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Chess



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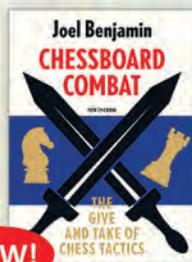


Ronnie & Cobie – John Saunders and Ingrid Ives tell the story of Mr & Mrs Ives



Ding Liren – Daniel King examines the play of the 17th world chess champion

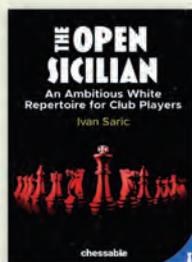
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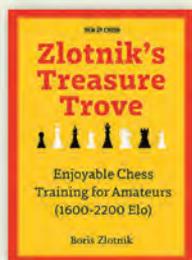
The Give and Take of Chess Tactics Joel Benjamin

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



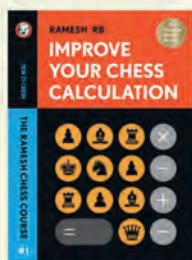
A White Repertoire vs the Open Sicilian Ivan Saric

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



Practical and creative lessons for amateurs Boris Zlotnik

Boris Zlotnik, the former coach of U.S. Champion Fabiano Caruana, offers practical chess lessons for amateurs about highly original subjects like creativity or 'putting up resistance' – topics seldom touched on in other chess manuals. Zlotnik covers a wide variety of topics and uses a wealth of material in an extraordinarily instructive chess manual.



Chess.com 2022 Book of the Year Ramesh RB

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

"An absolute divine masterpiece" – *Andras Toth*

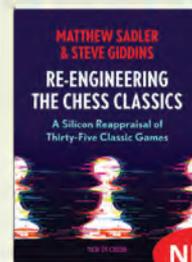


Exciting Opening Tactics Dean Ippolito

This book introduces you to exciting weapons such as the *Fried Liver Attack* and the *Center Fork Trick*. Experienced American chess coach Dean Ippolito knows how adult improvers should play the opening, and what they can expect from your opponent. The tactical fireworks will also help you to develop your general understanding of the opening.

New Insights in Classic Games Matthew Sadler & Steve Giddins

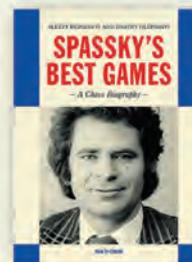
Matthew Sadler and Steve Giddins used the collective power of Leela, Komodo, and Stockfish to re-engineer classic games of fan favourites such as Fischer, Spassky, Larsen, and Capablanca. With these modern engines, the authors have generated dozens of new insights and positional chess lessons that will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



NEW!

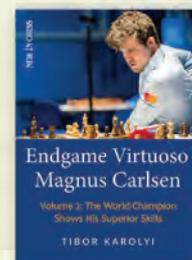
Spassky's Best Games – A Chess Biography Alexey Bezdodov & Dmitry Oleinikov

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



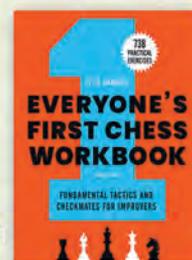
Even better endgames by Magnus Carlsen Tibor Karolyi

Magnus Carlsen's brilliant endgame play is one of the key reasons for his success. For this second volume, author Tibor Karolyi has selected Carlsen's best endgames from 2018- 2022. Reviewing these games, Karolyi was impressed. Carlsen, who is probably the best endgame player of all time, managed to improve his play even further.



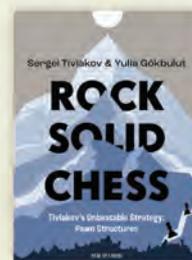
Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers Peter Giannatos

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



The unbeaten grandmaster Sergei Tiviakov

Sergei Tiviakov was unbeaten for a consecutive 110 professional chess games as a grandmaster. Who better to teach you rock-solid chess strategy than Tiviakov? In his first book, he explains everything he knows about the fundamentals of chess strategy: pawn structures.



Chess

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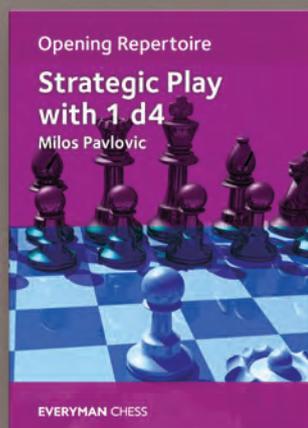
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Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
A Close Race	8
Jose Vilela enjoyed being at an exciting Capablanca Memorial	
English Senior Successes Continue	14
Terry Chapman reports from the European Seniors in Acqui Terme	
The one about an Englishman, an Irishman and a Belgian	18
David Gilbert looks back at the ACO Amateur World Championships	
Forthcoming Events	22
American Conquest	23
Major tournament success for Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura	
Find the Winning Moves	26
Can you do as well as the players at Sigeman and in Daventry?	
Ronnie & Cobie Ives	30
John Saunders and Ingrid Ives tell the story of Ronnie and Cobie	
How Good Is Your Chess?	34
Daniel King recalls meeting Ding Liren at Biel back in 2013	
60 Seconds With... Douglas Griffin	37
We discover a little about the Scottish chess historian	
How to Beat a Grandmaster	38
Paul Littlewood examines how Bill Linton stunned Mikhail Botvinnik	
Never Mind The Grandmasters...	40
Carl on the dangers of thinking too much about ratings	
Smooth Operator	42
Julian Way celebrates the genius of Harry Golombek	
GM Norms at the 4NCL	45
Peter Roberson and Harry Grieve had excellent seasons for The Sharks	
Age Shall Not Weary Them...	46
Barry Hymer offers a personal reflection on the English Seniors	
Home News	48
Michael Adams and Katarzyna Toma are the 2023 English Champions	
Studies with Stephenson	50
Brian reports on the Winton British Chess Solving Championship	
Overseas News	51
Success for Bodhana Sivanandan and Anna Zatonskih	
Solutions	53
This Month's New Releases	54
Books on the English Defence and the exchange sacrifice are reviewed	
Saunders on Chess	58
John returns to the theme of when it's safe to take on b2	

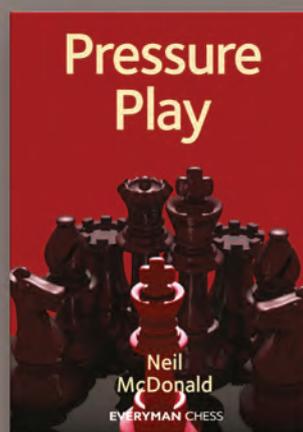
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GREAT NEW TITLES FROM EVERYMAN CHESS



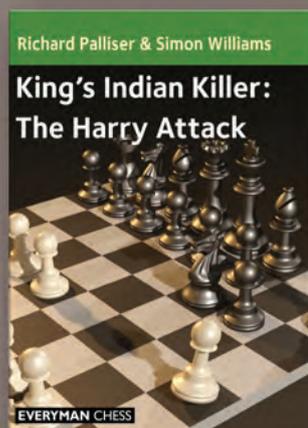
In this book the highly experienced grandmaster Milos Pavlovic outlines a powerful repertoire for White based on 1 d4. The variations are very much based on strategic themes where an understanding of plans is far more important than memorisation of lines and move orders.

Paperback 280 pages



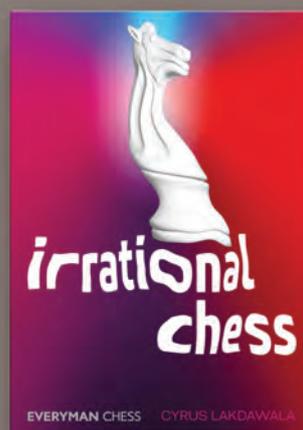
Understanding pressure play is crucial for capitalising on tiny advantages as well as being able to avoid going downhill in slightly inferior positions. In this book, the highly experienced author and coach Neil McDonald analyses the finest examples of pressure play. In doing so he teases out the fundamental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

Paperback 352 pages



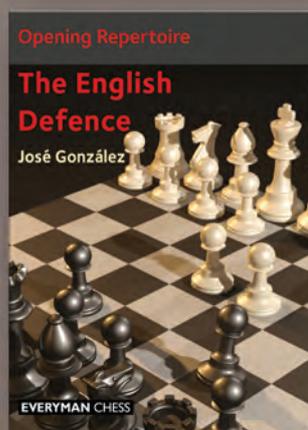
Do you want a simple and practical method to counter Black's kingside fianchetto defences after 1 d4? A line that takes the initiative from a very early stage and creates difficult practical problems? If so, then The Harry Attack (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 h4!) is for you.

