

Chess Update

TIMMAN THE TITAN

Jan Timman, the legendary Dutch grandmaster once dubbed "Best of the West" during an era of total Soviet supremacy, has died aged 74. John Henderson provides a fitting tribute.

ISSN 0964-6221



Czechmate - David Navara produced a beautiful sacrificial attack



Far North! - Simon Williams enjoyed an arctic Open in Norway



Brevities - David LeMoir explains how to win a pretty miniature

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.

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)	£60
2 year (24 issues)	£110
3 year (36 issues)	£150

Europe

1 year (12 issues)	£75
2 year (24 issues)	£145
3 year (36 issues)	£200

Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues)	£85
2 year (24 issues)	£160
3 year (36 issues)	£240

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. © 2026

FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read

Cover image: Dutch National Archive:
Croes, Rob C. / Anefo

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

Printed in the UK by The Magazine Printing Company using only paper from FSC/PEFC suppliers www.magprint.co.uk

Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
60 Seconds with... David Navara	9
We learn a little about the popular 13-time Czech Champion	
Czechmate!	10
Round 5 of the Prague Masters saw David Navara triumph in style	
Another for Abdusattorov	12
Jorden van Foreest's late collapse helped Nodirbek to triumph at Prague	
To the Far North!	14
Simon Williams enjoyed the Arctic Chess Power Solutions Open	
Forthcoming Events	21
American Success	22
Yochanan Afek watched Andy Woodward win the Tata Steel Challengers	
The Secrets Behind Brilliant Brevities	24
David LeMoir explains how to win a pretty miniature	
Find The Winning Moves	26
Can you do as well as the players at Prague, Wijk and the Isle of Wight?	
Jan Timman's Final Endgame	30
John Henderson looks back on the colourful life of the Dutch legend	
The Fine Art of Jan Timman	34
Yochanan Afek pays tribute to the world-class player and study composer	
Playing by New Rules	36
Stewart Player looks at the parallel lives of Flohr and Lilienthal	
The Mystery Story versus Chess	38
Roger Williamson on the connections between chess and detective fiction	
Reader's Letter	40
An enlightening contribution on chess, checkers and Edgar Allan Poe	
How Good is Your Chess?	42
Daniel King assesses Anish Giri's chances at the Candidates	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	45
Carl Portman presents an impressive win by Jovanka Houska	
How to Beat a Grandmaster	48
Paul Littlewood looks at a how a South American reader defeated a GM	
Home News	49
The latest results from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	
Overseas News	50
Frederick Waldhausen Gordon and Jonah Willow have been busy abroad	
Solutions	53
This Month's New Releases	54
Sean Marsh reviews the best book he has seen so far this year	
Saunders on Chess	58
John spotted a rolling maul on one of the boards at the Varsity match	

Photo credits: Tao Bhokanandh (p.4), CHESS Magazine Archive (pp.8, 30-33), Dutch National Archive (p.37, left) FIDE (p.37, right), FIDE/Maria Emelianova (p.47), FIDE/Rafal Oleksiewicz (p.11), FIDE/Michal Walusz (p.9), Harry Gielen (pp.22-23, 43), Jaguar TCS Racing (p.7), Kristoffer Gressli (p.15), Ife Olayinka (p.5), Lennart Ootes (p.21), Sharjah Masters (pp.50, 52, top), SLCC/Lennart Ootes (p.52, lower), Petr Vrabec (pp.6, 10, 12-13), Wikipedia (pp.38-39).



60 Seconds with... David Navara

Born: 27th March 1985 in Prague.

Place of residence: Prague.

Occupation: Professional chess player.

Enjoyable? Yes, except for the loads of opening theory and playing too much.

And home life? Home and life are present; home life is not.

But sometimes good to escape to: Walks in the country, meeting with friends, music, books.

Sports played or followed: Chess.

A favourite novel? Hard to say. *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles is one of the more recent books which come to mind.

Piece of music? Pachelbel's 'Canon in D' when looking for something classical, Enya's 'Only Time' when I want to relax, and many others as well.

Film or TV series? Hard to say. Recently I saw a new Czech film *Vlny* (Waves), and liked it a lot.

What's the best thing about playing chess? That your profession is also your hobby.

And the worst? That you sometimes have to pursue your hobby even when you don't want to.

Your best move? Perhaps 31 ♖c6!! from Navara-Yakubboev, Prague Masters 2026.

But less memorable than your worst move? There are many of them; it's hard to single out one. While 28...♙f7?? from Abdusattorov-Navara, Prague Masters 2024, was not my worst move by far, it met with a beautiful refutation.

N.Abdusattorov-D.Navara
Prague 2024



David Navara pictured in action at the FIDE World Cup last year. In 2026 he has already produced a contender for game of the year – his win against Yakubboev at Prague.

28...♙f7??

28...♙h7! should win for Black.

29 ♙d6!! ♚c8 30 ♜xf7+ ♙xf7 31 ♙xd4 b3 32 b6 ♚c2 33 ♙f3 b2 34 b7 ♙f8 35 ♙dd1 ♚c5 36 ♙b3 1-0

And a highly memorable opponent? Perhaps the legendary Viktor Korchnoi.

Favourite game of all time? Hard to say. Maybe Kasparov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1999?

G.Kasparov-V.Topalov
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Pirc Defence

1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♜f6 3 ♜c3 g6 4 ♙e3 ♙g7 5 ♙d2 c6 6 f3 b5 7 ♜ge2 ♜bd7 8 ♙h6 ♙xh6 9 ♙xh6 ♙b7 10 a3 e5 11 0-0-0 ♙e7 12 ♙b1 a6 13 ♜c1 0-0-0 14 ♜b3 exd4 15 ♙xd4 c5 16 ♙d1 ♜b6 17 g3 ♙b8 18 ♜a5 ♙a8 19 ♙h3 d5 20 ♙f4+ ♙a7 21 ♙he1 d4 22 ♜d5 ♜bxd5 23 exd5 ♙d6



24 ♙xd4!! cxd4? 25 ♙e7+! ♙b6 26 ♙xd4+ ♙xa5 27 b4+ ♙a4 28 ♙c3 ♙xd5 29 ♙a7 ♙b7 30 ♙xb7 ♙c4 31 ♙xf6 ♙xa3 32 ♙xa6+ ♙xb4 33 c3+ ♙xc3 34 ♙a1+ ♙d2 35 ♙b2+ ♙d1 36 ♙f1 ♙d2 37 ♙d7 ♙xd7 38 ♙xc4 bxc4 39 ♙xh8 ♙d3 40 ♙a8 c3 41 ♙a4+ ♙e1 42 f4 f5 43 ♙c1 ♙d2 44 ♙a7 1-0

The best three chess books: (Mark) Dvoretsky's *Endgame Manual*, David Bronstein's *Zurich 1953* and so many new books that it is hard to recommend one. Recently I read Axel Smith's *The Woodpecker Method 2* and liked it a lot.

Is FIDE doing a good job? Often yes, sometimes not. FIDE is organising championships, calculating ratings, popularising chess, searching for sponsors, and so on. On the other hand, sometimes there are more important things than money. For example, Danya Naroditsky deserved better protection.

Or your National Federation? Mostly it is doing a good job, although there were some conflicts between the federation and several grandmasters recently.

Can chess make one happy? Yes. (And sometimes also unhappy.) Enjoying the beauty of chess and finding friends in the field helps a lot. Focusing only on results does not.

A tip please for the club player: Try to understand the opponent's plans and to improve your worst placed piece.

The Secrets Behind Brilliant Brevities

Do you ever wonder how to win a pretty miniature? David LeMoir has some advice

Have you ever wondered how some players have the happy knack of producing the occasional attractive short game? I'm talking about miniatures of 25 moves or fewer. At grandmaster level they can be scintillating brilliancies, while at club level they may be merely pretty. But they are always exciting and stir the blood. You see them in local and regional newspapers, national chess magazines, internet websites and showered across a plethora of YouTube channels.

A friend once expressed to me his view that "the shorter the game, the worse the loser's blunder". The implication is that miniatures are not worth studying; they may be pretty, but we can learn nothing from them. I resisted the temptation to call him Scrooge.

