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Chess



FLAWLESS FIROUZJA

Alireza Firouzja wins the St. Louis Rapid & Blitz, Sinquefeld Cup and Grand Chess Tour!

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A Blame Game - Junliang Chew on the second Kramnik vs Martinez blitz match



Kingston Kings - John Saunders reports from a hard-fought Kingston Invitational



Urban Masters - Vladimir Lionter meets the chess sidehustlers of New York City

Chess

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Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
Fabulous Firouzja	8
Alireza Firouzja dominated the closing events of the Grand Chess Tour	
Kingston Kings	14
John Saunders reports from a hard-fought 3rd Kingston International	
A Brilliant British	16
We sample some more fine chess from the British Championships	
How Good is Your Chess?	20
Daniel King looks at the play of British Champion, Gawain Jones	
How to Beat a Grandmaster	23
Paul Littlewood features a game by British runner-up, David Howell	
King and Pawn Endings: Part Two	24
Mike Read presents a complex queen then king and pawn endgame	
Find the Winning Moves	26
Can you do as well as the players at the World Team Rapid & Blitz?	
The Blame Game	30
Junliang Chew attended the second Kramnik-Martinez match	
60 Seconds with... Renier Castellanos	33
We learn about the head of Killer Chess Training who is now an author too	
Masters of the Urban Chess Scene	34
Vladimir Lionter meets the chess sidehustlers of New York City	
Down-Home Chess	36
David LeMoir on the multi-award-winning magazine, <i>En Passant</i>	
A Demolishment of a "Summary Demolishment"	38
Neil Hickman explains that Grimshaw-Steinitz may never have happened	
Forthcoming Events	40
Where will you be playing this October?	
Never Mind The Grandmasters...	42
Carl comes to terms with one of his most painful defeats	
Rediscovered at Age 94!	44
Gene Salomon on his friendship with Alekhine authority Miguel Nepomuceno	
Overseas News	47
Success for Jonah Willow and Lan Yao, and another win for Daniel Fernandez	
Home News	50
Success for Finlay Bowcott-Terry, Alex Golding and Aaravamudhan Balaji	
Solutions	54
All the answers to <i>Find the Winning Moves</i> and the latest Studies solution	
This Month's New Releases	55
Sean Marsh enjoyed <i>Tiger's Chaos Theory</i> and <i>The Woodpecker Method 2</i>	
Saunders on Chess	58
John on a 272(!)-move marathon which took place at Kingston	

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Kingston Kings

John Saunders reports from a gripping and hard-fought 3rd Kingston Invitational

Kingston Chess Club staged its third invitational event, this time a nine-round FIDE-rated Swiss, at Tiffin Boys' School, Kingston-upon-Thames, from 12-16 August, the week following the British Championship in Hull. Sweltering hot weather, and a week-long traffic jam crawling past the venue making timely travel next to impossible, threatened to sabotage tournament organiser Stephen Moss's best-laid plans, but the school's air-conditioning solved one problem, and the sporting spirit of the competitors overcame the other. Paradoxically, it proved considerably harder to get some of the players to tear themselves away from the board than it did to get them to it in the first place, but that is a story which I shall pick up in my regular inside-back-cover slot.

Final scores were: 1-4 FM Maciej Czopor (POL), IM Vladyslav Larkin (UKR), FM Roland Bezuidenhout (RSA), Stanley Badacsonyi (ENG) 6½/9; 5-7 IM Peter Large (ENG), IM Conor Murphy (IRL), Jack Liu (ENG) 6, etc (44 competitors).

Maciej Czopor took the trophy on tie-break after winning his last-round game against IM Gavin Wall to go level with the other three players. The prizes (£1,000, £300, £100) were thus shared four ways, with each of the winners taking home £350. An additional trophy went to the best scorer aged 16 or younger. This was named the Barden Cup, after the great doyen of chess journalists who reached his 95th birthday a few days after the tournament. Leonard Barden gave permission to have the trophy named after him, though somewhat reluctantly, as is typical of this self-effacing man.

It's believed to be the first such trophy named in his honour and could have no more suitable first winner than Stanley Badacsonyi, aged 14, whose chess prowess and sunny demeanour were reminiscent of the young Luke McShane. I've added his surname to my word processor's dictionary as I suspect I shall be typing it quite a lot in the future. During the course of the event he completed his qualification for the FM title which in his case is surely just a stepping stone to greater things.

