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# Chess

## TANTASTIC!

**Tan Zhongyi dominates the  
FIDE Women's Candidates  
from start to finish**



**Nailbiter at the 4NCL** - Andrew Ledger reports from a dramatic final weekend



**Dommaraju Gukesh** - Daniel King on the meteoric rise of Ding Liren's challenger



**Bishop vs Knight** - Jose Vilela on a typical endgame and beachhead widening



# Chess

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# BRITISH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
Hull City Hall and Doubletree Hotel, Hull



## British Championship

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August  
9 round standard play Swiss open to qualifiers

## Major Open

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August  
9 round standard play Swiss open to all

## British Seniors Champs (50+,65+)

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August  
7 round standard play Swiss

## Weekender Congress

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July  
Four sections: Atkins, Penrose, Soanes, Yates, 5 rounds

## British Junior Blitz/Rapid Champs

U16, U14, U12, U10, U8: Blitz – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July,  
Rapid – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July

## British Junior Championships

U16, U14, U12, U10, U8: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday  
3<sup>rd</sup> August - 7 rounds standard play

## Weekday Morning Congress

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
Open, U1900, U1600 sections, 6 rounds

## Weekday Afternoon Congress

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
U2050, U1750, U1450 sections, 6 rounds

## Rapidplay Events

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
Three sections: Open, U2000, U1500, 7 rounds

## Blitz Events

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August  
Two sections: Open, U1600

## Commentary, Coaching and Bookstall

Spectator seating for top boards with GM commentary in a separate room at the venue. Junior coaching available for the junior championship period. Bookstall by Chess & Bridge.

## Social Chess and Festival Programme

There will also be a full social chess and festival programme across the 10 days including:  
Outdoor/drop-in chess, GM simuls, social and team chess evenings, problem solving, Ukrainian culture and chess evening, quiz evening, Hull heritage walks, and more.



Further details and entry form here- [www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk](http://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk)





# 60 Seconds with... IM Lawrence Cooper



**Born:** 16th July 1970, Groundslow Hospital, Tittensor, Staffordshire.

**Place of residence:** Stafford.

**Occupation:** In theory a chess coach, in practice a carer for my mother.

**Enjoyable?** Mostly, yes, and very rewarding.

**And home life?** I live with and look after my mum (my dad died in July 2021).

**But sometimes good to escape to:** In theory Arsenal matches, in practice 4NCL weekends are now my only time away from home.

**Sports played or followed:** Arsenal supporter.

**A favourite novel?** I very rarely read, so I'd have to go back to 20-30 years ago: *Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby.

**Piece of music?** 'Titanium' by David Guetta, featuring Sia. Having cared for first my father, who suffered with vascular dementia and Alzheimer's, and now my mum, who has bowel cancer, it describes the need to keep going in adversity.

**Film or TV series?** *Have I Got News for You*.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?** Winning.

**And the worst?** Losing.

**Your best move?** 15...♘c6 against Jonathan Blackburn when I was on the verge of resigning.

**J.Blackburn-L.Cooper**  
Stoke League Knockout 2010  
*Nimzo-Indian Defence*

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 ♘f3 c5  
5 e3 b6 6 ♙d3 ♙b7 7 0-0 0-0 8 ♘b5  
cxd4 9 a3 ♙e7 10 exd4 a6 11 ♘c3 d5  
12 b3 dxc4 13 bxc4 ♙xf3 14 ♙xf3  
♙xd4 15 ♙d1



I'd totally missed this, so was very lucky to have my next. Instead, 15 ♙xa8 ♙xc3 16 ♙f4 ♙xd3 17 ♙xb8 is just unclear.

**15...♘c6! 16 ♙xh7+**

Alternatively, 16 ♙e4? ♙xc4 17 ♙xc6 ♙ac8 is good for Black, who is OK after 16 ♙e2 ♙e5 17 ♙f4 ♙a5 18 ♙xc6 ♙xc3 19 ♙xb6 ♙xa3.

**16...♘xh7 17 ♙xd4 ♘xd4 18 ♙d1 ♙fd8 19 ♙e3 ♘b5 20 cxb5**

20 ♘d5 exd5 21 cxb5 d4 22 ♙f4 axb5 would be unclear.

**20...♙xd1+ 21 ♙xd1 axb5 22 ♘xb5 ½-½**

And now 22...♘f6 is now slightly better for Black.

**But less memorable than your worst move?**

14 ♙d6 against Aron Cohen. The funniest part being that I confidently got up from the board and thought 'The trouble with this is move is that it's so good, no one will believe I thought of it'. Returning to the board and seeing a crowd of people laughing at my position led me to conclude that they would accept it was one hundred percent me!

**L.Cooper-A.Cohen**  
Warwickshire Open 1993



**14 ♙d6?? exd6 15 e7+ ♙e6 0-1**

**And a highly memorable opponent?** Vishy Anand.

**Favourite game of all time?** Either beating Keith Arkell in the Wolverhampton League in 2017 or defeating Peter Svidler online in my birthday blitz during Covid.

**Is FIDE doing a good job?** I'm sure that there are lot of good people, behind the scenes, doing great work. Sadly the people at the top come across so badly – either through a lack of social skills or not caring what people think of them – that it leaves a lasting negative impression.

**Or your National Federation?** A lot of good people are doing valuable work. Having held two directorships (International and Junior), as well as other roles (International Rating Officer and Manager of Women's Online Chess), I understand the difficulties involved.

**Any advice for either?** Do your best to help chess, not yourself.

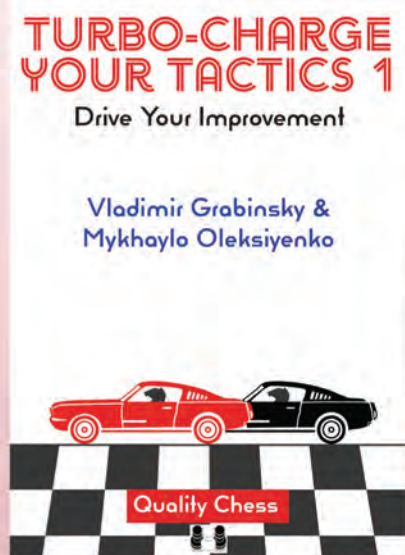
**Can chess make one happy?** Definitely, both through playing good moves and games, and meeting such a wide range of people.

**A tip please for the club player:** Enjoying playing has to be the most important thing. Don't obsess on learning opening theory; understanding and tactical sharpness (do lots of puzzles!) remain important parts of chess.





# New from Quality Chess!



**Turbo-Charge Your Tactics 1** is a multi-year effort by GM Mykhaylo Oleksiyenko and his world-renowned trainer IM Vladimir Grabinsky to introduce you to the world of “unnatural” tactical moves. The book contains 270 carefully selected puzzles, starting at a relatively simple level and gradually increasing in difficulty.

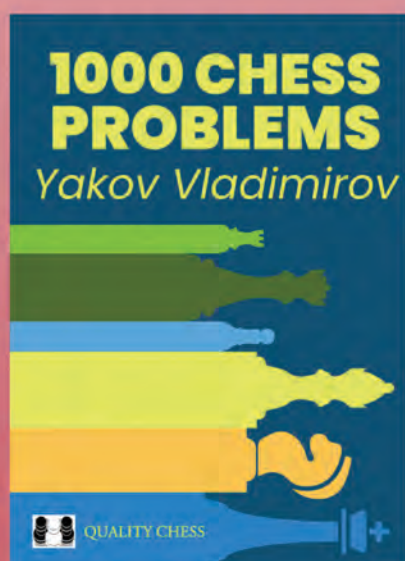
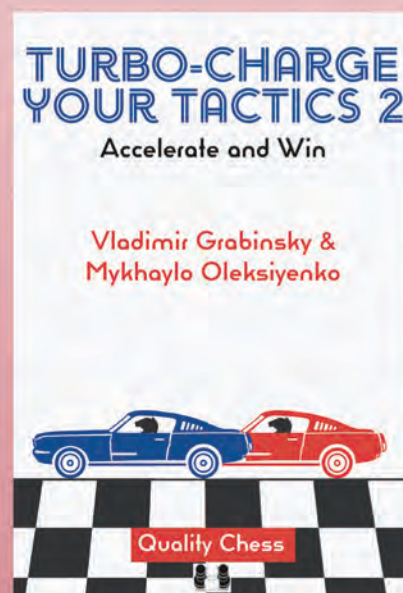
Presenting examples of extreme beauty, this book will cure your “selective blindness” by destroying the false notion of chess principles being a set of rules, instead of helpful guidelines. Most chess games are decided by tactics, so solving tactical puzzles is the most effective path to improvement.

