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Chess

POWERFUL PONOMARIOV!

Former FIDE World Champion
shows he still has it at the
Capablanca Memorial

ISSN 0964-6221



A Triple Crown! - Keith Arkell & Nigel Povah report from the European Senior Teams



Graham's Game - John Henderson remembers FM Graham Morrison (1958 - 2024)



Games of Chess - James Essinger on GM Danny Gormally & George R. R. Martin

Chess

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New from Quality Chess!

The Mental Game

Aleksandra Maltsevskaya won the 2018 World Junior Championship and 2022 European Rapid Championship. This book reveals the inside story of an 18-month period in which she worked with **GM Alexander Galkin**. A year later, Maltsevskaya became World Junior Champion.

Galkin offers a candid, unfiltered account of their collaboration, revealing the highs, lows, jubilations and frustrations that were experienced. His expert insights are sure to benefit chess players and coaches alike. Bonus material includes all eleven annotated games from Maltsevskaya's World Championship victory.

GM Alexander Galkin won the 1999 World Junior Championship. He now focuses more on training others, yet remains a formidable player in the world's top 200.

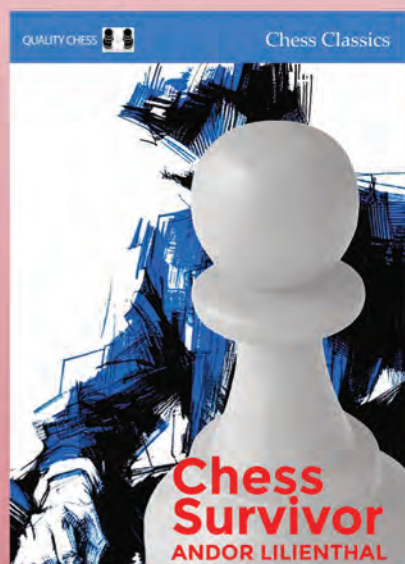


Chess Survivor

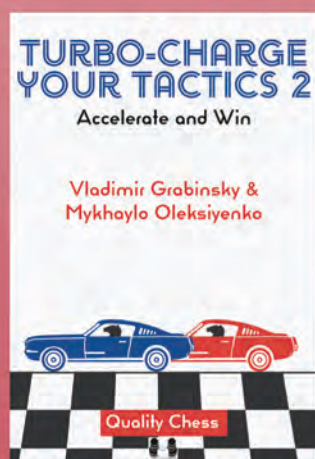
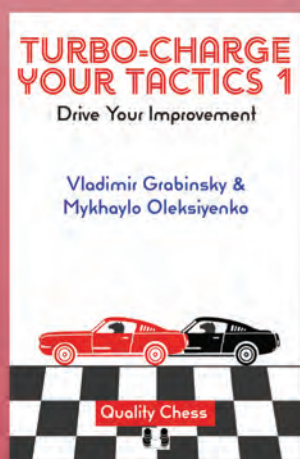
Andor Lilienthal was one of the inaugural recipients of the Grandmaster title when FIDE introduced it in 1950. When Bobby Fischer saw Lilienthal in the audience during his 1992 return match against Spassky, Fischer immediately said: "Pawn e5 takes f6!" – a reference to Lilienthal's brilliant win over Capablanca from 1935.

Lilienthal was not only a wonderful chess player, but also a remarkable man who was universally liked and respected by his peers. In **Chess Survivor** he shares his colourful life story and annotates his best games.

For this Quality Chess edition, Douglas Griffin translated Lilienthal's book from Russian and further enriched the reader's experience by adding 17 games to the 60 that Lilienthal annotated.



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How to Beat a Grandmaster

Paul Littlewood presents a fine win over a future GM by former FM John Nicholson

One of the easiest ways to beat a GM is, of course, to play him when he is young and has not yet achieved that exalted status. My father was particularly good at this because he had the scalps of people like Nigel Short, Tony Miles, Jon Speelman and Michael Adams, all before they became world-beaters.

Bearing this in mind, John Nicholson sent me a game of his against John Nunn played in 1970, when both were teenagers.

J. Nicholson-J. Nunn

British Under-18 Ch., Coventry 1970
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♘f6 5 0-0 ♙e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♙b3 0-0 8 c3 d5

The dreaded Marshall Attack, first introduced by the man himself against Capablanca many years ago. Nowadays players often avoid it by playing 8 a4, but even if you allow it, theory is so far advanced that a lot of people feel that the whole variation is a forced draw. Consequently you very rarely see it in top level games these days.

9 exd5 e4?!

The main variation nowadays is 9...♗xd5 10 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 11 ♖xe5 c6 12 d4 when Black has sufficient compensation for the pawn. I also saw Nunn play 11...♗f6 once and this was the move chosen by Marshall in his game against Capablanca, obtaining a dangerous attack, but the great man outplayed Marshall and won the game.

10 dxc6 exf3 11 d4

This was thought to be the best move at the time, but an interesting alternative is 11 g3 ♙g4 12 d4 ♖e8 13 ♙f4 ♗d5 14 ♖e4! when White stands better, despite the annoying pawn on f3.

11...fxg2 12 ♙g5?!



1974 British U21 Champion, John Nicholson.

Better is 12 ♗f3 with a slight advantage.

12...♙g4?!

However, now Black makes an error. Instead, 12...♗d5 13 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 14 ♗f3 is only very slightly better for White. I suspect Nunn did not play this because it simplified things too much, but he now stands rather worse.

13 ♗d3 ♖e8 14 ♗d2 ♗h5 15 ♖xe7?!

Even stronger was 15 ♗f3! when the game might continue 15...g6 16 ♖e5 ♙xg5 17 ♗xg5 ♗f4 18 ♗g3 ♗xg5 19 ♖xg5 ♗e2+ 20 ♗xg2 ♗xg3 21 hxg3 ♙f5 22 g4 ♙d3 23 ♗g3, with a winning position.

15...♖xe7 16 h3 ♙e2?

16...♙e6 was better as after 17 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 18 d5 ♙g4! White must find 19 ♗e4! to retain his advantage, whereas 19 hxg4?? loses to 19...♗h4! 20 ♗xg2 ♗f4+.

17 ♗f5 ♗f6 18 ♙xf6 gxf6



19 ♗e4

Even stronger was 19 ♙c2! as the attack is winning after 19...♖e6 20 ♗xh7+ ♗f8 21 ♙f5 ♗d5 22 ♙xe6 ♗xe6 23 d5 ♗xd5 24 ♗h8+ ♗e7 25 ♗xa8 ♗xd2 26 ♗c8, etc.

19...♖xe4 20 ♗xe4 ♙h5 21 ♗d5!?
Very much a question of style. I would prefer 21 ♖e1, keeping queens on and expecting to win the middlegame.

21...♗xd5 22 ♙xd5 ♖e8 23 a4 ♖b8 24 b4

Even stronger was 24 axb5 ♖xb5 25 ♙xg2 ♖xb2 26 ♖xa6 ♖b8 27 ♖a7 ♖c8 28 c4, which is easily winning. However, the move played is sufficient to bring home the full point.

24...bxa4 25 ♖xa4 ♙e2 26 ♗xg2 ♙b5 27 ♖a5 ♖b6 28 c4 ♙xc6 29 ♙xc6 ♖xc6 30 ♖c5!



30...♖b6

The king and pawn ending is easily won for White after 30...♖xc5 31 dxc5.

31 ♖xc7 ♖xb4 32 ♖c8+ ♗g7 33 d5 ♖b3 34 d6 ♖d3 35 ♖d8 a5 36 c5 ♖c3 37 ♖c8

In time trouble White misses an immediate win by 37 d7, but he spots it a couple of moves later.

37...♖d3 38 ♖d8 ♖c3 39 d7! ♖xc5 40 ♖c8 1-0

A very nice game by John Nicholson who went on to be a joint winner of the under-18 title that year. In 1974 he also won the British Under-21 in Clacton and was clearly one of the strongest junior players of his era. However, things faltered when, like most of us, he pursued another career and didn't play chess so seriously, although he still remains active in the Netherlands where he now lives.

Have you played a game like this? Please don't be shy and send in (to plittl@hotmail.com) your sparkling victories against strong opposition. I cannot promise to include them, but if they are suitable you may well see your name up in lights!