Five IMs featured in the starting line-up, the three cited above plus Gavin Wall and Graeme Buckley who scored 5½ and 5 points respectively. The overall quality of the field was high, with only a handful of players rated just below 2000. There was an impressive array of young talent on show besides Badacsonyi. Jack Liu is another young player with a bright future; even more impressive



Exhaustion and joy are clear on the faces of the organiser and four players who shared first place (l-r): Roland Bezuidenhout, Vladyslav Larkin, Maciej Czopor, Stephen Moss and Stanley Badacsonyi.

was his travelling coach, Chinese GM Zhang Pengxiang who famously eliminated Anatoly Karpov from the 2001 FIDE World (Knockout) Championship: a quietly spoken but amiable man who was by some way the strongest chess player present at the event. Amongst other young players who performed well were Zain Patel, Shlok Verma, Supratit Banerjee, George Zhao and Elis Denele Dicen, the one female competitor in the line-up (nobody's fault, but the male-to-female ratio was a disappointment). She scored a big surprise in the first round.

R.Bezuidenhout-E.Dicen Round 1



The 13-year-old woman candidate master – who has since qualified as a WFM – had resisted strongly until this point, so White decided to mix things up hereabouts.

45 b4!? a6 46 ♖e2 ♜e7 47 bxc5 ♜xc5 48 ♜xd4 ♜e7 49 c4 ♜c5 50 ♜g6 bxc4 51 dxc4 ♜c7 52 ♙b4

Missing 52 g5 and 52 ♙xh6 which are very strong, but time trouble now looms large, with the moves coming fast and furious.

52...a5 53 ♙xa5 ♜d7 54 ♜d2 ♜c8 55 ♙b4 ♜7a6 56 ♜b5? ♜a8!

Black spots the weak f3-square, which White's last move left insufficiently defended. **57 ♜h2 ♜f8?**

57...♜f1! would have been hard to meet.

58 ♙xc5 ♜xc5 59 ♜d4 ♜b8

59...♜f1! again.

60 ♜e2 ♜b6?



Suddenly the pendulum swings back in favour of White.

61 ♜f5?

White's move looks superficially good, but 61 g5! would have been a lot better.

61...♜b7

Just hanging in there.

62 ♖h4 ♜b3 63 g5??

Oh, the irony. This move, which has previously been a missed win on more than one occasion, now loses.

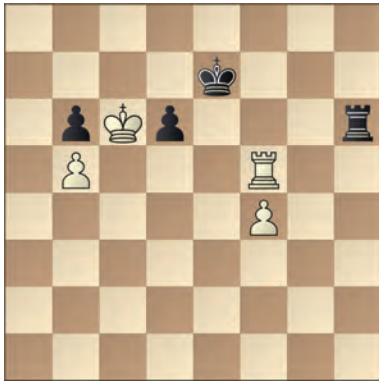
63...♜xc4!

Rook and knight are threatened. It's all over.

64 gxh6 ♜xe2+ 65 ♖h3 ♜e3+ 0-1

Z.Patel-E.Andal

Round 4



A tricky endgame. Black played **60...♜e6?** (60...♜h4! might have saved the game with best play; if 61 ♜xb6 ♜e6 62 ♜f8 ♜e7 and the rook must move away from the defence of the f4-pawn or else allow a repetition: 63 ♜g8 ♜xf4 64 ♖a6 ♖d7, etc) **61 ♜d5!** and White soon won: **61...♜e7 62 ♜xb6 ♜f6 63 ♜d4 ♖d7 64 ♖b7 ♜f5 65 b6 ♜a5 66 ♖b8 ♜a1 67 b7 ♜a2 68 f5 ♜a5 69 f6 ♜h5 70 f7 ♜h8+ 71 ♖a7 1-0**

As judge of the best game prize, I chose Roland Bezuidenhout's crucial eighth-round win against IM Conor Murphy. It would have been an easier decision had Black's powerful counterattack crashed through with 27...♜xa3 or 29...axb3. It became a less clear-cut choice when Black spoilt his chances around this point, but I was almost as impressed with the South African FM's calm reaction to the change of fortune in winning the game all over again. The fact that the win was achieved against the player who had so dominated the 2023 Kingston Invitational also influenced the decision. Finally, there was an after-the-event nod to England's latest GM whose pawn sacrifice was instrumental in the victory (though *Stockfish* remains unconvinced of its soundness).

