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# Chess

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## SINDAROV SIZZLES!

Uzbek grandmaster wins FIDE Candidates with a round to spare, and will now face India's Gukesh for the world championship later this year

ISSN 0964-6221



The Candidates – Jonathan Speelman examines Sindarov's domination

Untold: Chess Mates – John Henderson on a new Netflix documentary

Mighty Marcus – IM Harvey explains how he earned his first GM norm

# Chess

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# Chess Editorial

By Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein  @TelegraphChess

## Is There Anybody There?

The date for the election of the next FIDE President has been confirmed for September 29th, and will set the direction for the game's governing body for the next four years. The current incumbent, Arkady Dvorkovich, is under the threat of sanctions from the European Union. As I write, we will soon know if Mr Dvorkovich is one of 120 people to be included on the 20th set of sanctions to be published shortly. A Hungarian veto is no longer possible, after the election that saw a decisive defeat for Viktor Orban, the pro-Moscow former President.

Mr Dvorkovich was reportedly included in the draft of the 20th set of EU sanctions at the behest of the Baltic nations and Poland. Shortly after this leaked, a former FIDE employee revealed that FIDE employees were being paid salaries in advance, presumably because one likely consequence of the FIDE President being sanctioned would be the organisation being cut off from western banking facilities.

According to the documents issued by the EU and seen by a journalist, the former Russian Deputy Prime Minister is said to have, "publicly supported the annexation of Crimea and called occupied Ukrainian cities 'new territories' of the Russian Federation", as well as organised chess competitions in conquered lands.

Russian domination of FIDE has caused varying degrees of damage to the organisation since Mr Dvorkovich took over in 2018. There is the prospect of him leading it to disaster should he be sanctioned personally. This prompted me to post the following tweet on the 20th of April:

*For the second time in a decade, a FIDE President is threatened with sanctions. In February, the European Union declared its intention to sanction Arkady Dvorkovich. We have been here before. In 2015, sanctions were imposed on Kirsan Ilyumzhinov by the US Treasury. As a result, FIDE lost access to bank accounts, lost its credibility and our standing with the IOC was damaged.*

*Fortunately, the proposed European Union sanctions, which would include an EU visa-ban and asset-freeze, have not yet been imposed on our President. If sanctions are imposed, the President should not stand for a third term at the General Assembly, to be held during the 47th Chess Olympiad in September.*

*In this circumstance, should the President stand for re-election, I will stand against him*

*and a broad-based electoral coalition should be formed with the intention of taking FIDE in a different direction. This coalition can be established in the coming months, before the electoral deadline towards the end of July.*

*My team and I are assembling a ticket, including candidates for the FIDE Council. We are preparing a campaign program which will emphasise our objective of transforming FIDE into a modern, self-sufficient and independent non-governmental organisation.*

*A necessary condition for the success of our campaign is of course the support of the international chess community. Throughout my 50 years in chess, I have been involved in: competition as a professional player, tournament organisation at all levels, journalism, commercial sponsorship, chess in schools, social projects, as well as chess administration in the European Chess Union and English Chess Federation. I am uniquely qualified.*

*Ahead of the deadline to submit tickets, I would welcome expressions of interest in joining our campaign to transform the organisation that governs the game we all love.*

*Feel free to get in touch.  
Email: PeinCampaign@gmail.com  
Let's do it. Gens Una Sumus!*

I should make clear I have never had any great ambitions to be FIDE President, but there needs to be a change of direction. The purpose of my move was to encourage others to come forward and potentially stand for office, or join a broad coalition for change before the FIDE election on September 29th.

The new President should primarily be someone who is not Russian and not subject to Russian influence. The organisation has become a joke in some respects. For example, as I've described here, FIDE is one of a handful of sports organisations to have readmitted Russian teams, and most of its operatives are Russian.

At the World Senior Team Championships in Durres, Albania, from where I write and where Russian teams are playing, one of the England team spotted that contrary to the rules, Russian teams had players registered under both the FIDE flag and the Russian flag on the FIDE rating list. When this was pointed out to the organisers, we were referred to the FIDE representative at the event. Guess what, she was Russian. She referred us to the FIDE legal advisor, and guess what, he's...

I am in discussions with three other potential candidates for the FIDE Presidency, but I am not ruling out standing myself,



*FIDE under Arkady Dvorkovich won't have much to smile about if he is sanctioned by the EU.*

particularly if Mr Dvorkovich is sanctioned. A prerequisite is that funds must be raised for a campaign and support is forthcoming from continents other than Europe.

## The Case in CAS

Together with four other federations, Estonia, Germany, Norway and Ukraine, the English Chess Federation supported (but not financially) a case in the Court of Arbitration and Sport against the Russian Chess Federation for organising chess tournaments and incorporating within the Russian Chess Federation, chess activity in the occupied Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. As these cases often do, it took some time, but it ended in a great victory.

The arbitrators were clear that Russia should stop the chess-related activity in these areas and if they don't, the recommendation was that FIDE suspend the Russian Chess Federation. It's hard to imagine this could possibly happen while Arkady Dvorkovich remains President, but it certainly puts the organisation in a tricky position. FIDE have appealed. I would say on spurious grounds, but then I'm biased.

## Sindsational

The Candidates Tournament turned out to be something of a procession as Javokhir Sindarov took an early lead and steadily increased it round by round, remaining unbeaten over the 14 games. His tally of

six victories was a record in the new format for Candidates tournaments, introduced at London in 2013. In this kind of competition, the only vaguely comparable result is Veselin Topalov's astonishing performance at the FIDE World Championship tournament at San Luis in 2005, where he started with 6½/7.

Every time one of his rivals had an opportunity to close the gap, they failed. On the rare occasions when he stood worse in an individual game, Sindarov's calmness and defensive technique were impeccable. Jon Speelman looks closer at Sindarov's play inside.

A point-and-a-half margin of victory in a Candidates tournament is quite remarkable and the 20-year-old Uzbek, who was congratulated by the President of Uzbekistan after the event, must be a heavy favourite to defeat to the-out-of-form Dommaraju Gukesh in a world title contest later this year.

Fabiano Caruana and Anish Giri had opportunities that they failed to take and in the first half of the tournament, which was an eight-player, double-round all-play-all, Sindarov scored a key victory against the pre-tournament favourite when both were flying high in the early rounds.



Javokhir Sindarov, winner of the Candidates and the new world championship challenger.

**J.Sindarov-F.Caruana**  
Pegeia Candidates 2026  
*Queen's Gambit Accepted*

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖f3 dxc4 4 e3 ♗f6 5 ♙xc4 c5 6 0-0 ♖c6 7 ♗e2**

A move that says White means business, rather than playing for a slight edge with 7 dxc5.

**7...a6**

7...cxd4 8 ♗d1, as in Rubinstein-Duras, San Sebastian 1912, is the old main line of the QGA.

