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World Champions! – Terry Chapman reports on England's 65+ success in Krakow



A Close-Run English – Gawain Jones & Elmira Mirzoeva are the 2024 English Champions



Forgiveness – Keith Arkell reveals more about his infamous loss to GM Igors Rausis

Chess

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60 Seconds with... WGM Elmira Mirzoeva



21 b3 g5! 22 ♖xd6 ♜xd6 23 g3 ♜d7
24 ♙g2 ♜f6 25 a3 a5 26 axb4 axb4
27 ♜a2 ♙g6 28 d6 g4 29 ♜d2 ♙g7



30 f3 ♜xd6 31 fxc4 ♜d4+ 32 ♙h1 ♜f6
33 ♜f4 ♜e4 34 ♜xd3 ♜f2+ 35 ♜xf2
♙xd3 36 ♜fd2 ♜e3 37 ♜xd3 ♜c1!
38 ♜b2 ♜f2 39 ♜d2 ♜xd1+ 40 ♜xd1
♜e1+ 0-1

The best three chess books: Endgame Strategy by Mikhail Shereshevsky, Vishy Anand's *My Best Games of Chess*, and *Kramnik: Life and Games* by Vladimir Kramnik and Iakov Damsky.

Is FIDE doing a good job? They have much to arrange, not only the official tournaments. Now they have also started think about women's chess and doing more to grow it. They have improved over the last few years in my opinion, but I still think they can do much more, and hope that they will.

Or your National Federation? I understand it is not easy for the ECF. I highly appreciate their work for women's chess, how they have improved the communication and developed things. Running even more women's events will definitely bring more young players in.

Any advice for either? Sometimes it's really hard to promote and improve chess, but if you have chosen to, please keep in mind that not only actions but words make all the difference.

Can chess make one happy? I am always positive, so, yes, it can!

A tip please for the club player: Enjoy every tournament and if you want to improve your chess skills, there are many resources on the internet these days. Online study can boost your confidence and bring you more pleasure when you play.

Born: 2nd November 1981, Moscow.

Place of residence: Harrow, London.

Occupation: Chess player and coach.

Enjoyable? Mostly.

And home life? Yes.

But sometimes good to escape to: The park.

Sports played or followed: Tennis.

A favourite novel? I've read a great many, but just can't pick one favourite.

Piece of music? Anything classical, Adele or Sia.

Film or TV series? Any sort of thriller.

What's the best thing about playing chess? The opportunity to travel.

And the worst? Losing.

Your best move? Ideally yet to be played.

But less memorable than your worst move? Blundering is never nice.

And a highly memorable opponent? Hard to say. All games with strong players are memorable as you learn a lot from them.

Favourite game of all time? Game 16 of the 1985 world championship match.

A.Karpov-G.Kasparov
World Championship (Game 16),
Moscow 1985
Sicilian Taimanov

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜c6
5 ♜b5 d6 6 c4 ♜f6 7 ♜1c3 a6 8 ♜a3
d5! 9 cxd5 exd5 10 exd5 ♜b4 11 ♙e2
♙c5 12 0-0 0-0 13 ♙f3 ♙f5 14 ♙g5
♜e8 15 ♜d2 b5 16 ♜ad1 ♜d3 17 ♜ab1
h6 18 ♙h4 b4 19 ♜a4 ♙d6 20 ♙g3 ♜c8



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GRIEVE



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COLLADOS



2460

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TURNER



2459

GM DANIEL
GORMALLY



2425

GM KEITH
ARKELL



2386

GM MARK
HEBDEN



2385

IM JOSE
COLLADOS



2361

GM NIGEL
DAVIES



2325

IM OLEG
GUBANOV



2275

WGM KATA
TOMA



2241

FM NEIL
DICKENSON



2283

FM MORITZ
COLLIN



2255

CM STANLEY
BADACSONYI



2178



World Champions!

Terry Chapman reports on a fine England 65+ team achievement in Krakow

The FIDE World Senior Team Championships took place in Krakow, Poland from 2nd to 11th July. The 65+ team – John Nunn, Tony Kosten, Jonathan Mestel, Paul Littlewood and myself – were top seeds, and indeed won the gold medals with seven match wins and two draws, finishing one match point ahead of Israel and two ahead of France. John and Tony won gold medals for individual board performance, I won silver, Jonathan bronze.

We also fielded a strong second team: John Pigott, Tony Stebbings, Chris Baker, Nigel Povah and Chris Beaumont. They came fourth, with six match wins and three losses. Playing on board one, John Pigott won an individual silver medal, including a victory against GM Lubomir Ftacnik. Nigel Povah won an individual bronze, while our third and fourth teams completed a strong English presence.

England are highly competitive at 65+ level nowadays, reflecting the strength of English chess in the 1980s. Chinese and Indian chess development still lay in the future then. Russia does not compete for obvious reasons. The USA, formidable in the 50+, did not send a 65+ team, and this year the Germans fielded a couple of good teams, but not a team likely to challenge for the title. We seemed to have promising chances, but speaking for myself I was far from complacent, knowing from experience how a gold medal challenge can be scuppered by one bad day, one bad game in a close match, one bad move in a close game...

We started strongly with four wins. This nice tactic made sure we stayed on track in round 3, after the other boards were drawn:

R.Vogel-T.Chapman Germany Zähringen vs England I



23...♖d8! 24 ♜a8? ♗a6! 25 ♜xc8



Terry Chapman, playing in Krakow alongside Jonathan Mestel, who made a welcome seniors debut.

One point is 25 ♖xa6 ♗h3+.
25...♜xc8 26 ♗xa6 ♜a8 27 ♗c5

Or 27 ♗b4 ♜a4.

27...c2 0-1

And White resigned in view of 28 ♗xc2 ♜a1+ 29 ♖g2 ♜c1.

However, as can so easily happen, in rounds 5 and 6 there were lapses, resulting in match draws, and enabling the on-form French to establish a lead. If they won their remaining matches, it would be their tournament, nothing we could do about it, as we had already played them. They also had the better tiebreak, and there were not many remaining teams who could hope to beat them. Our team mood on the evening of round six was subdued: we were talking possibilities now, not probabilities.

Next day England II, not quite mounting a gold medal challenge themselves, but looking good, were taking on France. Could they give England I a helping hand? Meanwhile England I faced Italy. We absolutely had to win, then hope for favourable developments elsewhere.

