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ChessLife

KING GAWAIN

Gawain Jones finishes first at the London Chess Classic to cap a fantastic 2024.

ISSN 0964-6221



The Chess Quiz - Tricky trivia and brain-teasers from Graham Phythian



Bodyguard Knight - José Vilela on an important defensive mechanism



Man of Steel - Jonathan Manley has enjoyed reading *Gideon Ståhlberg*

Chess

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Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
What Fanfare!	8
Junior Tay was on Sentosa Island, Singapore for Ding vs Gukesh	
Golden Gawain	11
Gawain Jones triumphed at the XTX Markets London Chess Classic	
The Cream Rises to the Top	14
Andrew Ledger reports from the first weekend of a new 4NCL season	
How Good is Your Chess?	18
Daniel King on the match and revisiting a happier time for Ding Liren	
60 Seconds with... Gawain Jones	21
We catch up with the man of the moment in UK chess	
The Bodyguard Knight	22
José Vilela on an important defensive mechanism	
Find the Winning Moves	26
Some tricky resources to spot and enjoy over the holiday period	
Christmas Chess Quiz	30
Graham Phythian's brain-teasers will help you while away the hours	
Bon Chance	32
A Sherlock Holmes-themed short story from Carl Barlow III	
1975 and all that...	33
Ben Graff looks back 50 years with Kevin Thurlow and Roger de Coverly	
The Legacy of Rossolimo	36
Vladimir Lionter on Chess Forum and Nicolas Rossolimo in New York	
Sweden's Man of Steel	38
Jonathan Manley has been enjoying the monumental <i>Gideon Ståhlberg</i>	
Off the Shelf	40
Sean Marsh presents more of the best chess book publications of 2024	
Forthcoming Events	42
Will you be playing the 4NCL, a congress or a rapidplay this January?	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	44
Carl enjoyed learning about and exploring the games of Pia Cramling	
How to Beat a Grandmaster	46
Paul Littlewood shows how Nikita Vitiugov overcame the King's Indian	
Chess in the North Atlantic	47
Terry Chapman reports from Porto Santo and the World Seniors	
Home News	48
All the latest results, and we remember IM Adam Hunt (1980 - 2024)	
Overseas News	51
Gawain Jones warmed up for the Classic at the Kilkenny Masters	
Solutions	53
This Month's New Releases	54
The latest reviews and information on the many recent chess publications	
Saunders on Chess	58
John reflects on the world championship and the need for empathy	

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The Cream Rises to the Top



Andrew Ledger reports from Daventry and the first weekend of a new 4NCL season

Most of us will have started our various chess league seasons by now and the 4NCL kicked off what will be (pandemics permitting), by my reckoning, its 30th full season. The venue for this first weekend was the same as for the dramatic finale of last season, a now wet and blustery Daventry. Coming into the season, you get a good indication of the potential strength of teams by their initial player registrations, although some teams may hold back some recruits to come in later on if needed, to add an element of surprise. It feels to me as if Division One has become closer in the last few years, with no mega-teams of the type of Slough in the early days or Guildford more recently, and very few teams who look like definite relegation-fodder.

As readers may remember, Division One last year saw a points tie between Manx Liberty, The Sharks and, winners on tie-break, Wood Green, and these three all looked pretty strong again, with Wood Green Youth, the recently renamed Cheddleton Savills Catering and Chessable White Rose I also looking like they have the potential to beat anyone. The remaining sides, including my own team of Blackthorne, tend to be looking to avoid relegation and hopefully to inflict the odd shock on the higher-rated teams.

When the team lists were revealed for the first matches, a couple of things stood out, with Wood Green Youth and Chessable White Rose I both missing some of their stronger players. This meant that Wood Green looked to have an easier pairing than would otherwise have been the case against their stable-mates, while Blackthorne ended up as higher rated than our 'seeded' opponents, although at times this can be unclear given that teams can either choose to use FIDE ratings or ECF ratings (which tend to be a fair bit higher).

If you had to guess who would be involved in the most entertaining game of the first round, those in the know would probably opt for GM Simon Williams and, sure enough, here he puts one of England's most promising young players to the sword with his trademark Dutch Defence (surely a misnomer in Simon's hands; 'Dutch Attack' would be more accurate).

S.Badacsonyi-S.Williams
Barnet vs Cheddleton
Dutch Defence

1 d4 e6 2 c4 f5 3 g3 ♘f6 4 ♙g2 d5

I remember Simon playing a Stonewall against me about 30 years ago, but mostly he is associated with the Classical variation.

5 ♘f3 ♙e7 6 0-0 ♘e4

Always Black's trump card in the Dutch, and especially in the Stonewall. The knight is a nuisance and it paves the way for a kingside pawn push in the right circumstances.

7 ♖c2 ♘c6 8 b3 h5

And here we go! The computer is not impressed and simply wants to reply with 9 h4, when Black's position has holes, but in the longer term, may have attacking potential.

9 ♙a3 ♙f6 10 ♖d1 h4 11 ♘c3 hxg3 12 hxg3 ♗d7



Again, very much route one, with the queen on its way to the kingside and the h-file. The computer is still unimpressed, but for a human facing Simon, it must have started to feel a bit worrying.

13 e3?!

There's no need for this yet and just fully mobilising would be better. After something like 13 ♖ac1 ♗f7 14 b4 a6 15 ♗b3 Black may start to regret having fallen behind in development and White must be better as his queenside play is getting going.

13... ♗f7 14 ♘e2 g5

Part of the problem with 13 e3 was that the white knight is struggling to help out, and this prevents it coming to f4.

15 ♙b2

Often in the Stonewall, a white knight leaping into e5 will block things up, but it is less effective here, even with the support of this bishop, as the f3-knight is needed to defend the king. It was better to leave the bishop on a3, as at least that guards against the knight coming to b4, which turns out to be a big part of White's problems.

15... ♗h5 16 ♙f1 ♙d7 17 ♘e5 0-0-0 18 ♘xd7 ♖xd7



19 f3

Weakening, but it is tempting in such a bad position to at least prompt your opponent to sacrifice something.

19... ♘b4 20 ♗b1 f4!? 21 gxf4 gxf4 22 ♘xf4 ♘g3+ 23 ♙e1 ♗h2 24 ♙d2 ♙g5 25 ♙c3 c5 26 ♖d2 e5

Pretty much anything reasonable wins, but this certainly is the most impressive visually.

27 dxc5 a5 28 ♘xd5



28... ♘xd5+

There are much more convincing ways to win, although they are easier if you are silicon-based and not worried about sacrificing ludicrous amounts of material. 28... ♙xe3!! is the lovely finish that the engine finds: 29 ♘b6+ ♙c7 30 ♖xd7+ ♙b8 and the threat of ... ♘e2+ along with various other threats means that the king will soon perish. Then 31 ♙a3 ♙d4+ 32 ♖xd4 exd4+ 33 ♙xd4 ♗h4+ 34 ♙c3 ♗f6+ 35 ♙d2 ♗d4+ is one of a few hopeless tries.

29 cxd5 ♙xe3 30 ♗d3 ♙xd2+ 31 ♗xd2



Simon Williams remains busy as a popular content creator, presenter and commentator, but found time to turn out for Cheddleton and was one of just four non-Perts in their line-up!

♖g8 32 ♖c4



If the white king could survive being so exposed, White would have excellent compensation for the exchange.

32...♖f5!

Actually the only way to maintain an advantage, but it is a very large advantage.

33 ♖xa5 ♖xg2 34 ♖a8+ ♖c7 35 d6+ ♖xd6 36 ♖a5+ ♖d7 37 cxd6 ♖f4+ 38 ♖c5

Full marks for entertaining the crowd!
38...♖c2+ 39 ♖b6 ♖c6+ 40 ♖xb7 ♖xd6+ 41 ♖a7 ♖e3+ 42 ♖b8 ♖c8# 0-1

And again, credit to Stanley Badacsonyi for allowing such a beautiful attacking game to

end in mate.

Wood Green ran out convincing winners against their Youth side, with a very solid four wins and four draws. Meanwhile Manx Liberty, who would have been shocked by the tragic death of their dynamic captain Dietmar Kolbus over the summer, were the highest-rated team and duly despatched one of the promoted teams, CSC/Kingston I, by a convincing 6½-1½. The other joint winner from last year, The Sharks, beat their second team by the same score. Given the events of last year, the margin of victory could prove to be important in the final reckoning, so racking up such scores early on can help to relieve a bit of pressure.

Cheddleton squeaked home against Barnet Knights 4½-3½, and must have set a new record by fielding four Perts in the same team. With Nick, Richard and Richard's children Max and Nina, this beats the many occasions on which my two brothers and I have played for Blackthorne and its predecessors (I knew I should have persuaded my children to take up chess!). Newly promoted, but long-term regulars, Barbican won what could turn out to be an important match against Alba, again by 4½-3½, while Blackthorne went down by the same score to White Rose in a tense match.

A.Navrotescu-R.Bates White Rose vs Blackthorne



We join the action after a tense spell where Black has picked up a pawn, but White has the bishop-pair and chances against the black king. Surprisingly, there is only one move for Black to stay in the game.

31...♖c6?

Unfortunately, this isn't it. Instead, 31...♖e5 holds everything together as Black is fine after 32 ♖h1+ ♖h6 33 ♖xh6 gxf6 due to White's weak dark squares around her king.

32 ♖h1+ ♖h6 33 ♖xh6 ♖xe8 34 ♖f4+ ♖g8 35 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 36 ♖d1 ♖c4 37 f4 ♖f8 38 ♖d8 ♖e7 39 ♖a8 a5 40 ♖e4?