C.Murphy-R.Bezuidenhout

Round 8

Classical Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 ♖c6 6 ♖g5 e6 7 ♜d2 a6 8 0-0-0 ♖d7 9 f3 ♖xd4 10 ♜xd4 ♖e7 11 ♖b1 ♜c7 12 h4 b5 13 ♖d3 b4!?

Black decides to sacrifice a pawn for queenside play. 13...h6 14 ♖c1 h5 15 ♖g5 ♜b8 was the continuation in an internet blitz game between Caruana and Gupta last year, which Black won.

14 ♜xb4

Conor Murphy becomes the first player to accept the sacrificed pawn. Perhaps we should dub 13...b4 the Royal Gambit (or the Richter-Rauzer-Royal Gambit, for those who enjoy alliteration), as it was played by Shreyas Royal against Nikita Vitiugov at last year's London Classic. In that game the newly-minted English number one declined the offer with 14 ♖e2 and the game continued 14...a5 15 g4 0-0 16 ♖c1 e5 17 ♜f2 ♖e6 18 ♖g3 ♜fc8, with Black eventually surviving a dodgy endgame to draw in 83 moves.

14...♜b8 15 ♜d4 ♜b7 16 ♖e2

My digital friend and I can't see anything wrong with 16 b3 here. I suppose the worry is that the dark squares around the white king might prove weak, but that is some way off.

16...0-0 17 ♖c1 ♜fc8 18 c3?

Unnecessarily weakening the queenside pawn structure. White is playing into Black's hands.

18...a5

The immediate 18...e5! 19 ♜e3 ♖e6 is more to the point.

19 g4 a4 20 g5 e5 21 ♜e3 ♖h5 22 ♖a1



Stockfish assesses this as roughly equal, maybe with a slight plus for White, but the human perception is that White needs to get his own kingside attack going to divert attention from Black's pressure on the other flank. 22 c4 followed by ♖c3 and ♖d5 is another idea, to get a semblance of positivity into White's game. **22...♖e6 23 ♖c2 ♜c6!**

Now the tide has definitely turned in Black's direction.

24 ♜d2

24 ♜xa4?? ♜a6 would be disastrous for White.

24...♜b6

Not quite Alekhine's gun (this popular term describes a position where the queen is right at the back of the heavy pieces on a file), but the next best thing.

25 ♖d3 ♖b3!

Very nice. The threat is not so much 26...♖xd1 as the crushing 26...a3!, which, if played immediately, would have allowed a possible defence with 26 b3 or 26 b4.

26 a3

If 26 ♖c2 ♖xa2! is the killer.

26...d5!

Much better than exchanging Black's all-powerful bishop for White's useless rook. **27 exd5 ♖xd1**

This should still win, but 27...♜xa3! would have been much more decisive.

28 ♜xd1 ♖xa3! 29 b4

The reason 27...♜xa3 was arguably better than 27...♖xd1 was that it eliminated the possibility of White blocking the b-file with a pawn.



29...♜xc1?

A serious misstep after which Black is no longer winning. Instead, 29...axb3! 30 ♖xa3 b2+ 31 ♖b1 ♜b3! 32 ♖b4 ♜a7 and it's all over.

30 ♜xc1 ♜d8 31 ♖e4?

White, perhaps surprised not to have lost already, goes astray with this and his next two moves. After 31 ♖c4! the bishop is able to play a more active role than it does on e4, where it soon gets harassed. Despite being the exchange down for a pawn, White would still be in the game.

31...g6 32 ♜d3 a3 33 ♖a2? f5!

Now White is forced to take *en passant*, thus bring the black knight back into play.

34 gxf6 ♖xf6 35 ♜d1 ♜bd6 36 c4?

Only those with nerves of steel, or a heart of silicon, would dare play 36 ♖xa3!? ♜a7+ 37 ♖b2 ♜a8 38 ♜c4, but it's not entirely clear that Black would have a forced win in this line. In any case, it's better than the text, which exposes the king in a different way.

36...♜xb4 37 ♖b1 ♜c5



Now Black is a straight exchange to the good and with the weak c-pawn in his sights. He's winning the game all over again.

38 ♜b5 ♜f2 39 ♜c2

39 c5 loses to 39...♖xe4 40 fxe4 ♜f6, etc.

39...♖f8 40 c5

White has to try something, though he probably knew this wouldn't be good enough.

40...♜xd5! 41 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 42 ♖xa3

42 ♜b3 ♖e3 forces 43 ♜xe3 ♜xe3 and it's a very easy win.