Games with serious blunders can indeed be ugly, yet a large number of miniatures are undeniably attractive.

So why is that? I got to thinking about it and it struck me that, in short brilliancies, the loser is just playing that little bit worse generally, and not committing ugly blunders. That is partly caused by the winner finding ways to put his opponent under pressure. Along with special ways in which the winner is using their pieces, this can create the conditions for a mini-masterpiece.

I started to investigate and, to cut a very long story short, I identified sixteen secrets which, across the many games that I studied, were being applied by the winners. I decided to write a book explaining and illustrating these secrets, which might help readers to create their own little gems or, at least, aid them in understanding and enjoying brilliant brevities even more. I relished the fact that, in the process, it would be necessary for me to seek out, and delve into, a large number of inspiring miniatures and enjoy them with my fellow chess players.

I named my work *Chess In Miniature*. Each of the sixteen secrets apply in not just one but a variety of ways, and I reckoned that around a dozen games dedicated to each secret would allow me to give my readers the full picture. It became clear that, with suitable annotations, my book would be on the large side so, along with my publishers – Popular Chess – I decided to split the work into two volumes.

It happens that our sixteen secrets fall

quite neatly into two groups of eight. The first group consists of secrets that apply very frequently – each appears in more than 40% of the games that I studied. I had built a statistically reliable random sample of 200 bright miniatures and I found that, on average, more than five of the first eight secrets were being applied in each encounter.

In the second group of eight, each secret crops up less often. Indeed, on average only around 1.5 of these secrets applied in each game. However, they were more often the ones that, when they featured, were most influential in creating a short brilliancy. One of this second group of factors turned out to be crucial in more than two-thirds of the games.

So, having split the work into two volumes, *Volume 1* focuses on the first group of secrets and *Volume 2* features the second group. To demonstrate how just a few secrets work, two from each group, here is a lovely game taken from *Volume 1*.

H.Sobura-A.Pieniazek
Poland 1988
Sicilian Scheveningen

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 e6 6 g4 h6 7 h4 ♙e7 8 ♖f3 h5 9 gxh5 ♗xh5 10 ♙g5!



Since Black has lost time with the double advance of his h-pawn, White resolves to exploit it by developing as quickly as possible.

Black cannot accept the pawn sacrifice as, after 10...♙xg5 11 hxg5 ♖xg5 12 ♗cb5!,

the black queen is dearly needed on e7 or d8 to cover the d6-pawn and the c7-square. Meanwhile, she must remain protecting the knight on h5. Preventing the knight check at c7 with 12...♗a6 allows 13 ♗xd6+ ♙e7 and now simplest is 14 ♗xf7, with a material advantage and a stranded black king.

10...♗c6 11 ♗xc6 bxc6 12 0-0-0!



12...♙xg5+

White's pawn sacrifice illustrates two important secrets. Firstly, in common with many short brilliancies, White is applying the secret 'The Canny Investor – Be prepared to sacrifice for the initiative, to expose the king and to attack', which is covered in Chapter 6 of *Volume 1*.

Capturing the pawn no longer loses immediately, so Black has decided to accept it. In so doing, he is exposing his knight along the h-file. At the same time, he is committing his queen to the protection of the knight and his king to the duty of protecting the d6-pawn. By giving up the pawn, White has exploited his opponent's greed, one of the secrets which can be crucial in making a game short and lovely. 'Play the Player – Play on the opponent's greed or ego' is the subject of Chapter 7 in *Volume 2* where, through many glorious traps and ambushes, we investigate the reasons why players fall into them.

13 hxg5 ♖xg5+ 14 ♖b1 ♙e7!?

Moving the d-pawn out of danger with 14...d5 is naturally met with the piece sacrifice 15 exd5 cxd5 16 ♗xd5! exd5 17 ♗xd5, which regains the piece and leaves the black king hopelessly exposed.

15 ♙e2!

Developing his final piece with tempo (Black must defend his knight) is the final preparation for the following sacrifice.

15...g6



16 ♖xd6!!

The king hunt begins. Notice that the black queen, which has been tied to defending the knight on g5, finds itself unable to have much influence over the defence of its king. In Chapter 1 of Volume 2 we cover the secret 'Off With her Head – Identify and exploit the opposing queen's weaknesses', which includes getting herself stuck out of play like this.

16...♗xd6 17 ♖xf7!

Spending a tempo to cut off the king's retreat at the beginning of a king hunt can be very effective. The black king is destined to wander around the board with no safe haven available. The rook sacrifice has allowed the white queen to become deeply involved in the attack.

The Queen Rules – Find ways to involve the queen in the attack' is the secret investigated in Chapter 2 of Volume 1. It is obvious that this is an important factor for the success of most attacks. It is the second most frequently occurring of all the secrets in the list.

17...a5

A random move which allows White a quick mate. Black has many alternatives, but I thought I would show you one particularly spectacular line against one of best defences, which is 17...♗d8. White can play 18 ♖d1+ ♗c5 19 ♖a4+ ♗b4 20 a3+! ♗xa4 21 ♖c7! ♖xd1+ 22 ♗xd1.



White has only queen and bishop, while Black has an extra rook and knight and also a spare move, but mate is still inevitable. The threat is to mate with 23 c4, and the

prettiest line is 22...♗d2 23 ♖xc6+ ♗a5 24 ♖c7+ ♗a6 25 ♗e2+! ♖xe2 26 ♖c6+ ♗a5 27 b4 when White has given up his last-but-one piece and mate is administered by a mere pawn.

18 ♖d1+ ♗e5

18...♗c5 allows 19 ♖a4+ ♗b4 20 ♖d4 mate.

19 ♗xh5! ♖xh5

Not 19...♖xh5 20 f4 mate.



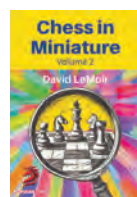
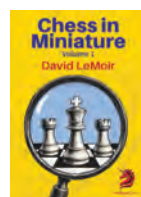
20 f4+! ♖xf4 21 ♖g7+! 1-0

The end comes with 21...♖f6 22 ♖c7 mate, when the unfortunate black queen has cut off her king's escape route.

Each volume stands alone, focusing exclusively on one group of secrets. Between them the two volumes take you on a journey which gradually leads you to a full understanding of how attractive miniatures come about. What to do with the knowledge is up to the reader.

The most obvious use is to help readers to play games that they can show off to their friends and club-mates, and they may even be able to get them published. Creating publishable miniatures is possible for more players than you might think. Across the two volumes, I include a handful of examples of mini-masterpieces from players rated well below master level, the lowest being little over 1500 Elo.

Readers could use their knowledge to enhance their enjoyment of short games that they see in books and magazines in future, so that they can say "I saw what White/Black did there!" Or they could simply enjoy more than ninety spectacular encounters in each volume, most of which they have probably never seen before.



Ed. – Chess in Miniature: Volume 1 and Chess in Miniature: Volume 2 by David LeMoir will be published this month by Popular Chess. Both should be in stock at Chess & Bridge by mid-April, retailing at £19.99 each or £17.99 for Subscribers. Keep an eye on our social media and chess.co.uk for further details.



A little bird just told me

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

FIDE - @FIDE_chess

Nodirbek Abdusattorov extended his lead in #FIDEcircuit 2026-27 following his triumph in the Prague International Chess Festival Masters netting him 23.14 circuit points. The GM from Uzbekistan claimed his second major title of 2026 and now holds nearly a 20-point advantage over second-placed Jorden Van Foreest who also gained points in both Wijk aan Zee and Prague.

Daniel King - @DanielKingChess

Stunning victory by David Navara today. Bravo! Yakubboev a gent for allowing mate.

Prague Chess Festival - @PragueChess

6 Brilliant Moves in One Game. And it happens to be our beloved David Navara. Last year we hung out with @GothamChess in Prague, and now Levy is spreading some love for the Czech legend. Take a peek and check the full video.

2700chess - @2700chess

Awonder Liang defeats Hikaru Nakamura 6-4 in their training match (1-1 classical, 3-1 rapid, 2-2 blitz). If this match had been rated, Hikaru would have dropped from World #3 to #13 in the rapid live ratings.

