 4 ♕f4, heading for h1) 3 exf6 ♕xf6 4 ♕g3 ♕c3 5 ♕g2 ♕d3 6 ♕h1 ♕e3 7 ♕g1 ♕f3 8 ♕h1 ♕f2

9 ♕h2 ♕xh4 10 ♕h1 ♕g3 11 ♕g1 ♕h3 12 ♕h1 ♕f2 ½-½

11) Malek-Kaplan

With Black's king so restricted, the simplest winning method is to improve White's worst placed piece, the king, 1 ♕e4 (1 ♕c3 was preferred in the game, where after 1...♕a4 White should have moved the king back, not allowed 2 ♜b6+ ♕a5 3 ♜c8 ♕a4 4 ♜xd6?? a5 when suddenly stalemate was unavoidable: 5 ♜b7 ½-½) 1...♕a4 2 ♕f5 ♕a5 (of course, if 2...a5? 3 ♜b6#) 3 ♕e6 even forcing mate: 3...♕a4 4 ♜xd6 ♕a5 5 ♜xc5 ♕a4 6 ♜b6 a5 7 ♜c5#.

12) Gunarathne-Quaite

After 1 ♖b2? ♕f6 2 c5 ♖b4 3 c6 ♕e7 Black's king was close enough and White had to scramble to draw: 4 ♖d2 b2 5 c7 b1 ♜ 6 ♖d7+! (6 c8 ♜?? ♜e4+ mates) 6...♕xd7 7 c8 ♜+! ♕xc8 ½-½. Instead, 1 c5! (or 1 ♖h1! b2 2 c5 b1 ♜ 3 ♖xb1 ♖xb1 4 c6 ♖c1 5 ♕b7 ♖b1+ 6 ♕c7 ♖a1 7 ♕b6 ♖b1+ 8 ♕c5 ♖c1+ 9 ♕b4, etc) 1...b2 2 ♖xb2! ♖xb2 3 c6 ♖c2 4 ♕b7 ♖b2+ 5 ♕c7 ♖a2 6 ♕b6 would have won, and if 6...♖b2+ 7 ♕c5 ♖c2+ 8 ♕b4 ♖xc6 (or 8...♖a2 9 c7) 9 a8 ♜ ♖f6 10 ♕c5 ♖f4 11 ♜g2+! ♕f6 12 ♕d5 ♖g4 13 ♜f2+ ♕g5 14 ♕e5 when White threatens mate and Black doesn't have a fortress.

13) Golubka-Jing

After 1 ♕xg5? the players had to shake hands (½-½), but bringing the king backwards to d2 would have won, most simply via 1 ♕f3! ♖f5+ (or 1...♜g3+ 2 ♕e2 ♜g2+ 3 ♕f1 ♜g4 4 ♜f2!) 2 ♕e3 ♖xf7 (2...♖f3+ 3 ♕d2 ♖xf7 4 ♖d4+! forces mate, 4...♕b1 5 ♖b4+ ♕a1 6 ♜c3+ ♕b1 7 ♜c1#, and here 3...♖d3+!? 4 ♕e2! ♖d2+ 5 ♕e3 ♖d3+ 6 ♕e4 ♖f3 7 ♖d4+! also wins) 3 ♕d2 ♖d7+ 4 ♕c3 ♖d3+ 5 ♕b4! when Black is finally out of good checks and 5...♖d1 6 ♜e3 ♕b1 7 ♖b3+ ♕c1 8 ♜xa2 reaches queen against rook.

14) Burrows-Rastogi

1 ♜f5+! exf5 (1...♕g8? 2 ♜xg6+! is mate in two) 2 ♕xf7! ♕g5+!? (desperation with mate threatened down the g-file) 3 ♜xg5 ♜xf7 4 ♜dg1 ♖g8 5 ♜xg6+ ♕f8 6 ♖h6+ 1-0

15) Zlatin-Deutsch

1 ♖c6! ♖d8 2 ♜xd6! ♕d7 (2...♜xd6 3 ♖xd6 ♜f8 4 ♜xf8+ ♕xf8 5 ♖d8+ pins and wins, after 5...♕g7 6 ♕a6 ♖c7 7 ♖e1) 3 ♜xf7! ♖xf7 4 ♜xd8+ ♖xd8 5 ♖d6! a6 6 ♕c6 1-0

16) Duarte Fernandez-Moral Garcia

1 ♜g5! h6? (1...g6 2 hxg6 hxg6 3 ♕xg6!

would also end the game, and even after the engine's 1...♖e7!? White must be winning with 2 ♕xh7+ ♕h8 3 h6!, and then 3...g6 4 ♕xg6 fxg6 5 ♜xg6 or 3...gxh6 4 ♜de4 ♜xe4 5 ♕xe4) 2 ♕h7+! 1-0 Mate follows on h7 or f7.