42...♖f4 43 c6 ♖xe2 44 c7 ♜a8+ 45 ♖b2 ♜d4+ 0-1

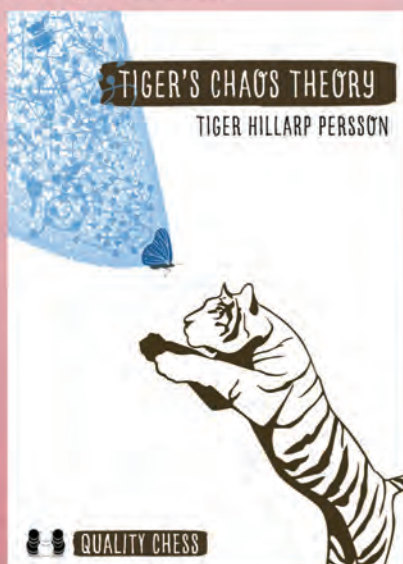
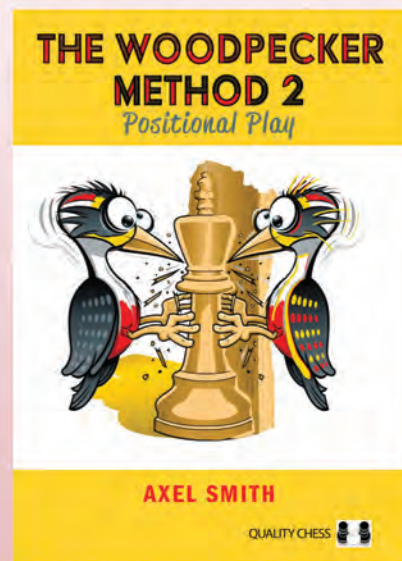
New from Quality Chess!

Axel Smith: The Woodpecker 2

Since its publication in 2018 **The Woodpecker Method** has been the go-to manual among chess players with a thirst for tactical improvement. **The Woodpecker Method 2** is the long-awaited sequel, designed to skyrocket your positional decision-making skills.

The Woodpecker Method means solving a large number of puzzles over a period of weeks; then solving the same puzzles again repeatedly, faster each time. This will program the subconscious mind, improving both accuracy and the speed of one's decision-making.

The Woodpecker Method 2 has 1000 positional exercises and solutions, with detailed guidance on how to gain maximum benefit from them. All the exercises have been checked and rechecked using the latest engines, as well as tested for valuable human feedback – among others by GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov, who ascended to 4th in the world rankings after working through this book.



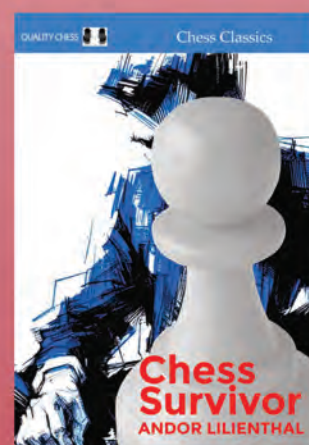
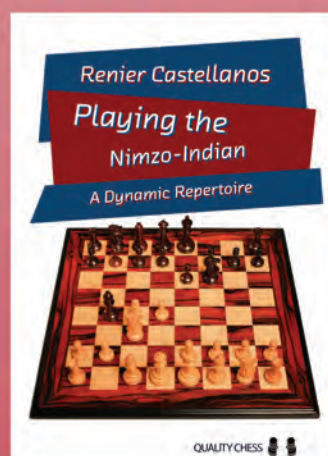
Tiger Hillarp Persson: Tiger's Chaos Theory

Have you ever admired an amazing game of chess, simultaneously thinking “I could never play like that”? In **Tiger's Chaos Theory**, you will find a different perspective, treating extraordinary play and creativity as a learnable skill. *Thinking outside the box* is a stock phrase of the commentators; champions expand their box.

GM **Tiger Hillarp Persson** is renowned as one of the most creative and original thinkers in chess – attributes he developed through targeted study. Tiger shares how to map patterns and navigate the outrageous, using games and ideas that helped him expand his creative approach.

Tiger's Chaos Theory will take you on an inspirational journey, featuring concepts such as extreme Hecatomb sacrifices, Houdini-style pawn breakouts and even becoming another player at the board. With thought-provoking chess content, amusing anecdotes and candid reflections on the author's games and career, this book is unmissable.