Hardcover  
328 pages

**Turbo-Charge Your Tactics 2** builds upon the first volume, using carefully chosen examples from the World Champions and their challengers. Work through both books and your tactical ability will skyrocket.

This book also contains a special chapter with expert guidance on how to use chess engines. The engines might analyse precisely but they can also harm our chess understanding if followed blindly, so we must know when and how to use them.

Hardcover  
280 pages



**1000 Chess Problems** is a book where the title tells part of the story, but the vital point in such books is the care and expertise that the author has put into selecting just the right examples. **Yakov Vladimirov** is superbly qualified for this task, and has selected positions that will instruct and entertain competitive chessplayers.

**1000 Chess Problems** will develop your combinative flair while highlighting the beauty and profundity of chess.

Hardcover  
376 pages

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# On the Road

## Ben Graff reflects on British Chess Championship locations

*"Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow." – Anita Desai*

Summer is fast approaching, with everything the season has to offer. Soon all roads will lead to the British. Hotels will be booked and suitcases packed, as Hull plays host to the 124th British Chess Championships. In its time, the competition has been played as far north as Dundee, and as far south as Torquay. From the Isle of Man, across Wales, Scotland and England, we and our predecessors have truly crossed these islands, to compete in a tournament steeped in history.

I have fond memories of some of the places we have been to in recent years. In Torquay, I remember the intensity of the heat wave, which was more than a match for the limited air conditioning unit in my hotel room. I woke early one morning to go for a swim in the cool of the sea. The beach was deserted, save for a couple and a toddler paddling at the water's edge, and the freshness of the English Channel was in stark contrast to the humidity of the day. This was a moment that I hadn't planned and it felt so freeing. With the prospect of a day's chess still ahead of me.

In Llandudno, we stayed in a little country cottage, and I had to weave the car through escaped goats and sheep more than once, before heading past Conway Castle on my way to and from the venue. I may not be a particularly good player, but that week, like many others, I was a chess commuter. The last time we were in Hull, I remember the force of the summer storm that raged outside, during the opening round of the weekend, and writing one of my first articles for this magazine.

The truth is, we will all have our memories. Things we did and saw because of the British, in places we would not have been, were it not for the chess. I wanted to look back on a handful of locations the event has visited and to explore a little around the happenings in these contests. Some in towns I have an association with, others less so. A few of these tournaments plenty of readers will have played in themselves. Others are before any of our time. Fred Yates, Jonathan Penrose and Anne Sunnucks are amongst the stars of years gone by that we remember. I also caught up with ECF Director of Home Chess, Nigel Towers, and International Master Craig Pritchett, being keen to get their perspectives on why it is important for the British to continue to be held in different locations.



*Six-time British Champion F. D. Yates (1884 – 1932) is pictured in action as Black against Mario Monticelli at San Remo in 1930, where he would finish fifth as Alekhine won with a huge 14/15.*

### Malvern 1921

Sometimes you discover the British has been played in places that form a part of your own chess life. When at St Mary's Secondary School in Herefordshire, we often used to compete against Malvern College, but I had not known that the 1921 British Championships took place there. Herbert Jacobs is cited in *BCM* as thanking the sponsors for inviting "over a hundred chess players to a peaceful town at great risk! He hoped therefore for exemplary behaviour, and above all no noise!"

Clearly getting in the groove was something that could take our predecessors a little while. The archives also note that "Sir George Thomas, coming straight from the tennis-lawn, opened badly and this was to a large extent due to not feeling in the mood for chess. He improved a lot after the first two or three days."

Yet the star of the show, whose name is still immortalised by one of the British weekend events, was F. D. Yates. As Kenneth Matthews noted in *British Chess*, "Thomas and Yates, inseparable in British chess history, had very different lives." Thomas was rich. He lived a long life in which he played his best chess after the age of fifty and had a myriad of sporting interests, whereas Yates struggled to make the game pay and "had few, if any, interests outside chess."

1921 would be the third of Yates's six Championship wins. Truly a player for the ages, Yates had quit his job as an accountant to pursue the life of a chess professional. His career scalps included two victories against Alekhine and one against Euwe. When I spoke with the now retired John Knee, who had been integral to chess at Malvern College for many years, he mentioned that Euwe himself had once visited the school in 1946 to give a simul. I wonder if Euwe recalled Yates's title winning performance in the shadow of the Malvern Hills, and thought then of the man who for many years made the British Championships his own.

Were it not for Yates's tendency to beat the very best but to struggle against weaker opposition, and the vagaries of his health, he might well have been a world title contender. Particularly impressive going for someone who, as Anne Sunnucks points out, did not compete in the tournament until he was 25, and whose life was tragically cut short by a gas leak in his bedroom when only 48. Yet what Yates lacked in years, he more than made up for in his legacy, of which the British is a key part.

### Leamington Spa 1958

As a Leamington resident, I often feel grateful for the fact that so much chess is





Anne Sunnucks (1927 – 2014) has the white pieces against French WIM Chantal Chaudé de Silans at Amsterdam in 1962. Sunnucks would go on to compile *The Encyclopaedia of Chess*

now played in the area. Yet for years I had walked past Leamington Town Hall without knowing that it had once been the venue for the British. The red brick and sandstone building, with its famous clock tower, these days houses the municipal council. In 1958, it hosted Barden, Penrose, Clarke, Gibbs, Cafferty and Sunnucks amongst many other famous players of the age.

*CHESS Magazine* heralded an extremely tight contest between Leonard Barden and Jonathan Penrose. BH Wood noted, "Leonard Barden started this year's British Championship justifiably angry over being omitted from the British [a common BHW misnomer; he meant England] team for Munich and determined to prove the selectors wrong. By round nine, he had succeeded in making them look very silly indeed. In the remaining two rounds he did all he could to prove them right."

A point ahead of the field with two to play, draws for Barden against lower-rated players enabled Penrose (who won his final two games) to catch him up, and it would be Penrose who won the subsequent playoff a few months later to claim his first title. Ultimately Penrose would surpass even the achievements of Yates, by winning the British ten times. So little wonder his name is also affixed to one of the weekend events, in the same way as Yates. Two years later, in 1960, Penrose became the first British player to defeat a reigning world champion in the twentieth century, downing Mikhail Tal at the Leipzig Olympiad. Penrose's career in academia meant that he only received the grandmaster title at FIDE's discretion in 1993, but never could such an award have been more deserved.

Meanwhile the 1958 Ladies' Championship saw a tie between Anne Sunnucks who "handicapped herself by playing in the Major Open" and Dody Bourdillon, with Sunnucks

later emerging victorious in the playoff. It is not obvious how Sunnucks managed to combine both events, as they appeared to be played simultaneously, but it seems likely some arrangement was made to facilitate her dual participation. This would be the second of Sunnucks' three British titles. She is remembered today for both her achievements at the board and her seminal *The Encyclopaedia of Chess*, which decades after its printing still remains an indispensable tool, even in the age of the internet. Yet, I think if someone wanted to encapsulate Sunnucks' love for the game in one happening, perhaps the fact that she looked to cram in as many games in Leamington as possible, despite being the title favourite, says it all.