But Italy weren't a pushover, and things didn't exactly start smoothly. On board 1 Nunn was White, often a good bet for a full point, but this time something went wrong, and he made a short draw from an already

worse position. In our other white game Littlewood came up against a nasty opening surprise, and was clearly on the back foot. On board 2, Kosten with Black looked on the way to a solid, professional draw. That left...

F.Trabattoni-T.Chapman Italy vs England I Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 ♗f3 d5 3 ♗c3 ♗g4 4 h3 ♗xf3
5 ♜xf3 e6 6 d3 ♗d7 7 ♗d2 ♗c5

This was not my preparation, but my opponent had a suspicious air of innocence: it seemed wise to play something he wouldn't expect.

8 ♜g3 ♗d4 9 0-0-0 ♗e7 10 h4 0-0?

The downside of playing a line I hadn't studied much. 10...♜b6 is essential, preventing ♗e2 which is the move White wants to play.

11 ♗e2 ♗f6 12 ♗g5?

Much more challenging would have been 12 f4 ♜b6 13 e5 ♗f5 14 ♜h3 ♗e7 15 g4 ♗d4 16 ♗xd4 ♜xd4 17 ♖b1.

12...♜b6 13 ♗xf6?! ♗xf6 14 e5 ♗d7 15 h5?! h6 16 f4?! ♗f5 17 ♜f3 ♗e3 18 ♜d2?! f6 19 exf6 ♜xf6 20 g3 ♗e5 21 ♜f2 ♗5g4 22 ♜g1 ♗xf1 23 ♜xf1



short or solid draws with Black. Then the last round was a victory lap. We'd done it.

Tony Stebbings won an excellent and very important game against France. John Pigott beat Ftacnik in 27 moves. However, if I'm to select one game it really has to be the champagne finish John Nunn gave us in round 9.

J.Nunn-T.Binham

England I vs Finland

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 f5 4 d3 fxe4 5 dxe4 ♜f6 6 0-0 ♙c5 7 ♖d3 d6 8 ♚c4

John later told me he was using his wife Petra's preparation.

8...♙d7 9 ♘c3 ♚e7 10 ♘d5 ♘xd5

11 exd5 ♘b8?? 11...♘d4 is OK for Black. Radjabov has drawn three times with this, against Mamedyarov, Topalov and Carlsen.

12 ♙g5 Black is bust now.

12...♚f8 13 ♚ae1 ♙xb5

Actually the first new move.

14 ♚xb5+ ♘d7



White has made several small inaccuracies, and Black is in charge. But what to do? Stockfish prefers the more forceful 23...e5, but there was a point to my next move. It doesn't particularly threaten anything, because ...e5 then ...exf4 only activates White's knight, and ...e5-e4 activates the rook on d2, but it ties White up, because if the knight moves, Black will crash through on the f-file.

23...♚af8 24 ♚f3 ♘e3 25 ♚e1 e5 26 ♚h1 d4 27 ♚e4 c5 28 b3

28 ♚xe5 ♚e6 wins the queen in the centre of the board and 28 fxe5 ♚f1 justifies 23...♚af8; hooray!

28...a5



Not quite zugzwang, but anyway White could find nothing better than:

29 ♚dd1 ♘xd1 30 ♚xd1 ♚c6 31 ♚xc6 ♚xc6 32 fxe5 ♚f5 0-1

So we had our match win, the other games all being drawn. Meanwhile all games were in progress in the other key match. Of course I went to watch. John: oh dear. Tony: looking good. Chris: under pressure. Nigel: hasn't he just blundered a piece? So France were going to win, 2½-1½ or 3-1. Then they'd cruise home in the final rounds. We'd won today, but we hadn't done enough. For me, it would be another near miss (Vilnius 2014: silver; Dresden 2015: bronze; Crete 2017: bronze; Ohrid 2023: silver). Not so easy, to win a world championship...

But what's this? Chris escapes intact. He's surely better now...then agrees a draw! John lands a knight fork. That's drawn too. Amazing. And Nigel. Well at least he has some activity. You could almost call that counterplay. Surely not? He's drawn, he's drawn from a clear piece down! England II have won! England I takes the lead!

England definitely played as an eight-man team that day.

The two England teams were drawn against each other next day, but there was no more high drama. England I achieved two good wins with White (Tony, myself), and two



15 ♘xe5! 1-0

And the celebrations began...

Finally, I must pay tribute to Paul Littlewood's successful captaincy, and also to Nigel Povah, without whose overall leadership and tireless organisation it just wouldn't have happened.

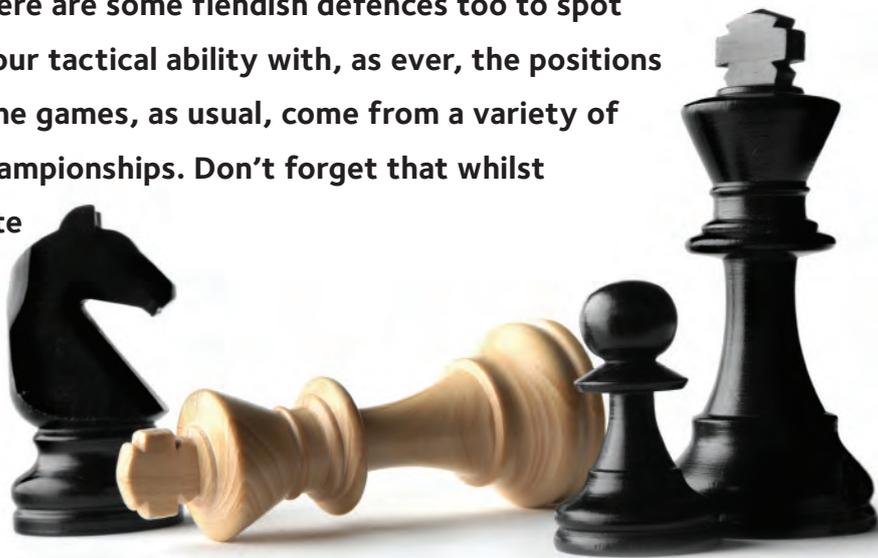


World Senior 65+ Team Champions, England: Kosten, Nunn, Mestel, Chapman and Littlewood.

Find the Winning Moves

Or even Find the Drawing Moves, as there are some fiendish defences too to spot this month. In all, 24 puzzles to test your tactical ability with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games, as usual, come from a variety of recent events, not least the English Championships. 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 draw.