Isle of Wight Chess - @iowchessite

A huge congratulations to IM Harry Grieve! Harry has crossed the coveted 2500 rating mark at the Isle of Wight Weekend Tournament and now holds a live FIDE rating of 2503. Now the highest-rated IM in England, needing just one final norm to earn the GM title. #Chess

chess24 - @chess24com

Congratulations to 10-year-old Bodhana on earning the FM title after crossing 2300 across the Graz Open (+102) and now the first 4 rounds of the Cannes Open (+51.2)!

English Chess Federation - @ecfchess

Winners from the 2026 British Rapidplay Championship. Harriet Hunt, Bodhana Sivanandan, and Trisha Kanyamarala share the British Women's Rapidplay title, joined by Freddy Waldhausen Gordon, the 2026 British Rapidplay Champion. Congratulations to all!

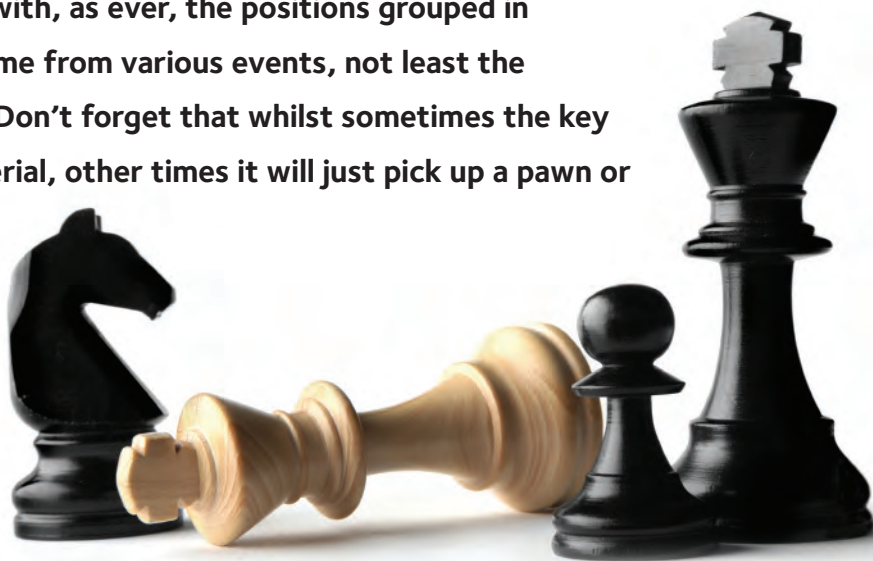
Carl S. Portman - @Carl_Portman

I was delighted this week to receive my MBE from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at Windsor Castle. Thanking the gods that my wife made it to the day. It was super, and it did not rain!

Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from various events, not least the Isle of Wight, Prague and Wijk aan Zee. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just pick up a pawn or even be a quiet move.

Solutions on page 54.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) M.Turner-L.Varnam
Ryde 2026
White to Play



(2) M.Dignam-D.Udovenko
Ryde 2026
White to Play



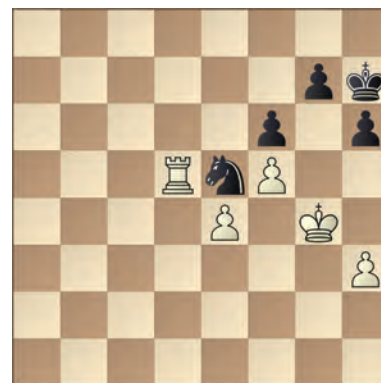
(3) B.Lindberg-L.Freeman
Ryde 2026
White to Play



(4) A.Allorant-T.Beerdsen
Ryde 2026
Black to Play



(5) J.Nemec-V.Finek
Prague 2026
Black to Play



(6) S.Ganguly-Zhu Jiner
Prague 2026
White to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



(7) V.Ivanchuk-E.Roebers
Wijk aan Zee 2026
White to Play



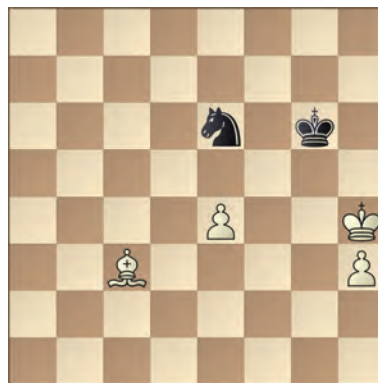
(8) D.Yuffa-J.Bjerre
Prague 2026
White to Play



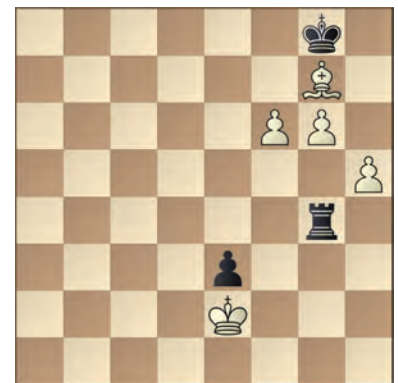
(9) Ci.Ward-V.Platt
Ryde 2026
Black to Play



(10) T.Sanada-J.Heritage
Bradford 2026
White to Play



(11) D.Yuffa-B.Assaubayeva
Wijk aan Zee 2026
Black to Play and Draw



(12) L.Cumpe-S.Sattwik
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2026
White to Play



(13) V.Pranav-M.Gharibyan
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2026
White to Play



(14) C.Yip-M.Warmerdam
Wijk aan Zee 2026
White to Play



(15) V.Panesar-B.Assaubayeva
Wijk aan Zee 2026
Black to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



(16) N.Abdusattorov-M.Carlsen
 Wiessenhaus (rapid) 2026
 Black to Play



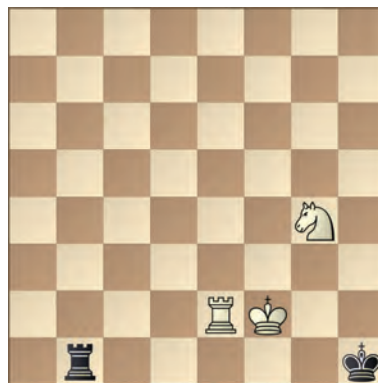
(17) K.Griffith-Z.Tanenbaum
 New York 2026
 White to Play



(18) A.Suleymanli-V.Ivic
 Wijk aan Zee 2026
 Black to Play



(19) N.Bevis-I.Stanojevic
 Ryde 2026
 Black to Play



(20) A.Droin-P.Laurent-Paoli
 Cannes 2026
 White to Play



(21) Xu Xiangyu-K.Sai
 Stockholm 205/26
 White to Play



(22) A.Erigaisi-Y.Erdogmus
 Wijk aan Zee 2026
 White to Play and Draw



(23) J.Bjerre-Zhu Jiner
 Prague 2026
 White to Play



(24) R.Stalmach-N.Grandelius
 Czech League 2026
 Black to Play



NEW FROM QUALITY CHESS



Win with the French! by Vassilios Kotronias

Win with the French! offers a complete, robust repertoire for Black after 1.e4 e6. Grandmaster Vassilios Kotronias showcases the soundness and versatility of the French Defence, combining accurate analysis with advice about strategic themes.

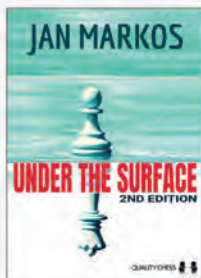
328 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc)



Win with the English by Nikolas Ntirlis

Win with the English! offers a complete repertoire with 1.c4, building upon the author's previous work, *Playing the English* (2023). This enhanced edition raises the bar even higher, with upgraded recommendations to make this the ultimate 1.c4 guide.

520 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc)



Under the Surface - 2nd edition by Jan Markos

This new edition adds four new chapters along with various improvements to the original content. Jan Markos shows how a grandmaster perceives chess, presenting his concepts as vivid, memorable metaphors such as Magnetic Skin, Karpov's Billiard Balls, and many others, which will come as revelations to even titled players.

352 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc)



Practical Chess Beauty - Second Edition by Yochanan Afek

Solving studies is well established as an effective method of chess improvement. Yochanan Afek is one of the world's greatest ever study composers, and in this new edition, he shares his finest creations, combining artistic beauty with practical relevance.