Paperback 240 pages



In this collection of brilliantly unconventional and irrational games, the positions appear almost random. Kings have gone walkabout, pieces are on bizarre squares, huge pawn rollers are sweeping all before them. How can you navigate a path in such a game? Prolific chess author and coach Cyrus Lakdawala shows you how.

Paperback 400 pages



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

Paperback 320 pages



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Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability with the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. As usual, the games come from a variety of recent competitions, not least the Sigeman Tournament in Malmo and 4NCL events in Daventry. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just pick up a pawn.

Solutions on pages 53.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) B.Hymer-H.Davis
Shap 2023
White to Play



(2) A.Indjic-C.Henriquez Villagra
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2023
White to Play



(3) P.Thorarinsson-R.Bates
4NCL, Daventry 2023
Black to Play



(4) Se.Gordon-T.Khoury
Daventry 2023
Black to Play



(5) J.Anderson-C.Kennedy
Great Yarmouth 2023
White to Play



(6) N.Moyse-J.Moss
Daventry 2023
White to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 53



(7) C.Pedersen-J.Adair
4NCL, Daventry 2023
White to Play



(8) A.Firouzja-U.Arat
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2023
White to Play



(9) A.Jones-R.Kane
Reykjavik 2023
Black to Play



(10) S.Ernst-Y.Han
Southend 2023
Black to Play



(11) A.Verma-J.Shearsby
Daventry 2023
Black to Play



(12) V.Kramnik-D.Gukesh
Berlin (blitz) 2023
White to Play



(13) E.Roebbers-A.Pijpers
Belgian League 2023
Black to Play



(14) A.Walton-J.Willow
4NCL, Daventry 2023
White to Play and Draw



(15) F.Caruana-H.Nakamura
Chessable Masters (rapid) 2023
White to Play and Draw

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How Good is Your Chess?

by Grandmaster Daniel King



I was confident that Ian Nepomniachtchi was going to win the world championship title, but relieved that in the end Ding prevailed. Why did I bet against Ding? Although he has a wiry tenacity, I thought the better-prepared and physically more robust Nepo would win through. But as we know, it was the Russian whose nerve failed at the end and Ding remained cool in that final play-off game. Sport constantly surprises us and, once again, I'm keeping the bookies in business.

Ding's physical appearance was one of the things that struck me when I first met him. The annual Biel tournament in 2013 featured a strong double-round robin with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Alexander Moiseenko (at that time European Individual Champion), Etienne Bacrot, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Richard Rapport, and Ding. Looking at the last three names, with hindsight this was a formative event.

I was engaged in Biel as a commentator and interviewer, so I had the opportunity to get to know Ding a little. He was shy and reserved, and built like a stick of celery: how could this skinny kid have enough stamina to last the tournament? He was also without the ego and swagger of other talents, so it was hard to imagine that at the age of 20 he had already won the seriously strong Chinese Championship on *three* occasions. Given the opposition in China, that is an extraordinary achievement.

In spite of those impressive national titles, and having a rating of over 2700, Ding was at that time a relatively new name in the West, so one didn't know what to expect from him. In Biel, he quickly made an impression. His play was always adventurous and he pushed to the limit with both colours. With Black he played the King's Indian in every game, reaching complex middlegames that he negotiated with flare. In the post-game interviews, his sense of artistry came through strongly.

R. Rapport–Ding Liren Biel 2013



Rapport tried **43 d6**, but after **43...♗d4+** the pawn was lost in a few moves. Instead, **43 ♖xb4** is critical. Knocking out the b-pawn gives the king more room to breathe, and coordinating the pieces against queen and three pawns could still be tricky. But there is a killer move which Ding had seen well in advance and was keen to demonstrate after the game. First **43...♗f2+**. Retreating to the back rank will result in a swift laser-beam checkmate, so the king moves up, **44 ♔d3**, and now the elegant **44...♖c2!!**.



The rook boxes in the king and threatens the unstoppable **45...♖ec4+**, breaking into the pawn chain; if **46 ♕xc2 ♖c4+** wins the queen. Check it yourself – there is no way out for White.

You can see how a mutual appreciation of each other's style led to Ding asking Rapport

to be part of his team for the world championship match. This kind of tactical artistry was very much in evidence throughout the match – think of that beautiful mating net that Ding spotted in Game 6 (**44 ♖f7** with the idea of sacrificing the queen).

In Biel 2013, Ding started slowly: he was on 1/3 going into this fourth-round game. But his explosive performance here, against an elite player, convinced me that he had a special talent.

Begin after the first diagram. Whenever Black has moved, stop and try to guess White's reply which will be on the next line. Try to analyse as much as you would in a game – it could earn you bonus points. The article will test your standard of play or, if you prefer, just enjoy a fine game.

Ding Liren–M. Vachier-Lagrave Biel 2013 English Opening

1 ♖f3 c5 2 c4 ♗c6 3 ♗c3 ♗f6 4 g3 d5 5 cxd5 ♗xd5 6 ♕g2 g6



7 h4

Three points. Here we go again! Harry the h-pawn rolls up the board.

If you follow this column, you might have spotted a certain similarity with last-month's game, Graboyan–Niemann, Sitges 2022, which started **1 ♖f3 c5 2 g3 g6 3 ♕g2 ♕g7 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♗xd4 ♗c6 6 ♗b3 ♗f6 7 ♗c3 d6 8 0-0 h5**. Once the king's knight leaves the kingside, the h-pawn's advance is a legitimate and potent attacking weapon. It's





Ding Liren got the better of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave at Biel in 2013, since when the two have got on well while having a competitive rivalry, as demonstrated at the 2019 London Chess Classic.

interesting to see how this advance has moved from the outer fringes of attacking strategy, played by mavericks such as Larsen, Basman and later Simon Williams, into mainstream respectability.

Black is challenged straightaway: is it best to block with 7...h5, 7...h6, or ignore it altogether? No one likes to be put under pressure at such an early stage in the game. Nevertheless, 7 h4 is not the most popular way to play the position. White has a huge array of possibilities here.

7 0-0 is number one in the database – unsurprisingly (*three points*). White leaves options open (will the d-pawn advance one space or two?), and brings the king to safety. One cannot criticise sensible development.

7 d3 (*three points*) is the second most popular move and often transposes to lines that start with 7 0-0.

7 ♖a4 (*two points*) is tricky, but with accuracy Black can turn the position to take the initiative: 7...♗g7 8 ♘g5 e6 9 ♗e4 ♘b6 10 ♖b5 0-0 11 ♗xc5 ♘d4 12 ♖d3 ♗e7 13 ♘b3 e5, Lputian-Timman, Wijk aan Zee 2000 (0-1, 61). For the pawn Black has a powerful initiative. This is the problem with an early queen sortie.

7 d4 (*two points*) should burn out to a position which is level: 7...♗g7 8 0-0 cxd4 9 ♗xd4 ♗xc3 10 bxc3 ♗xd4 11 cxd4 ♖xd4 12 ♖b1 0-0. White has the greater activity and will recover the pawn, but a draw is likely.

7 ♖b3 (*three points*) as Ding has played on another couple of occasions is very interesting: 7...e6 (if 7...♗xc3 8 ♖xc3 with a double attack) 8 ♗e4 provokes Black: 8...f5 9 ♗c3 ♗g7 10 0-0 0-0 11 d3, Ding Liren-Grischuk, Internet (blitz) 2022. The f-pawn pushed away the knight, but in so doing Black has taken on a great responsibility in the centre, and in the long term the kingside is weakened.