It seems that the local boxer Randolph Turpin, who once waved from the Town Hall balcony after beating Sugar Ray Robinson in 1951, is better remembered in the regional archives than the 1958 British Chess Championship. Yet these stories live on. Now whenever I pop into town on some errand or another, I plan to take a moment to glance at the Town Hall and to recall the time when the British was very close to home.

## Dundee 1993 – The British in Scotland

Stewart Reuben noted in the bulletin that "This is the furthest north we have ever taken the congress." He reflected that "As one would expect, the local people were most co-operative and hospitable. The self-catering houses were especially favoured and many liked being on campus, yet also virtually immediately in town. However some people couldn't see the point in coming to a town so far north which wasn't a resort..."

The perennial curse of poor lighting was

also an issue for some. *CHESS* observed that "Though the overall playing conditions in the University of Dundee sports centre were very good, quite a few players suffered from the dim yellow lighting. One of the three competing grandmasters claimed that prolonged exposure to this type of lighting induced sleepiness and, after the first couple of hours' play, disturbed the concentration of the older players – but had a beneficial calming effect on the hyperactive youngsters!" Perhaps it is just as well that the university did not host Fischer versus Spassky, as it is easy to imagine Fischer might have made one or two objections.

I was fortunate to reflect with veteran Scottish IM Craig Pritchett, who first played in the Championship at Bristol in 1968, on the importance of the British taking place north of the border. Craig told me that "It's beyond doubt that staging British Championships around the UK, not just in Scotland, gives a boost to chess wherever nationally, regionally and locally. I'm sure that entry, spectator and local media interest reflects this and having the British around simply leaves a good feeling everywhere and memories that linger."

Craig mused that "The British Championship itself is undoubtedly a slightly peculiar institution, having been endowed in a long gone age, in which 'Britishness' connoted at least as much a sense of belonging to Empire as to the UK's component nations. That's why it remained open to entrants from all over the Commonwealth, following on from the Empire, until Edinburgh 2003, won by 26-year-old Indian Abhijit Kunte. Given the existence within the UK of separate national FIDE memberships, chess organisation and championships, in Scotland's case going all the way back to 1932 (FIDE membership) and 1884 (national federation and championships) respectively, it's necessarily all a bit untidy, but quite gloriously so and still to be celebrated."

While not involved in the Dundee event, Craig had fond memories of covering the 1978 Championships in Ayr for *The Glasgow Herald*. He recalled that this was "the first year of Grieson Grant's highly promising sponsorship. The annual £5,000 programme enabled a first prize of £1,000" (Jon Speelman bagged it). While it "didn't buy lots, it was a good and much appreciated start."

## Douglas, Isle of Man 2005

*British Chess Magazine* highlighted that this was the first time the British had "travelled across the sea." Jonathan Rowson would defend his title, edging the field by half a point. Rowson in part attributed his stronger play in the second half of the tournament to the setting. He told *BCM* that on the rest day he had visited Snaefell (the Isle of Man's highest point) and viewed "The Seven Kingdoms: Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Manx: The kingdom of heaven and the one down below," and this had inspired him.

Perhaps others were more put off by the location. As *BCM* noted, numbers were down with only 46 in the main event, all male,



making it the only Championships since 1904 in which no women's title could be awarded. As they put it, "due to costs many [players] came down on the side of 'stay at home and watch the cricket on TV'. The BCM has to be honest and admit that we did that too."

Andrew Greet noted he also had his doubts. He wrote in these pages that his first reaction had been: "The Isle of Man? Are they serious?" Before adding, "But now that the event is over I can honestly say that the magnificent playing venue, the Villa Marina complex in Douglas, exceeded all expectations." Moreover, Douglas "offers a variety of tourist attractions. Railway trains of both the electric and steam varieties, together with horse-drawn trams, offer a novel way to see the sights. The town is also home to a museum, and the nightlife is not bad either; there are several pubs, at least one nightclub [...] and even a casino."

When I caught up with Don Mason, who finished 15th that year, he told me how much he had enjoyed the experience. "The reality was, flights were cheap and accommodation was plentiful. It felt like this was really the start of chess on a different level at the Isle of Man, as has been evidenced by the many events that have followed." Don remembered an extensive amount of "white marble" in the playing hall, and a lively night life, with plenty of bands and other entertainment for chess players to partake in. "It was a good tournament, I have many great memories."

## Canterbury 2010

"A Canterbury Tale" our magazine proclaimed, exclaiming "Mickey Adams Sweeps the board at the British Championship." Andrew Greet and Jacob Aagaard reflected in these pages that the British had come to "the historic city of Canterbury; best known for its cathedral and Archbishop, as well as Geoffrey Chaucer." As the experience of regular contributor James Essinger highlights, if you wait long enough, the tournament is bound to end up on your doorstep in the end.

Proud resident that he is, James maxed out on the competition being on his patch, by hosting Stuart Conquest, Jovanka Houska, her husband Arne Hagesaether, and Andrew Greet for the duration of the event. He wrote an excellent article in which he reminisced of evening meals consisting mainly of prawn crackers, crispy duck and pancakes, and nights in front of the television watching Arnold Schwarzenegger movies together.

While they did not spend as much time studying chess as perhaps he had hoped, James wrote that "the very fact of being in close proximity to these strong players seemed to help me *absorb* some of their approaches to the game." Moreover, the study they did manage gave James an appreciation that grandmasters "are often less dogmatic in their judgement of positions than lower rated players are: maybe GMs, ironically, have a better understanding of just how difficult chess is because they're so good at it."

James concluded by almost quoting Arnold



*Hull City Hall is used for many concerts, but will again host chess and the British no less this summer.*

in hoping his "four expert chess friends will be back." Who can say whether the British will ever return to Canterbury. As Chaucer put it "opportunity is fleeting". Yet whatever happens in the future, James and the gang clearly made the most of 2010.

## Looking Forward to Hull 2024

Before closing, I caught up with the ECF Director of Home Chess, Nigel Towers, who was in the midst of preparing for this year's event. Nigel told me that it will be a "welcome return to Hull and East Yorkshire which is a great location to continue to build the event." I asked Nigel why it mattered that the British is played in different places. Nigel said, "The variety of locations is important because each of the localities and venues that support the British has its own character and brings something different to the Championships and supporting tournaments, which in turn benefit the chess playing community across a range of different localities."

I asked Nigel what the main things are that the ECF look for in determining where to host the British, and what the main challenges were. Nigel told me, "As a starting point we look for a suitable venue with enough space for the Championship and supporting events over 10 or 11 days at an affordable cost. The championship events will need an area for the top boards and spectators, as well as world class-playing conditions in terms of space, lighting, low ambient noise, temperature control and, of course, live-boards with good technical facilities to broadcast the events globally to the internet. The playing space we need is often driven by the weekend competitions and junior and other weekday events which are increasingly well subscribed and tend to attract the peak numbers."

Nigel also pointed out that, "In addition we will need a venue with suitable spaces for reception, bookstall and merchandise, organisers' office, on-site commentary, and coaching, as well as waiting areas for parents

on site or nearby. Local facilities are also important to support the wider chess festival, including outdoor and evening events, so there is something for the players and visitors to enjoy in addition to the tournaments. We also look for locations with good support from the local chess community and/or the opportunity to grow the community."

I concluded by asking Nigel what his hopes were in terms of where the British might be played in the future. He told me that "It will be important to continue organising the British across a mix of venues, including holiday venues close to the sea, and inland cities, towns or university locations with local facilities. We are increasingly looking to work with local authorities to support and grow the Championships which already attract large numbers of visitors, and to stage local chess-related cultural events."

## Final Thoughts

Whether it is held in the north, or in the south, or even across the sea, there is perhaps no better feeling than being in town when the British is underway. This is the one time of year, where if you see a stranger reading a book on the Sicilian at a bus stop, it does not warrant a second glance. A chance to be amongst those who love the game as much as you do.