512 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc)



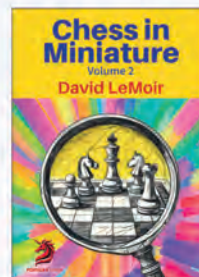
NEW FROM POPULAR CHESS



Unlock Your Chess Creativity by Richard Palliser

Unlock Your Chess Creativity celebrates the creative influence of Tony Miles, John Nunn, Jon Speelman, Nigel Short, Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler. Enjoy the masterpieces of these brilliant Brits and turbo-charge your imagination and creative ability.

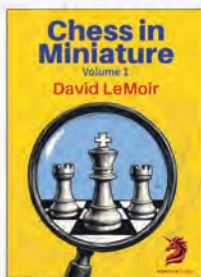
304 pages €27.99 (pb) €32.99 (hc)



Chess in Miniature - Volume 2 by David LeMoir

The adventure continues with the next set of secrets to producing unforgettable miniatures. From exploiting weaknesses to delivering elegant finishes, this second volume shows how players can craft short masterpieces that are as instructive as they are entertaining.

288 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc)



Chess in Miniature - Volume 1 by David LeMoir

Brilliant games don't need to be long. This first volume reveals the key secrets behind sparkling miniatures, showing how tactical awareness, bold sacrifices and queen activity combine to create dazzling short victories that both entertain and instruct.

304 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc)



NEW FROM CHESS ELEVATION



Winning Chess Combinations by Yasser Seirawan

Winning Chess Combinations breaks down the elements of chess combinations in an accessible and engaging way. Learn how queens and other high-value pieces can sacrifice themselves to checkmate the enemy king and unlock the magical beauty of chess.

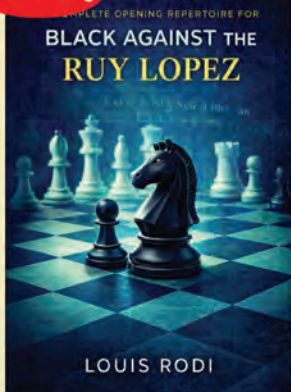
264 pages €27.99 (pb) €32.99 (hc)

Quality Chess - Popular Chess - Chess Elevation
available from the London Chess Centre
and other specialist chess retailers

New Arrivals

Spring 2026

Forthcoming

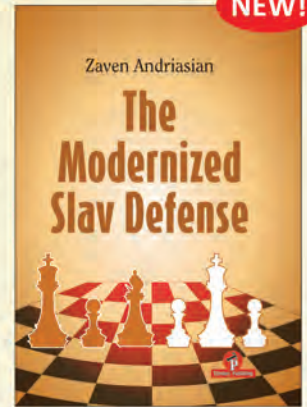


OPENING REP FOR BLACK AGAINST THE RUY LOPEZ *Louis Rodi*
The text introduces a chess book devoted to the **Ruy Lopez**, highlighting its immense theoretical richness and the author's long-standing fascination with its many branches. While acknowledging the well-known main lines, the author explains a personal preference for combining the Open Variation with less explored systems, particularly the **Deferred Steinitz**, which was revived after inspiration from an article by **Adrien Demuth**. ISBN IN REQUEST

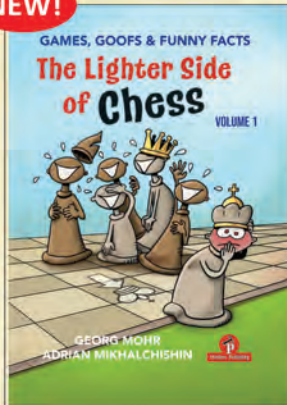
THE MODERNIZED SLAV DEFENSE

Zaven Andriasian
This book captures that evolution. Zaven explores contemporary interpretations of the Slav, highlighting flexible setups, timely pawn breaks, and energetic piece play that challenge the outdated notion of the Slav as merely "solid." Through carefully selected theoretical lines, model games, and clear explanations, readers learn how today's top players inject ambition and precision into this classical defense. ISBN 9789493435162

NEW!



NEW!

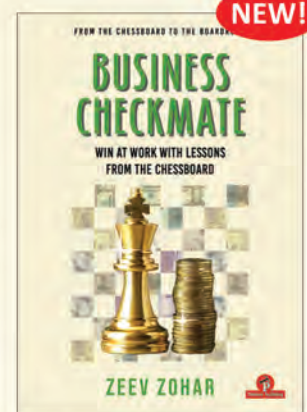


THE LIGHTER SIDE OF CHESS *Georg Mohr - Adrian Mikhalchishin*
The Lighter Side of Chess celebrates the game we love from a refreshingly humorous angle. Beyond deep calculations and serious tournament battles lies a world filled with blunders, bizarre positions, unexpected checkmates, and unforgettable moments of human comedy. Georg and Adrian brought together a delightful collection of entertaining games, amusing goofs, and curious chess facts that reveal just how funny chess can be. ISBN 9789493435124

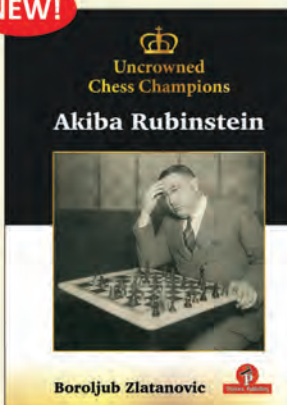
BUSINESS CHECKMATE

Zeev Zohar
By deeply observing the 64 squares of the chessboard, the different pieces and the variety of playing styles, one can learn many ways to succeed in business: strategies, tactics, and having the right mindset. A universe of knowledge about business, management, marketing and entrepreneurship is hidden within the game of chess, a pastime which has influenced humankind more than any other. ISBN 97894993435100

NEW!



NEW!

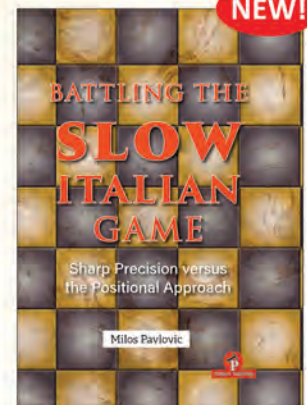


UNCROWNED CHESS CHAMPIONS AKIBA RUBINSTEIN *Boroljub Zlatanovic*
Boroljub Zlatanovic explains why **Akiba Rubinstein** is the ideal starting point for the *Uncrowned Champions series*. Rubinstein is presented as the first player to fully embody and shape *chess logic*: consistent piece centralization and harmony, delaying pawn action until optimal development, and the principle of patience—"do not rush." Through these ideas, he became the first truly complete chess player, favoring clear, methodical, and risk-free play over speculation or brilliance for its own sake. ISBN 9789493435186

BATTLING THE SLOW ITALIAN GAME

Milos Pavlovic
This book explores that crossroads in detail. From dynamic pawn breaks and tactical ideas to subtle maneuvering plans and long-term structural considerations, it reveals how both approaches shape the struggle in the "slow" Italian. Each chapter contrasts concrete, forcing lines with more flexible setups, helping you understand not just *what* to play, but *why* different styles succeed in different positions. ISBN 9789493435155

NEW!



www.thinkerspublishing.com



Thinkers Publishing

always one move ahead!



Solutions

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

1) Turner-Varnam

1 **b4+!** ♟xb4 (or 1...♟c6 2 bxa5) 2 ♛c7# 1-0

2) Dignam-Udovenko

1 ♜xc6! 1-0

3) Lindberg-Freeman

1 ♜xe7+! 1-0 1...♟e7 2 ♜h7+ is a second decisive skewer.

4) Allorant-Beerdse

1...♜xf2+! 0-1 It's mate in two.

5) Nemeč-Finek

1...♟e3! 0-1 There's just no good way to deal with the mate on g2, as 2 ♜xe3 ♜xa1+ 3 ♟xa1 ♜xe3 4 ♟e3 ♜e1+ would leave Black winning easily.

6) Ganguly-Zhu Jiner

1 ♜xe5! fxe5 2 ♟h5! ♟g8 3 ♟g6 1-0 3...♟f8 4 f6 is a simple win.