Take *two points* for 7 ♗g5, 7 ♗xd5 and 7 ♗e4. I'm in a generous mood.

7...♗g7

Maxime carries on with his development regardless.

In principle I would like to play 7...h6, but in some tactical variations where the g7-bishop takes something across the board (perhaps the pawn on b2), the h6-pawn can be taken by the bishop on c1, which represents a serious weakening of the kingside.

On principle, I dislike 7...h5 as White's knight will sit beautifully on g5.

8 h5

One point. It would be churlish to decline the invitation to advance again.

8...e6



Wisely, Maxime delays casting and instead stabilises the knight in the middle.

Instead, 8...0-0 9 hxg6 hxg6 10 ♗g5 already feels perilous for the king.

9 h6

Two points. This is equivalent to leaving a ball over the pocket in pool or snooker. At some point, one just has a sneaking suspicion something will turn up. There were two decent alternatives.

9 ♗e4 (*two points*) attacks the c-pawn, and if 9...b6 10 h6 when the bishop has an awkward choice. Moving forward means it will

be exchanged off for a knight, and 10...♗f8 11 d4 cracks open the middle rather sweetly.

9 ♖f1 (*two points*) is very cool. White commits to the rook remaining on the h-file, and stepping away from the e1-square enables continuations such as this: 9...0-0 10 hxg6 hxg6 11 d3!. That's the key move, with the idea of ♗h6 to weaken the kingside. If 11...♗xc3 12 bxc3 ♗xc3 (with the king on f1 it is no longer check) 13 ♗h6 and a massive kingside attack: ♖c1 is coming soon, and once the queen is involved it's curtains.

On the other hand, 9 hxg6 hxg6 10 ♖xh8+ ♗xh8 dissipates the tension.

9...♗f6

10 ♗e4

Three points. Attacking the bishop is the most energetic as it practically forces a response. Black should retain the bishop as the dark squares on the kingside have already been weakened.

10 0-0 (*two points*) doesn't have the same power.

10...♗e7



11 b4

Seven points. An inspirational move. There is something a bit different about Ding. This is all the more remarkable as there was a sound alternative.

11 d4 (*three points*) also looks to exploit the weakness of the long diagonal. It's hard to guess why Ding rejected this. Perhaps he feared there would be too many exchanges coming after 11...cxd4 12 ♗xd4 ♗d7. Nevertheless, it looks like White has the easier time of it here.

11 0-0 would be too slow. Black plays 11...f5 12 ♗c3 ♗f6. With the pawn on h6, it's still a tricky position, but for the moment White has been pushed back.

11...cxb4

12 ♗b2

Two points. This was the idea behind giving up the pawn: to put the bishop on the long diagonal as quickly as possible. With the pawn on h6, he sniffs blood.

12...0-0

13 ♖c1

Three points. Take care, Black had a threat. If instead 13 0-0?? f5 traps the knight mid-board.

Moving the rook to the c-file also prevents Black from playing the bishop to the most effective diagonal with ...b6 and....♗b7.

13...♗d7

Maxime opts for development, looking to bring the rook into play. Fine, but it's a somewhat passive square for the bishop. This kind of situation typically arises in the Catalan where the bishop on g2 is a far superior piece.

There was an argument for distracting with 13...a5.

14 ♖c5

Three points. Ding wants one of those bishops.

14 ♗g7 (two points) is quite whacky. This is certainly an original position.

14...♙c8



Already a difficult decision for Black: which bishop should one give up?

15 0-0

Three points. Late castling, but still appropriate. The king is safest at the side.

15 ♖xb7? would be a blunder: 15...♙b6 traps the knight.

15...b6

It's difficult to live with that knight on c5.

16 ♖xd7

Two points.

16...♙xd7

It appears as though Vachier-Lagrave has straightened everything out: the problem bishop is off the board, the rooks are connected – and he is still a pawn to the good.

17 e4

Four points. Hold on. Ding is not going to let Black settle.

17 d4 would not be as good (no credit): 17...♙fd8 18 e4 ♖c3. That's why – this forces exchanges: 19 ♗xc3 bxc3 20 ♙xc3 ♖xd4 and Black is a healthy pawn to the good.

Here, I don't see the point of 17 ♗g7 as it pushes the rook to a better square: 17...♙fd8.

17...♖f6



18 ♗e2

Three points. Protecting the e-pawn and connecting the rooks, among other things.

18 ♙e1 (three points) is also strong.

However, 18 e5 blocking the bishop on b2, would be a dreadful mistake. Simply 18...♖d5 is good, occupying a powerful central square, and 18...♖g4, winning the h-pawn, is even better.

18 ♖e5 exchanges too many pieces: 18...♖xe5 19 ♗xe5 ♙xc1 20 ♙xc1 ♙c8 and Black is recovering.

18 ♖g5 would allow the knight into the middle: 18...♖d4.

18...♖g4

19 ♗h3

Five points. This must have been overlooked.

19...♖xh6

Maxime has been bounced into taking. The alternatives were no better: 19...f5 20 exf5 gxf5 (20...exf5 21 ♙c4+ ♙f7 22 ♗xg4 fxc4 23 ♖e5 wins) 21 ♗xg4 fxc4 22 ♖d4 ♖xd4 23 ♙xc4+ ♖f7 24 ♗xd4, and Black's king is in desperate trouble.

Or 19...♖f6 20 d4, with the threat of d4-d5, is very difficult to meet.



20 ♙e3

Four points. This is unusual – the knight is trapped!

20...g5

A desperate measure to save the piece, but there really is nothing better.

21 ♖xg5

One point. Black has saved the knight, but

at the cost of wrecking the kingside. The chief threat is ♖xe6.

21...f5

22 exf5

Two points. The kingside is smashed open.

22...♖xf5



22...exf5 23 ♖e6 would not have improved the situation.

23 ♙xe6+

Two points. White's position is so strong that exchanging into an endgame does not diminish the advantage in any way.

Having said that, there is also 23 ♗xf5 (two points) 23...♙xf5 (23...exf5 24 ♙b3+ shows how vulnerable Black is on the diagonals) 24 ♖xe6. Black's king has no pawn cover and something horrible will happen.

23...♙xe6

24 ♖xe6

One point.

24...♗c5

Instead of this, how would you deal with 24...♙f7? Answer on the next line.

Black is caught in two horrible pins that White can exploit with two different moves. 25 ♖g7 when 25...♖xg7 26 ♗xc8 wins the exchange. And 25 ♗g2 is just as effective, attacking the knight on c6. 25...♗c5 doesn't help much as 26 d4 opens everything again. Three points if you spotted either of these moves.



25 ♙c4

Four points. A fascinating switch – Ding

wants to continue the attack even without queens. He recognises that instead of grabbing the first bit of material, it is even better to maintain activity. There were other powerful moves.

25 d4 (four points) wins material immediately: 25...dxc4 26 dxc4 dxc4 27 dxc4 with at least an extra piece in all cases. Alternatively, 25...d6 26 dxf8, or 25...dxc4 26 dxc4 dxc4 27 dxc8 dxc8 28 dxc4.

Only one point for 25 dxf8 dxf8. Of course White is winning, but the game could drag on.

Nothing for 25 dxc5 bxc5 26 dxc5 dce7. It's still horrible for Black, but the immediate crisis is over.

White is winning, but finding the most efficient way of finishing off is important. Keep calculating! Keep working!

25...h5

Preventing g4+.



60 Seconds with... Douglas Griffin



Born: 9th February 1967. Belshill, Lanarkshire.

Place of residence: Inch, Aberdeenshire.

Occupation: Flow Measurement Specialist. I work for the North Sea Transition Authority in Aberdeen.

Enjoyable? Mostly!

