

Volume 90 No. 3 June 2025 £5.95

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# Chess



## JUBILANT!

**Chinese Grandmaster Ju Wenjun makes history by winning her fifth Women's World Chess Championship**

ISSN 0964-6221



**Daniel King** - Our popular columnist pays tribute to Ju Wenjun

**GothamChess** - IM Levy Rozman features in 60 Seconds with...

**What a Month!** - Vasyl Ivanchuk shone while playing non-stop

# Chess

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

Twitter: @CHESS\_Magazine  
Twitter: @TelegraphChess – Malcolm Pein  
Twitter: @chessandbridge

## Subscription Rates:

### United Kingdom

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

### Europe

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

### Rest of World (Airmail)

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

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## FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read  
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Printed in the UK by The Magazine Printing Company using only paper from FSC/PEFC suppliers [www.magprint.co.uk](http://www.magprint.co.uk)





# 60 Seconds with... GothamChess



**Also known as:** IM Lev Rozman.

**Born:** December 5th 1995, New York City.

**Place of residence:** New York City.

**Occupation:** Chess jester/content creator.

**Enjoyable?** Quite! It's rare you get to turn a passion and hobby into a job.

**And home life?** It takes a lot to get me out of the house. So, yes, I love my wife and fuzzy son.

**But sometimes good to escape to:** The online chess server for bullet games.

**Sports played or followed:** I'm an old man, so I love racquet sports. Recently Padel. I like to watch combat sports, hockey, football, the other football (NFL), and so on. As I write this list, I realize I might like violence too much.

**A favourite novel?** I'm a YouTuber. I don't know how to read.

**Piece of music?** I enjoy lots of different music. Everything from British rap to Spanish guitar. Rap and hip hop to angsty punk rock.

**Film or TV series?** *The White Lotus* or *Peaky Blinders*. *Brooklyn 99* is also great, as are *South Park* and *Family Guy*.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?** For me, playing different openings and creating a unique canvas of chaos on the board. I love experimenting with different positions and dynamics.

**And the worst?** The harrowing self-doubt that sets in with age. Also losing to children.

**Your best move?** I don't know about move, but my best game was against Emilio Cordova [Ed. – rated 2624 to Levy's 2417]. I made a video about it (obviously). And that one actually has a proper title, not clickbait – the best chess game I ever played!

## E.Cordova-L.Rozman

World Open, Philadelphia 2018  
*Reti Opening*

1 ♠f3 d5 2 c4 d4 3 b4 g5!? 4 ♖a4+ c6  
5 ♜b3 ♙g7 6 ♜xg5 e5 7 ♜g3 ♜e7  
8 ♜e4 ♜f8 9 b5 ♜d7 10 bxc6 bxc6  
11 ♙a3 c5 12 ♜f3 ♙b7 13 e3 ♜g6  
14 ♙d3 ♜c8 15 0-0 h5!



16 ♜f5 ♜h6 17 f3 ♜c6 18 ♜h3 h4  
19 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 20 ♙f5 ♜g8 21 exd4  
exd4 22 ♜f2? ♜h5 23 ♙e1 ♜d6 24 d3  
♙h6 25 ♜e4 ♜xe4+ 26 fxe4 ♜e5  
27 ♙e2 ♜xf5 28 ♜xf5 ♜xh2 29 ♜h3  
♜f4 30 ♜f3 ♜g5 31 ♙d1 ♜b6 32 ♙c2



32...♙c6! 0-1

**But less memorable than your worst move?** Probably losing to Julio Suarez in 2024 from a

much better position. A win essentially clinched a GM norm in my first tournament back from retirement.

**And a highly memorable opponent?** Eric Rosen! We've played many matches, both serious and fun. Probably close to 1,000 games against each other.

**Favourite game of all time?** Game 20 from the 1990 Kasparov-Karpov match.

## G.Kasparov-A.Karpov

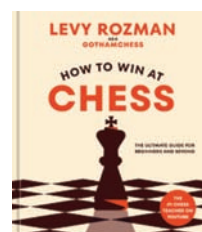
World Ch. (Game 20), Lyon 1990  
*Ruy Lopez*

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♜f6  
5 0-0 ♙e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♙b3 d6 8 c3 0-0  
9 h3 ♙b7 10 d4 ♜e8 11 ♜bd2 ♙f8  
12 a4 h6 13 ♙c2 exd4 14 cxd4 ♜b4  
15 ♙b1 c5 16 d5 ♜d7 17 ♜a3 f5  
18 ♜ae3 ♜f6 19 ♜h2 ♙h8 20 b3 bxa4  
21 bxa4 c4 22 ♙b2 fxe4 23 ♜xe4  
♜fxd5 24 ♜g3 ♜e6 25 ♜g4 ♜e8



26 ♜xh6!! c3 27 ♜f5 cxb2 28 ♜g4 ♙c8  
29 ♜h4+ ♜h6 30 ♜xh6 gxh6 31 ♙h2  
♜e5 32 ♜g5 ♜f6 33 ♜e8 ♙f5 34 ♜xh6+  
♜xh6 35 ♜f7+ ♙h7 36 ♙xf5+ ♜g6  
37 ♙xg6+ ♜g7 38 ♜xa8 ♙e7 39 ♜b8 a5  
40 ♙e4+ ♜xf7 41 ♙xd5+ 1-0

**The best three chess books:** *How to Win at Chess: The Ultimate Guide For Beginners and Beyond* by Lev Rozman. *How to Win at Chess 2* (coming soon) by Lev Rozman. And





The fifth and final Kasparov-Karpov match took place in New York then Lyon in 1990. It was typically hard-fought, with Kasparov winning four games to Karpov's three to prevail 12½-11½.

all Jeremy Silman books. On a serious note: it all depends on the level of the reader. For me, *Imagination in Chess* was a rigorous course on calculation. *Universal Chess Training* and *100 Endgames You Must Know* also helped me a lot.

**Is FIDE doing a good job?** My lawyer has advised me to not answer this question.

**Or your National Federation?** I always think the governing bodies can be doing so

much more. In general, chess has skyrocketed in popularity and the bureaucracy has not adapted and followed suit.

**Any advice for either?** Plenty, but that would require a longer interview. Use targeted local advertising. Do chess meetups. Store better data. Ditch the suits. Make chess accessible and fun. Treat women better.

**Can chess make one happy?** Absolutely! Chess is an escape for many people from the struggles of day to day life. Having said that, getting addicted and attached to your Elo has an adverse effect and can be extremely debilitating.

**A tip please for the club player:** First of all, I firmly believe everyone on the planet can achieve a minimum Elo of 1000 online. If you're reading this and you haven't, I believe in you. Second, chess growth is not linear. You can put in the hours to improve and see nothing until one day – poof – you suddenly gain 200 points. Third, to truly get better, put a cap on your activities. Play five games every day, win or lose. Do 10 puzzles every day, but try to get them all correct. Don't treat your rapid games or puzzle solving like an endless spin at a casino.



