

Volume 88 No. 7 October 2023 £5.95

www.chess.co.uk

Chess

WORLDLY WINNER

**AN UNDER THE WEATHER MAGNUS CARLSEN
DEFEATS PRAGGNANANDHAA TO WIN THE
FIDE WORLD CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME**

ISSN 0964-6221



Teenage Vampires Run Riot - Tim Wall reports from a norm-laden Northumbria



A Life of Chess Organisation - Stewart Reuben chronicles his early chess career



60 Seconds with Nikita Vitiugov - We learn a little about the new English no.1

NEW IN CHESS BOOKS



Magnus Carlsen & David Howell Explain the Grind

Magnus Carlsen and David Howell show how to win a seemingly equal chess position. Their first book tells you how to keep a game alive, keep posing problems, recognize the first small mistakes, and grind your opponent down until he cracks.

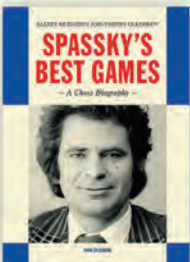
The book is converted from a popular Chessable course. The lively conversations of the two friends translate very well into a highly instructive chess manual.



Tales of a Bygone Chess Era

Genna Sosonko

'Each new story of Genna Sosonko is the preservation of grains of our chess life', says Garry Kasparov. No writer can tell you more about legends such as Tal, Korchnoi or Bronstein and personalities such as Chepukaitis or Nikolaev. This 840-page hardcover edition is a collection of the portraits Sosonko wrote for New In Chess, plus 100 pages of stories published elsewhere. A must-have for every chess aficionado.



Spassky's Best Games – A Chess Biography

Alexey Bezgodov & Dmitry Oleinikov

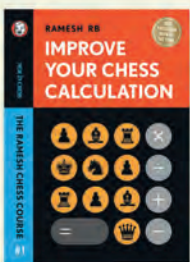
World Champion Boris Spassky was a chess genius and a perfect gentleman, gracious in defeat after he lost his title to Bobby Fischer in 1972. This wonderful new biography by Alexey Bezgodov and Dmitry Oleinikov contains 61 of his best games and a biographical sketch of 140 pages.



A White Repertoire vs the Open Sicilian

Ivan Saric

The Open Sicilian is not a phonebook crammed with computer lines, but a textbook full of 21st-century chess wisdom. GM Ivan Saric covers the entire range of Sicilians, from obscure sidelines to the main lines: the Najdorf, the Taimanov, the Rauzer, the Kan, the Sveshnikov and the various Dragons. His approach is very ambitious, and he supports his claims with deep analysis and illuminating and elaborate verbal explanation.



Chess.com 2022 Book of the Year

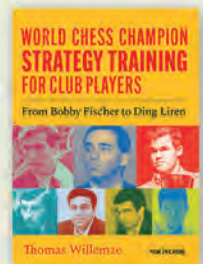
Ramesh RB

Coach Ramesh has won the 2022 *Chess.com Book of the Year Award*, in a vote with thousands of chess players. It is well deserved. But beware! It is a tough book that will require some real effort. Are you up for the challenge?

"An absolute divine masterpiece" – *Andras Toth*

100 Strategy Lessons from the World Champions – Thomas Willemze

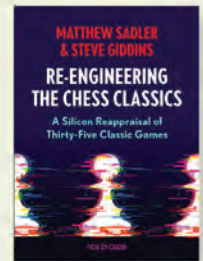
This book offers you 100 strategic exercises from the games of the best of the best, the World Champions from Bobby Fischer to Ding Liren. IM Thomas Willemze, one of the best chess improvement authors around, will show you foundational techniques such as improving your worst-placed. Solving these exercises will help every ambitious club player better understand how to make and execute plans.



New Insights in Classic Games

Matthew Sadler & Steve Giddins

Matthew Sadler and Steve Giddins used the collective power of Leela, Komodo, and Stockfish to re-engineer classic games of fan favourites such as Fischer, Spassky, Larsen, and Capablanca. With these modern engines, the authors have generated dozens of new insights and positional chess lessons that will help every club player and expert to improve their game.



Tribute to the Fifth World Champion

Jan Timman

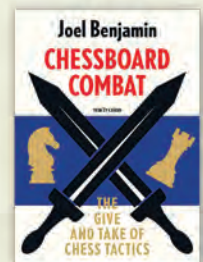
The first outstanding collection of games of this 'efficient, man-eating tiger', as the American master William Napier once called Euwe, World Champion from 1935 until 1937. It offers eighty of his games annotated by Jan Timman, who knew Euwe very well. Timman made many discoveries in Euwe's most famous games but has also unearthed several lesser-known brilliancies.



The Give and Take of Chess Tactics

Joel Benjamin

A chess tactics manual with a twist. Usually, tactics training involves puzzles with a clear solution. White wins brilliantly, or Black wins. But in real life, chess is messy. Sometimes tactics work, and sometimes they don't. That's why former US Champion Joel Benjamin tells the complete story of attack, defence, and counterattack!



Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers

Peter Giannatos

The perfect first chess workbook for adult improvers and other beginners. Coaches might find the book, with 738 exercises, very useful as well. It features a complete set of fundamental tactics and checkmate patterns. A treasure trove of chess knowledge and enough lessons to keep you busy for a year!



Chess

Founding Editor: B.H. Wood, OBE. M.Sc †
Executive Editor: Malcolm Pein
Editors: Richard Palliser, Matt Read
Associate Editor: John Saunders
Advertising: Tao Bhokanandh

Chess Magazine (ISSN 0964-6221) is published by:
Chess & Bridge Ltd, 44 Baker St, London, W1U 7RT
Tel: 020 7486 7015 (9:30am - 5pm Monday to Friday)
Email: info@chess.co.uk, Website: www.chess.co.uk

Twitter: @CHESS_Magazine
Twitter: @TelegraphChess - Malcolm Pein
Twitter: @chessandbridge

Subscription Rates:

United Kingdom

1 year (12 issues)	£50
2 year (24 issues)	£90
3 year (36 issues)	£125

Europe

1 year (12 issues)	£60
2 year (24 issues)	£115
3 year (36 issues)	£165

Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues)	£75
2 year (24 issues)	£145
3 year (36 issues)	£210

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors. Contributions to the magazine will be published at the Editors' discretion and may be shortened if space is limited.

No parts of this publication may be reproduced without the prior express permission of the publishers.

All rights reserved. © 2023

FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read
Cover image: FIDE/Stev Bonhage

US & Canadian Readers – You can contact us via our American branch – Chess4Less based in West Palm Beach, FL. Call toll-free on 1-877 89CHESS (24377). You can even order Subscriber Special Offers online via www.chess4less.com

Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
A Full Haul	8
Magnus Carlsen finally won a FIDE World Cup as Praggnanandhaa shone	
Teenage Vampires Run Riot In Newcastle	16
Tim Wall reports from a norm-laden Northumbria Masters	
How Good Is Your Chess?	22
Daniel King presents the game of the FIDE World Cup	
60 Seconds With... Nikita Vitiugov	25
We discover a little about the new English number one	
Find the Winning Moves	26
Can you do as well as the players in Baku and Leicester?	
The Joy of Watching Humingbirds Fly	30
Eduardo Bermúdez Barrera revisits Bent Larsen's creativity	
A Life of Chess	33
Pioneer organiser Stewart Reuben chronicles his early chess career	
Jewels Remain Still Gleaming	36
Danny Rosenbaum tells the story of Frederick Hamilton-Russell	
Never Mind The Grandmasters...	38
Carl rediscovered his love for correspondence chess with a wild Tromp	
Euwe's Return to Weston	40
Brian Gosling explores Max Euwe's success at Weston in 1926	
Politika Again!	44
Peter Hornsby reports from the 2023 World Chess League.Live	
Forthcoming Events	45
Where will you be playing this autumnal month?	
How to Beat a Grandmaster	46
Paul Littlewood reveals that even grandmasters can have a bad day	
Home News	47
Yichen Han and Keith Arkell have been in excellent form of late	
Readers' Letters	49
Correspondence relating to misreading the time and the front cover	
Overseas News	50
Aleksandra Goryachkina was a slightly fortuitous winner in Baku	
Solutions	54
This Month's New Releases	55
Sean Marsh examines two new publications from Everyman Chess	
Saunders on Chess	58
John has been busy researching some important British simuls	

Photo credits: Laura Beduz/RAC Library (p.36) Paul Charlton (pp.16-20), CHESS Magazine Archive (pp.31-32, 35-36, 41, 46), Maria Emelianova/Chess.com (pp.9, 50), FIDE/Stev Bonhage (pp.1, 6, 14-15), FIDE/Niki Riga (p.22), FIDE/Anna Shtourman (pp.4, 7-8, 10-12), Crystal Fuller/STLCSC (p.52), Janet Lee (p.42), Brendan O'Gorman (pp.33, 47-48), PraggChess (p.5, top), Tata Steel India/Vivek Sohani (p.52), John Upham (p.25).

Teenage Vampires Run Riot in Northumbria

Tim Wall reports from what became a norm-laden Northumbria Masters

What follows is a no-holds-barred account of the 2023 Northumbria Masters. It tells the tall tale of how an event miraculously took place against all the odds, and yet became arguably the most successful UK congress of the year to date. A record seven title norms were scored by a posse of teenage vampires – equal to the rest of the country's congresses this year put together.

The Organiser's Tale

In the 12 months since last year's Northumbria Masters, we've battled with the difficulties of finding an affordable venue. First of all, we lost our 2022 venue. Participants enjoyed playing in the modern, well-equipped Newcastle high school's sports hall last year. But then the school, managed under a public-private partnership financing scheme, didn't wish to invite us again – possibly due to unspecified business reasons.

So we found out in December 2022 that we had to find a new venue. We turned to a place I know well, the Forest Hall Social Club. It's like a big friendly community centre, catering for everyone from Newcastle United football fans to dancers and bingo players.

The Social Club had taken in Forest Hall Chess Club in summer 2020 (a pandemic forced move), and now for the Northumbria Masters, they offered us the use of their spacious concert hall and function room for the whole August Bank Holiday weekend – with capacity for 200 players. There was just one snag: we'd have to share the venue periodically with Pensioners' Line Dancing (Thursday evening), the Skinny Pigs Exercise Class (Friday and Monday mornings), Saturday night Live Music and Karaoke, and Sunday lunchtime Bingo.