And home life? Married for nearly 30 years, with a son and daughter (19 and 22 respectively). My wife is French and I have French citizenship, but love living in Scotland, and am well settled in the North-East.

But sometimes good to escape to: The Highlands and Islands.

Sports played or followed: Not so much a sport, but hillwalking (and at one time, climbing/mountaineering).

A favourite novel? *Electric Brae*, by Andrew Greig.

Piece of music? 'Islands on the Edge', by Donald Shaw, or anything sung by Karen Matheson.

Film or TV series? Film – *Local Hero*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? Its history and literature, which has always been more important to me than the playing side.

26 d4

Three points. The simplest way of winning material. There are so many pieces in the firing line that it is hardly surprising that Black is tipped over the edge.

26...dxf4

27 dxc4

Two points. The same score for 27 dxc5 bxc5 28 dxc8 dxc8 29 dxc5, winning the exchange with more to come.

Once again, 27 dxf8 feels like it is selling White's position short: 27...dxf8. Of course, it's winning, but Black is still twitching.

27...dxe5

28 dxc8 1-0

Two points. Here, Vachier-Lagrave decided to resign. Black ends up two pieces down after 28...dxc4 29 dxe6+ d7 30 dxc4, or a rook down after 28...dxc8 29 dxc2.

We enter a new era. Who knows how the sensitive Ding will fare as world champion? He was overwhelmed at the end of the match – with relief and happiness. But in an interview he gave on his return to China, it was clear that winning the title did not give him a feeling of unalloyed joy. He stated candidly: "The crown is too heavy". The reality of his situation was hitting home and he was already asking himself how he was going to cope with the responsibility.

Now add up your points:

0-16	Unlucky
17-33	Average Club Player
34-42	Strong Club Player
43-48	FIDE Master
49-55	International Master
56-65	Grandmaster

Ed. – If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact Daniel directly through his website www.danielking.biz.

And the worst? It can very easily take over one's life...

Your best move?

A.Bell-D.Griffin
Scottish National League 1988



40...d1+! 41 dxe1 d2 42 d3+! cxd3 43 d7+ d4 44 d1 e3! and wins by a tempo.

But less memorable than your worst move? Blundering a rook in an important game in the 1985 World Junior (Under-20) Championship certainly sticks in my memory.

And a highly memorable opponent? Anatoly Karpov, in a 23-board simul in

Glasgow in 1984. The game ended in a draw.

Favourite game of all time? Karpov-Kasparov, 16th matchgame, Moscow 1985.

The best three chess books: Botvinnik's three-volume collection of selected games. If I am allowed to count this as one book, I'd add Sosonko's *Russian Silhouettes* and Alekhine's *My Best Games of Chess 1908-23*, but ask me again tomorrow...

Is FIDE doing a good job? Sub-optimal, I'd say – but in extremely difficult circumstances.

Or your National Federation? I am so far removed from the Scottish chess scene these days that I can hardly comment.

Any advice for either? This is above my pay grade! But I hope that FIDE will resist the trend towards shorter and shorter time controls.

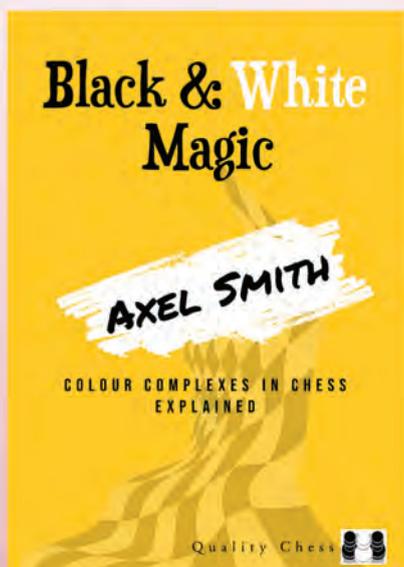
Can chess make one happy? It's certainly made me happy! It's a huge part of my life and frankly I don't know where I'd have been without it.

A tip please for the club player: Leave the engine switched off!

Ed. – Look out next month for an article by Douglas about the famous 1973 Leningrad Interzonal.

New from Quality Chess!

Black & White Magic



GM **Axel Smith** came to the realization that understanding colour-complex strategies is one of the key differences between strong and weak players. After many years of delivering lectures and training material to his students, Smith produced a Chessable course on the topic, which has been extensively edited and reorganized by Quality Chess to produce this book.

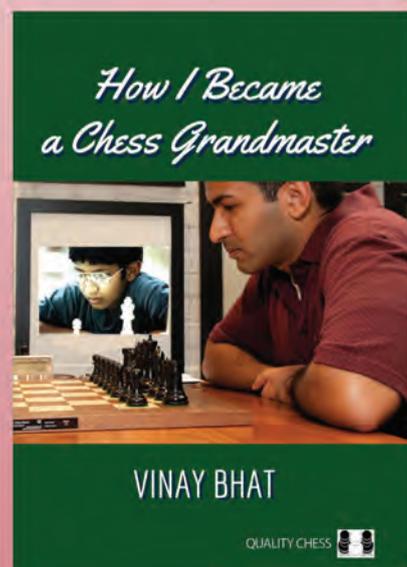
The Swedish grandmaster breaks down colour complexes into sub-topics such as blockades, opposite-coloured bishops and exchange sacrifices, with carefully chosen exercises to test and reinforce the reader's newfound understanding. Use **Black & White Magic** to dazzle your opponents!

GM **Axel Smith** is the award-winning author of *The Woodpecker Method*, *Pump Up Your Rating*, *e3 Poison* and *Street Smart Chess*. Using the Woodpecker as part of his training, as an adult he improved from a rating of 2100 to becoming a Grandmaster.

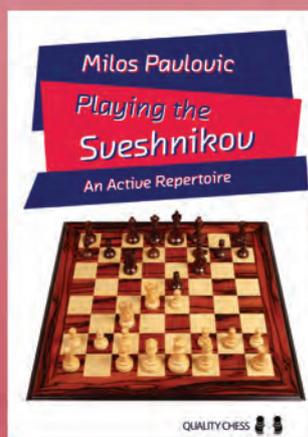
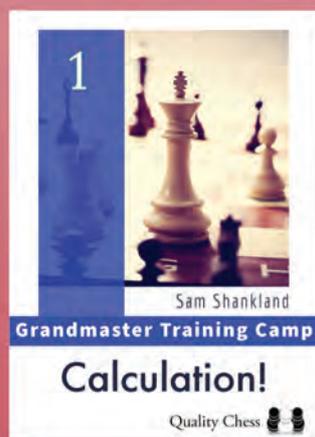
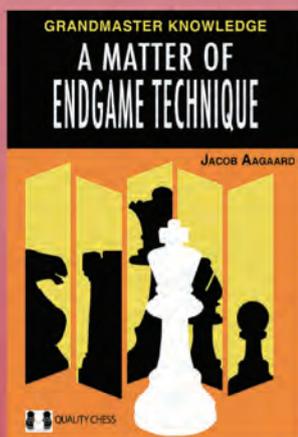
How I Became a Chess Grandmaster

GM **Vinay Bhat** tells his personal story, charting his path to improvement and the struggles he had to go through. With numerous photographs and anecdotes, **How I Became a Chess Grandmaster** is a book that entertains as it instructs. Follow the inspirational rise of a young player from novice to Grandmaster to carve out your own path to improvement and achieve your chess goals.

GM **Vinay Bhat** became a National Master at the age of 10 and an International Master at 15 – at the time the youngest American IM since Bobby Fischer. He later went on to gain the ultimate title of Grandmaster in his mid-twenties.



Also available



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Solutions

1) Hymer-Davis

1 ♖c6! exploited Black's vulnerable back rank to win the knight on c5.

2) Indjic-Henriquez Villagra

1 ♖xd6! 1-0 Something big on c8 or f7 is going to fall, in view of 1...♞xd6? 2 ♙xf7+.

3) Thorarinsson-Bates

1...♞c1! 0-1 The queen is lost in view of 2 ♞xc1 ♖xd3+.