60 Seconds with... FM David Haydon



Born: 5th July 1988, Basildon, Essex.

Place of residence: Thurrock, Essex.

Occupation: Manager for a ducting and ventilation company.

Enjoyable? As enjoyable as work can be I guess.

And home life? I live with my 9-month-old dog.

But sometimes good to escape to: Different scenery, dog walks, time with family and friends.

Sports played or followed: I play badminton mainly on a regular basis and enjoy watching tennis and football, where I'm an Arsenal fan.

A favourite novel? Reading books is not my strong point.

Piece of music? I enjoy a variety of music depending on my mood, but I do really like listening to Coldplay.

Film or TV series? Any comedy series or *Gladiator*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? Playing the best players, especially grandmasters; win or lose, it's always good to know where my level is at.

And the worst? When you lose in a self-destructive manner.

Your best move? I am more of a Keith Arkell-like endgame player so sacrifices are few and far between. While I have played many

boring moves which could be considered, this was quite a nice sacrifice, which required me to think more than three moves ahead.

M.Foisor-D.Haydon The Sharks vs Wood Green, 4NCL.2023



25... ♖xh3+! 26 ♔f1 ♕g5 27 ♖e1 ♜f4 28 ♗f3 ♘a6+ 29 ♚g1 ♖e7 30 ♜c4 ♙xc4 31 bxc4 ♜d7 32 e5 ♜g6 33 ♙xg6 fxc6 34 ♗a8+ ♜d8 35 ♗c6 ♗f5 36 ♗f3 ♗xf3 37 gxf3 ♜d3 38 ♙b2 ♜d2 0-1

But less memorable than your worst move? My worst game was losing to a GM in Ukraine last year in 100 moves in a rook and bishop versus rook endgame. I was devastated to lose it, but at the same time it does show how if you are presumptuous believing you have an easy draw, you will be punished. However, my worst actual move was blundering a rook while thinking I was being smart and going to mate my opponent.

M.Harvey-D.Haydon Wood Green vs Wood Green Youth, 4NCL 2022



22 .. ♗g5? 23 ♗xc7 ♜xe5?
23 .. ♗xg4 would have been a better try had I spotted the defence.

24 ♙h3 ♗e3+ 25 ♚h1 1-0
Unfortunately, 25 .. ♗xh3 runs into 26 ♗xc6 or even 26 ♜d5.

And a highly memorable opponent? Facing the legendary Alexander Beliavsky at a tournament in Ukraine last year, where we drew our classical game and also in the blitz tournament held alongside.

Favourite game of all time? Kasparov's win against Topalov at Wijk aan Zee, 1999. 24 ♜xd4 was a spectacular rook sacrifice.

The best three chess books: I haven't read any chess books apart from my friend Neil McDonald's *Mastering Checkmates*, so I can only say this one.

Is FIDE doing a good job? Rating deflation seems to be a big problem.

Or your National Federation? Yes, the game is better now in the UK than I can ever remember it being (perhaps the government funding helps), with a lot more emphasis on getting games FIDE-rated, which is very important.

Can chess make one happy? Momentarily, yes, but it can also make you unhappy, especially when you lose.

A tip please for the club player: Sometimes it can be difficult, but never offer or accept a draw! It's one way you can improve your endgame ability. How else can you do that if you never reach an endgame?

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Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. As usual, the games come from a variety of recent events and we revisit the Isle of Wight Congress, Sharjah Masters and the Sheffield International. 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) A.Ledger-J.Pein
Sheffield 2024
Black to Play



(2) D.Mason-A.Jaunooby
Bolton 2024
White to Play



(3) K.Arkell-M.Gunathilake
Ryde 2024
White to Play



(4) S.Woozeer-N.Holroyd-Doveton
Sheffield 2024
Black to Play

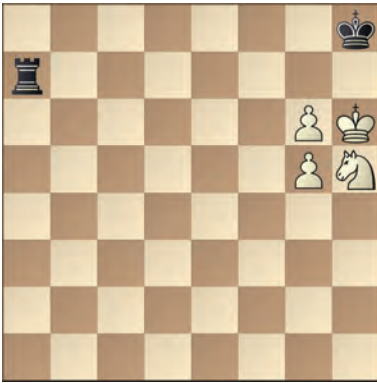


(5) M.Alsaquer-K.Arkell
Sheffield 2024
Black to Play



(6) M.Gunathilake-H.Leung
Ryde 2024
White to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



(7) Y.Domin-P.Balakrishnan
 Titled Tuesday Blitz 2024
 Black to Play and Draw



(8) A.Ledger-R.Pal
 Sheffield 2024
 White to Play



(9) H.Niemann-M.A.Maurizzi
 Djerba 2024
 Black to Play



(10) O.Kobo-I.Kovalenko
 Chess.com Classic (rapid) 2024
 Black to Play and Draw



(11) T.Wills-Ta.Kanyamarala
 Sheffield 2024
 Black to Play



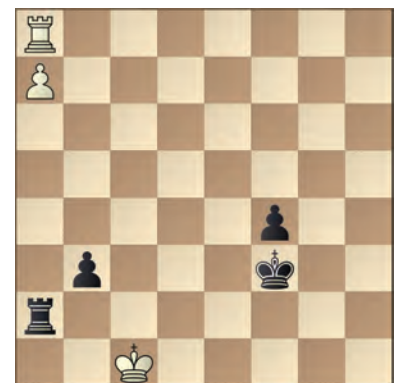
(12) N.Dickenson-S.Chua
 Ryde 2024
 White to Play



(13) J.Siddharth-C.Aravindh
 Dubai 2024
 Black to Play



(14) N.Kacharava-M.Yilmaz
 Sharjah 2024
 White to Play



(15) J.Murawski-H.Grieve
 Ryde 2024
 Black to Play

Harder Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



(16) A.Firouzja-D.Lazavik
 Chess.com Classic (rapid) 2024
 White to Play



(17) A.Kashlinskaya-P.Brzezina
 Katowice (rapid) 2024
 White to Play



(18) V.Ivanchuk-V.Baklan
 Formentera 2024
 Black to Play and Draw



(19) A.Mishra-R.Raja
 Sharjah 2024
 White to Play



(20) T.Chapman-R.De Coverly
 English Over-65 Ch., Kenilworth 2024
 White to Play



(21) A.Erigaisi-R.Vogel
 Karlsruhe 2024
 White to Play



(22) G.Jones-M.Adams
 4NCL, Daventry 2024
 White to Play



(23) A.Mittal-J.Cardoso Cardoso
 Sharjah 2024
 White to Play



(24) V.Fedoseev-S.Saleh
 Sharjah 2024
 Black to Play



Overseas News

CZECH REPUBLIC – David Navara won the Czech Championship for a 13th time as he finished unbeaten on 7½/9 while performing at 2722 in Ostrava (April 27 – May 5). That left him a point and a half ahead of 18-year-old IM Richard Stalmach, who made a GM norm. The adjacent women's championship wasn't also an all-play-all, but rather a knockout in which Julia Movsesian defeated Martina Korenova in the final.

D.Navara-V.Finek Czech Championship, Ostrava 2024 Reti Opening

1 ♖f3 ♜f6 2 c4 c6 3 ♝c3 d5 4 e3 e6 5 b3 ♙d6 6 ♙b2 0-0 7 ♙e2 ♜bd7 8 ♞c2

Continuing to eschew d2-d4 and transposition into the Semi-Slav as White keeps options open with this line which is fairly trendy and recommended on the Chessable course *Lifetime Repertoires: Modern Reti*.

8...♞e7 9 ♙g1!?

Upping the ante by preparing to go forwards on the kingside and in a much more dangerous manner than 9 g4? ♜xg4 10 ♙g1 f5.

9...e5 10 g4 ♜b6?!

Getting into a tangle. Black should fight fire with fire through 10...♙e8 when 11 g5 ♜e4! 12 ♜xe4 dxe4 13 ♞xe4 ♜c5 14 ♞c2 a5 would offer decent compensation for the pawn.

11 g5 ♜fd7 12 cxd5

One of two good moves, the other being 12 0-0-0! as recommended on the aforementioned course.

12...cxd5?!