Solutions on pages 54.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) P.Zhu-S.Gordon

English Championship, Kenilworth 2024
White to Play



(2) A.Dasgupta-C.Gibson

English Championship, Kenilworth 2024
White to Play



(3) K.Hryshchenko-R.Rida

English Women's Ch., Kenilworth 2024
White to Play



(4) D.Janaszak-N.To

Titled Tuesday Blitz 2024
White to Play



(5) B.Bharat Kumar-M.Hebden

English Championship, Kenilworth 2024
Black to Play



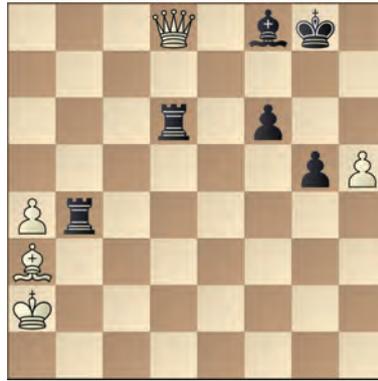
(6) K.Sasikiran-L.Ristic

Paracin 2024
Black to Play and Draw

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



(7) A.Ghasi-S.Banerjee
English Championship, Kenilworth 2024
White to Play



(8) R.Rida-E.Dicen
English Women's Ch., Kenilworth 2024
White to Play



(9) D.Savidge-J.Boswell
English Championship, Kenilworth 2024
White to Play



(10) R.Terry-V.Pranav
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2024
Black to Play



(11) P.Crocker-A.Matthews
English Over-50 Ch., Kenilworth 2024
White to Play



(12) W.Bartram-M.Walker
Great Yarmouth 2024
White to Play



(13) Z.Varney-E.Mirzoeva
English Women's Ch., Kenilworth 2024
White to Play and Draw



(14) P.Bonafont-S.Orton
Norwich 2024
Black to Play and Draw



(15) A.Indjic-Yu Yangyi
Dubai 2024
Black to Play

Harder Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



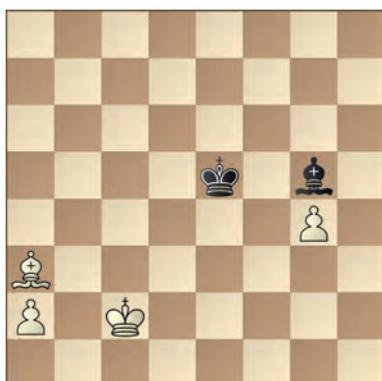
(16) V.Anand-B.Amin
Casablanca (rapid) 2024
White to Play



(17) A.Omonov-S.Vokhidov
Uzbek Rapid Championship, Tashkent 2024
Black to Play



(18) G.Quillan-D.Fernandez
Liverpool 2024
Black to Play



(19) P.Galperin-A.Kozak
Przeworsk 2024
Black to Play and Draw



(20) V.Teterev-M.Galchenko
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2024
Black to Play and Draw



(21) A.Mikhalevski-D.Roos
World Senior Team Ch., Krakow 2024
White to Play



(22) I.Zemlyanskii-S.Sargsyan
Sharjah 2024
White to Play and Draw



(23) V.Artemiev-A.Ssegwanyi
Kazan (blitz) 2024
White to Play



(24) V.Sivuk-M.Petrosyan
Sharjah 2024
White to Play

New from Quality Chess!

The Mental Game

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

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

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

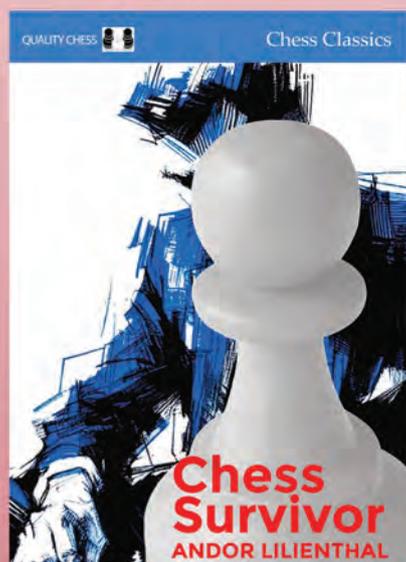


Chess Survivor

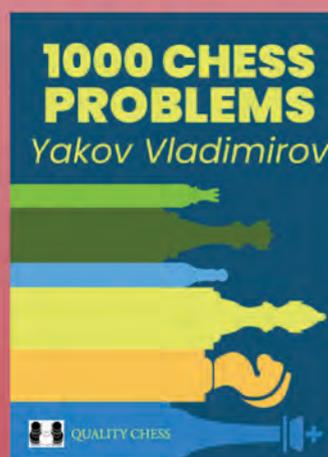
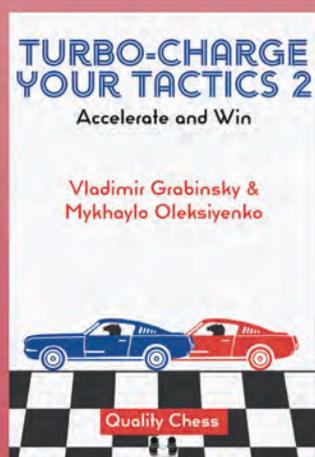
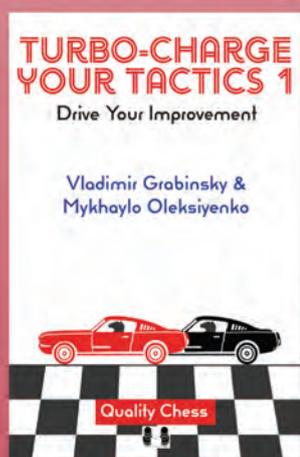
Andor Lilienthal was one of the inaugural recipients of the Grandmaster title when FIDE introduced it in 1950. When Bobby Fischer saw Lilienthal in the audience during his 1992 return match against Spassky, Fischer immediately said: "Pawn e5 takes f6!" – a reference to Lilienthal's brilliant win over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

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

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



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CHESSFEST

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Over 23,000 attended this year's edition of ChessFest at London's Trafalgar Square, making it the UK's largest chess event. The event was organised by Chess in Schools & Communities and sponsored by XTX Markets



"It's chess, Jim, but not as we know it..." The first living game of ChessFest is about to kick off with Pink Flamingo to e4.



The rain came hard, but didn't last too long. Not that it mattered, with most people willing to tough out a downpour, especially simul-giver Gawain Jones



The sun was soon back out shining, and was the perfect excuse for a blitz challenge match on a giant set. It's certainly a novel way to get fit as 40-60 moves in five minutes will have you moving quite some distance. The crowd loved it, although many preferred just to play chess.