7) Ivanchuk-Roebers

1 ♟e5! (even stronger than 1 ♜b6) 1...♜xd4 (sportingly allowing the mate as 1...h6 2 ♜f4 would be completely hopeless) 2 ♟f7# 1-0

8) Yuffa-Bjerre

1 ♜xg7! ♟xg7 2 e6+ ♟f8 3 exd7 ♟e7 4 ♟f6 a5 5 g4! 1-0

9) Ward-Plat

1...♟xf2+! 0-1 White either loses the queen or is mated on g2.

10) Sanada-Heritage

1 ♜b1! (1 ♜dc1 ♜da5 2 ♜f7 ♜xa7 3 ♜xf6+ ♟g7 4 ♜xf5 is less convincing, but also wins) 1...♜da5 (or 1...♜d8 2 ♜bb7 ♜g8 3 ♜c6 when ♜b8 is now a threat and 3...♜g7 4 ♜xf6+ ♟h7 5 ♜xg7+ ♟xg7 6 ♜xf5 an easy win) 2 ♜bb7 1-0

11) Yuffa-Assaubayeva

1...♟g5! (1...♟c5 also draws, but only if Black then finds 2 e5 ♟d3!) 2 e5 ♟f5! 3 ♟b2 ♟e6! (another precise move; White would win after 3...♟f7? 4 ♟h5, and if 4...♟h8 5 h4 ♟g6 6 ♟c3) 4 ♟a1 ♟f4 5 ♟c3 ♟g6+ 6 ♟h5 ♟f4+! 7 ♟h4 ♟g6+ 8 ♟g3 ♟xe5 (finally it's safe to take the pawn) 9 ♟xe5 ♟xe5 10 ♟g4 ½-½

12) Cumpe-Sattwik

1 ♟h6! (1 ♟d3!? is the only other move that retains the win, the issue being, as illustrated by the game's 1 ♟xe3??, 1...♜xg6! when 2 hxg6 was stalemate) 1...♜g2+ 2 ♟xe3 ♟h8 3 ♟f4 (simplest to avoid stalemate tricks, although 3 f7 does also work), and the pawns will decide.

13) Pranav-Gharibyan

1 ♟f7+! ♟g8 (1...♜xf7 2 ♜xb8+ forces mate) 2 ♟h6+! gxh6 3 ♜g7+ ♟h8 4 ♜g3+ 1-0

14) Yip-Warmerdam

1 ♜xg7+! ♟xg7 2 h6+ (2 ♜g5+ ♟f8 3 ♜h6+ ♟e8 4 ♜h8+ ♟e7 5 ♟g5+ also works) 2...♟f8 3 ♜f6 ♜e6 4 ♜h8+ ♟e7 5 ♟g5+ ♟d7 (5...f6 fails to 6 ♜g7+ ♜f7 7 ♟xf6+) 6 ♟xd8 1-0 6...♜xd8 7 ♜g7 ♜g6 8 ♜xg6 fxg6 9 ♜xa4 ♜h8 10 h7! is an easy win for White.

15) Panesar-Assaubayeva

1...♟xc2+! 2 ♜xc2 (2 ♟a2 ♜e5 3 ♜xa3 b4! 4 ♜a4 ♜c3 doesn't help White) 2...a2+! 3 ♜xa2 ♜d3+ 4 ♟b2 ♜e2+ 0-1 It's game over in view of 5 ♟a3 ♜a8+.

16) Abdusattorov-Carlsen

1...♟d3! (threatening mate on e1; the slower 1...♜f7+ 2 ♟g1 g6! also works) 2 g3? (2 ♜xd3? ♜e1+ 3 ♟xe1 ♜xd3 4 ♜a4 ♜b5! also cleans White up, as does 2 ♟f2 ♟xf2, and if 3 ♟xf2? ♜f5+) 2...♜f5+ 0-1

17) Griffith-Tanenbaum

1 ♜xh6+! (by far the most incisive) 1...♟xf5 2 g4+ ♟xg4 3 hxg4+ ♟xg4 4 f3+! ♟g3 (4...♟f5 5 ♜h3+ skewers to win the queen and 4...♟xf3 5 ♜f1+ ♟e2 6 ♜f2+ ♟xd3 might lead to 7 ♜d2+ ♟c4 8 ♜c3+ ♟d5 9 ♜d1+ ♟e6 10 ♜e1#) 5 ♜h2+ ♟xf3 6 ♜f1+ ♟g4 7 ♜f4+ ♟g5 8 ♜g3+ 1-0

18) Suleymanli-Ivčic

1...d3! 2 ♟xd3 (the queen and knight would also weave their magic after 2 exd3 ♜a1+ 3 ♟g2 ♜b2+: for instance, 4 ♟g1 ♜c1+ 5 ♟g2 ♟e3+ 6 ♟f2 ♜d2+ and the loose rook on a5 drops) 2...♜a1+ 3 ♟g2 ♟e3+! 4 ♟f2 ♜d4 5 ♜g6 ♟xc4+ 6 ♟e1 ♟xa5 0-1 If 7 ♜h7+ ♟f7 8 ♜g6+ ♟e7 already ends White's checks.

19) Bevis-Stanojević

1...♟xh3+! (1...♜xe3! 2 ♜xe3 ♟xh3+! is rather effective too) 2 ♟h2 (2 gxh3 ♜xe3 3 ♜xe3 ♜g5+ 4 ♟f2 ♜h4+ 5 ♟g2 ♟xd4 6 ♜e8+ ♟f7 also leaves White in serious difficulties) 2...♟e5+ (or just 2...♜h4 3 gxh3 ♜xe3!) 3 f4 ♟3xf4 left White in huge trouble and he was quickly crushed: 4 g3? ♟xg3! 5 ♟xf4 ♟xf1+ 6 ♜xf1 ♜h4+ 7 ♟g2 ♟xf4 8 ♟de2 ♜h2+ 9 ♟f3 ♜e3+ 0-1

20) Droin-Laurent-Paoli

1 ♜e3! (1 ♟g3 ♜b3+ 2 ♟e3! also wins, but in the game Black was able to save himself with 1 ♜a2? ♜b2+! 2 ♜xb2 ½-½) 1...♜f1+ (1...♜b2+ 2 ♟g3! ♜g2+ 3 ♟h3 forces a quick mate, in view of 3...♜g1 4 ♟f2#) 2 ♟g3! ♜g1+ 3 ♟h3 leaves Black out of stalemate tricks

and getting mated after, for example, 3...♜a1 (or 3...♜f1 4 ♟h2! ♜f3+!? 5 ♜xf3) 4 ♟h2! ♟g1 5 ♟g3! ♜c1 6 ♜e2 ♜c3+ 7 ♟f3+.

21) Xu-Sai

1 ♜g7! (only this way, and not 1 ♜f6? when 1...♟h4! 2 g6+?? ♟xh3 would be winning for Black) 1...♜xh3 (1...♟h4 2 ♜xh7+ ♟xg5 3 ♜g7+ ♟h5 was the alternative, but after 4 ♜xf7+ ♟h4 5 ♜xe6! ♟xh3 6 ♜h6+ ♟g4 7 ♜d6! White is winning) 2 ♜xf7+ ♟g4 3 ♜xb7! (covering the kingside while preparing to run the a-pawn) 3...♜h4 4 ♜h1 1-0

22) Erigaisi-Erdogmus

1 g5! (the only way to save the game, which ended instead 1 ♜e1? ♟d7! 2 ♜e3 a3 3 ♟c1 ♟g2 4 e6+ ♟e8 5 exf7+ ♟xf7 6 ♜e6 b4 7 g5 b3 8 ♜f6+ ♟g8 9 ♜e6 b2+ 10 ♟c2 h3 0-1) 1...♟d7 (1...h3 2 e6 fxe6 3 g6 hxg6 4 fxg6 e5 5 g7 h2 6 ♜h1! a3 7 ♟c1! is also a draw – just: 7...b4 8 cxb4 cxb4 9 ♜xh2 b3 10 ♜d2 and Black can't win, as shown by 10...♟g8 11 ♜h2 ♟c4 12 ♜h8 b2+ 13 ♟c2 ♟a2 14 ♜b8 or 10...b2+ 11 ♟b1 ♟e4+?? 12 ♜c2+!) 2 e6+! fxe6 (2...♟e7!? 3 exf7 ♟xf7 also fails to win, due to 4 c4! ♟xc4 5 ♜h1 when White has enough counterplay, as demonstrated by 5...♟g7 6 ♜xh4 a3 7 ♜e4 ♟f7 8 g6! hxg6 9 fxg6 ♟xg6 10 ♜e5) 3 g6! hxg6 4 fxg6 ♟e7 5 ♜f1! (it's vital to cut off the black king and activate the rook) 5...a3 6 ♜f7+ ♟e8 7 ♟c1 b4 8 cxb4 cxb4 9 ♜h7 b3 10 ♜xh4 and despite the connected passed pawns on the sixth, Black can't win.