12...♜xd5 13 ♜e4 ♙a3 14 h4 is quite pleasant for White, but likely no more than that.



13 ♜b5!

Beginning to cause Black something of a headache on the a3-f8 diagonal.

13...♙e8 14 a4!?

The 21st century take on Hypermodernism

at its best as White expands aggressively on both flanks.

14...♜f8 15 a5 ♜bd7 16 h4!

Returning to kingside operations with Black tied up and struggling for counterplay.

16...d4!? 17 ♙c1

Preparing a timely invasion on c7 as well as White's next, although there was nothing wrong with 17 h5!?, simply getting on with things.

17...♜b8 18 ♞xc8!?

An astonishing blow revealing a deep awareness of just how well coordinated the white pieces will be, as well as one which likely won the game from a psychological perspective, although the engines much prefer 18 h5 or even 18 ♞e4.

18...♞xc8 19 ♞xc8 ♞d7?

The defensive task wasn't an easy one, but 19...a6! 20 ♜xd6 ♞xd6 21 ♙c4 ♞d7 22 ♙c5 ♜c6 (Pein) would have kept Black afloat.

20 ♙c4!!

Black may well have overlooked this blow and now 20...♞xc8? 21 ♜xd6 ♞c7 22 ♜xf7 ♜c6 23 ♜3xe5 would have been a massacre, and if 23...♜xe5 24 ♜xe5+ ♙h8 25 ♜f7+ ♙g8 26 ♙g4!; the bishops are just too strong.

20...g6?

Weakening and it seems that 20...♙b4! was the last chance, although even here after 21 ♜xe5! ♞xc8 22 ♙xf7+! ♙h8 23 ♙c4 ♜e6 24 ♜xd4 ♜xd4 25 ♙xd4 White's attack would have more than compensated for the significant material investment.

21 h5! a6

Once again 21...♞xc8? results in Black being massacred, in this case after 22 ♜xd6 ♞c7 23 ♙xf7+ ♙h8 and then 24 ♜xe5! ♞xd6 25 ♙xd4.

22 ♜xd6 ♞xd6 23 hxg6 hxg6 24 ♙h1

White has managed to open the h-file and will now clear the long diagonal in style.

24...♞d7 25 ♜xe5!!



Olé!

25...♞xc8 26 ♜xf7

Threatening mate in two with 27 ♙h8+ ♙g7 28 ♙xd4#. The game is up for Finek.

26...♞xc4 27 ♜h6+ ♙h7 28 bxc4 ♜c6 29 ♜f5+ ♙g8 30 ♜xd4 1-0

HUNGARY – Daniel Fernandez finished just half a point off first place at the Budapest Spring Festival (May 23-31), where 17-year-old Israeli IM Yahli Sokolovsky won on tiebreak after finishing on 7/9, alongside Grzegorz Nasuta (POL), Ivan Ivanisevic (SRB), Aryan Chopra (IND) and Leonardo Costa (GER). IMs Matthew Wadsworth and Jonah Willow finished on 5½/9, as did Sohum Lohia who came very close to scoring an IM norm. Once again though it was Bodhana Sivanandan who rather stole the show, the super-talented nine year old drawing with three FMs and a WGM en route to 4/9 and a 2244 performance.

Teenager Sohum Lohia stayed on for the SixDays Budapest GM-B norm tournament (June 3-8), only losing once as he tied for second on 5½/9, a point behind the winner, Serbian GM Milos Perunovic. That saw Lohia perform at 2477, thereby giving him a second IM norm and gain of some 50 rating points to cross the 2300 barrier.

IRELAND – St Mary's Parish Primary School hosted the 33rd Drogheda Chess Congress (June 1-3), which attracted 133 players over its four sections. Ukrainian Oleg Artemenko and fellow FM Colm Daly both won €400 after finishing on 4½/6 in the top section, the Thomson Masters. Sharing third, half a point behind, were David Fitzsimons, Jacob Flynn, Oisín O'Cuilleain, Jason Liu and Adam Collins.

MOROCCO – A Morocco Chess Week was headlined by Casablanca Chess (May 18-19), an unusual exhibition event, played with a 15+10 time control and in which the games began from some select, unbalanced and rough level positions taken from world championship matches. Magnus Carlsen defeated his three rivals to bag another first place with 4½/6, finishing a point ahead of Hikaru Nakamura, with Vishy Anand back on 50% and Egyptian and African number one, Bassem Amin, scoring just one point.

NORWAY – Next month we'll have a full report on Norway Chess, won by the man of the moment, Magnus Carlsen, but alongside it in Stavanger there was the Norway Chess Open (May 24-30), in which Birkenhead-based Ukrainian teenager Svyatoslav Bazakutsa made a GM norm as he tied for first with Norwegian GM Elham Amar on 7/9.

POLAND – Wei Yi continued his good form from Wijk aan Zee as he topped the rapid section at the Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz in Warsaw (May 6-13). Despite losing to Magnus Carlsen, the Chinese number two racked up 6½/9 to finish half a point in front of an unbeaten world number one. The only other player to make a plus score was Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa, with Dommaraju Gukesh sharing last spot on '-2' alongside Vincent Keymer and Anish Giri.

Carlsen began the subsequent blitz tournament with 1/3, but ended the first day strongly, winning three in a row, and then turned the streak into a quite memorable one, taking a full point from each of the first seven games of the final day en route to topping the blitz standings with 14/18, with Wei Yi second on 12½ and Jan-Krzysztof Duda third, back on 10½ points. That all meant that Carlsen triumphed overall by half a point and he paid tribute to his rival, stating "It was an incredible performance by Wei Yi". It was also a pretty incredible performance even by Carlsen's lofty standards as he took home the \$40,000 first prize.

SPAIN – The Salamanca Chess Festival (May 22-25) maintained its unusual time control of 40 minutes each with a five-second increment. Fresh from his success at the Capablanca Memorial, Ruslan Ponomarev top scored with 5½/7, finishing half a point ahead of Kirill Alekseenko, who now represents Austria. Spanish GM Eduardo Iturrizaga Bonelli took third and Michael Adams tied for fourth on 50% with Elisabeth Paehtz. Adams did well against the other male players, including defeating Alekseenko, but was crushed in the opening round by Nurgul Salimova and blundered horribly against Mariya Muzychuk.

UAE – The 7th Sharjah Masters was a very strong 88-player Swiss (May 14-22), in which top seed Arjun Erigaisi only lost one rating point whilst finishing on 6/9. That was only enough for a share of fifth place as the latest Iranian star, 17-year-old Bardiya Daneshvar, triumphed on tiebreak after finishing on 6½/9 alongside Russia's Volodar Murzin, Sam Shankland (USA) and Uzbekistan's Shamsiddin Vokhidov. Shreyas Royal began well, defeating Rinat Jumabayev and Temur Kuybokarov, rated 2595 and 2600 respectively, while also holding comfortably as Black against Parham Maghsoodloo no less. Even defeats to Haik Martirosyan and Pouya Idani still left him with a GM norm chance entering the final round, but unfortunately he blundered when enjoying a clear advantage against the experienced Argentinean GM Fernando Peralta and was fortunate to draw.

Another strong event in the UAE was the Dubai Police Global Chess Challenge (May 3-13), in which Venkatesh Pranav edged out fellow Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram on tiebreak after they had both finished on 7/9. Vasyil Ivanchuk, Hans Niemann and Amin Tabatabaei were three of the players who

shared third, but having arrived straight from the Sigeman Tournament, women's world champion Ju Wenjun unfortunately if unsurprisingly tired, losing her last three games having reached an unbeaten 4/6.

USA – Magnus Carlsen didn't spend all his time in Warsaw on the tournament he was there for, as he also took part in the Chess.com Classic (May 10-15), part of the Champions Chess Tour on Chess.com. Carlsen defeated Velimir Ivic and Denis Lazavik then Vincent Keymer in the Final, which set up a Grand Final with Alireza Firouzja, who had recovered well from an opening round Armageddon defeat at the hands of Jan-Krzysztof Duda. That sent the French number one into the losers' bracket, where he overcame Alexey Sarana and Lazavik, ahead of getting revenge on Duda then defeating Keymer. The resulting Carlsen-Firouzja match burst into life when Carlsen, leading 2-1 and pressing in an endgame, erred.