Having navigated the changing position very well, White now gives Richard a chance to get back into the game. The queenside pawns will give Black good counter-chances. Simpler would have been the forcing 40♖f1 when 40...♖xa3 41 ♖xa5 ♖b1 42 c4 looks hopeless for Black.
40...a4 41 ♖d3 ♖xa3 42 ♖c8



42...c4?

The wrong advance. Black maintains the defence of the pawns, but paralyzes them in the process. By contrast, 42...b4 seems to be drawing after something like 43 ♖xc5 b3 44 ♖e3 b2 45 c4 b1 ♖ 46 ♖xb1 ♖xb1 and it would be far easier for White to go astray in this line than Black.

43 ♖e4 ♖d7 44 ♖g8 g6 45 g5 b4 46 cxb4 ♖b5 47 ♖a8 a3 48 ♖e3 ♖d6 49 ♖a6+ ♖c7 50 ♖d5 c3 51 ♖xf7 ♖b7 52 ♖a5 ♖d6 53 ♖d5+ ♖b6 54 ♖xa3 ♖b5 55 ♖a1 ♖f5 56 ♖e4 1-0

A typically tight game in a very close match.

Round 2 saw two of the three highest-

rated teams clashing, with Manx Liberty overcoming Cheddleton, with wins from Balazs Csonka and Julianna Terbe making the difference. Wood Green also won by the same score and the same pattern of two wins and six draws, meaning that neither of these two has lost a single game so far. Meanwhile The Sharks won 5½-2½ against White Rose to keep pace with last year's rivals. The following game sees one of The Sharks' big hitters from last season in action against a very solid and experienced GM who almost never loses with White in his pet c3 Sicilian.

J.Emms-R.Makkar
White Rose vs The Sharks
c3 Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 c3 e5 3 ♘f3 ♘c6 4 ♙c4 ♘f6 5 d3

What started out as a c3 Sicilian looks more like a Bishop's Opening now. The more aggressive option was 5 ♘g5 d5 6 exd5 ♘xd5 7 d4, although Makkar would have been prepared for this and would have known that lines where White takes on f7, like in the Fried Liver Attack, don't work.

5...♙e7 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♗e1 d6 8 ♘bd2 ♙e6 9 ♙xe6

I'm not keen on this as Black is able to cover up his main weakness, the d5-square, and gets potential play down the f-file too. But, it's still pretty even and I'm sure John would have been happy with a manoeuvring game.

9...fxe6 10 ♖b1 a6 11 b4 b5 12 a3 ♘h5 13 ♘f1 ♗e8 14 ♙e3 ♗g6



15 ♘g3

Maybe it was time to start getting at the black pawn structure with 15 bxc5 dxc5 16 a4 when the exposed pawns on the queenside should make it hard for Black to drum up much of an attack on the kingside. White should be fine if he takes the knight when it arrives on f4 as Black's bishop doesn't have much attacking potential, and the knights will be good defenders.

15...♘f4 16 d4 c4

16...exd4 17 cxd4 c4 looks promising, securing a long-term asset in the passed c-pawn.

17 d5 ♘d8 18 ♙xf4 exf4 19 ♘f1 e5

This is still fairly level, but to my mind is starting to look a bit easier for Black to play as he has the familiar plan of advancing on the kingside, whereas White is going to have to

make use of the a-file to generate counterplay.

20 a4 ♗f6 21 ♗a1 ♘f7 22 h3 h5 23 ♘3h2 ♗h6 24 ♗e2 ♘g5



25 f3?

This looks like the pivotal moment. White needs to defend the e-pawn before doubling on the a-file, but this allows the black bishop to suddenly become the best minor piece on the board. As such, 25 ♘d2 is probably the best way to hold things together, although it prevents doubling on the a-file for the time being. It's possible that when playing 24 ♗e2, John simply missed the strength of Black's upcoming bishop manoeuvre.

25...♙d8! 26 ♙h1 ♙b6

Not only menacing the white king, but covering the a7-square, leaving White very low on counterplay.

27 axb5 axb5 28 ♗xa8

28 ♗e2 would be the consistent follow-up, but after 28...♗ab8 it isn't clear what the rooks are doing.

28...♗xa8 29 ♗b1 ♗g6 30 ♗a2 ♗xa2 31 ♗xa2 ♘xh3!

Obvious, but extremely strong.

32 ♗a6 ♘f2+ 33 ♙g1 ♙e3 34 ♗xb5 ♙a7 35 ♗b7 ♗f7

Black is perfectly happy to exchange queens as the imminent discovered check is going to net at least a couple of pawns.

36 ♗c8+ ♙h7 37 ♗xc4 ♘xe4+ 38 ♙h1 ♘f2+ 39 ♙g1 h4 40 ♗a2 ♘e4+ 41 ♙h1 ♘g3+ 42 ♘g3 hxg3 43 ♗c2+ ♙h8 0-1

Alba's weekend got worse with a heavy defeat, 6½-1½, against Wood Green Youth and Barnet Knights beat The Sharks II in what could well end up as an important relegation clash. The same could be said for Blackthorne's narrowly scraped win against CSC/Kingston, in a match that could easily have gone the other way. In the end it saw seven draws and a decisive win from my brother Dave against rising star Supratit Banerjee.

The following game sees another rare defeat with White. Hamish Olson was the main reason why Alba stayed up last season, scoring a comfortable IM norm on board 1, but here he is up against an in-form and surely soon-to-be IM, Alex Golding. Perhaps this game will cheer up those who struggle against the London System, a bugbear of many at my local club and many others.

H.Olson-A.Golding
Alba vs Wood Green Youth
London System

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 b6 3 ♙f4 ♙b7 4 e3 d6 5 h3 g6 6 ♙e2

There are lots of move order wrinkles in the London and numerous transpositional lines, but this is a pretty common sequence for White.

6...♙g7 7 0-0 0-0 8 a4

A common way of probing, and always on the agenda once Black commits to ...b6.

8...a5

And this is the usual way of responding, especially when White's light-squared bishop has already moved, meaning that bringing it to b5 loses a tempo.

9 c3 ♘bd7 10 ♘bd2 ♗e8



11 ♙b5

While this can be annoying in some positions, it doesn't achieve much here as Black is ready for the typical break anyway. Arguably, this bishop would have been better off remaining on e2 as it can end up as a target on b5.

11...e5 12 dx5 dx5 13 ♙h2

Thematic, but it does give Black rather a free hand. 13 ♙g5 may be better, but Black is certainly comfortable by now.

13...♗e7 14 ♗c2 ♗ed8!

The key point here is to make space on e8 for rerouting the knight, after which Black's advantage starts to feel tangible.

15 ♗fd1 ♘e8 16 ♗ab1?!

I guess this is a sign that Hamish was uncomfortable with his position and wasn't sure how to proceed, but the rook shortly has to return to a1, so alternatives would be better.

16...♘d6 17 ♙e2 ♙c6 18 ♗a1 ♘c5 19 b3



19...♟f5?!

Rerouting the bishop looks much more testing here: 19...♟d7 when 20 e4 is not possible because of the bishop returning to c6 when White cannot conveniently defend the e-pawn.

20 ♞e1?!

20 ♞c4 looks like White's best attempt to relieve some pressure here, and seems more or less OK.

20...♟d6

A sign that Black had probably reached the same conclusion about 19...♟f5.

21 ♟f3 e4 22 ♟e2 ♟d5 23 b4 ♞d3!?
24 ♞xd3 exd3 25 ♟xd3 axb4 26 cxb4 ♟xa1 27 ♞xa1 ♞b7?!

This looks wrong as the knight doesn't have obvious prospects here. 27...♞f6 to claim an important diagonal looks preferable, after which White has compensation for the exchange, but I'd rather be Black.

28 ♞c3 c5 29 b5 f6 30 e4 ♟f7



31 ♞f3?

After fighting back really well, this loses any white advantage, as Black gets to expand and take more squares. By contrast, 31 ♞c4 ♞e6 32 ♞e3 leaves Black having to deal with lots of potential threats.

31...c4 32 ♟c2 ♞c5 33 e5 ♞d3 34 exf6 ♞b4 35 ♟e5 ♞xc3 36 ♟xc3 ♞d5 37 ♞d4 ♞d6 38 ♞c6 ♟d5 39 ♞e7+ ♟f7 40 ♞d1 ♟b7



After a bit of toing and froing, we have reached the time control and things are pretty level again (completely level according to my engine).

41 a5?

The dreaded 41st move! It seems the extra time enabled White to come up with a plan, but not a good one. White needs to sit



After making IM norms in the summer at the South Wales International and the MindSports Super Swiss, FM Alex Golding is now rated over 2400 and heading towards becoming an IM.

tight with something like 41 h4 or 41 ♟f1 and it isn't obvious how Black can make progress.

41...bxa5 42 ♟b1 ♞xf6 43 ♟xf6 ♟xf6

This is the problem with White's plan. Whenever you are an exchange up, you need to stay alert to ways of giving it back, and this seems to give Black an edge again, due to White's wayward knight.

44 ♟xd3 cxd3 45 ♞c6 ♟xc6 46 bxc6 a4 47 c7?

Losing, but White may have thought his position was hopeless. 47 ♞xd3 was forced when it isn't obvious to a human whether Black is winning after 47...a3 48 ♞d1 a2 49 ♞a1 ♟e6 50 ♟f1 ♟d6 51 ♟e2 ♟xc6 and the engine is saying '0.00'.

47...a3 48 ♞a1 d2 49 f4 ♞c8 50 ♟f2 ♞xc7 0-1

Surprisingly, there were no drawn matches in this opening weekend, meaning that to go alongside the three teams mentioned above being on two wins from two, there need to be three teams on two losses, namely Alba, The Sharks 2 and CSC/Kingston, with all the rest of us jostling for position in the middle.