23) Bjerre-Zhu

1 ♟xd5!! (even 1 ♟c4!? ♟c6 2 ♟xd5! exd5 3 ♟xd5 is quite effective) 1...♜xd5? (1...exd5 2 e6 ♟xe6 3 ♟xh8 ♟d7 4 ♟b2 would have been very good for White, but was also Black's only chance) 2 ♟e4 ♜c5 3 ♟xb7 ♜c8 (3...♜b8 4 ♟c6 cleans Black up) 4 ♟xc8 ♜xc8 (or 4...♟xc8 5 ♜a8+ ♟c7 6 ♜xh8) 5 ♜d4! ♟c5 6 ♜c4 ♟f5 7 ♜c3 ♟d4 8 ♜a5+ 1-0

24) Stalmach-Grandelius

1...♜h3!! 0-1 A bolt from the blue. White will be mated, on g2 or via 2 gxh3 ♟xh3+ 3 ♟g2 ♟ef4+ 4 ♟h1 ♟xf3#.

4NCL Easter Chess Congress

Friday 3rd - Monday 6th April

Mercure Daventry Court Hotel, Sedgemoor Way, Daventry, NN11 0SG

FIDE Open, U2000, U1700
All Sections are 7 rounds and FIDE & ECF rated

Prize Fund: £4,200
Entry Fee: £45

For more information and to enter, visit:

4ncl.co.uk

This Month's New Releases



The Stories, Games, and Intrigues of Capablanca & Alekhine

Luis Fernandez Siles, 440 pages
Independently Published

RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

What is there left to say about the great rivalry between Jose Raul Capablanca and Alexander Alekhine, respectively the third and fourth champions, both of whom died in the 1940s? A lot as it happens, thanks to this excellent new book, which manages to fill in a significant gap in chess literature.

In the words of the author: "My overall conception of this book poses a challenge, as most books on chess history don't focus much on making the commentaries on the games instructive, while books on game collections don't delve too deeply into historical topics. I intended the book to be revealing and insightful for those interested in the historical aspect. On the other hand, I tried to ensure that chess enthusiasts find in the games material that provides them with knowledge and is useful for their progress."

At 440 pages, this is a hefty tome, but right from the start I am very happy to confirm it is 'all killer, no filler'. The content is superb, the text crisp and clean, and there are plenty of great photographs too.

Amazingly, the author had not been interested in chess history until "a couple of years ago" when he was intrigued by a biography on Arturo Pomar. This started a feverish love of chess history and the desire to write a magazine article on "the rivalry and hostility between Capablanca and Alekhine", which grew to immense proportions, eventually becoming this very big book.

The story starts in 1913, with the tournament in St. Petersburg. Each chapter thereafter covers subsequent meetings, games and mutually significant events in the lives of Alekhine and Capablanca, up to the sad final chapter, which covers the last parts of their lives. Chapter eight has particular significance; it covers, in depth, the big title match between the two great champions, which, of course, Alekhine won, much to the surprise of a lot of the chess world. Nobody was more surprised than Capablanca, despite his legendary lack of preparation. There are, however, notes about him enjoying the nightlife of Buenos Aires.

The author opines that neither player was at his absolute peak in 1927, despite the opinion of other commentators, most notably Garry Kasparov: "Capablanca may have already been in a slight decline due to issues with his blood pressure. And perhaps Alekhine hadn't yet reached his absolute best – though

he was close. Most authors agree that Alekhine played his finest chess in tournaments that followed the World Championship."

All very interesting. There was no doubt that Capablanca was the better player earlier in the year at the New York tournament (retrospectively, a prototype Candidates event – with the expectation that the second-placed player would be the official title challenger, as the incumbent champion was fully expected to win the tournament, which is exactly what happened).

Alekhine definitely seems to have improved again after the match, perhaps because of the experience of playing someone as strong as Capablanca 34 times in a row. As we know, the highly-anticipated rematch never came to pass, for a variety of reasons. It is impossible to tell if Capablanca would have put more effort into his preparation the second time around, but old habits die hard.

Naturally, their rivalry continued to burn fiercely, all the way to their final encounters at the strong 1938 AVRO tournament (a win and a draw from two games for Alekhine). All of the above – plus many more episodes – are covered in considerable detail in this book. Not all of the featured games feature one or both players; there are, for example, additions such as Mikhail Botvinnik's brilliancy prize-winning game against Savielly Tartakower at Nottingham 1936, to add important context to the changing chess world in which Capablanca and Alekhine continued their rivalry.

In-between the brewing hatred and political machinations, there was plenty of fine chess played between Capablanca and Alekhine, including these two snippets, featuring catastrophes on the same square.

After which Alekhine could only struggle on until move 35 and then **0-1**.

J.Capablanca-A.Alekhine World Championship (Game 21), Buenos Aires 1927



32...♟xe3! 0-1

"Capablanca resigned, as there is no hope after 33 ♜xd5 (33 fxe3 ♜xb3) 33...♞xd5 34 fxe3 ♟xe3+. Kasparov comments that this game was a kind of shock not only for the champion, but for the whole world, because no one had ever beaten Capablanca like this before!"

For the avoidance of doubt, this labour of love is definitely the best book I have seen so far in 2026 and I can highly recommend it to anyone interested in chess history or to those who just love playing through excellent games with fine notes.

Sean Marsh

A.Alekhine-J.Capablanca

St. Petersburg 1914



26...♞xe3+!



Bobby Fischer's Chess Queen

Shernaz Kennedy, 240 pages
New in Chess

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

An early indication as to whether or not a reader will be attracted to this book or not comes with the sensationalist subtitle: 'The untold story of the Indian woman who captured the American World Champion's heart'.

It is strange how this extremely niche sub-genre of women chess players spilling the beans on their associations with Fischer has suddenly emerged. It was just last year when

we saw the translation of Petra Dautov's *The Real Bobby Fischer: A Year with the Chess Genius* (Russell Enterprises, 2025), and now we have this new book, which details "a lifelong bond few knew existed."

As was the case with most people, the author's chess hero in the 1970s was Fischer. Kennedy wrote fan mail to him around the time of his 1972 title match with Boris Spassky, but did not receive any replies. Little did she know, Fischer did receive – and keep – letters.

Fast forward a few years and Kennedy has moved from India to America, with the notion of tracking down a long-retired Fischer for chess lessons. A chance meeting with a mutual acquaintance led to Fischer obtaining Kennedy's telephone number and calling her for a very long conversation. In typical Fischer style, there were unexpected tangents, such as his questions about the experience of childbirth.

Further calls and correspondence soon followed and, eventually, in-person meetings. Kennedy wanted to play Fischer at chess, of course, but the equipment she had with her failed to pass muster (vinyl boards were definitely not acceptable). Fischer solved the problem with a three-hour round trip to collect his own equipment, which included his style of chess clock, that was, at the time, a novelty. Blitz games followed, but Fischer was absolutely merciless, despite Kennedy's desire for him to drop just one half point, for her pride.

Fischer's views on numerous topics are recorded in the book. He was apparently surprised when FIDE did not agree to all his demands in the run-up to his ultimately aborted title defence against Anatoly Karpov in 1975. Later, there is suddenly talk of a match against Viswanathan Anand, which eventually changes into Fischer's (in)famous second "title match" with Spassky. The friendship eventually grinds to a halt when Kennedy fails to bend to Fischer's demands to start a new life together.