Our nine rounds could take place uninterrupted (more or less), except for the fact that we'd have to take down all the chess sets and clocks between several of the rounds. (We managed this, thanks to a small army of heroic volunteers.)

The next challenge was to secure the funding. Most of the players in the Northumbria Masters travel to the North East for the congress, and so we aim to subsidise the entry fees and £6,000 prize fund to attract players to come. This we are able to



North of Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll makes the first move for Keith Arkell against Charlie Storey.

do, thanks to various pots of money we collect from small-to-medium level sponsors: the ECF's international budget, the Chess Trust, the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust, Northumberland Chess Association, the Northumbria Junior Chess Association and a rather lovely anonymous sponsor, who always answers my annual SOS call with a 'Monkey' or more from his own pocket.

Thanks, Eric Schiller!

The next challenge to solve was how to create title norm opportunities, and this was something that we managed to resolve – for some tournaments spectacularly, but not, sadly, fully satisfactorily for the Masters Swiss tournament. The closed tournaments for GM and IM title norm seekers were organised on the Schiller system, which is named after the late American chess impresario Eric Schiller. (Eric's other, less impressive claim to fame is that his book *Unorthodox Chess Openings* was once slated in *Kingpin* by Tony Miles with the immortal review: "Utter crap.")

The Schiller team tournament format, with four teams of three players each, is anything but crap, however – I would go as far as to say it's a work of genius. As participants play only the players from the other teams, you avoid dead rubber games between GMs, for example, and the norm seekers in one team don't have to knock each other out of contention.

Player recruitment for the Schiller tournaments went well, but a little stressfully at times. There are only a limited number of GMs and IMs available in the UK for these tournaments (and hardly any WGMs if you are putting together a tournament for women's title norms). Recruiting players from outside the UK post-Brexit can be problematic and more expensive.

Hitting the 'Goldilocks' average

I may not have learned much in organising title norm tournaments on and off since the 1990s, but one thing I do know is that there is a 'sweet spot' to hit for average ratings, and achieving this gives you a much better chance



Some of Schiller players, including Rajat Makkar (left) and Pengxiang Zhang in the second row.

of creating realistic norm opportunities. For IM events, the best rating average for norm seekers' opponents is 2283.5+, as this means the required score is an achievable $6\frac{1}{2}/9$ ('+4'). For a GM norm, it's 2433.5, which again means a required score of $6\frac{1}{2}/9$. Getting this 'Goldilocks' rating average (plus the right balance of nationalities) is the organiser's biggest task, along with ensuring that your players stay committed to playing – as any withdrawals, particularly last-minute ones, create huge headaches.

We had the stroke of luck that Chinese GM Pengxiang Zhang (2554) was in the UK to coach his student, a pupil at Millfield School in Somerset, and this meant he could play in the GM event while mentoring his young charge playing in the Challengers – without it eating too much into our budget.

Where have all the 2200s gone?

Getting norm opportunities in the Masters Swiss was more problematic, however, as there are a whole cohort of mid-ranking 2200–2400 players for international tournaments who have increasingly gone missing from UK events.

Why is this? Firstly, we aren't creating enough strong players in this country, perhaps due to longstanding issues with a fragmented coaching structure and a lack of well-funded strong open tournaments. Second, older players are staying away from FIDE-rated tournaments due to the massive under-rating of juniors, and third – connected to the two others, is that there aren't generally enough FIDE-rated games played in England. And of course, there's been that little problem of no government funding...

Too many teenage vampires?

Post-pandemic, this has meant that FIDE-rated open tournaments such as Hastings, Scarborough and Cambridge have been

dominated by hordes of under 2000-rated teenage vampires, ready to drain the life blood (and rating points) out of all older players – and making title norms much more difficult to achieve.

We decided to try to solve the 'teenage vampires' problem by restricting the Masters Swiss to players with a FIDE rating of 2000+, and increasing the prize money for the Challengers (Under-2000 FIDE). This, we hoped, would create chances for title norms and persuade juniors to play in the Challengers. Unfortunately, it didn't quite work, as the missing 2200–2400 older players didn't turn up, and half the under-2000 teenage vampires stayed at home rather than play other under-2000 teenage vampires (which, ironically, they would have done if the Masters Swiss had been an Open).

Answers on a postcard, please!

What the answer to this conundrum is, I don't quite know. Part of it seems to be for FIDE to dollop out some free rating points to teenage vampires (let's face it, they're going to take them anyway), and for the ECF to introduce a single affordable membership category so everyone can play FIDE-rated games. But I think we're also going to have more 2000+ and 2200+ Swiss tournaments for a while, before many norms are achieved in English 'open' tournaments.

The Players' Tale

So much for the organising problems, you may say: what about the players? How did it all turn out? The answer is: pretty well, actually.

In the closed GM and IM tournaments, the teenage vampires ran riot. The standout performance was by Rajat Makkar, a 16-year-old pupil at Hampton School, London. Makkar played enterprising, attacking chess throughout, scoring an impressive $7\frac{1}{2}/9$ in the GM Schiller tournament – a point above

the GM norm. As he is still an FM, Makkar also scored an IM norm.

Heading up the IM tournament was 15-year-old Krzysztof Raczek (Poland) with $7\frac{1}{2}/9$, a point over the IM norm. IM norms were also scored by Borna Derakhshani (21, England), Tanmay Chopra (19, Harrow), Edvin Trost (16, Sweden) and Freddy Waldhausen Gordon (13, Scotland). Thanks to sponsorship from former ECF publicity officer Mark Jordan, the norm achievers also shared a prize pool of £600.

The Masters (2000+ FIDE) with 28 players was won jointly by GMs Danny Gormally (Alnwick) and Gudmundur Kjartansson (Iceland) on 7/9, followed by: 3 Steven Jones (Basingstoke) $6\frac{1}{2}$; 4 Keith Arkell (Paignton) 6. With the lack of 2200+ players, it was not a big surprise that even Steven Jones's excellent performance was insufficient for an IM norm. (In fact, the Masters Swiss would have needed a minimum of 40 players to qualify for a so-called 'Super Swiss' title norm, according to a new FIDE rule. In any title application, one norm must now be in a 'Super Swiss' of at least 40 players.)

The Challengers (Under-2000 FIDE) with 47 players was won by Owen Crawford (Derby) on 7/9, followed by Ran Song (China), Jack Liu (Millfield School), and Edmond Andal (Philippines) on $6\frac{1}{2}$. The Major (Under-1800 FIDE) with 27 players was won by Joel McBeath (Ashton) on $6\frac{1}{2}/9$, while the Minor (Under-1600 FIDE) with 25 players was won by Lea Tang (Hong Kong) on 7/9. The Foundation (Under-1400 ECF) with 15 players was won by Aaron Gifford (Newcastle) on $7\frac{1}{2}/10$.

The congress was superbly controlled by IA Alan Atkinson, FA Paul McKeown and FA Satish Gaekwad, who managed a range of tournaments in our quick-change venue with an impressive patience and fortitude.

The Northumbria Masters Congress's seven norms equals the total norms scored in other UK events so far this year:

Northumbria Norms 2023:

- 1 GM - FM Rajat Makkar (FRA)
- 2 IM - FM Rajat Makkar (FRA)
- 3 IM - FM Edvin Trost (SWE)
- 4 IM - FM Tanmay Chopra (IND)
- 5 IM - FM Krzysztof Raczek (POL)
- 6 IM - FM Borna Derakhshani (ENG)
- 7 IM - FM Freddy Waldhausen Gordon (SCO)

Other UK Norms 2023:

- 1 GM - IM Peter Roberson (4NCL)
- 2 GM - IM Harry Grieve (4NCL)
- 3 IM - FM James Moreby (4NCL)
- 4 GM - IM Ameet Ghazi (Southend)
- 5 GM - IM Ameet Ghazi (Wood Green Invitational)
- 6 IM - FM Steven Jones (British Ch.)
- 7 IM - FM Aaravamudhan Balaji (Psydon Masters)

We should now enjoy some of the best and most dramatic chess from the two Schiller norm events.

J.Jackson-T.Chopra Schiller GM, Round 2



Tanmay Chopra got on the winning track thanks to a slice of luck against James Jackson. Here he played the direct:

38...♗b6+?!

A safety-first move such as 38...h6! would leave Black winning, as there is nothing the clump of white pieces on the queenside can do. If 39 ♖h1 ♗xe5 40 ♗d4 ♗xd4 41 ♗xd4 f6 and the a-pawn is set to roll down the board.

39 ♗d4 ♗xd4?

Missing a tactical counter-shot. 39...♗xe5 would still give Black some advantage, and if 40 ♖h1 ♗c5.

40 ♗xd4??

The queen sacrifice 40 ♗c8+ ♗f8 41 ♗xf8+! would force a drawn endgame after 41...♖xf8 42 ♗a3+ ♖e8 43 ♗xb6.

40...♗xb2 0-1

The simple win, but 40...♗g6! is even crisper, when White can't prevent mate and/or a massive loss of material.

A.Dunnington-J.Raczek Schiller IM, Round 1



Krzysztof Raczek's light-square blockade was working well against Angus Dunnington, but the Yorkshire-born Scottish IM was still in the game. Until this occurred.

26...♗xe5 27 dxe5?

27 fxe5 was the better recapture, keeping

the d-file closed at the expense of blocking in the dark-squared bishop even more. Now Raczek manages to invade down the d- and a-files.

27...♗xe4 28 ♗xe4 ♗d8 29 ♗a4 ♗d2!

Activity is key.

30 ♗e2 ♗d7 31 ♗xc4 ♗d8 32 ♗b4 ♗c7 33 ♗e1?

Now the black queen invades around the edges. 33 a6 b6 34 ♗d4 was a better try, but after 34...♗xe2+ 35 ♗xe2 ♗d5 Black is in control.

33...♗xe2+ 34 ♗xe2 ♗xa5 35 ♗xb7 ♗a1 36 ♗b4 ♗d1 37 ♗e4 h4! 0-1

The last straw. White can't defend against ...♗g3.

A.Burnett-F.Waldhausen Gordon Schiller IM, Round 3 *Sicilian Pelikan*

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 e5 6 ♗db5 d6 7 ♗d5 ♗xd5 8 exd5 ♗b8 9 a4 ♗e7 10 ♗e2 0-0 11 0-0 f5 12 f4 ♗f6 13 ♖h1 ♗a6

This razor-sharp Sicilian battleground tested by Carlsen and Caruana is perhaps not the ideal way to play against a teenage vampire out for blood. Here Freddy Waldhausen Gordon manages to centralise his pieces for a kingside onslaught, while Burnett is caught napping.