Division Two is also looking strong this year, with a number of teams averaging around 2200. After the end of the first weekend, The Audible Checks and Warwickshire Select had won both games, while the Greater Woodpushers were a point further back with one win and one draw.



60 Seconds with... Gawain Marroa Jones



G.Jones-D.Gukesh
Gibraltar 2020
Sicilian Rossolimo

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 g6 4 0-0 ♗g7 5 ♚e1 e5 6 ♙xc6 dxc6 7 d3 ♖e7 8 a4 ♘f6 9 ♗g5 h6 10 ♗e3 c4 11 ♘a3 cxd3 12 cxd3 ♗g4 13 ♚c1 ♘d7 14 ♖b3 ♙xf3 15 gxf3 ♘f8 16 ♗c5 ♖d7 17 ♘c4 ♘e6 18 ♘d6+ ♚e7 19 ♘xb7+ ♙f6



20 d4! exd4? 21 e5+ ♗g5 22 f4+! ♘xf4 23 e6! ♘xe6 24 ♖g3+ ♗h5 25 ♖f3+ ♗g5 26 h4+ 1-0

But less memorable than your worst move? The end of the 2021-2022 Bundesliga season. We were all playing at a central venue in Werder Bremen and I started with 0/4, including three whites!

And a highly memorable opponent? The whole experience of playing in the Tata Steel Masters at Wijk aan Zee in 2020 will stay with me, good and bad. I'm glad I've been able to play Magnus a few times, even if the results haven't gone as hoped.

Favourite game of all time? I'm not very good at remembering games, either mine or other people's, but Aronian-Anand from Wijk aan Zee 2013 was stunning.

The best three chess books: I enjoyed Yasser Seirawan's *Chess Duels*, Boris Gelfand's recent series, especially *Positional Decision Making in Chess*, and Mickey Adams and Philip Hurtado's *Think Like A Super-GM*.

Is FIDE doing a good job? I'm not very involved. Day to day things like monthly rating updates work well. It would be nice if it were more democratic.

Or the ECF? It certainly appears to be improving.

Any advice for either? Last time I asked for zero tolerance to be abandoned, and I was successful! To FIDE, more tournaments in Western Europe please.

Can chess make one happy? A resounding yes from me. I'm extremely lucky never to have fallen out of love with the game.

A tip for the club player: Think about your play, don't merely follow the computer. This applies both to opening choices and studying the game afterwards.

Any chess new year resolutions? Just to keep enjoying playing, and not taking the results too seriously.

Born: Keighley, 11th December 1987.

Place of residence: Sheffield.

Occupation: Mainly dad to Samaria and Daniel. I suppose I'm also what they call a content creator, and sometime chess player.

Enjoyable? Tiring, but definitely. Especially when they let me have a couple of hours' sleep.

And home life? Somewhat chaotic, but wonderful.

But sometimes good to escape to: Still New Zealand.

Sports played or followed: Rugby used to be my sport, but these days I mainly check in to see how Boro are getting on in the Championship.

A favourite novel? These answers really depend on mood. Still a Terry Pratchett fan, especially the ones with Samuel Vimes. Let's say *Thud!*.

Piece of music? The Aeroplane by Tim Minchin.

Film or TV series? From what I'm usually offered, *Bluey*. I'm currently watching *Taskmaster* and rewatching *Breaking Bad*. I also recently enjoyed *Ludwig* and *Detectorists*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? A refuge. Somewhere you can just focus on the board and forget the stresses of the world.

And the worst? The frustration when a moment's slip throws away hours of hard work.

Your best move? Another answer that changes frequently. In light of his recent title, playing Gukesh when he was extremely young [*Ed. – And scoring 2½/3*]. The sequence starting with 20 d4! from our game in Gibraltar 2020 was a lot of fun.

Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. There are quite a few tricky resources to keep you alert this month, with the games from various recent events, not least the European Club Cup. 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 53.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) P.Motwani-P.Rewitz
European Senior Ch., Lignano Sabbiadoro 2024
White to Play



(2) A.Harley-M.Gallana
Hammersmith 2024
Black to Play



(3) F.Zurstiege-A.Milewska
Ealing 2024
Black to Play



(4) S.Williams-N.Todorovic
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2024
White to Play



(5) A.Ghasi-G.Gudbrandsen
Fagernes 2024
White to Play

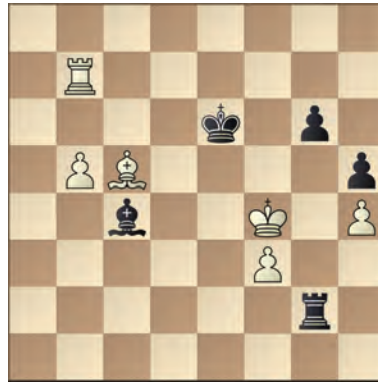


(6) E.Meichel-Geo.Moore
Newmarket 2024
Black to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 53



(7) N.Davies-I.Lemeshev
Scarborough 2024
White to Play



(8) H.Grieve-J.Szwed
Colonia Sant Jordi 2024
White to Play



(9) I.Saric-P.Prohaszka
European Club Cup, Vrnjacka Banja 2024
White to Play



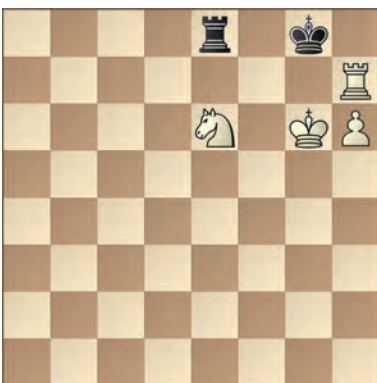
(10) V.Ivanchuk-F.Vallejo Pons
Spanish Team Championship, Melilla 2024
White to Play



(11) A.Bivol-I.Gaponenko
Serbian Team Ch., Bajina Basta 2024
Black to Play



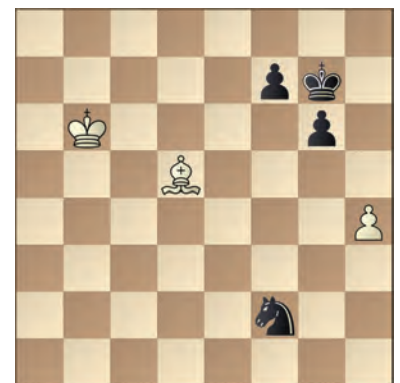
(12) K.Sychev-M.Matlakov
Serbian Team Ch., Bajina Basta 2024
White to Play



(13) P.Lebedev-A.Leonova
St. Petersburg 2024
White to Play



(14) M.Lim-G.Lyall
Wymondham 2024
White to Play and Draw



(15) N.Abasov-I.Samunenkov
European Club Cup, Vrnjacka Banja 2024
Black to Play



NEW FROM QUALITY CHESS



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.

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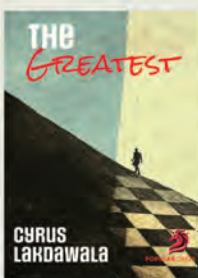


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Off the Shelf



Sean Marsh presents more of the best chess book publications of 2024

Time now to round up a number of chess products of interest, to augment our regular reviews as we head into the New Year. This month's regular column focuses on 1 e4 openings, so 'left-handed' players will be pleased to see that we start with the other, equally strong central first move here.



Playing the Nimzo-Indian

Renier Castellanos,
440 pages, Quality Chess

RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**



Beating the Queen's Gambit – Indian Style!

Renier Castellanos,
312 pages, Quality Chess

RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

This double-pronged repertoire for Black against 1 d4 has the strong backbone of the Nimzo-Indian Defence. If White ducks the issue with 1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖f3 then Black switches back to Queen's Gambit territory with 3...d5, heading for the Vienna variation. The second volume also covers the popular Catalan and all of the other 1 d4 openings, such as the ubiquitous London System.

There are many, many variations of the Nimzo-Indian Defence and each repertoire book seems to plump for something different. In this one, against the ever-popular Rubinstein variation, the best developing move available is recommended, namely 1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♗b4 4 e3 0-0, "waiting for White's intentions to be shown before choosing a central structure. Furthermore, with the white pawn already on e3, there is no longer the option of ♗c1-g5, so we can castle kingside without ever being bothered by the pin on our knight."

The recommendations continue with both 5 ♖e2 and 5 ♗d3 being met with the direct central counter 5...d5. Continuity is maintained with 4...d5 also being the recommendation

against the Classical variation (4 ♖c2).

It is interesting to see there have been some exciting recent developments in the Sämisch variation (4 a3).



White has just played the very enterprising **10 h4!** and Black does need to be careful here. For instance, **10...♗a6 11 h5 h6 12 ♖h3** and then the standard **12...♗a5?**, so often played in order to win the c4-pawn, fails horribly to **13 ♗xh6!**, "when **13...gxh6 14 ♖d2** leaves White with a winning attack."

Instead of allowing all of that, the book recommends, rather than the decentralising knight move, **12...e5!** when, remarkably, the best move for White is apparently **13 ♖f1!**. After that Black should play **13...cxd4! 14 cxd4 d6** when "the position is complex, with chances for both sides, but it seems to me like White is burdened with a tougher task of making sense of the kingside expansion."

The Catalan is immensely popular at all levels now and therefore represents a particularly important of the second volume of the repertoire. The author's recommendation is **1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖f3 d5 4 g3 dxc4** and then after the correct reply **5 ♗g2** there comes **5...a6!?**.