Not everyone that came to ChessFest was a diehard fan of the game, some were new to chess, whilst others had never played. The 'Teaching Zone' had 50 Chess in Schools' tutors on rotation to offer free lessons, covering everything from how the pieces move to basic tactics and checkmates, to the nuances of the Accelerated Dragon!

The casual chess zones were full to capacity throughout most of the day, with close to 800 people playing at any one time. The explosion of London-based, over-the-board social meet-ups like OTB Southbank, Four Corners, and London Chess Community mean it's now possible to play chess on any evening in London - just not on this scale!



The Simul Zone was another popular staple. Many titled players took on all-comers throughout the day, including Harriet Hunt (left) and eve Malcolm.



Solutions

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

1) Zhu-Gordon

1 ♖xh7+! ♙xh7 2 ♜f7# 1-0

2) Dasgupta-Gibson

1 ♜xf6! ♙xh6 2 ♜g8+! ♜xg8 3 ♜xg8# 1-0

3) Hryshchenko-Rida

1 ♜c6! 1-0 The black queen is fatally overloaded.

4) Janaszak-To

1 ♜b5! 1-0 If 1...axb5 2 ♙xb5+ ♙d7 3 ♜f7# and 1 ♙b5+!? axb5 2 ♜xb5 works too.

5) Bharat Kumar-Hebden

1...♜xe4! (preparing to trap the white queen; the mundane 1...♙f5 also wins) 2 ♙xe4 ♙c5 0-1

6) Sasikiran-Ristic

1...♜xd3+! 2 ♜xd3 ½-½ It's stalemate.

7) Ghasi-Banerjee

1 ♜xg6+! ♙xg6 (if 1...fxg6 2 ♙f8+ ♙h7 3 ♜f7#) 2 ♜xe5+ ♙h6 3 ♙f8+ ♙h7 4 ♜f5# 1-0

8) Rida-Dicen

Black has just blundered with ...♜e6-d6?? (...♜e2+ would have drawn), and retribution was swift: 1 ♜xf8+! ♙xf8 2 ♙xb4 ♙e7 3 ♙xd6+ ♙xd6 4 h6 forced a new queen.

9) Savidge-Boswell

1 ♜h8+! (1 ♙h7+ ♙f8 2 ♜xe6+ also wins) 1...♙xh8 2 ♜h7+ ♙f8 3 ♜g6+ 1-0

10) Terry-Pranav

1...♜e2+! 2 ♙f1 (now it's mate, but 2 ♜xe2 ♜xe2 would be pretty crushing) 2...♜xf3+! 0-1 If 3 gxf3 ♙h3#.

11) Crocker-Matthews

1 ♜xf7! ♙xf7 2 ♜g6+ ♙f8 3 ♜xh6+ ♙g8 4 ♜g6+ ♙h8 (4...♙f8? 5 h6 is trivial) 5 ♜h6+ ♙g8 6 ♜xg5+ (or 6 ♜d5) 6...♙h8 7 ♜h6+ ♙g8 8 ♜d5! e5 9 ♜xd6 ♜f5 10 ♜g6+ 1-0

12) Bartram-Walker

1 ♜xf7! (1 ♜xe6! fxe6 2 ♜xe6 also wins, followed by 3 ♙xg6 or 2...♜xe6 3 ♜xe6+) 1...♜d5 (if 1...♜xf7 2 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 3 ♜xe6 or 1...♙xf7 2 ♜xe6 ♜f8? 3 ♜e7+, and even 1...♜xh4!? 2 ♜g5!? ♜f3+ 3 ♜xf3 ♜xg5+ 4 ♙f1 ♜c4 5 ♙e2 leaves White with a decisive attack) 2 ♜g5 ♜xh4 3 ♜xe6+ ♙h8 4 ♜e8+! ♜xe8 5 ♜xe8+ ♜g8 6 ♜xg8+ ♙xg8 7 ♙b3 1-0

13) Varney-Mirzoeva

After 1 ♜xb2+? ♜xb2 2 f7 ♜b8 Black won by

a tempo (3 ♙f6 ♙d3 4 ♙g6 ♙e4 5 ♙xh5 ♙f5 6 ♙h6 ♙f6 7 ♙h7 ♙xf7 8 h5 ♜b6 9 h6 ♙f8 0-1), but 1 f7! ♜b8 (1...♙xb1 2 f8♜ is a draw too, as with 2...♜b3 3 ♜c5 ♙a2 4 ♜a5+ ♜a3 5 ♜d2 ♙a1 6 ♜d4) 2 ♜f1 (2 ♜xb2+!? ♙xb2 3 ♙e6 ♙c3 4 ♙e7 ♙d4 5 f8♜ ♜xf8 6 ♙xf8 ♙e5 also holds if White now finds 7 ♙e7!) 2...b1♜ 3 ♜xb1 ♙xb1 4 ♙f5 ♙c2 5 ♙g6 ♙d3 (or 5...♜f8 6 ♙g7) 6 ♙xh5 ♙e4 7 ♙g6 would have been an easy draw, and if 7...♙d5 8 h5 ♙e6 9 h6 ♜f8 10 h7.

14) Bonafont-Orton

1...♜f4+! (the simplest, forcing a draw) 2 gxf4 ♜h1+ 3 ♙g4 ♜g2+ 4 ♙h4 ♜f2+! (and not 4...♜h2+?? 5 ♙h3) 5 ♙g5 f6+ 6 ♙g4 ♜g2+ 7 ♙h4 ♜f2+ 8 ♙h3 ♜f1+ ½-½

15) Indjic-Yu Yangyi

1...♜c1! 2 g4 (2 ♜g1 ♜xg1! 3 ♙xg1 ♜xb4 wins too) 2...♜h1+ 3 ♙g3 ♜xh3+! (3...♜xb4? 4 ♜xg5! ♜g1+! 5 ♙xf3 ♜c3+ 6 ♙e2 ♜c4+ is only a draw) 4 ♙xh3 ♜xb4 5 ♜d3 (or 5 ♜c2? ♜e1) 5...♙e4 6 ♜e3 ♜b1 7 ♜xe4 ♜xe4 0-1 White's pawns are simply too loose.

16) Anand-Amin

1 ♜xe6! (or 1 ♙a6+ ♙b8 2 ♜xe6!) 1...♜xe5 (if 1...♙xe6? 2 ♙a6+ ♙b8 3 ♜b7#) 2 ♙a6+ ♙b8 3 ♜xf8 1-0 A piece has been won, whereas 3 ♜xd8?? ♙g7 would only be rather unclear.