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60 Seconds with... GM Renier Castellanos



Born: 3rd July 1982, Matanzas, Cuba.

Place of residence: Bucharest, Romania.

Occupation: Chess Trainer. Head coach of Killer Chess Training.

Enjoyable? Challenging but very enjoyable.

And home life? Quiet.

But sometimes good to escape to: Italy, Spain, the bars and terraces near the sea.

Sports played or followed: Football. I don't play it unless it is *FIFA PS4*.

A favourite novel? Not yet, I'm not big into reading outside chess. I'd love to find the time.

Piece of music? I like rock from the 80s. Metallica and Guns N' Roses.

Film or TV series? *The Sopranos*, *Goodfellas*, *Casino*, I like the crime and mafia genre.

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

And the worst? I can't think of anything, the game is just great.

Your best move? Not the best, but 37...♖c3! that gave me my final GM norm in the last round of Menorca will always be remembered. The opportunity came and I was ready.

D.Fernandez-R.Castellanos

Menorca Open 2024

Sicilian Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♖e2 e5 7 ♗b3 ♖e7 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♖e3 ♖e6 10 ♖e1 ♗bd7 11 a4 ♖c7 12 h3 ♖fc8 13 ♖g4 ♗xg4 14 hxg4 h6 15 f3 ♖h4 16 ♖e2 ♗f6 17 ♖h2 ♖g5 18 ♖xg5 hxg5 19 ♖d2 ♖c4 20 ♖ee1 g6 21 ♖ad1 ♖d8 22 ♖xg5 ♖g7 23 ♗d2 ♖h8+ 24 ♖g1 ♖e6 25 ♖e3 ♖h4 26 ♗f1 ♖ah8 27 ♖d2 ♖h1+ 28 ♖f2 ♖xg4 29 ♖ed1 ♖d8 30 ♖e2 ♖e6 31 ♖c3 ♖b6+ 32 ♗e3 ♖xd1 33 ♖xd1 ♖c8 34 ♖a3 d5 35 a5 ♖a7 36 exd5 ♗xd5 37 ♖d2



37...♖c3!! 38 bxc3 ♗xe3 39 ♖e1 ♗xg2+ 40 ♗d1 ♖f2 41 ♖c1 ♖e1+ 42 ♖d1 ♖xe2 43 ♖d8 ♗e3 44 ♖f8+ ♖f6 45 ♖h8+ ♖f5 46 ♖h3+ ♖f4 0-1

But less memorable than your worst move? I don't recall anything special.

And a highly memorable opponent? I won a blitz game with the white pieces against Peter Svidler. It was also a Sicilian variation that I played too as Black and learned by following his games, so it was kind of a special match. It was at the 2019 World Rapid & Blitz in Moscow.

Favourite game of all time? Tough one, there are too many, but one game that made me fall in love with the game when I was a kid was Oll-Topalov, Moscow Olympiad 1994. The good old days of the Dragon. I learnt the game by heart and 17...♗xb2! was such a great move.

L.Oll-V.Topalov

Moscow Olympiad 1994

Sicilian Dragon

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6

5 ♗c3 g6 6 ♖e3 ♖g7 7 f3 ♗c6 8 ♖d2 0-0 9 ♖c4 ♖d7 10 h4 ♗e5 11 ♖b3 h5 12 0-0-0 ♖c8 13 ♖g5 ♖c5 14 g4 hxg4 15 f4 ♗c4 16 ♖e2 ♖c8 17 f5



17...♗xb2! 18 ♖xf6 ♗xd1 19 ♖xg4 exf6 20 ♖g1 ♖c4 21 ♗xd1 d5 22 h5 ♖xd4 23 hxg6 fxg6 24 ♖xg6 ♖f7 25 ♗f2 ♖c3 26 ♖b1 ♖e3 27 ♖g2 ♖f8 28 exd5 ♖e1+ 29 ♖b2 ♖e5 30 ♖b1 ♖xf5 0-1

The best three chess books: *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, *Positional Decision Making* by Boris Gelfand and Jacob Aagaard's *Grandmaster Preparation: Thinking Inside the Box*.

Is FIDE doing a good job? I like to think they do what they can. But chess has so much potential and it feels as if it is run poorly.

Or your National Federation? I like the way things are going in Spain, with many tournaments and a strong national league. The team championships are now stronger than ever.

Any advice for either? Oh no, I am far from a position to give advice on topics I know very little about.