This move will "defend against potential ♖a4+ attempts, and hint at ...b7-b5." White now has several different ways to play, namely: **6 ♖c3**, **6 ♖e5**, **6 a4** and **6 0-0**. Black's potential ...b5 jab starts the basic theme of not allowing White to settle quite so easily into the standard and cosy Catalan advantage; Black keeps on finding annoying ways to upset the status quo. For instance, after **6 ♖e5 ♗b4!** keeps the first player on his toes, as **7 ♗d2!?** allows the tricky rejoinder **7...♖xd4**, with the lesser-prepared player having to walk on uncomfortable eggshells.

Against the London System, Black is advised to play **1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♖f3 e6 3 ♗f4 c5 4 e3 cxd4! 5 exd4 b6!?**. The plan is "to castle short, put the d-pawn on d6, and choose between playing ...♗a6, exchanging bishops, or ...♗b7, keeping more tension."

Readers will, of course, need to buy both books to construct a full anti-1 d4 repertoire – and there will be a lot of work to be done to get the new ideas up and running. However, growing a repertoire around a backbone of the Nimzo-Indian can only be a good thing for making one's opening play more solid and, consequently, being able to head into the middlegame with greater confidence,



ChessBase 18

ChessBase PC-DVD

various packages available – see page 43

In these days of the rapidly expanding world of digital chess, with courses galore and enough repertoires to last a lifetime, it is good to see that ChessBase, one of the original movers and shakers (to use the modern parlance), is still going strong.

There was a time when no serious student of chess would ever be without one version or another loaded up on their machines (*ChessBase 7* was my 'jumping on' point, loaded on to a desktop the size of most modern houses).

Yet a few short years ago, while training a large number of people, it became apparent to me that a lot of chess fans had never used ChessBase at all and were very surprised to

see how useful and powerful it is. ChessBase has many impressive features. In addition to being a perfect way to store one's own games in a handy database, there are numerous tools to assist game analysis and tournament preparation.

ChessBase 18 is a major upgrade on its great predecessors, and it come in a variety of different packages, from a straightforward upgrade all the way up to an admittedly pricey *Premium Package*.

Staying with the ChessBase family, the new and related *Mega Database 2025* now contains 11 million games, 113,000 of which are annotated. There are various other new ChessBase databases, PowerBooks and opening encyclopaedias available too.

I recommend spending some time sorting out which is the best package for the reader's particular needs and, especially for those who are new to the whole world of ChessBase, give it a try, put in the effort and see what sort of a difference it makes to preparation and understanding of your own games.



The Bogo-Dutch

Nicolas Yap, 122 pages
Carsten Hansen

RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Playing against 1 d4 is not always fun and rarely dynamic – without taking lots of risks, that is. Who wants to play mainline Modern Benonis all of the time? The Bogo-Dutch is not new, but it is still rare. Moving the f7-pawn so early in the game will always be anathema to most players, so what is Black's plan here?

The blurb tries hard – perhaps too hard – to sell the product, which also has the subtitle of 'A fun & dynamic way to meet 1.d4':

"Black tries their hardest to wrest control of the e4-square from White by checking on b4, plus having a pawn on f5 at the same time. It is undoubtedly an underrated defense, to the point that most players, from super-GMs all the way down to amateur level, are completely unfamiliar with this entire set-up."

I am not so sure I would risk this opening against a super-GM, but at club and tournament level it may well be a very decent occasional weapon, as opponents will probably not have devoted much study time to this particular line. Unless, of course, one plays it all of the time and opponents take notice.

Obviously, in order to avoid the sharp gambits against the Dutch which may befall anyone essaying the move order 1 d4 f5, Black must start with 1 d4 e6 and be content to reach a French Defence after 2 d4 d5. There is nothing wrong with that, of course. Indeed, in Internet bullet and blitz games, many a white bishop has been lost after 1 d4 e6 and then the pre-moved 2 ♗g5??. Try it

and see.

However, the most common sequence of moves is almost certainly going to be **1 d4 e6 2 c4 f5 3 g3**, when Black gets to introduce the Bogo-Indian elements of the defence with **3... ♗b4+**. White has the immediate task of working out which is the best way to block the check. I do not know which move is best, despite a lifelong liking of 1 d4 and 2 c4 openings, and I suspect the same will be true of most such players. Therefore, if nothing else, Black will gain time on the clock.

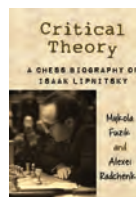
Black is hoping to achieve a position featuring all of the best features of a Dutch and Bogo-Indian with some Nimzo-Indian flavours mixed in for good measure, especially if White plays an early ♘c3, allowing the pawn-doubling ...♗xc3(+).



This position is typical of Black's desires. Various plans are now available, such as fianchettoing the remaining black bishop and/or playing for ...e5, which is a very common idea across the whole family of Dutch defences.

Alternatives to main line 1 d4 and 2 c4 set-ups are also covered in this book. Blocking in the c8-bishop looks a little limiting against some of those and there are various pitfalls Black must avoid to fall into a Dutch not of their choice, which is why after 1 d4 e6 2 g3 Black is advised to steer clear of 2...f5 (being robbed of ...♗b4+ makes it less appealing) and to opt for 2...c5 instead, after which various transpositional routes to other openings are on the cards.

At least it is something different and, as such, is worth a try.



Critical Theory:

A Chess Biography of Isak Lipnitsky

Mykola Fuzik & Alexei Radchenko,
264 pages, Elk and Ruby

RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Elk and Ruby continue their sterling work in bringing chess history to life and shining the light on players and personalities who have

been hitherto neglected by chess literature. To the uninitiated, "Isak Lipnitsky (1923 – 1959) was a leading Ukrainian chess player of the early 1950s as well as a celebrated chess theoretician and journalist, whose textbook *Questions of Modern Chess Theory* became an internationally recognized classic."

As is so often the case with players from this era, the tragedies far outweigh to triumphs. "Lipnitsky died at the tragically young age of 35 from a terminal disease that curtailed his tournament performances in his final years. His tragedy was not confined to that, however. His paternal grandparents and aunts were murdered by the Nazi occupiers during the War, and his daughter later died in a psychiatric hospital."

That is a tough set of tragic circumstances by anyone's standards and, of course, makes chess itself seem quite irrelevant. Yet this meticulously researched biography displays a veritable 'who's who' of the Soviet era in the games department, with Lipnitsky's opponents including David Bronstein, Igor Bondarevsky, Paul Keres, Mikhail Botvinnik and Mikhail Tal.

Lipnitsky's own notes are utilised throughout the book and the games will be unfamiliar and fresh to most readers. Sparks fly throughout – Lipnitsky going toe-to-toe with the likes of Tal and Keres makes for excellent entertainment – and future world champions struggled to keep up with his relentless, combative style.

I. Lipnitsky-V. Smyslov USSR Championship, Moscow 1950



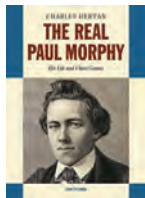
In this highly complex position, which partly resembles a composition, Lipnitsky increased his advantage with a fabulous tactical sequence.

29 ♖e7!

"White wins the queen for two rooks – this is the easiest way to convert his advantage."

29... ♗xd3 30 ♖xc5+ bxc5 31 ♖xc5+ ♗xc5 32 ♗xc5+ and Black didn't last much longer (1-0, 42).

As is often the case, Elk and Ruby's historical works offer a decidedly bittersweet reading experience, but always one which is very rewarding. Don't miss out on these unique slices of chess history.



The Real Paul Morphy

Charles Hertan, 384 pages
New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Staying with the chess history theme, here is a new tome on a famous player with whom every chess player should be very familiar. Books on Paul Morphy are not as rare as one would imagine, so the usual question is: what does a new one have to offer?

Everyone who appreciates one of the brightest of all chess stars should already have David Lawson's excellent *Paul Morphy: The Pride and Sorrow of Chess* (published most recently by the University of Louisiana in 2010), plus any number of game collections. Morphy's best games are very well known (not just the magnificent and highly instructive Opera Game).

What does Hertan bring to the show? A great deal, as it happens. Right from the start, the book shows how well thought out the material has been, with a context-setting

chapter on chess before Morphy, followed by a fascinating chapter on his ancestors and life in New Orleans. This leads into chapters on Morphy's childhood, his startling ascent in the world of chess, his tours, his tragic decline and then thoughts on his legacy.

It is easy to dismiss the players of a bygone age as irrelevant and weak, but neglecting the history and lessons from other eras is a big mistake. The blurb reminds us that even the more recent all-time greats hold Morphy in very high regard:

"Bobby Fischer called him 'perhaps the most accurate player who ever lived'. Garry Kasparov regarded him as 'the prototype of the strong 20th century grandmaster' and 'the forefather of modern chess'".

Therefore, there is no reason at all for the players of our own era to brush former times under the carpet. Just because we all have engines which can analyse and spit out the 'truth' of a position in seconds, that certainly does not mean there is nothing to learn from the real giants of chess.

Morphy's games retain a vitality which makes studying them carefully a joy. Hertan's excellent material augments the games and brings us closer than ever before to understanding the great American player. Here is a famous combination on which we

shall draw this article to a close.

H.Bird-P.Morphy

London 1858



Even readers who have seen this combination before may still gasp at the concept:

17...♖xf2!!? 18 ♙xf2 ♖a3!! (0-1, 29).

Oh, yes – there is far more to Paul Morphy than the Opera Game. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in great attacking games and chess history in general.