**8 ♗c3**

Sharper than 8 a4 cxd4 9 ♗d1 ♙e7 10 exd4 0-0 11 ♗c3 ♗b4 when Black's



Arguably the key game of the tournament, Sindarov-Caruana, took place as early as round 4.

knight is ideally placed. After 12 ♗e5 b6 13 ♗e4 ♙b7 Black eventually prevailed in Carlsen-Vachier-Lagrave, AI Cup (rapid) 2023.

**8...b5 9 ♙d3 ♙b7**

9...cxd4 10 exd4 ♗xd4 11 ♗xd4 ♗xd4 is too greedy: for example, 12 ♗d1 ♗b6 13 a4 b4 14 ♗e4 ♙e7 15 ♙e3 ♗b8 16 ♗xf6+ ♙xf6 17 ♙c5 catches the black king in the centre.

**10 a4!**



A move that had seen few previous top-level appearances.

**10...b4**

This may have been played to sidestep preparation. I suspect Fabi might have been surprised by 10 a4.

10...c4 was seen at the recent World Rapid Team Championship in Hammersmith, where 11 ♙c2 b4 12 ♗e4 ♗a5 13 ♗xf6+ gxf6 14 e4 was R.Svane-Anton Guijarro, London (rapid) 2025. Here going back to the future with 14...♗c7, as in Reti-Wolf, Ostrava 1923, was probably better than Anton's risky 14...h5.

10...bxa4 might be playable, but in the back of one's mind, the a6-pawn could become a target and 11 dxc5 ♙xc5 12 ♗d1 ♗c7 13 ♗xa4 ♙e7 14 ♙d2 0-0 15 ♗ac1 does feel like a small pull for White.

**11 ♗e4 ♗a5**

A maximalist approach. Both players had made excellent starts with 2½/3: Sindarov had defeated Esipenko and Praggnanandhaa, while Caruana had beaten his former nemesis Nakamura, as well as Wei Yi, and must have

been feeling confident.

11...♗xe4 12 ♙xe4 ♗b6 was safer and 13 ♙d2 ♗a5 again prioritises simplification over development, although 14 ♙xb7 ♗xb7 15 ♗ac1 ♗c8 16 ♗fd1 must keep an edge for White.

**12 ♗xf6+ gxf6**

Not 12...♗xf6? 13 e4! cxd4 14 ♙g5 ♗g6 15 ♗ac1 when Black can resign. If 15...♙d6 16 e5 or 15...f6 16 ♗c7 e5 17 ♙b5+ ends the game.

**13 dxc5 ♗b3! 14 c6!**

Essential, as otherwise Black takes back on c5 with the knight.

**14...♙xc6 15 ♗d4!!**



A tremendous shot, doubtless prepared in advance.

**15...♗xd4**

Black has to acquiesce in the opening of the e-file.

If 15...♗xa1 16 ♗xc6 ♗b6 17 ♗d4 when Black will lose his knight and trying to force a way out via b3, by dislodging White's knight, loses outright after 17...e5 18 ♙c4! exd4 19 exd4+ ♙e7 20 ♗e1 ♗a7 21 ♙h6. The knight remains trapped and Black's king will not survive its enforced nomadic existence for long.

**16 exd4 ♗g8 17 g3 f5?!**

Black has counterplay and had to bite the bullet now and grab the d-pawn, something one almost never does in the QGA: 17...♗xd4 18 ♙e3 ♗d5 19 f3 f5 was OK. The upcoming

...♔c5 should calm the waters and so 20 ♖h1, unnatural as it appears, is critical and not 20 ♖ad1 ♜e5, when Black might even whip off the a4-pawn as well.

**18 ♙c4!**



Black's king is vulnerable and d4-d5 is in the air. Now 18...♜xd4 19 ♙xe6 ♜e4 20 ♜xe4 ♙e4 21 ♙b3 is better for White. Black's structure is severely compromised.

**18...♙g4 19 ♙e3 ♙d5 20 ♖ac1 ♙e7**

Black had no good way of defending a6, as if 20...a5 21 ♙b5+.

**21 ♙xa6 ♖f8 22 ♙b5!?**

More incisive was 22 ♙c4, and if 22...♙xa4 23 ♙h6+ ♖g8 24 ♙xd5!, while 22...♙xc4 23 ♜xc4 ♙xa4 24 ♖d1 followed by d4-d5 could get very nasty: for example, if 24...♙a5 25 ♙f4 ♖d5 26 ♙a1 when White infiltrates and Black's rook on g4 is AWOL.



**22...♙f6?**

Perhaps the decisive moment of the entire tournament. After 22...h5!? 23 h3 ♜g6 24 ♜xh5 ♖g7 Black has strong counterplay: ...♙d6 and then either ...♙xg3 or ...f4 are potential threats. Then if 25 ♜fd1?! ♙d6 or 25 ♖h2 ♙d6 26 ♙c6? f4! 27 ♙xf4 ♙xc6! 28 ♜xc6 ♙xf4 29 gx4 ♜xd4, which forces White to bail out with 30 ♜e5+ ♜xe5 31 fx5 ♙xa4 when Black should be OK.

The computer finds 22...h5!? 23 ♜fd1 ♙d6! 24 ♙c6 f4!! 25 ♙xa8 ♙xa8, when Black's pieces are working overtime and he is actually better. Black has such control of the position that he can play slowly with ...♜d8 and ...♖g7, a remarkable concept.

**23 ♜fd1 ♖g7 24 ♙c6!**

A strong blow because if 24...♙xc6 25 ♜xc6 ♙xa4 26 d5! exd5 27 ♜c2! ♙a8 28 ♜xf5 and it all falls apart.

**♙a5 25 ♙xd5 ♙xd5**

25...♜xd5 26 ♜c5! ♙xc5 27 dxc5 ♙a8

28 ♜c1 would be easy; the c-pawn rolls. In all these positions where his rook is out of play, Black is in trouble.

**26 ♜c5 ♙d7 27 d5!**



Finally, the thematic break.

**27...exd5**

Black also loses a pawn. Caruana was in time trouble to boot and his king is about to be exposed.

**28 ♜f3 ♙xb2 29 ♜cx5 ♙xd5 30 ♙xd5 ♜e8 31 ♙xf5 ♙g6 32 h4 ♙c3 33 h5 ♙a6 34 ♙g4+ ♖h8 35 ♙d4+ f6 36 ♜c5 1-0**

To some extent, Sindarov has come from nowhere in world title terms. He was rated in the world's top-30 players, and had won a gold medal for Uzbekistan at the Olympiad, before he started showing great skill both online and in Freestyle tournaments, the latter a clue that suggests he is immensely gifted. He seems to calculate incredibly accurately and quickly. So how did it all begin?

In the post-event press conference, the twenty-year-old revealed: "A week after learning to play, I participated in my first tournament, where everyone beat me. At the closing ceremony, I sat in the front row, sad, watching them hand out the medals. My grandfather noticed, gave me small gifts, and said, 'This is your prize.' Six months later, I was the best player in my family. That's how it all started."

We keenly await details of the world chess championship match which should be held later this year, around the end of November. Both players are calculating machines, but the reigning champion seems to be suffering a crisis of confidence. Gukesh has withdrawn from the Grand Chess Tour which begins in early May in Bucharest. His place has, of course, been taken by Sindarov.