A.Firouzja-M.Carlsen 4th matchgame (rapid)



Black might be two pawns down, but is clearly pressing and normally Carlsen would now have found 39...♖xf1+! 40 ♗xf1 e3, winning after ...♙e4-f3. Instead, the game would feature an unusual case of doubling rooks on the seventh not being correct.

39...♖cc2? 40 ♗g3!

Averting mate and now it turns out that the g-pawn will trump Black's main asset on e4.

40...e3 41 g5 ♖f2

Likewise, 41...e2 42 ♖e1 ♗d2 43 g6 ♗d1 44 ♗f2 wins.

42 ♖e1 ♖fe2 43 ♖xe2 ♖xe2 44 g6 ♖e1+

45 ♗g2 ♖e2+ 46 ♗f1 ♖f2+ 47 ♙e1 ♖b2

48 g7 ♗d3 49 ♗f1!

Remaining alert to the end.

49...♖b1+ 50 ♗g2 ♖b2+ 51 ♗f3 1-0

With the wind now in his sails, Firouzja hung tough then won the resulting Armageddon game to set up a Grand Final Reset 2-1. There it was Firouzja pressing in the rapid games and while Carlsen was able to hold both, he was simply swept aside come the Armageddon as Firouzja won \$30,000 and booked his place in the end-of-series Tour Finals.

HOME NEWS

BATTLE – Nigel Towers and the ECF ran another successful 24-hour blitz marathon, starting at 5pm on Saturday, June 1st, and raising money for the British Red Cross's Emergency Ukraine Appeal. Our congratulations to not just those who made things happen and all the titled players who gave up their time to commentate, but especially the top three scorers for such a feat of stamina. FM David Haydon (Brentwood) triumphed with a huge 765 points, which comprised 206 wins, 21 draws and only 13 losses, with Keith Arkell (Paignton) back on 650, and Jude Shearsby (Kenilworth) third on 455 points.

BELFAST – The Civil Service Pavilion at Stormont once again played host to the City of Belfast Championships (May 4-6). A hard-fought Nemztov Cup saw Mandar Tahmankar become champion on tiebreak after finishing on 4½/6 alongside Civil Service colleague Danny Roberts and Strand's Ethan Cole, while the Henderson Cup was won, on tiebreak too, by Oisín Cinnsealach (Citi Knights) from Jack Edens (Lisburn) as they also scored 4½/6.

PERTH – Harry Grieve made the long journey north pay off at the Perth Congress (May 24-27), as he held off Norwegian IM Kristian Stuvik Holm in the final round to win the £300 first prize.

Open: 1 Harry Grieve (Guildford) 6½/7, 2 Andrew Burnett (Newcastle) 6, 3 Kristian Stuvik Holm (Norway) 5½.

Major: 1 Nick Webb (Ireland) 6, 2 Carrick Simpson 5½, 3-4 Kevin Lee (both St Andrews), John McKenna (Paisley) 5.

Minor: 1 Daniel Boyle (Bishopbriggs) 6½, 2-4 Conor Wilson (Greenwood), Hamza Buhari (Edinburgh), Jacint Sitkei (Glasgow) 5.

SCARBOROUGH – The first Scarborough Rapidplay was held on May 11th to mark the upcoming centenary of the Whit Chess Festivals held in Scarborough from 1925 to 1929.

Open: 1 Paul Hutchinson (Scarborough) 5/5, 2 Ben Wood (York University) 3½, 3-6 Nathan Madzia (Leeds), Tim Turner (Driffield), Simon Smith (Beverley), Jon Ayres (Scarborough) 3.

U-1700: 1-2 Ben Barton (York Uni.), Simon Dixon 4½, 3-4 Rafal Rogowski (both Scarborough), Fernando Echavarria Hidalgo (Acomb) 3½.

SUTTON COLDFIELD – We were very sorry to hear of the death of Keith Escott (1948 – 2024) following an accident at home. Older readers may remember Keith from his time at this magazine as after graduating from Cambridge, he served as BH Wood's Assistant Editor in the 1970s. Others will know him as the former President of the British then English Federation for Correspondence Chess or as the highly successful captain of the Warwickshire correspondence team, while for nearly 40 years he also captained with success Sutton Coldfield's first team in the Birmingham League.

A Rollercoaster Affair

IM Paul Littlewood went from despair to joy at the English Seniors Championships



The English Seniors was held in Kenilworth in late May, and was brilliantly organised by Nigel Towers and his team of arbiters, led by Adrian Elwin. The playing conditions were excellent and this led to some fine chess. My own story in the Over-65 Championship was a real humdinger, almost as exciting as the triumphant performance by Manchester United in the FA Cup!

Round 1

I was Black against Norman Hutchinson and understandably a bit nervous as I hadn't played much OTB chess recently. Early on I missed a chance to obtain a strong initiative, but then managed to steer the game into an ending where I stood much better:



Paul's crucial last round win over Paul Hutchinson as Large-Chapman next door ended as a draw.



White is under pressure because Black controls the open d-file and the pawn on e5 is vulnerable. The game continued **28 g3** h3+ **29 f1** d2 **30 d3** b6 **31 e1** c2 **32 b3** b5 **33 bc1** (33 d4 xd3 34 dxc2 xc2 is an alternative for White, but Black is still clearly better) **33...g5** **34 d1** a4 and White resigned. Perhaps slightly premature, but he is losing a pawn after 35 e1 f3+ 36 f1 hx2+ 37 g2 g4 and still has a miserable position.

Round 2

With first round nerves behind me, I played a sharp line with White against John Wager and we reached the following position:



White stands better, but John now made a mistake by playing **15...ad8?**, thinking that there was no useful discovered attack for my knight on d4. However, he was rudely awakened when the game continued **16 xf6!** xf6 (16... gxf6 17 g4+ wins) **17 xe6!** and suddenly Black loses material so he resigned – no doubt in shock!

Round 3

I was Black against Mark Page and obtained a decent position from the opening. However, it wasn't easy to decide on the right plan, so the position became very double-edged. Then, under time pressure, Mark buckled and allowed me to reach the

following position:



The game finished **31...d4** **32 xc5** xb3! **33 c1** a2+ and White resigned as it is mate next move. 33 cxb3 would not have helped as after 33... xb3 34 c2 xa3 White is completely lost.

Round 4

This was one of the crunch rounds as I was playing White against Peter Large, the number one seed for the event. We both had 3/3, so it was imperative not to lose. He outplayed me in the opening, but by some dour defence I managed to reach this knight ending a pawn down:



Both of us were under time pressure, but the ending is probably drawn with careful play on both sides. However, Peter blundered with **45...♙f8?** and after **46 ♖d7+ ♕e7 47 ♖xb6 ♕d8 48 a5!** White has some winning chances and, frankly the way it went, I probably should have won. However in the end, with very little time left, we agreed a draw – a fair result, but I was disappointed I didn't make it 4/4 after having a chance.

Round 5

A critical game as I wanted to bounce back after the slight disappointment of round 4. However, my opponent, Jim Burnett, is a talented player who had beaten Terry Chapman earlier in the tournament. The opening went well for me, but after some interesting complications, where White may have been able to hold the balance, we reached the following position:



The game finished **32...♖xc4!** (if **33 ♖xc4 ♖xe3+ 34 ♕c2 ♖f2+ 35 ♕b1 ♖xg1+ 36 ♖c1 ♖f1** wins) **3 ♖g4 ♖d4+! 34 ♕c3 ♖xg4 34 ♕xd4 ♖f5** and White resigned as he is material down with a hopeless position.

Round 6

Another critical game as I was White against Terry Chapman. Ever since he beat me in the British Under-14 Championship at Coventry in 1970 I have never been able to get the upper hand against him, so I was hoping for my revenge.

I played a sharp line sacrificing a pawn, but frankly played it rather badly and Terry never let me off the hook. This was the position just before the end:



The winners in Kenilworth. On the left, Over-65 Champion Paul Littlewood and Over-65 Women's Champion Sheila Jackson; on the right, Over-50s Champions Natasha Regan and Peter Wells.



The final moves were **36...a5 37 b5 ♖xd4 38 ♖xd4 ♖f5 39 ♖c6 ♖xb5+ 40 ♕a2 d4!** and I resigned.