Forthcoming Events

Dec 28 - Jan 5 Hastings International Congress
hastingschess.com

January 3-5 Hamilton Open
chessscotland.com/calendar/

January 3-5 London Chess League Weekender
londonchess.org.uk; venue: London MindSports Centre

January 3-5 Shropshire Congress, Telford
shropshirechess.org/shropshire-congress/

January 4 Wimbledon Rapidplay
londonfidecongress.com/wimbledon-rapidplay

January 5 Ealing Rapidplay
londonfidecongress.com/ealing-rapidplay

January 5 Hull Rapid
congress.org.uk/congress/477/home

January 11-12 Bradford Congress
ilkleychesscentre.com/events

January 11-12 Somerset New Year Congress, Clevedon
cornwallchess.org.uk/congress/somerset/somerset.shtml

January 11 Golders Green Rapidplay
goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com

January 17-19 4NCL Congress, Huddersfield
4ncl.co.uk/fide/information_32.htm

January 17-19 South Wales Winter Congress, Bridgend
welshchessunion.uk/Winter25/index.html

January 18-19 Southall Congress
londonfidecongress.com/southall-congress

January 18 Lancaster Rapidplay
lancasterchessclub.co.uk

January 18 Oxford Rapidplay
congress.org.uk/congress/510/home

January 19 Birmingham Rapidplay
rapidplay.birminghamchess.org.uk

January 24-25 Wimbledon Congress
londonfidecongress.com/wimbledon-congress

January 25-26 Greater London Congress, Orpington
congress.org.uk/congress/509/home

January 26 Stockport Rapidplay
stockportchessclub.org/rapidplay

January 26 Uxbridge Rapid
uxbridgechessclubs.com

January 31 - February 2 The Sligo Tournament, Enniscrone
itsligochesstournament.ie

And for the Online Connoisseur:

December 26-31 World Rapid & Blitz, New York
worldrapidandblitz.fide.com; Carlsen, Caruana, Firouzja, Nepomniachtchi, So, etc.

Jan 17 - Feb 2 Tata Steel Chess, Wijk aan Zee
tatasteelchess.com; Abdusattorov, Caruana, Erigaisi, Giri, Gukesh, Wei Yi, etc.

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

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Solutions

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

1) Motwani-Rewitz

1 ♖h6+! 1-0 If 1...gxh6 2 ♖g1+ ♗h8 3 ♗b2+.

2) Harley-Gallana

1...♗e2+! 2 ♗xe2 ♗e3# 0-1

3) Zurstiege-Milewska

1...♗f2+! 0-1 Denying Black the chance of a classic smothered mate: 2 ♗g1 ♗h3+ 3 ♗h1 ♗g1+! 4 ♖xg1 ♗f2#.

4) Williams-Todorovic

1 ♖xh7+! ♗xh7 2 ♗h2+ ♗g8 3 ♖h1 (there's no defence) 3...f5 4 ♗h8+ ♗f7 5 ♖h7# 1-0

5) Ghasi-Gudbrandsen

1 ♗xc4! ♖xd5 (if 1...♗xc4? 2 ♖d8+ ♗f8 3 ♗h6) 2 ♗xd5 ♗a5 (or 2...♗a1 3 ♗d1! ♗xc3 4 ♗a4, winning) 3 ♗b6! 1-0

6) Meichel-Moore

1...♗xh2! (not the only way to win, but by far the most forcing and prettiest) 2 ♖xg5 (2 ♗xg5 ♖xg5 3 ♖xg5 ♗f3+ is mate next move) 2...♗f3+ 3 ♖h2 ♖xg5! 0-1 White might have allowed 4 ♖xh4 (or 4 ♗xg5 ♗xh2#) 4...♖g1#.

7) Davies-Lemeshev

A study-like finish: 1 ♗h7+! (after 1 ♗e8? gxf5 2 ♗f7+? ♖xf7 3 ♗xf7 ♗f3+ Black escaped with a draw in the game) 1...♗xh7 2 ♗f7+ ♖xf7 3 ♖xg6#.

8) Grieve-Szwed

1 ♗e7+! ♗f6 (now the b-pawn runs, but if 1...♗d5 2 ♗e5#) 2 b6 ♗d5 3 ♖d7 g5+ 4 hxg5+ ♖xg5 5 ♖d6+ 1-0

9) Saric-Prohaszka

1 ♗xg7! ♗g6 (crashing through in view of 1...♗xg7? 2 ♗g5+) 2 ♗xg6 ♗xg6 3 ♗e6 ♖d7 4 ♗c5 ♖d8 5 ♗xb7 ♖d7 6 ♗c5 ♖d8 7 ♗b7 ♖d7 8 e6 (finally the pawns can advance with deadly effect) 8...♖xb7 9 ♖xd5 1-0

10) Ivanchuk-Vallejo Pons

1 ♗xh7! ♗xh7 2 ♖d4 ♗e4 (or 2...♗a5 3 ♖h4+ ♗g8 4 ♗h3 ♗xa2+ 5 ♗c1 ♗d3+! 6 ♗d2! ♖f2+ 7 ♗e3 when it's White's attack which will prove decisive) 3 ♗h4+ ♗g8 4 ♗xe4 ♗d5 5 ♗d3 ♗e7 6 ♖h4 ♗f5 7 ♖h5 left White a pawn up, and still attacking. Ivanchuk made no mistake: 7...g6 8 ♗xf5 ♖xf5 9 g4 ♗c4 10 ♗xc4 bxc4 11 gxf5 gxh5 12 ♖g1+ ♗h7 13 f6 ♖c8 14 c3 ♖c5 15 ♖g7+ ♗h6 16 ♖g8 ♖xe5 17 f7 1-0

11) Bivol-Gaponenko

1...a3! (White would fight on after 1...bxc2?

2 ♖xc2 or 1...bxa2 2 ♗d1) 2 bxa3 (or 2 axb3 a2 3 ♗d1 a1 ♗+ 4 ♗xa1 ♖xa1+, picking up the rook on h1) 2...♖xa3 3 ♗d1 (3 axb3 ♗c3 is also crushing, and if 4 ♗d1 ♗xf3+) 3...♖xa2 0-1 4 ♗e2 bxc2 5 ♖c1 ♖b8 and ...♖b1 is straightforward.

12) Sychev-Matlakov

1 ♗xd5! (crashing through and even stronger than 1 ♗e2 ♗e7 2 ♗d4 when Black should try 2...♗f6!) 1...exd5 2 ♖xd5 ♗e8 3 ♖d1 ♗e7 (3...♖c7 4 b5 axb5 5 axb5 also leaves Black fatally pinned) 4 ♗h2 ♖e6 5 ♗d4 ♗f7 6 b5! axb5 7 axb5 h5 8 ♖d3 ♖f6 9 ♖e3+ ♗f8 10 c6 bxc6 11 bxc6 1-0

13) Lebedev-Leonova

1 ♗g5! (the only way to win, threatening mate in two; the game saw instead 1 ♗c7 ♖e6+! 2 ♗g5 ♖e5+ 3 ♗g6 ♖e6+ 4 ♗g5 ♖e5+ 5 ♗g6 ♖e6+ 6 ♗xe6 ½-½) 1...♖e6+! 2 ♗h5! leaves Black out of stalemate tricks and getting mated: 2...♖f6 (or 2...♖e1 3 ♖f7 ♖h1+ 4 ♗g6) 3 ♖a7 ♖f8 4 ♗g6 ♖b8 5 h7+ ♗h8 6 ♗f7#.

14) Lim-Lyall

1 ♖c3! (essential defence to help bring the white king over, whereas the game ended: 1 ♖b4? ♖xb4+ 2 axb4 ♗f3! 3 ♗c3 ♗e2 4 f4 gxf4 5 g5 d2 0-1) 1...♖d4! (1...♖xc3?? 2 ♗xc3 would even win for White with the outside passed pawn) 2 ♗c1! ♗f3 3 ♗d2 ♗g2! 4 ♗xd3 ♖xd3+ 5 ♗xd3 ♗xh3 (this still looks promising for Black, but White has a study-like way to draw, as pointed out by Mike Read in *En Passant*) 6 f4! gxf4 (or 6...♗xg4 7 fxg5! ♗xg5 8 ♗e3! ♗f5) 7 g5 f3! 8 ♗e3! ♗g2 9 g6 f2 10 g7 f1 ♗ 11 g8 ♗+ ♗h1 12 ♗d5+ ♗g2 and now the simplest way to draw is 13 ♗f3 h3 14 ♗f2 h2 15 ♗e2, keeping the black king imprisoned in the corner.

15) Abasov-Samunenkov

1...♗g4! (and not 1...♗d1? 2 h5! gxh5 3 ♗f3) 2 ♗c5 ♗e3 3 ♗e4 (3 ♗a2!? ♗f5 4 h5! g5! 5 ♗d5 ♗g3 6 ♗e5 f6+ 7 ♗e6 ♗xh5 8 ♗f5 ♗f4 9 ♗b1 ♗g6 is also a gradual win) 3...♗h6 4 ♗d4 ♗g4 5 ♗d5 f6 6 ♗e4 ♗h5 7 ♗f7 ♗e5 8 ♗e8 ♗g4 (remaining alert to avoid 8...♗xh4? 9 ♗xg6! ♗xg6 10 ♗f5, as pointed out by Harry Grieve) 9 ♗b5 ♗xh4 10 ♗f4 ♗h5 11 ♗e2+ ♗h6 12 ♗b5 ♗f7 13 ♗d3 ♗d6 14 ♗g4 ♗g7 15 ♗f4 ♗f7 16 ♗c2 f5 17 ♗e5 ♗e7 0-1

16) Savitha-Pyrih

1 ♗a6+! ♗xa6 2 ♗c5+! bxc5 3 ♖b5 ♗a5 4 ♖a1 1-0

17) Antal-Can

The game saw 1 ♖g5?, leading to the next

position. Instead, 1 ♖g7! ♖xg7 2 fxg7+ ♗xg7 3 ♖e7 ♗e6 (or 3...♖f8? 4 ♗g6+) 4 ♗xc7 ♗xc7 5 ♗c5 would have won.

