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# Chess

## POLGAR PREMIERES

A new Netflix documentary highlighting the achievements of Judit Polgar, the greatest ever female chess player, is released to critical acclaim



British Success - Michael Adams on his enjoyable visit to New Zealand



Wijk aan Zee - Yochanan Afek made the pilgrimage to Tata Steel Chess



Capt. Mackenzie - Craig Pritchett gets to grips with a monumental book

# Chess

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## FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read  
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*Twelve-year-old Hungarian chess prodigy, Judit Polgar, during a France-Hungary contest in 1989.*

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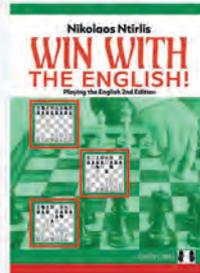
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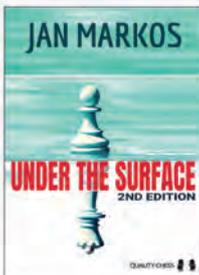
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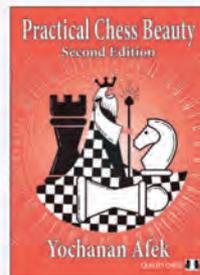
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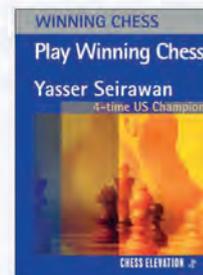
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# 60 Seconds with... Jennifer Shahade

**Born:** The last day of 1980.

**Place of residence:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Occupation:** Author, chess and poker pro.

**Enjoyable?** The mix is fun and challenging, even though all lack stability. The uncertainty has its benefits though: it keeps me young and hungry.

**And home life?** I am happily married and we have a nine-year-old son, Fabian, and a cat, Little Lady. I also live quite close to my brother (IM Greg Shahade) and father (FM Mike Shahade), both of whom come up in my latest book, as I've learned so much from them about thinking differently.

**But sometimes good to escape to:** Two of my favourite cities are London and Las Vegas.

**Sports played or followed:** I watch all Philadelphia Sports, especially the Sixers! Basketball is fun to play and I also do some weightlifting and cross-training.

**A favourite novel?** *The Great Gatsby*. You should read it every 5-10 years and it's different each time.

**Piece of music?** One of Bjork's albums, let's say *Vespertine*.

**Film or TV series?** *The Wire*.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?** The people and the travel.

**And the worst?** The sense of scarcity, both real and perceived.

**Your best move?** Three: my first book title, having a child, truth-telling.

**And a highly memorable opponent?** Falafel, the no.1 backgammon player in the world, who has sadly passed since, and Isabelle Choko (1928–2023), the holocaust survivor and French chess champion who I faced when she was 93 years old.

**Favourite game of all time?** Chess! Poker is also pretty good!

**Any advice?** My latest book, *Thinking Sideways*, is all about dispensing advice so here are two favourites:

1. Try to find ways to be flexible and present as often as possible. These skills are so



important as we face increasing uncertainty. That's why my book is called 'Thinking Sideways', not 'Planning Your Entire Life Right Now'.

2. If you want to be great, find ways to be more interested in the topic or sport. For example, my chess improvement languished until I fell in love with chess studies and the Open Sicilian. Similarly, I learned from a World Memory Champion, Yaanja (the subject of my chapter on memory) that the best way to remember people's names is to pay attention when you meet them, and have a genuine interest in the other person.

**Can chess make one happy?** Absolutely. Try to find ways to be as happy as possible when

you win, and to mitigate the pain when you lose. You deserve to feel even better when you win than sad when you lose, but many chess (and poker) players are the opposite. The solution is not just to numb or lessen the pain of losing, it's also to lean into the joy of winning.

**A tip please for the club player:** Take a mindset coaching session if you hit a plateau. It's likely you have some psychological roadblocks that, if cleared, will make improvement much easier.

**And a final tip from my son:** "Don't Fall Cup." (Say it quickly over and over, and you'll see what I mean!)

# The First Women's World Champion?

## Neil Hickman looks back at the first International Ladies' Chess Tournament

Judit Polgar showed that a woman could compete on level terms with the best male chess players in the world, and before her players such as Nona Gaprindashvili and above all Vera Menchik had showed that women could compete with men at a high level. But who led the way for people like Menchik?

Chess in the late 19th century was almost exclusively the pastime of prosperous and leisured men; but there were a few pioneering women players as well. A Ladies' Tournament was organised alongside the great Hastings tournament of 1895, and was won by Lady Edith Thomas (1846–1920), wife of the sixth Baronet and mother of the future Sir George Thomas. And, as John Saunders reminded us in the August 2025 *CHESS*, a "Ladies' International Tournament" was held in London in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

It had some eminent support; Pillsbury funded the second prize of £50 by donating the proceeds of a blindfold exhibition, while Sir George Newnes donated the first prize of £60 (equivalent to over £6,700 today). There was a time when wealthy newspaper magnates were a good thing. Among the contestants were Lady Thomas and Louisa Fagan, née Ballard (1850 – 1931), of whom more on another occasion.

And alongside Lady Thomas and Mrs Fagan there was the heroine of this story, Mary Rudge (1842–1919). The daughter of a surgeon, she lived a life of genteel poverty after the failure of an attempt with her brother to run a preparatory school, and she seems thereafter to have worked principally as a "ladies' companion". John Richards, in a study for the University of the West of England in 2005, 'Remembering Mary Rudge: Bristol's Victorian Chess Champion', notes that in 1889 an appeal was made to the nation's chess players for funds for her support; and another appeal was found necessary in 1912. That is reminiscent of the appeal which it was found necessary to make on behalf of Joseph Blackburne (*Memorable Games*, page 33). Another respect in which Mary Rudge equalled Blackburne was achieving a draw against him in a simul in 1888. Richards suggests that she was herself the first woman to give a simultaneous exhibition, playing six and winning six in 1889.



*The first International Ladies' Chess Congress was held in central London from June 23rd to July 3rd, 1897. The tournament was part of the 60th anniversary celebrations for the reign of Queen Victoria. Mary Rudge is standing on the left; Lady Thomas and Louisa Fagan are the last two on the right of the second row. For more detail and further games, do see the excellent BritBase.*

The London tournament was a gruelling affair. It was a 19-round all-play-all tournament, with a time limit of 20 moves an hour, adjournments after 40 moves, and two games being played each day. No tournament book was produced, and relatively few of the games from the tournament survive, but a number of articles have assembled the story of the tournament from contemporary sources. Tim Harding wrote a two-part study in his 'Kibitzer' column for Chess Cafe, which has been preserved via the Wayback Machine, and Joost van Winsen published an account of the tournament on the Chess Archaeology site.