Gukesh played in a Rapid event in Menorca to get some practice, but it didn't go well. He was crushed horribly by the eventual winner:



**1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 d5 3 g3 ♙f5 4 c4 e6 5 ♘c3 c6**

5...h6! is essential to preserve the valuable bishop outside the pawn chain. A similar idea was played here in Albania the day I arrived, albeit via a different move order: 3...c6 4 ♙g2 ♙f5 5 c4 e6 6 ♘c3 h6.



After 7 ♙b3 ♙b6 8 c5 ♜xb3 9 axb3 ♘a6 10 ♙f4 ♘d7 11 h4 f6 12 h5 e5 13 ♙e3 ♘b4 14 ♙a4 ♘c2+ 15 ♘d2 exd4 Black had an enormous advantage and duly converted in Kutirov-Rachels.

**6 ♘h4 ♙e4 7 f3 ♙g6 8 ♙b3 ♙b6**

8...♜c8 9 e4 is nice for White.

**9 c5 ♜c7?**

9...♜xb3 10 axb3 ♘a6 was best, when White is slightly better after 11 ♘xg6 hxg6 12 ♙a4 ♘d7 13 e4 ♘c7 14 b4 a6 15 h4. Instead, 11 e3 ♘c7 12 b4 a6 would halt the advance when Black is OK, because if 13 b5 axb5 14 ♙xa8+ ♘xa8. Note too that 11 ♙xa6?, a common idea in such positions, fails to 11...bxa6 12 e4 ♙b8.

**10 ♙f4 ♜c8 11 e4 ♙e7 12 ♙d6!**



In his guts, as John Littlewood used to say to me at Liverpool junior training weekends in the 1970s.

**12...♙d7**



World champion Gukesh limped home fourth with 4½/10 at the Menorca Open Masters.

12...♙xd6 13 cxd6 0-0 14 ♖h3 dxe4  
15 ♗xg6 hxg6 16 fxe4 ♗bd7 17 e5 ♗d5  
18 0-0 is also horrendous.

**13 e5 ♗g8 14 ♗xg6 hxg6**

Black has been outplayed. All that remains is to open the kingside.

**15 0-0-0 ♖d8 16 h4 ♗e7 17 ♖h3 ♗c8  
18 f4 b6 19 ♗b1 a5 20 ♗c2 bxc5 21 dxc5**



If only Black could get his queen to g8, his position would be perfect.

**21...♗a6 22 a3 ♗e7 23 g4 ♗b7**

Instead, 23...♗xh4 24 ♖g2 ♗xh1 25 ♗xh1 threatens ♗h8+ and Black will be opened up by 25...♗a7 26 ♗a4 ♗d7 27 ♗h7 ♖c7 28 ♗xg7 ♗f8 29 f5.

**24 ♖f1 ♖c7 25 ♗e2! ♗b8 26 ♗d4 ♗d7  
27 ♖d3 a4 28 ♗de1 ♗a5**



Everyone has been invited to the party. Let's dance!

**29 f5 ♗f8 30 ♗h1 gxf5 31 gxf5 ♗xh4  
32 fxe6 ♗xe6 33 ♗xe6 fxe6 34 ♗f2 1-0**

### Bodhana is Blooming

Bodhana Sivanandan's fantastic results – remember, she is only just 11 – have led to her being the England no.1 by quite a distance. Here are the latest UK women's rankings:

- |   |                    |      |
|---|--------------------|------|
| 1 | Bodhana Sivanandan | 2366 |
| 2 | Yao Lan            | 2306 |
| 3 | Jovanka Houska     | 2297 |
| 4 | Harriet Hunt       | 2295 |
| 5 | Elmira Mirzoeva    | 2265 |

### Ukrainian Resilience

In an utterly miserable situation, with no end to the war in sight, it was great to hear some good news from the European Individual Championship at Katowice in



17-year-old IM Roman Dehtiarov sprang a huge surprise at the European Individual and was rewarded with the Future of Ukraine award from Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Poland, where a young Ukrainian, 17-year-old Roman Dehtiarov, not yet a grandmaster and the 126th(!) seed became the European Champion. Dehtiarov scored 9/11 and his tournament performance rating was a staggering 2781. He nearly came to England.

Ukrainian GM Pavel Eljanov posted on Twitter: "When the war started in early 2022, I tried to help several Ukrainian families relocate to Europe (mostly to England, thanks to Malcolm Pein and Andrew Churavin). In one case, everything was arranged for a family from Kharkiv – until their 14-year-old son, a talented chess player, refused to leave at the last moment. He didn't want to abandon his father."

That was Dehtiarov. He will definitely be invited to the London Chess Classic.

### Magnus in May

There was welcome and, I have to say, very unexpected news, but the world no.1 Magnus Carlsen will play a classical chess tournament, the TePe Sigeman in Malmo this month. I guess Magnus is warming up for Norway Chess, which this year will be held in Oslo rather than Stavanger. This change of venue seems connected to the ever-innovative organisers' move into the new Fast Classical World Championship. Around the time we went to press last month, they

announced a new investor in Norway Chess, the Manchester City striker Erling Haaland.



Magnus Carlsen will be making a welcome classical appearance in Malmo from May 1st.

### There's Money in the Game – Finally

More good news, as I can now confirm the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has agreed to fund Elite Chess via the English Chess Federation to the tune of £250,000 a year for three years. Also, just after we went to press last month, the Department for Education put out a tender for the promotion of chess in around 400 UK schools, also to the value of £750,000. After decades of nothing, this feels like incredible largesse. I'm certainly not complaining, but it's still a tiny fraction compared with the support a lot of other activities receive, who are categorised as sports, but let's not go there this month.

### Shopping Around

I am hopeful that Chess and Bridge Ltd will reopen in a new central London location sometime in June. Do make sure you're on our mailing list and do remember that our mail order department remains fully up and running, as very much does chess.co.uk.



FM Bodhana Sivanandan continues to zoom up the ratings and is now the UK women's no.1

# Rydeing High

## Matthew Wadsworth enjoyed his return to Ryde for the Isle of Wight Chess Festival

I was pleased to return to Ryde for the Isle of Wight Chess Festival in February, having also played in the event the previous year. It has been great to see the tournament develop into one of the premier events in the English chess calendar, and David Lightfoot and the rest of the organising team have done a remarkable job to make it such a good playing experience. I was one of nine GMs to play in a strong Masters section, while there were numerous other events that catered to every ability.

The top of the Masters section was a tight affair throughout, with a group sharing first place after almost every round. I started the event in unconvincing fashion, trying out a new opening in round one and scraping a win against promising junior Raman Vashisht-Pigem. I was a lot happier with my play over the next three rounds to reach 4/4, then faced Gawain Maroroa Jones and Shreyas Royal in a gruelling double-round day. Thankfully, draws in both games meant I kept a share of the lead after round 6 with Royal, German IM Tobias Kölle and Dutch GM Thomas Beerdsen, who I then faced in a crucial match.