If you take a look through the archives (and I must acknowledge and recommend John Saunders' excellent BritBase material on the British Championships), you might well find that the British has been played closer to your patch in the past than you realised. Perhaps Yates, Penrose and Sunnucks or some of our more recent champions once walked the streets that you now do.

Yet for all the joy inherent in looking back, perhaps there is even more to be had in looking forward. It is not too late to get your entry in for this year's British in Hull. To be a part of the event. Just as the British itself, and where it takes place, becomes a part of us.





# Overseas News

**AUSTRIA** – It's not just Germany which has a Bundesliga, but also Austria where the 2023/24 season was won by powerhouse ASV Linz with 20/22, which included a 4-2 victory against second-placed Sparkasse Jenbach. Linz often had Shakhriyar Mamedyarov on top board, and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave chipped in with 4½/5 on board 2, while lower down some famous names racked up even bigger scores, Parham Maghsoodloo finishing on 9½/11, Francisco Vallejo Pons amassing 8½/10 and Etienne Bacrot a massive 9½/10. English no.1 Nikita Vitiugov scored 7/11, but in Mamedyarov's absence, he was often on board 1 and won this lovely miniature.

**L.Livaic-N.Vitiugov**  
Vienna St. Veit vs Linz  
*Giuoco Piano*

**1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♙c5 4 c3 ♘f6 5 d4 exd4 6 b4!?**

This Dubov-popularised advance continues to catch some black players unawares.

**6...♙b6 7 e5 d5!**

Thematic and likely best. Instead, the game which really put 6 b4 back on the map saw 7...♘e4 8 ♙d5! ♘xc3 9 ♘xc3 dxc3 10 ♙g5 ♘e7 11 0-0 h6 12 ♙h4 and after 12...0-0! 13 ♙e1 ♙e8 14 ♙b3 a5? 15 ♙f6! White went on to win in a Dubov-Karjakin, Russian Championship, Moscow 2020 – see the February 2021 *CHESS*.

**8 exf6 dxc4 9 ♙e2+ ♙e6 10 b5 ♘b4!?**

A bold piece sacrifice in place of 10...♘a5 11 fxg7 ♙g8 12 cxd4 ♙d7 13 ♘c3 0-0-0, with a mess and likely rough equality.

**11 fxg7 ♙g8 12 cxb4 ♙f6**



**13 ♙e4?!**

The young Croatian GM appears to have been outprepared. Instead, 13 0-0! ♙xg7 14 g3 must be the critical line, as in Skvortsov-Anand, Zurich (rapid) 2017, where



*Nikita Vitiugov made a striking early piece sacrifice ahead of winning a brutal miniature.*

14...0-0-0 15 a4 d3 16 ♙b2 ♙xg3+! 17 hxg3 ♙xg3+ 18 ♘h2 ♙xf3 left Black with only three pawns for the queen, if also a very dangerous attack and enough compensation.

**13...♙xg7 14 ♙f4?**

White simply had to house the king: 14 0-0 0-0-0 15 ♙f4 ♙g6 16 g3 ♙h5 would have given Black decent compensation, if perhaps no more than that after 17 ♙e1 ♙d5 18 a4!.

**14...♙g4**

One of two good moves, the other being 14...♙xg2! when 15 ♙xb7? ♙xf4! 16 ♙xa8+ ♙e7 17 ♘bd2 c3 would fast become a massacre and even 15 ♙e5 ♙e7 16 ♙xb7 ♙d8 17 ♙c6+ ♙f8 18 ♘bd2 ♙g6 spells bad news for White, with ...♙d5 up next.

**15 ♙xb7 ♙d8 16 ♙c6+ ♙f8 17 ♙e5 ♙f5**



Black remains a piece down, but with the safer king, far superior coordination and

significant threat of ...♙e4+.

**18 0-0 ♙g6!**

A clinical finish. 18...f6 was also good, although White might then have limped on after 19 ♙e1! ♙d5 20 ♙xf6+ ♙xf6 21 ♙xf6 ♙xf3 22 g3.

**19 ♙g3 ♙d5 20 ♘h4 ♙g5 21 f4**

This doesn't help, but the white queen would also have been corralled after 21 ♘xg6+ hxg6.

**21...♙e7 22 ♘xg6+ fxg6 23 ♙e1 ♙f7 0-1**

**CYPRUS** – After they had all finished on 7/9, Greek GM Andreas Kelires edged out on tiebreak Israeli Grandmasters Ido Gorshtein and Avital Boruchovsky, as well as local FM Konstantinos Michaelides to win the Paphos International Open (April 26 – May 2). A last-round defeat meant that Basingstoke's Steven Jones finished on 5/9, which included a win against Polish IM Radoslaw Barski.

**GERMANY** – The German Schachbundesliga concluded over the weekend of April 27th and 28th, where Viernheim won their remaining two matches to finish with a perfect 15 wins from 15 games, which left them some three points clear of champions and regular winners Baden-Baden. Viernheim deployed Hikaru Nakamura for one weekend and Nodirbek Abdusattorov for two, who scored 2/3 and 4/5 respectively, while Jan-Krzysztof Duda added 6½/9 and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov played every match, finishing with 11½/15. Kudos too to David Anton Guijarro for his 8½/12 and to Africa's leading player, Bassem Amin, who clocked up 9½/12. Meanwhile Nikita Vitiugov finished with 7½/11 and Michael Adams with an excellent 8½/10 for Baden-Baden, with Luke McShane scoring 4½/9 for third-place Werder Bremen.

**GREECE** – 27-year-old Azeri IM Ulviyya Fataliyeva was only the 24th seed, but ran out a convincing winner of the European Women's Individual Championship on Rhodes (April 18-30). Fataliyeva positionally outplayed most of her opponents and 8½/10 left her a point clear of a large tie for second, with the silver medal going to Ukrainian IM Nataliya Buksa, and bronze to Georgian IM Lela Javakhishvili. Jovanka Houska made a welcome appearance and ground down Bodhana Sivanandan in over 100 moves to finish as the top Brit on 6½/10, although she slightly lost rating points.

Unfortunately, both Yao Lan and Akshaya Kalaiyalahan struggled at times, finishing on '+1' and 50% respectively, but fresh from coaching Carl Portman, Katarzyna Toma had a good tournament, finishing on '+1' while





*Bodhana Sivanandan is the highest-rated under-10 in the world and did well in Rhodes.*

gaining 22 rating points. However, the star of the show was once again Sivanandan, who began by drawing with the famous Armenian IM Lilit Mkrtchian, then outplaying her compatriot and also 2350-rated WIM Mariam Mkrtchyan. The 9-year-old super-talent would go on to only lose twice, displaying plenty of her trademark lengthy games and positional prowess to finish on 4½/10 while gaining 73 rating points for her 2220 performance.

### K.Toma-N.Orian Rhodes 2024 *Sicilian Kan*

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 a6 5 ♙d3 ♙c5 6 ♚b3 ♙a7 7 ♙e2 ♚e7 8 c4 0-0 9 ♚c3 ♚bc6 10 0-0 d5!?

A thematic attempt to fully equalise, although Daniil Dubov and Dmitry Andreikin have preferred the calmer 10...d6 11 ♙e3 e5. 11 cxd5 exd5 12 ♙g5!?

A critical and seemingly new approach. 12...d4

The fearless engines see nothing wrong with 12...h6, and if 13 ♙h4 g5 14 exd5 ♘xd5 15 ♘xd5 ♙xd5 16 ♙ad1 ♙e5.

13 ♘d5 ♙e6??



Badly underestimating White's designs.

Instead, 13...f6! 14 ♙f4 ♙h8 would have maintained a rough balance.

14 ♘f6+!! gxf6 15 ♙xf6

White simply threatens ♙d2-h6 or ♙h5-h6 and already there's just no good defence.