A great disappointment for me and even worse news was that Peter Large was clearly winning against Paul Hutchinson, so that meant he would be a point ahead going into the final round. I went back to my room and felt like smashing all the furniture up as Alekhine had reputedly done after losing to Yates in a critical game.

Anyway, after calming down and phoning my wife Fiona to tell her the bad news, I decided to look at the results and had a shock: Paul had miraculously managed to turn the game around against Peter and had won!

Suddenly, after feeling it was all over, it was all to play for in the last round as Peter, Terry, Paul and myself were all tied for first place with 4½/6. The pairings were: Peter versus Terry and Paul versus me, and it was clear that I had to win as my tie-break situation was not good. If Peter and Terry then drew I would be champion.

Round 7

Cometh the hour, cometh the man! Clearly I had to avoid drawish lines and make sure

there were plenty of complications to give myself a chance. The opening went reasonably well, but I then made a rather dubious move allowing White to equalise. However the position was still rather unclear and eventually I managed to outplay Paul to reach the following position:



Clearly Black is winning, but the finish was rather nice: **37...♖h3+! 38 ♕g1 ♖d4+ 39 ♖xd4 ♖g3+ 40 ♕h1 cxd4 41 ♖ce2 ♖h3+ 42 ♕g1 d3!** and now if **43 ♖xh3** then **43...dxe2 44 ♖e1 ♖f1+ 45 ♖xf1 exf1 ♖+ 46 ♕xf1 b3** wins. Instead, the game concluded: **43 ♖d4 ♖g3+ 44 ♕h1 ♖xf4! 45 ♖xf4 d2** and White resigned because if **46 ♖f1** then **46...♖d3** wins.

So now a nervous wait and I decided to go and have a drink in the bar whilst keeping an eye on the key game between Peter and Terry. At this stage it looked very double-edged – Terry was material up, but Peter had a potential mating attack. However, Terry defended well and I was convinced he was going to win, but suddenly the game was agreed drawn, with neither having much time left and Peter forcing a draw.

Hooray, English Over-65 Champion and now I can look forward to the World Senior Team Championships at the start of July!



Solutions

to Find the Winning Moves (pp.41-43)

1) Ledger-Pein

1...♟xg1+! 0-1 1...f4 2 ♟d3 ♟e1 also wins, but not 1...♟e1?? 2 ♟c7+ ♟h6 3 ♟f4+.

2) Mason-Jaunooby

1 ♟xh7+! 1-0 If 1...♟xh7 2 ♟xg6+ ♟h8 3 ♟f7#.

3) Arkell-Gunathilake

1 ♟xf7+! ♟xf7 2 ♟e5+ 1-0

4) Woozeer-Holroyd-Doveton

1...♟xd4! 0-1 2 ♟xd4 ♟f3+ and 3...♟xd4 nets a piece.

5) Alsaqer-Arkell

1...♟dc5! (or 1...♟ec5!, and if 2 ♟b5 a6 3 ♟b4 ♟e4) **2 dxc5 ♟xc5 3 ♟b5 a6 4 ♟b4 ♟d3 5 ♟xd6 ♟xd6 6 ♟g3 e5** won the queen and shortly the game.

6) Gunathilake-Leung

1 ♟g4+! 1-0 Mate follows on the h-file.

7) Domin-Balakrishnan

1...♟h7+! (forcing immediate stalemate is more clinical than holding with 1...♟a6 2 ♟f6 ♟a7) **2 gxh7 ½-½**

8) Ledger-Pal

1 ♟xb6! ♟f6 (or 1...axb6 2 a7) **2 ♟xa7 ♟d5+ 3 ♟g5 f4 4 ♟c5 f3 5 a7 ♟c7 6 b6 1-0**

9) Niemann-Maurizzi

1...♟xe2+! 0-1 2 ♟xe2 ♟xf4+ overloads the defence.

10) Kobo-Kovalenko

1...♟h6+! (Black absolutely must check; 1...♟b7? 2 ♟e7+! ♟xe7 3 fxe7 ♟xe7 4 ♟xd3 would be a lost pawn ending, and if 4...♟f6 5 ♟e4 ♟e6 6 f3!) **2 ♟xd3** (2 ♟e3 ♟xf6 3 ♟xd3 ♟f7 should also be a fairly straightforward draw) **2...♟d2+! 3 ♟xd2 ½-½** It's stalemate and White wouldn't have been able to dodge the checks after 3 ♟e4 ♟e2+ 4 ♟d5 ♟c4+!, etc.

11) Wills-Kanyamarala

1...♟e3+! (1...♟f4+! works too) **2 ♟f4 ♟e4+ 3 ♟g5 ♟h4# 0-1**

12) Dickenson-Chua

1 ♟xf6! cxd2? (likewise, 1...gxf6? 2 ♟h5 f5 3 ♟g5+ ♟h8 4 ♟f6+ ♟g8 5 ♟f3 is crushing, and even 1...♟fc8 2 bxc3 ♟xc3 3 ♟ac1 is just an extra piece for White) **2 ♟xh7+! ♟xh7 3 ♟h5+ ♟g8 4 ♟g5 g6 5 ♟h6 1-0**

13) Siddharth-Aravindh

1...♟xg5! 2 ♟xg5 (2 ♟xg5 ♟xe4 3 ♟xd8+

♟xd8 4 ♟xe4 ♟xd4 would leave Black with two pieces for the rook and surely winning too) **2...♟h7** (the point) **3 ♟xd5 ♟xg5!** (even stronger than 3...cxd5 4 ♟df3 ♟xb2 5 ♟ad1 ♟f6 when 6 ♟xf7! would put up some resistance) **4 ♟b3?** (blundering the queen, but 4 ♟xf7+ ♟xf7 5 ♟f4+ ♟f6 would have been pretty hopeless too) **4...♟xh3+! 0-1**

14) Kacharava-Yilmaz

1 ♟f5! exf5 2 ♟xd6 ♟e7 3 ♟e2! (a second absolutely deadly blow) **3...♟xc2+! 4 ♟xc2 ♟xd6 5 ♟xd6 ♟e7 6 ♟xa6** (threatening 7 ♟e2+) **6...♟b8 7 gxf5 ♟b7 8 a5 b3 9 ♟e2+ ♟d8 10 ♟a8+ ♟c7 11 ♟e7 1-0**

15) Murawski-Grieve

1...♟c2+! (a key resource and the only way to win) **2 ♟b1 ♟c7 3 ♟b2 ♟b7** (it's a theoretical win as White won't be able to swap his pawn for the f-pawn) **4 ♟c1 ♟f7 5 ♟b2 ♟b7 6 ♟c1 ♟e7!** (or 6...♟g7! 7 ♟b2 ♟g3) **7 ♟b2 ♟e3 8 ♟xb3 f3 9 ♟c3 f2 10 ♟f8 ♟c7+! 11 ♟b4 ♟xa7 12 ♟e8+ ♟d2 13 ♟d8+ ♟e1 14 ♟e8+ ♟f1 15 ♟c4 ♟g7 0-1**

16) Firouzja-Lazavik

1 ♟e5! (1 ♟xg7? ♟xg7 2 ♟d7 was preferred in the game, where 2...♟f7? 3 ♟g5 forced resignation, but 2...♟h1+ 3 ♟d2 ♟f8 4 ♟xe7! ♟d8+! 5 ♟d3 ♟d4!! – talk about a deadly interference move or, if you prefer, stunning zwischenzug – 6 exd4 ♟xf3 7 ♟xa6 ♟xe7 would have turned the tables) **1...♟xe5 2 ♟xe5 ♟xe2 3 ♟d7!** wins, and if **3...♟e8** (or 3...♟b5? 4 ♟xe7 ♟g8 5 ♟f7+) **4 ♟xe2 ♟g8 5 a3!** when the threat of 6 b4 turns out to be more than the defence can cope with.