# Forthcoming Events

**May 30 – June 1 London League Weekender**  
londonchess.com

**June 7-8 Milton Keynes Congress**  
mkbishopschess.co.uk/upcoming-events/

**June 7 Earlsfield Rapid**  
londonfidecongress.com/earlsfield-rapidplay

**June 8 Ealing Rapidplay**  
londonfidecongress.com/ealing-rapidplay

**June 8 Ulster Fischer Random Rapidplay, Belfast**  
ulsterchess.org/events

**June 13-15 South Lakes Congress, Barrow-in-Furness**  
cumbriachess.com/Tournaments.html

**June 14-15 Southall Congress**  
londonfidecongress.com/southall-congress

**June 14 Golders Green Rapidplay**  
goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com

**June 14 Scarborough Rapidplay**  
scarboroughchess.org.uk/rapidplay.asp

**June 15 Birmingham Rapidplay**  
rapidplay.birminghamchess.org.uk

**June 17 Muswell Hill Rapid**  
muswellhillchess.blogspot.com

**June 20-21 Earlsfield Congress**  
londonfidecongress.com/earlsfield-congress

**June 21-22 Ilkley Chess Festival**  
ilkleychesscentre.com/events

**June 21 Castlehill 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Allegro, Dundee**  
sites.google.com/view/castlehillallegro

**June 22 Frodsham Rapidplay**  
congress.org.uk/congress/581/home

**June 22 Ringwood Rapidplay**  
ringwoodchessclub.org.uk/rapidplay/

**June 22 Uxbridge Rapidplay**  
uxbridgechessclubs.com

**June 27-29 Crewe Congress**  
crewechessclub.co.uk/congress-entry-2/

**June 28-29 AlphaChess Weekender, Potters Bar**  
congress.org.uk/congress/588/home

**June 28-29 Eastleigh Congress**  
congress.org.uk/congress/542/home

**June 28 Poplar Rapidplay**  
www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub/

**June 28 Stroud Summer Rapid**  
www.stroudchess.club/summer-2025-rapid-tournament

*And for the Online Connoisseur:*

**May 25 – June 6 Norway Chess, Stavanger**  
norwaychess.no/en/; Carlsen, Caruana, Erigaisi, Gukesh, Nakamura & Wei Yi.

**June 10-16 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Team Championships, London**  
worldrapidblitzteams2025.fide.com; Adams, Anand, Aronian, Duda, Hou, Jones, Kosteniuk, Kramnik, McShane, Nakamura, Shirov, etc.



swings, but third place was still up for grabs. If Wood Green Youth could beat Cheddleton, then they would finish in third, but otherwise White Rose had a chance to catch up.

Wood Green Youth's star player this season had been the young Ukrainian, Svyatoslav Bazakutsa, who must have been kicking himself after only drawing with a low-rated Sharks II player in round 10. That meant he needed to beat Nick Pert as Black for a GM norm – not the easiest of opportunities.

### N.Pert-S.Bazakutsa

Cheddleton vs Wood Green Youth  
*Pseudo-Benko*

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 c5 3 d5 b5 4 ♙g5 g6

Once upon a time, this would have been frowned upon but modern practice (and engines) show that Black's dark-square control can be just as important as White's light-square control in the resulting positions.

5 ♙xf6 exf6 6 e4 b4 7 a3

Despite what I said above, I would still prefer White after something like 7 ♘bd2 ♙g7 8 ♙d3 when Black is not quite ready for 8...f5 9 exf5 ♙xb2 10 ♖b1 ♙f6 because 11 d6 is strong.

7...a5 8 ♘bd2 ♙g7 9 ♙d3 0-0

Here Black could try 9...f5, since if 10 exf5 ♙xb2 and 11 ♖b1? bxa3.

10 0-0 d6 11 ♘c4 ♗c7 12 ♘fd2 ♘d7 13 c3

Both sides have their strengths and weaknesses here, and the position seems



Ukrainian refugee Svyatoslav Bazakutsa quickly established himself as the strongest player in Liverpool and the 16-year-old IM defeated Nick Pert no less to make a GM norm in the 4NCL.

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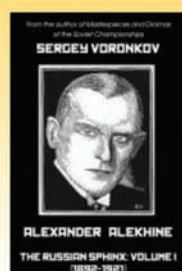
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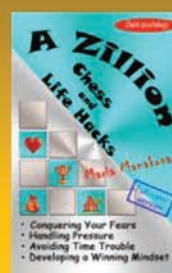
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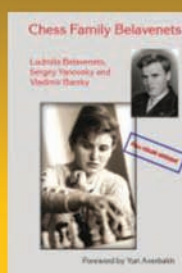
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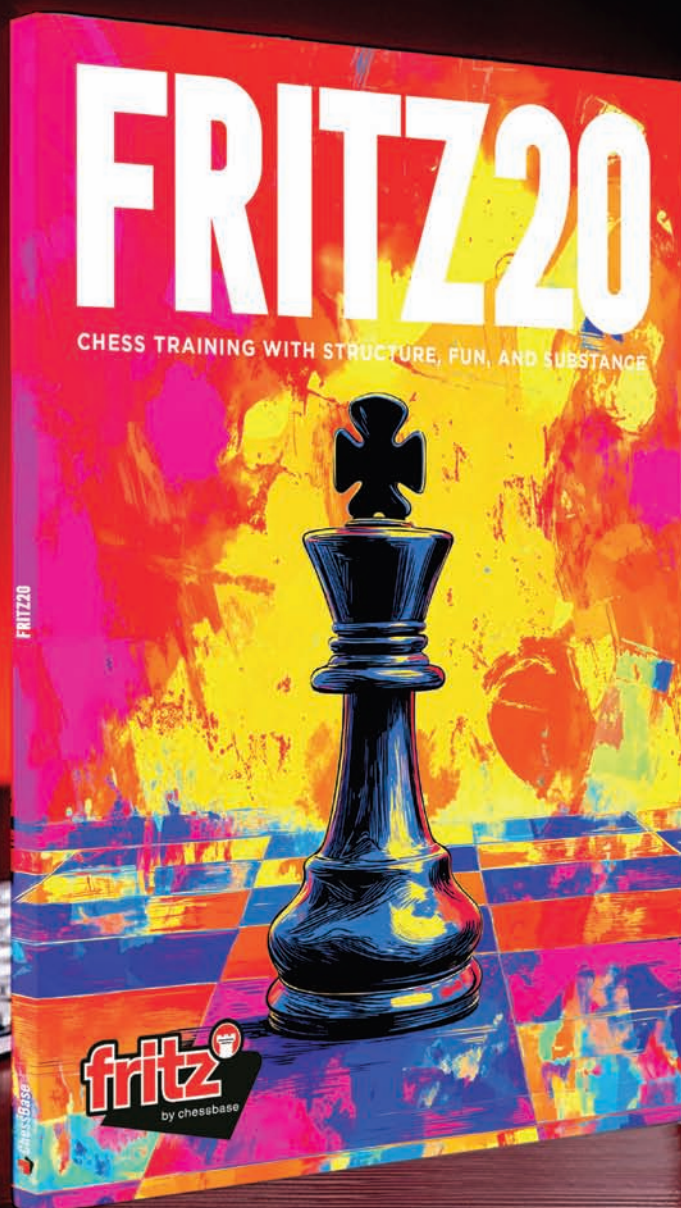


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# Up for the Cup

## Crystal Palace won the FA Cup. John Henderson reveals their chess connections

We've all sat watching a tense football match, only for the commentator and/or pundit to chip in by describing the game as being "a chess match out there". But for one Premier League star it literally is a chess match out there, because just days after helping Crystal Palace reach the FA Cup final, where he would go on to play a pivotal role, attacking midfielder Eberechi Eze was celebrating another resounding victory – this time triumphing in Chess.com's annual four-day amateur PogChamp tournament, contested by 12 celebrity content creators and athletes all doing battle for the £100,000 (£75,000) total prize fund.

The 26-year-old Selhurst Park fan favourite, a product of numerous English academy systems, scored in a 3-0 win against Aston Villa in the semi-final at Wembley. Eze then did so again, notching the only goal of the game as Palace stunned Manchester City in the FA Cup Final. Prior to that he had defeated American YouTuber 'Sapnap' in the PogChamp 6 final to pocket the first prize of \$20,000 (£15,000). And with it, he unwittingly – and by all accounts unnoticed, until now – claimed an unlikely series of connections to chess history.

Eze only began playing chess in 2019 after he was taught by his former Palace team-mate Michael Olise (who now plays for Bayern Munich), whom he would often play against at the club's training ground. "It was him and my brother who nudged me to learn how to play and face them," he explained during an *Athletic Magazine* 2023 interview. "That's when I started studying the game, watching YouTube videos of the best chess openings, things like that."