15...♙b8

15...♚e5!? 16 ♙d2 ♚5g6 would hope for 17 ♙h6 ♚f5! when Black can grovel on, but the preliminary 17 e5! wins.

16 e5! ♚xe5 17 ♙xh7+!

Finishing in style.

17...♙xh7 18 ♙h5+ 1-0

**ITALY** – Almost 300 players flocked to Orosei for the Sardinia World Chess Festival (April 27 - May 3), where 18-year-old Belgian no.1 Daniel Dardha triumphed on tiebreak after finishing on 7/9 alongside Kirill Shevchenko, Volodar Murzin and Jorden Van Foreest. Shreyas Royal was a further point back, which included a win over another talented English teenager, Sohun Lohia, who finished on 4½/9, while Bornha Derakshani made '+1' and Jude Shearsby a small rating gain with his 3½/9. There was also a B Open for players under 2000, won by the popular Canadian streamer Alexandra Botez with a huge 8½/9, which included a win over her younger sister Andrea, who finished back on '+3' in a tie for ninth place.

**NORWAY** – Kazakhstan's Rinat Jumabayev had a better tiebreak than fellow GM, Indian Abhimanyu Puranik, after they had both finished on 7/9 at the Fagernes Chess International (March 24-31). Ameet Ghasi unfortunately lost to another IM, Estonia's Mai Narva, to finish on 5½/9, with IM Jonah Willow, FM James Moreby, Indy Southcott-Moyers and Harry Zheng back on 50%, the last two of whom made significant rating gains.

**SWEDEN** – The 28th Tepe Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament in Malmo (April 27 - May 3), was once again pretty hard-fought. While world junior champion Marc'Andria Maurizzi's play was largely too loose, for which he was punished, and Swedish no.1 Nils Grandelius was also a little outclassed at times, Ju Wenjun recovered from two early defeats to pull clear of the basement, including taking advantage of an endgame slip from co-leader Anton Korobov in the final round. As such, the women's world champion finished on a highly respectable 3½/7 for a 2694 performance, the third highest she has ever recorded.

With Vincent Keymer also far from his best, the path was clear for top seeds Arjun Erigaisi and Nodirbek Abdusattorov to pull clear, as they finished on 4½/7, as did Peter Svidler who arrived straight from seconding Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in Toronto. While the prize money was shared, there was a 3+2 playoff to determine an overall winner, in which Svidler blundered in a drawn endgame against Erigaisi then lost an extremely unbalanced one to Abdusattorov. The Uzbek star was also at his resourceful best to hold against his Indian rival before, in two further tiebreak games, overcoming Erigaisi 1½-½.

### N.Abdusattorov-N.Grandelius

Malmo 2024

*Vienna Game*

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♚c6 3 g3 ♘f6 4 d3 ♙c5 5 ♙g2 d6 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♘c3 a5 8 h3 h6 9 ♙h2 ♙e6 10 ♚a4!?

A new idea, looking to move from Vienna waters into much more of an English setting.

10...♙a7 11 c4 ♘d7 12 ♘c3 f5!?

White has his Botvinnik formation, but Black should now have enough counterplay.

13 exf5 ♙xf5 14 ♘b5 ♙b6 15 ♙e3 ♙xe3 16 fxe3 ♙h7!

Getting out of the way of ♘h4 in preparation for Black's next.

17 d4?! ♘b4 18 ♙d2



18...♙d3?!

Tempting, but 18...e4 would have been stronger, and if 19 ♘e1 ♘f6 20 d5 ♙e7 21 ♘d4 c5 22 ♘e6 ♙f7 when Black can play around the knight on e6 and bring his own knight from b4 to e5, with the upper hand.

19 ♙fc1 exd4?

Now 19...e4 20 ♘e1 should be OK for White and 20...♙f1 21 ♘c3 ♙xg2 22 ♘xg2 ♙e7 23 ♙f1 roughly level.

20 exd4?

A mutual oversight. 20 ♘bxd4! would just have been pretty strong, threatening both a2-a3 and ♘e6.

20...♙e4 21 ♘h4 ♘f6 22 d5

Trying to improve the queen's knight, although even here Black should be OK.

22...♙xg2 23 ♙xg2 c6

23...♙d7 24 ♘d4 b5! was another way to seek counterplay, and if 25 ♘xb5 ♘fxd5.

24 ♘d4 ♙b6!? 25 ♘hf5!



Some of Black's pieces have strayed from



the defence of their king, so Abdusattorov gets ready to attack.

**25...cxd5?**

Now Black comes under unpleasant pressure, whereas after 25...g6! 26 ♖xh6+ ♕h7 27 ♖e6 ♖e3 the situation would just have been highly unclear.

**26 ♖e6 ♖f7 27 ♖f1! ♖d3**

Likewise, 27...dxc4 28 ♖exg7 ♕h7 29 ♖ae1 feels rather dangerous: for example, 29...♖d3 30 ♖e6 ♖xb2 31 ♖e2 ♖b6 32 ♖e6 when ♖d6 is a threat and White enjoys a very promising initiative for the two pawns.

**28 ♖exg7 dxc4?**

28...♕h7 29 b3 dxc4 30 ♖d2! ♖g8 31 ♖e2 would have been quite unpleasant for Black, but was also the last real try according to the silicon.

**29 ♖h5 ♕h7 30 ♖e7!**

One of two brutal blows, the other being 30 ♖xd6! ♖xd6 31 ♖xf6, and if 31...♖xf6? 32 ♖xb7+.

**30...♖d4?**

30...♖g4+! 31 hxg4 ♖xe7 was a better defensive try, although White would still have enjoyed good winning chances after 32 ♖f6+ ♕g7 33 ♖d5 ♖d8 34 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 35 ♖f5.

**31 ♖d5**

The pressure down the f-file now proves intolerable.

**31...♖xd5 32 ♖xf7+ ♕h8 33 ♖af1 ♖e5**

**34 ♖xb7 ♖e3 35 ♖f4!**



The prelude to a powerful finish.

**35...♖d3 36 ♖h7+!**

Forcing mate, including after 36...♖xh7 37 ♖xa8+ ♖g8 38 ♖f8.

**36...♖xh7 37 ♖b7+ ♕g6 38 ♖g7+!**

**♕xh5 39 ♖h4# 1-0**

**SWITZERLAND** – After the Candidates and Sigeman there were some changes near the top of the rating list and we dare say that plenty of eyes will be on the FIDE Office in Lausanne



The popular Russian Grandmaster Peter Svidler (above) remained unbeaten in Malmo, where Nodirbek Abdusattorov (below) had to recover from an early defeat at the hands of Anton Korobov. The Uzbek whizz kid would then defeat Svidler and Arjun Erigaisi in a blitz playoff.



when they release the next official list on June 1st. At the time of compilation, the top-20 was: 1 Magnus Carlsen (NOR) 2830, 2 Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2805, 3 Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 2794, 4 Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS) 2770, 5 Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB) 2766, 6 Dommaraju Gukesh 2763, 7 Arjun Erigaisi (both IND) 2763, 8 Ding Liren (CHN) 2762, 9 Wesley So (USA) 2757, 10 Wei Yi (CHN) 2755, 11 Viswanathan Anand (IND) 2751, 12 Sergey Karjakin (RUS) 2750, 13 Leinier Dominguez Perez (USA) 2748, 14 Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa (IND) 2747, 15 Anish Giri (NED) 2745, 16 Alireza Firouzja (FRA) 2737,

17 Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE) 2734, 18 Jan-Krzysztof Duda (POL) 2733, 19 Parham Maghsoodloo (IRI) 2732, 20 Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA) 2732.

Meanwhile the top end of the women's list continues, perhaps unsurprisingly, to be dominated by the Chinese. The top-10: 1 Hou Yifan 2632, 2 Ju Wenjun 2573, 3 Lei Tingjie (all CHN) 2548, 4 Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS) 2545, 5 Humpy Koneru (IND) 2545, 6 Tan Zhongyi (CHN) 2540, 7 Kateryna Lagno (RUS) 2532, 8 Mariya Muzychuk (UKR) 2510, 9 Nana Dzagnidze (GEO) 2506, 10 Anna Muzychuk (UKR) 2505.