17) Kashlinskaya-Brzezina

1 ♟xg7+! ♟xg7? (1...♟xg7 2 ♟xf6+ ♟xf6 3 ♟g4+ ♟h7 4 ♟xf6 ♟xg4 5 g3! ♟g8 6 e5! ♟xe5 7 ♟xd6 should be winning too) **2 ♟xf6 ♟f8 3 ♟xh6+! ♟g8** (Black might have sportingly allowed 3...♟xh6 4 ♟h4#) **4 ♟h4 1-0**

18) Ivanchuk-Baklan

1...♟xb5! (or 1...♟a2+ 2 ♟c2 ♟xb5!, transposing after 3 ♟xe7) **2 ♟xe7 ♟a2+ 3 ♟c2 ♟a3+! 4 ♟c3** (rather essential) **4...♟b5+! 5 ♟c2** (White must acquiesce to the draw in view of 5 cxb5? ♟fc8+ when Black wins, including after 6 ♟c5! ♟xc5+ 7 ♟b4 ♟xb5+! 8 ♟xb5 ♟a6+ 9 ♟c5 ♟c8+ 10 ♟d4 ♟d6+) **5...♟a3+ 6 ♟c3 ½-½**

19) Mishra-Raja

1 ♟g4+! ♟e6 (1...♟c6 2 ♟e4+ also wins, and if 2...♟d7 3 ♟xb7+ or 2...♟d5 3 ♟a4+

b5 4 ♟a6+) **2 ♟xe6! fxe6 3 ♟xg7+ ♟c6 4 ♟xh8 ♟xh8 5 ♟xh8 b5 1-0** The knight is trapped, but White's pawns will be too quick after 6 h4 ♟b7 7 g4 ♟xa8 8 h5 ♟b7 9 ♟f6, and if 9...♟f4+ 10 ♟c2 h6 11 g5!.

20) Chapman-De Coverly

1 g7! (1 ♟f5 ♟h5 leads nowhere) **1...♟f7** (on 1...♟xg7? Terry Chapman had planned the vicious retreat 2 ♟d2! followed by 3 ♟f5) **2 ♟f5 ♟xd5** (now 2...♟h5? fails to 3 ♟e7+!, and if 3...♟xe7 4 ♟h7+! ♟xh7 5 g8♟#) **3 ♟a3! ♟f4?** (falling for the hidden tactic after all; instead, 3...♟h1! 4 b3! ♟f6! 5 ♟g6! should be winning too, but would have been somewhat less straightforward) **4 ♟e7+! ♟xe7 5 ♟h7+! 1-0** A very pretty finish, forcing mate with 5...♟f7 6 g8♟+ ♟f6 7 ♟gg6+! ♟xg6 8 ♟xg6#.

21) Erigaisi-Vogel

Black has just made an excellent try in ...g5 and after 1 g3? g4 2 ♟d7 ♟e2+ 3 ♟h1 ♟e1+ 4 ♟g2 ♟e2+ 5 ♟f1 ♟f2+ 6 ♟e1 with 6...♟b2! (6...♟a2? 7 ♟c4! ♟f2+ 8 ♟d1 ♟xg3 9 b6 was fairly straightforward in the game) 7 ♟d1 ♟xb5 8 ♟xd6 ♟f2 9 ♟d5 ♟b3! 10 ♟xh5+ ♟g7 (Fernandez) Black might yet have managed to save the draw. As such, as also shown by Daniel Fernandez on ChessPublishing, the calm **1 a6!** (1 hxg5?? ♟e5+ 2 g3 h4 only leaves White in trouble) **1...♟g1+ 2 ♟h3!** would have won, and if **2...♟e3+!** (or 2...g4+ 3 ♟g3 ♟f1 4 a7 ♟f2+ 5 ♟f4! ♟xb6+ 6 ♟g5) **3 g3 ♟e2 4 g4!** when Black is out of tricks and the a-pawn will prove too strong after **4...♟h2+ 5 ♟g3 gxh4+ 6 ♟f4.**

22) Jones-Adams

After 1 ♟g3 ♟e6 2 ♟e1+ ♟f6 3 h4 White did go on to win in the game, as shown by Andrew Ledger in our June pages, but this endgame should be holdable for Black, not least after 3...♟e7! (3...♟d8?! 4 ♟d1! ♟e7 5 h5! was the game) 4 ♟d1 ♟e6. However, there was a stronger if perhaps surprising approach, the transition to a pawn endgame, i.e. **1 ♟e3! ♟xe3?** (instead, 1...♟e6? 2 ♟xd5 ♟xd5 3 ♟xd5 ♟xd5 4 ♟e3 c4 5 b4! is another important point, and even 1...♟c3 2 ♟f5+ ♟d8 3 ♟xd7+ ♟xd7 4 ♟xh6 c4! 5 bxc4 ♟e6 6 ♟f5 ♟xa4 7 ♟e4 would give White good winning chances) **2 ♟xd7+ ♟xd7 3 ♟xe3 ♟e6 4 ♟d3 ♟d5 5 ♟c3!** when Black will have to give way and White wins after, for example, **5...♟d6 6 ♟c4 ♟c6 7 h3 f6 8 f3 ♟d6 9 ♟b5 ♟c7 10 a5! bxa5 11 ♟xc5.**

23) Mittal-Cardoso Cardoso

Black was very much still on the board after 1 ♟xb6+? ♟xb6, whereas the calm **1 ♟g4!** would have won, as demonstrated by Michael Roiz in his excellent Open Sicilians column on ChessPublishing. The threat is 2 ♟xe7 (2 a3 is also a serious issue for Black, as even is 2 ♟b1!? and 3 c3), and there's just no good defence: for example, **1...♟c8** (or 1...♟e8 2 a3, and if 2...♟c6 3 ♟xd5 or 2...♟xc2! 3 ♟xe7! ♟xe7 4 ♟g8+ ♟e8

5 ♖xd5 ♗e6 6 ♘c5! ♗xd5 7 ♗xd5 and wins) 2 ♗xe7! ♖xe7 3 ♙g5+ ♖e8 4 e6 when Black is a rook up and can even take on c2, but is quite lost, with 4...♘f6 (or 4...♗xc2+ 5 ♖b1 ♗xb2+!? 6 ♖xb2 ♗f2+ 7 ♖b1) 5 ♙xf6 ♗xf6 6 ♗h5+ ♖e7 7 ♗h7+! ♖xe6 8 ♗e1+ ♖d6 9 ♗e7+ leading to mate as shown by the Israeli GM. For the record, the direct 1 ♗g7!

♗e8 (or 1...♘c6 2 ♘d4) 2 a3 should also be winning, but only if after 2...♘xc2 White finds 3 ♙g5! ♙xg5+ 4 ♗xg5+ ♖c8 5 ♖xc2.

24) Fedoseev-Saleh

1...♗xb3! 2 axb3 ♗a8 3 ♖d1? (even 3 ♘f6+! ♙xf6 4 ♗xe6+ ♗f7! 5 gx6+ ♖h8! should be winning for Black, who threatens

mate and after 6 ♗c8+!? ♗xc8 7 ♗g7 ♗xg7 8 fxg7+ ♖g8 9 ♗d1 ♙xe4 emerges with passed c- and h-pawns) 3...♗h5+! (or 3...♗a1+ 4 ♙c1 ♗xh5+!, transposing) 4 ♗xh5 ♗a1+ 5 ♙c1 ♗xc1+! 0-1 Black's monster diagonal-moving pieces will have the last laugh after 6 ♖xc1 ♙f4+ 7 ♖d1 c2+ 8 ♖e1 c1 ♗+ 9 ♖f2 ♗e3+ 10 ♖g2 ♗g3#.

This Month's New Releases



Making My Move

Victor Bologan, 424 pages
New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

To the legion of armchair chess fans, made stronger in number than ever before, thanks to the surge in online activity ever since Covid made its murderous debut just in time to make the 2020s start on a very low note, the name of Victor Bologan may ring only distant bells – at best. Yet to players and readers of a slightly earlier time, Bologan's name will be much more familiar. His books on openings, mainly for New in Chess, have always been highly regarded and the quality is always consistently impressive, with *Bologan's King's Indian* (New in Chess, 2017) and *Bologan's Caro-Kann* (New In Chess, 2018) being particularly well-received.

Over to the blurb of this new work, subtitled 'The Autobiography of a Chess Grandmaster and FIDE Executive', to tell us a little more about Bologan:

"Victor Bologan is not only a strong and creative chess grandmaster, he has also made a career in Moldovan and world chess politics. His strong will and incredible versatility have enabled him to lead a colourful and interesting life. 'Believe in yourself' is his motto and it has taken him to places many of us will never see."