17) Omonov-Vokhidov

1...f5! 2 gxf6 (of course, if 2 ♜xf5 ♜f8) 2...♜xf6+ 3 ♙g4 ♜g8+ 4 ♙h3 ♜e6+! 5 ♙xh4 ♜h6# 0-1

18) Quillan-Fernandez

1...♜dxf4! 2 gxf4 (or 2 ♜xf4 ♜xf4 3 gxf4 ♜xd4+ 4 ♜f2 ♜d5 and wins) 2...♜xd4+ 3 ♜f2 (3 ♜f2 ♜xf4! forces mate, and if 4 ♜xd4 ♜h3#) 3...♜xf4 0-1 White is losing a ruinous amount of material.

19) Galperin-Kozak

1...♙f4! 2 ♙c1+ (2 ♙d6+ ♙xg4 3 a4 ♙d8 is also an easy draw) 2...♙xg4 3 ♙xg5 ♙f5! (heading for the corner and sanctuary of White having the wrong-coloured rook's pawn, and not 3...♙xg5?? 4 a4) 4 ♙c3 ♙e6 5 ♙c4 ♙d6 6 ♙b5 ♙c7 7 ♙a6 ♙b8 8 ♙f4+ ♙a8 9 ♙b6 ½-½

20) Teterev-Galchenko

1...♜a6! (1...♜d7+? 2 ♙e8? ♜a7 3 ♙f7 ♜xf7! 4 ♙xf7 ½-½ was the game, but 2 ♙e7! ♜a7 3 ♙d5 ♜a4 4 ♙f8 ♜f4+ 5 ♙f6

would have won) 2 ♙c4 (or 2 ♙b3 when Black can go 2...♜c6 or 2...♜a2!) 2...♜a3! is a second only move to draw, and if 3 ♙f8 ♜a8+.

21) Mikhalevski-Roos

1 ♙e2! (or 1 ♙e1! h5 2 ♙e2 h3 3 gxf3 h4 4 ♙e1! ♙xf3 5 ♜xc6+ and wins, but not 1 ♙g1? when the game concluded 1...h3 2 gxf3 h5 3 h4 ♙h3! 4 ♜xf4 ½-½ and here 3 ♜xf4+ ♙xf4 4 ♙g2 h4 5 ♙f2 ♙f5 6 ♙e3 ♙e5 7 f4+ ♙d5 is also a draw) 1...h5 (1...h3 2 gxf3 h5 3 h4! leaves Black out of good moves and so lost) 2 ♙e1! h3 3 gxf3 ♙xf3 4 ♜xc6+ ♙e3 (if 4...♙g3? 5 ♜d6) 5 ♜e6+! wins, since soon the queens will be forced off, as with 5...♙f3 6 ♜d5+ ♙e3 7 ♜d2+.

22) Zemlyanskii-Sargsyan

After 1 ♜g2? d5 2 ♜e3+ ♙e5 3 g4 hxg4+ 4 hxg4 ♜e4! Black was winning fairly straightforwardly (5 ♙e2 c4 6 ♙f3 ♜g5+ 7 ♙f2 ♙d4 8 ♙e2 ♙e4 9 ♜f5 d4 10 ♜d6+ ♙d5 11 ♜f5 ♙e5 12 ♜h4 ♙e4 13 ♜f5 ♜f7 14 ♜g3+ ♙e5 15 ♜f5 ♜d6 16 ♜h4 ♙f4 17 ♜g6+ ♙xg4 18 ♜e5+ ♙f4 19 ♜xc4 ♜xc4 20 ♙d3 ♙e5 0-1), but 1 ♜d3! would have drawn, and if 1...c4 (the only real try, in view of 1...♜d5 2 g4+ hxg4+ 3 hxg4+ ♙g5 4 ♜f2, and if, for example, 4...♜f6 5 ♜h3+ ♙h4 6 ♜f2 d5 7 ♜d3 c4 8 ♜b4 d4 9 ♜c6 d3 10 ♜e5 d2 11 ♙e2 c3 12 ♜f3+ ♙xg4 13 ♜xd2 and draws) 2 ♜f4 d5 (2...♙e5 3 g4 hxg4+ 4 hxg4 ♜xg4! 5 ♙xg4 ♙e4 6 ♙g3 d5 7 ♜e6 d4 8 ♙f2 also makes it back in time to hold) 3 g4+! hxg4+ (or 3...♜xg4 4 ♜xd5! ♜e5+ 5 ♙e3 when Black won't win) 4 hxg4+ ♙e5 5 g5 (the key point, advancing before Black can get his knight to e4) 5...♜e4 6 g6 (Grieve) when, for example, 6...d4 7 g7 ♜f6 8 ♜h5! ♜g8 9 ♜f4 leaves Black unable to win.

23) Artemiev-Ssegwany

1 b4!! ♜xb4+ 2 c3 ♜b2 3 ♙xf5 e6 (3...♜xa1? 4 ♙xd7+ ♙xd7 5 ♜e5+ ♙e8 6 ♜b3 is even worse for Black) 4 ♜c2! ♜xa1 5 ♙xe6! ♜df6 (the best try, and not 5...fxe6?? 6 ♜g6#) 6 0-0 fxe6 7 ♜bd2 ♜xf1+ 8 ♙xf1 left White with a queen for two rooks, but winning due to his far superior coordination and much safer king: 8...♙d6 9 ♜g6+ ♙f8 10 ♜e5 ♙xe5 11 dxe5 ♜e7 12 ♜b1 ♜d7 13 ♜xb7 ♜d8 14 ♜b3 ♙f7? 15 ♙xe7! ♙xe7 16 ♜d4 1-0

24) Sivuk-Petrosyan

1 ♜xh6+!! (1 ♜e2? ♙xd5+ 2 ♙xh2 ♙xb3 3 axb3 ♜d6+ saw Black doing very well in the game) 1...♙xh6 2 ♜xh6 bxc3 (even 2...♜d6!? 3 ♜xg5! bxc3 4 ♜f6 cxb2 5 ♙xb2 ♜d7 6 ♙xh2 is superb for White, as shown by 6...♙g7 7 ♜e1 ♜a6 8 ♜xg6+! ffg6 9 ♜e7+ ♜xe7 10 ♜xe7+ ♜f7 11 ♜e5+, with an ongoing decisive attack) 3 ♙xg5 ♙xd5+ 4 ♙xh2 ♜d6+ may look problematic for White, but as pointed out by Harry Grieve in his excellent 1 e4 e5 column for ChessPublishing, 5 ♙f4! ♜xf4 6 ♜xd6 cxd6 7 ♜xf4 is winning in view of the twin threats of ♙xd5 and ♜g1+.