There are plenty of photographs, mainly featuring Fischer's handwritten letters, but none showing the famously camera-shy champion in his latter years. The letters are written in Fischer's typical almost illegible style; a mixture of lowercase and capitals, a distinct lack of paragraphs and an impression of being both child-like and childish. Nothing unexpected there, of course, but it is interesting to read something 'new' from him. Fortunately, some of Fischer's letters are given in the text, making them much easier to read.

Unfortunately, the letters sent by Kennedy to her hero were stolen in a bag-snatch. Fischer carried the letters everywhere and "They were stolen right under my nose!" Therefore, the correspondence has a one-sided nature.

Towards the end of the narrative, Fischer apparently confided in Kennedy that "I do have another offer, but it is to play Spassky again. You told me that at the Dubai Olympiad, he was just playing tennis and took draws, it won't look good that I play him, right?" According to the book, Kennedy then

talked him into playing the match.

This, again, is rather odd. Fischer was in touch with Spassky already and never stopped following top-level chess, so he should have been well aware of his frenemy's state of play.

Importantly, Alexey Root, in a review for sparkchess.com, details numerous factual errors in relation to the parts of the book covering US Women's Championships. Errors which would have been easy to fix with a little research. This leaves the rest of the narrative sitting on potentially shaky ground. I am not sure, for example, how every moment of a telephone call, from so long ago, can be recalled in such detail.

Anyone looking for a narrative of the physical part of the relationship will be disappointed. The aforementioned Dautov is dismissed by Fischer as "just a barbie doll" and the following exchange leaves a strange impression with its clunky dialogue.

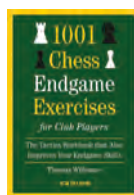
"Months later it just slipped out of my mouth while I was helping him with his comeback match: 'Well, both of us have tremendous control, right Bobby?'"

"What did you say?"

"I said both you and I have tremendous control, don't you agree? Mere mortals would have folded and exchanged body fluids, but we did not."

Fischer aficionados will want this book because they will collect anything featuring the eleventh world champion. However, given the factual errors pointed out by Alexey Root and other issues highlighted above, this must be classed as a non-essential purchase for everyone else. For the first time in my life, I have become tired of reading books about Fischer and, just as with the Dautov book, it is completely out of the question that the great champion would have wanted details of his private life to ever reach a state of publication.

Sean Marsh



1001 Chess Endgame Exercises for Club Players

Thomas Willemze, 366 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

We tend to associate tactics with attacking chess, but they are also a key ingredient in many endgames. When the board is stripped of material, not only can tactics be king, but they can also help us to learn much about the multifaceted powers of each of the pieces. A leading Dutch trainer and author, Willemze's trademark step-by-step approach should gradually improve the reader's sharpness and practical endgame skills, with the vast majority of the material grouped around pawn endings, one-piece and two-piece tactics. Note that a hardback version is also available, for £26.95 or £24.25 for Subscribers.



A Zillion Chess and Life Hacks

Maria Manakova, 292 pages, paperback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

This is a new edition of a book which gained a small but definite following when first released in 2023, despite largely then going under the radar. Now Elk & Ruby have produced this version of Serbian WGM Maria Manakova's psychological chess guide, aimed at both club players and those aspiring to higher levels. Drawing largely on her personal experience, Manakova tackles such important topics as how to prepare, maintain concentration at the board, handle unexpected events there and recover from painful defeats. This wide-ranging work can be quite pacy and an eclectic read at times, but inside there are plenty of nuggets of gold for the practical player.



An Introduction to Chess Endgame Studies

Oleg Pervakov, 240 pages, hardback
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Subtitled 'An Introduction to Chess Endgame Studies', this new production from Russell Enterprises sees one of the world's leading chess composers reveal all about his favourite art form. Aware that many chess players spurn studies, 65-year-old Pervakov explains not just their beauty, but all the terminology and themes involved, as well as how to go about solving endgame studies, and even compose them! Pervakov's own studies contain a huge amount of practical ideas, meaning that the reader can but improve their strategic and tactical endgame skills, as well as marvel at some quite incredible resources.

Hanon Russell and his Connecticut publishing house have also just released *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual Sixth Edition* (504 pages, paperback). This modern classic has been further revised and enlarged by endgame experts, Karsten Müller and Alex Fishbein. If it's not yet on your shelves, it can be purchased for £39.95 or £35.95 for Subscribers.



Bobby Fischer's Endgame Technique

Alex Colovic, 128 pages, paperback
RRP £15.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £14.35**

The grandmaster author's work on

Capablanca's endgame technique was very well received, in Chessable course and book format, and now he's turned his subsequent course on the eleventh world champion into a book, produced by New in Chess for Chessable. Like Capablanca, Fischer could make chess look pretty easy and we can still learn a huge amount from his endgame ability. Here he's seen at work displaying good technique, converting a bishop against knight advantage, also winning with good knight against bad bishop, and impressing in rook and opposite-coloured bishop endings. Colovic's annotations are clear, but the book (also available in hardback format for £18.95 or £17.05 for Subscribers) does come with the usual Chessable caveat: it's pretty short.



Business Checkmate

Zeev Zohar, 208 pages, hardback

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

With subtitles of both 'Win at Work with Lessons from the Chessboard' and 'From the Chessboard to the Boardroom', this new release from Thinkers Publishing is but the latest book aiming to show how knowledge of chess can be very useful in real life, specifically in business. Candidate master Zohar is a successful businessman and here aims to fuse his expertise to help others prosper in life, tackling along the way topics such as "necessary nitty gritty qualities", strategic versus tactical thinking, and risk assessment.



Chess Family Belavenets

Ludmila Belavenets, Sergey Yanovsky & Vladimir Barsky, 294 pages, paperback

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

This latest historical release from Elk and Ruby tells the story of not just Sergei Belavenets (1910–1942), who finished third in the 1939 USSR Championship then perished in the defence of Leningrad, but also his daughter, Ludmila Belavenets (1940–2021), the 1975 USSR women's champion and later women's world correspondence champion. A talented family indeed. When Sergei died, he left behind over 70 pages of an unfinished book, full of instructive middlegame and endgame material. Ludmila would later edit and publish it in her 1963 work *Master Sergei Belavenets*. That material has now been revised and translated for this new publication, which also features 31 of Sergei's best games and 22 of Ludmilla's, all annotated by her, with assistance in general

from GM Yanovsky and IM Barsky, who she knew very well in the later stages of her life and career. This rich, wide-ranging publication is also available as a hardback should you prefer, retailing at £41.95 or £37.75 for Subscribers.



Chess for Babies

Levy Rozman, 18 pages, hardback

RRP £7.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £7.19**

Despite the celebrity nature of the author, this is an unusual chess book from Penguin Random House. Bold illustrations should help a toddler (or highly-developed baby!) grasp the names of the pieces, as well as how they move and a little about the game at large. According to the author, he's "trying to help stimulate what visual capabilities a really small human being has", so if you're hoping your newborn could become the new Magnus Carlsen, starting them with this new book from GothamChess may not be such a bad plan.

Also new in stock at Chess & Bridge from the combination of Levy Rozman and Penguin Random House are *The Chess Deck: 50 Cards for Mastering the Basics*. For those who like flashcards and are keen to learn the rudiments of chess, this 'chess deck' might just fit the bill. It's available for £22.00 or £19.80 for Subscribers.



Master Class Tactics Vol.4

Oliver Reeh, PC/MAC booklet or download;

running time: 4 hours

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Those wishing to work on their tactics and do so in an interactive format may enjoy this latest release from Hamburg. IM Reeh presents more of his favourite tactics from his 'Tune Your Tactics' column for *ChessBase Magazine*. In total there are 34 video clips and 120 positions to solve, which come with hints and often ask too for the follow-up move or moves. As a bonus, ChessBase have also included a further 1200 (non-interactive) exercises for the keen viewer to attempt to solve.