Can chess make one happy? Definitely! A chess player is never bored.

A tip please for the club player: Join Killer Chess Training first of all, to spend time with nice people and learn chess to beat your mates! Also, train tactics every day, keep your brain active, do not overuse the engines and try to think for yourself.

Ed. – Renier Castellanos's Playing the Nimzo-Indian is out now and available from Chess & Bridge for £24.99 (Subscribers: £22.49). The accompanying volume, Beating the Queen's Gambit – Indian Style!, will be published this autumn.

Masters of the Urban Chess Scene

Vladimir Lionter on the chess sidehustlers of New York City

I propose the term 'sidehustler' to describe street chess players. The word 'hustler' often carries negative connotations, suggesting deceit or unethical behaviour. By using 'sidehustler', we can better capture the essence of these players who, with passion and skill, turn their love for chess into a side gig. This new term not only removes the stigma, but also highlights the entrepreneurial spirit of those who bring the game to life on our city streets.

Indeed, in the heart of New York City, amidst the towering skyscrapers and bustling streets, lies a unique subculture that blends strategy, intellect, and street smarts: the world of chess sidehustlers. These skilled individuals, often found in parks like Washington Square Park or Union Square, have mastered the art of street chess, where every move is a gamble and every match a testament to their cunning and expertise.

Chess sidehustling in New York City is not just a game; it's a livelihood for many. Players of all ages and backgrounds gather around makeshift tables, set up with worn-out boards and mismatched pieces, ready to challenge anyone daring enough to face them. What sets these hustlers apart is their ability to read opponents, anticipate moves, and adapt strategies on the fly – a testament to their years of experience honed on the unforgiving streets of the city.

Every chess sidehustler has their unique style and approach. Some rely on aggressive openings to unsettle opponents, while others prefer a more defensive posture, luring adversaries into traps with deceptive calm. The stakes vary from match to match, with bets often decided on the spot – cash exchanged discreetly, adding an element of risk and excitement to each game.

The most famous chess sidehustler in New York is a man known as 'Russian Paul'. He first became known to the public in 2007, when *The New York Times* published an article entitled 'In Street Chess Games, a Pedigreed Pastime Becomes a Gritty Sideline'. By that time, this chess player had been playing street chess for 15 years. By now, he has been playing for over 30 years. Just like 17 years ago, Russian Paul can be found almost every day in the same place – next to the exit from the subway station 14th Street - Union Square Park, across the street from the



Chess hustle at its peak: Sidehustlers take on passersby in the heart of New York City.

Whole Foods store.

Over the past few years, Paul or Pavel has also become famous on YouTube. He has played with such famous chess streamers as Alexandra Botez, Nemo Zhou and Alessia Santeramo, as well as the only top chess player who is also a popular chess streamer, Hikaru Nakamura. I decided to ask Russian Paul a few questions personally.

Paul, tell us about your experience in the world of chess sidehustlers in New York. How did you start your journey in this field?

"I started playing chess as a kid, but I was always self-taught. Eventually, I realised I could make money from it, so I started sidehustling on the streets – mainly in parks and around Union Square, where you find me now. I even worked in a chess school for a couple of years."

What services do you offer here?

"Mostly, I play [for money – V.L.] with passers-by, or I give private lessons for \$50-\$60 an hour."

You mentioned working in various places. What's unique about your approach to the game?

"I like playing with people who are fun and sociable. It's important that the game isn't just about chess, but also about having a good time."

When it rains, do you ever stay home instead of playing chess outside?

"No, I don't just stay at home. There are plenty of other places where I can play."

Why not play at the Chess Forum store?

"I had a falling out with the owner."

What are your thoughts on official tournaments?

"They don't interest me – too many rules and formalities. I prefer the freedom and dynamic nature of street games."

What do you think about your competitors among other chess players in New York?

"Many of them are honest, but some try to cheat. I prefer a fair game without tricks. But I haven't played with any of them – I'm not interested."

How did you choose these colourful chess pieces?

"It's a mix of different sets. I picked them because some pieces are easier to see on this kind of board, and the colours remind me of the Ukrainian flag, where I'm from [it's fitting

to call him 'Ukrainian Paul', but he got the name 'Russian Paul' not because of his origin, but because he speaks Russian – V.L.].

What do you think are the key traits of a successful chess sidehustler?

"Quick thinking, honesty, and the ability to keep passers-by interested. That's important for building long-term relationships."

How do you see your future in this profession?