This Month's New Releases

Games and Goals

Atle Grønn, 272 pages

New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Star footballers Harry Kane and Mo Salah have recently spoken of their love of chess, but we have to go back a little further to find a player who set the highest bar to date in terms of skill both on the pitch and across the board. It is another indication to some of us that time is passing by quickly when it occurs that the name of Simen Agdestein is another one which may not mean as much as it should to the modern audience. Yet his credentials are excellent; he "was awarded the title of chess grandmaster at the age of eighteen, the youngest in the world at the time. Two years later he wrote in his diary that he believed he could become the best in the world."

This interesting book – translated from the original edition by Jonathan Tisdall and subtitled 'The Fascinating Chess and Football Careers of Simen Agdestein' – tells the intriguing story of Agdestein's life and dual-career, based on Agdestein's own writing and personal archive. It wasn't always just about chess, which "wasn't his only passion. He also excelled at football and was selected nine times for the Norwegian national team. Foreign clubs wanted to sign him as a professional."

It is rare, indeed, to excel at two different activities, one of which is mainly physical and the other, cerebral. Agdestein himself couldn't "choose between my left and my right arm", when it came to the choice between chess and football. Unfortunately, the choice was made for him when a serious knee injury ended his footballing days. Chess fans will be pleased to know the emphasis of this book is mainly on the chess side of Agdestein's life. He was a player who dreamed of reaching the top, but never quite made it.

At one time the world's youngest grandmaster (at 18!), he was labelled by Garry Kasparov as "the world's strongest amateur." Perhaps one thing holding him back was his choice of openings at critical moments. For example, against Kasparov, he once played (as Black, in the 1989 Tilburg tournament) 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖d2 b6 (1-0, 30), and he showed a stubbornness for an inferior variation against the Spanish Game too. "The Norwegian Variation of the Spanish Game (1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗a4 b5 5 ♗b3 ♗a5) is the Stonewall Dutch's evil cousin. The two openings are the most Norwegian thing on the chessboard."

It is interesting that fellow Norwegian and Agdestein's former pupil, Magnus Carlsen, is

notorious for playing anything and everything in the openings, and usually getting away with it, but when you are clearly the best player in the world, most things tend to work (think of the local wag down at the chess club playing the Grob or similar against older or less experienced members in club championships – just because they can).

Agdestein's thoroughly uncompromising style, and habitual time trouble, is compared to that of Viktor Korchnoi in the book and that is certainly apparent from the illustrative games. Indeed, the two players shared a deep mutual respect, despite being from different eras and also notwithstanding both being noted for their general disdain of players from their opposite periods of time. Their first encounter was in a simultaneous display, in which Korchnoi demolished Agdestein's Benoni in short order, but the latter used the defeat as an important lesson and went on to be particularly successful against the Benoni – using Korchnoi's recipe – thereafter.

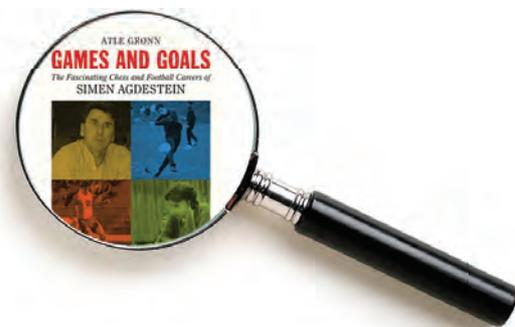
When asked if there is anyone he always feared at the chess board, Agdestein gave the reply: "Timman, Korchnoi and Kasparov." However, against the player who was born to be king, he always had terrific battles – and sometimes with success. In this one, despite having a wide-open king, he finds a way to exploit Carlsen's overextended position.

M. Carlsen-S. Agdestein Norwegian Ch., Molde 2004



37...g5! 38 ♗d6 ♖c1+ 0-1

The main content of the book concludes with Simen Agdestein's greatest victories, a chapter which shows him on the winning side against the likes of Vlastimil Hort, Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Lev Polugaevsky, Michael Adams and, of course, a young Magnus Carlsen.



There is also a very creative battle against Julian Hodgson, in which the latter plays, as Black, 1 c4 c5 2 ♗f3 h6 3 d4 g5, after which the sparks fly from both sides of the board.

Many of Agdestein's games, just as is the case with Korchnoi's, are scrappy, due to a shortage of time on the clock and the incredible tension from his uncompromising style of play. Here is a case in point.

S. Agdestein-B. Spassky Gjovik 1983



Spassky was generally unambitious in the 1980s (and beyond), but could still turn on the aggressive style if provoked. Here, acute time trouble played its part and instead of the obvious 33 ♖xe5, White played instead 33 ♖e4??, giving away most of his advantage. However, it was Spassky who failed to adapt to the new circumstances and Agdestein went on to win anyway (1-0, 53).

Elsewhere, there is a very good selection of photographs and also two pages of newspaper cuttings representing his footballing days.

Where is Agdestein now? Ultimately, apart from the knee injury, it would appear that trying to keep playing both football and chess at a very high level was too much of a stretch, and he ended up falling between the two stools and never finding the key ingredient – happiness – which would have propelled him to greater heights. According to the book, "These days Agdestein is a coach and teacher at the Norwegian College for Top Athletes, a fertile breeding ground where his most successful pupil, Magnus Carlsen, also attended. Agdestein continues to compete in chess. In 2023 he won the Norwegian Championship for the ninth time, 41 years after his first successful bid."

New in Chess have taken a bold step recently in publishing biographies and autobiographies of strong grandmasters who never reached the elite level (such as *In Black and White* by Paul van der Sterren and *Making My Move* by Victor Bologan, both already reviewed here in *CHESS*). I hope there are more to come, as I cannot be the only one who enjoys reading so much new material, giving fresh takes on chess players and tales which are not found elsewhere.

It is interesting to speculate if anyone is going to come along and simultaneously excel at chess and another sport. It seems unlikely, given the extraordinary amount of preparation to keep ahead of the pack in either world. However, for a relatively brief period of time, Simen Agdestein was the exception to the rule. His is a strange story, but is one which is served well by this entertaining book.