Pan Inspector: A Chess Biography of Yuri Sakharov

Mykola Fuzik, 332 pages, paperback

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Yuri Sakharov (1922–1981) was a leading Ukrainian player, trainer and theoretician, and is now the latest Soviet great to be fully introduced to a Western audience courtesy of Elk and Ruby. Sakharov's early games are full of bold attacking play and against some notable names, but over time his style matured and became more positional, which can but have aided his successful later career in correspondence chess. Sakharov also had a fascinating life story, working for both the Germans and US Army in World War II, later spending five years in the Gulag, but emerging unbroken to play some of his best chess. Fuzik's engrossing read and fine collection of games is also available as a hardback, for £35.95 or £32.35 for Subscribers.



Play the King's Indian Attack!

Cyrus Lakdawala, 320 pages, hardback

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Ilan Rubin and his Elk and Ruby company have certainly been busy of late, publishing not just two detailed historical works, but Manakova's book and also this latest opening repertoire from the world's most prolific chess author. In trademark fashion, Lakdawala presents "A Learn-Less, Win-More Repertoire for White" based around 1 ♠f3, 2 g3 and 3 ♗g2. As usual, he clearly explains all the key strategic motifs, while tackling not just the main lines with 1...d5 followed by a quick ...c6, but reversed King's Indian and Pirc positions, as well as how to handle Black's attempts to set up a reversed London or play the French Defence.



Play Winning Chess

Yasser Seirawan, 224 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

First published by Microsoft Press in 1993 (yes, Microsoft did used to produce books, as well as software), this is a revised and updated version of a modern classic, a primer which became so successful that it became the first book of the *Winning Chess* series. Everyman Chess reprinted and expanded that series, and now it is the turn of Chess Elevation, a sister company of Quality Chess and Popular Chess, to do likewise. In this first volume, Seirawan begins by explaining in clear

detail how to play the game, before tackling the four key principles of chess: force, time, space and pawn structure. If you know someone looking to take up chess or still new to the game, this well-written, instructive but fun guide might just fit the bill.

Note that a hardback version of *Play Winning Chess* is also available, retailing at £24.99 or £22.49 for Subscribers.



Reversed Sicilian Power

Nico Zwirs, PC/MAC booklet or download; running time: 4 hours

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Dutch IM Zwirs returns to the ChessBase studio, aiming to convince Sicilian players to make the switch, go 1 c4 and enjoy having a reversed Sicilian on the board after 1...e5. The subtitle of 'Win with 1.c4 e5!' is potentially misleading – Zwirs shows how White wins after those moves. He presents some pretty fine model games and also takes a detailed look at both 2 d3 and 2 ♖c3 move orders, making this product especially useful for those looking to play a reversed Najdorf or Dragon as White.



The Vienna Game

Andrew Martin, PC/MAC booklet or download; running time: 4 hours, 30 minutes

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Andrew Martin may be semi-retired from his coaching duties, but remains as busy as ever, especially of late on the topic of 1 e4 e5 openings. He'll have a book out later this year for Popular Chess on the Evans Gambit and here presents a repertoire with 2 ♖c3 for ChessBase. As usual, Martin's focus is on the practical club and intermediate online player, and viewers will quickly appreciate that 2...♗c6 3 f4 still packs a punch. After 2...♗f6, Martin also looks at 3 f4, not least the line 3...d5 4 fxe5 ♗xe4 5 ♖f3, and presents too fairly detailed coverage of 3 ♗c4, angling for 3...♗c5 4 d3 d6 and only then 5 f4.



Uncrowned Chess Champions: Akiba Rubinstein

Boroljub Zlatanovic, 276 pages, hardback

RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

It's hard to argue with the notion that Akiba Rubinstein is one of the greatest ever players not to become world champion and he has long been one of Serbian IM Boroljub Zlatanovic's favourite players. Zlatanovic focusses on Rubinstein's highly logical style, drawing a number of important conclusions while showing how intermediate level players can copy Rubinstein's great principle of "do not rush!". This new release from Thinkers Publishing can be enjoyed both as a strategic textbook and a collection of some impressive games, on which the notes are largely restricted to the main positional points.



Unlock Your Chess Creativity

Richard Palliser, 304 pages, paperback

RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

This new work from our Editor has been published by Popular Chess, the successor to Everyman Chess. Coverage is set up by an insightful foreword from Matthew Sadler, before Palliser examines the play of six stars of the so-called English chess explosion and its aftermath: Tony Miles, John Nunn, Jonathan Speelman, Nigel Short, Michael Adams and Sadler himself. Each player receives a short biography before five of their best and most creative efforts are placed under the microscope. There are several exercises, aiming to further get the creative juices flowing and help readers to think a little more outside the box. For those who like their games collections in hardback format, one is also available, retailing at £29.99 or £26.99 for Subscribers.



Win with the English!

Nikolaos Ntirlis, 520 pages, paperback

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

One of the world's leading theoreticians has updated his earlier 2023 work *Playing the English* for Quality Chess. The result is an additional chapter on tackling Black's attempts to play a Queen's Indian set-up, while some other variations have also undergone a major overhaul, not least that key line 1 c4 e5 2 ♗c3 ♗f6 3 ♗f3 ♗c6, where Ntirlis now recommends 4 d3!?, angling for a more user-friendly version of his older 4 g3 approach. He's also added a chapter on 1 c4 c5 2 ♗c3 and now avoids any transposition to the main line Catalan, preferring to keep play in Reti waters. Quite simply, if you want a cutting edge 1 c4 repertoire, one designed for maximum practical

effect, you're unlikely to do any better than to follow Ntirlis' recommendations.



Win with the French!

Vassilios Kotronias, 328 pages, paperback

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

While leading Greek GM Kotronias has long been recognised as a top theoretician, you'll likely associate him more with playing 1 e4 in quite an aggressive manner than meeting it with 1...e6. However, fed up with banging his head against a wall in his favourite Tarrasch variation after 2 d4 d5 3 ♗d2 c5!, Kotronias has now switched sides and presents a state-of-the-art solid yet not undynamic repertoire with the French for Black. In the Tarrasch, he is aiming for 4 exd5 ♗xd5 as Black, the Advance is handled by 5...♗d7, and in the Classical variation, Black has some choice: against 4 ♗g5 both 4...dxe4 5 ♗xe4 ♗e7 and 4...♗b4 are covered, while after 4 e5 ♗fd7 5 f4 c5 6 ♗f3 ♗c6 7 ♗e3 both 7...a6 and 7...cxd4 8 ♗xd4 ♗b6 are examined. Kotronias doesn't shy away from explaining the main strategic motifs, but overall this is a detailed repertoire likely to appeal to theoretical types and existing French players looking to expand their lines.

As is usual for Quality Chess, a hardback edition of both the Ntirlis and Kotronias repertoire books is also available, for £31.99 or £28.79 for Subscribers.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

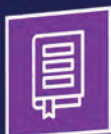
Please note our retail shop located at 44 Baker St, London - is now permanently closed. We will be moving to a new central London location this summer and full details will be released in the next issue of CHESS.

Please note our mail-order department is open throughout this period - and orders can be placed via the website:

www.chess.co.uk

or by calling 020 7486 7015 - please remember to mention you're a subscriber to claim a 10% discount.

YOUR EASY ACCESS TO OPENING THEORY



OPENING ENCYCLOPAEDIA 2026

GM Dorian Rogozenco

presents the latest trends
in world-class chess
(video running time: 3.5 hours).

All information in
the CB-Shop:



8,200 opening surveys
1,586 special theoretical databases
Over 40,000 illustrative games
GM Rogozenco: The latest trends



Full version	RRP	£149.95
	Subscribers'	£134.95
Update	RRP	£69.95
from version 2025	Subscribers'	£62.95



CHESS'S ULTIMATE THEORETICAL AUTHORITY

The most comprehensive theoretical chess work:
Anyone who is seriously concerned with openings cannot be without the Opening Encyclopaedia. The new 2026 edition is by far the most comprehensive theoretical chess work: 1,586 theory articles offer a huge treasure trove of ideas and high-quality analyses! There are 62 new major articles and 300 new or updated opening surveys that have been added in this edition. In addition:

100 top-class videos for 35 hours of playing time in total! For beginners there is a tutorial for each opening area, in which the most important ideas and strategies are presented.

The icing on the cake: Grandmaster Dorian Rogozenco presents current trends in worldclass chess. Secure yourself the decisive advantage with this unique opening library!

Order online - www.chess.co.uk - or by calling 020 7486 7015