As a player, Bologan's most impressive result came at the Dortmund tournament in 2003; he finished first, ahead of a very strong field of players including Vishy Anand and Vladimir Kramnik.

This very engaging autobiography offers plenty to actually read and also features 88 interesting games, with in-depth annotations. There is no dirt dished out in this book; it is not that sort of autobiography. Instead, there is a plethora of chess stories which cannot be found elsewhere. These include tales of Bologan's working relationships with Judit Polgar, Ruslan Ponomarev and even Garry Kasparov.

The 'Lessons' at the end of each game sum up the salient and instructive points from each game and they also have a general usefulness, even when taken out of the

context of the games in question. Here is one example, chosen at random: "An exchange sacrifice for a fianchettoed king's bishop is an important trick – not only technical, but also psychological. Often the opponent turns out to be mentally unprepared for a sharp change in the nature of the struggle, because, having obtained a material advantage, he is forced to forget about counterplay and move over to passive defence. And a refusal to accept the sacrifice, as in the game, entails positional concessions (the bishop on b7 remained out of play for a long time)."

The games include victories over such stars as Vishy Anand, (an old) Viktor Korchnoi and (a young) Magnus Carlsen. Yet the one which probably brought the author the most pleasure was his victory over Joel Lautier, who had, for some time, been "his own uncomfortable opponent." We all have them, but this was clearly an extreme case: "I lost to him in 9 moves, I lost to him on time, and I lost to him because he just outplayed me. At some point, the score was 10-0 in favour of Lautier, and without a draw at all – it looked as though I was throwing games against him! And only in Birmingham, in the British League, did I manage to break the spell and finally win."

The game featured a pretty tactical finish too.

"A nice final blow. Black resigned in view of 34...♗xf2 35 ♗d8+ ♗f8 36 ♘h6 checkmate."

It is good to be able to read more about a player with fresh stories to tell. As Bologan never quite made it to the absolute highest levels, his life, games and career have never been given very much scrutiny – until now. This is a recommended book for anyone who wants a good, leisurely read instead of wanting to spend time cramming in the latest opening variations. Additionally, Bologan's recurring message of "Believe in yourself!" may just add a healthy dose of positivity to readers' lives.

Sean Marsh



Zwischenzug!

Natasha Regan & Matt Ball,
280 pages, Chessable

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

New chess books come and go at an alarming rate, which is why it is so difficult to find new topics about which to write. This book, subtitled 'A Comprehensive Guide to Intermediate Moves' and the latest collaboration between New in Chess and Chessable (based, as previous such books have been, on a Chessable course) manages to offer something new and, by way of celebration, even adds an exclamation mark to the title.

According to the blurb: "Zwischenzug! is the first-ever comprehensive guide to the chess tactic also known as the intermediate move, or intermezzo. This exciting manoeuvre can catch opponents off guard because it is against the expected run of play. You will learn how to spot Zwischenzugs, when to look out for them, and how to set them up in your games."

Award-winning chess author Natasha Regan should be familiar to fans of chess books, thanks to her highly-regarded collaborative tomes written with Matthew Sadler,

V.Bologan-J.Lautier Wood Green vs Guildford, 4NCL 2005



34 ♙xf5!! 1-0

famously including *Chess for Life* (Gambit, 2016) and *Game Changer* (New in Chess, 2019). Co-author Matt Ball may not be so familiar to readers, but he has impressive chess credentials. He “is a content creator and chess coach. He holds the FIDE title of National Instructor and is also a regular tournament player. He represented England at the World Senior Team Championship 2022.”

Michael Adams provides an interesting foreword, complete with his customary understated humour, saying of the *zwischenzug*: “I always thought it suffered from a marketing problem. ‘Intermediate move’ or ‘in-between move’ doesn’t sound that exciting for a move that is amongst the most devious, devilish and devastating in chess.” It may also hamper people who are searching online for a copy of the book, too, so watch out for the spelling; the red lines tell no lies.

The book’s mission is simple enough. In the words of the authors: “We guide the reader in how to spot *Zwischenzugs*, when to look out for them, and how to set them up in our own games.” The material is presented over the course of seven interesting chapters which make an excellent job of categorising *zwischenzugs*. Each chapter has a very useful set of puzzles, followed by the answers, which are augmented by fine annotations.

The book’s production values are of a high quality, with the colour diagrams consistent with earlier *New in Chess/Chessable* collaborations once again adding a pleasing visual touch. There is also a relatively small number of full-colour photographs of some of the players involved in the games.

The final chapter, intriguingly titled ‘Dingtermezzo’, features games and variations solely from the 2023 world championship match between Ding Liren and Ian Nepomniachtchi. The match featured wild and tactical games from start to finish. “One tactic stood out for the number of times it was played: we counted more than thirty *Zwischenzugs* in this match.” A remarkable statistic and an equally remarkable way to round off the action in the book, especially as the *zwischenzugs* in the match offer a veritable potpourri of the themes covered in the earlier chapters, all the way up to the final game.

I.Nepomniachtchi-Ding Liren
World Championship (Rapid Playoff, Game 4), Astana 2023



“The pinned bishop is under attack. What *intermezzo* did Ding play here to crown his World Championship?”

67...a2!

“Threatening to promote, this final Ding-between move seals the deal. The white queen is deflected away from attacking the bishop.”

68 ♖xa2 ♕xf4

“Nepo resigned. Well played Ding!”

Incidentally, I think it is bad form to abbreviate players’ names in books. *Nepomniachtchi* almost inevitably becomes ‘Nepo’ and sometimes Ian, an approach which lacks consistency. However, that can be classed as a minor matter.

The authors have done a wonderful job in collating and categorising the various forms of *zwischenzug* and have produced a very entertaining, accessible and instructive book, which really will make readers think differently. Therefore, this book is highly recommended.

Sean Marsh



A Practical Repertoire for the Positional Player after 1.d4 Vol.1 – 1...d5

Sipke Ernst, PC-DVD;

running time: 6 hours, 50 minutes

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Dutch GM Ernst aims to supply a repertoire for those who are “tired of long engine lines and well-known theoretical complications”. His solution is a practical and positional 1 d4 repertoire, with this first DVD of three examining in some detail the Slav, the Semi-Slav, where he recommends the Anti-Meran with 5 e3 and 6 ♖c2, the Semi-Tarrasch, the QGD, against which the venerable Exchange variation is advocated, and the QGA.

A Practical Repertoire for the Positional Player after 1.d4 Vol.2 – 1...♟f6 runs to five hours and 50 minutes of coverage, while tackling the likes of the Nimzo and the King’s Indian, and *A Practical Repertoire for the Positional Player after 1.d4 Vol.3 – Other Lines* covers Black’s remaining options in three hours, 20 minutes. Both these DVDs also retail at £28.95 or £26.05 for Subscribers, while all three in the *Practical Repertoire for the Positional Player after 1.d4* series may be purchased together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £79.95 or just £71.95 for Subscribers.

Also recently released from Hamburg is *Middlegame Secrets Vol.3 – The Career Paths of Bishops* (RRP £30.95, Subscribers – £27.85), in which the ever excellent Jan Markos over four hours and 44 minutes of coverage looks at everything bishop-related: good and bad bishops, diagonals, opposite-

coloured bishops and especially how to make use of having the fabled bishop-pair.

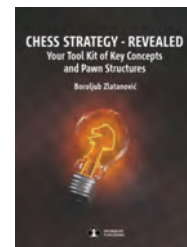


Cambridge Springs 1904

Robert Sherwood, 400 pages, hardback

RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

Cambridge Springs is a pretty small settlement by American standards, situated in north-western Pennsylvania, but by train it’s halfway between Chicago and New York, and certainly wasn’t short of money at the start of the 20th century. The international tournament it staged in 1904 wasn’t just Harry Pillsbury’s final appearance before his tragic death and neither should it be known solely for having spawned a popular variation of the Queen’s Gambit Declined, but could you name who won? No, it wasn’t world champion Emanuel Lasker, but rather 31-year-old Frank Marshall. Leading American chess historian Robert Sherwood now tells the full story of the tournament, while annotating all the games.