The nomenclature of PogChamp, like most things these days, as the tech-savvy cool kids will readily tell us, surfaced online in 2017. It is one of the oldest emotes on Twitch that used the face of Ryan 'Gootecks' Gutierrez with his mouth wide open – and quickly became adopted as a way to express excitement or surprise, both genuinely or sarcastically.

Typically, 'PogChamp' is spammed during a stream when something exciting happens, such as pulling off a clutch kill or play, but the emote can also be used in a trolling fashion where there is no hype, like a streamer/influencer failing a challenge or being killed in a mundane setting.



*26-year-old Eberechi Eze not only scored the sole goal in this year's FA Cup final, but is also a chess champion, having won Chess.com's celebrity PogChamps tournament earlier in May.*

Chess.com and Twitch readily latched on to the 'PogChamp' emote for their celebrity/content creator-only chess event – based on a tweeted original idea from Hikaru Nakamura – in May 2020 during the global pandemic lockdown, and it stuck. As in all the previous five editions of this 10+5 rapid fun event, the players had to compete in a group stage to earn a place in the Championship bracket, with Eze – who had easily the best chess

strategy of all the competitors – winning the final 2-0 that was streamed live on Twitch with many millions following it.

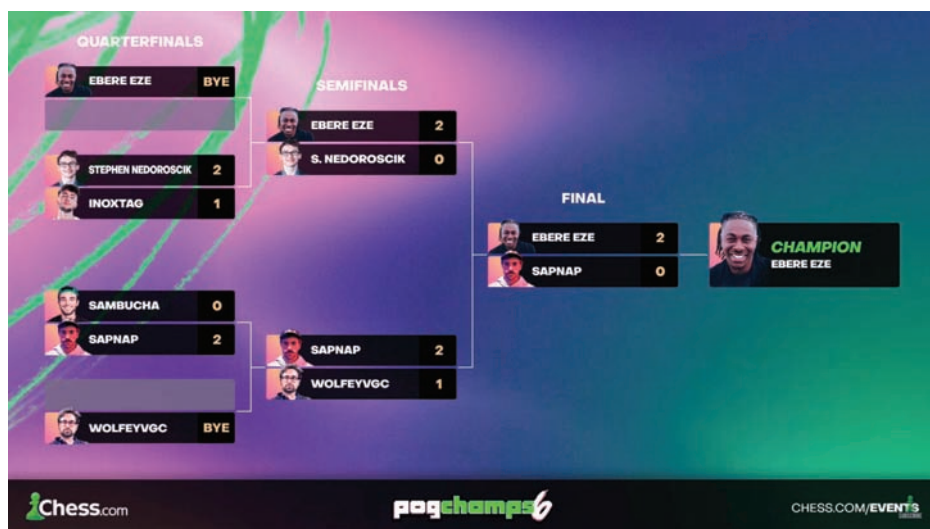
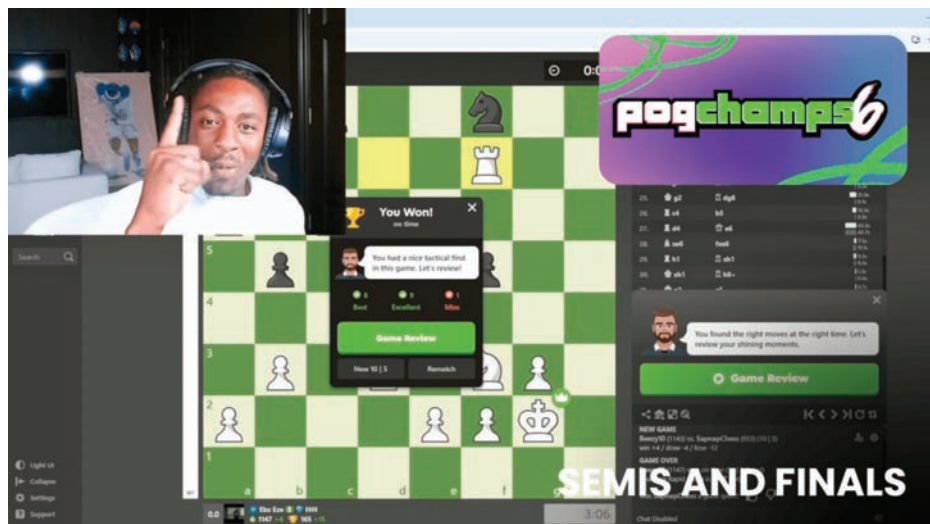
"There are few players I enjoy watching more in the country than Eberechi Eze," wrote Daniel Storey, the *i Paper's* chief football writer in May, after he recently scored four goals in three games (against Arsenal, Forest and Tottenham). "The way he slows down and quickens up the match with the ball at his feet

is transfixing.” And much like his tactics on the pitch that can often dictate Palace games, it was a case of ‘Eze does it’, as he similarly adopted a very clever strategy with his chess skills and prowess to win the sixth PogChamp title.

In his openings, he adopted a similar fianchetto set-up with both colours, playing the King’s Indian Attack with White and the Pirc/Modern Defence with Black. Also a clever strategy at this lower-level of competition, Eze showed great patience and understanding that all but mirrored Palace’s explosive counter-punching style under Oliver Glasner, their deep-thinking Austrian manager. Rather than lashing out with committal moves early doors, Eze would sit back, castle early, and slowly build behind a deep, solid pawn structure – but when it mattered most, he would strike against his opponent’s overextended position with deadly accuracy to win, along the way achieving a very impressive blunder rate of only 1.2%.

And as Eze secured his victory he shouted “Come on!” and smiled into the camera with a fist pump. Bizarrely, as many following the live stream noted, this was a more emphatic celebration than his nonchalant act after scoring in the FA Cup semi-final.

After making his way through the group stages, Eze faced what on paper was his most dangerous opponent in the semi-final, Stephen Nedoroscik, the pommel horse specialist who won bronze for Team USA at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Rating-wise, they were almost equals – but Eze’s greater understanding of his mirror openings strategy (KIA as White, Pirc/Modern as Black) proved to be the deciding factor as he built up a superb position and struck with deadly accuracy.



At this level, keeping the queens on the board is always advisable.

20...♘d3+ 21 ♖xd3 cxd3 22 ♙xd3



23...♗f1+!

Exemplary technique at this lower-level of competition: when you go material up, look to exchange off material as quickly as you can. So Eze has obviously learnt a lot of basic elements that makes the rest of the game very easy indeed.

23 ♖xf1 ♗xf1+ 24 ♙c2 ♙c6+ 25 ♘c3 ♗f2+ 26 ♙d1 ♗xg2 27 ♗h3 ♗g1+ 28 ♙e2 ♙c4+

Also a good rule-of-thumb at this level – never miss a check, as it might be mate!

29 ♙d2 ♙xd4+

And with a decisive material advantage, Black easily went on to convert the win.

After making it to the final with this key win, the true football fan in a more relaxed Eze came to the fore with his fist-pumping celebration, singing “Boom, boom, boom, boom, Mateta’s in the room,” his own chessic twist to the fan-favourite chant at Selhurst Park in homage to his team-mate Jean-Philippe Mateta.

### Sappap-E.Eze PogChamps (rapid) 2025



After Eze won the first game of the final, the second and deciding game proved to be a nervy affair that ebbed and flowed throughout. Here, White, with his queen effectively out of the game on h3, has

### S.Nedoroscik-E.Eze

PogChamps (rapid) 2025



18 ♗e3 ♗af8

Defending the rook is understandable at this true amateur level (Black was rated 1135 to White’s 1123), but the route-one approach to goal – and to his credit, Eze had spotted it, but opted for safety-first – was 18...c4! 19 ♗xb6 axb6 20 ♘d2 ♘xd3+ 21 ♙b1 ♘f4 22 ♗e1 ♘xg2 23 ♗c1 d5 and White can contemplate resignation.

19 h4 c4!

Eze scores on the rebound!