17) Rosen-Shankland

A truly wicked opening trap: 1 ♖h3! e5 (there's just no good defence to the threat of ♖b3, as if 1...♕a8 2 ♕a6 ♖b8 3 ♖b3! ♖xb3? 4 ♖d8# or 1...c5? 2 ♕b5+) 2 ♖b3 ♕a8 (hopeless, as would be 2...♖b8 3 ♕c7) 3 ♕a6 ♜e7 4 ♕xc8 ♜xc8 5 ♖d8+ ♕e7 6 ♖xc8 ♕e6 7 ♖xa8 1-0

18) Moore-Plotnikov

1 ♜xe5! (opening lines with gain of tempo) 1...fxe5? (even 1...♕f5 2 ♜c6 would be rather crushing) 2 ♜g3+ ♕f8 3 d6! (3 ♜h6+!? ♕e7 4 d6+! ♕d8 5 ♜f8+ ♕e8 6 ♜e7+ is also brutal) 3...♕e6? (it would have been mate too after 3...f6 4 ♜h6+ ♕f7 5 ♜g7+ ♕e6 6 ♖d1!, and 3...♕f5 4 ♜h6+ ♕e8 5 ♜g8+ wins the exchange for starters) 4 ♜g5 1-0

19) Gurel-Bulmaga

1 ♖exd4! 1-0 1 ♖dxd4! also works, the key variation running 1...♖xd4 2 ♖xd4 ♜xc2 3 ♖xd8+ ♕h7 4 ♕d3+ (Afek) and wins.

20) Balaji-Varnam

1 ♜xf7! ♜c7 (1...♖xf7? 2 ♖xe6 ♜c5 3 ♜e4 ♜c7 4 ♖xe7 wins, as does 1...♕xf7? 2 ♖xe6 ♜xe6 3 ♜h5+ ♕g8 4 ♕xe6+ ♕h8 5 ♜e4) 2 ♕f4! ♜c5 3 ♖xe6 led to annihilation: 3...♜f6 4 ♖e5 ♜c7 5 ♖e4 ♕g4!? 6 ♜xg4 ♜c5 7 ♖e6 ♜xe4? 8 ♜h6+ ♕h8 9 ♜g8+! ♜xg8 10 ♜f7# 1-0

21) Nguyen Thai Dai Van-Lu Miaoyi

1 bxc5! ♖xb1 2 ♕d7 h5 (or 2...♖h1!? 3 h4! ♖g1 4 ♕d6+ ♕g8 5 f5! gxf5 6 c6 and wins, as pointed out by our noble Wijk reporter Yochanan Afek) 3 c6 (this pawn, allied to Black's cut-off king, will carry the day) 3...♕g7 4 ♕e5+ f6 5 c7 ♖c1 6 ♕b2 ♖c2 7 c8 ♜ ♖xb2 8 ♜c7 ♖e2 9 ♕d6+ ♕f8 10 ♖h7 a5 11 ♜xg6 a4 12 ♜xf6+ ♕g8 13 ♜g6+ ♕f8 14 f5 1-0

22) Gurel-Yakubboev

1 ♜xh6! ♕xh6 (1...♜g6 2 ♜g4+ ♕g8 3 ♖f6 is hopeless too) 2 ♖f7+ ♜g7 3 ♖f6! ♖g6 4 ♜xg6 1-0 4...♕xg6 5 ♖f6+ is the end.