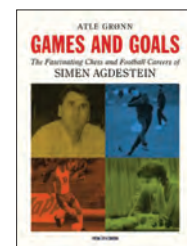


Chess Strategy – Revealed

Boroljub Zlatanovic, 250 pages, paperback

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

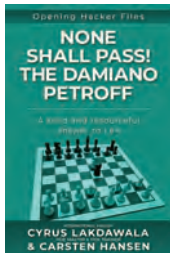
This new work from Informant Publishing is subtitled ‘Your Tool Kit of Key Concepts and Pawn Structures’ and aims to improve the general understanding of readers, as well as their strategic play. Serbian IM Zlatanovic begins by looking at what he terms the key concepts of chess strategy: the centre, bishop-pair, open files, squares, and space, all well illustrated with a fine choice of games. A lengthy discussion follows on many important pawn structures before an examination of harmony, activity and prophylactic play rounds off this instructive read.



Games and Goals

Atle Grønn, 272 pages, paperback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Chess and football may not be natural bedfellows, bar perhaps when Magnus Carlsen watches his beloved Real Madrid, but, of course, his first coach was a Norwegian international in both sports who now receives a biography in this work subtitled 'The Fascinating Chess and Football Careers of Simen Agdestein'. Having bagged his ninth Norwegian title last year, Agdestein remains a very strong player and still teaches at the Norwegian College for Top Athletes, which was partly where he taught Carlsen. Thanks to Grønn, we now know what makes Agdestein tick and learn much about him in this extremely readable biography.



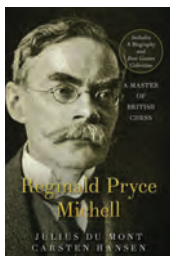
None Shall Pass:

The Unbeatable Damiano Petroff

Cyrus Lakdawala & Carsten Hansen,
236 pages, paperback

RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Countering 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗f6 3 ♜xe5 with 3...♗xe4!? is bound to raise a few eyebrows. Isn't this a well-known mistake? As Carsten Hansen explains in this new work in his 'Opening Hacker Files': "When I began to look deeper into the line, I came to the shocking realization that there is zero reason to believe in the 'refuted' verdict since the engines are on the Damiano's side, not White's." Food for thought and while the Damiano may lead to a draw with perfect defence, at club level it might well quickly confuse white players and cause them to overextend as they hang on to the extra pawn after 4 ♖e2 ♖e7 5 ♖xe4 d6 6 d4.



Reginald Pryce Michell

Julius Du Mont & Carsten Hansen,
314 pages, paperback

RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Carsten Hansen has given another classic work an updated and algebraic version, in this case Du Mont's 1947 book on a largely forgotten figure these days, Reginald Pryce Michell (1873 – 1958). He was a strong player from the turn of the century until the second world war, regularly appearing at Hastings while tying for second alongside Alekhine and only behind Grünfeld at Margate 1923. As both the original and this new edition point out, "One may well ask whether



A classic and popular recommendation against the Queen's Gambit Declined, namely the Exchange variation, as covered by Sipke Ernst on the first volume of three DVDs which ChessBase have just released to provide a sensible, largely positional repertoire with 1 d4 and 2 c4. As we prepared to go to press, they also published How to play the Open Sicilian, on which over almost six hours' of footage the ever popular Andrew Martin covers the main lines and key motifs after 1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 and 3 d4, while retailing at £28.95 or £26.05 for Subscribers.

the world was better off when an outstanding chess genius spent his energy on being a moderate lawyer. This problem comes to most players who are enthusiastic, and achieve a measure of success in chess, and we find a satisfactory solution in the life of R. P. Michell."



The London Files:

Defanging the London System

Vassilios Kotronias & Mihail Ivanov, 272
pages, paperback

RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

One of the main developments of the past 15 or so years has been the rise in popularity of the London System – and at all levels of the game. Some black players now even fear it, which they shouldn't, but it certainly helps to be ready for 1 d4 followed by 2 ♗f4. Noted theoreticians Kotronias and Ivanov look at four different approaches for Black – 2 ♗f4 c5, King's Indian set-ups, Queen's Indian set-ups and a classical response with an early ...d5 – mapping out a detailed and by no means dull repertoire for Black with each one.



The Queen's Gambit Accepted

Max Dlugy, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

The strong American Grandmaster and nowadays leading trainer Max Dlugy has made good use of 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 throughout his career, and now sets out a repertoire with it for Russell Enterprises. He certainly knows his onions and against 3 e4 covers both 3...e5 and the trendy 3...b5!?, while after 3 ♗f3 a6 4 e3 both 4...b5 and 4...e6 are examined in some detail. The QGA has long gone a little under the radar, but is played at times by plenty of the elite and may well spring a surprise at club level.

As well as the *Cambridge Springs 1904* (2022), *The London Files* (2023), and Dlugy's work (also 2023) listed above, Chess & Bridge are now stocking some further recent Russell Enterprises titles: *Double Trouble Scandinavian Style* by Marek Soszynski (2024 release, paperback, 176 pages), *Sherlock Holmes and the Mysteries of the Chess World* by Lenny Cavallaro (2022, paperback, 256 pages), *Technique in Chess* by Mark Dvoretzky with Artur Yusupov (2023, paperback, 176 pages), Jaan Ehvest's *The Modern Gurgenzidze* (2023, paperback, 240 pages), Alexei Bezgodov and Vladimir Barsky's *The Scotch Game* (2023, paperback, 224 pages), and *The Polish Defense* by Jerzy Konikowski and Marek Soszynski (2022 release, paperback, 224 pages). All of those retail at £23.95 or £21.55 for Subscribers.

There's even two more new works from Hanon Russell's fine American company: *Endgame Corner: 450 Instructive Endgame Exercises* by Karsten Müller and Alex Fishbein (2023 release, paperback, 336 pages) is available for £27.95 or £25.15 for Subscribers, while Alexis Levitin's enjoyable read *The Last Ruy Lopez: Tales from the Royal Game* (2023, paperback, 160 pages) retails at £19.95 or £17.95 for Subscribers.

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The London Chess Centre



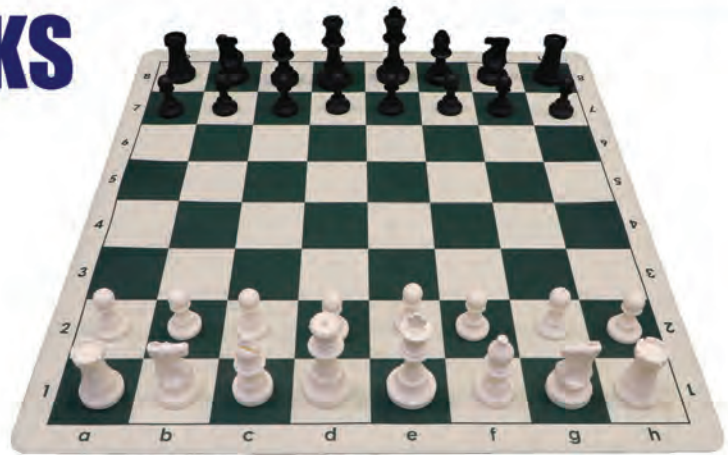
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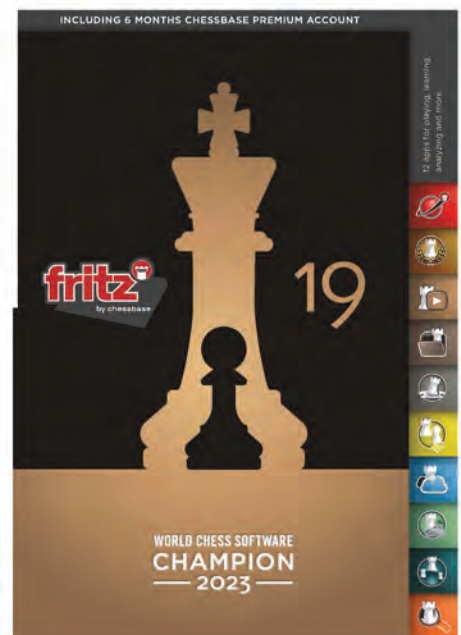
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