### M. Wadsworth-T. Beerdsen

Round 7  
*Reti Opening*

#### 1 c4

Thomas Beerdsen is a highly theoretical player with a broad repertoire. One thing I noticed in my preparation was his preference towards Slav structures, which tends to make a Neo-Catalan set-up with c4 and g3 a promising direction.

#### 1...c6 2 d4 f3 d5 3 g3 f6 4 g2 g6

With this move Black heads for a Slav-Grünfeld set-up, which has a solid if slightly passive reputation.

4...dxc4 is the critical test of White's approach.  
**5 b3 g7 6 b2 0-0 7 0-0 a5**



Black has tried pretty much every legal move in this position, but the text has established itself as one of the big main lines in recent years. Now ...a4 is a definite positional threat.

#### 8 dxc3 g4

8...d4 is Black's most common move, after which 9 d4! is critical.

#### 9 d4

The typical response to ...g4, as the bishop tends to be misplaced on g4 in these structures.

#### 9...bd7 10 cxd5

10 d5!? might be stronger as Black can't really capture and must instead retreat the bishop.

#### 10...xd5

10...cxd5?! leads to a symmetrical structure where Black's knight is less than ideally placed on d7: 11 d5! gives White a serious advantage.

#### 11 c1 xc3 12 xc3 a4?!

Thomas mentioned after the game that this was where things started to go wrong.

This advance is the correct plan, but it should be prepared with 12...b6 first.

#### 13 bxa4!



I won't be able to hang on to the extra pawn long-term, but the time Black must spend to recoup the material is a problem.

#### 13...b6 14 a5 d4 15 h3 c8

I expected 15...f5 instead, with the point that 16 d4 c8 is an improved version of the game for Black.

#### 16 e3 xa5 17 e2 e6 18 f1

I was very happy with my position around this point, with Black's awkwardly placed knight on a5 his biggest headache.

#### 18...c4 19 e2

19 e2 is less accurate because of 19...b5 followed by ...d4.

#### 19...a6

19...b5 is preferred by the engine, but White's advantage after 20 d2 seems significant.

#### 20 d2

20 b4 d4 21 a4 was even stronger, to prevent any notion of ...b5.

#### 20...d4 21 dxc4 xc4



#### 22 d5!

During the game I thought that this simply won on the spot. The defensive resource that Black finds is very impressive, but still leaves me with a favourable endgame.

#### 22...xa2!

Necessary, as 22...cxd5 23 xg7 xg7 24 b2+! g8 25 xc4 is crushing and 22...xd5 23 xg7 xg7 24 e4 also wins heavy material.

#### 23 b1 xc3 24 xc3 a4!

24...e2? loses to 25 xa2 xd1 26 d3 h5 27 g4, trapping the bishop.

#### 25 dxc6 a5!

Without this resource Black would be totally lost.

#### 26 d4

Instead, 26 cxb7 xc3 27 b8 xb8 28 xb8+ g7 looked tempting, but there isn't any way for White to use the back rank, and 26 xc4 xc4 27 cxb7 is also promising if objectively equal.

#### 26...b5 27 f1 xf1 28 xf1



Even if the objective evaluation here is equal, Black's position is incredibly tough due



# Marks the Spot

A round-up of what the top players and chess personalities have been saying on X (formerly known as Twitter)

**Mehmet Mars Seven - @MehmetMars7**  
HISTORY IN THE MAKING. The World Chess Championship 2026 will be epic! Dommaraju Gukesh vs Javokhir Sindarov. The youngest World Championship match in 140 years. Between two gen Z prodigies.

**Mike Klein - @ChessMike**  
The most highly-decorated Counterstrike player of all time. @GMJSindarov is awarded the 'Mehnat shuhrati' medal (Labor Glory) by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. @Uzchess

**European Chess Union - @ECUonline**  
Congratulations to 18-year-old IM Roman Dehtiarov on winning the European Individual Chess Championship 2026! The Ukrainian teenager emerged as the sole winner of the event after defeating GM David Anton Guijarro in a thrilling final round! Ranked 126th on the starting list of players, Dehtiarov created an absolute sensation in the Championship, finishing with a final score of 9/11 points, conceding only a single loss throughout the tournament, and achieving an incredible 2781 rating performance!

**2700chess - @2700chess**  
After a year of inactivity, Topalov is leaving the 2700 club, where he had been a fixture for 30 years with only one small break. This happens following his 1-5 match against Erdogmus. Meanwhile, also after a year of inactivity, Ding Liren has returned to the Top 15 after winning Rd 1 in the Chinese Team Ch.

**Women's Chess Coverage - @OnTheQueenside**  
A career-best performance by Bodhana in the Semana Santa Open! It would have been good enough for a WGM norm, except she needed to face one more titled opponent.

**English Chess Federation - @ecfchess**  
The results are in! The ECF 24-hour Blitz Marathon raised £4,200 for Macmillan. Congrats to the winner, FM Harry Bryant (Torpedoknight)! 5300+ games, 300+ players, in memory of Adam Hunt & Jonathan Hawkins. Thanks to all who took part.

**Alexander Kamyshin - @AKamyshin**  
Ukraine has won a landmark legal case in international chess. The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled that attempts to legitimize Russian activities in occupied Ukrainian territories through sport are illegal. Checkmate, this time in court.



Matthew Wadsworth pictured en route to claiming first place on tiebreak after a hard-fought Isle of Wight Masters, which again took place at Ryde School during the February half-term.

to White's superior coordination and more dangerous passed pawn.

**28...♗c8 29 c7 b4 30 ♗c5 ♖b6 31 ♖e4 e6?**

The losing move – Black does not have time to save the e-pawn.

31...♗a1! was the key move to find. During the game I thought I was doing well after 32 ♖xe7, but after 32...♗xc1+ 33 ♗xc1 b3 34 ♖d7 ♖b7 White has nothing better than settling for some kind of 4 vs 3 endgame that is objectively drawn.

**32 ♖e5!**



The only winning move. The queen's placement on e5 is fantastic, as it defends c7, covers g7 and b2, and supports ♗b5 and ♗b8 at the same time.

32...♗d4 was my initial thought, but after 32...♗aa8 the advance of the b-pawn is quite an annoying idea.

**32...♗a7**

32...♗aa8 33 ♔g2! h5 34 ♗b5 ♖a7 35 ♗xb4 wins. As soon as the b-pawn falls, Black's position becomes hopeless.

**33 ♔g1 ♗b7**

Black prevents the ♗b5 idea, but leaves himself open to other tactics.

**34 ♗c6 ♖a7**

Likewise, 34...♖b5 35 ♖xb5 ♗xb5 36 ♗d6 is winning.

**35 ♗xe6!**

Not the only winning move, but perhaps the most direct.

**35...♖a8 36 ♗e7 b3 37 ♖d5**

37 ♖f6! ♗f8 38 ♗xf7 was a quicker win.  
**37...♗f8 38 c8 ♖b2**



**39 ♖xf7+ 1-0**

A picturesque final position, with mate to follow next move.