20 d4



unwisely taken his eye off the ball. Sapnap has just played 42 ♖f5??, attacking the black queen, overlooking the fact that his three extra pawns amount to nothing with his king caught in a surprise mating attack.

**42...♗d4+! 43 ♖f1 ♗b6! 44 ♗d5**

The threat of the perpetual check is covered, so not even 44 ♖f7+ ♖xf7 45 ♗f5+ offers any hope after 45...♔g7 where ...Rb1+ will soon lead to mate.

**44...♗b1+ 45 ♖e2 ♗e3# 0-1**

After Eze's chess victory, Crystal Palace FC were quick to post on their official X account about the successes of their talismanic star player: "He can do it all." And Eze certainly can, because on the pitch this season he has scored 13 goals and contributed 11 assists in 41 appearances for the Eagles, as they won their first major piece of silverware in the south London club's 164 year history. And here's where the big chess history connection(s) come into play.

The FA Cup is the modern era name of the 1871/72 Football Association Challenge Cup, the oldest association football competition in the world. Fifteen of the association's 50 member clubs entered the inaugural tournament, one being the newly-formed south London club Crystal Palace. They only came into being in 1861, formed, named and with their old home ground (Selhurst Park was only built in 1924) sitting on the regenerated site of the Great Exhibition that showcased British industry and technology, which was hosted within the specially designed glass building that became known as the 'Crystal Palace'.

This was the first in the series of the famous World's Fairs (now known as 'Expos'), and London's thriving chess community, led by the redoubtable figure of Howard Staunton, felt obliged to do something similar for chess. They organised, in parallel to the Great Exhibition, 'London 1851', the world's first international chess tournament that was won by German master Adolf Anderssen, earning him the status of the best player in the world. That alone would be a great link through Eze and Palace to chess history. However, remarkably, there is a more famous connection, namely the creation of the world's first chess clock that revolutionised early tournament competition and the FA Cup!

The first FA Cup was made for £20 by Sheffield-based silversmiths Martin, Hall & Co and went by the nickname of the 'little tin idol'. It passed between the victorious clubs for more than 20 years, until Aston Villa won the Cup in 1895. Later that year, it was stolen from the window of a Birmingham shop – where the club had agreed to display it so their fans could see it up close – and was never seen again. The stolen Cup was replaced with a series of replicas, which managed not to go missing during the next 15 years. But by this time it dawned on the FA that they did not own the design copyright.

Eventually, in 1911, the chunkier, more substantial-looking trophy – the design still used today – was commissioned by the FA from the Bradford artisan jewellers Fattorini &



*The Fattorini 'tumbling' clock revolutionised top level chess after being introduced in 1883. Antonio Fattorini's Bradford-based company also designed the second FA Cup, which came into being in 1911 and was awarded each year until replaced in 1992 with the first of two replica trophies.*

Sons, established by a family of Italian immigrants who arrived in Leeds in the early 19th century and who to this day still proudly hold their coveted Royal Warrant over their main Harrogate shop, with the company headed by the sixth generation of the Fattorini family.

The Fattorinis managed to quickly design, manufacture and have the FA Cup hallmarked in Sheffield just in the nick of time for the 1911 final that year – and it is by far the longest-serving of the five trophies, staying in the chair for 81 seasons before it was rightly retired with full honours to the National Football Museum in Manchester in 1992. This trophy, the one we most associate with the FA Cup today, was valued at £1m when it appeared on the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* in 2016. Intriguingly, the grapes that form part of the trophy design had expert Alastair Dickenson rather sniffily suggest that Fattorini may not have designed the trophy from scratch.

According to the *Antiques Roadshow* silver expert, the most recognisable British sporting trophy could have been designed originally from as an elaborate champagne cooler that was repurposed due to the rush job to have it in place for the 1911 FA Cup Final between Bradford City and Newcastle United. It wasn't, as Thomas Fattorini would later prove by revealing the firm's original competition winning design. No less importantly, that 1911 final was played, not at Wembley Stadium – the national stadium didn't open until 1923 – but, in fact...wait for it...at Crystal Palace's old ground!

Either way, it was a neat twist of fate that saw a trophy with Bradford origins handed over to the victorious Bradford City team in its very first year of use – and this is the next big clue in the greater chess history connection. Family patriarch Antonio (Tony) Fattorini, a watch-maker, chess enthusiast, a well-known local sportsman, Olympic timekeeper and founder member of Bradford City Football Club, was also a board member of Bradford City at that time.

After football, his consuming passion was chess – and being one of the country's top artisan jewellers and watchmakers, and with early chess tournaments being plagued by slow play, was responsible for manufacturing and making commercially available the first chess clock or 'tumbling' clock, as it was

described on its launch. Around 1880, the chess clock was reputedly invented by Thomas Bright Wilson of Manchester Chess Club, with input from the great Joseph Henry Blackburn, but the design was improved on, and then built and manufactured, by Fattorini, with the London chess tournament of 1883 believed to be the first to use the double-faced, mechanical tumbling clock.

Fattorini's first version was in the form of two linked rectangular carriage clocks, with twin dials imprinted 'FATTORINI', in chrome or brass with Roman numerals, mounted on a see-saw balance over a rectangular wrought-iron base, impressed on the front with raised gold paint lettering 'FATTORINI & SONS' and 'BRADFORD'.

This design first went on sale in 1887, and was advertised extensively in the *British Chess Magazine* from the 1890s until 1904, marketed as 'Fattorini & Sons's Chess Timing Clocks'. It sold for 12 shillings and six pennies in old money; the ad further reading: "These Clocks are used in all the Masters' International and National Tournaments, North versus South of England, and all important County and Club Matches." It was subsequently superseded by a revised design with a smaller clock face and differently designed metalwork.

It can't be an FA Cup story, however, without a fairytale ending. And for ours it proved to be third-time lucky for Palace. The despair of 1990 and 2016 all part of the prologue now. They defied the odds, not to mention a seemingly unlimited budget, to beat favourites Manchester City 1-0 to win the FA Cup...and all thanks to a brilliant goal from that man Eze, which reduced lots of hard-faced gentlemen in the Palace end to haemorrhage tears of joy.

"This is special. This is what dreams are made of, for me and this club. Who thought we could do it? We've made history today," was match-winner Eze's emotional reaction after the final whistle.

This is why we love football. This is why the FA Cup remains so great. Eze scoring a wonderful goal to deservedly give the south London club underdogs a first-ever major trophy win in their long and storied history. It was real Roy of the Rovers stuff from Eze, scoring belters in Palace's stunning FA Cup run in the quarter-final, semi-final and the winner in the final...and he also became a chess champion!





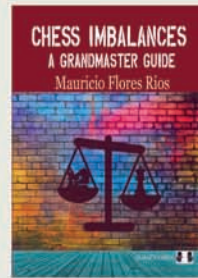
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### Beating the Queen's Gambit - Indian Style! by Renier Castellanos

This book advocates the 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 move order for Black. By waiting for 3.♘f3 or 3.g3 before playing 3...d5, Black reduces White's options. This is the companion work to the recent *Playing the Nimzo-Indian*. Together, the two books offer a complete, counterattacking and dynamic repertoire for Black against 1.d4.

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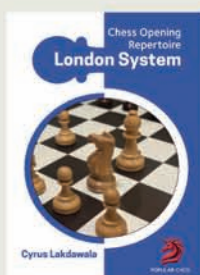
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The hallmark of this opening is that Black makes the positional concession of allowing White a central majority and hopes for counterchances via active piece play in return. However, as the very experienced chess coach and author Andrew Martin demonstrates in this highly engaging book, there are many other weird and wonderful ways to handle these 'Benoni structures'.

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### The London System by Cyrus Lakdawala

A big advantage of playing the London is that (unlike other lines these days) it is highly unlikely you will get caught out in the opening. White's position is very solid and the early play revolves far more around plans and concepts than having to defuse engine-inspired bombs that have been lobbed into your position.