18) Antal-Can

1...♗xg5! (essential to stave off mate) 2 ♗xf7 ♗c6! (a lovely semi-turning of the tables; 2...♗g4! is just as effective) 3 ♗xc7 ♗xf3+ 4 ♗h2 ♗f4+! 5 ♗xf4 ♖g2+ 6 ♗h1 ♖g3+ 7 ♗h2 ♖g2+ 8 ♗h1 ♖g3+ 9 ♗h2 ½-½

19) Erigaisi-Andreikin

1 h4! (involving the h-pawn in the attack is the best method; 1 ♖d8+ ♖g8 2 ♖dd7 ♖g6 3 ♖xh7+ ♗g8 4 ♖hd7 ♗h8 would still leave White with work to do) 1...♖g4 2 ♖d8+ ♖g8 3 ♖dd7 ♖g4 (likewise, 3...♖g6 4 h5 ♖g5 5 ♖xh7+ ♗g8 6 ♖he7 ♗h8 7 ♖b7 ♖b4 8 h6 wins) 4 ♖xh7+ ♗g8 5 ♖hd7 ♗h8 6 ♗g2! ♖b4 7 ♗h3 ♖g6 8 h5! ♖g5 9 h6 ♖b1 10 h7 1-0

20) Can-Barbosa

1 ♗h5! ♗d8 (White also wins after both 1...♗xh5 2 ♗xd7+ ♗f8 3 ♖xh5 and 1...♗g1 2 ♖xe6+) 2 ♗xf7 ♗f3 and now the simplest win, as pointed out by Marian Petrov on ChessPublishing, was 3 ♖xe6, and if 3...h1 ♗ 4 ♖e8+! ♗xe8 5 ♗xd7#.

21) Smith-Bowler

1 d5! (a crushing advance, as if 1...♗xd5 2 ♗f6+ or 1...♗xd5 2 ♖d1 followed by either 3 ♖xd5+ or 2...♗e7 3 ♖b4+ ♗d8 4 ♗d6 ♗e7 5 ♗xd5) 1...♖xe4 2 ♖xe4 (2 ♗xe4!? ♖f8 3 f3 also wins, and if 3...♗xd5 4 ♖d1) 2...♗xd5 3 ♗h3+ ♗d6! (if 3...♗d8? 4 ♖c8#) 4 ♖e5+ ♗c6 5 ♖f4! (the only way to win) 5...♗g7 6 ♖f6+ ♗xf6 7 ♗xf6+ ♗c5 8 ♖e7+ ♗b6 9 ♖d6+ 1-0 9...♗c6 10 ♖b4+ finally picks up the knight.

22) Kovalskyi-Haydon

1...♖xe5! 2 dxe5 ♗b6+! 3 ♗f1 ♗g3+! 4 hxg3 ♖h1+ 5 ♗e2 ♖xg2+ 6 ♗d3 ♗f5+ 7 ♖e4 and now the quickest finish would have been 7...♗xe4+ 8 fxe4 ♖xe4+ 9 ♗d2 ♖e3#.

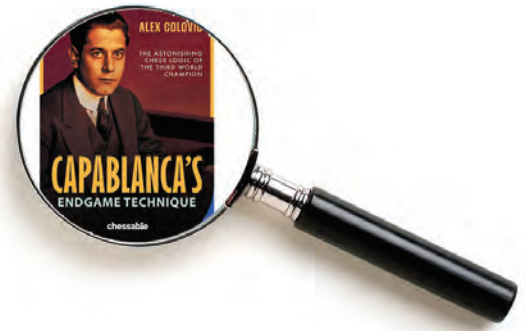
23) Mostertman-Peng

1...♗f4! (threatening ...♗e2+; 1...♖h3! 2 ♗g2 ♖ah8 also wins, followed by ...♗f4+ or 3 cxd5 ♗xd5+ 4 f3 ♖h2+ 5 ♗g1 g4!) 2 gxf4 (in any case, there isn't a satisfactory a defence, as we can see too from 2 ♗c3 ♖h3 3 ♗xf4 gxf4 4 ♗g2 ♖ah8 5 ♗f3 f5) 2...gxf4 3 ♗e1 axb4 4 ♗xb4 f3! (a decisive further sacrifice; the rooks will now pour into the white position) 5 ♗xf3 ♖ag8+ 6 ♗f1 ♖h1+ 7 ♗e2 ♖xc1 8 ♗e1 ♖d8 9 ♗d2 ♗xc4+ 10 ♗e3 ♗xc5+ 0-1

24) Yu-Tabatabaei

1 ♗c4+! d5 2 ♗xd5! cxd5 3 ♗xd5+! ♗xd5? (now it's forced mate, but 3...♗g7 4 ♖xe8 ♖xe8 5 ♖xe8 pins and wins, while 3...♗f8 4 h4!? a5 5 c4! leaves Black hopelessly tied up: for example, 5...♖a6 6 ♖h6+ ♗g7 7 ♖xh7 ♗e6 8 ♖h8+ ♗e7 9 ♖g7+ ♗e8 10 ♖xg6+ ♗e7 11 ♖g7+ ♗e8 12 h5 and the h-pawn's a winner) 4 ♖xe8+ ♗g7 5 ♖e7+ ♗h6 6 ♖f8+ ♗g5 7 h4+! ♗g4 8 ♖f6 ♖d2 9 ♖e3 1-0

This Month's New Releases



The Center Game

Arne Moll, 176 pages, New in Chess
RRP £18.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.05**

This is a very good time of the year to consider refreshing one's opening repertoire and make a statement: out with the old and in with the new. 1 e4 players will be happy with both of this month's highlighted books and they may well turn even 1 d4 heads in their favour.

The Centre Game (if you will pardon the switch back to the Anglicised version of the spelling) has never enjoyed any spell of significant popularity, despite the fact that most people remember Anatoly Karpov (virtually unbeatable at the time) once having trouble against it and the knowledge that most opponents who reply to 1 e4 with 1...e5 will have not spent much – if any – time on researching the theory.

Therefore, one can see the instant appeal of trying 1 e4 e5 2 d4 to immediately deviate from most established theory and to catch the opponent off guard, especially as we are not even considering a Danish Gambit (2...exd4 3 c3), but are sticking firmly with 2...exd4 3 ♖xd4.

The blurb sells it well too: "The Center

Game is a wonderful opening for club players. White starts with a center push, develops quickly, looks for opposite castling, and launches an attack. The setup will feel very familiar to you in no time. And the chess engines show that this opening is both sound and correct, and at least as good as the over-analyzed Ruy Lopez and Italian Opening."

I like the way the author provides context to early queen moves, such as 1 e4 e5 2 ♖h5, setting the scene for what is to follow. Needless to say, in online games 2 d4 could gain an advantage very quickly against anyone pre-moving their first few moves. Yet the real test will, of course, come in over-the-board games.

After 1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 ♖xd4 ♖c6 White already has several options. The queen is, after all, a piece capable of moving to many places. The main repertoire is based on 4 ♖e3 – the Paulsen variation – keeping the queen active and not clogging up the act of queenside castling.

However, the author also covers the queen going to c3, d2, d1, a4, d3 and c4 on the fourth move. As a well-prepared player as Black can equalise against the Paulsen variation (which is why it may be best used as an occasional weapon), attention is given too to the fresher fields of some of the other options, especially 4 ♖a4 and 4 ♖c4. Also, how about the trendy 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♖xd5 3 ♖c3 ♖d6 with an extra tempo here, after 4 ♖d3?

The author is open with his thoughts on the potential of the new ideas compared to the older 4 ♖e3: "I believe most future research will be focused in this direction." Danger still lurks in the older lines, despite cold, hard theory giving Black the nod of equality. The second player certainly needs to be aware of the many tactical opportunities provided by the active white queen. Here is a case in point:

Black now picks off the e-pawn, which is typical of the best lines.

8... ♟xc3!

"The principled move, obviously."

9 ♟xc3 ♟xe4

"Almost everyone who sees this line for the first time, thinks Black is almost winning here already. But then White plays:"

10 ♟c4!

"Suddenly, Black has a small problem on f7. There are many ways Black can immediately go wrong here, which makes it a great line for blitz (for White)."

Indeed, the best move for Black is the not-exactly-obvious 10... ♟e7!, with 10... ♟e7?? 11 ♟e1! ♟xc3 12 ♖xf7+! ♖xf7 13 ♟e8# representing a typical scenario for the unwary.

In this refreshing work subtitled 'A Perfectly Playable Chess Opening Surprise', the author does not disguise the fact that a well-prepared opponent should be able to navigate the potentially dangerous waters. Nevertheless, this attempt to inject a little fun into our lives and games should not be dismissed lightly and there is little doubt that some excellent short, tactical wins will be coming the way of anyone studying the lines given in this book, with the caveat that the opening is used sparingly, against well-chosen opponents. The added bonus of such occasional weapons is that future opponents will usually feel the need to spend some time preparing for 2 d4, only to be hit by something else when the time comes. Play for fun!

Sean Marsh

November's Studies Competition

Jonathan Mestel

2nd Prize, Champagne Tourney,
Rhodes 2007



Proof Game in 11.5 moves

**1 c3 f5 2 ♖a4 ♟f7 3 ♖xd7 ♟g6
4 ♖xe7 ♟h6 5 ♖e4 fxe4 6 h4 ♟g4
7 h5 ♟xe2 8 ♟xe2 ♖e8 9 ♟e3 ♟c5+
10 d4 exd3+**

The first of two, hopefully unexpected, en passant captures.

11 ♟f3+ g5 12 hxg6+

J.Granda Zuniga-J.Fernandez Garcia Pamplona 1992



Play the Mackenzie!