Harding notes that the weather was very hot, and contemporary pictures make it apparent that the players were wearing the long and voluminous clothing customary among well-to-do women of the time. That may go some way to explaining the standard of play, which in some cases was dire. Thus the gift which was presented to Miss Rudge in round 1:

Mrs Berry, with White, has rather the worse of it and seeks to exchange queens.



19 ♖d1 f4 20 ♛h5 ♛g3

Now, commented the *British Chess Magazine*, "White's position is not comfortable, but 21 ♖g4 would have held matters together". However, after 21...f3! 22 ♖xf3 g6 23 ♛xh6 ♜xf3 it seems to me

that White can resign. White's best appears to be 21 ♖e2, acquiescing in the loss of a pawn; but certainly not...

**21 ♖f3?? ♜xe1+**

...with White resigning three moves later.

The familiar proposition that 'the winner is the person who makes the last blunder but one' was neatly demonstrated in Hertzsch-Gooding in round 9:



A piece to the good, White 'defended' her bishop with **1 ♖ac1??** (the move numbering is not recorded). Not to be outdone, Black replied **1...♞h4+??** and after **2 ♙h2** White duly won.

Tinsley in the *Times* pointed out that after 1...♞xc7 Black would have regained her piece with the better game, because, of course, if 2 ♞xc7 ♞h4#.

And Harding notes that in round 13, Miss Watson left her queen en prise against Miss Gooding, who failed to notice the fact and went on to lose. *The Times* gallantly commented "Such incidents appear strange, but are by no means unknown in contests among the masters".

As the tournament progressed, it became clear that the one player who could catch Miss Rudge was Mrs Fagan, but when they met in round 13 Mrs Fagan, seeking to unbalance the position, blundered a piece for two pawns, and if there was one player in the tournament capable of grinding out a win from a material advantage, it was Mary Rudge.

### M.Rudge-L.Fagan London 1897



**24...♞xd3??**

"Mrs Fagan admitted this to be the effect

of some hallucination, being under the impression of giving up the exchange for two pawns" – Hoffer, quoted by Harding.

24...♞xa2 might have secured three pawns for the knight after 25 c3 ♞xc3 26 ♞xc3 ♞xd3, arriving at a position which *Stockfish* assesses as level, but in which there is least some imbalance for Black to work with. White could also try 25 ♞a1 ♞b4 26 ♞xa7 ♞b8 27 ♞a1, which is about equal.

**25 cxd3 ♞xd3 26 ♞d1 ♞xf2+ 27 ♞xf2**

And White duly won the ending on move 42.

And through it all, Mary Rudge, at 55 the oldest competitor, plodded on in her unspectacular but effective style, conceding a draw to Mme Bonnefin (missing a straightforward win, it should be said), and winning all her other games. By the end of round 17 she was three points clear of Mrs Fagan in second place, with two rounds to play. She duly won those two remaining games, to finish with the astonishing score of 18½/19 and temporarily relieve her poverty with the £60 first prize. Said the *British Chess Magazine*:

"Miss Mary Rudge has for long enjoyed the reputation of being the strongest lady chess-player in the world, and the fact that she has carried off the first prize in the present tournament, thereby becoming entitled to style herself lady chess champion of the world, is very satisfactory to her many friends".

This does have echoes of the fact, pointed out by Edward Winter, that it was only *after* Vera Menchik had won the 1927 tournament in London that FIDE decided that this made her world champion.

At all events, a game to conclude with. It is mildly vexing that neither her round 17 defeat of Miss Hooke, which guaranteed her first place (and the title of champion), nor her last-round defeat of Mrs Sidney sealing her impressive winning margin, appear to have survived. So here is how Mary Rudge disposed of another potential rival, Edith Thomas, in characteristic style in round 3.

### M.Rudge-E.Thomas London 1897 *Scandinavian Defence*

**1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♞xd5 3 ♞c3 ♞d8 4 d4 ♙f5**

Gossip, in *Theory of the Chess Openings*, p. 243, goes so far as to give this move a '?'. Nowadays if Black plays this rare line, 4...♞f6 is usual.

**5 ♙e3 e6 6 ♙b5+ c6 7 ♙c4 ♞f6 8 ♞ge2 ♙e7 9 ♞g3 ♙g6 10 a3 ♞bd7 11 0-0 0-0 12 f4?!**

This leaves the e3-bishop undefended, and if Black now prepares ...♞d5 rather than playing it at once, she appears to gain a slight advantage, i.e. 12...♞b6 13 ♙d3 ♞bd5. However, as Black does not find the correct plan, 12 f4 will shortly prove very effective. It would appear from Berry-Rudge that Rudge was partial to attacks down the f-file.

**12...♞d5? 13 ♙xd5 cxd5 14 f5 exf5 15 ♞xd5**



**15...♙g5??**

Black ought to have played 12...♞b6 and certainly needed to play 15...♞b6 now. After 16 ♞xe7+ ♜xe7 the attack on the undefended e3-bishop just gives Black time to organise her defences. In the event, she sheds a pawn and Mary Rudge's technique is fully equal to cashing it in. As Tim Harding dryly observed, "Whereas [the loss of a pawn] might not have mattered against some of her rivals, against the solid and efficient Mary Rudge it meant a slow and painful death."

**16 ♞xf5 ♙xe3+ 17 ♞dx3 ♙xf5**

This doesn't improve matters.

**18 ♞xf5 f6**

Gunsberg, writing in the *Daily News*, thought 18...♞f6 would have been preferable.

**19 ♜g4 g6 20 c3**



More forceful appears to be 20 ♞ae1 or 20 ♞d6, but Rudge identifies that the key to her position is the passed d-pawn, and takes time to secure it.

**20...♞h8 21 ♞d6 ♜c7 22 ♜g3 ♜c6**

White was, of course, threatening 23 ♞f7+.

**23 ♞ae1 f5 24 ♞e6**

Repeating the threat.

**24...♞d5 25 ♞fe1 ♞f6 26 ♜e5**

Eminently practical. Black's swindling chances (not that Lady Thomas would have dreamt of describing them so) are greatly diminished by the queens being exchanged.