14 c4

14 ♗e3 seems a more sensible way for White, aiming for a queenside breakthrough while holding up Black's kingside play.

14...♗c5 15 fxe5?! ♗xe5



16 ♗a3?!

White needs to challenge the bishop on e5 before it does serious damage on the kingside, so 16 ♗f4 was called for.

16...♗e4

16...f4! was perhaps even stronger, cementing Black's central dominance.

17 ♗d4 ♗f6 18 ♗d3

An awkward way to defend the knight on d4 and 18 ♗e6 ♗xe6 19 dxe6 ♗xe6 would at least have swapped off pieces.

18...♗d7

18...♗c5 19 ♗d2 ♗d7 20 b3 ♗ae8 was another option.

19 ♗e3 f4 20 g3?

It was the last chance for 20 ♗e6.



13-year-old Freddy Waldhausen Gordon attacked with aplomb and made an IM norm.



20...♗xg3+! 0-1

Freddy's attack crashes through, so Andy Burnett resigned. 21 hxg3 ♗h6+ 22 ♖g1 fxe3 23 ♗e1 ♗g6 24 ♖g2 ♗f2+! is curtains.

M.Wadsworth-R.Makkar Schiller GM, Round 2 *Semi-Slav Defence*

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 ♗c3 e6 5 ♗d3

One of the many ways in the Semi-Slav for White to create imbalance, by tempting Black to exchange on c4 in return for a hit on the white queen with the usual ...b5 advance. 5 g3 is another trendy idea, sacrificing the c4-pawn for long-term pressure along the g2-a8 diagonal.

5...dxc4 6 ♗xc4 b5 7 ♗d3 ♗b7

Sam Shankland recommends 7...a6 here. By defending b5, Black aims to play an immediate ...c5 push. Then 8 ♗g5 c5 9 ♗xf6 gxf6 10 d5 ♗b7 11 e4 ♗d7 12 ♗d1 ♗c7 13 ♗e2 0-0-0 14 0-0 ♗g8! is one of Shankland's intended lines, showing how Black can embrace the chaos and go for opposite-side castling attacks.

8 e4 b4

Displacing White's knight, but this advance makes Black's queenside less harmonious.

9 ♖a4 ♜bd7



10 ♗e3

Trying to restrain or prevent Black's natural ...c5 break. 10 ♗g5 instead, pressuring the knight on f6 and nullifying the pressure on White's centre, tends to work out better for White here: for example, 10...♞a5 11 b3 c5 12 ♗xf6 gxf6 13 ♗e2 0-0-0 14 0-0 and Black's king was a little shakier in Gukesh-Rakotomaharo, FIDE Grand Swiss, Riga 2021.

10...♞a5 11 b3 ♜d8 12 ♜c1 ♗e7 13 e5

Rather committal. But then, when you're going for a GM norm in a tough field, you have to hit the attack button and identify those players who you are going to try to beat. Unfortunately Matthew Wadsworth picked the wrong day to attack Rajat Makkar. If White plays instead the calm 13 ♞c2 then 13...0-0 14 ♗d3 h6 15 0-0 ♜c8 16 ♜d2 ♗a6 17 ♜c4 ♗xc4 18 ♗xc4 c5! should be fine for Black (the ...c5 break again!).

13...♗d5 14 ♗g5 0-0

AIM (Artificial Intelligence Master) Stockfish at first wants to play the crazy 14...♗xe5!? here, but then after 15 dx5 ♜c3 16 ♞e3 ♜xa4 17 ♗xe7 (not 17 bxa4? b3+ 18 ♜d2 b2 19 ♜d1 ♜xd2 20 ♞xd2 ♗b4 and wins for Black) 17...♗xe7 18 bxa4 b3+ 19 ♜d2 ♜d5 the computer realises it's not so great for Black after the super-cool white king walk: 20 ♞c3 ♜xe5+ 21 ♜d1 bxa2 22 ♜c2! and White's extra piece starts to have an effect.

15 ♗xe7 ♜xe7

So far, all's fine for White.

16 ♜g5?

16 ♞e4 was right.

16...♜g6 17 ♞e3? c5!



Rajat Makkar made a GM norm with a round to spare then defeated a strong Chinese GM!

The thematic break. White's king is classically caught in the centre.

18 dxc5 ♜dx5 19 ♗e2 ♗xg2 20 ♜g1 ♗c6 21 f4 ♜d7 22 ♜xe6

A desperate throw of the dice.

22...fxe6 23 ♞xe6+ ♗h8 24 ♜xg6 ♗xa4 25 ♜g5 ♜de8 26 ♞d6 ♗b5 27 ♜c2 ♗xe2 28 c6

A last swindling try, but...

28...♞xg5 29 ♞xf8+ ♜xf8 0-1

The next game was played in the last round, after Rajat Makkar had already secured a GM norm. Without any pressure, he therefore goes all-out to attack against the tournament's top-rated player.

R.Makkar-Zhang Pengxiang

Schiller GM, Round 9

Reti Opening

1 ♜f3 ♜f6 2 c4 c6 3 g3 d5 4 ♗g2 dxc4 5 0-0 e6 6 ♜a3 b5 7 d3!?

One of two possible pawn sacrifices here, the other being 7 b3.

7...cxd3 8 ♜e5 ♜d5

8...♗xa3 was tried here more successfully. 9 ♜xd3 ♗e7 10 e4 ♜b6 11 ♗e3 b4 12 ♜c2 ♗a6!?

More or less forcing Makkar to sacrifice the exchange, which, naturally, he is happy to do. 13 ♜cxb4 ♗xb4 14 ♜xb4 ♗xf1 15 ♞xf1 0-0 16 ♜c1 (See diagram at top of next column)

How much compensation does White have for the exchange here? Engines seem to say not quite enough, but playing this for Black in a practical game is a different matter. Black's problem is typically how to give back the c-pawn and get developed, without allowing White a raging initiative.



16...♞d7 17 a4 ♞b7 18 a5 ♜6d7 19 ♞c4 ♜c8 20 f4

At some point, White has to try to increase the pressure on Black's position, but this creates some counter-chances for GM Zhang.

20...♞c7 21 ♞a2 ♞d6 22 ♞a4 e5 23 ♗h3?!

Now that ...e5 has been played, 23 ♞b3 could be played to eye up the sensitive f7 point. Chances would be about level, but in a real OTB game, who knows?

23...♜d8 24 ♜d1 ♞c7?!

Probably the wrong retreat. Keeping an eye on the kingside with 24...♞e7 was better: 25 ♜d3 exf4 26 gxf4 ♜a6 and Black is starting to break free on the queenside, while White's kingside now looks a bit loose.

25 ♗g2?!

25 ♜d3, keeping the pressure on e5, would maintain the balance.

25...♜f8 26 ♜c1 exf4 27 gxf4 ♜e6 28 e5



And here was the critical moment for Zhang to break out.

28...c5?!

28...g5! is always difficult to see – after defending carefully – but it would have turned the tables on White's king: 29 ♜g1 gxf4 30 ♗h1+ ♗h8 31 ♗f2 ♜d7 would have covered Black's king and allowed him to exploit the extra exchange.

29 ♗g4?!

29 ♗h1! was a more accurate way to bring the king's bishop back to the g2-a8 diagonal.

29...a6

There was a second chance to play 29...g5, and now Makkar starts to get on top.

30 ♗f3 ♞a7 31 ♜d5

The knight on d5 gives White control.
31...♖d7 32 ♖e4 ♜d4 33 ♙xd4 cxd4 34 f5



Once the e- and f-pawns start rolling, Black's in trouble.

34...♖e8 35 e6 fxe6 36 fxe6 ♖g6+

Zhang seeks solace in an endgame, but the tactics don't quite work for Black.

37 ♖xg6 hxg6 38 e7 ♜e8 39 ♙g4 ♜d7 40 ♙e6+ ♜h7 41 ♙f7 ♜xe7 42 ♜xe7 ♜e5 43 ♙g8+ ♜h6 44 ♜d5 d3 45 ♜d1 ♜d7 46 ♜e3 ♜d4 47 b3 ♜e4 48 ♜c4 ♜e2+ 49 ♜g3 1-0

An impressive end to the tournament for Rajat Makkar.



Danny Gormally in action nearest the camera as Black against Tom Villiers en route to first equal.

D.Gormally-C.Storey

Northumbria Masters, Round 2

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♙b5 ♜f6

What, no Sniper? Charlie Storey has become Captain Sensible these days, wheeling out the Berlin against his North East nemesis.

4 d3 d6 5 c3 ♙e7 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♜e1 a6 8 ♙a4 b5 9 ♙b3 ♜a5 10 ♙c2 c5 11 ♜bd2 ♜c6 12 ♜f1 ♖c7 13 ♜g3 ♜e8 14 h3 ♙f8 15 ♙g5 ♜d7 16 d4 h6 17 ♙e3 ♜b6



Now Gormally fixes the pawn structure (but doesn't close the position completely). The same approach was favoured by Bobby Fischer in similar Ruy Lopez positions.

18 dxc5!? dxc5 19 ♜h2 ♜c4 20 ♙c1 ♙e6 21 ♜g4 ♜ed8 22 ♖f3

The storm clouds are gathering. Is Charlie's Berlin about to experience its Downfall?

22...♙e7 23 ♜f5 ♙g5 24 ♖g3 ♙xf5



Icelandic GM Gudmundur Kjartansson tied for first with Gormally in the Over-2000 Masters Swiss.

25 exf5 ♙f4 26 ♙xf4 exf4 27 ♜xh6+ ♜f8 28 ♖h4 f6 29 ♜g4 ♙g8 30 ♜e6 ♜xb2 31 ♜ae1 ♜c4



Will Black's defences hold out?

32 ♜xf6+!

No! It's Checkpoint, Charlie!

32...gxf6 33 ♜xc6!

The Berlin Wall collapses.

33...♖h7

If 33...♖xc6 34 ♜e7 is goodnight Vienna as well.

34 ♖xf6 ♜f8 35 ♖g5+ 1-0

The Grandmaster of Alnwick triumphs.



New from Quality Chess!