David Gertler, 108 pages
Elk and Ruby

RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

Here we have another refreshing option for 1 e4 aficionados, this time "A Sharp White Attack in the Ruy Lopez". It is not easy breathing new life into such an ancient opening as the Lopez (1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♟b5), and even here we have to look backwards before moving forwards.

In an attempt to refresh the situation from White's point of view – and, very importantly, to cut down on the opponent's pet lines – the

recommendation is to play 1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♗c6 3 ♘b5 a6 4 ♘a4 ♗f6 5 d4. Although relatively rare, the variation does enjoy a rich heritage, with Paul Morphy, Emanuel Lasker, Alexander Alekhine and Mikhail Tal all dabbling in it from time to time. However, the name comes not from a world champion (either official or unofficial), but a lesser-known chess star from another era.

"This variation is named after Scottish-American master George Mackenzie, who popularized it in the nineteenth century. He was undefeated with it, overwhelming some top masters of that day."

It is not unknown for Elk and Ruby to present a work on an opening instead of a historical person or event, but this interesting volume may herald more from the impressive publisher. The page count is low, but that may make this volume more appealing to practical players wanting to get up and running with a new weapon as quickly as possible.

Black has six main options after 5 d4, namely: The popular 5...exd4, The solid 5...♗xd4, The risky 5...♗xe4, The complicated 5...b5, The timid 5...d6, and The disdainful 5...♘e7. I like the names given to the variations; they act as a useful reminder of the merits – or otherwise – of each one.

Assuming Black either knows his stuff or is good at finding moves over the board, the players may well reach this position, after 5...exd4 6 0-0 ♘e7 7 e5 ♗e4 8 ♗xd4 0-0.



According to the author, this is "maybe the key position – on Mackenzie theory." White can now choose between 9 ♖e1, 9 ♗f5 d5 10 ♗xe7+ and 9 ♗f5 d5 10 ♘xc6 bxc6 11 ♗xe7+ ♖e7 12 ♖e1. They lead to different types of positions and the reader is advised to "choose the variation that best suits your style."

Of course, this is not a full Ruy Lopez repertoire. The only deviation covered is the Berlin Defence. To keep the continuity going, after 3...♗f6 the recommendation is, of course, 4 d4 and "in practical terms, it is an unwelcome surprise for many Berlin players. They face the same dilemma as Black players meeting the Mackenzie: being forced to choose from a wide variety of replies, each of which has potential drawbacks." At least it avoids the dreaded Berlin Ending, which is a pain at the highest levels of chess (forcing a new popularity of the Italian Game), and best avoided all together at club and tournament level.

That is definitely the theme of this month's

reviews; attempting to catch opponents by surprise and shake them from their solid, bedrock 1 e4 e5 repertoire. Give opponents choices in unfamiliar openings and they can go wrong relatively quickly. I can even see the two openings covered in these pages acting together as part of a repertoire; alternate between them and keep opponents guessing. With that in mind, and mindful of New Year resolutions, these books will provide plenty of food for thought and may even act as a springboard for change.

Sean Marsh

1. ♗f3: A Reti-Grandmaster Course For Strategic Understanding And Flexibility Vol.1: Fianchetto Systems

Felix Blohberger, PC-DVD; running time: 3 hours, 35 minutes

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

22-year-old Austrian Champion Blohberger visited the ChessBase studio in Hamburg to record this DVD on his favourite 1 ♗f3 followed by 2 g3. His focus is on a solid, easy-to-play set-up, a world away from having to memorise forcing lines. A repertoire for White is mapped out against all Black's major alternatives to 1...d5, including King's Indian, ...b6 and Dutch set-ups.

There's also a companion DVD by Blohberger, 1. ♗f3: A Reti-Grandmaster Course For Strategic Understanding And Flexibility Vol.2: Classical Systems. It also retails at £29.95 (Subscribers £26.95), while running to 4 hours and 20 minutes of video footage and covering how to respond when Black goes for a classical approach with a pawn on d5 and/or c5.



100 Years of FIDE

Willy Iclicki & Dmitry Oleynikov (eds.), 208 pages, paperback

RRP £59.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £53.95**

This is a collector's item, a limited print run of just 1,000 copies, produced by Italian publisher Le Due Torri for FIDE to mark the 100th anniversary of the organisation. Indeed, the subtitle is 'An Illustrated History 1924 – 2024', with the contents of this coffee table book a fascinating selection of classic photographs, accompanied by concise but clear passages of text. The result is a clear timeline of how FIDE have run world chess for the last one hundred years, not just the Olympiads and world championship matches, but also their many innovations, such as the World Rapid and Blitz Championships.

FIDE have also teamed up with the same Italian publisher to produce *FIDE Golden Book 1924 – 2024* (480 pages, paperback, RRP £59.95, Subscribers £53.95), written and compiled by Willy Iclicki, the Chair of FIDE's

Historical Committee. This detailed work contains not just plenty of fascinating chess history, but also a great many lists, such as of every type of FIDE champion you can imagine and everyone who has received the grandmaster title.

Note that both *100 Years of FIDE* and *FIDE Golden Book 1924 – 2024* may be purchased together for the special price of £110.00 from Chess & Bridge.



AlphaBetChess Volume 1:

Learn To Play Chess in 26 Stories

Vishnu Warriar, 64 pages, hardback

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

Thinkers Publishing have released a colourful and well-illustrated beginner's work in time for the Christmas market. Each of the 26 stories represents a different letter, aiming to explain along the way all the basics of chess to get children up and running with how to play the game. Vishnu Warriar has also written a companion work, *AlphaBetChess Volume 2: Enjoy the Colourful World of Chess from A-Z* (68 pages, paperback, RRP £15.95, Subscribers £14.45), which should especially appeal to young children, who will be able to colour in and cut out their own chess pieces, as well as colour plenty of other pages.



American Dream:

The Best Games of Hikaru Nakamura

Cyrus Lakdawala, 280 pages, paperback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

Having rushed out a book on Dommaraju Gukesh in time for the big match, Cyrus Lakdawala remains with Elk and Ruby to cover another gap in the market: a best games collection of the five-time U.S. Champion, leading chess streamer and world no.3 at the time of writing, Hikaru Nakamura. Lakdawala takes a good look at Nakamura's style before annotating 72 of his most instructive games, in some detail, but often with somewhat less prose than his regular readers may expect. Nakamura fans may also wish to note that a hardback edition is available too, retailing at £35.95 or £32.35 for Subscribers.

Beating the Queen's Gambit – Indian Style!

Renier Castellanos, 312 pages, paperback

RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

The Spanish GM and our October 60

Seconds interviewee completes his repertoire for Black against 1 d4 with this companion work to *Playing the Nimzo-Indian*. He seeks a dynamic game as Black, whether allowed to unbalance the position with the Vienna, fight against the Catalan with an early ...dxc4 or have to deal with the solid likes of the London System. For Sean Marsh's thoughts on the Castellanos repertoire, do see page 40. Note too that both volumes may be purchased together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £44.98, as well as that a hardback version of *Beating the Queen's Gambit – Indian Style!* is also available for £29.50 or £26.55 for Subscribers.

Chess Warrior:

The Life & Games of Géza Maróczy

László Jakobetz, 400 pages, hardback
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

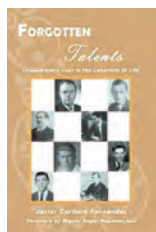
This is a detailed biography of Hungary's first grandmaster, the world-class Géza Maróczy (1870 – 1951), the father of the Hungarian school of chess. Maróczy might be best remembered for his opening bind, but he mixed a good grasp of dynamics with fine positional play. This well produced and very good value production from New Hampshire contains not just a fascinating account of Maróczy's life, but many photographs and 180 annotated games.



Conceptual Rook Endgames Workbook

Jacob Aagaard, 160 pages, paperback
RRP £15.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £14.39**

This is a companion work to Aagaard's *Conceptual Rook Endgames* and Sam Shankland's *Theoretical Rook Endgames*, both also published by Quality Chess. As such, this workbook is most likely to appeal to readers of those books, although it also stands in its own right as a collection of 208 endgame positions to attempt to solve, ranging from the relatively easy to ones which would trouble a grandmaster, all supplied with instructive solutions from the world's leading chess trainer. As so often for a publication from our friends in Glasgow, a hardback edition is also available, retailing at £19.99 or £17.99 for Subscribers.



Forgotten Talents

Javier Cordero Fernandez, 288 pages, paperback
RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**
There are plenty of fascinating new

releases which will appeal to those who really like their chess history, including this one subtitled 'Chessplayers Lost in the Labyrinth of Life'. Many famous players have had relatively short careers, whether due to chronic illness, the brutality of the Soviet regime, or poor mental health. Some of Cordero's 23 "lost" players are well-known, others much less so. His well-written, wide-ranging account begins with Kieseritzky, takes in the likes of Cecil De Vere and Gösta Stoltz, before going on towards the time of Albin Planinc. It should be noted too that not all of his subjects had such short careers, for example, Nicolas Rossolimo and Viktor Kupreichik are also featured, on the grounds that they haven't always had the recognition that their play and chess achievements deserved.



How to play the Caro-Kann Defence Vol. 1

Ålvar Alonso Rosell, PC-DVD;
running time: 4 hours, 21 minutes
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Former Spanish Champion Alonso Rosell is aware that the Caro-Kann can combine a health dose of solidity with a dynamic twist. He begins to map out a repertoire for Black with 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 by focussing on two pretty modern lines, 3 e5 c5 and 3 ♘c3 dxe4 4 ♘xe4 ♠f6 5 ♘xf6+ exf6.

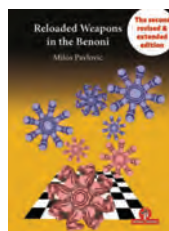
Alonso Rosell's repertoire is completed by a second DVD, *How to play the Caro-Kann Defence Vol. 2*, which runs to five and a half hours of coverage and is also available for £31.95 (Subscribers £28.75). You can also purchase both DVDs together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £55.00.