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### Accelerated Dragon by Nigel Davies

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392 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc) €19.99 (eBook)





# Overseas News

**FRANCE** – The Freestyle Grand Slam Paris (April 7-14) saw Vincent Keymer unable to replicate his success from the earlier Weissenhaus leg. The 20-year-old German no.1 finished on 50% in the preliminary rapid stage before defeating Ian Nepomniachtchi 2½-1½ after rapid games, but he then had no answer to Hikaru Nakamura who won their semi-final 2½-1½.

Magnus Carlsen tied for first with Nepomniachtchi with an impressive 8½/11 in the rapid, before defeating Nodirbek Abdusattorov 1½-½ and then Fabiano Caruana by the same score to set up a final with old foe Nakamura. Carlsen again drew one and won one to pick up the \$200,000 top prize, as well as 25 Grand Slam points. He held comfortably as Black, calling it “a very nice, professional job”, after initially winning a striking encounter.



*Carlsen was stylish in Paris then utterly dominant in the next Freestyle event at Grenke.*

## M.Carlsen-H.Nakamura Paris (freestyle) 2025



**1 c4 c5 2 ♘c3 ♗c6 3 ♚f3 e5?!**

Ambitious and 3...b6 followed by ...♗b7 is likely a better approach.

**4 b4!**

The engines also quite like 4 g4!?, but this is a fairly powerful pawn sacrifice to quickly activate the white queen.

**4...♗xb4**

4...cxb4 5 ♗d5 d6 6 d4 offers White good compensation, but may also have been the lesser evil for Black.

**5 ♗xe5 g6 6 d4! 0-0**

Legal and instead 6...cxd4 7 ♗h6+ ♗g7 8 ♗xg7+ ♖xg7 9 ♗b5 would have left Black with a rather disjointed position.

**7 ♗g4!**



**7...♗g7**

A prudent choice, since 7...♗xd4 8 ♗h6+ ♗h8 looks quite dangerous for Black after 9 g4 or even 9 ♖xd4! ♗c2 10 ♖b2 ♗xd4 11 g4 f6 12 ♗d5, with a firm grip in return for the exchange.

**8 dxc5**

Carlsen may have underestimated Nakamura's reply and instead 8 ♗h6! f5 9 ♗xg7 ♗xg7 10 ♗h6+ ♗h8 11 g3 would simply have left Black under heavy pressure.

**8...d5! 9 ♗h6+ ♗h8 10 g4!**

Involving the kingside pieces. Even here White is doing pretty well.

**10...♗e6 11 cxd5**

11 ♖b2 d4!? may have concerned Carlsen, but after 12 ♖xb4 dxc3 13 0-0! c2 14 ♗d3 White is still clearly for choice.

**11...♗xd5 12 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 13 ♗b2**

The dark-square pressure remains unpleasant for Black, but Nakamura continues to defend well.

**13...♗e6 14 g5 ♗xd1+ 15 ♖xd1 ♖c8 16 ♗g3!**

Activating the rook in the nick of time to retain the initiative.

**16...♖xc5 17 ♗e4 ♗d5**

Seeking sanctuary in an endgame. 17...♖c6!? 18 ♗xg7+ ♗xg7 19 ♖b1 f5!? would have been more dynamic, if still better for White after 20 gxh6 ♗f5 21 ♖c3.

**18 ♖xd5 ♗xd5 19 ♗f6!**



Talk about a kingside clamp and now even 19...♗xf6! 20 ♗xf6 a5 21 a3 b5 22 ♗e1! would have left White better in the endgame, albeit with Black having good chances to draw.

**19...♗xa2? 20 ♖a3 ♗e6 21 ♖xa7 ♗d6 22 f3!**

Keeping Black completely bottled up, as now would 22...♗f5 23 ♖xb7 ♗xh6 24 gxh6 ♗xf6 25 ♗xf6+ ♗g8 26 ♗f2, which is similar to the game.

**22...♖c8 23 ♗e5?**

Simply 23 e4! would have left Nakamura in big trouble: for example, 23...b5 24 ♖a6 ♗d8 25 ♗e5 ♗c4 26 ♗c3 when finding a good move for Black remains a serious challenge.

**23...♗f5!**

Seizing his chance.

**24 ♗xf5 ♗xf5**

24...gxf5!? 25 h4 h6 26 f4 ♗xf6 27 ♗xf6+ ♗g8 28 h5 ♗d5 might yet draw, albeit only after further suffering.

**25 ♖xb7 ♗e6 26 ♖b4**



**26...♗xf6**

Understandable, but with rooks on and Black's back rank vulnerable, we are still far from talking about a draw for Black.

**27 ♗xf6+ ♗g8 28 ♗f2 ♖c5 29 ♗g3 h6!?**

The alternative was to sit tight, but 29...♗f8 30 ♗d4 ♗d5 31 ♖h4 ♗g8 32 ♖b4 ♖c5 33 h4 ♖c8 34 h5 would also have left

Black with a lot of suffering ahead.

**30 gxf6! ♖h7 31 ♙g7 g5 32 e4?**

Carlsen likely overestimated his chances with the pawn on h6 in what follows. Instead, 32 ♖b8 would have continued to grind away, with decent winning chances.

**32...f5! 33 ♖b7? f4+ 34 ♙f2 ♖c2+ 35 ♙e1**



**35...♙a2??**

A strange move and actually Black might have escaped with a draw here: 35...♖xh2! 36 ♙d4+ (or 36 ♙f8+ ♙g8!) 36...♙g6 holds, since 37 ♖g7+ can simply be met by 37...♙xh6.

**36 ♙f8+ 1-0**

Nakamura had seen enough. 36...♙g6 37 ♖g7+! ♙f6 38 h4! wins.

**GERMANY** – Karlsruhe once again served up a feast of chess over the Easter weekend (April 17–21). This year there wasn't only the Grenke Open, but also the Grenke Freestyle Open, which attracted many of the world's top players, including the world no.1. Carlsen was absolutely dominant, winning all nine games! Yes, he was often clearly better early on in each game and had clearly studied various versions of the 960 possible starting positions much more than his opponents, but it was still an impressive result and he even finished by outplaying Keymer. Some two points behind the champ, back on 7/9, were Parham Maghsoodloo (IRI), Andrey Esipenko (FID), Frederik Svane (GER), Leinier Dominguez Perez (USA), Alexey Sarana (SRB), Arjun Erigaisi (IND) and Fabiano Caruana (USA).

## A.Liang-M.Carlsen

Karlsruhe (freestyle) 2025



**1 ♘b3 c6 2 c3 g6 3 e4 e5 4 0-0-0**

Perfectly legal and thus far the 22-year-old American GM has played well.

**4...0-0-0 5 d4!?**

However, this is quite ambitious and 5 g3 to activate the queen might have been a slightly better try.

**5...exd4 6 cxd4?!**

White quickly comes under pressure after this, whereas 6 ♘xd4 ♘e6 7 f3 would have retained the rough balance.

**6...f5!**



**7 e5?!**

Overextending. 7 exf5 ♙xb3! 8 axb3 ♖xe1 9 ♖xe1 ♖xd4 also leaves White in trouble, but 7 f3 would have minimised the damage.

**7...♘e6 8 h3?! d6**

White is under heavy pressure in the centre and is yet to activate the queen. Already the engines have Black at over '+2'.

**9 ♙h2 dxe5**

9...f4!? might have been even stronger.

**10 ♙xe5 ♙xe5 11 dxe5 ♖xd1+ 12 ♙xd1**

Necessary to retain the bridgehead on e5.

**12...♙b6 13 ♖h2 h5**

Carlsen calmly begins to annex space as he enjoys all the trumps.

**14 ♖g3 ♙f7 15 h4 ♖d8+ 16 ♙c1**



**16...♙c4**

Threatening ...♖h6+, but 16...♖f8! would have been even more incisive, intending ...♖b4 or if 17 ♖c3 ♘f4, thereby leaving White in serious trouble.