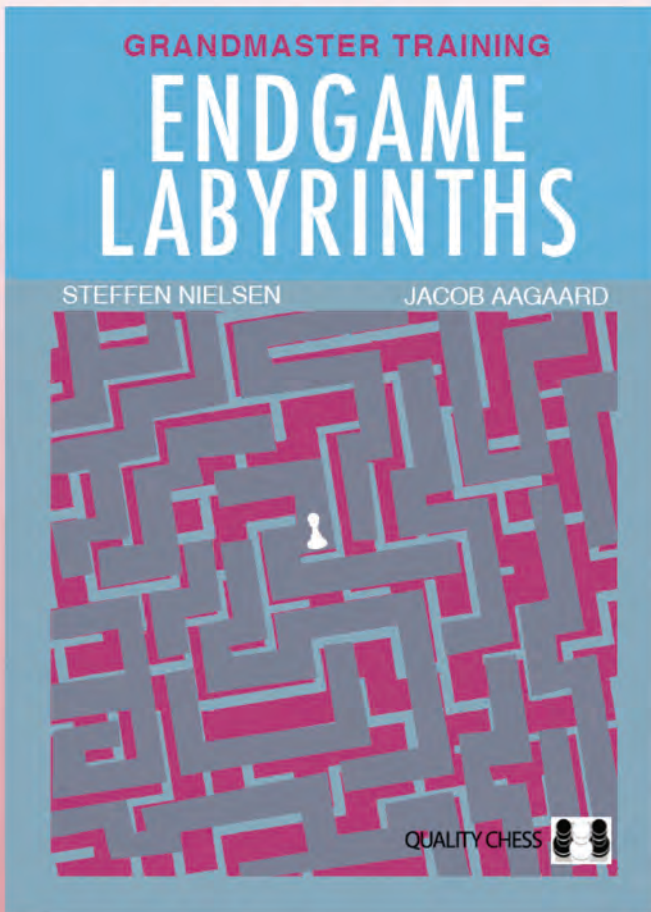
Endgame Labyrinths

by Steffen Nielsen
& Jacob Aagaard

Endgame Labyrinths presents the reader with 1002 challenging studies, carefully selected and truncated to enhance their usefulness for practical players. It took years of extensive selection, analysis, reselection, reanalysis and refining to produce the study book for the practical player with the most value ever.

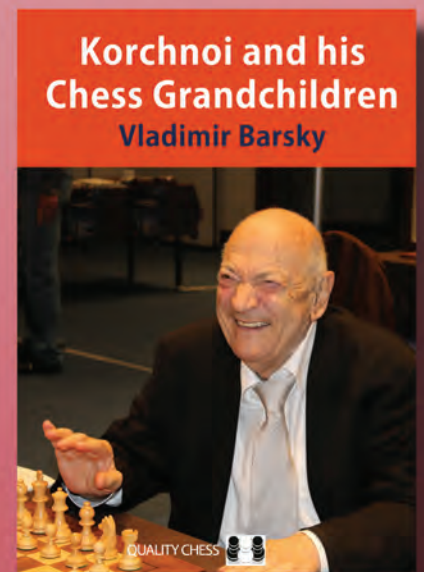
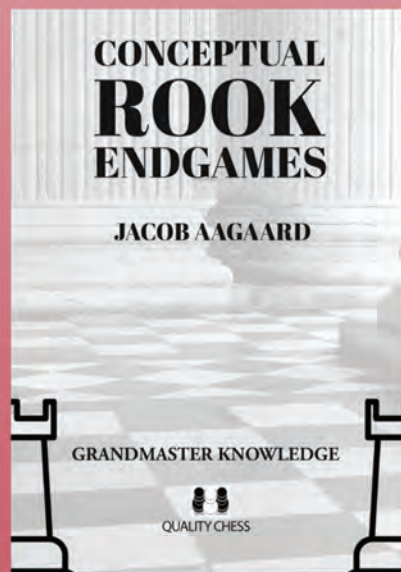
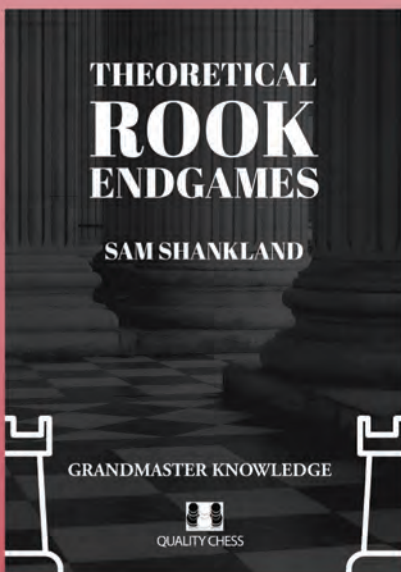
Steffen Nielsen is the World Champion in endgame composition, as well as a strong club player who understands the difficulties practical players face over the board.

Jacob Aagaard is the leading chess writer and trainer of his generation. His students have played successfully at all levels and continue to do so. His books are used all over the world, by top players and amateurs alike.



Coming soon!

Now in paperback!



Quality Chess books are available from

QUALITYCHESS.CO.UK

The London Chess Centre and other specialist chess retailers



The whole game was played with precision and vigour, but in particular the sequence of moves culminating in 15...e3 displayed great imagination.

Now add up your points:

0-18	Unlucky
19-37	Average Club Player
38-46	Strong Club Player
47-53	FIDE Master
54-63	International Master
64-75	Grandmaster

*Ed. – If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact Daniel directly through his website www.danielking.biz. Do check out his online courses at Chessable.com, with one also available in book format at *Chess & Bridge* as King's Kalashnikov Sicilian.*



60 Seconds with... Nikita Vitiugov



Born: 4th February 1987, Leningrad.

Place of residence: Here and there.

Occupation: Chessplayer.

Enjoyable? A long walk with a friend.

And home life? Married, with a 2-year-old son and a cat.

But sometimes good to escape to: The zoo.

Sports played or followed: Just football.

A favourite novel? There are many, including *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy and *The Golovlyov Family* by Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin.

Piece of music? Anything classical.

Film or TV series? Recently I've enjoyed the BBC series *Cormoran Strike* a lot.

What's the best thing about playing chess? You're in charge of your actions.

And the worst? I liked chess better without engines or at least when they were weaker.

Your best move? My most elegant move was probably 30 ♖e8+! against Krishnan Sasikiran.

N. Vitiugov-K. Sasikiran Qatar Masters, Doha 2015



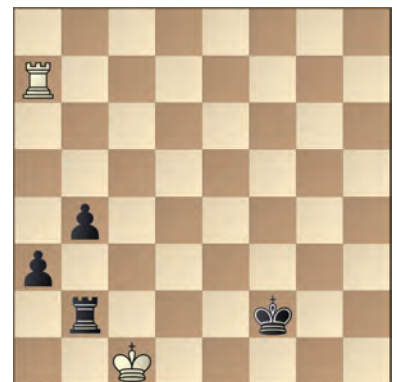
30 ♖e8+! ♜xe8 31 ♜xd8 ♜f7 32 ♜d6 g5
33 b3 ♜e8 34 ♜b6 ♜e7 35 ♜d4 ♜e6
36 ♜d7 ♜e7 37 ♜d5 ♜e8 38 a4 ♜c6
39 ♜d6 ♜c1+ 40 ♜f2 ♜f7



41 e5 ♜c2+ 42 ♜g3 1-0

But less memorable than your worst move? 76...♗e2?? against Evgeny Vorobiov. Blundering into stalemate still remains painful. It was so unnecessary!

E. Vorobiov-N. Vitiugov Aeroflot Open, Moscow 2007



76...♗e2?? 77 ♜xa3! ½-½

And a highly memorable opponent? All the true world champions are special.

Favourite game of all time? Carlsen-Radjabov, London Candidates 2013. I am still wondering, what if... [Ed. – See this month's PGN download to be reminded how Magnus escaped.]

The best three chess books: The ones which help you.

Is FIDE doing a good job? One can't make mistakes doing nothing.

Or your National Federation? I've only just joined the ECF!

Any advice for either? Be tolerant over criticism.

Can chess make one happy? Yes, it can, although people tend to mix up happiness with excitement or the joy of victory.

A tip please for the club player: It's simple: enjoy playing chess!



FRITZTRAINER



Three stars from India!

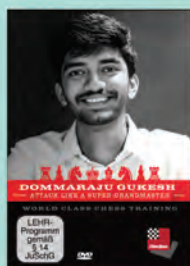
Super Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi teaches you how to “Master Advanced Tactics”. Dommaraju Gukesh takes your play to a higher level in “Attack like a Super Grandmaster”. And Leon Luke Mendonca shows the strategic ideas and the attacking potential of the Keymer Variation 1.Nf3 d5 2.e3!



Vidit Gujrathi:
Master advanced Tactics and Calculations
Most chess players master simple tactics, but what about complicated tactical intricacies? In a dialogue with Sagar Sah, Indian Super Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi

demonstrates how the world's best players approach difficult tactics and how they arrive at the right solutions. Blindfolded! After this course, you might be able to do it too.
Video playing time: 5 hours 26 minutes.
Additional database with 95 positions.

39.90 €



Dommaraju Gukesh:
Attack like a Super Grandmaster
Dommaraju Gukesh is perhaps the most talented of the younger generation of players and is considered by many to be a future world champion. With an Elo rating of 2730,

the 16-year-old is already among the top 20 in the world. In this interactive training course, the Super Grandmaster uses his own games to show how to dismantle your opponent's position. You will learn not only how to attack, but also how to prepare an attack.

Video playing time: over 4 hours.

39.90 €



Luke Leon Mendonca:
The Keymer Variation: 1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 - An easy-to-learn but venomous weapon*
“People did not take 1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 too seriously until recently, when online chess started becoming popular due to the pandemic and this

opening was used frequently. I discovered how venomous this white choice was when I was trying to find a way to play against it with Black, and to my surprise this was not easy!

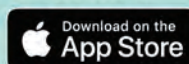
Vincent Keymer uses the starting moves 1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 in a huge percentage of his games, getting great positions and results with them. Avoiding mainstream theory, White's opening is a mix of positional and attacking elements depending on what system the opponent chooses. On each move both sides have a variety of options. I think most club-level players would not know how to effectively counter this opening as Black.”

In this video course, you'll learn the key concepts and strategies needed to add this fantastic choice for White to your repertoire - an easy-to-learn and yet venomous weapon that will make your opening play more versatile. Featured are the ins-and-outs of the possible setups Black can choose. Moreover, this course enables you to practice the freshly acquired repertoire with the ChessBase Opening Trainer: drilling the opening moves, guessing how a position arose or just replaying the moves in your desired speed further reveal the ideas this opening has to offer. Start your journey now!