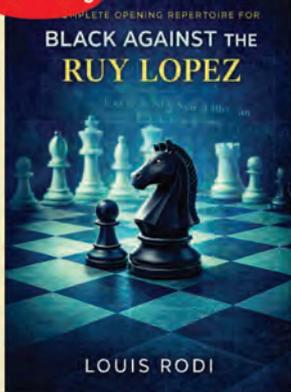
**26...♜xe5 27 dx5 ♞d5 28 ♞d1 ♞f4 29 ♞e7**

There is a nasty little threat of 30 ♞f7+ followed by ♞dd7. Thirty years before Nimzowitsch, Rudge competently exploits the seventh rank. And, of course, Black cannot challenge the rook because the white

# New Arrivals

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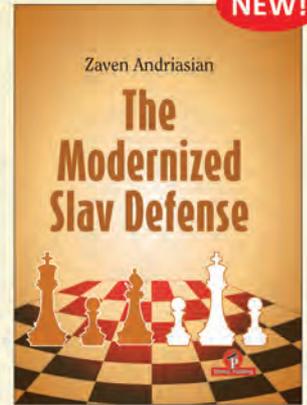


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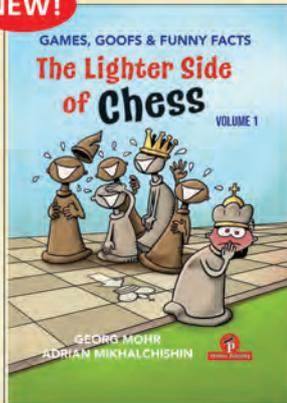
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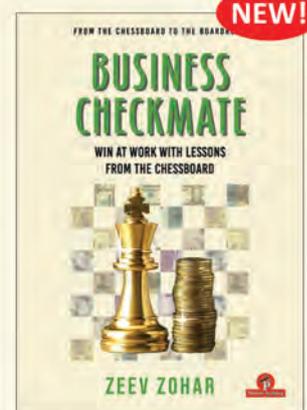


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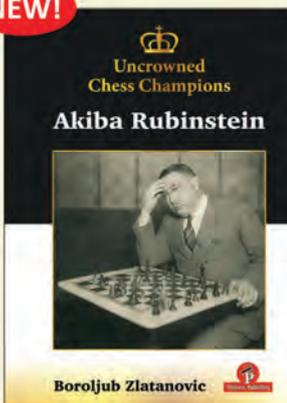
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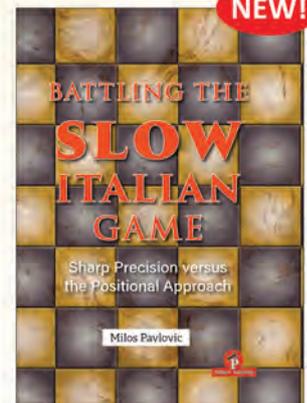


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# How to Beat a Grandmaster

Paul Littlewood recalls a headline-making win achieved by a young Nigel Short

I have just been reading about the new sensation from India, Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha, who is only three years old, but has a FIDE rapid rating of 1572, having beaten opponents many years older than him. This reminded me of our own English chess prodigies, particularly Nigel Short, who learnt chess at five years old and was soon playing a terrific game for a youngster. Consequently, when he was ten years old, he was invited to play in a simultaneous against Victor Korchnoi, one of the strongest players in the world at the time.

Here is the game.

**V.Korchnoi-N.Short**  
London (simul) 1976  
*French Defence*

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖d2 ♜f6 4 e5 ♜fd7 5 f4 c5 6 c3 ♜c6**

In the early days of Nigel's career he always played the French against 1 e4 and, against the Tarrasch variation, preferred to keep things closed rather than adopting the open variations where Black usually has an active game to compensate for an IQP.

**7 ♜df3 b6?!**

However, this is unusual and, frankly, not that good. The main options are 7...♗b6 or 7...cxd4 8 cxd4 ♜b6 with a complicated game in prospect.

**8 ♖b5 ♗c7 9 ♜e2 ♖e7 10 0-0 ♖b7 11 ♖e3 h6 12 ♜g3?!**

Korchnoi misses a chance to exploit Nigel's mishandling of the opening. 12 f5! was extremely strong with the main point being that 12...exf5 fails to 13 ♜f4 with a very powerful attack. A possible continuation could be 13...♜d8 14 e6! ♜xe6 15 ♜e5 ♜ef8 16 ♗h5 g6 17 ♜fxg6 fxg6 18 ♜xg6 ♜xg6 19 ♗xg6+ ♜d8 20 ♖f4 ♗c8 21 ♖ae1 with an overwhelming position for White. Of course, this is not easy to assess for a master playing 31 games simultaneously, so Korchnoi chooses a safer option

**12...g6 13 b3 a6 14 ♖d3 ♜a5 15 ♖c2 h5**



**16 ♜h1?!**

Again White misses a chance to play a promising sacrifice. 16 f5! was very strong with a sample line being 16...gxf5 17 ♜g5 h4 18 ♜xf5! exf5 19 e6 with a winning attack

**16...♜c8 17 ♜f2?! ♜f8?**

White has missed strong continuations and now Black could have played 17...cxd4 18 ♖xd4 ♜c6 19 ♖e3 ♜a7, which gives equal chances.

**18 ♜c1 cxd4 19 ♖xd4 ♜c6 20 ♖d3 ♜d7**

White now stands better as Black has wasted time with his knight manoeuvre to f8 and back to d7. However, the position is relatively closed, so he can still continue the fight.

**21 ♗d2 ♜c5 22 ♖b1 ♜a5 23 ♜g5**



**23...♜xb3?!**

White has quietly improved his position, so Nigel decides to complicate matters and put his stronger opponent to the test. This is a very sensible approach because there is often not enough time in a simultaneous for the master to find the refutation of a sacrifice, no matter whether it is 100% sound or not.

**24 axb3 ♜xb3 25 ♗e3 ♜xc1 26 ♜xc1 ♖c5 27 ♜f3 a5 28 ♖c2 ♖a6 29 ♜h3?!**

Not yet a mistake, but I would have preferred to bring this piece over to the queenside to consolidate his position there. A possible variation could be 29 ♖a4+ b5 30 ♜d3! ♖a3 31 ♖a1 ♖e7 32 ♖c2 when White has the advantage.

**29...b5 30 ♖d3 ♗b6 31 ♜hg5 a4**

An interesting alternative was 31...b4! 32 ♖xc5 ♗xc5 33 ♗xc5 ♜xc5 34 ♖xa6 ♜xc3, when Black has a rook and three pawns for three pieces, and seems to have good chances of equalising as it is hard for White to co-ordinate his pieces successfully.

**32 ♖a1 ♜e7?**

Instead, 32...♖xd4 33 ♜xd4 b4! 34 ♖xa6 ♗xa6 35 cxb4 ♜c4 36 b5 ♗a7 37 ♜gf3 ♜d7 is equal.

**33 ♜f2 ♖xd4 34 ♗xd4?**

A bad mistake which hands the advantage to Black, whereas 34 ♜xd4 ♗c5 35 ♜c1 is better for White. A general principle to bear in mind in these type of positions is that the person with the two pieces for a rook should usually try to keep as many pieces on the board as possible.