23) Turner-Turner

1 f4! ♖h4 (1...♖xh5+ 2 ♕f6 ♖h4 3 f5! is a key point, White having enough activity to hold after 3...bxc4 4 bxc4 ♖xc4 5 ♖e7) 2 ♖e2 bxc4 3 bxc4 a5 4 ♖a2 ♕e7 5 ♖xa5 (relying on the white f-pawn with 5 ♖e2+!? ♕d7 6 ♖a2 ♖xh5+ 7 ♕f6 ♖h4 8 f5 ♖xc4 9 ♖xa5 also works) 5...♖xh5+ 6 ♕g4 ♖h1 7 ♕f5 ♖g1 8 ♖a3 ♕f8 (or 8...h5 9 ♖e3+ ♕f8 10 ♕f6 ♖g6+ 11 ♕f5 ♕g7 12 ♖h3 ♖h6 13 ♕g5) 9 ♕f6 ♖g6+ 10 ♕f5 ♕g7 11 ♖h3 ♖g1 12 ♖h2 h5!? 13 ♖xh5 ♖c1 14 ♖g5+ ♕f8 15 ♕f6 ♖xc4 16 f5 ♖h4 17 ♖h5! (a neat final touch, based on stalemate, although even 17 ♖g1 ♖h6+ 18 ♕g5

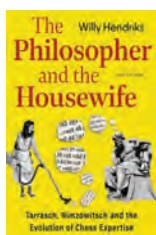
1 ♖e6! (1 ♖xa7? ♜xd6 2 a4? ♚f5 left White under heavy pressure in this last-round game;

Black went on to win and tie for first)
1...♙f5 (1...♙f4? 2 ♖c3+ is even worse for Black, and if 2...♘h7 3 ♖c2+ ♔g7 4 ♖g6+ ♘h8 5 ♗xh6+! ♚xh6 6 ♖h7#) 2 ♖c3+!
 ♔g8 3 ♖f6 ♖b1+ 4 ♔g2 would have left Black completely tied up, and White winning:

for example, **4...♖h7** (or **4...g4 5 ♖xh6!**
gxf3 + 6 ♖xf3!) **♜xh6 7 ♖g3+**, forcing mate)
5 ♔e7! **♖g7 6 d7 ♖b8 7 ♖c6 ♜h8 8 ♖e6**
 when, finally, something must give.



This Month's New Releases

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

In this follow-up, subtitled 'Tarrasch, Nimzowitsch and the Evolution of Chess Expertise', to the popular *The Ink War: Romanticism Versus Modernity in Chess* (New in Chess, 2022), which focused on the rivalry between Wilhelm Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort, Hendriks fast-forwards a few years to examine another mighty clash of chess personalities. Unlike Steinitz and Zukertort, who contested the first-ever official world championship match in 1886, the two players under the current microscope consist of one who left it a little too late to mount a title challenge, when his best years had already gone by, and another who never became a challenger at all.

Yet the two players in question – Siegbert Tarrasch and Aron Nimzowitsch – exuded mighty chess auras, and their respective influences on the game and its players is still felt strongly to this day. Indeed, it was the Tarrasch Defence to the Queen's Gambit which helped Gukesh Dommaraju to win the decisive game against Ding Liren in last year's world championship match.

In the words of the author, Tarrasch and Nimzowitsch "could be called the two vainest chess players in history. This book tells the fascinating story of their lifelong rivalry. They clashed as personalities, as players and as chess writers, both searching for the truth in chess, but with very different perspectives."

It may not be the most obvious chess rivalry to cover from the period in question, which was thoroughly dominated by Emanuel Lasker, Jose Raul Capablanca and Alexander Alekhine – all of whom became champion of the world. Indeed, the more obvious rival for Tarrasch would be Lasker, with whom he contested a

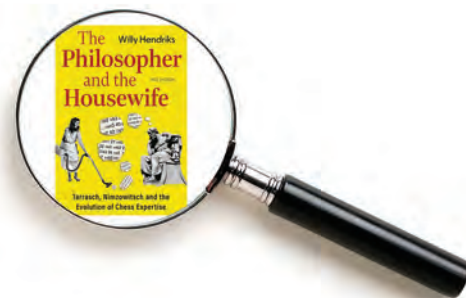
spiky title match. This rivalry is covered in the book too, by the way, but the main focus is definitely the polar opposites of the titular characters.

The stereotypical view of the two players usually casts Tarrasch as a dogmatic stickler and Nimzowitsch as an eccentric loose cannon, with the former sticking, almost religiously, to the books and the latter full of surprises from the opening moves onwards. Hendriks skilfully digs much deeper to provide an appreciation of the strengths, and weaknesses, of the two protagonists. When they played each other, the tension was clear – and it still is apparent, when playing through their games even after all these years. As can be expected, the actual games between the two are covered in depth, always in the context of their greater rivalry.