**17 ♙c2 ♖d5 18 ♖c3**

White must let the e-pawn fall after all as 18 f4? ♖h6 would only make matters worse.

**18...♖xe5 19 ♘e3 ♘c7!**

Simplifying while retaining full control.

**20 ♘xc4 ♖xe1+ 21 ♖xe1 ♙xc4 22 ♖e3 b6**

22...♖f6!? was also possible as 23 ♖xa7 ♖xh4 24 ♘a5 ♙d5! 25 ♖xb7+ ♘d7 would quickly leave Black with a highly mobile

passed h-pawn.

**23 ♘d4 ♖f6 24 ♘f3!? ♙xa2 25 ♖e5 ♖f7!**

Retaining the queens and his kingside configuration.

**26 ♖d6 ♖c4!**



**27 ♖xg6**

White might as well take the pawn. Instead, 27 ♘e5 ♖f4+! 28 ♘d1 ♙d5 29 ♖d7+ (or 29 ♖f8+ ♙b7 30 ♘d7 ♙f3+! 31 gxf3 ♖d4+ and ...♖xd7) 29...♙b7 30 ♘xg6 ♖xf2 31 ♖xf5 ♖xg2 would have been winning for Black.

**27...♖f1+ 28 ♙d1?**

Collapsing, although even after 28 ♙d2 ♖xf2+ 29 ♘d1 ♙b7 30 ♖xh5 ♖xg2 Black should eventually be winning.

**28...♙b3 0-1**

29 ♖d6 ♙b7 30 ♖d2 ♙xd1 31 ♖xd1 ♖xf2 is completely hopeless for White, two pawns down and with ...♙d5 on the way.

In the huge normal Open alongside, which attracted a whopping 875 players as opposed to 297 in the Freestyle Open, Indian teenage IM S. Aswath and American GM Brandon Jacobson both amassed a huge 8/9 to pull half a point clear of Ivan Saric (CRO), Daniil Yuffa (ESP), Valery Kazakouski (LTU), Velimir Ivic (SRB), Mateusz Bartel (POL) and Georg Meier (URU). Nikita Vitiugov unfortunately lost in the penultimate round and finished back on '+3', alongside Borna Derakhshani and half a point ahead of Matthew Wadsworth.

Elsewhere the Bundesliga concluded in late April, the final rounds taking place from the 25th to the 27th. The Wadim Rosenstein sponsored Düsseldorf SK only conceded a draw to second place Viernheim while finishing three points clear on 27/28. Baden-Baden were third on tie-break, with St. Pauli avoiding relegation while finishing 12th. Of Düsseldorf's various star names, Anish Giri was the only real regular, racking up 9/12, and special mention must also be made of Javokhir Sindarov who played every match and scored a stunned 12/14.

There was also sad news from Germany of the death of the legendary Czech Grandmaster and Candidate Vlastimil Hort (xii.i.1944 – xii.v.2025). Born in Czechoslovakia, Hort became a GM in 1965, with his career highlight qualifying from the 1976 Manila Interzonal for a Candidates quarter-final with Boris Spassky. With the





*Vlastimil Hort, a popular figure and true legend of the game, sadly passed away at the age of 81.*

match tied at 6-6 Spassky became ill and had to have his appendix removed. To aid Spassky's recovery and help complete the match, Hort sportingly used up one of his rest days. Tragically Hort would lose on time in a completely winning position in Game 15 – as he later admitted, “entranced at the thought that the match was his” – with Spassky going on to win the match 8½-7½.

Hort defected to West Germany in 1985, proceeding to win three German titles to go with his five Czech Championships. Older readers will remember his appearances on *The Master Game* and he became a successful commentator, appearing on the popular German show *Schach der Großmeister*, where once a year until 2005 two famous grandmasters would play a game, with commentary and analysis from Hort and fellow grandmaster Helmut Pfleger.

**GREECE** – Anna Muzychuk and Zhu Jiner shared first place on 6/9 at the Nicosia FIDE Women's Grand Prix (March 15-24), the fourth leg of six. In what was quite a draw-heavy tournament, Harika Dronavalli, Aleksandra Goryachkina and Mariya Muzychuk all finished unbeaten on '+1'.

### S.Tsolakidou-A.Muzychuk Nicosia 2025



### 33...♖xb2! 0-1

**INDIA** – The in-form Zhu Jiner again impressed at the fifth leg of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix in Pune (April 13-24), where she lost to Humpy Koneru, but still finished on 7/9, as did Koneru, with Divya Deshmukh back on 5½/9 and nobody else managing a plus score.

**ITALY** – Having made unfortunate headlines at the US Championship last year, where he was expelled from the event after assaulting a female videographer, Christopher Yoo triumphed at the Sardinia World Open in Orosei (April 27 – May 3). The 18-year-old American GM is currently serving a year-long

ban from the USCF and was also suspended by FIDE for 60 days soon after Sardinia as their Ethics and Disciplinary Committee investigated new allegations against him. In Orosei Yoo enjoyed a 2753 performance after finishing on 7½/9, which left him half a point ahead of Ukraine's Igor Samunenko and Italian GM Lorenzo Lodici.

**SWITZERLAND** – The June rating list was, of course, yet to appear as we went to press, but events in Bucharest did slightly shake the world's top-ten up. That now comprises: 1 Magnus Carlsen (NOR) 2837, 2 Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 2804, 3 Arjun Erigaisi (IND) 2782, 4 Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2777, 5 Dommaraju Gukesh (IND) 2777, 6 Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa (IND) 2767, 7 Alireza Firouzja (FRA) 2766, 8 Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB) 2765, 9 Wei Yi (CHN) 2758, 10 Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE) 2757.

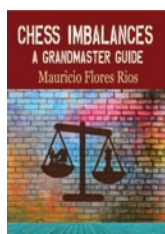
How concerned should we be that the top three players have played relatively few classical games between them so far this year? Carlsen has scored 4½/5 (3/3 in the Norwegian League; 1½/2 on his one appearance for St. Pauli in the Bundesliga), Nakamura 5/8 at the American Cup, as we covered in these pages last month, while Erigaisi has scored 4/5 in the Bundesliga, the only classical appearances by this extremely talented 21-year-old since he finished on 5½/13 at Wijk aan Zee.

Meanwhile retaining her world title in crushing style has seen Ju Wenjun climb to 2580, leaving her second on the list of top women behind the largely inactive Hou Yifan on 2633. Lei Tingjie is now third on 2552, three points ahead of Zhu Jiner before fifth place Humpy Koneru breaks the Chinese stranglehold, coming in at 2543.



*Anna Muzychuk tied for first at the Women's Grand Prix at Nicosia then, as were we preparing to go to press, repeated the feat at the final leg in Austria, where she again shared first with Zhu Jiner. The Chinese star thereby qualified for the Candidates as Muzychuk narrowly missed out.*

# This Month's New Releases



## Chess Imbalances: A Grandmaster Guide

Mauricio Flores Rios, 504 pages

Quality Chess

RRP £25.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.39**

This is a follow-up to the same author's highly regarded *Chess Structures: A Grandmaster Guide* (Quality Chess, 2015). It is not, however, a direct sequel, as the author explains:

"Although many encouraged me throughout the years to simply write a second volume to *Chess Structures* (which I may write someday!), I felt there was an even greater need for a different topic. Having just written a book on how to dissect chess positions based on their pawn structure, I wanted to add more color into these evaluations, and I felt the best way to do that would be adding another dimension of analysis: the material on the board. This is why I embarked on my quest to write *Chess Imbalances – A Grandmaster Guide*, which in my view is the most comprehensive book yet on how to conduct positions with each material imbalance you are likely to encounter in chess."