4) Gordon-Khoury

1...♙e4! 2 ♖f3 (if 2 ♞xe4? ♞h2#) **2...♙xf3 3 exf3 ♞f4** won the exchange while retaining full control.

(5) Anderson-Kennedy

1 ♖xd7! 1-0 1...♞xd7 2 ♖b8+ is mate next move.

6) Moysse-Moss

1 ♙f6! (1 f4!? also wins, and if 1...♞g8 2 ♖h2, threatening ♙f6 after all) **1...♙g8** (if 1...gxf6? 2 ♞xh6+ ♖g8 3 ♞h7#) **2 ♞g3 1-0** 2...g5 3 f4 ♖e7 4 ffg5 h5 avoids mate, but after 5 ♖d2 and ♖f1 Black won't be long for this world.

7) Pedersen-Adair

1 ♞xc3! ♞xc3 2 ♞xf7+ ♖h8 3 ♞f8+ ♖h7 4 ♖f7+ ♖g6 5 ♞g8+ 1-0 Mate follows on the h-file.

8) Firouzja-Arat

1 ♖a5+! ♖b6 2 ♞xc6+! ♖xa5 3 ♖c1 (threatening mate beginning with 4 ♖b3+) **3...♖c5!? 4 dxc5 ♖b4 5 ♖d1** (or 5 c3+ ♖c4 6 ♖c2! and 7 b3#) **5...♖a5 6 ♖b3+ 1-0**

9) Jones-Kane

1...♞xf2+! 2 ♖d3 (the prelude to a beautiful queen sacrifice or if 2 ♖xf2 ♖h2#) **2...♞e4+! 3 ♖xe4 fxe4# 0-1**

10) Ernst-Han

1...♖xe5! (by far the strongest continuation; Black would still have a lot of work to do after, for instance, 1...♖d8 2 ♖fb1 ♙c6 3 ♖b6 ♖c8) **2 dxe5 ♞c5+ 3 ♞f2** (or 3 ♞f2 ♞d5) **3...♞d5 0-1** 4 ♞g3 ♖xe5 is crushing, and if 5 h4 ♖e2.

11) Verma-Shearsby

1...♞xf2+! (1...♞f6 also wins, and if 2 ♞xf7 ♖xf2+ or 2 ♙e2 ♙e3 3 f3 h4! 4 gxh4 ♞xh4 5 ♖h2 ♞f4 6 ♖g2 ♖b2) **2 ♖xf2 ♞e3+ 3 ♖g2 ♞xe4+ 4 ♖g1?** (now it's mate, but if 4 ♖h2? ♞c2+ 5 ♖g1 ♙e3+ and even 4 ♖f1 ♞f3+ 5 ♖e1 ♞xg3+ 6 ♖d1 ♞f3+ 7 ♖e1 ♞xh1+ must be winning) **4...♙e3+ 5 ♖f1 ♞f3+ 0-1**

12) Kramnik-Gukesh

1 ♙b5! ♞e7 (if 1...♞c7 2 ♖xe6!) **2 ♖f5!** (2 ♖c6!? bxc6 3 ♙xd6 also does the trick) **2...exf5 3 ♙xd6 ♞d8 4 ♙xf8 ♞xf8 5 ♞d4** netted a clean exchange.

13) Roebbers-Pijpers

1...e4! (the right method, opening lines, whereas Black would still have plenty of work to do after 1...♞a2+ 2 ♖c1 ♙h6+ 3 ♖1d2) **2 fxe4?** (now it's mate, but there was no defence in any case, as shown by 2 ♖d4 ♞a2+ 3 ♖c1 ♙h6+ 4 ♖1d2 ♖xb3 and 2 ♙xg7 exd3 3 ♞b2 ♞xc5 4 ♙h6 f6 5 ♖xd3 ♞f5 6 ♞c2 ♖c8) **2...♞a1+! 0-1**

14) Walton-Willow

1 ♙h5! (the only way; instead, the game concluded 1 ♖g5? ♖g3 0-1) **1...♖g7** (or 1...♖e1 2 ♖d5 ♖e4 3 ♙f3) **2 ♖d5 ♖h1 3 ♙f3 ♖g3+ 4 ♖g5** leaves Black unable to make any real progress.

15) Caruana-Nakamura

1 ♙e5! (now it's going to be perpetual check, in contrast to which the game ended 1 ♞e8? ♞b2+! 2 ♖g1 ♞d4+ 3 ♙e3 ♞g7+ 0-1) **1...♞g6** (or 1...♞g5 2 ♞f7+ ♖h6 3 ♞f8+ ♖h5 4 ♞e8+ ♞g6 5 ♞h8+) **2 ♞d7+ ♖g8 3 ♞d8+ ♖f7 4 ♞d7+ and the draw becomes clear.**

16) Hakobyan-Antipov

1 ♖xf6! (very pretty and more forcing than 1 ♖xc6 ♖xa2 2 ♞c3 ♞g5 3 ♞f3) **1...♞xc4?** (alternatively, 1...exf6? 2 ♙xf6+ ♖xh7 3 e5+ forces mate, as with 3...♖h6 4 ♖h4#, and even 1...♙xc4 should be lost for Black with such an exposed king after 2 ♖f5+ ♖xh7 3 ♖xb5 axb5 4 ♞d1 or 2 ♖e6+!? ♖xh7 3 ♖xe7+ ♖g8 4 ♞c1) **2 ♞xc4 ♙xc4 3 ♖h6+ e5 4 ♙xe5# 1-0**

17) Abasov-Brunello

1 dxc6! (1 f3 ♙xd5 2 d4!? favours White too, but Black is solidly placed) **1...♖xc6** (1...♙xh1? 2 ♖xa7! reveals the main idea: 2...♖xa7? 3 c7 forces a new queen) **2 f3 ♖d4** and now **3 ♖f2!** either leaves White a pawn to the good or with a very strong initiative, as after **3...♙xb1** (or 3...♖xb3 4 ♖a3 ♖xc1 5 fxe4 when the offside black knight isn't too happy) **4 ♖xb1 ♖xb3 5 e3** followed by ♙b5+, as pointed out by David Cummings in his excellent column on ChessPublishing.

18) Jacobson-Aravindh

1...♞b3! (very pretty and very strong, unlike 1...♖xd3 when White can fight on with 2 ♖b5!) **2 ♖c1** (if 2 axb3? ♖xb3#) **2...♞xa3 3 ♖c2 ♖xd3 0-1** 4 ♞xd3 ♖xc2+ 5 ♞xc2 ♖b2 snares the queen.

19) Gelfand-Erigaisi

1...♞xc1! 2 ♖xb4 (2 ♖axc1? ♙xd2 wins, and if 3 ♞xd2 ♖f3+) **2...♖xa1 3 ♖xa1 ♞xd2! 4 ♞xd2 ♖f3+ 5 ♖g2 ♖xd2** saw Black go on to convert his extra piece.

20) Van Foreest-Erigaisi

1 e6! ♖xe6 (1...♖a2 2 ♖exf7 ♖xf7 3 exf7+ ♖f8 4 ♖xg6 ♖xf7 5 ♖xg4 is a simple win with the connected passed pawns, a similar scenario occurring after 1...fxe6 2 ♖xg6+ ♖h8 3 ♖h6+ ♖g8 4 ♖hx6) **2 ♖xe6 fxe6 3 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 4 ♖xg4 1-0** The pawn ending is hopeless in view of 4...♖f7 5 ♖g5 ♖g7 6 g3! ♖f7 7 ♖h6 ♖f6 8 g4! ♖f7 9 g5.