**34...♗xd4 35 ♜xd4 ♜xc3 36 ♖xb5 ♖xb5 37 ♜xb5 ♜c2+ 38 ♜g3 ♖b8**



Suddenly White is lost as his pieces are totally uncoordinated and the two black rooks are totally dominant. Perhaps White should have now tried 39 ♖xa4 ♖xb5 40 ♖a7+, since Black must then find the most accurate move of 40...♜e8! as 40...♜f8?! 41 ♖xf7+ ♜e8 42 ♖f6 gives White good drawing chances. Instead, after 40...♜e8! all lines are losing for White, e.g. 41 ♜xf7 ♖b3+ 42 ♜h4 ♖xg2 43 h3 ♖b4, etc. However, White plays more passively and Nigel does not let him off the hook.

**39 ♜d4 ♜c4 40 ♜gf3 ♖bb4 41 ♜e2 ♖e4 42 ♜c3 ♖xf4 43 ♜a2 ♖g4+ 44 ♜h3 ♖bc4 45 ♖b1 ♜c2 46 ♖b7+ ♜f8 47 ♜b4 ♜cxg2 0-1**

A fascinating game and typical of a simultaneous where technically the master has the better of it, but when the position gets complicated, he can easily go wrong when having to play at a relatively fast pace. All credit to Nigel for putting Korchnoi to the test and being the only one of the 31 participants to win.

This wonderful victory really brought Nigel to the attention of the world's press and he was to go on and fulfil his potential by becoming a GM when just 19 years old and then challenging for the world title in London in 1993.

Meanwhile if you have won a game against a strong player then please send it to me (plittl@hotmail.com), and I will try to publish it in this column.

# Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from various events which took place in December and January, and contain a few tricky endgames. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just pick up a pawn or even be a quiet move.

**Solutions on page 54.**



## Warm-up Puzzles



**(1) A.Anjulan-M.Rughani**  
Scarborough 2025  
*Black to Play*



**(2) D.Wise-H.Gardiner**  
Scarborough 2025  
*White to Play*



**(3) A.Ledger-R.Makkar**  
4NCL, Coventry 2026  
*Black to Play*



**(4) M.Milat-J.Pein**  
Bosnjaci 2026  
*Black to Play*

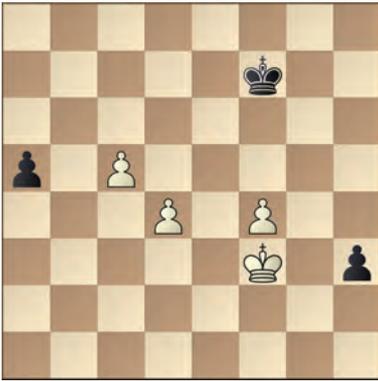


**(5) A.Szeberenyi-N.Mrozowski**  
Budapest 2026  
*Black to Play and Draw*



**(6) Y.Gonzalez Vidal-N.Huschenbeth**  
Guatemala City 2026  
*White to Play and Draw*

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



**(7) A.Greet-Z.Patton**  
Hamilton 2026  
White to Play



**(8) T.Carroll-Di.Zakarian**  
4NCL, Coventry 2026  
White to Play



**(9) M.Ashe-D.Fernandez**  
Invercargill (rapid) 2026  
Black to Play



**(10) H.Nakamura-B.Bok**  
Titled Tuesday Blitz 2025  
White to Play



**(11) A.Demchenko-R.Vijayakumar**  
Stockholm 2025/26  
White to Play



**(12) Xu Ziyuan-M.Ratkovic**  
Pozarevac 2025  
White to Play



**(13) A.Greet-J.Malkin**  
Hamilton 2026  
White to Play



**(14) J.McKay-A.Prabhu**  
Hamilton 2026  
White to Play

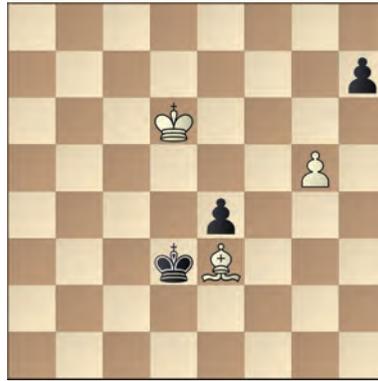


**(15) R.Avendano Porras-E.Chinchilla**  
San Jose 2025  
Black to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 54



**(16) A.Bogdanov-F.Corrales Jimenez**  
Sant Boi de Llobregat 2025  
White to Play



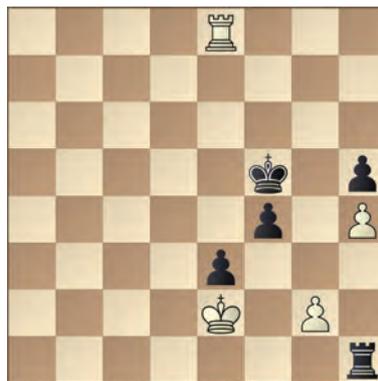
**(17) H.Rajbharath-L.Lecki**  
Bialystok 2025  
White to Play



**(18) A.Vaidyanathan-J.Houska**  
4NCL, Coventry 2026  
White to Play



**(19) I.Smirin-Ey.Rozen**  
London 2025  
White to Play



**(20) A.Grebnev-D.Bocharov**  
Almaty 2025  
White to Play



**(21) A.Greet-Z.Patton**  
Hamilton 2026  
Black to Play and Draw



**(22) S.Williams-E.Demac**  
Hastings 2025/26  
White to Play



**(23) H.Grieve-Ha.Li**  
London 2025  
Black to Play



**(24) M.Vachier-Lagrave-M.Carlsen**  
World Rapid Championship, Doha 2025  
White to Play



# Solutions

to Find the Winning Moves (pp.49-51)

## 1) Anjulan-M. Rughani

1...♖xe1+! 2 ♜xe1 ♖f1# 0-1

## 2) Wise-Gardiner

1 ♜xg6! ♜f6 (1...hxg6? 2 ♖xg6+ ♖h8 3 ♖e4 wins) 2 ♖e5 ♖xe5 3 ♜xe5 netted a clear pawn while leaving White totally dominant.

## 3) Ledger-Makkar

The white queen is short of squares: 1...♙xg2! (1...♜xg2! also works) 2 ♙xg2 ♜f3 0-1

## 4) Milat-Pein

1...c2! 0-1 Pinning first with 1...♖e6 also does the trick. White is losing his knight.

## 5) Szeberenyi-Mrozowski

1...♙f7! (not the only drawing move, but the only one that forces an immediate draw) 2 ♙xf7 ½-½

## 6) Gonzalez Vidal-Huschenbeth

1 ♙xh6+! ½-½ The point is that 1...♖xh6 2 ♜f7+ ♖g6 3 ♜xg5 ♖xg5 4 ♜d4 leaves Black with the wrong-coloured rook's pawn.