34.90 €

*Available in September 2023

Also available at the AppStore:



Scan QR code for FritzTrainer advisor at the ChessBase Shop:





Overseas News

AZERBAIJAN – Alongside the FIDE World Cup in Baku (July 30 - August 24), the FIDE Women's World Cup took place and was most notable for the performance of Nurgul Salimova. The 20-year-old Bulgarian IM was only the 29th seed of the 103 participants, but defeated South African WIM Charlize van Zyl, Polish IM Oliwia Kiolbasa and Indian WGM Mary Ann Gomes without recourse to a playoff, although it did take her until the fourth game to record a win against Indonesian IM Medina Aulia and so qualify for the quarter-finals.

N.Salimova-M.Aulia Round 4 (rapid)



27 ♖xb4!

Overloading the defence in striking fashion as it's quickly going to be mate after 27...♙xb4? 28 ♖f6+ ♗xf6 29 exf6 or 27...♗xb4? 28 ♖f6+.

27...♙c7 28 ♖f6+! ♗xf6 29 exf6 ♙xf6 30 ♖xb7 ♙g7 31 ♙h4 ♙c2 32 ♙e3

And the extra piece proved decisive.

The quarter-finals featured Anna Muzychuk eventually getting the better of Ju Wenjun's conqueror, Elisabeth Paehtz, edging home 4½-3½, while another dramatic match saw Aleksandra Goryachkina squeeze past Dronavalli Harika by that same score. Meanwhile Tan Zhongyi defeated Bella Khotenashvili 1½-½ and Salimova eliminated Russian 12th seed Polina Shuvalova 3-1 to set up a meeting with the older Muzychuk sister. There she continued her fine form, winning 3½-2½, while alongside Goryachkina knocked out Tan 1½-½. A nervy final saw two draws before Goryachkina triumphed come 2½-1½ the rapid playoff. However, Salimova might well have won the second classical game as White and especially the first rapid one, while she should certainly have drawn the second.



The FIDE Women's World Cup podium, where only the winner, Russian Aleksandra Goryachkina, looks happy after defeating Nurgul Salimova (left), with Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk (right) third.

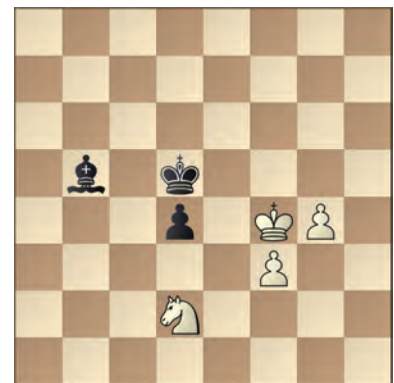
A.Goryachkina-N.Salimova Round 7 (rapid)



68...♙a6?!

Simply 68...♙xe2! 69 ♗xd4 (69 ♙xe2?? d3+ 70 ♗d2 dxc2 71 ♙xc2 ♙f3 is even winning for Black) 69...♙xd4 70 ♙xe2 ♙e4 would have left White unable to make progress and so brought about two 10+10 games.

69 ♗e1 ♙b5 70 f3+ gxf3 71 exf3+ ♗d5 72 ♗d3 ♙c4 73 ♗f2 ♙e5 74 ♗d3+ ♗d5 75 ♗e1 ♙e5 76 ♗c2 ♙d5 77 ♗e1 ♙f5 78 ♙e2 ♙c4+ 79 ♙f2 ♙e5 80 ♗g2 ♙b5 81 ♗f4 ♙c4 82 ♗h3 ♙b5 83 ♗g5 ♙c4 84 ♗e4 ♙d3 85 ♗d2 ♙b5 86 ♗g2 ♗d5 87 g4 ♙d3 88 ♙g3 ♙b5 89 ♙f4



By now the draw isn't so trivial and 89...d3? 90 ♙e3 ♙a6 91 ♗e4 followed by ♗f2 wins, so where should the bishop go?

There are four moves which stay within drawing bounds: 89...♙e8, 89...♙c6, 89...♙d3 and especially 89...♙d7. The last of those keeps the white king out of f5 and after 90 ♙g5 d3 91 f4 ♗d4 92 f5 ♙e3, 90 ♗e4 ♙b5 91 ♙f5 ♙d7+ and 90 g5 d3! 91 ♙e3 ♙e5 92 f4+ ♙f5 93 ♗f3 ♙e8 94 ♗e5 d2! (Pein) the draw should become clear.

89...♙e2? 90 ♙f5! ♙d3+

This won't save the day, but, of course, Black could hardly allow 90...d3 91 g5 ♗d4 92 g6.

91 ♙f6 ♙c2 92 g5 ♙d3 93 g6 ♙c6 94 g7 ♙h7 95 ♙f7 ♗d5 96 f4 d3 97 ♙e7 ♗d4 98 f5 ♙e3 99 ♗c4+ ♗d4 100 ♗b2 d2

101 f6 ♖c3 102 ♗d1+ ♖c2 103 ♗f2 d1 ♖ 104 ♗xd1 ♖xd1 105 f7 1-0

24-year-old Russian Goryachkina thus claimed the \$50,000 top prize, while Salimova and third-place playoff winner Anna Muzychuk qualified for the Women's Candidates, which is due to take place alongside the Open version in Toronto come April. Goryachkina is already qualified for that from the Women's Grand Prix, meaning that an extra spot will become available from the rating list.

A.Goryachkina-N.Batsiashvili Round 4 *Queen's Gambit Declined*

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 ♗c3 ♗bd7 5 ♙f4 ♙b4 6 cxd5 exd5 7 e3 ♗e4!?

An ambitious and very modern line.

8 ♖c2 g5 9 ♙e5 ♗g8 10 h3!?

A sensible novelty, keeping the knight on f3 for now.

10...♗b6?!

White quickly takes control after this, so Black should probably prefer 10...♗xe5 (10...h5?! 11 ♙h2!? g4 12 hxg4 hxg4 13 ♗d2 leaves White doing pretty well) 11 ♗xe5 ♖e7!? 12 ♙b5+ ♗f8 with somewhat more of a mess.

11 ♗d2! ♗xd2?!

Goryachkina doesn't blink and calmly bags the h-pawn after this, although by now even 11...♗f5 12 ♙d3 f6 13 ♙h2 would have left White in full control.

12 ♖xh7! ♗g6 13 ♖xd2 ♙f5?! 14 g4! ♙e4 15 f3!



Continuing to powerfully force the pace as it transpires that the king on e8 is in somewhat more trouble than the one on d2.

15...♙xf3 16 ♙b5+ c6 17 ♗af1!

The pressure down the f-file is just too strong.

17...cxb5 18 ♗xf3 ♗c4+ 19 ♖e2 ♗xe5 20 ♖h8+ ♙f8 21 ♖xe5+ ♗e6 22 ♖xd5

The Georgian GM's position remains something of a wreck and she is now material down to boot.



22...b4 23 ♖xb7 ♙e7 24 ♗d5 ♗c8 25 ♗hf1 f6



26 ♗xf6+!

Finishing in style by overloading the defence.

26...♙xf6 27 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 28 ♗xf6 ♗c2+ 29 ♖d1 ♖xf6 30 ♖e4+ ♖d8 31 ♖xc2 ♗d6 32 ♖a8+ ♖e7 33 ♖xa7+ ♖f6 34 ♖c5 ♗h2+ 35 ♖b3 1-0

BELGIUM – The Belgian Championship again took place in Bruges (August 12–20), resulting in something of a surprise as FM Lennert Lenaerts took first place on 7/9, half a point ahead of GM Alexander Dgebuadze in the 10-player all-play-all. The popular Bruges Masters chess festival also saw 160 play in the Open, with a further 119 players in the Under-1800 section. Swiss GM Sebastian Bogner won the former with 8/9, finishing a point ahead of Dutch IMs Niels Ondersteijn and Nick Maatman, as well as Cambridge FM Dan Bisby, with Tom Villiers a further half point back.

D.Bisby-L.Van Coppenolle Bruges 2023



25 ♗xh7! ♖xd5

25...♗xh7 26 ♖g6 is a neat way to overload the defence, White mating after 26...♗hf6 27 h6.

26 ♗xf8 ♖xg2 27 ♗g6+ ♖xg6 28 hxg6+ ♖g8 29 ♙f5 ♙d8 30 ♙e6+ ♖f8 31 ♖xc2 ♖e7 32 ♙f7 ♙a5 33 ♗h8 ♗c8+ 34 ♖b1 d5 35 ♙g5 ♖d7 36 ♙xf6 ♗xf6 37 ♙e6+! 1-0

GERMANY – Düsseldorf hosted the first FIDE World Rapid Team Championship

(August 26–28), featuring teams of six of whom at least one player had to be female and one never rated over 2000 on any list. As such, amateurs got to rub shoulders with professionals, although when the dust had settled it was sponsor Wadim Rosenstein's WR Chess team who finished unbeaten on 11/12 to take the \$100,000 first prize.

Rosenstein himself scored 6/12 as the only non-GM in the team and was especially indebted to Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa, who belied any signs of tiredness having arrived straight from Baku and scored 6½/7, with Hou Yifan and Jan-Krzysztof Duda also especially impressive as they racked up 5½/6 and 6/7 respectively (Wesley So, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Vincent Keymer and Alexandra Kosteniuk completed what was an extremely powerful squad).

Second place went to Freedom, who had Vishy Anand and Daniil Dubov on the top boards, and the almost entirely Indian side Team MGD1 took the bronze medals. Nigel Short scored 10/12 for the FIDE Management Board, while Jovanka Houska had the experience of playing alongside Leinier Dominguez Perez, Peter Svidler and Vladimir Kramnik for Chess Pensioners. There was also a UK team in The Sharks, who were seeded 29th, but did very well to finish 20th on 50%. Tom Rendle scored 7½/12 on top board, fellow IM and board two Peter Roberson was unbeaten with 8½/12, including drawing against Short a clear piece down, while captain Ben Purton chipped in with 3½/4, successfully swindling Elisabeth Paetz no less.

A little earlier (August 14–20), Vitaly Kunin had become German Champion after winning with 7/9 the 94th German Championship in Ostfildern, where WIM Kateryna Dolzhykova would finish a point clear on 7½/9 in the Women's Championship. There was also the Erkerschwick Jubilee in Oer-Erkerschwick (August 4–12), where Dutch FM Arthur de Winter sprang a small surprise as he tied for first on 6½/9 with German IM Alexander Krastev. Latvia's Nikita Meshkovs was the leading GM home, finishing half a point adrift, with Shreyas Royal back on 5/9 in this ten-player GM-norm all-play-all.