After this win I was able to finish with two comfortable draws, against GMs Matthew Turner and Boris Chatalbashev, to finish on 7/9 and share first place alongside Kölle and Turner. Both players fully deserved the tournament win. Turner's win with Black over Gawain in round 7 was incredibly impressive, while no one won more games over the course of the event than Kölle. There were several other exceptional performances over the course of the event: Rami Talab, the Syrian junior residing in Cornwall, gained over 100 points during the event and was only half a point off a first IM norm, while Arthur Kendall gained 126 points and won the under-2000 rating prize as a result.

Congratulations should also go to the winners of the other events – Keith Arkell in the Seniors; Ben Sommerbauer-Cornell, Yiyi Liu and Oliver Thornley in the Weekday Under-2100; Sofia Byelashova in the Weekday Under-1700; Harry Grieve in the Weekend Open (breaking the 2500 rating barrier in the process); David Turner in the Weekend Under-1900; and Gregory Kornilovich in the Weekend Under-1600.

To conclude, I was incredibly proud of how I played over the course of my week in the Isle of Wight, and I look forward to returning to the event in subsequent years.



# 60 Seconds with... Marcus Harvey

**Born:** 24th July 1996 in Oxford.

**Place of residence:** Oxfordshire.

**Occupation:** Data Scientist within Digital Advertising.

**Enjoyable?** Definitely. I like the variety of the projects and the people I'm fortunate enough to work with.

**And home life?** I can't complain – I recently bought my own place close to family and friends. Still lots to sort out!

**But sometimes good to escape to:** Chess tournaments, if you can call them escaping...

**Sports played or followed:** I play football and follow a lot of sports, especially tennis, darts, football and snooker, in that order!

**A favourite novel?** I used to love the Harry Potter books when I was a kid.

**Film or TV series?** *Line of Duty* and *Only Fools and Horses* are two legendary series.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?** The individual competition and the accountability that comes with it: when you win you feel like you have achieved something, especially after a seven hour grind.

**And the worst?** The general lack of sponsorship meaning it can be an expensive hobby. You have to be extremely well prepared in openings, which requires many hours of work outside of tournaments.

**Your best move?** The combination starting from 23 g4! in Harvey-Clarke, Swindon 2011.



23 g4! ♖e6? 24 gxf5 ♗xf5 25 ♖d5!  
♜f7 26 ♜xf5! ♜xf5 27 ♖g4!! ♜xg4?  
28 ♜g6+ ♜h8 29 ♜xh6+ ♜g8 30 ♜g6+  
♜h8 31 h6 ♜g8 32 ♜f6+ ♜h7 33 ♖d7+!  
♜xd7 34 ♖xe4+ ♜g6 35 ♖xg6+ 1-0

♜b7 64 ♜b5 ♜c7 65 ♜a6 ♜b8 66 ♜b6  
♜a8 67 b4 ♜b8 68 b5 ♜a8 69 ♜c7 ♜a7  
70 b6+ ♜a6 71 b7 1-0

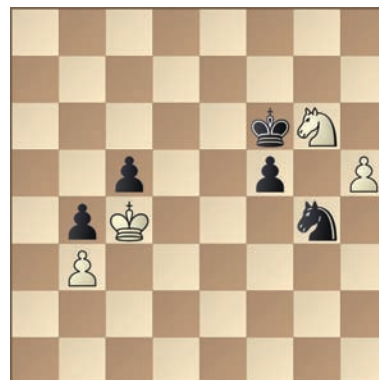
**And a highly memorable opponent?** Jude Lenier, as a junior stare-off led to him falling off his chair!

**But less memorable than your worst move?** The most painful has to be 52...♗e5+? followed by 54...f4?? in Adams-Harvey from the quarter-finals of the British Knockout at the Classic.

**The best three chess books:** I'm not a book man (if you couldn't already tell!), but I'll say *Game Changer* (Sadler and Regan), and two written by my good friend Carl Portman, *Chess Behind Bars* and *Chess Crusader*.

**M.Adams-M.Harvey**  
British Knockout Ch., London  
(armageddon) 2019

**Is FIDE doing a good job?** From my experience, yes – although I suspect professionals might see it differently.



**Or your National Federation?** I've always had a good relationship with the ECF. Growing up I had little support from them, but for juniors in the current generation that seems to have changed. Generally, I think our federation is on the rise.

**Any advice for either?** Sponsorship remains one of the biggest issues. I find this strange considering the surge in popularity. I still think there is more that can be done to transform chess into a better spectator sport.

**Can chess make one happy?** Yes! I believe that you get out what you put in. I also believe there is more to life than chess and the importance of balance.

**A tip please for the club player:** Find out what your strengths are and play to those. You will be surprised how far that can take you – until you ultimately need to put some work in! For me, that was endgames and tactics.

**M.Harvey-B.Clarke**  
WECU Junior Ch., Swindon 2011



After an impressive four draws, Marcus is a big favourite to draw and so advance, but disaster was to strike:

52...♗e5+? 53 ♗xe5 ♜xc5 f4??  
54...♜f6! was essential.  
55 ♜c4? 55h6! wins. 55...♜f5 56 ♜d3 ♜g5  
57 ♜e4 ♜xh5?? 57...♜g4! might yet have held. 58 ♜xf4 ♜g6 59 ♜e5 ♜f7 60 ♜d5  
♜e7 61 ♜c5 ♜d7 62 ♜xb4 ♜c6 63 ♜a5



## NEW FROM QUALITY CHESS



### Win with the French! by Vassilios Kotronias

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

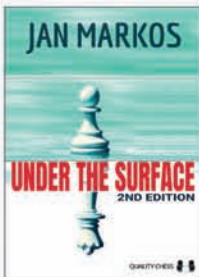
328 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc)



### Win with the English by Nikolas Ntirlis

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

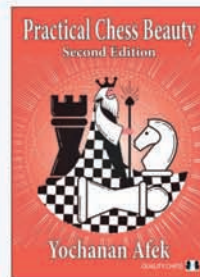
520 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc)



### Under the Surface - 2nd edition by Jan Markos

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

352 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc)



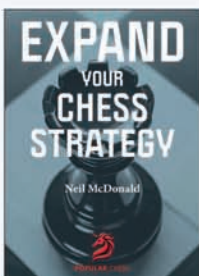
### Practical Chess Beauty Second Edition by Yochanan Afek

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

512 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc)



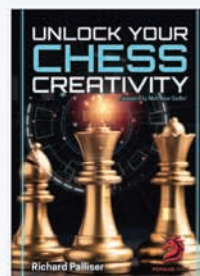
## NEW FROM POPULAR CHESS



### Expand Your Chess Strategy by Neil McDonald

*Expand Your Chess Strategy* is the ultimate strategic chess toolkit. Grandmaster Neil McDonald covers pawn breaks, attacking and defending, optimizing your pieces, and much more. This book will dramatically enhance your ability in this vital area of chess.