## 7) Greet-Patton

1 c6! h2 2 ♜g2 h1♖+ (desperation in view of 2...♙e7 3 f5! a4 4 f6+) 3 ♖xh1 ♖e8 4 f5! a4 5 f6 a3 6 c7 ♖d7 7 f7 1-0 7...a2 8 c8♖+! ensures only White will gain a new queen.

## 8) Carroll-Zakarian

1 ♙xf7! (not the only good move, but by far the strongest and crispest, cleaning Black up in view of 1...♖xf7 2 ♖f1+ ♖g7 3 ♖xe6) 1...♖xe5 2 ♖e7 1-0

## 9) Ashe-Fernandez

1...♜xe4+! (the most crushing, as well as the most forcing) 2 fxe4 ♙h4+ 0-1 After 3 ♖e3 ♖xg2 the attack is simply far too strong, and if 4 d5 ♙g5+.

## 10) Nakamura-Bok

1 ♙h7+! (1 ♜f5!? ♙xh2+ 2 ♖h1 ♖d8 3 ♙e2! was also pretty good for White in the game) 1...♖h8 2 ♙xg7+! ♖xg7 3 ♜f5+ forks to win the queen for two pieces.

## 11) Demchenko-Vijayakumar

1 ♜e7! (1 ♜xc7 should also be winning, but is less clear-cut, including after 1...♙g8 2 ♖f8 ♙xf8 3 ♖xf8+ ♖g8 4 ♖f5) 1...♙4xe7 2 ♖xe7 ♙g8 (2...♙xe7? 3 ♖f8+ is the issue) 3 ♙g1! (killing all Black's counterplay; only the black king is left looking exposed) 3...♜e5 4 ♖f6+ ♖xf6 5 ♙xf6 ♜g6? 6 ♖xc7 ♙b8 7 ♙xb7 d3 8 ♙d4! 1-0

## 12) Xu Ziyuan-Ratkovic

1 ♙c1! (the only way to win) 1...♖b2 2 ♙xf8+ ♙xf8 3 ♖c8 (the point) 3...♖h7 4 ♖xf8 ♖e5+ 5 ♖f1 ♖a1+ 6 ♙c1 ♖a6+ 7 ♖e1 1-0

## 13) Greet-Malkin

1 ♜f4! 1-0 Resignation was not premature in view of 1...♙xf1 2 ♙a2 when White will win serious material due to 2...♖f5? 3 ♙xg7#.

## 14) McKay-Prabhu

1 ♙xd5! ♖xd5 (or 1...exf2 2 ♖xd4 f1♜+ 3 ♙xf1 exd4 4 ♖c6 followed by ♙c4 and/or ♖bb6) 2 ♙xd5 exf2 (2...exd5? 3 ♖c6# is the point) 3 ♙g2 (3 ♖c6!? was also possible, and if 3...f1♜+ 4 ♖g1 ♙xg3+ 5 ♖xf1) 3...♙g4 4 ♙xf2 ♙hg8 5 ♖b3 left White a piece to the good, which he went on to convert.

## 15) Avendano Porras-Chinchilla

1...♜g6+! (the most forcing and spectacular; 1...♙h2+!? 2 ♖g3 ♙h3+! 3 ♖xf4 dxe5+ 4 ♖xe5 ♙g6 also wins, unlike the 1...dxe5?? of the game, where stalemate occurred: 2 ♖xf7+! ♖h6 3 ♖h7+ ♖xh7 ½-½) 2 ♖h3 (2 ♜xg6 forces Black to find 2...♖c4+! 3 ♖xh5 ♖c5+! 4 ♖h4 ♙xg6 to win) 2...♖cc2! 3 ♖xf7+ ♖h6 leaves White without a good move, and quite lost after 4 ♜xg6 (or 4 ♜f3 ♖c2 5 ♖e6 ♙g4!) 4...♙h2+ 5 ♖g3 ♖cg2+ 6 ♖f3 ♙f2+.

## 16) Bogdanov-Corrales Jimenez

1 ♙xe7! ♖xe7 (1...h5 2 ♙xb7 hxg4 3 ♖g3 is just an extra piece) 2 ♜xd5+! cxd5 (or 2...♜xd5 3 ♙c5+ ♖e8 4 ♙xd5! with a winning attack, in view of 4...cxd5 5 ♙b5+ ♖d8 6 ♖xd5+ and mates, as pointed out by Marian Petrov) 3 ♖a3+ ♖e6 (3...♖d8 4 ♙e1 ♜e4 5 ♙xe4! is equally crushing, and if 5...dxe4 6 ♖f8+ ♖d7 7 ♙b5+ ♖e6 8 ♖xa8) 4 ♙e1+ ♜e4 5 ♙xe4+! dxe4 6 ♙c4+ (White's diagonal-moving pieces combine to force mate) 6...♖d7 7 ♙b5+ ♖e6 8 ♖b3+ ♖d6 9 ♖b4+ ♖e6 10 ♖c4+ ♖e7 11 ♖c5+ ♖d8 12 ♖d6+ ♖c8 13 ♖d7+ 1-0

## 17) Rajbharath-Lecki

1 ♙g1! (the only winning move; in the game, 1 ♙f4? e3 2 ♖e6 e2 3 ♙g3 ♖e4 4 ♖f6 ♖f3 5 ♙e1 ♖g4 6 ♙c3 ♖h5 left Black able to save the day) 1...e3 (1...♖e2 2 ♖e5 ♖f3 fails to 3 ♖d4! ♖f4 4 ♙e3+ ♖f3 5 ♙c1, winning) 2 ♖e5! e2 3 ♙f2 ♖d2 4 ♖f6 would be trivial.

## 18) Vaidyanathan-Houska

1 ♖h4! (1 ♖f3 ♖h1+ is only a draw) 1...♜h7? (collapsing, but there simply was no good move, as we can see from 1...g5+ 2 ♜xg5! and 1...♙a6 2 ♜xf6+ gxf6 3 ♙e8+ ♖g7 4 ♖c5) 2 ♙e8+ ♜f8 3 ♙xf8+! ♖xf8 4 ♖c8+ ♖e7 5 ♖c7+ ♖e6 (or 5...♖e8 6 ♜d6+) 6 ♖d6# 1-0

## 19) Smirin-Rozen

1 ♙xd8+! (and not 1 ♙xa1 ♖c8!) 1...♙xd8 2 ♖c1! ♖d1+ (desperate measures are required to avert mate on h6) 3 ♖xd1 exf5 4 ♖d6! ♖c8 (or 4...♖g7? 5 ♜e8+ ♖g8