My System FastTrack Edition

Aron Nimzovich (ed. Alex Fishbein), 208 pages, paperback

RRP £19.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.95**

My System is one of the most famous and controversial of all chess books. Some strong players still praise it, others advise never reading it. It is though hard not to agree with this new version that "100 Years Later, Nimzovich Is Still Good for Your Chess". Thanks to Fishbein's editing, this is a somewhat slimmed-down version of Nimzowitsch's original work. It is certainly highly readable, cannot be accused of being dense, and still contains much invaluable instruction on such topics as open files, prophylaxis and the passed pawn.



Reloaded Weapons in the Benoni

Milos Pavlovic, 164 pages, paperback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

This is a "second revised & extended edition" of the Serbian Grandmaster and theoretician's earlier work for Thinkers. Pavlovic believes that meeting 1 d4 with 1...♘f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 ♘c3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6, while sharp and potentially risky, not least in the case of the ever critical 7 f4 ♗g7, is also fully viable and examines a number of recent trends to demonstrate why. The coverage is fairly theoretical, but does also contain several dangerous looking novelties and so may well make for required reading for the more advanced Modern Benoni practitioner.



San Sebastian 1911

Robert Irons, 272 pages, hardback
RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

The name of this famous tournament may well ring a bell, perhaps because its where Capablanca first really announced himself on the world stage. Of the then top players in the world, only world champion Emanuel Lasker was missing. Drawing heavily on tournament organiser Jacques Mieses's account, which has been translated from the German, and other contemporary sources, author Irons, a correspondence player and academic, brings the tournament fully to life, while also presenting its 105 games, all with some form of annotation.



Sofia Polgar: Amazing Artist – Dangerous Tactician

Sofia Polgar, 288 pages, paperback
RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

Books which claim to be "truly unique" rarely are, but this publication from Russell Enterprises certainly is. Did you know that Sofia Polgar, the middle sister, is also a gifted artist? A great many of her paintings grace the pages of this work, which also contains a substantial, fascinating autobiography, as well as plenty of her favourite games, all annotated with a nod to those fairly new to the game and still mastering the basics. In short, this is a refreshingly fresh and creative work which should appeal to more than just Polgar fans.

Strategic Play with 1 e4

Milos Pavlovic, 320 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Following their purchase from Chess.com

by Quality Chess, Everyman Chess will no longer be producing new books under that famous brand, rather they will appear under a new company, Popular Chess, but with the same format and still run by IM Byron Jacobs. The first release from Popular Chess sees Milos Pavlovic map out a repertoire with 1 e4, which is designed to be fairly solid, immune to sharp lines prone to sudden theoretical developments, and based on good, strategic principles. As such, 1 e4 e5 is met with 2 ♘f3 ♗c6 3 ♗c3 ♗f6 4 g3 and there is good coverage of both the French Advance and various anti-Sicilians.

Studies for Practical Players Book 2

Oleg Pervakov & Mark Dvoretzky, 176 pages, paperback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

Studies for Practical Players was released by Russell Enterprises in 2009 and there is now a sequel, even though Mark Dvoretzky is no longer with us. The focus is once again on endgame studies with the aim of improving the reader's vision and calculation. Much of the content was selected by Dvoretzky prior to his death in September 2016, while Pervakov has not only edited those sections, but also added a fair amount of material of his own. There's even a foreword from Garry Kasparov, so what more could the hard-working practical player want than to study this inspirational and instructive new work?

The Catalan, An Opening Repertoire For Life Vol.1: Open Catalan

Jan Werle, PC-DVD; running time: 9 hours, 30 minutes

RRP £41.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £37.75**

This is a detailed examination of 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 g3 and then both 4...dxc4 5 ♗g2 and 4...♗e7 5 ♗g2 0-0 6 0-0 dxc4 7 ♗c2 from the white side by Dutch GM Jan Werle for ChessBase. He doesn't fail to make use of model games and instructive exercises, but his main focus is a thorough repertoire, with which viewers should quickly be able to get up and running.

Werle and ChessBase have also collaborated on *The Catalan, An Opening Repertoire For Life Vol.2: Closed Catalan*, which runs to six and a half hours of video, while examining how to meet such important lines as 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 g3 ♗b4+ 5 ♗d2 ♗e7. This second volume is available for £34.95 (Subscribers £31.45), or you might prefer to purchase both Werle Catalan DVDs together for the special price of £68.00.

The Endgame Academy Vol.1: Checkmate & Pawn Endgames

Karsten Müller, PC-DVD; running time: 5 hours

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

This marks the start of a new series from ChessBase, by one of their leading presenters, acclaimed endgame expert Karsten Müller. While he may begin by covering the basic mates, Müller soon moves on to tackle a number of vital aspects of pawn endings, material which should educate

and perhaps even stretch the club player on such topics as key squares, passed pawns and breakthroughs.



The Queen's Gambit Accepted

Max Dlugy, 392 pages, paperback

RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

This is a "Second Edition, Revised & Expanded" from leading American chess publisher, Russell Enterprises. QGA expert GM Max Dlugy has added 40 pages of new analysis to his earlier (2023!) repertoire work for Black with 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4, with its cornerstones of 3 e4 e5 (the trendy 3...b5 is also covered), and 3 ♗f3 a6.

The Scheveningen Sicilian Revisited

Daniel Gormally, 176 pages, paperback

RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

We hear plenty about the Najdorf and even Classical variations of the Sicilian these days, but much less about that old Kasparov favourite, 1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 e6. Popular author Gormally examines the history and evolution of the opening in this creative work, making good use along the way of training games he played against *Stockfish* and online. Overall, he does an excellent job of explaining the key ideas for both sides and constructing a repertoire for Black, one which refuses to fear the critical Keres Attack with 6 g4.



The Tricky Tromp

Richard Palliser, 272 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

A second new release from Popular Chess sees our Editor aim to refresh existing Trompowsky players' repertoires, while winning over more fans of attacking play and murky complications to the world of 1 d4 ♗f6 2 ♗g5. After 2...♗e4 there's no coverage of 3 ♗f4, rather the focus is on 3 h4 and 3 ♗h4, which both still carry a fair amount of practical sting. There have also been important developments in recent years in early ♗d2 set-ups, angling for an improved type of Torre or favourable transposition to it and, as such, the recommendation against both 2...e6 and 2...d5 is 3 ♗d2, while one of two lines given against 2...c5 is 3 ♗xf6 gxf6 4 d5 ♗b6 5 ♗d2!?

Do note that a new development from Popular Chess is that both *Strategic Play with*

1 e4 and *The Tricky Tromp* are also available in hardback format should you prefer, retailing at £24.99 or £22.49 for Subscribers.

Thinkers' Chess Academy with Grandmaster Thomas Luther:

Volume 6 – 365 Steps to Advanced Tactical Mastery

Thomas Luther & Heinz Brunthaler, 274 pages, paperback

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

This is another work from Luther and Brunthaler for Thinkers aimed at those who like to enjoy a little chess every day and have been playing the game for at least six months. The daily puzzles begin with plenty aimed at those of maybe 1000-1200 strength, before gradually getting harder and setting challenges which even the average club player may not find so easy.

Understanding Middlegame Strategies Vol.10: Caro-Kann Advance Variation

Ivan Sokolov, PC-DVD; running time: 7 hours, 19 minutes

RRP £41.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £37.75**

While there is plenty of instructive general material on the pawn structure with White having d4 and e5 against Black's d5 and e6 on this latest Ivan Sokolov DVD, it should be said that he mainly focusses on 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 ♗f5. Repertoire recommendations for White are given, although Sokolov's emphasis is chiefly the key motifs for both sides whether White goes 4 ♗f3, 4 ♗c3, 4 c4 or 4 h4.

Sokolov's *Understanding Middlegame Strategies Vol.11: King's Indian Structures* has also just been released by ChessBase, runs to 5 hours and 38 minutes of video, and retails at £34.95 (Subscribers £31.45). Again, a specific opening is Sokolov's focus and the emphasis is on mapping out all the most important strategic and tactical motifs which both players should be aware of, not least after 5 ♗f3 0-0 6 ♗e2 e5.



Unveiling the Victory

Henri Serruys, 250 pages, hardback

RRP £37.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £34.15**

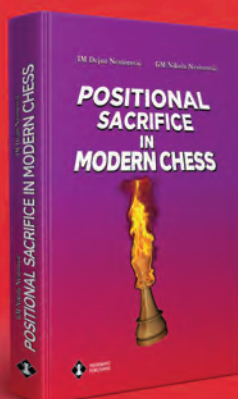
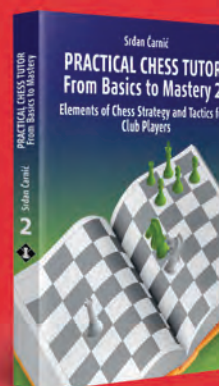
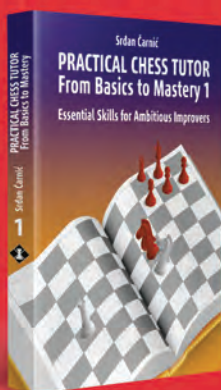
Thinkers Publishing have certainly had a very busy autumn with this another release from them. The subtitle should reveal all: 'How Spassky Won The Third World Junior Chess Championship Antwerp 1955'. Belgian chess historian Serruys has certainly done his research, both in the archives and by contacting all those who played in the tournament and are still alive. The result is a fascinating account of a very well-organised event long largely forgotten by chess fans, despite Spassky's excellent result and plenty of sparkling games.



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