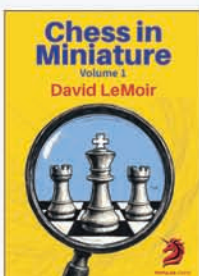
328 pages €27.99 (pb) €32.99 (hc)



### Unlock Your Chess Creativity by Richard Palliser

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

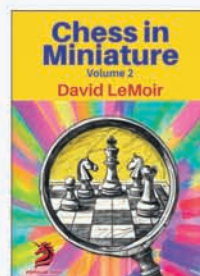
304 pages €27.99 (pb) €32.99 (hc)



### Chess in Miniature - Volume 1 by David LeMoir

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

304 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc)



### Chess in Miniature - Volume 2 by David LeMoir

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

288 pages €23.99 (pb) €29.99 (hc)

# The Red Knight



## Vladimir Lionter (@the\_lionter) explores Riste Menkinoski's journey from North Macedonia to Bangkok, where he's built Thailand's biggest chess community

When I first visited the Red Knight Chess Club in Bangkok, a junior tournament was underway. Dozens of children sat over their boards, punctuating the silence only with the occasional click of a chess clock. At the same time, the club's founder, FIDE Master Riste Menkinoski, 47, calmly moved between games, making time to chat with me.



*Thailand's Mr Chess, FM Riste Menkinoski, is a former North Macedonian Champion.*

At the end of our conversation, I mentioned I didn't have internet or a local SIM card and asked how to find his new chess cafe. Without hesitation, Menkinoski grabbed a pen and sketched a detailed map. Thanks to that simple gesture, I made my way across Bangkok to what has become one of Asia's most unique chess spaces.

An FM, Menkinoski won the North Macedonian Championship in 2008 and had been a two-time junior champion. He also coached the Macedonian women's team between 2008 and 2012. "I was never a professional chess player," he says, "but chess has always been my life."

He came to Thailand 13 years ago for what he expected would be a short stay. "But then I fell in love with the country and the people," he says. What convinced him to stay wasn't just the weather or lifestyle, but the Thai people themselves. "I was surprised by their politeness and the respect they have for teachers – not just in chess, but in everything."

When Menkinoski arrived, organized chess in Thailand was limited. For the first few years, he focused on coaching. Over time, though, the chess scene began to grow – and Menkinoski played a central role. Founded in 2019, Red Knight Chess Club quickly became Thailand's leading academy for young players. It has produced numerous national junior champions



*The Red Knight Chess Cafe in Bangkok – a good venue for not just a decent coffee, but also a game of chess. Vladimir Lionter certainly enjoyed his visit and found time for a spot of blitz.*

and is widely regarded as the country's top training centre for children and teenagers.

"There are no big secrets," he says. "Professionalism, experience, and dedication. But a huge part of the success belongs to the children – and their supportive parents."

### Red Knight Chess Cafe

In 2024, Menkinoski opened the Red Knight Chess Cafe. Unlike most cafes, it's designed around chess: players can enjoy coffee, lemonade, baked goods, and hot meals, many with playful chess-themed names like French Fries Gambit or Caro-Kann Pancakes. Trophies line the shelves, and display cases feature chess sets for sale.

The cafe inevitably invites comparisons to legendary chess spaces elsewhere. One that comes to mind is the New York Chess Forum, which for decades served as a gathering place for players over a one-dollar coffee or cocoa. Today, the Forum remains iconic and popular, if feels a bit like a relic of a bygone era, with the cafe side long gone. By contrast, Red Knight Chess Cafe is vibrant and active, hosting tournaments and welcoming players of all ages every day.

"It was clear to me that players needed a place to practice and develop their skills outside private lessons," Menkinoski explained. "The cafe gives them that space."

### Staying for the Long Run

More than a decade after arriving, Menkinoski has no plans to leave. "A little bit of everything keeps me here," he says. "But mostly chess and our community." For him, success is measured not only in trophies or business growth, but in long-term impact. "I'm happy to live here, promote the game, and help young players become chess masters one day."

What started as a temporary move halfway across the world has grown into a thriving community, a cultural institution, and a home. And for anyone lost in Bangkok without internet, there's a good chance the city's most influential chess figure will still draw them a map.



*If you ever find yourself in Thailand, do make time while in Bangkok to visit the Red Knight.*

# This Month's New Releases



## Win with the French!

Vassilios Kotronias, 328 pages  
Quality Chess

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

At first impression, it is tempting to say the French Defence has been somewhat neglected by chess literature. Then one remembers that Quality Chess published four books on the subject, just over a decade ago (*Playing the French* by Jacob Aagaard and Nikolaos Ntirlis in 2013, and *The French Defence* trilogy by Emanuel Berg, 2013-15). A lot can happen, theory-wise, in such a period of time and fans of 1 e4 e6 will no doubt be very pleased to see this new volume on their favourite opening, written by the well-known Vassilios Kotronias, who is noted for his impressive analysis across a whole range of Quality Chess books.

Prior to the efforts of Quality Chess, the French Defence appeared to be the sole domain of John Watson, who kept 1 e4 e6 players happy with his excellent *Play the French*, across four editions from 1984 to 2012. Yes, time does fly and despite the French appearing only sporadically at the top level, it remains a fascinating, sound and highly reliable choice for the second player.

For readers who may have been put off by the excessive analysis in the author's previous tomes, there is good news:

"I believe this book can be more pleasantly studied than some others I have written, as there is not an excess of theory. I followed the recipe of not going too deeply into lines unless it was absolutely necessary, and of offering a choice of options where I felt it was appropriate. The material presented is up to date, and I'm sure the explanations will help you to understand the mechanisms governing this sly yet ambitious opening."

Kotronias is not noted as a consistent 1...e6 player. Therefore, how did the author decide on the subject? Mainly by dint of the old motto: If you can't beat them, join them!

"My choice of the French was hardly accidental: although I have played it as Black only on a small number of occasions, I've

always had great respect for it. You often get positions with stable pawn chains, which can be a benefit for those who prefer long-term planning. Even in the cases where the position opens up, the symmetry tends to also be broken, which benefits the better-prepared player. We generally choose not to go for the most professional kill-the-game lines, instead opting for double-edged play with chances for both sides, without running a huge risk of coming out of the opening significantly worse."

The backbone of the repertoire – against the most testing of all moves, namely 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 – is 3...♗f6. After 4 ♗g5, there are two options. Firstly, the Rubinstein variation with 4...dxe4 and, after 5 ♗xe4 ♗e7 6 ♗xf6, 6...gxf6 is the recommendation, instead of the quieter line with 6...♗xf6. Despite the doubled pawns, Black has the bishop-pair, the open g-file and the potential breaks, ...f5 and ...c5.