6 ♖xh6) 5 ♖xb6 ♖c1+ 6 ♖h2 ♖f4+ 7 g3 ♖xe5 8 ♜d7! recoups the material, retaining a decisive attack: 8...♖e6 (8...♖g7 9 ♖d8+ ♖g8 10 ♖f6+ ♖g7 11 ♖e7 ♜c2 12 ♜f6 wins too) 9 ♖d4+ ♖g8 10 ♜f6+ ♖g7 11 ♜e8+ ♖f8 12 ♜c7 ♖e2 13 ♖h8+ 1-0

## 20) Grebnev-Bocharov

1 ♙f8+! (1 ♙g8? ♙xh4 2 ♙f8+ ♖g5 3 ♙g8+ ♖h6 4 ♙f8 ♙g4 5 ♖f3 ♖g5! left Black winning in the game) 1...♖g4 2 ♙g8+! ♖xh4 3 ♙f8! is an incredible resource, as uncovered by Ezra Kirk on ChessPublishing. Black has no way to win: 3...♖g3 4 ♙g8+ ♖h2 evades the checks, but after 5 ♙f8 ♖xg2 6 ♙xf4 it's a fairly easy draw, and if 6...h4 (or 6...♙h3 7 ♙f8 h4 8 ♙f4! ♙h1 9 ♖xe3) 7 ♖xe3 h3 8 ♙g4+ ♖h2 9 ♖f2.

## 21) Greet-Patton

1...♜g3+! (1...♖xa8 2 ♙xa8 ♜f6 3 ♙g2 leaves White a pawn to the good, and even winning in the event of 3...♙xg2? 4 ♙xg2 ♜g4 5 c6) 2 ♙xg3! (allowing 2 ♖g1 ♜e2+ 3 ♖f1? ♖xa8 4 ♙xa8 ♙xh2 would not be wise) 2...♙xh2+! 3 ♖g1 (and not 3 ♖xh2? ♖xa8) 3...h3xg2+ 4 ♙xg2 ♙xg2+ 5 ♙xg2 ♖b7 6 ♖h2 ♖f3 left the active queen holding her own against the two rooks. Indeed, Black was fully holding his own for a long time, until erroneously returning the queen for the rooks to reach position no.7.

## 22) Williams-Demac

1 ♖xe5+! ♙xe5 2 fxe5 (the attack is simply overwhelming, the main threats being ♜f7+ and e5-e6 then ♙e5+) 2...♙f5 3 e6 ♖e7 4 ♜f7+ ♖g8 5 ♙d6 ♖h4 (likewise, 5...♖e8 6 ♜g5 ♙f6 7 e7+ ♖h8 8 ♙ae1! leaves Black completely helpless) 6 ♙f4! ♖g3 (both 6...♖h5 7 ♜d8! and 6...♖f6 7 ♜e5 ♖h8 8 ♜d7 are curtains too) 7 ♙f3 ♖g4 8 ♜e5 1-0

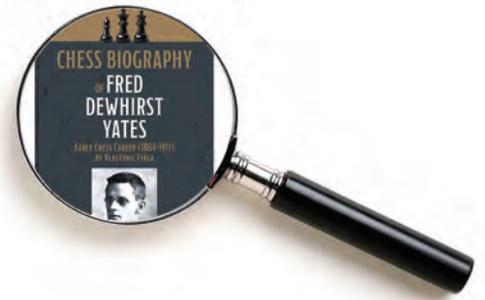
## 23) Grieve-Li

1...♙b8!! (a strong resource, as pointed out by Harry Grieve on ChessPublishing, and a better move than 1...♖xa2, while in the game 1...♜e6? 2 ♖f3 ♙h8? 3 ♖g4+ ♖f8 4 ♙b8+ ♖e7 5 ♙xh8 left Black coming up short) 2 ♙xb8 (2 fxg5 ♙xb1+ 3 ♙xb1 ♖c1+ 4 ♖g2 ♖xb1 is also pretty hopeless) 2...♖c1+ 3 ♖e2 ♖e3+ 4 ♜d1 ♜f3 is a powerful point. White can prevent mate, but not save the game: for example, 5 ♖d5 ♖g1+ 6 ♖c2 ♖g2+ 7 ♖c3 ♙d4+! 8 ♜d3 ♜xe5+! 9 ♖xd4 c5+ wins the queen.

## 24) Vachier-Lagrave-Carlsen

1 ♜h5!! (after 1 ♙xe7 ♙xe7 2 ♜d3 - 2 ♜h5! was still quite dangerous - 2...♙a5 3 ♜b4 ♙a8 Black was able to escape with a draw in the game) 1...g3xh5 (1...♙h4 2 ♙xe7 ♙xe7 3 ♖f3! ♖d8 4 ♖f4 also leaves Black in huge trouble, followed by ♙xe7 or 4...gxh5 5 ♖g3+ and then 5...♖h8 6 ♙h6 ♙f6 7 ♖xd6! or 5...♖f8 6 ♙h6+ ♖e8 7 ♖g8+ ♖d7 8 ♖xf7) 2 ♙xe7 ♙xe7 3 ♖xh5 gives White an overwhelming attack for the piece, as shown by 3...♙f6 (or 3...♙b2? 4 ♙h6 ♙c8 5 ♙e3) 4 ♙h6 (threat 5 ♖g4+!) 4...♙c6 5 ♙e3 ♖h8 6 ♙f8! when White will win in slow-motion fashion with ♙g3 then ♖h6.

# This Month's New Releases



## Chess Biography of Fred Dewhurst Yates

Vlastimil Fiala, 656 pages

Moravian Chess

RRP £36.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £32.25**

Seeing the publication of a chess biography of Fred Yates was certainly not on my radar, especially one with such an enormous page count – yet here it is. Yates is not a name we hear mentioned in the world of chess any more, but he certainly had an impressive career. In this book, the reader can expect to find: “The definitive biography of the six-time British champion covers the early years of his rich chess career (1905–1911). The biography is not only a contribution to the unknown chapters of Yates’ chess career, but also an analysis of Yorkshire and, in part, British chess.”

Born in 1884 (and with his middle name often incorrectly given as ‘Dewhurst’), his “chess career commenced at the Leeds Chess Club in autumn 1905 when he first participated in the Woodhouse Cup Minor Chess Trophy competition.” Yorkshire-based chess players will already have had their interest piqued and they are in for a treat, given the coverage of the region’s chess events in this extraordinary book.

There is also a significant amount of coverage of Yates’ international debut at the 17th Congress of the German Chess Federation in 1910. Yates was a replacement for Amos Burn and his inexperience showed; he finished adrift from the pack in last place, although he did beat Siegbert Tarrasch, who had “openly protested against Yates’ admission to the championship before the start of the tournament.” Tarrasch had form with comments of this nature, of course, as fans of Jose Raul Capablanca will recall.

Yates drew numerous plaudits with this victory, which was made possible by the following sacrifice.