INDIA – The Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid in Kolkata (August 31 – September 4) resulted in a major shock as the bottom seed and late replacement, 17-year-old WGM Divya Deshmukh, rather dominated the Rapid section, despite a late wobble. Divya simply proved too strong as she raced to 5½/6, but then drew with Anna Ushenina and lost to Polina Shuvalova, which allowed women's world champion Ju Wenjun to catch up. However, Ju was then unable to exploit an advantage against Ushenina, whereas Divya outplayed Humpy Koneru no less with the black pieces to take the \$10,000 first prize.

Vishy Anand was surely right that Divya's performance was "very special" and while Ju would win the subsequent Blitz tournament with 12½/18, the home contingent hardly

did terribly, with Koneru only half a point back in second and Divya and Harika Dronavalli sharing third.

All eyes then turned to the Tata Steel India Rapid & Blitz Open (September 5-9), with the question on many pundits lips: who would triumph out of Erigaisi, Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa? The answer in the Rapid section was none of the above as Maxime Vachier-Lagrave reminded the world of his speed chess ability, taking an undefeated first place with 7/9 as he rather dominated proceedings, with Teimour Radjabov clear second a point and a half behind, and Praggnanandhaa, Vidit and Grischuk back on '+1'. Perhaps still acclimatising to their World Cup success, the Indian youngsters also failed to win the Blitz tournament, although Praggnanandhaa did tie for second on 11/18 alongside Nodirbek Abdusattorov, with Arjun Erigaisi half a point behind and Alexander Grischuk a point clear out in front.

ITALY – Irish IM Conor Murphy triumphed on tiebreak after a five-way tie for first at the Trieste Open (September 2-8), between himself and Serbian Grandmasters Milos Perunovic and Ivan Ivanisevic, as well as Slovenian GM Jan Subelj and the host nation's Alessio Valsecchi. Murphy drew with Perunovic and Subelj while remaining undefeated as he performed at 2564 to gain a further 13 rating points.

LATVIA – Jonah Willow finished on 6½/9 at the Riga Technical University Open (August 7-13), a point behind the clear winner, Norwegian IM Elham Abdrlauf, while Matthew Wadsworth was back on '+3'. Bodhana Sivanandan was also in action, the 1834-rated prodigy gaining some 73 rating points after finishing on 4/9 for a 2065 performance, which included a draw with German FM Hendrik Reichmann. Sivanandan also got to face Baadur Jobava no less in the first round of the Rapid Open which preceded the main event over the weekend of August 5th and 6th. She resisted well before being ground down in a rook endgame, with Jobava going on to dominate the tournament, finishing on 8/9, half a point ahead of Alexei Shirov.

MOROCCO – Lithuanian GM Paulius Pultinevicius was in top form at the Mohammed VI Open in Casablanca (August 14-19), racking up 7½/9 to finish a point clear. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov no less took second on tiebreak and defeated Pultinevicius in the second round before leading on 4/4, after which he was only able to draw his remaining games, many fairly quickly which may suggest illness. Ameet Ghazi was fairly well placed on 3½/5, including a draw with Alexei Shirov, but would be outplayed by the strong Argentine-Spanish GM Alan Pichot in the final round to finish on '+1'.

POLAND – The experienced Georgian side of Bella Khotenashvili, Meri Arabidze, Nino Batsiashvili, Lela Javakhishvili and Salome Melia took the gold medals at the FIDE World



Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (left) won the Rapid and Alexander Grischuk the blitz in Kolkata. Their rapid game was drawn, as was their second blitz one after a crushing win for Grischuk as White.

Women's Team Championship in Bydgoszcz (September 5-12). Each match consisted of two halves, played with a 45+10 time control, with the Georgians defeating Kazakhstan 2½-1½ and 3½-½ in the final, having earlier eliminated China and the USA. The young Kazakh side still had a fine result overall though, while France defeated the Americans in the third-place playoff, for whom 13-year-old Alice Lee impressively won an individual gold medal on top board, and perhaps the biggest surprise was that of the Indian team not making it out of their pool.

SPAIN – Harry Grieve landed up in a tie for second to eighth at the first Esphouses Open in Guardamar del Segura on the Costa Blanca (September 4-9). Grieve fought his way back from an unexpected defeat in the second round, including by drawing with 19-year-old Ukrainian IM Vladyslav Larkin who would finish a point clear on 7½/9. Just a couple of days earlier, Grieve had finished being in action at the San Cristobal Open (August 26 - September 2) on Tenerife. There Tomas Sosa edged out Merab Gagunashvili on tiebreak after they had both finished on a whopping 8/9, with the undefeated Grieve third on tiebreak a point behind.

SWITZERLAND – Unsurprisingly the World Cup shook up the top of the rating list, which is still administered by the FIDE Office in Lausanne. As we prepared to go to press, Magnus Carlsen was out clear on 2839, some 53 points ahead of Fabiano Caruana (2786), which prompted the 2700 Chess website to ask, "Did you notice that the current rating difference between the World #1 and World #2 is bigger than difference between the World #2 and World #17?" In 17th slot is Le Quang Liem on 2733, with the remainder of the top-ten: 3 Hikaru Nakamura 2780, 4 Ding Liren 2780, 5 Alireza Firouzja 2777, 6 Ian Nepomniachtchi 2771, 7 Anish Giri 2760, 8 Dommaraju Gukesh 2758, 9 Vishy Anand 2754 and 10 Wesley So 2753.

The Rapid list is also of interest, with Ding Liren top on 2830 ahead of Carlsen on 2818

followed by something of a drop to Jan-Krzysztof Duda (2772), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (2771) and Ian Nepomniachtchi (2766). The world rapid and blitz champion also isn't currently top of the Blitz list, that status going to Firouzja with a whopping 2896, followed closely by Carlsen on 2887 and Nakamura on 2884 before there's something of a gap to Caruana (2813) and Vladislav Artemiev (2799).

USA – The fifth leg of Chess.com's Champions Chess Tour was the Julius Baer Generation Cup (August 30 - September 3), in which the clear favourite proved far too strong in the undefeated bracket of Division One. Magnus Carlsen dispatched Amin Tabatabaei 2½-½ then Fabiano Caruana 2½-1½ ahead of destroying Alireza Firouzja 3-0. To his credit, Firouzja bounced back once in the final of the elimination bracket defeating 1½-½ 17-year-old Belarusian Dennis Lazavik, who had earlier stunned Wesley So.

By his own admission, Carlsen wasn't at his best and "pretty lucky" come the resulting Grand Final, but was able to dig deep to win an Armageddon encounter to overcome Firouzja 3-2 and so pocked the \$30,000 first prize. Elsewhere Division Two saw Ian Nepomniachtchi defeat Levon Aronian 2½-½ in the grand final, while Sam Sevan saw off Shakhriyar Mamedyarov over three matches to win Division Three.

Chess.com are, of course, also responsible for the weekly Titled Tuesday blitz tournaments and in the early event on August 15th, Richard Pert had an evening to remember as he defeated both Alexander Grischuk and Vladimir Kramnik and as Black no less.

V.Kramnik-R.Pert
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2023
Tarrasch Defence

1 c4 e6 2 c3 d5 3 d4 c5 4 cxd5 cxd4

The von Hennig-Schara gambit, an excellent choice for blitz.

5 ♖a4+ ♕d7 6 ♗xd4 exd5 7 ♗xd5 ♜f6
8 ♗d1 ♜c6 9 ♜f3 ♕c5 10 e3 ♗e7 11 ♕e2
0-0-0 12 ♕d2 ♖b8 13 ♜c1 g5! 14 0-0
g4 15 ♜d4! h5!

It's the attack which matters for both sides, not pawns and here 15...♜d4? 16 exd4 ♕xd4 17 ♕f4+ ♕e5 18 ♗d4! ♜he8 19 ♜cd1 would leave White clearly better.

16 ♜a4 ♕d6 17 ♜b5 ♕e5 18 ♜c5 ♕c8
19 ♗c2

19 ♜d3!? ♜e4 20 ♕e1 is how the engines want to defend, leaving all three results very possible.

19...h4



20 f4!?

An understandable bid for freedom when you consider such lines as 20 ♜fd1 g3 21 fxg3? hxg3 22 h3? ♕f4! and wins.

20...♕d6?!

20...gxf3! 21 ♕xf3 ♜g4 was simple and fairly strong.

21 ♜xd6 ♜xd6 22 ♕b5?!

The bishop was needed for the defence and 22 b4! g3 23 ♕f3 would simply have been very unclear, even after 23...♜hd8! 24 ♕c3 ♗xe3+ 25 ♖h1 ♜g4 26 ♕xg4 ♕xg4 27 ♗e4.

22...g3! 23 ♕xc6?

Overplaying his hand, although even 23 h3 ♜hd8 24 ♗b3!? ♖a8! would have left Black clearly for choice.

23...gxf3+ 24 ♖h1 ♜xc6 25 ♕b4 ♗xe3!

Pert is not to be bluffed, although the calm 25...♗e8!? followed by ...h3 would have won too.

26 ♜a6+ bxa6 27 ♗xc6

The point of Kramnik's play, but Pert has seen further.

27...♕b7! 28 ♗d6+ ♖a8 29 ♗xf6



29...♕xg2+!

Forcing mate on the light squares.

30 ♖xg2 h3+ 31 ♖xh2 ♗e2+ 0-1

Pert would finish on 8/11, a point and a half behind the top scorers, Alireza Firouzja and Levon Aronian. Two weeks later, on August 29th, Firouzja again impressed as he pulled off a rare and impressive feat, winning both the early and late editions of Titled Tuesday, the latter an outright triumph with 10/11, the former on tiebreak after finishing alongside Jordan van Foreest, Nihal Sarin and Alexey Sarana on 9½/11.

Over the board, Greek GM Nikolas Theodorou and Peruvian GM Emilio Cordova tied for first at the 1000GM Silicon Valley Fall Super Swiss in Sunnyvale (August 31 - September 4), where Daniel Fernandez finished a point back in a large tie for sixth. Meanwhile the latest premier event staged by the Saint Louis Chess Club was the Champ Showdown 9LX (September 8-10), where the perhaps surprising leader after day one was Garry Kasparov. The 60-year-old former world champion crushed Wesley So and Ray Robson as Black, while drawing with Hikaru Nakamura. He then drew with Levon Aronian, but that was sadly and perhaps surprisingly to be it for Kasparov, who lost his last five games, some in quite brutal fashion. When the dust had settled, Fischer random expert Sam Sevian had pulled off a notable result, going through undefeated to finish on 7/9, a point clear of So, Aronian and Sam Shankland.