Even richer positions are offered by the "murky MacCutcheon" with 4...♗b4!?, a line which was definitely under the darkest of clouds for many decades until it was revitalised by a small number of players, including the king of the French Defence, the legendary Viktor Korchnoi. Black certainly needs to have a very sound knowledge of the theory of the MacCutcheon, especially as some of the best moves by both sides are counter-intuitive, such as this one:



## 16 a4!!

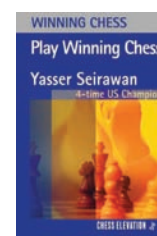
"A vital inclusion, but this is not at all simple for humans to figure out on their own." The point is that after the natural 16 f4? Black is better after 16...♗xd4 17 fxg5 ♗f5!, with the threat of ...d4. At a certain point, Black needs to check on a3 with the queen, but because the white rook has been opened up by 16 a4!!, the key check is unplayable. This

is typical of the lines throughout the book, which see Black in a combative mood and at no point ready to give White an easy game.

Elsewhere, the Advance Variation, 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5, is met by 3...c5 4 c3 ♗c6 5 ♗f3 ♗d7, instead of the standard 5...♗b6, and Black meets the Tarrasch, 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗d2, with 3...c5, and if 4 exd5 ♗xd5, initially brought to prominence in Watson's first *Play the French* book.

By holding back from the deeper analysis side of the road, Kotronias has produced his most accessible book to date and one which will be suitable for chess connoisseurs and those wanting to take up 1...e6 alike. Stylistically, it is the closest French Defence book to John Watson's classic tomes, which should serve as more than enough of a recommendation.

Sean Marsh



## Play Winning Chess

Yasser Seirawan, 224 pages  
Chess Elevation

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The return to print of Yasser Seirawan's famous and fabulous series of books is something which should be celebrated. Chess Elevation has pulled off a significant coup in bringing this series of highly instructional books back to our bookshelves.

First things first: who is Chess Elevation? The answer: "Chess Elevation is a new junior imprint under Quality Chess, with GM Jacob Aagaard as Chief Editor. Chess Elevation is a niche publisher, with the narrow focus of publishing only a limited number of titles, from only the best authors, with the focus of assisting the chess fan in the earlier part of their journey into the complexities of the game. Chess Elevation encompasses several publisher brands, including Popular Chess."

Popular Chess is the descendent of Everyman Chess. It is confusing, but the major changes in the chess publishing world are now settling down and the most important thing is that, despite an ever-increasing reliance on the digital world, the future of printed chess

literature is in very safe hands and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

This brand new edition presents a completely refurbished version of the original, augmented by a thoughtful foreword by Seirawan – in which he pays tribute to his late friend and fellow author, the one and only Jeremy Silman – and several pages of David Llada’s colour photographs at the end. The layout and artwork is all crystal clear and conducive to an excellent reading experience.

For anyone unfamiliar with this fine book, “*Play Winning Chess* is an enthusiastic introduction to chess that will transform you into a veritable gladiator of the chessboard.” Additionally, it “is exuberant and conversational, enlivened by personal anecdotes and fascinating historical details.” At least, that is how the blurb puts it, but anyone who knows the personality of Seirawan will already be seeing plenty of truth in the description.

The book assumes no prior knowledge of chess, but does not make the mistake of dumbing the material down. Topics covered the evolution of chess, the four principles of play (force, time, space and pawn structure), annotated games and there is a concluding chapter on ‘The Four Principles and You’, offering practical advice, confidence-building tips and a number of practical exercises.

Here is a typically sensible and instructive illustrative snippet, taken from the chapter on pawn structure.



“We have a wide-open board with passed pawns on both sides. Because the white bishop isn’t blocked by pawns, such a position tends to work in favour of the player with the bishop.”

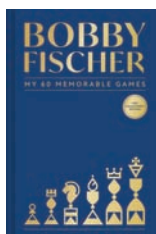
I will give the remaining moves without comment, but rest assured the book has full and interesting annotations along the way: **1 ♖e6! ♜d7 2 h5 ♜f8 3 ♖a2 b5 4 g6! b4 5 g7.** “The white pawn is headed for promotion. This time, the white bishop completely dominated the poor black horse!”

This book is suitable not only for beginners, but also for club players who are keen to see their chess skills rise, via a consistent set of well-chosen examples with common-sense notes. Precisely what one should expect from a publisher called Chess Elevation.

It is very good to see this classic series gaining a new lease of life and there is more

good news, too: “A new book is in the planning stages, and I’m back at my writer’s desk, writer’s block and all!” Yasser Seirawan is back!

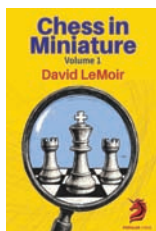
Sean Marsh



### Bobby Fischer: My 60 Memorable Games

Bobby Fischer, 392 pages, hardback  
RRP £30.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.00**

Batsford have re-released their algebraic version of one of the most famous chess books of all time as a ‘Collector’s Edition’. The content remains fascinating, as well as highly instructive, while this new edition comes with foiled cloth binding and an eight-page plate section.



### Chess in Miniature: Volume 1

David LeMoir, 304 pages, paperback  
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

We heard from acclaimed writer David LeMoir last month, the author of *How to be Lucky in Chess* and *How to Become a Deadly Chess Tactician*. Like those older books for Gambit Publications, his new work for Popular Chess is an enjoyable and lively read, full of common-sense advice, as well as many sparkling miniatures. Readers will learn how to become an opportunist tactician and a canny investor, as well as six other vital ‘secrets’ which should help them win games both quickly and in style.

There’s also a companion work, *Chess in Miniature: Volume 2*, which presents eight further secrets to help the reader grasp how to win in 25 moves or less, while enjoying some extremely impressive and beautiful miniatures along the way. This volume runs to 288 pages and is also available for £19.99 or £17.99 for Subscribers.

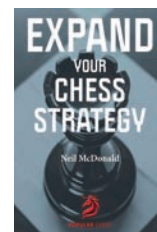
Note that both volumes of *Chess in Miniature* can be purchased together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £35.98 (Subscribers – £32.38), or you can purchase one or both volumes in hardback should you prefer, retailing at £26.99 each or £24.29 for Subscribers.



### Chess Informant 167 – Speed-up

Chess Informant, 248 pages, paperback  
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

The latest ‘Informator’ features reports from the World Rapid & Blitz, as well as Wijk aan Zee. The theoretically most important recent games are also all there, annotated in trademark languageless fashion. There are sections too on combinations and endgames, as well as columns by the likes of Ian Rogers.



### Expand Your Chess Strategy

Neil McDonald, 328 pages, paperback  
RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

Kent-based grandmaster Neil McDonald’s books always contain much instructive material for the club and serious online player, and his latest work is no different. Here McDonald aims to help readers who are struggling to improve by presenting them with a strategic toolkit. He takes a good look at getting the most out of each of the pieces, while tackling such important topics as pawn breaks, how to optimise all of your forces, and how to stretch your opponent’s defence to breaking point.

As is common for Popular Chess works, a hardback edition is also available should you prefer, retailing at £29.99 or £26.99 for Subscribers.