21) Mishra-Gelfand

1 ♞c5+! (the game saw instead 1 ♞d5? ♖h2 when there was no check on c7, 2 ♞h5+ ♖g3 leaves White out of checks and 2 ♞d2 ♞c6+! 3 ♖b8 ♖h1 4 ♞d1+ g1♞ 5 ♞h5+ ♞h2+! induced resignation) **1...♖h2** (1...♖f1 2 ♞c4+ ♖f2 3 ♞c5+ ♖g3 4 ♞c7+ also remains in drawing territory: for example, 4...♖g4 5 ♞d7+ ♞f5 6 ♞d4+ ♞f4 7 ♞d7+ ♖g3 8 ♞g7+ ♖f2 9 ♞b2+ and Black can't make progress; observe how well placed the white king is on a8, away from the checks) **2 ♞c7+ ♖h1 3 ♞h7+ ♖g1 4 ♞b1+ ♞f1 5 ♞b6+ and White is holding the draw so long as he continues to give the right checks.**

22) Keymer-Aronian

In the game, 1...♖f6? 2 ♖g4 ♖b2 3 f4? (3 h4 gxh4 4 ♖xh4 was the right way to simplify and hold – with care) 3...♖b4? (3...gxf4! 4 ♖xf4 ♖b4 wins) 4 ffg5+ hxg5 5 ♖f3 saw White set up something of a fortress and Keymer was able to draw. Instead, the only way to win was **1...h5!**, and if **2 h4** (2 ♙g6 h4+! 3 ♖f2 ♖f4 is a fairly straightforward win) **2...♖xe4! 3 fxe4 g4** with a winning pawn endgame.

23) Indjic-Agopov

1 ♖f7!! (1 hxg5 ♙xg5 2 ♖f5 ♙f6 3 ♖f2 ♖d8 should be lost for White) **1...♖xf7** (1...c4 2 ♖xg5+ ♙xg5 3 hxg5 c3 4 bxc3 ♖b5 5 ♖f4 b2 6 ♖b1 also leads to a draw) **2 hxg5 ♖e8+ 3 ♖d5 ♖e5+ 4 ♖c4 ♖e4+ 5 ♖d5 ♖e5+** (wisely settling for a draw rather than allow 5...♖d4+ 6 ♖xc5 ♖e4 7 ♖d5, although here Black is still just in time to draw with 7...♖e2! 8 ♖xf4+ ♖g6 9 ♖xa4 ♖xb2) **6 ♖c4 ♖e4+ ½-½**

24) Indjic-Caruana

After 1 ♞h5? ♞xd6 2 ♞h8+ ♖e7 3 ♞xg7+ ♖d8 Black had sufficient counterplay in the game, but **1 ♖g2! a2 2 ♖f2!** would have placed Black in zugzwang, as spotted by John Emms, who also pointed out a neat forcing line on ChessPublishing: **2...♖d8** (2...♖d4 3 ♞h5! ♞xd6 4 ♞h8+ is now a simple win, and if 4...♖e7 5 ♞xg7+ ♖e8 6 ♞h8+ ♖d7 7 g7) **3 ♞h5!** (3 ♞e5!? ♖e6 4 ♙a1 wins too) **3...♞xd6 4 ♞h8+ ♖e7 5 ♞xg7+ ♖e8 6 ♞h8+ ♖d7 7 g7 a1♞!** (angling for perpetual check after 8 ♙xa1 ♞d2+, but White has one last trick up his sleeve) **8 ♞xd8+! ♖xd8 9 g8♞+ ♖d7 10 ♞g7+ ♖c6 11 ♙xa1** and the extra piece will decide.

This Month's New Releases



Opening Repertoire: The English Defence

Jose Gonzalez, 320 pages

Everyman Chess

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

This month we look at two books with a strongly related theme. It is not often we see books based on the English Defence (systems with ...b6 against 1 d4 and 2 c4 or 1 c4). It is also not so easy to point to role models who use the defence on a regular basis, at least not since the height of the opening's popularity, which was back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when Tony Miles, Jonathan Speelman and Ray Keene deployed it to great effect.

Long-term readers may remember the great Viktor Korchnoi using the English Defence to win a smashing game against Lev Polugaevsky in game six of their Candidates match, no doubt influenced by pioneer Ray Keene.

Despite enjoying such a pedigree, the English Defence fell out of fashion and has yet to reclaim its place in the sun. After all, not everyone fancies sitting back and allowing White to build a massive pawn centre (c4, d4 and e4), and then trying to break it down, which requires precision, specific knowledge and good timing.

In this new book, Spanish GM Gonzalez admits: "I've always had a predilection to play surprise weapons (sidelines) as Black. I think they can give you an important competitive advantage over your opponents, one that very often will dictate the fate of your games in your favour."

He goes on to say that the English Defence is not seen very often at the moment, due to various reasons and "perhaps the lack of an up-to-date serious book is one of the most important. In this work, I'll do my best to encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity that this wonderful defence gives. Of course, this might change one day soon, but at the present time you'd be surprised to see how badly some strong players handle the white side of this defence."

Indeed; if Polugaevsky, always one of the best-prepared players in the world, managed to stumble so quickly after being surprised by the English Defence in one of the most important matches of his life, then it is more than likely that our own opponents at club and tournament level will be underprepared too.

White players can build up virtually any size of pawn centre they want to, but the problem is the tactics curiously seem to favour Black (probably due to White repeatedly stumbling on unfamiliar ground). Here is a case in point.

A.Adorjan-B.Spasky

Toluca Interzonal 1982



Adorjan tried to exploit Spasky's assault on his centre by tactical means, but had a rude awakening after **9 e5? ♖xd4 10 ♗f2 ♜h5 11 ♗xd4? ♙c5** and the queen was trapped (0-1, 23).

Essentially, a well-armed player with the black pieces will make white centres – and their owners – suffer; a point which is repeatedly demonstrated by the illustrative games in the first part of the book.

The elephant in the room is that it is not at all easy to construct a repertoire purely based on lines specific to ...b6. Suspicious or unprepared white players will usually try to steer the game back into something with which they are much more familiar, such as the Queen's Indian Defence (1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖f3 b6), and then Black's dreams of unleashing all of the maverick moves such as ...f5, ...♗h4 and ...♜h6-f5 will vanish. Therefore any book trying to tempt the reader to take up the defence needs to take all of that into account.

Gonzalez gives lines in which Black delays ...♖f6, denying White a straightforward transposition to quiet Queen's Indian waters and keeping the option of playing ...f5 open, giving Black a type of Dutch Defence. Speaking of the Dutch, Gonzalez uses another version of that particular defence to combat the annoying move order of 1 d4 e6 2 ♖f3, with a line played by Richard Rapport as the intended destination. This involves a Stonewall set-up with the king's bishop going to e7 rather than the most common place of d6, and the king's knight leaps forward to e4 very early on, which could cause confusion in White's ranks.

Given that the English Defence is only

playable against 1 d4 and 2 c4 (otherwise 1 d4 b6 2 e4! leaves Black marooned in the inferior Owen's Defence), Black needs to play 1...e6 before 2...b6. This causes an obvious problem; White can get their surprise in first, by switching to the French Defence after 2 e4. Rather than leave the reader guessing, Gonzalez gamely offers a mini-French repertoire too, relying on the Fort Knox variation (1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3/d2 dxe4 4 ♜xe4 ♙d7) to cut down on the amount of theory required to get the repertoire up and running.

Needless to say, 3...dxe4 lacks the dynamic lines readers wished to play as Black when picking up the book in the first place, but I suppose this easy starter to the French gives scope for the second player to learn the sharper lines in due course.

The English Defence follows the standard Everyman formula, which is easy on the eye and replete with questions to aid the learning process. As a side note, I am pleased to see they are now using capital letters in their titles.

Sean Marsh



Playing for a Win with ...b6

Semko Semkov, 232 pages

Chess Stars

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

It is interesting – yet surely coincidental – that two books on the English Defence should appear at the same time. Books from Chess Stars are published much more infrequently than those by Everyman, but it would be a mistake to overlook them as they always offer something fresh and original.

Semkov decided to try ...b6 against 1 d4 and 2 c4 once he realised he wasn't getting any advantage as White whenever the occasion arose. He clearly became fascinated by the lines the tricky defence has to offer: "The initial results of my study were so encouraging, that I turned ...b6 into my only riposte to 1 d4 and 1 c4. Many hundreds (if not thousands) of blitz games later, I can claim that the English Defence is a perfect way to break free from the boring balanced lines of the modern main openings."