Imbalances happen throughout most games of chess, but there is definitely a dearth of literature on the subject. In this book, "GM Mauricio Flores Rios breaks down this universal topic into categories such as bishop vs knight, opposite-coloured bishops, possessing and playing against the bishop pair, and various scenarios with a queen or rook being traded for a number of pieces."

In fact, the imbalances in question are split into two main categories, or families, as the book has it. Some imbalances maintain a nominal 'equal material' status and the others involve sacrifices:

Family 1 – Balanced Imbalances: Bishop against Knight; Opposite-Colored Bishops; The Bishop Pair; Rook against Two Minor Pieces.

Family 2 – Material Imbalances: Pawn Sacrifices; Exchange Sacrifices; Piece Sacrifices; Queen against Anything.

Following an investigation into the two families, there is a chapter on Imbalances in Practice, followed by chapters offering exercises and their solutions.

The material has been very well chosen and the book is genuinely extremely

instructive. For example, we hear the phrase 'the advantage of the bishop pair' on a very regular basis, but the examples and explanations provided in this book really bring home how much of an advantage it can be. Furthermore, this is nothing new, of course. One of the featured games is from the late Victorian era, with Wilhelm Steinitz demonstrating the merits of his favourite minor piece.

will repay deep study. If a book can make the reader think in a different way and the explanations are good enough to enable one to put the ideas into practice over the board, then surely it must be classed a job well done and as a valuable addition to chess literature. Therefore, the book is recommended – but only for those who are willing to put in the work.

Sean Marsh

## B.Englisch-W.Steinitz

London 1883



"The success of Black's strategy is remarkable, and this position says it all. Both the knight on c1 and the bishop on e3 are close to useless. Black has a powerful space advantage and may attempt to win the game on either side of the board."

The author's interesting analysis shows that 30...g4! is one way to win, although Steinitz chose to cash in a different way; trading a pair of bishops to leave White in a state of virtual paralysis.

**30...gxf4!? 31 ♖xf4**

"White can go home even earlier after 31 gxf4?? ♜h4+."

**31...♜g5!**

"This is the point of the previous move. The knight is completely restrained, and trading these bishops eliminates a key defender of the d2-square, and the position as a whole. The resulting knight vs bishop is easily won for Black" (0-1, 43).

Incidentally, it is tempting to think this is simply a case of a very strong player outplaying a lesser one and it wouldn't have mattered what sort of position they had at the time, but in fact this was Steinitz's sole victory against Englisch (+1, =4, -1), and it was only thanks to the power of the bishop-pair.

This is a thought-provoking book which



## Chess Opening Repertoire: London System

Cyrus Lakdawala, 336 pages

Popular Chess

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

It had to happen: the world's most prolific chess author has written a book about the ubiquitous London System. In fact, it has already happened twice before: *Play the London System* (Everyman Chess, 2010), and *First Steps: The Colle and London Systems* (Everyman Chess, 2016).

The blurb for this new book features hallmarks of the famous Lakdawala writing style: "Chess theory ebbs and flows. Lines that have been discarded for decades suddenly become all the rage and everyone starts playing them. A case in point are queenside openings where White plays ♗f4. For years these had been the chess equivalent of flared trousers but in recent times they have been reinvented and even the best players in the world are now sporting them."

Apart from being difficult to play against (because it is incredibly solid), there are other factors behind the rise of this opening: "The London System (1 d4 ♗f6 2 ♗f3 followed by 3 ♗f4) is at the forefront of this renaissance. Formerly regarded as a quiet backwater, useful only to avoid theory, it is now a hot topic. A big advantage of playing the London is that (unlike other lines these days) it is highly unlikely you will get caught out in the opening. White's position is very solid and the early play revolves far more around plans and concepts than having to defuse engine-inspired bombs that have been lobbed into your position."

No wonder the London System is even seen in battles for the ultimate title of world champion. However, the main point of



intrigue – as we face yet another book on the system – is: has theory advanced sufficiently to warrant another 336 pages of coverage? In a nutshell, Black is still fine, of course, although now, more than ever, anyone playing 1 d4 and 2 ♟f4 is standing on the shoulders of giants.

Perhaps the biggest growth area for the London can be found in the chapter devoted to what Lakdawala dubs the “Classical ‘Ruy Lopez’ Version”. This arises after **1 d4 d5 2 ♟f4 ♟f6 3 e3 e6 4 ♟f3 c5 5 c3 ♟c6 6 ♟bd2 ♟d6 7 ♟g3 0-0 8 ♟b5!?**.



This looks like the sort of move inexperienced club players tend to utilise once their knowledge of theory comes to an end. Of course, ‘as every English schoolboy knows’, the bishop belongs on d3 in the London System. However, the very fact that the first illustrative game in the relevant chapter is between Magnus Carlsen and Vishy Anand should lead the reader to take it more seriously.

Black’s main options are **8...a6**, as played by Anand, **8...a5** and **8...♟e7**. This is all rather mysterious, as in the featured game Carlsen appears to commit a chess sin by giving up his ‘good bishop’ with **9 ♟xc6**, but after **9...bxc6 10 ♟a4! ♟b8 11 ♟a3!** it suddenly gives Black a few unusual problems to ponder. At least it is something to break the London monotony. Here, more than anywhere else in the book, is the place to look to find fresh ideas to play down at the club or in the next weekend tournament.

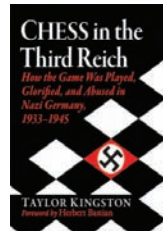
Lakdawala comments that **8 ♟b5!?** “currently is the line for cool kids!”, which brings us neatly to the prose. Regular readers of these reviews will already know that I think the prose of Lakdawala is significantly verbose. A much stronger editing hand is required to bring the best out of his manuscripts, to make them tighter and to enable the intended message to hit home much more firmly. It can be done – for example, I made the point about the same author’s *From Boy to Man to Challenger: The Fiercest Battles of Gukesh D* (Elk and Ruby, 2024), which I think is his best work to date, mainly because of the tighter editorial grasp.

As this is a repertoire book and not just a look at the London, lines are also given in order to assist the reader to tackle numerous Black defences, such as Benonis, the King’s Indian and the Dutch, although to keep life simple, 1 d4, 2 ♟f4 and 3 ♟f3 is again the

universal start for White. As always, there are lines which slip away from the clutches of the London (as there are in repertoires for all of the 1 d4 systems), and one such excursion is 1 d4 c5, which asks questions, and the recommendation here is to switch strategies and play 2 d5 instead.

This book provides the most up to date coverage of the London System to date, but no doubt another volume will soon emerge to push the explosion out even further. Like it or not, just like Lakdawala’s flowery prose, the London System is definitely here to stay.

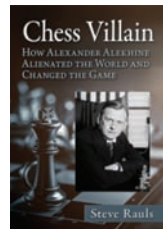
Sean Marsh



### Chess in the Third Reich

Taylor Kingston, 291 pages, paperback  
RRP £49.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £44.95**

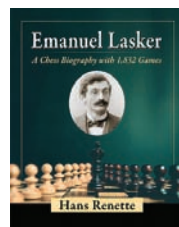
Subtitled ‘How the Game Was Played, Glorified, and Abused in Nazi Germany, 1933–1945’, this is a fascinating, detailed and at times horrifying account of chess in Nazi Germany. Chess historian Taylor Kingston reveals how Adolf Hitler’s party reorganised and unified German chess to showcase the supposed superiority of the ‘master race’. Kingston doesn’t shy away from tackling the main questions, while also presenting many games played under Nazi rule, from both leading German masters and the likes of Alekhine and Keres.



### Chess Villain: Alexander Alekhine

Steve Rauls, 235 pages, paperback  
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

Talking of the fourth world champion, he is the subject of another recent McFarland production, as well as *Alexander Alekhine – The Russian Sphinx: Volume I (1892–1921)*, written by Sergey Voronkov, as reviewed last month. Rauls’ work isn’t as detailed as that Elk and Ruby production, but is also a fine read and still examines both the highs and lows of Alekhine’s life, the world champion who was also known at times as a “grandmonster”.