**19... ♖xe3!! 20 fxe3 ♖g5**

Black enjoys a ferocious attack and won in crushing fashion:

**21 ♖f2 ♖xg2+ 22 ♖e1 ♖xh2 23 ♖e2 e5  
24 ♖e6 ♖g3+ 25 ♖d1 ♖f3 26 ♖xf3  
♖xf3+ 27 ♖c2 ♖e4+ 28 ♖d2 ♖d5+  
29 ♖d4 exd4 30 ♖xd4 f4 31 e4 ♖xe4  
32 ♖c4 ♖d8 33 a4 ♖f2 0-1**

The story ends in 1911 and we must hope a sequel is in the pipeline, although given the time this volume must have taken to research and write, it seems it will be a while before it can appear.

The production values of Moravian Chess have definitely taken an upward turn; this is a sturdy hardback with excellent use of colour throughout. There are also numerous photographs which will be new to the vast majority of readers.

Both the depth of research and the amount of information provided are extraordinary. The bibliography runs for two pages and it is quite clear how many chess columns have been referenced, from *The Daily Telegraph* (long before Malcolm Pein was their columnist), through to the likes of the *Huddersfield Daily Examiner* and the *Yorkshire Early Bird*.

Summing up, anyone based in Yorkshire will love to read of the tournaments and other events in their region. General chess historians will find a goldmine of information in this book and fans of chess games will enjoy a feast of fresh encounters with fine annotations.

*Sean Marsh*

of chess analysis – concentrating on instances where he was seriously wrong.”

True; we have a habit of placing the strongest world champions on pedestals. Knocking them to make them tumble is not a common practice, although it is somehow more acceptable to punch holes in the legacies of both Alexander Alekhine and Bobby Fischer, for example.

There have been several new books on Lasker in recent years (not least of which is the fabulous biographical trilogy, *Emanuel Lasker*, by Richard Forster, Michael Negele and Raj Tischbierek, published by Exzelsior Verlag), and the author opines that “No other chess master has ever received such extensive treatment, usually reserved for statesmen such as Churchill or Lincoln, or major historical figures such as Napoleon or Julius Caesar.” Personally, I think Fischer has received more coverage and will continue to do so.

The intent is to add more balance to the Lasker story: “What I aim for here is by no means a complete disagreement of Lasker; far from it. On the whole he deserves his high place in the chess pantheon, both for his play and his eminence in other fields. It is just that it seems to me that his flaws have been largely ignored in the literature about him, and I feel they should be held up to public view, to provide a balanced picture of him.” The failings the book attempts to address include “patriotic zeal”, “intellectual arrogance”, rudely dismissing an old friend and committing “some of the worst analytical mistakes in all chess literature.”

To this end, Lasker’s comments on the Great War, as published in *Vossische Zeitung* are placed under the microscope (the largest chapter). Unfortunately, I did not find such scrutiny to be particularly interesting. I doubt many people would have thought Lasker’s war prose to be particularly in need of such an examination. It was hardly ever going to be held up as a definitive account.

Lasker’s works on philosophy have their errors exposed, his exchanges with Jacques Mieses are scrutinised (in one page!), and flaws in his annotations are highlighted too. Chess players will naturally find most value in the chapter covering Lasker’s annotations. Here is a case in point.

## S. Tarrasch–F. Yates

Hamburg 1910



## Nudging Lasker's Pedestal

Taylor Kingston, 144 pages

Independently Published

RRP £25.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.50**

This is an unusual book with an eccentric premise: “A critical examination of Lasker’s writings on a variety of subjects – World War I, history, science, Nazi participation in the 1939 FIDE Olympiad, and around 45 pages



## S.Tarrasch-A.Burn

Ostend 1907



"Lasker gave what he considered a drawing line that began 1 ♖d1 c5 2 ♜e7 [Ed. – 2 ♜xf7+!? ♜xf7 3 ♜c6 was preferred in the game, where the defensive task proved too much for Black] 2...♗f8 3 ♜e6?!, overlooking that instead of 3...♜xe6?!, Black can win a piece with 3...♗e8!".

I think the best way to use such examples would be to present them to chess students as test positions, along the lines of 'What did Lasker miss?'

The typesetting and very small font size make the book a challenging read. There is a lot of spare white space around the text, for example. All in all, this peculiar book somehow falls short; a very rare 'miss' from Taylor Kingston. However, fans of Emanuel Lasker will still want to see what has been written about their hero and his position on the pedestal will probably remain cemented for good.

Sean Marsh



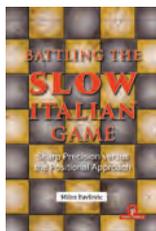
### A Powerful 1.e4 Repertoire

Harshit Raja, PC/MAC booklet or download;

running time: 3 hours, 24 minutes

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

This is a power-packed but relatively straightforward 1 e4 repertoire, presented by Indian GM Harshit. The aim is to reach positions which don't require excessive memorisation, but do feature clear plans, as well as offer chances to attack or cause early problems for the opponent. 1 e4 e5 is met by the Italian Game, while the Two Knights is the weapon of choice against the Caro in this ChessBase production, which may especially appeal to club and online players looking for some new weapons to add to their king pawn repertoires.



### Battling the Slow Italian Game

Milos Pavlovic, 240 pages, hardback

RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.95**

The Giuoco Pianissimo is all the rage these days and those who defend 1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 must be well prepared to face its many subtleties. Step forwards former Yugoslav Champion and leading theoretician Pavlovic, who looks at a few different approaches for Black: 3 ♜c4 ♜f6 4 d3 and then all of 4...h6, 4...♗e7 and 4...♗c5, while explaining the resulting differences if Black follows up the last of these with ...a6 or ...a5. For those who require cutting-edge theory and new ideas for Black against the slow Italian, Pavlovic may well have the answers.



### Bobby Fischer's Chess Queen

Shernaz Kennedy, 240 pages, paperback

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Shernaz Kennedy was still living in her native India when Bobby Fischer won the world title, but four years later she had emigrated to America. She became a WIM who competed in ten US Women's Championships, while enjoyed a successful career teaching chess in New York City. Most importantly for this book, she had also struck up a special and lasting friendship with Fischer, educating and helping him during his darkest periods. This is her and their story, brought to you by New in Chess, who have also issued a hardback version, retailing at £26.95 or £24.25 for Subscribers.