"To be honest, I don't really plan too far ahead. I'll continue doing what I'm doing – playing chess, meeting new people, and enjoying the thrill of each game. This life suits me, and for now, that's all I need. Why change something that makes me happy?"

Beyond the competitive spirit, chess sidehustling in New York City fosters a sense of community among its players. Regulars form bonds over the board, sharing stories and strategies, creating a microcosm of camaraderie amidst the urban chaos. For many sidehustlers, the park benches and concrete tables become a second home, a place where skills are sharpened, and reputations are forged.

However, life as a chess sidehustler is not without its challenges. Weather, unpredictable crowds, and the occasional run-ins with authorities add layers of complexity to this unconventional profession. Yet, for those who thrive on the thrill of competition and the freedom of the streets, these obstacles are a small price to pay for the autonomy and respect earned through mastery of their craft.

Chess sidehustlers embody the resilience



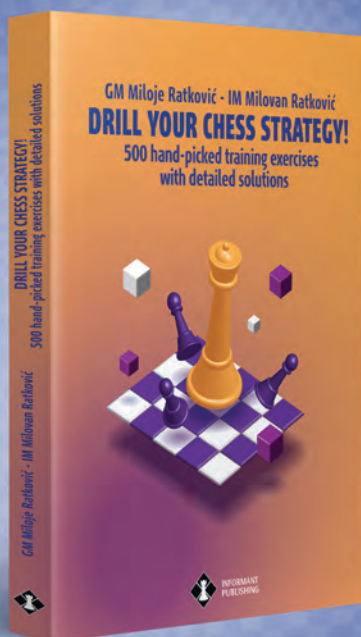
By Union Square Park, Russian Paul awaits his next match, scanning the crowd for a new opponent.

and resourcefulness synonymous with New York City itself. They navigate the complexities of urban life with a chessboard in hand, proving that intelligence and skill transcend socio-economic barriers. Their stories, etched in the minds of those who challenge them and the spectators who watch in awe,

add a colourful chapter to the city's rich tapestry of diversity and determination.

In the heart of New York City, amidst the chaos and clamour, chess hustlers continue to play their trade – a testament to the enduring allure of the game and the indomitable spirit of those who play it.

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Looking for a realistic way to play for a win with Black against 1.e4 without taking unnecessary risks? The Taimanov Sicilian is a reliable system, and hence one of the best options out there! This video course offers you a complete repertoire for Black against the Open Sicilian: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6. Compared to many other main variations of the Sicilian, the Taimanov Variation is a flexible option which doesn't feature many long, forced variations that you need to memorise in order to maintain the balance. In fact, the aim is to get a playable position out of the opening, which offers new opportunities to outplay the opponent in the long run. Due to its rock-solid formation, Black's position is impregnable, and White players trying for a quick attack can easily falter. The old main lines are well covered, as are the latest trends and obscure attempts - so you won't face any unpleasant surprises!
Video running time: More than 9 hours!



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ROBERT RIS: A COMPLETE GUIDE FOR BLACK AGAINST THE ANTI-SICILIAN

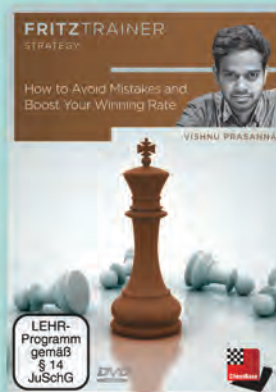
Have you always wanted to play the Sicilian as Black, but been discouraged by the abundance of options for White? Here is the solution to becoming a lifelong successful Sicilian player! In a separate course, all the critical lines of the Open Sicilian (Taimanov Variation) were covered. In this course, all the relevant Anti-Sicilians are covered in depth. Starting with the move-order 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6, White has been prevented from playing a variation with 3.Bb5. Popular alternatives on move 3 are tackled first (3.b3, 3.g3, Kings-Indian Attack etc.). On the second move, White has many more options to deviate from the Main Lines, but since White often has the opportunity to transpose back to the Open Variation, it's strongly recommended to study both volumes. The lines arising from the Closed Sicilian Variation with 2.Nc3 and the Alapin (with 2.c3 or 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3) are effectively countered as well, to avoid any move-order problems. Last, but not least, popular systems at club level, e.g. the Smith-Morra and Wing Gambit should no longer be feared!
Video running time: More than 7 hours!