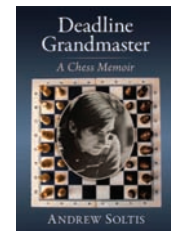
### Emanuel Lasker:

### A Chess Biography with 1,832 Games

Hans Renette,

1,125 pages (two volumes), paperback  
RRP £145.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £130.50**

McFarland have certainly made a busy start to the year, publishing this two-volume work, as well as the books by Hoffmeister and Soltis. Belgian FM Renette has gathered together a great number of Lasker games, many annotated by the second world champion and his contemporaries, and provides a highly detailed account of Lasker’s long and at times varied chess career..



### Deadline Grandmaster: A Chess Memoir

Andrew Soltis, 274 pages, paperback  
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

77-year-old American GM Andy Soltis has enjoyed a successful career as a journalist, not least as an editor at the *New York Post*. He’s the only person to have interviewed both Garry Kasparov and Donald Trump, as well as the author of countless chess books and a former two-time joint winner of the US Open. Here he shines a light into his life, loves and the Marshall Chess Club, while telling many a fine tale along the way.



### Did You Come Here To Play Chess Or To Have Fun?

Dana Mackenzie, 272 pages, paperback  
RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

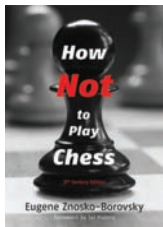
From 2007 until 2022, ‘Dana Blogs Chess’ was a popular and award-winning chess blog by former North Carolina State Champion and accomplished science writer Dana Mackenzie. In this work for New in Chess, Mackenzie has selected and revised 40 of his favourite blog posts, ones which will entertain, as well as instruct. Topics range from ‘Chess, Baseball, Nixon, 1974’ to ‘How a Master Eats an Expert’ and ‘How I Got Nimzowitsch’d’ in this enjoyable and often thought-provoking read

### Chess Theory from Stamma to Steinitz, 1735–1894

Frank Hoffmeister, 492 pages, paperback  
RRP £99.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £89.10**

Frank Hoffmeister is a professor of international economic law, as well as a keen amateur chess player and historian, who has produced this detailed account of early chess writings and theory. Hoffmeister presents

mini-biographies of the likes of La Bourdonnais and Harrwitz, while revealing how history has often misidentified the creators of certain openings, as well as given too much credit for various strategic principles, which actually weren't totally new, including some of Steinitz's. All those interested in the Georgian and Victorian chess scene will find much of interest in Hoffmeister's detailed research, which is accompanied by a foreword from Peter Heine Nielsen.



### How Not to Play Chess

Eugene Znosko-Borovsky,  
112 pages, paperback

RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

The famous Russo-Franco player Eugene Znosko-Borovsky (1884 – 1954) not only lived a colourful life, but was also a pretty strong chess player and an especially fine writer on the game. Almost 100 years ago, *How Not to Play Chess* first appeared in French, with further editions of this primer appearing in 1937 and 1948. Now Russell Enterprises have turned the last of those into an algebraic, English edition enabling a new generation of club and online players to benefit from Znosko-Borovsky's views on such topics as 'Do not leave lines. Occupy them', 'Only launch a wing attack if your center is fully secure' and 'Do not advance, without good reason, your h-pawn after you have castled kingside.'

### Korchnoi Year by Year: Vol. IV (1992-2016)

Renette & Karolyi, 528 pages, paperback

RRP £41.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £37.75**

FM Hans Renette and IM Tibor Karolyi complete their detailed tribute to one of the game's greatest-ever fighters by looking at the last 24 years of Viktor Korchnoi's life, during which time he frequently had stunning results despite his age, such as winning Madrid 1995 ahead of Polgar, Salov, Short, Timman and Yusupov, or when he defeated Fabiano Caruana at Gibraltar in 2011. In all there are 208 games and fragments, as well as 80 photos, many of which will be new to even the most ardent of Korchnoi fans in this typically impressive production from Elk and Ruby.



### Master Class Vol. 18: Max Euwe

ChessBase, PC/MAC booklet or download;  
running time: 7 hours, 34 minutes

RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

The latest 'Master Class' production from Hamburg sees their team of experts, Dorian Rogozenco, Mihail Marin, Karsten Müller and Oliver Reeh, explain the play of the fifth world champion, Max Euwe. His preference for dynamic openings does not go unnoticed and neither does his key tactical eye, while viewers will also get to enjoy much instructive manoeuvring and many fine endgames, as well as regularly test themselves to find Euwe's best moves.



### Master the Pirc Defense!

Fabien Libiszewski, PC/MAC booklet or  
download; running time: 8 hours, 14 minutes

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

French Grandmaster Libiszewski combines study of some instructive model positions with presenting a complete repertoire with the Pirc, one even those new to the opening should be able to fairly quickly take up. He doesn't rush on this detailed presentation, following up some important general principles and themes by turning to each of White's main options, beginning with the Classical variation and concluding with the Austrian, against which 4 f4 ♟g7 5 ♟f3 0-0 and if 6 ♟d3 ♟c6 is recommended.



### The Real Bobby Fischer:

#### A Year with the Chess Genius

Petra Dautov, 192 pages, paperback

RRP £19.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.95**

This is a translation of the 1995 German publication *Bobby Fischer – Ein Jahr mit dem Schachgenie*, based on the experiences of German club player and leading chess fan Petra Dautov. From April 1990 she would spend almost an entire year in the regular company of the enigmatic 11th world champion while he lived in her hometown of Seeheim in south-west Germany. The best and, at times, the worst of Fischer is on display in this lively memoir which may well pique the curiosity of his many fans.



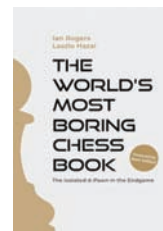
### The Classical Sicilian: A Timeless Counterattacking Weapon

S.P. Sethuraman, PC/MAC or download;

running time: 5 hours, 27 minutes

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

While long in the shadow of its Najdorf cousin, the Classical Sicilian (1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6/d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♟xd4 ♟f6 5 ♟c3 d6/♟c6) is also a good choice for those players who like to fight and counter-attack as Black. The strong Indian Grandmaster begins by looking at how to counter such moves as 6 h3 and 6 f3 before Sethuraman moves on to the main lines, advocating 6 ♟c4 ♟b6 and 6 ♟g5 e6 7 ♟d2 a6 8 0-0-0 ♟d7 as he maps out a fairly detailed, dynamic repertoire for Black.



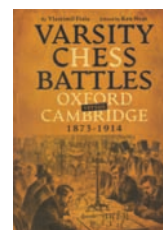
### The World's Most Boring Chess Book

Ian Rogers & Laszlo Hazai,

272 pages, paperback

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Like the Dautov and Znosko-Borovsky releases, this is something a little bit different, as well as an unusual title from Russell Enterprises. The 'boring' aspect comes from the technical subject of this book, which isn't devoted to the Exchange French or Slav, but rather solely tackles endgames with an IQP. Such endings are far from unknown and can arise with several different pieces present. With the aid of 80 examples, veteran Australian GM and chess writer Ian Rogers, aided by leading Hungarian trainer IM Hazai, aims to help even those players who shy away from IQP positions instead thrive in them come the endgame, whether on the pressing or defensive side.



### Varsity Chess Battles:

#### Oxford versus Cambridge, 1873-1914

Vlastimil Fiala, 560 pages, hardback

RRP £74.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £67.45**

This detailed, at times academic type production from Moravian Chess traces the history of chess in the great university towns of Oxford and Cambridge from the early 1800s into the 20th century. Czech chess historian Fiala especially explores the first 42 Varsity matches played between the two famous universities, while presenting 452 games, of which many are annotated, as well as many fine photographs. Edited by Ken Neat, this is a well produced publication, of which we may hear more next month.





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