Garry Kasparov still has all the intensity, but rather ran out of gas after the opening day in Saint Louis where Sam Sevian (below) revealed himself to be the Chess960 king.



A little bird just told me

A round-up of what the top players and chess personalities have been saying on Twitter

Susan Ninan - @ninansusan

Praggnanandhaa: "I'm not going to touch chess for next half a day at least... It's been exhausting." What a manic tiebreak it's been for him & Arjun Erigaisi & of course the rest of us watching with hearts in mouths. Pragg in semis & Candidates. Huge moment. #FIDEWorldCup

FIDE - @FIDE_chess

Fabiano Caruana: "I think some generations are stronger than others. My generation is probably the strongest in history with Magnus and several other players who played the world championship matches like Nepo, Ding, myself, Karjakin, and players like Maxime, Wesley, and Anish. And I think this generation is similar in strength. We have Pragg, Gukesh, Nodirbek, and so many other potential world champions, including Firouzja."

2700chess - @2700chess

A 'positive' tournament #FIDEWorldCup for Indian players. Also, Aaditya Dhingra (2607.8) added 150.8 rating points this month in 9 (!) games and became World Junior #16.

Chess24.com - @chess24com

Vishy Anand: "They were not supposed to do it this fast! Gukesh took my ranking & Pragg is joining in the Candidates. They were not supposed to do it this fast. It's OK, there won't be consequences, but that's taking some getting used to!" #TataSteelChessIndia

Peter Heine Nielsen - @PHChess

Kasparov is playing in St. Louis with a Ukraine armband, and his sweater in the Russian Anti-war flag colours. Blue and white, without the red. Political activist, yet leading the tournament as well!

Magnus Carlsen - @MagnusCarlsen

Great show by Garry, hope he can keep it up. Loved listening to his interview after the games as well, showing the richness of both his understanding and the game itself.

World Chess - @theworldchess

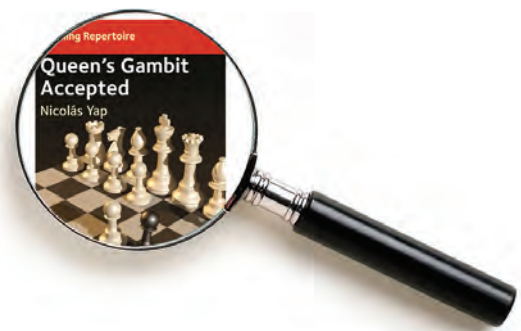
Yesterday at World Chess Club Berlin, 'hand and brain' was one in a lifetime opportunity for the attendees as @DGukesh, @SamShankland, Bibisara Assaubayeva, @DinaBelenkaya, and @thelittlehat stepped in! @ginger_gm couldn't help but comment on these games as well!

White must give up the h-pawn, whereas the game saw 1 ♖f4? ♜c8 2 ♗d5 ♖f6? 3 ♗g8 1-0, but instead putting the king in the corner would have held, i.e. 2...♖h8 3 ♖g5 ♜c5 4 ♖h6 ♜c6! when there's just no way to

win in view of Black's stalemate tricks) 1...♖xh8 2 ♖h6 ♜c7 3 f6 ♖h7+! 4 ♖g5! (as Glenn Flear explained in his notes for ChessPublishing, "Wriggling around eventually leads to a promotion, whilst

avoiding 'crazy rook' scenarios along the way") 4...♖a7 5 ♖f5 ♖a5+ 6 ♖e6 ♖a6+ 7 ♖e5 ♖a5+ 8 ♗d5 ♖a7 9 ♗e6 ♜c7 10 ♖d6 ♖a7 11 ♗d7 (Flear) and the pawns will finally prove decisive.

This Month's New Releases



Opening Repertoire: Queen's Gambit Accepted

Nicolas Yap, 448 pages
Everyman Chess

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

"The best way to refute a gambit is to accept it" according to Wilhelm Steinitz, the first official world champion. Of course, this advice from yesteryear rings somewhat flippantly to modern ears, especially against the soundest of all gambits, in which Black traditionally will not even be able to hold on to the booty.

Accepting the Queen's Gambit with 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 can lead to Black becoming extremely cramped very early in the game, unless the second player knows exactly how to counter White's central advantage.

Tigran Petrosian used the defence very effectively against Mikhail Botvinnik in their 1963 title match to blunt the latter's famous preparation and it was one of the secrets of the former's success, to finally bring down the curtain on Botvinnik's unparalleled on/off time at the top. However, Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov both suffered somewhat when they rather surprisingly adopted the Queen's Gambit Accepted against Boris Spassky and Vladimir Kramnik in their famous matches in 1992 and 2000 respectively, leaving the impression behind that White is simply better at the highest levels after 2...dxc4.

Yet, according to the back cover blurb, the Queen's Gambit Accepted is becoming more popular and "in the past few years it has undergone an explosion of interest, thanks to many new discoveries of possibilities for very dynamic play from Black. One of these is the line 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 b5!?. This was previously thought to be a very poor line for Black but numerous recent games and investigations have completely changed this assessment. This is now almost the main line of the Queen's Gambit Accepted and there is currently very little theoretical material on it."

Yes, indeed; the second player has usually been warned away from 3...b5 and steered instead towards 3...e5 or 3...♗f6, as the latter two moves make a direct challenge to the white centre and don't waste any time trying to hold onto the pawn on c4.

The backbone of this particular repertoire is built upon this position: **1 d4 d5 2 c4**

dxc4 3 e4 b5 4 a4 c6 5 axb5 cxb5 6 ♗c3 and now the very rare **6...♗b6**.



This is a very challenging line and one in which Black really does hope to cling to the c4-pawn, making it a thorn in White's (queen)side. Yap covers a lot of new territory and a lot of the lines are untested in the furnace of over-the-board play, giving the reader a plethora of surprises to spring in their league and tournament games, with the caveat that some of them may need further testing and subsequent fine tuning to make them fully workable.

Against White's other main move, 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 ♗f3, there is another obscure line for Black: 3...♗f6 4 e3 a6 with the intention of meeting 5 ♗xc4 e6 6 a4 with 6...b6!?, followed by 7...♗b7 and 8...♗c6!? – an extremely rare line indeed.

Elsewhere, coverage of the other lines – including the early d-pawn deviations, such as the ubiquitous London System – is also very interesting and will certainly help to form a serious repertoire for Black after 1 d4 d5.

The bibliography covers four pages; Yap has clearly researched his subject in impressive depth and therefore has great confidence in the material he presents. He puts his sources to good use too, by drawing attention to which moves and variations have escaped the attention of other writers.

The only reservations I have circle around the notion that 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 b5!? is a very committal line and one which I think will be a deterrent to classical players when they consider utilising the repertoire suggested in the book. After all, coverage of

the line does run all the way through to page 192, representing the largest chunk of the book. The danger is that the reader will be left without a 'Plan B' if the line doesn't suit their particular style.

Frankly, it is unlikely that the Queen's Gambit Accepted will become particularly popular at any level. For one thing, it lacks a top-level hero, a trailblazing hero who will lead the way. However, this could well be a positive, as anyone specialising in the black side of the opening may find themselves scoring well against under-prepared opponents.

All in all, this is an impressive debut by Yap and he presents numerous intriguing new ideas, all of which are now waiting to see action.

Sean Marsh



What Chess Coaches Don't Tell You

John & Victoria Doknjas, 384 Pages
Everyman Chess

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Every chess player would like to improve their skills, whether they would admit to it or not. The rise of chess lessons delivered via the internet – with bragging rights secured by using titled players – has led to a boom of sorts in the art of personal chess coaching. This book takes all of that into account and aims to plug a perceived gap in the market, as evidenced by the blurb:

"Are you an adult or junior chess player who has taken private chess lessons for years, but feel that you haven't been progressing? Or are you a parent of a junior chess player who feels that because you don't know how to play chess, you therefore can't help your child?"

The aim is to make the chess student more independent, not relying too much on their chess coach's approach "who has been given free rein with lesson content and direction."

It is not often we see a mother and son combination of writers, but this book is definitely an exception: "Victoria Doknjas, MBA and Juniors to Masters Chess Academy

co-founder, and her son John Doknjas, FIDE Master and established chess author, have unlocked the mysteries of the puzzling and confusing world of chess coaching.”

What exactly is on offer here? As the authors explain:

“This book covers the essential elements needed to form a solid chess knowledge foundation. By learning and incorporating these essential elements, this will further help chess players get the most out of their learning with their chess coach. Our book also provides recommendations on how players can learn to be more self-sufficient in their own chess studies without a coach.”

It is easy to criticise a book’s title and one can imagine chess coaches bristling when seeing this one, but it is also easy to forget that authors don’t always have the option of choosing the titles of their own books. Either way, it certainly catches the eye and should pique the interest of chess players hoping to add to their current chess knowledge.

There are 10 instructive chapters, starting with ‘Working Hard with a Set Purpose’ through to ‘FAQ for Chess Parents or Those New to Competitive Chess’. Along the way, there is very sensible advice on a whole range of subjects, such as how to analyse one’s own games (rather a dying art; students tend to leave all of that side of things purely to the coach), how to win essential endgames and when to exchange pieces as opposed to when to keep the tension in the position.

I found all the chapters interesting and feel the authors have done a very good job in presenting such a potent brew of instructive material. Of particular interest is the chapter offering advice on playing training games, preferably with stronger players. Furthermore, 20 pages of positions are provided, from all phases of the game, to enable the playing partners to test their powers and improve their understanding of key positions in a semi-competitive environment. The positions are followed by annotated examples from real games, to give the student some idea of how things would normally pan out.

Here is one to try from a game, J.Doknjas-A.Hong.



The aim is to play against a training partner and convert White’s winning attack.

The idea of playing out positions with a training partner is not new, of course; the late, great Mark Dvoretsky recommended

such an approach too, primarily with chess studies as the source material. Yet the material on offer in this book is excellent and will undoubtedly provide keen students with numerous starting points to really get stuck into some serious practice games.

This is an enjoyable book, presented with a fresh style and one which offers a lot of thought-provoking and instructive material. Perhaps one doesn’t need a chess coach after all?