28th Sigeman & Co - Malmo, Sweden -27th April to 3rd May (Category 18, ave.rating = 2677)													
	Player	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts	TPR
1	Peter Svidler	FID	2689	*	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	4½	2777
2	Arjun Erigaisi	IND	2756	½	*	½	½	1	½	½	1	4½	2767
3	Nodirbek Abdusattorov	UZB	2765	½	½	*	0	½	1	1	1	4½	2766
4	Anton Korobov	UKR	2651	0	½	1	*	0	½	1	1	4	2730
5	Ju Wenjun	CHN	2559	0	0	½	1	*	1	½	½	3½	2693
6	Vincent Keymer	GER	2726	½	½	0	½	0	*	1	1	3½	2669
7	Nils Grandelius	SWE	2664	½	½	0	0	½	0	*	½	2	2520
8	Marc'Andria Maurizzi	FRA	2605	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	*	1½	2457



# GREAT NEW TITLES FROM EVERYMAN CHESS

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## The Unknown Fischer

Cyrus Lakdawala

EVERYMAN CHESS

Bobby Fischer is one of the greatest (if not the greatest) chess players of all-time and this book includes early games before he was well known, simultaneous games, blitz games as well as many classical games that have simply fallen under the radar.

Paperback 384 pages

Andrew Martin

## Play the French with 3...dxe4



The variation of the French that starts 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 (or 3 Nd2) 3 ... dxe4 is often called the Rubinstein Variation. It is a great way to simplify the position and ensure that the middlegame battle rewards strategic understanding rather than rote memorisation of opening moves. It is also a very useful weapon to defuse the attacking intentions of aggressive White players who plan an all-out assault in the main lines of the French Defence.

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Opening Repertoire

## Queen's Gambit Accepted

Nicolás Yap



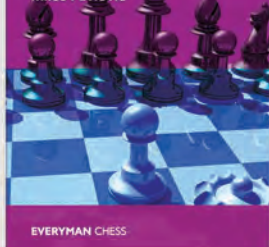
Yap analyses the line 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 b5! in forensic detail. This is now almost the main line of the Queen's Gambit Accepted and there is currently very little theoretical material on it. Yap also investigates other popular, counterattacking lines such as 3 e3 e5!.

Paperback 448 pages

Opening Repertoire

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Milos Pavlovic



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moves, not least 3 0-0 and 3 ♖h3! d4 4 ♖h4 g5 5 ♖xg5!, but not 3 ♖b4+?? ♗xb4+ 4 axb4 ♖e8) 3 0-0 ♖c7 4 ♖c1+ ♖c6 5 ♖a5+! (5 ♖f4+!? ♗b6 6 ♖e3+ ♗b7 7 ♗f7+ ♖d7 8 ♖b1+ ♖c7 9 ♖f4+ also forces mate) 5...♗b7 (5...♗xa5 6 ♗xc6+ ♗b8 7 a4! would be a neat touch, after which mate will follow) 6 ♖b1+ ♖a7 7 ♗e7+ 1-0

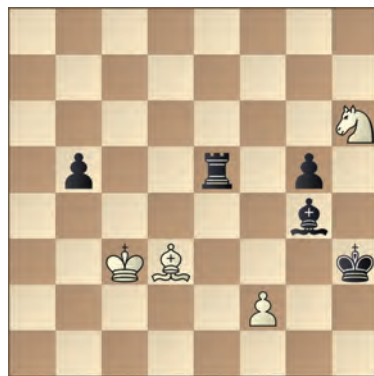
#### 24) Petrov-Korobkov

1 ♖xe6+!! (1 ♖xd6+ ♖e7 2 ♗xf6+ ♖gxf6 3 ♖c4 would only leave White with a huge positional advantage) 1...fxe6 2 ♖xd6+ ♖d8 3 ♗b7! ♖c7 4 ♗xc6 (5 ♖c3 ♗e7 6 ♖g5 is one threat and Black just too uncoordinated to mount a serious defence, despite the extra rook) 4...a5 (likewise, 4...♗e7 5 h3 ♖f6 6 ♖e5 ♖f8 7 ♖b7+ ♖c8 8 ♖c4! wins, as pointed out by Marian Petrov on ChessPublishing) 5 ♖c3 ♗e7 6 h3!? (or 6 ♖g5, threatening 7 ♖xe6+!, and if 6...♗d7 7 ♗b6 ♖f6 8 ♖xc7! ♗xc7 9 ♖xe6+ and wins) 6...♖f6 7 ♖e5 ♖f8 (7...♖a7 8 ♖ef7+ forces Black to part company with the queen) 8 ♗xa8+! 1-0 If 8...♖xa8 9 ♖c8#.

#### Studies Solutions

November's solution:

#### Bizyagin Buyannemekh 10th Place, WCCT 11, 2020-2022



White to play and win

1 ♖f7 ♖c5+ 2 ♗b4 ♖d5 3 ♖e4 ♖d4+ 4 ♖c5 ♖c4+ 5 ♗xb5 ♖e2 6 ♖xg5+ ♗h4 7 ♖f3+ (and not 7 ♖f3? ♖d3 8 ♖e6 ♖e4+ 9 ♗a5 ♖xe6) 7...♗h5 8 ♖g6+ (the right square, unlike 8 ♖d3? ♖xd3 9 ♖e5 ♖d4+ 10 ♖c5 ♖d8 and wins) 8...♗h6 9 ♖d3 (only now, and not 9 ♖g1? ♖f1) 9...♖xd3 10 ♖e5 ♖d4+ 11 ♖c5 The rook lacks a safe spot on the d-file, so the bishop will fall.

April's solution:

#### Marco Travasoni L'Italia Scacchistica, 1979

White to play and win

1 ♖h3+ ♖g2 2 ♖g4 ♖h5  
If 2...♖c2+ then 3 ♖d2! with 4 ♖e3# to follow, as pointed out by competition winner Mike Read.  
3 ♖f5 ♖xg4+ 4 ♖xg4 ♖g3  
Or 4...♖xg4 5 ♖e3#.  
5 ♖xg3+ ♖g2 6 ♖f1! ♖xf1 7 ♖h3#

# This Month's New Releases

#### Chess Coach

Vladimir Barsky, 328 pages

New In Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

It is startling to think that eight years have already passed by since the death, at the comparatively early age of 68, of the world's greatest chess trainer. As the world continues to move at an increasingly faster pace, it is equally startling to think that there will be a whole generation of chess players who know nothing about Mark Dvoretsky, his work or his achievements.

Fortunately, this new book from New in Chess, with its subtitle of 'The Profound and Lasting Influence of Mark Dvoretsky' – a translation of the Russian original, published in 2018 – aims to remind the chess world about all of the above.

I am sure most of us would have first encountered Dvoretsky's name when his groundbreaking *Secrets of Chess Training* (Batsford, 1991) was published. This, and the subsequent volumes in the series (and then with Olms and Russell Enterprises as the publishers, with some volumes published posthumously), changed the way in which

chess students thought about chess, preparation and methods of honing endgame technique. The material was never easy or trivial and remains very demanding of the reader (although, as a further indication as to the relentless passing of time, thoughts on adjourned games have been rendered redundant).

There is an abundance of excellent and interesting material to be found here, including Garry Kasparov's heartfelt foreword, memories of Dvoretsky's contemporaries, four sections of games, a selection of endgame studies, and a potpourri of interviews and articles with and about Dvoretsky.

Kasparov is full of praise for the subject. "It seems to me that Dvoretsky's most striking achievements are in the study of endings: in minor-piece positions, he was able to more clearly demonstrate the advantages and merits of his methods. Not without reason, at the beginning of the 21st century, my favourite chess book was the brilliant *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, which has already gone through four English and two Russian editions!"