As with the Everyman book, significant attention is devoted to White's attempts to

try and derail the second player's creativity and to steer the game back to the tried and trusted – yet usually dull – territory of the Queen's Indian Defence. However, Black can still spice things up in numerous ways, of which this is one:

"I frequently face 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.♘f3 ♙b7 4.g3. White expects to transpose to the QID after 4...♗f6, but 4...♙b4+!? 5.♙d2 ♙xf3! always acts as a cold shower. White does not perform well with split pawns after ...♗f6 and ...d5, and by all means this structure is not what he hoped for when playing 4.g3. Even worse, he often drops a pawn after 5.♗bd2 ♙xf3! 6.exf3 ♗c6 7.a3 ♙xd2+ 8.♖xd2 ♖f6! with a double hit on f3 and d4 – 9.d5 ♗d4."

Another tricky move order is 1 d4 e6 2 c4 b6 3 a3, intending to transpose into a different form of Queen's Indian, this time the Petrosian System, which was a particularly explosive weapon in the hands of the young Garry Kasparov. Semkov does offer some coverage of the transposition, but his main recommendation is a more radical approach with 3...♙b7 4 ♗c3 f5!, giving a Dutch flavour.



The engines don't like it, because White can keep the extra space by advancing the d-pawn, but the idea is to "play around White's pawn wedge on d5 with ...f5, ...♙d6, ...♗b8-a6-c5-e4."

Unlike Gonzalez, Semkov prefers to meet the annoying 1 d4 e6 2 ♗f3 with 2...c5 and provides Black with ample material from there.

Which is the better of the two books to tempt readers who are interested in the English Defence? I think the Gonzalez book is better for an all-embracing repertoire, as it covers the French Defence too, but for deeper coverage of the English Defence then I would recommend Semkov's tome, which is especially useful for those who already have the French in their repertoires.

Either way, there are a lot of thought-provoking games and ideas in both books and anyone wanting to put together a new weapon against 1 d4 and 1 c4 over the summer months should find both to be of interest.

Sean Marsh

The Exchange Sacrifice Unleashed
Georg Mohr, 496 pages
Thinkers Publishing
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**



Slovenian GM Georg Mohr, who has already co-authored two Thinkers Publishing titles, *Understanding Maroczy Structures* and *Forgotten Genius – The Life and Games of Grandmaster Albin Planinc*, brings us this time a new and fascinating topic, the exchange sacrifice. This is the case where basic mathematics don't apply, when three is equal or more than five, where in return for the material sacrificed the player gets compensation, a chess concept that can only be fully appreciated through experience and deep understanding of the game. As the author writes in the Introduction, "The relative value of the pieces is perhaps the most difficult chess concept of all to explain."

With nearly 250 examples from master games of the past and present, the book aims to shed light on the nuances and the correctness of this complex topic. The extensive material is divided into seven chapters: The Exchange Sacrifice for the Attack; Defence; Ending; Exchange Sacrifice in the Opening; Critical Squares; The Positional Exchange Sacrifice; and World Champions. Each chapter has its own subchapters where the author tries to illustrate a particular theme.

The opening chapter is mainly about tactical sacrifices for attacking purposes, but most of the overall focus is on positional exchange sacrifices where a player obtains long-term strategic compensation. In the Positional Exchange Sacrifice chapter, which is the centrepiece of the book, you will find important ideas such as Breaking the Blockade, Piece Exclusion, and Exchange Sacrifice to Dominate the Light Squares, to name a few.

Some of the sacrifices shown in the opening chapter are typical sacrificial ideas on f3 in the French or the rook sacrifice on the long diagonal in the Grünfeld to exert control over the dark squares. The author makes no secret that he is fond of the classics, so it's no surprise that he dedicates the last part of his work to the last five world champions. From Karpov to Carlsen, you can observe their own style regarding the exchange sacrifice.

A great positive of the book is the commentary of the games in question. Mohr provides clear explanations and makes sure the key strategic ideas are highlighted. Here's one example taken from the Critical Squares section discussing the eternal sacrifice motif on c3.



G.Ravinsky-V.Simagin Moscow 1947



12...♖xc3! 13 bxc3 ♗xe4

"A perfect positional sacrifice. Black receives a pawn for the rook, next to the knight, and opens both diagonals without fear of the incoming f4-f5. He breaks up the white pawns and on top of this anchors his knight in the center. The dream of every exchange sacrifice!"

Of great instructive value are the lessons found in the chapter devoted to the endgame; in some cases rook and pawn are not enough to win against a knight. Personally, I was most impressed going through Petrosian's blockades in the chapter on defence. There we are treated with the words of the "father" of the Exchange Sacrifice, his thoughts about these positions and how he came up with the stunning move 25...♗e6 against Reshevsky in the famous 1953 Zurich Candidates Tournament. In fact, top engine *Stockfish* agrees that it's the best move for Black in the position below.



The Exchange Sacrifice Unleashed is certainly a fine reference guide and will be most useful for chess coaches and those players aspiring to full mastery of the royal game.

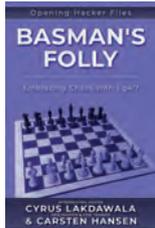
Joao Santos



Attack like a Super Grandmaster

Dommaraju Gukesh, PC-DVD;
running time: 6 hours, 36 minutes
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

ChessBase have scored quite a coup in tempting the rapidly rising Indian star to visit their studio and record over six and a half hours of video. Gukesh presents a few of his best games, with a special focus on the three qualities for which his play is most renowned: attack, calculation and imagination. Along the way he asks users to pause the video and ponder answers to a number of questions, while overall it's impossible not to feel inspired by and learn plenty from Gukesh's games.

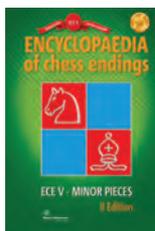


Basman's Folly: Embracing Chaos with 1.g4!?

Cyrus Lakdawala & Carsten Hansen,
324 pages, paperback
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Have you been inspired by the many warm tributes paid to Mike Basman over the past eight months? If so, you may wish to dabble in the great original's footsteps and give 1 g4 or even 1...g5 the occasional outing. The leading USA-based authors don't claim that 1 g4 is completely sound, but they do show how the Grob can throw opponents at an early stage and often result in a "disorientating mess".

Carsten Hansen has also released *Chess Tactics Volume 4*, which forms part of his 'Daily Chess Training' series. This features 404 positions to solve, runs to 344 pages and is available for £21.99 or £19.79 for Subscribers. Notably there's a foreword from R.B. Ramesh and the puzzles are not dissimilar to *Find the Winning Moves* in these pages; one minute you might be looking for a mate, the next how to win a pawn or even acquire a positional advantage.



Encyclopaedia of Chess Endings V – Minor Pieces

Chess Informant, 592 pages, hardback
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

From our friends in Belgrade comes this thoroughly revised and expanded edition of one of their endgame classics. If you've ever wanted to study minor piece endgames or

even are a connoisseur of them, the 2000+ examples included in this high-quality hardback production should more than suffice. Everything has been checked with the latest engines and there is quite simply a wealth of instructive and inspiring material within.



From Vienna to Munich to Stockholm: A Chess Biography of Rudolf Spielmann

Grigory Bogdanovich, 460 pages, paperback
RRP £41.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £37.75**

Rudolf Spielmann (1882-1942) is often known as the Last Romantic due to his love of the King's Gambit, but he was also an extremely strong player in the first few decades of the twentieth century. Russian IM Bogdanovich presents 213 complete and partial games from Spielmann, ones which see him up against all the big names of the day and grouped by chapters on attacking play, defence, positional play and favourite openings. This comprises a wealth of instructive material, while Bogdanovich also supplies a brief biography and ends by tackling a number of interesting questions, such as was Rudolf Spielmann a cynic? Do note too that a hardback version of this Elk and Ruby production is also available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £53.95 or £48.55 for Subscribers.