"Their duel took place not only in words but also at the board, although by the time Nimzowitsch joined the world elite, Tarrasch had already entered the second half of his career. Yet, partly due to this intellectual animosity, their encounters at the board were also highly fraught. Between 1904 and 1928, they faced each other in twelve games. Almost all of these were great battles, and they run like a common thread throughout this book."

Their rivalry appears to have started during their very first game, which reached this position after Black's tenth move:

Nuremberg 1904



According to Nimzowitsch, "After the 10th move Tarrasch folded his arms across his chest and made the following spontaneous pronouncement: 'Never in my life have I had such a won game after ten moves as I have now!'. The game ended in a draw. But for a long time I could not forgive Tarrasch for the 'insult' he inflicted on me in front of all those spectators."

It may be a little rich for Nimzowitsch to criticise such an insult; after all, after losing a game to Friedrich Sämisch he uttered the immortal words: "Against this idiot I have to lose!"

Nimzowitsch ended up with a plus-three score over Tarrasch after their 12 games, played between 1904 and 1928, but is clear that Tarrasch was far from his best in his latter years, which is only to be expected at the end of his 50-year chess career. For the best of Tarrasch, examine his games and results from the last two decades of the 1800s and make sure to take a look at the great tournament in Vienna, 1898; one of the best performances by any chess player.

I have to say the previous historical chess books by Hendriks somehow failed to click with me, but this one held my attention throughout and provided fresh insights into one of history's best-kept secret rivalries. This book is recommended to all players who have a strong interest in chess history and the great personalities from a bygone age. Just one thing: please remember the old advice of 'never judge a book by its cover', as the artwork for this one is truly dreadful.

Sean Marsh



Chess Stars

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

Do you remember a time when white players habitually avoided allowing the Nimzo-Indian Defence? Inspired by Garry

Kasparov, everyone preferred to allow the Queen's Indian Defence (1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 b6) and to meet it with the prophylactic 4 a3 (such was the fear of a subsequent ...♗b4 after ♘c3), or playing into a sedate main line with 4 g3.

In current times, 3 ♘c3 is back in fashion, but Black's Nimzo-Indian resources remain fully loaded. All 1 d4 and 2 c4 players need to take the defence very seriously indeed. Yet, as the author explains, advice on how to play from the white point of view has been strictly limited in recent times: "Lately White has been struggling to make something out of the opening. Indicatively, recent years have seen only books from Black's perspective."

A new approach is advocated; a cunning move order to steer the game firmly into territory favoured by the first player. "This repertoire presents an innovative approach for White. While he starts with Kasparov's move order 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗b4 4 ♘f3, he is often ready to transpose to the Rubinstein System with e3, having sidestepped the main Black's equalizers against it. That allows White to get rich dynamic positions with fair chances for success."

There are many subtle points to White's order of moves. For example, after 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗b4 4 ♘f3 c5 5 e3 0-0 6 ♗d3 d5, White has the option of playing 7 cxd5 exd5 8 dxc5!? when "we have a clear plan to play against the isolani on d5." This dodges the rock-solid black line of 4 e3 0-0 5 ♗d3 d5 6 ♘f3 dxc4 7 ♗xc4 c5 8 a3 ♗xc3+ 9 bxc3 ♖c7, which has always been a very tough nut to crack.

Semkov makes the ironic point that this particular move order – of switching from 4 ♘f3 back into the Rubinstein variation with 5 e3 – was inspired by Garry Kasparov's greatest rival, Anatoly Karpov, in game five of his 1974 Candidates match against the late, lamented Boris Spassky. The irony being, of course, that Kasparov fashioned 4 ♘f3 into a very potent anti-Nimzo-Indian weapon against Karpov himself in their famous world championship clashes.

If Black castles on the fourth move, then the recommendation is to head into lines starting with 5 ♗g5. Meanwhile, 4...b6 is met not by 5 ♗g5, when 5...h6 6 ♗h4 g5 7 ♗g3 ♘e4 8 ♖c2 ♗b7 is fine for Black (as he has not yet castled, the kingside pawns are easier to move), but by 5 e3 again, leading to aggressive options for White regardless of how Black chooses to set up his position.