Fascinating material can easily be found in every section of this fine book. The interview segment is particularly interesting, as



A man who revolutionised chess training then explained it, Mark Dvoretsky (1947 – 2016).

Dvoretsky was a very modest man in his own writings and here new angles are teased out by the interviewer. He agrees with Kasparov when it comes to naming his own best book and makes it clear as to why he never made more of a career out of playing chess.



"In playing, I wasn't a good fighter, quite opposite to Carlsen! I couldn't stand the nervous tension that a chess player has before a game. When I got success it was a pleasure to be a player. However, the process in itself was not enjoyable."

What we gained on the swings, we lost on the roundabouts, as he was more than capable of going toe-to-toe with chess giants, as this snippet shows.

### M.Dvoretsky-L.Polugaevsky USSR Championship, Yerevan 1975



#### 33...xf2?

According to the book's analysis, only the unlikely-looking 33...h5!! saves the game. As played, Dvoretsky refutes Polugaevsky's attempted tactical blow by smoking out his king and chasing it down the board to its inevitable destruction.

#### 34 h6+! e5 35 c5+! e4

"If 35...d5, 36 e1+ decides the issue."

#### 36 e1+ d3 37 h3+ 1-0

The book concludes with a potent summary of the subject's achievements.

"It wouldn't be an overstatement to say that Mark Dvoretsky was single-handedly responsible for uplifting the level of chess education with his articles and books towards the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century. [...] Mark is no more, but his books, articles and teachings will continue to educate, enlighten and entertain the chess world."

It is rare indeed for a trainer to touch the chess lives from the range of world champions to club players. This book protects the legacy of the great Mark Dvoretsky and is highly recommended.

Sean Marsh



#### The Unknown Fischer

Cyrus Lakdawala, 384 pages

Everyman Chess

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Is there really space in the market for yet

another book on Bobby Fischer? Only if the author can offer a new angle on the life and games of the player many still consider to be the greatest of all world champions. There seems little mileage in re-examining the same old classic Fischer games again, without offering new insights, but this book has a different mission in mind. The blurb informs us as to what is on offer here.

"Fischer also played many games that have generally escaped public attention. These include early games before he was well known, simultaneous games, blitz games as well as many classical games that have simply fallen under the radar. There is also a match of ten games played against Svetozar Gligoric in Sveti Stefan before his famous 're-match' with Boris Spassky."

The concept behind this book is not original. Readers who are unafraid of descriptive notation will no doubt still derive pleasure from their copies of *The Unknown Alekhine 1905-1914* by Fred Reinfeld (Pitman, 1949), and *The Unknown Capablanca* by David Hooper and Dale Brandreth (Batsford, 1975). However, it is good to see rarer Fischer games receive some attention, especially as he felt more relaxed and able to step beyond his well-worn opening repertoire (although some old favourites – such as the Sozin Attack against the Sicilian Najdorf – still make guest appearances.)

Stylistically, readers already know what to expect from Cyrus Lakdawala; flowery prose which could be easily pruned by a sharp editor to leave a tighter book, half the size of the finished product. On the other hand, I have spoken with club players who enjoy reading such artificially extended prose, finding the extravagantly chatty style makes it somehow more accessible.

Here are three samples, selected at random. The third one appears to be paying homage to the famous cut-up technique pioneered by William Burroughs (and later utilised by David Bowie). As explained by Tristan Tzara, a founder of the Dadaist movement, the advice is to cut out the words from newspaper articles and then to pull them from a bag, in random fashion, to create new sentences and structures, apparently making one "a writer of infinite originality and charming sensibility."

"Such a move would only be applauded by an MS13 gang assassin" (Game 14, after Elo plays a wild 13 g4?); "Even a normally cowardly crow is willing to swoop down upon a dying snake with the ferocity of a Game of Thrones dragon" (Game 20, after an unexpected twist by Fischer, mid-combination, involving a temporary queen sacrifice against Schweber); "What the hay? This betrayal of his 'best by test' 1 e4, reminds us of Robert the Bruce, when he gave up Mel Gibson to Edward Longshanks' forces. Doesn't Bobby understand that a replica is not as valuable as the original? There goes Tal's opening preparation" (Game 53, after Fischer plays 1 g3 against Tal in the famous Herceg Novi Blitz Tournament in 1970).

Fischer aficionados will, no doubt, already

be familiar with most of the 81 games presented here, but readers whose libraries harbour a more basic section on the former champion will be pleased to find so many 'new' games in one place.

Of particular interest will be the 10 games found in the final chapter, titled 'The Other Sveti Stefan Match'. The match in question, against a reluctant Svetozar Gligoric, was played to help Fischer prepare for his forthcoming 'world championship' rematch with Boris Spassky. The final score of Fischer 7½, Gligoric 2½ is neither here nor there; both players had been away from top-level chess for many years (two decades, in Fischer's case). According to Gligoric, Fischer "was panicking about how theory had developed during his twenty-year absence from chess" and the match was intended to remove some of the rust which had gathered during his abstinence from the board. The games are of mercurial quality, which is only to be expected.

Fischer, of course, was always at his best when he did his talking over the board and this celebratory book does not touch on any controversial aspects of his life or character.

There are several trinkets from simultaneous games, of which Fischer played a lot. It is good to see him letting rip with a King's Gambit and an occasional Evans Gambit, but this snippet comes from his favourite Ruy Lopez.

### R.Fischer-E.Travis Houston (simul) 1964



Fischer has already sacrificed a minor piece and finishes off with a second offering.

#### 20 g5!

"Wow, I haven't seen such a dance move since the disco days of the 1970s. In chess composition this is known as the Novotny Theme, where we place a piece en prise on a square which is covered multiple times. For the record, moving the f3-knight anywhere worked equally well: 20 e1, 20 d3d4, 20 xe5, and 20 3h4 all lead to mate in six."

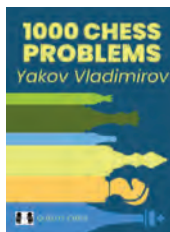
#### 20...xg5 21 g3 1-0

"There is no remedy to the coming xg5+."

Bright and breezy, this is not an absolutely essential purchase, but it is entertaining and Fischer fans will almost certainly buy it without hesitation.

Sean Marsh

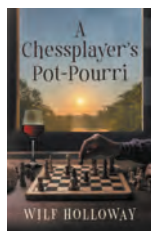




### 1000 Chess Problems

Yakov Vladimirov, 376 pages, hardback  
RRP £29.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.55**

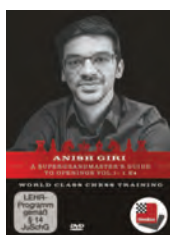
This latest puzzle style book from Quality Chess is a translation of a 2019 Russian work featuring 1,000 of Yakov Vladimirov's favourite chess compositions: mates in two, three, four and more, as well as some 'fairy chess' puzzles. All these endgame studies can but instruct, as well as ideally provide plenty of enjoyment. Indeed, as the world champion of chess composition, Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen, has remarked, "The book can be opened on any random page and you will be sure to find pure gold from the treasuries of chess compositions." Like Nielsen, Vladimirov (b.1935) is a Grandmaster of Chess Composition.



### A Chessplayer's Pot-Pourri

Wilf Holloway, 288 pages, paperback  
RRP £10.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £9.89**

This light-hearted release from The Conrad Press should certainly entertain readers, containing a combination of trivia, interesting chess history, fiction and puzzles to solve. See pages 46 and 47 for more from the author, Wilf Holloway.