King's Indian Killer: The Harry Attack

Richard Palliser & Simon Williams,
240 pages, paperback
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

It may still be hard for some to take Simon Williams's favourite 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 h4! seriously, but the top engines of 2023 like the move and it was even deployed by Fabiano Caruana to defeat Maxime Vachier-Lagrave at the Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest this year. White bypasses the Grünfeld in the process and our Editor too clearly believes in 3 h4. If you find the King's Indian and Grünfeld troubling to face and are happy being aggressive, why not give the Harry Attack a try with this significantly expanded and updated version of a 2022 Chessable course?



Match Tournament for the World Chess Championship: The Hague - Moscow 1948

Paul Keres, 260 pages, hardback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

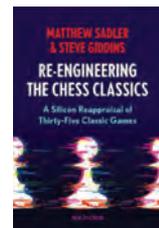
It's 75 years since Mikhail Botvinnik won the famous world championship tournament and to mark the occasion, Chess Informant have released a new edition of Paul Keres's classic book in which he analysed 50 games from that famous event. The great Estonian's notes are well-known for blending strategic explanation with variations, some of which have supplemented by the thoughts of other analysts and the engines. Editors Douglas Griffin and Igor Zvegljic have also done a fine job in successfully adding additional coverage where appropriate, such as from the contemporary Soviet press and Botvinnik's memoirs.



Opening Repertoire: Strategic Play with 1 d4

Milos Pavlovic, 280 pages, paperback
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

This is a complete repertoire aimed squarely at the positional club player. The famous Serbian Grandmaster and leading theoretician endorses a set of lines based around 1 d4, 2 ♘f3 and 3 g3. As such, plenty of the book is devoted to the Catalan, Queen's Indian and King's Indian, against which (after 1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 g3) following 3...♗g7 4 ♗g2 0-0 5 0-0 d6, Pavlovic examines both 6 ♗bd2 and 6 ♗c3. Overall his lines do not lack strategic bite and also should involve the need for minimal updating, being largely well grounded and solid set-ups.



Re-Engineering the Chess Classics

Matthew Sadler & Steve Giddins, 440 pages, paperback
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

This is a major release from New in Chess featuring two popular authors and, coincidentally, men of Kent. The book's ethos

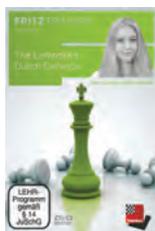
is well summed up by the sub-header: 'A Silicon Reappraisal of Thirty-Five Classic Games'. The games are certainly all classics, beginning with Anderssen-Dufresne, Berlin 1852, and going through to Portisch-Chiburdanidze, Roquebrune 1998. Thanks to the current generation of deep-learning-based engines, Sadler and Giddins have uncovered a great many previously undetected undercurrents and positional features of these already highly instructive encounters. In short, *Re-Engineering the Chess Classics* is packed full of very useful material and a great many mini-lessons. We'll have a full review next month.



The Alekhine Revitalized

Christian Bauer, PC-DVD;
running time: 5 hours, 17 minutes
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The 2600+ French Grandmaster is known for specialising in a number of slightly offbeat opening systems, including the Alekhine on which Bauer has now recorded this DVD for ChessBase. Theory doesn't stand still even in such openings and against that modern choice of the Voronezh variation, 1 e4 d5 2 e5 d5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 b6 5 exd6 cxd6 6 c3 g6 7 e3 g7 8 c1 0-0 9 b3, Bauer examines not only 9...e5, but a remarkable modern piece sacrifice beginning 9...d5 10 c5 e5!?. Those new to the opening are likely to be inspired by his enthusiasm for Black's chances, while existing Alekhine exponents may wish to note that after 4 f3 Bauer's recommendation is 4...g6 and against 4 c4 b6 5 f4 lines based around a kingside fianchetto are advocated too.

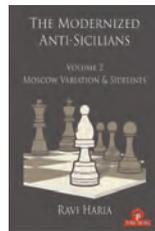


The Leningrad Dutch Defence

Svetlana Demchenko, PC-DVD;
running time: 9 hours, 50 minutes
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The Canadian WIM certainly enjoyed her time in the ChessBase studio, or at least this new FritzTrainer runs to almost 10 hours of video as Demchenko presents a pretty complete repertoire for Black against 1 d4, 1 c4 and 1 f3. Against the main line, 1 d4 f5 2 g3 (Demchenko also suggests meeting 2 c4 f6 3 c3 with 3...d6, thereby sensibly sidestepping 3...g6 4 h4!) 2...f6 3 g2 g6

4 f3 g7 5 0-0 0-0 6 c4 d6 7 c3 her recommendation is 7...c6, against which all of White's main responses receive good coverage, as do the earlier sidelines. Notably too Demchenko also presents a number of instructive games and opening disasters to avoid, while supplying too 30 exercises and 10 test positions.

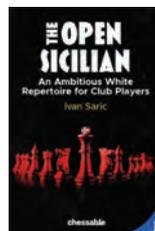


The Modernized Anti-Sicilians Volume 2: Moscow Variation & Sidelines

Ravi Haria, 376 pages, paperback
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

The young English GM completes his detailed repertoire against the Sicilian by examining Black's alternatives to 1 e4 c5 2 f3 c6. Against 2...d6 he supplies detailed coverage of 3 b5+, the fashionable Moscow variation, while against 2...e6 both 3 c3 and 3 g3 are examined. Haria also takes a good look at 2...g6 and Black's less common second moves. Notably the emphasis is on largely choosing sound and very human lines with, for example, 1 e4 c5 2 f3 d6 3 b5+ d7 met not by anything wildly topical and unbalanced, but the good, old 4 0-0 g6 5 e1 a6 6 f1.

Haria's book is also available in hardback version, retailing at £35.95 (Subscribers – £32.35), while another notable new release from Thinkers Publishing is *The French Defense Revisited* by Dragoljub Jacimovic and Boroljub Zlatanovic (300 pages; paperback edition: £32.95 or £29.65 for Subscribers; hardback: £36.95 or £33.25). Against each of White's main moves, 3 c3, 3 d2 and 3 e5, the GM and IM author team endorse both a calm and a more direct response for Black to choose from, before presenting a number of complete illustrative games.

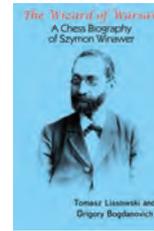


The Open Sicilian

Ivan Saric, 440 pages, hardback
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Produced by New in Chess for Chessable, this is definitely "An Ambitious White Repertoire for Club Players". Croatian no.1 Saric ran Magnus Carlsen close in their match as part of the Aimchess Rapid Play-In, which took place as we produced these pages. While he does not stint on theoretical detail at times, Saric's work is most notable for

successfully blending explanation of the key motifs for both sides in each variation with sufficient theory. In terms of specifics, and mentioning just the most common Sicilians, Saric meets the Sveshnikov with 7 d5, the Dragon with the Yugoslav then 9 0-0-0, and the Najdorf with 6 f3.



The Wizard of Warsaw: A Chess Biography of Szymon Winawer

Tomasz Lissowski & Grigory Bogdanovich,
304 pages, paperback
RRP £41.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £37.75**

Szymon Winawer (1838-1919) was a world-class player in the 1870s and 1880s, despite never being a chess professional nor annotating any of his own games. Thankfully chess historians Lissowski and Bogdanovich shed much light on both Winawer's life and fighting chess in this detailed new work for Elk and Ruby. 150 pages of biography from Lissowski are followed by Bogdanovich tackling Winawer's best games and largely rather modern style, combining certain strong positional characteristics with significant attacking and endgame prowess. Once again, if you like your historical works in hardback version, one is available too, for £53.95 or £48.55 for Subscribers.

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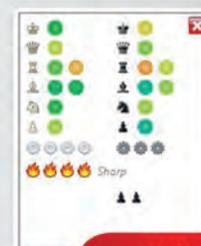
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