Throughout the plethora of lines and variations, it is back to the ghost of Bobby Fischer to show Black's most challenging option. After 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗b4, "The most (and only!) principled way to punish our particular path to the Rubinstein System via 4 ♘f3 c5 5 e3 is Fischer's set-up 5...♗xc3+ 6 bxc3 d6. In my opinion, White obtains a stable advantage with 7 ♗d3 ♘c6 8 e4 e5 9 h3! h6 10 ♗e3...



"...aiming to provoke 10...b6. Now we close the centre and start strangling the opponent. However, you should know the right manoeuvres and where to place the king."

Indeed, both kings often end up on the queenside on this line, which leads to heavy positional play, albeit with White having the extra space and Black having to endure a passive position for a very long time.

Books from Chess Stars don't receive the publicity and recognition they deserve. Take a look at their back catalogue and one will find a plethora of very interesting, original takes on the openings which are well worth the reader's time. *Fighting the Nimzo* is another case in point and is recommended to all those looking for something fresh to play against one of Black's best defences to 1 d4, 2 c4.

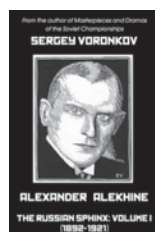
Sean Marsh



A Complete Opening Repertoire for Black after 1...e6

Nicolas Yap, 520 pages, hardback
RRP £37.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £34.15**

Many players like to meet 1 d4 with 1...e6, bypassing some tricky lines, not least the Trompowsky, while angling for a French Defence after all. It's also a favourite with American author and theoretician Yap, who has delivered a detailed complete repertoire for Black in this new release for Thinkers Publishing. 175 pages are devoted to 1 d4 e6, with the Stonewall Dutch the cornerstone of the repertoire, before over 200 pages see a thorough discussion of 1 e4 e6, and if 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 ♗b4. Yap then rounds things off with examination of 1 c4, 1 ♘f3 and White's rarer first moves.



Alexander Alekhine – The Russian Sphinx: Volume I (1892–1921)

Sergey Voronkov, 472 pages, paperback
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

Leading Russian chess historian Voronkov's works for Elk and Ruby have been very highly regarded in recent years and this latest one also impresses on first reading. This is the first of our four planned volumes on the life of the enigmatic fourth world chess champion, including his legendary last-minute reprieve from being shot by, and subsequent career as detective under, the Bolsheviks. In typical Elk and Ruby fashion, the book is illustrated with a great many photographs and also includes over 50 games, including 11 previously unknown ones, as well as a set of 10 light annotations by Alekhine which were found in the archive of Alexander Kotov. Do note too that a hardback version of *Alexander Alekhine – The Russian Sphinx: Volume I* is also available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £53.95 or £48.55 for Subscribers.



Chess Informant 162 – Manoeuvre

Chess Informant, 320 pages, paperback
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

The latest 'Informator' from our friends in Belgrade contains not just all the latest novelties, annotated games, endgames and combinations, presented in classic languageless format, but also plenty of coverage of last year's European Individual and world championship match, as well as some fascinating opening articles on the King's and Budapest Gambits.



Chess Opening Repertoire: Accelerated Dragon

Nigel Davies, 320 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The Accelerated Dragon has long had its adherents at all levels of the game and remains a system which frustrates many an Open Sicilian player. By advocating a 1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 g6 move order, Davies is able to bypass the topical Rossolimo, while angling for 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 (4 ♖xd4 ♘f6 also receives a fair chunk of coverage) 4...♘c6 (the uncompromising 4...♗g7 5 c4 ♖b6!? receives a chapter too), intending 5 ♘c3 ♗g7 6 ♗e3 ♘f6 7 ♗c4 0-0 8 ♗b3 ♖e8!? and 5 c4 ♘f6 6 ♘c3 d6, angling for the super-solid Gurgendize approach with 7 ♗e2 ♘xd4 8 ♖xd4 ♗g7.



Chess Opening Repertoire: The Semi-Slav

Nicolas Yap, 400 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Yap has certainly been busy of late and meeting 1 d4 with 1...d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♖f3 ♖f6 4 ♗c3 e6 entails Black needing to know more theory than if he begins with 1...e6. The Semi-Slav is though a highly dynamic, fascinating and theoretically-approved opening, one in which Yap examines meeting 5 ♗g5 h6 6 ♗h4 with both 6...dxc4, accepting the Anti-Moscow Gambit, and 6...♗e7. He also provides plenty of coverage of those important Meran lines marked by 4 e3 and 5 e3, as well as White's earlier deviations, including the Exchange Slav and London System.