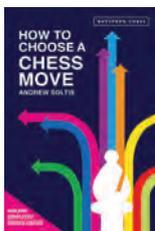
Sean Marsh



Delchev's Practical Opening Repertoire Volume 1

Alexander Delchev, 314 pages, hardback
RRP £36.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £33.25**

This new series from Thinkers Publishing sees noted Bulgarian theoretician Aleksander Delchev begin to present a repertoire with 1 e4, focussing initially on the Scandinavian, Modern and Pirc Defences. His aim is a fairly aggressive repertoire, if also one that will be long-lasting and so isn't based solely on cutting-edge theory. Readers are certainly helped by Delchev's advice on preparation in general, as well as use of complete games. There are also plenty of exercises sprinkled throughout the book and, in some cases, a choice of options for White.



How to Choose a Chess Move

Andrew Soltis, 208 pages, paperback
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

This is "a fully revised and updated edition of a Batsford chess classic", one that first appeared in 2004. Batsford remain the publisher, with Soltis still aiming to demonstrate the techniques and shortcuts strong players use to come up with the best move, from the 20 or so options available. With the aid of 180 games and fragments, Soltis helps the club player to improve their understanding and also ability to reduce the number of possible moves they feel the need to consider in any position.



How to play the Open Sicilian

Andrew Martin, PC-DVD; running time: 5 hours, 50 minutes

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

You might associate Andrew Martin with openings which are ideal for the club player, such as the Barry Attack and Icelandic Gambit, but that doesn't mean he isn't still an excellent guide for that audience in more theoretical lines. On his latest trip to Hamburg, Martin even picked arguably the most theoretical of all openings, the Open Sicilian, to cover for ChessBase. Via 23 model games and several theoretical sections, Martin maps out all the main lines of the Open Sicilian, highlighting the key options for both sides, while also explaining all the most important positional features and tactics to watch out for.

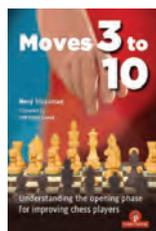


Middlegame Secrets Vol.4 – The Secrets Lives of Knights

Jan Markos, PC-DVD; running time: 4 hours, 39 minutes

RRP £30.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.85**

Jan Markos's books *Under the Surface* and *The Secret Ingredient* have won plenty of fans, as well as much praise, and the Slovakian GM is also a good presenter, continuing on this DVD his fascinating series for ChessBase. This time it is the knight which is Markos's focus and carefully watching his coverage can but educate the club player and even stronger ones. He examines knights behind pawn chains, how to restrict them, the importance of outposts and how to identify potential outposts, all of which are, of course, pretty important topics.

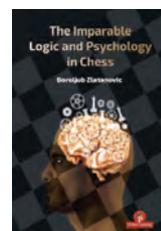


Moves 3 to 10: Understanding the Opening Phase for Improving Chess Players

Nery Strasman, 264 pages, hardback
RRP £35.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £32.35**
Israeli amateur Nery Strasman is all too aware of how daunting the world of opening

theory can be for those fairly new to the game. To help, his aim is to improve the reader's general opening understanding, beginning with the key principles, such as castling and the importance of an open file. The material does become more advanced, but throughout Strasman's goal of ensuring the reader will have various tools to help once out of book at the board is clear, with his coverage also aided by a large number of exercises.

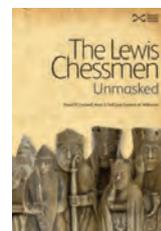
Also recently released by the Belgian publisher is *Thinkers' Chess Academy with Grandmaster Thomas Luther: Volume 5* (258 pages, paperback), in which Luther and Heinz Brunthaler present 365 mini-lessons, ideal for five to ten minutes' study each day. Plenty of common position types are presented, with the aim of making the reader much more tactically aware, while this fifth volume in the Luther series retails at £29.95 or £26.95 for Subscribers.



The Imparable Logic and Psychology in Chess

Boroljub Zlatanovic, 316 pages, hardback
RRP £35.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £32.25**

Serbian IM and acclaimed coach Zlatanovic is convinced that we must include logic when coaching and educating all levels of chess player. Against your average dynamic young player, he likes to aim for a static scenario, and explains that and several other techniques. Coverage begins with an examination of planless and schematic play, before Zlatanovic tackles other important topics such as patience, keeping the endgame in mind and prophylaxis. Daniel Fernandez contributes a foreword to this practical textbook, one which he was clearly pretty impressed by.



The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked

David Caldwell, Mark Hall & Caroline Wilkinson, 80 pages, hardback
RRP £7.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £7.19**

The 12th century Isle of Lewis chessmen retain a certain aura, as well as historical importance. This new publication from the National Museum of Scotland, which has 11 of the pieces, sees three experts present the latest research while examining both the discovery of the hoard in 1832 and the origins of the chessmen.



The Modernized Flank Attack

Christian Bauer & Pierre Laurent-Paoli,
364 pages, hardback

RRP £38.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.05**

In this new publication from Thinkers Publishing, the flank attack in question sees an early g2-g4 or ...g5, if not on move one and not in its traditional home, the Open Sicilian. The French Grandmasters examine those advances in many other openings and middlegame structures, categorising their coverage into challenging a knight on f3 or f6, exploiting a hook, and seizing space.

The Modernized Semi-Slav

Milos Pavlovic, 176 pages, hardback

RRP £33.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £30.55**

If you like your theory as well as dynamic

play, then meeting 1 d4 with 1...d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 c6 should definitely be considered. Our occasional contributor and former Yugoslav Champion, Milos Pavlovic, maps out a repertoire with the Semi-Slav based around this move order. As such, he provides good coverage of not just the Meran with 4 e3 ♗f6 5 ♗f3 ♖bd7, but 4 e4, the Marshall Gambit, and against 4 ♗f3 recommends not the Abrahams-Noteboom with 4...dxc4, but rather 4...♗f6, allowing White to go 5 ♕g5. The coverage is pretty theoretical, with Pavlovic especially strong on highlighting current trends, as well as new possibilities for Black.

Like Thinkers Publishing, Pavlovic has certainly been busy of late, the two also teaming up with *The Modernized London System*, in which he presents a repertoire for White with 1 d4 d5 2 ♕f4. While Pavlovic does explain the key motifs, his emphasis is again more on the theoretical side and the reader will quickly realise that the modern London is actually quite a dynamic opening. Coverage in this hardback runs to 264 pages, with the book retailing at £35.95 or £32.35 for Subscribers.