### A Supergrandmaster's Guide to Openings Vol. 1: 1.e4

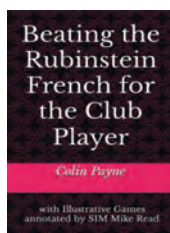
Anish Giri, PC-DVD; running time: 3 hours, 19 minutes

RRP £44.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £40.45**

In conversation with Mr ChessBase India, Sagar Shah, Anish Giri discusses all the main openings after 1 e4. As such, viewers get to hear a super-GM's take on those lines they frequently reach and while some of his insights are fairly deep, others will very much help the club player. Shah certainly does a good job of stopping Giri from quoting too many lines of lengthy analysis, while they discuss various repertoire options and examine one of Giri's favourite games in each of the main openings covered.

There's also a companion DVD, A

*Supergrandmaster's Guide to Openings Vol.2*, which follows the same format, but this time covers all the queen's pawn openings, as well as the English and Reti. Shah and Giri again interact well and present several repertoire suggestions as they work their way through the 1 d4 openings, with this second volume running to three hours and 35 minutes of coverage, while retailing at £44.95 or £40.45 for Subscribers. It's also possible to purchase both volumes of A *Supergrandmaster's Guide to Openings* from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £79.95 or £71.95 for Subscribers.



### Beating the Rubinstein French for the Club Player

Colin Payne, 212 pages, paperback  
RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

Norwich's Colin Payne is a man on a mission to show that 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3/d2 dxe4 4 ♜xe4 ♜d7 or 4...♙d7 shouldn't be considered dull or feared from White's perspective, especially at club level. In this self-published work, Payne does present some fairly detailed analysis and new ideas at times, but in general fellow club players are always at the forefront of his mind. As such, the recommended repertoire is designed to be fairly easy to grasp, while there are also a great many diagrams, as well as some instructive illustrated games annotated by correspondence guru Mike Read.



### ChessBase Magazine 219

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £19.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.95**

The latest issue of *CBM* is for May/June 2024 and features Prague winner, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, on the cover. Inside are plenty of annotated games, over six hours of video footage, a close look at the style of Fabiano 'The Machine' Caruana, and plenty of opening ideas, be they in the main line Dragon or with an early e3 in the English Opening.



### Chess Informant 159 – Vigorous

Sahovski Informator, 320 pages, paperback  
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

There have been some editorial changes in Belgrade, with Informant Publishing – the publisher of Danny Gormally's latest work *Chess Analysis: Reloaded* – now completely separate from Sahovski Informator, who continue to publish their most famous product. The latest 'Informator' still features Gormally, who reports on his experience at Hastings, as well as the likes of Yochanan Afek and Vasilios Kotronias, while also, of course, containing languageless annotations to hundreds of leading recent games and novelties.



### Improve Your Chess Tactics

Jakov Neishtadt, 392 pages, paperback  
RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

This is an upgraded, i.e. thoroughly engine-checked, edition of a modern classic, subtitled '700 Practical Lessons & Exercises'. The famous Russian and Israeli player Jakov Neishtadt (1923-2023) maps out all the most important types of tactics which everyone should be aware of, such as deflection, interference and pinning, before following up those lessons by presenting a great many positions for the reader to solve. Do note that this New in Chess production is also available in hardback format, retailing at £26.95 or £24.25 for Subscribers.



### Openings – The English Opening Volume 1

Jerzy Konikowski & Uwe Bekemann, 188 pages, paperback

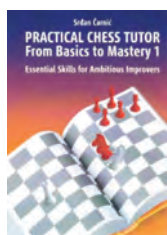
RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

This new release from Joachim Beyer Verlag is in their 'read – understand – play' series and devoted to the Symmetrical English, making it of interest to all who play 1 c4 or counter it with ...c5. Over six chapters the experienced authors present the key strategic ideas for both sides, while covering all the most important lines.

Also just in from Germany is *Typical French* by Karsten Müller (188 pages, paperback, RRP £21.95, Subscribers £19.75), which is devoted to that structure most closely associated with the French Defence, White having pawns on d4 and e5, Black pawns on d5 and e6. Müller examines the many different types of middlegame which may



arise and also presents 110 related exercises, meaning that this book may improve the understanding of all French players.



### Practical Chess Tutor: From Basics to Mastery 1

Srdan Carnic, 304 pages, paperback  
RRP £29.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.99**

This new release from Informant Publishing is subtitled 'Essential Skills for Ambitious Improvers' and is essentially a pretty detailed beginner's guide. Carnic, a highly-experienced Serbian FM and chess coach, begins with the rules, then looks at checkmate and ways to win material, before moving on to slightly more advanced material. The endgame, key tactical motifs and handling the opening all receive plenty of coverage. Overall, the layout is excellent, the English clear and this work should certainly suit those who are hardworking and new to chess.



### Rock Solid with the Queen's Indian Defence

Leon Mendonca, PC-DVD;

running time: 4 hours, 20 minutes

RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

This DVD could easily have been presented by Sergei Tiviakov, but is actually from 18-year-old Indian star Leon Mendonca, who boasts a 2640 rating and has quite a solid style for one so young. One of his favourite openings is the venerable 1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 b6, with which he maps out a

fairly comprehensive and solid repertoire for Black, most notably based around the lines 4 a3 ♗b7 and 4 g3 ♗a6.

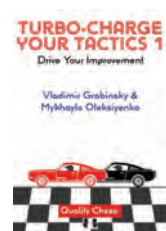


### The Sharp Arkhangelsk Variation in the Ruy Lopez

Adrian Mikhachishin, PC-DVD; running time:  
4 hours, 11 minutes

RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

The highly experienced Slovenian GM and chess trainer returns to the ChessBase studio to present a repertoire for Black with one of Fabiano Caruana's favourite openings, 1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♗f6 5 0-0 b5 6 ♗b3 ♗c5, with Mikhachishin also exploring the original Archangel variation, 6...♗b7, as well as the move order 5...♗c5 6 c3 b5. Good use is made of model games, while this is a complete repertoire against the Lopez for Black, as Mikhachishin looks too at both lines with an early ♗c3 and the Exchange variation.



### Turbo-Charge Your Tactics 1

Vladimir Grabinsky & Mykhaylo Oleksiyenko,  
328 pages, hardback

RRP £29.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.55**

Another new puzzle book from Quality Chess, if, like *1000 Chess Problems*, one which a great amount of compilation and effort clearly went into. Along with his long-time coach and sparring partner Vladimir Grabinsky, the strong Ukrainian Grandmaster Mykhaylo Oleksiyenko aims to make readers fully aware of a world of "unnatural" tactical

moves and so cure any tactical blindspots whilst improving vision and creativity. There are 270 positions to solve in all, many of which don't adhere to any of the normal categories of tactics. On top of plenty of impressive interference moves, the reader will come across unexpected retreats, sudden forcing exchanges and some simply amazing tactical shots which really require thinking outside of the box.

There's also a companion edition, *Turbo-Charge Your Tactics 2* (280 pages, hardback, RRP £29.50, Subscribers £26.55), featuring a further 197 positions to solve, this time taken from the games of the world champions, as well as a very interesting chapter on the best way to use chess engines. Both *Turbo-Charge Your Tactics* books can be purchased together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £55.00 or £49.50 for Subscribers.



### Zwischenzug!

Natasha Regan & Matt Ball,

280 pages, paperback

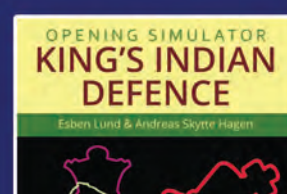
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Another popular Chessable course has been turned into a high-quality book and this one is by WIM Natasha Regan and St Albans' Matt Ball. As the authors are fully aware, intermediate moves or zwischenzugs crop up in all manner of positions and can radical alter the assessment of a line. They categorise the various types of zwischenzug, while showing how best to spot the possibility of them occurring in your own games. As well as presenting a large number of impressive and instructive examples, *Zwischenzug!* is also an enjoyable read and even introduces the concept of a 'Dingtermeezo!'. It's also possible to purchase *Zwischenzug!* in hardback format, retailing at £30.95 or £27.85 for Subscribers.

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