Note that both these new Popular Chess repertoire books by Davies and Yap are also available in hardback, retailing at £24.99 or £22.49 for Subscribers.



Learn from the Legends 2

Mihail Marin, 440 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

It was back in 2004 that the bestselling *Learn from the Legends* was published, a work which brought Marin's name to the fore as a chess author and did wonders too for the then fledgling Quality Chess. The Romanian Grandmaster has now penned a follow-up, one which also comes very highly recommended and shines the spotlight on five greats: Leonid Stein, Lev Polugaevsky, David Bronstein, Paul Keres and Lajos Portisch. Marin has his own personal take on his subjects, often based at least in part on direct experience, providing an excellent overview of the style and strength of each, augmented with some wonderfully annotated games and challenging test positions.



The Art of Initiative

Christian Bauer, PC/MAC booklet or download;
running time: 5 hours, 35 minutes
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

The popular French Grandmaster returned to Hamburg to advise players how best to

handle the opening and early middlegame. Bauer's emphasis is on seizing the initiative, although he does also look at the flip side of the coin. Along the way he examines various lines with an early g2-g4, several pawn sacrifices, aiming to disrupt the opponent's position and/or play, as well as balancing seizing space with not creating too many weaknesses.

Most levels of player should enjoy Bauer's series of mini-lectures and club players especially will benefit too from another excellent new release from ChessBase, *Mastering Chess Strategy Vol. 2* (RRP £34.95; Subscribers £31.45). In it Robert Ris examines such important topics as improving the worst-placed piece, king safety and judging piece exchanges.



The Hidden Laws of Chess Volume 2

Nick Maatman, 248 pages, paperback
RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

Dutch IM Maatman, a close friend and second of Jorden van Foreest's, examined the important subject of pawn structure in *The Hidden Laws of Chess*. This follow-up work for New in Chess sees him turning his attention to the importance of dynamics. That entails a detailed examination of pawn levers and sacrifices, as well as piece sacrifices, while Maatman begins with a very useful discussion of when to rely on calculation and when judgement is more important. He certainly includes a number of striking dynamic games, ones which can but impress the reader who should also pick up several handy practical tips along the way.



The Ultimate Scotch Gambit

Nico Zwirs, PC/MAC booklet or download;
running time: 3 hours, 52 minutes
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

The Scotch Gambit, 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♗c4!?, is a favourite with Gawain Jones and remains a dangerous surprise weapon, at both grandmaster and club level. White can follow up in very direct fashion or play things more calmly, with a good mix of approaches being covered in this new ChessBase release by Nico Zwirs, a strong Dutch IM who has made good use of the Scotch Gambit himself. Not only are the main lines, 4...♗f6 5 e5 d5 6 ♗b5 and 4...♗c5 5 c3 ♗f6 6 e5 d5 7 ♗b5, examined in some detail, but there is also useful coverage of 4...♗f6

5 e5 ♗e4 (and 5...♗g4), as well as 4...♗b4+ 5 c3 and even 4...g6.



Two-move Chess Tactics for Young Players

Dave Regis, 66 pages, paperback
RRP £5.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £5.45**

Two long-established figures in the south-west chess scene have combined to produce this new book, aimed squarely at the junior player, written by Dave Regis, who some will know from his writings on Exeter chess websites, and published by Tim Onions. Regis introduces a number of vital tactical concepts, supplying a number of two-move puzzles to solve for each one.

BREAKING NEWS



As we prepared to go to press, we discovered that Carl Portman's *Never Mind The Grandmasters*, featuring the best of his column, was due to be published in late March. Copies will be available from early April at Chess & Bridge, retailing at £14.99 or £13.49 for Subscribers.

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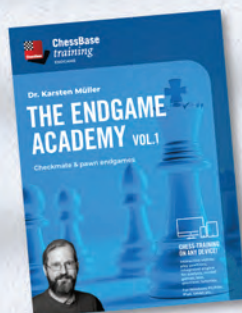
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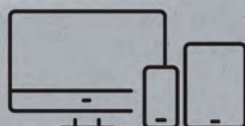


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