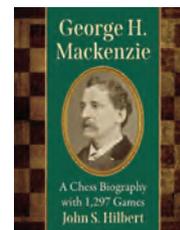
### Capablanca & Alekhine

Luis Fernandez Siles, 440 pages, paperback

RRP £32.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.65**

The name Luis Fernandez Siles will be well-known to those who follow the Spanish-speaking chess scene. An FM, he has worked as a content creator for Chess.com and his own popular YouTube channel, while also being a keen and meticulous chess historian. This labour of love features many nicely annotated games played by Alekhine and

Capablanca, but it is the behind-the-scenes coverage which is the most interesting. There we find much detail on their relationship, bitter rivalry and face-to-face meetings, with, for example, Olga Capablanca describing Alekhine, on first meeting him, as a man "with dishevelled hair, who looked like a shop salesman".



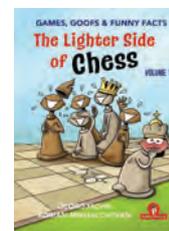
### George H. Mackenzie:

#### A Chess Biography with 1,297 Games

John S. Hilbert, 692 pages, paperback

RRP £145.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £130.50**

Even by the high standards of McFarland, this is a deeply researched account of the life and chess of George Mackenzie (1837–1891), a world-class player in the second half of the 19th Century, as well as one who won both the American and Scottish Championships. Mackenzie was a popular figure and also had a colourful life during the American Civil War, as shown by Craig Pritchett's article on him earlier in this issue. We should also point out that this appears to be a real labour of love from both author and publisher, comprising not just a wealth of new information, but some 77 contemporary photographs.

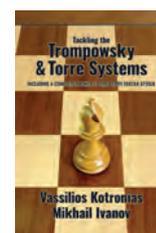


### The Lighter Side of Chess Volume 1

Georg Mohr & Adrian Mikhalchishin, 288 pages, hardback

RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

As well as recent theoretical works from Andriasian (see below) and Pavlovic, Thinkers Publishing have also released this lighter book, which is designed to make the reader smile and even laugh at times. As such, Mikhalchishin and Mohr begin with the chapter 'Grandmasters are (still) human', while throughout this eclectic read blends interesting positions with shocking mistakes and unusual chess trivia.



### Tackling the

#### Trompowsky & Torre Systems

Vassilios Kotronias & Mikhail Ivanov, 336 pages, paperback

RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

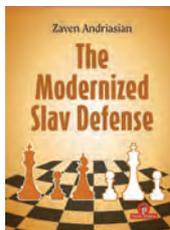
Finally in stock at Chess & Bridge is this long-awaited book for Black showing how to handle the ever tricky 1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♗g5 and 2 ♘f3 followed by 3 ♗g5. The grandmaster author team are quite happy to map out a repertoire against the Trompowsky with 2...♗e4 followed by 3...c5, while they also examine in some detail both 2...g6 and 2...e6 versions of the Torre, as well as the so-called Barry-Tarzan Attack, 2 ♗f4 g6 3 ♘c3 d5.



**The Benko Bible Volume 1:  
The Benko Gambit Accepted**

Vassilios Kotronias & Mikhail Ivanov,  
592 pages, paperback  
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

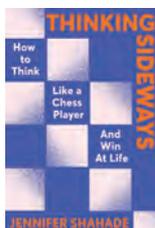
To accompany the Kotronias and Ivanov coverage of 1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♗g5 ♗e4 and 2 ♘f3 g6, Russell Enterprises have also published this detailed first part of a complete repertoire for Black with 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5. To aid the reader's Benko understanding, the authors begin by explaining a few key tabiyas and end with over 100 pages devoted to typical Benko endgames. There's also a detailed theoretical coverage for Black, covering pretty much everything one needs to know to play 4 cxb5 a6 with confidence.



**The Modernized Slav Defense**

Zaven Andriasian, 230 pages, hardback  
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Many like to meet 1 d4 with the Slav due to its dependable nature, but it doesn't have to be followed up in ultra-solid fashion. Armenian GM Andriasian is fully aware of the dynamic possibilities available to Black and makes good use of them in this detailed and practical new repertoire from Thinkers. After 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♘c3 ♗f6, if 4 e3 he is quite happy to recommend 4...e6, but against 4 ♘f3, that true Slav choice, 4...dxc4 5 a4 ♗f5, is advocated. For both those new to the opening and existing Slav players wishing to update their repertoires, Andriasian's theoretical coverage may well be of interest.



**Thinking Sideways**

Jennifer Shahade, 272 pages, hardback  
RRP £22.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.80**

This new book, subtitled 'How to Think Like a Chess Player and Win at Life', proved popular at Chess & Bridge last month. Shahade's term 'thinking sideways' deals with the ways chess players handle the vast number of possibilities in most positions. In this publication from Hodder & Stoughton, she reveals what aspects of chess and chess thinking can be used to get ahead in real life, using examples from sport and business, while also drawing on her vast experience of the poker world. Thinking sideways may help readers be successful, as well as happy!

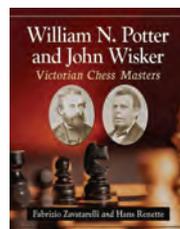


**Understanding Middlegame Strategies  
Vol.13: Reversed Colour Systems –  
Grünfeld & Dutch**

Ivan Sokolov, PC/MAC booklet or download;  
running time: 3 hours, 25 minutes  
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

Continuing his *Middlegame* series for ChessBase, we find Ivan Sokolov taking a good look at reversed chess openings. He explains clearly why the resulting positions can be quite subtle and often both more complex and dangerous than engine assessments might suggest. Sokolov begins by examining 1 f4 from a practical and strategic perspective, looking at not just the early moves, but the common types of middlegame that occur. He then moves on to examine various versions of the reversed Grünfeld, many arising via the English Opening.

Also just released by our friends in Hamburg is *Master Class Tactics – Train Your Combination Skills! Vol.4* by IM Oliver Reeh (RRP £34.95 Subscribers – £31.45). During four hours of video, Reeh helps to train the viewer's tactical ability, with clear instruction backed up by 120 tactical challenges to solve.



**William N. Potter and John Wisker:  
Victorian Chess Masters**

Fabrizio Zavatarelli & Hans Renette,  
482 pages, paperback  
RRP £95.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £85.50**

Like the Mackenzie work, this is a detailed production from McFarland, written by two leading chess historians. William Potter (1840–1895) spent his life based in London, with his play and especially writings helping to

modernise the game, while John Wisker (1846–1884) was an extremely strong amateur, sometimes seen as the first British Champion, as well as a journalist. They both now receive a fairly detailed biography, while this well illustrated book also features all their known games and some of the best of their writing.

Also in stock from McFarland are two works devoted to the US Championships, *United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937–2020* by Alexey Root (238 pages, paperback, RRP £49.45, Subscribers £44.55), which examines the lives of many of the top American female players and contains 171 annotated games, and *The United States Junior Open Chess Championship, 1946–2016* by Alex Dunne (180 pages, paperback, RRP £29.45, Subscribers £26.55), which provides fair detail on each of the tournaments, as well as a game by each junior champion.

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