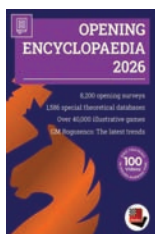
### Mastering the London System

Elisabeth Pähtz, PC/MAC (download only);  
running time: 13 hours

RRP £49.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £44.95**

This is a detailed release from Hamburg and a popular German Grandmaster devoted to an opening which remains pretty topical, 1 d4 d5 2 ♖f4. Pähtz gradually works her way through Black’s various set-ups, while recommending White meets 2... ♜f6 3 ♜f3 c5 4 e3 ♜c6 with the modern 5 ♜bd2. She also discusses the differences with the ‘Neo-London’, 1 d4 d5 2 ♜f3 ♜f6 3 c3, on which she previously recorded a ChessBase release, while explaining too how some viewers may wish to get the best out of both move orders.



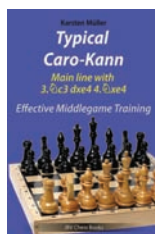


### Opening Encyclopaedia 2026

ChessBase, PC/MAC booklet or download  
RRP £149.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £134.95**

Those who really like their theory and to explore openings could do far worse than get to grips with the latest edition of ChessBase's *Opening Encyclopaedia*, which now contains 8,200 opening surveys, as well as 1,586 special theoretical databases and detailed coverage by Dorian Rogozenco of the latest trends. Overall, there are 100 videos, including from Daniel King and Mihail Marin, which run to some 35 hours of footage.

Note that it's possible for owners of *Opening Encyclopaedia 2025* to upgrade, by supplying a valid serial key, for £69.95 or £62.95 for Subscribers.

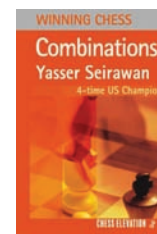


### Typical Caro-Kann: Main line with 3...c3 dxe4 4...xe4

Karsten Müller, 196 pages, paperback  
RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

Karsten Müller's latest work in JBV Chess Books' series 'Effective Middlegame Training' sees him tackle the main line of the Caro-Kann, aiming to help the existing Caro player, whether they go 4...e5 or 4...bd7.

His aim is improve the reader's understanding of the pawn structures and typical middlegame situations which arise from this opening. Readers are invited to solve 100 typical positions, all of which come with detailed solutions, ones designed to emphasise the most important piece manoeuvres and pawn breaks.



### Winning Chess Combinations

Yasser Seirawan, 264 pages, paperback  
RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

Following on from *Play Winning Chess*, reviewed above, Chess Elevation have released a second book in Yasser Seirawan's classic series. This work on combinations has also been fully revised and given a new typeset. Inside are a number of stunning sacrifices, as well as a foundational guide to understanding and making good use of combinations in the improving player's own games.

Note that a hardback edition of *Play Winning Chess* is also available retailing at £24.99 or £22.49 for Subscribers. One is available too for *Winning Chess Combinations*, this time for £29.99 and, for Subscribers, £26.99.



# Forthcoming Events

**May 1-3 Cornwall Spring Congress, Falmouth**  
[cornwallchess.org.uk/congress/spring/spring-2026.shtml](http://cornwallchess.org.uk/congress/spring/spring-2026.shtml)

**May 2-4 City of Belfast Championship**  
[ulsterchess.org/events](http://ulsterchess.org/events)

**May 2-3 Northampton Congress**  
[chesscircuit.substack.com/p/northampton-fide-congresses-2026](http://chesscircuit.substack.com/p/northampton-fide-congresses-2026)

**May 2 Edinburgh Chess Club Allegro**  
[edinburghchessclub.co.uk](http://edinburghchessclub.co.uk)

**May 5 Muswell Hill Rapid**  
[chessengland.com](http://chessengland.com)

**May 8-10 Army and Navy Club Congress, Pall Mall**  
[chessengland.com](http://chessengland.com)

**May 8-10 Durham Congress, Darlington**  
[durhamchesscongress.co.uk](http://durhamchesscongress.co.uk)

**May 9-10 AlphaChess Classical, Potters Bar**  
[congress.org.uk/congress/684/home](http://congress.org.uk/congress/684/home)

**May 9-10 Leamington Open**  
[warwickshirechess.org/2026-leamington-open/](http://warwickshirechess.org/2026-leamington-open/)

**May 9 Welsh Rapidplay Championship, Bridgend**  
[welshchessunion.uk/calendar/](http://welshchessunion.uk/calendar/)

**May 12 Muswell Hill Rapid**  
[chessengland.com](http://chessengland.com)

**May 15-17 Frome Congress**  
[someretchess.org/frome\\_congress/FromeHome.html](http://someretchess.org/frome_congress/FromeHome.html)

**May 16-17 Glossop Congress**  
[glossopchessclub.wordpress.com/glossop-chess-weekend/](http://glossopchessclub.wordpress.com/glossop-chess-weekend/)

**May 22-25 Perth Congress**  
[congress.org.uk/congress/748/home](http://congress.org.uk/congress/748/home)

**May 22-24 Birmingham Congress**  
[form.jotform.com/242906528359062](http://form.jotform.com/242906528359062)

**May 22-24 London League Weekender, Ravenscourt Park**  
[londonchess.com](http://londonchess.com)

**May 23-25 Cotswold Congress, Gloucester**  
[cornwallchess.org.uk/congress/cotswold/cotswold-details.shtml](http://cornwallchess.org.uk/congress/cotswold/cotswold-details.shtml)

**May 24-25 Coulsdon Late Spring Congress**  
[ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult Competitions/Longplays\\_info.htm](http://ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Longplays_info.htm)

**May 24 Warrington Rapidplay**  
[congress.playchess.org.uk/congress/732/home](http://congress.playchess.org.uk/congress/732/home)

**May 26-27 Muswell Hill Congress**  
[chessengland.com](http://chessengland.com)

**May 29-31 South Lakes Congress, Barrow-in-Furness**  
[cumbriachess.com/Tournaments.html](http://cumbriachess.com/Tournaments.html)

**May 30-31 Oxford Congress, Kennington**  
[congress.org.uk/congress/769/home](http://congress.org.uk/congress/769/home)

**May 30 Sheffield Rapidplay**  
[sheffieldchesscentre.co.uk/tournaments](http://sheffieldchesscentre.co.uk/tournaments)

*And for the Online Connoisseur:*

**May 1-7 TePe Sigeman Tournament, Malmo**  
[tepesigemanchess.com](http://tepesigemanchess.com); Abdusattorov, Carlsen, Erdogmus, Erigaisi, Grandelius, Van Foreest, Woodward, Zhu.

**May 4-8 Super Rapid & Blitz, Warsaw**  
[grandchessstour.org](http://grandchessstour.org); Caruana, Duda, Fedoseev, Firouzja, Gukesh, Niemann, Sindarov, So, Vachier-Lagrave, Wojtaszek.

**May 12-24 Super Chess Classic Romania, Bucharest**  
[grandchessstour.org](http://grandchessstour.org); Aronian, Caruana, Deac, Firouzja, Giri, Keymer, Praggnanandhaa, Sindarov, So, Vachier-Lagrave.

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Update from version 2025	RRP	£69.95
	Subscribers'	£62.95



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