The Surprising 3.d3 Against the Caro-Kann

Fabien Libiszewski, PC-DVD;

running time: 3 hours, 25 minutes

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Meeting 1 e4 c6 with 2 ♗f3 d5 3 d3!? may seem somewhat surprising and yet this approach has been quite topical at grandmaster level in recent years. White allows an early exchange of queens, but the resulting positions after 3...dxe4 4 dxe4 ♗xd1+ 5 ♗xd1 are actually not so easy for Black to handle, as demonstrated by French GM Libiszewski on this ChessBase DVD. His coverage sensibly begins with some model games, including one with Magnus Carlsen on the white side, before he maps out a repertoire for White ahead of presenting some exercises and key positions to practice.



Forthcoming Events

July 25 - August 4 **British Chess Championships, Hull**
britishchesschampionships.co.uk

August 1 **Citi Belfast Charity Rapidplay**
ulsterchess.org/events

August 2-4 **Swinton Longplay Congress**
swintonandworsleychessclub.com

August 3 **Golders Green Rapidplay**
goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

August 6 **Muswell Hill Rapid**
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com

August 9-11 **Lancaster Congress**
lancasterchessclub.co.uk

August 9-11 **Thanet Congress, Sandwich**
congress.org.uk/congress/428/home

August 10 **Cathcart Allegro**
cathcartchessclub.org.uk

August 13 **Muswell Hill Rapid**
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com

August 16-18 **Edinburgh Park Standard & Blitz**
congress.org.uk/congress/431/home

August 16-18 **Manchester Summer Congress, Bolton**
congress.org.uk/congress/402/home

August 16-18 **Newport Congress & Welsh Seniors**
newportchesscongress.uk

August 17 **Chislehurst Rapidplay**
congress.org.uk/congress/441/home

August 17 **Greater London CC Summer Rapidplay**
glcc.org.uk/summer_rapid2024.html

August 22-26 **Northumbria Masters, Darlington**
northumbriamasters.com

August 24-26 **Leyland Congress**
congress.org.uk/congress/436/home

August 24-26 **Ulster Championships, Belfast**
ulsterchess.org/events

August 24-25 **Cambridge Congress, Whittlesford**
congress.org.uk/congress/442/home

August 24-25 **Southall Congress**
londonfidecongress.com/southall-congress

August 26-30 **Thamesmead International**
londonfidecongress.com/thamesmead-international

August 30-31 **Wimbledon Congress**
londonfidecongress.com/wimbledon-congress

Aug 31 - Sep 6 **Riviera Congress, Torquay**
congress.org.uk/congress/371/home

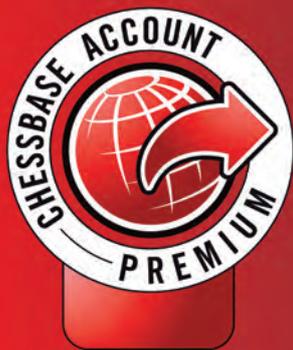
August 31 **Darnall & Handsworth Rapidplay**
dhchessclub.co.uk

And for the Online Connoisseur:

August 12-16 **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz**
grandchesstour.org; Abdusattorov, Aronian, Caruana, Dominguez, Firouzja, Nakamura, Nepomniachtchi, Praggnanandha, So & MVL.

August 19-28 **Sinquefield Cup, Saint Louis**
grandchesstour.org; Abdusattorov, Caruana, Ding Liren, Firouzja, Giri, Gukesh, Nepomniachtchi, Praggnanandha, So & Vachier-Lagrave.

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



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OPENINGS

Welcome to modern opening preparation



TRAINING

Calculate, sacrifice, mate



ENGINE CLOUD

Top engine on the best hardware



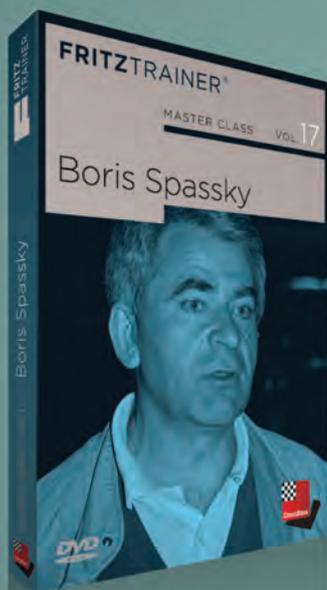
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MASTER CLASS VOL.17

BORIS SPASSKY

The best players in the world are the ones you can learn most from! What strengths did the 10th world chess champion, Boris Spassky, have to distinguish him from all other players of his time? The "Master Class" series presents the fascinating facets of the chess legends - in interactive video format with training feedback!

Boris Spassky is considered by many to be the most talented of all world champions. The great chess talent of the nine-year-old Spassky was discovered at the local Pioneer Palace (St. Petersburg) and encouraged by coaches such as Vladimir Zak. In 1953, the World Chess Federation named the 16-year-old an International Master, and in 1955 a Grand Master, after Spassky had achieved 2nd to 6th place in the USSR Championship and won the World Youth Championship U20.

In 1964, he qualified for the Candidates Tournament in the Interzonal Tournament and became the challenger to World Champion Petrosian in 1966. However, Spassky was only able to defeat him at the second attempt in 1969 and thus became the 10th world chess champion. In 1972, Spassky had to defend his title in a nerve-wracking match against Bobby Fischer. With great patience, Spassky endured all of his challenger's antics, but lost the match and the title. In 1976, Boris Spassky emigrated to France with his wife and lived in Paris for a long time. He only returned to Russia in later years. In the 1974, 1977 and 1980 World Championship cycles, Spassky again took part in the Candidates, but was no longer able to qualify as a challenger. In 1992, there was a sensational rematch against Bobby Fischer in Yugoslavia, which Spassky also lost. At his best, Boris Spassky cultivated a rousing attacking style, with a preference for aggressive openings such as the King's Gambit. But he also played the other phases of the game like a world champion.

In this video course, experts including Dorian Rogozenko, Mihail Marin, Karsten Mueller and Oliver Reeh, examine the games of Boris Spassky. Let them show you which openings Spassky chose to play, where his strength in middlegames were, and how he outplayed his opponents in the endgame. Finally, you'll get a glimpse of his tactical abilities in the Tactics section.



- Video running time: over 8 hours
- Interactive tactics test with video feedback
- "Spassky Powerbooks": Spassky's opening repertoire as a variation tree
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