Sean Marsh



Akiba Rubinstein

Yuri Razuvaev & Valery Murakhveri,
604 pages, hardback

RRP £44.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £40.45**

Estonian publishers Verendel are responsible for this labour of love, translated from the original Russian and usefully updated in places, on one of the strongest players never to become world champion, Akiba Rubinstein. The book begins with a fairly detailed biography written by Murakhveri, but the main part is the chess with the late Russian GM Razuvaev annotating in some detail 60 of Rubinstein’s best games, classic encounters often featuring some highly instructive positional play. There are also 32 pages of photographs in what is, quite simply, an impressive publication.



Benoni

Ivan Ivanisevic, 296 pages, hardback
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Serbian GM Ivanisevic has enjoyed good results with the Benoni and here explains all of its key motifs while also mapping out a repertoire for the aggressive player to use the opening as Black. Even the experienced Benoni player should find plenty of new ideas within this book published by Chess Fortress, a new chess publishing house set up by Serbian Grandmasters Milos Perunovic and Branko Tadic.

Other new opening works from Chess Fortress which are available from Chess & Bridge are *Sicilian Defense Four Knights Variation* by Milos Perunovic (224 pages, hardback, RRP £29.95, Subscribers – £26.95), and Nikola Sedlak’s *The London System: The Adventure Continues!* (224 pages, hardback, RRP £27.95, Subscribers – £25.15). The former is suitable for the club player looking to learn a new line of the

Sicilian and supplies a complete repertoire for Black with 1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 ♗c6, and if 6 ♗db5 ♗b4, while the latter covers the latest research from a leading London System expert. Sedlak makes good use of some instructive complete games to map out a full repertoire for White with 1 d4 d5 2 ♗f4, one which contains plenty of new ideas and suggested improvements as he aims to demonstrate that the opening still carries a definite bite.

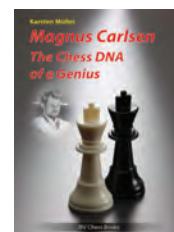


Endgame Puzzles

Tadic Branko, 342 pages, hardback
RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

This detailed new work contains 394 positions to solve taken from grandmaster games played in 2021, positions largely selected due to their practical relevance. Branko aims to improve not only the endgame understanding of his readers, emphasising certain general principles and rules, but their calculation too, while helpfully giving each diagram a difficulty rating.

A related release from Chess Fortress is *Q&A Puzzle* by Ivan Ivanisevic, which runs to 350 pages and is also a hardback publication, retailing for £23.95 or £21.55 Subscribers. This contains some 548 positions to solve, taken too from games played in 2021 and which feature all manner of types of combination.



Magnus Carlsen:

The Chess DNA of a Genius

Karsten Müller, 156 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Müller has already written about the four types of chess player and here uses that lens to examine the play of arguably the strongest chess player of all time, Magnus Carlsen. Unsurprisingly the Norwegian’s versatility shines through, as does his strategic mastery. Indeed, this book might also be considered a textbook on strategy as Müller examines Carlsen’s approach to such important topics as prophylaxis and pressure play. As usual, Müller’s explanation is first class, along the way forming some very handy rules of thumb to help the reader, while also ending each chapter with a number of exercises. Notably too the book also contains a number of fairly discrete QR codes, enabling readers to quickly open up each position on their phone if they so desire.

Bavarian publisher Joachim Beyer Verlag have also recently released *Attack: Rules of Thumb for Practice*, which is another book written by Karsten Müller which the club player should be able to learn plenty from. This also features smartphone-friendly QR codes, while running to 140 pages and retailing at £22.95 or £20.65 for Subscribers. Müller aims to present the most commonly occurring attacking mechanisms, along the way formulating some very useful guidelines. Topics covered include typical pawn structures which can lead to good attacking chances, why opposite-coloured bishops favour the attacking player and what can be learnt from the play of that legendary attacker, Mikhail Tal.

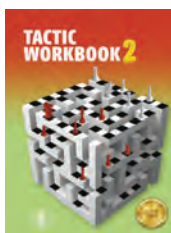


Grind Like a Grandmaster

David Howell & Magnus Carlsen,
208 pages, hardback

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Subtitled 'How to Keep Pressing until Your Opponent Cracks', this is a New in Chess production for Chessable based on one of their best-selling courses. They have done a fine job of turning the enjoyable videos recorded by the two friends into an instructive book. A number of useful lessons are presented with twelve games annotated in significant detail as the 16th world champion and the leading English Grandmaster combine to explain how to keep even drawn looking games alive and how to exploit even the smallest of mistakes.



Tactic Workbook 2 – Collection of Instructive Tactics and Studies

Chess Informant, 340 pages, hardback
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

This new puzzle book from our friends in Belgrade contains some 500 middlegame and endgame positions to solve taken from games played during 2022, as well as 60 award-winning studies. Each of the positions is given a difficulty rating between one and five, with the hardest likely to test even a grandmaster. Just like with *Find the Winning Moves*, the positions aren't sorted by theme, which is useful from a practical perspective, while the answers are sufficiently detailed. Overall, if you're looking for a well-produced new set of positions to solve, ones which will definitely improve all readers' calculation and creativity, this workbook may well be the answer.

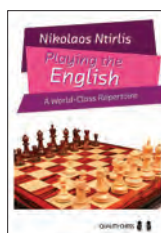


Master Class Vol.16 – Judit Polgar

Dorian Rogozenco, Mihail Marin, Karsten Müller & Oliver Reeh, PC-DVD; running time: 9 hours

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

ChessBase's team of experts examine the play of the strongest female player of all time in their latest instructional production. Viewers get to see how Judit Polgar honed her opening repertoire and which types of middlegames and endgames she especially excelled in. Of course, Polgar was a superb attacking player and the DVD also contains a number of interactive tactical exercises to solve.



Playing the English

Nikolaos Ntirlis, 440 pages, paperback

RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

Leading theoretician and Greek correspondence IM Ntirlis has long made good use of 1 c4 and here maps out a complete repertoire with his favourite opening. Each section begins with a very helpful explanation of the key motifs before detailed theoretical coverage follows, although Ntirlis takes care not to drown the reader with a plethora of variations and always has an eye on the practical aspect. The repertoire generally sees White following up with an early g2-g3, with coverage beginning with the reversed Dragon where a system with a second fianchetto and b2-b3 is advocated, although at times Ntirlis is happy to transpose outside the realm of the English, not least when meeting the King's Indian with the Classical variation, angling for 9 b4 and the Bayonet attack.

A hardback version of this title is available too at £29.50 or £26.55 for Subscribers.



The Keymer Variation – 1. d4 f3 d5 2. e3

Luke Leon Mendonca, PC-DVD;
running time: 6 hours

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Championed especially by Vincent Keymer, 1 d4 f3 d5 2 e3!? contains somewhat more

bite than you might imagine. The German star is only 18, so who better to explain the key points behind the opening system and map out a repertoire for White with it than another extremely talented young player, 17-year-old Indian, the 2622-rated Mendonca? As he explains, "The opening is a mix of positional and attacking elements depending on what system Black chooses" and we can certainly imagine 2 e3 catching out a significant number of opponents at club level.

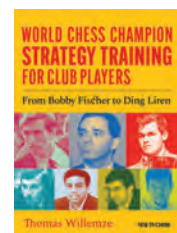


Thinkers' Chess Academy with Grandmaster Thomas Luther Volume 4: 365 Endgame Lessons for Novices

Heinz Brunthaler & Thomas Luther, 280 pages, paperback

RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Subtitled 'Daily Bite-Sized Steps to Chess Mastery', this book aims to supply 5-10 minutes of endgame instruction each day. The authors have certainly selected a number of extremely useful positions from a practical perspective, beginning with some fairly basic pawn endings to solve before the material becomes more detailed as the reader is introduced to such important topics as the distant opposition. Pretty much every type of ending is featured and the diligent reader should significantly improve their endgame understanding if they attempt to solve all the 365 positions, learning along the way such important skills as judging whether rook against pawn is winning when the king is far away.

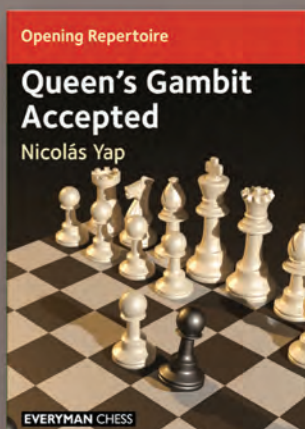


World Chess Champion Strategy Training for Club Players

Thomas Willemze, 264 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Thomas Willemze has attracted a definite following thanks to his club player orientated books for New in Chess. Here he looks at the play of the modern world champions, beginning with Bobby Fischer and taking things through to Ding Liren. The selected games are certainly instructive and each finishes with a helpful conclusion. There are also a number of positions to solve, ones which serve to reinforce Willemze's main points and overall the reader should learn plenty from a strategic perspective, such as on improving the worst-placed piece, creating then exploiting strong squares, and weighing up piece exchanges.

GREAT NEW TITLES FROM EVERYMAN CHESS



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 280 pages



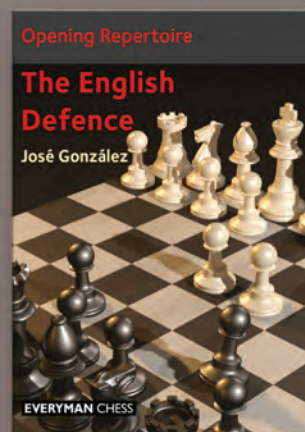
In this book the highly experienced grandmaster Milos Pavlovic outlines a powerful repertoire for White based on 1 d4. The variations are very much based on strategic themes where an understanding of plans is far more important than memorisation of lines and move orders.

Paperback 280 pages



Do you want a simple and practical method to counter Black's kingside fianchetto defences after 1 d4? A line that takes the initiative from a very early stage and creates difficult practical problems? If so, then The Harry Attack (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 h4!) is for you.

Paperback 240 pages



The English Defence (1 d4 e6 2 c4 b6) is a dynamic, counter-attacking line, initially investigated by English grandmasters. José González provides an excellent analysis of this complex opening and carves out a powerful repertoire for Black covering all lines after 1 d4.

Paperback 320 pages



Understanding pressure play is crucial for capitalising on tiny advantages as well as being able to avoid going downhill in slightly inferior positions. In this book, the highly experienced author and coach Neil McDonald analyses the finest examples of pressure play. In doing so he teases out the fundamental concepts that enable players to torture their opponents mercilessly.

Paperback 352 pages



EVERYMAN CHESS
www.everymanchess.com
available through all good retailers