39.90 €

VISHNU PRASANNA: HOW TO AVOID MISTAKES AND BOOST YOUR WINNING RATE

GM Vishnu Prasanna is one of the most respected chess trainers in India. He is the coach of the World Champion challenger D. Gukesh - his main coach for Gukesh's journey from 2200 to 2750 Elo. Vishnu has used his immense experience to touch upon the topic of mistakes in chess. Doesn't every chess game get decided by mistakes? Absolutely. But most players never truly comprehend that they are making the same kind of mistakes over and over again. The first task is to identify these mistakes and label them. Then the next time you sit at the chessboard, you are aware and able to avoid them. Vishnu groups mistakes into the following categories:

1. Unforced Errors 2. Tactical & Positional mistakes 3. Psychological mistakes 4. Calculation & Assessment mistakes 5. Good positional moves that are mistakes. With more than 20 examples, you get a firm understanding of each type of mistake. IM Sagar Shah asks pertinent questions, and has also made cards, shown throughout the videos, that ensure you can firmly grasp the nature of the mistakes. Vishnu discusses how to fix these mistakes, and how his students - Gukesh, Leon Mendonca, Surya Ganguly and himself! - managed to fix the mistakes that they were making - leading to serious improvement in their play.
Video running time: 4 hours 26 minutes.



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Overseas News

BELGIUM – The Brugse Meesters saw Daniel Fernandez follow up his success from Vlissingen (see last month), as he triumphed in the top section, a 10-player all-play-all, the Thinkers Publishing GM (August 10–16). The London-based GM was defeated by Danny Gormally and back-marker Jacob Dreelinck, but also won five games, including against Yichen Han, to finish on 6/9 alongside Serbian IM and WGM Teodora Indic, with Han sharing third half a point behind and Gormally finishing on 50%. There was also an Open, won with a mighty 9/9 by Turkish GM Vahap Sanal, which saw him finish two points clear.

CZECH REPUBLIC – Prague hosted the European Youth Championships (August 21 – September 1), which saw French IM Timothe Razafindratsima win the Under-18 Open Championship with 7½/9, the same score that Israeli WFM Noga Orian took the Under-18 Girls' title by. Plenty of British players took part, with Abigail Weersing scoring 6/9 to finish in a share of eighth in the Under-18 Girls and Junyi Zhang came joint ninth in the Under-10s, but the star of the show was Junyan Hu who racked up 8/9 to win the Under-8 Championship.

A little earlier (August 9–17), there had also been British success at the Olomouc Chess Summer as Jonah Willow shrugged off a penultimate round defeat to Czech GM Petr Neuman to finish first with 6½/9 in the GMA section, if sadly missing a GM norm by half a point. Willow's victims included the young Slovak FM Simon Rybka, who finished second, a point behind, and just in front of Neuman.

J. Willow – A. Kuru Olomouc 2024 French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 ♙xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♗a5 7 ♙d2 ♗a4 8 h4 ♘c6 9 ♘f3 b6 10 h5 h6?!

Ruling out h5–h6, but Black does somewhat better with 10...cxd4 11 cxd4 ♙a6. **11 ♙h4!**

Threatening to take on c5 and 11...cxd4? 12 ♘xd4 ♘xd4 13 ♙xd4 ♗d7 14 ♗g4 ♘f8 15 c4 would also spell very bad news for Black. **11...c4 12 ♙g4 ♙h7!? 13 ♙a2?!**

Holding everything together on the queenside in approved fashion, but missing the chance for 13 ♘h4! ♙d7 14 ♙f4 with a clear advantage according to the engines. **13...♙d7 14 ♙f4 f6!?**

14...0–0–0 followed by ...♙e8 and only then ...f6 would have been a bit safer.

15 ♗e2 0–0–0 16 ♙d1!



With control of the board (if 16...♙e8 17 g4) and an edge, Willow takes the time to bring his king to relative safety ahead of looking to open the position.

16...♙b7 17 ♙c1 ♙e8 18 exf6!?

18 g4! fxe5 19 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 20 ♗xe5 ♗c6 21 ♙a1 would maintain full control.

18...♘xf6 19 ♗xe6 ♙d7?

19...♙h8! 20 ♙xf6! (20 g4 ♙d7 21 ♗f7 ♙hg8 is just pretty unclear) 20...gxf6 21 ♘h4 ♙xh5 22 ♘f5 would have left White with full compensation for the exchange and, at most, only slightly more than that.

20 ♙e5!

Black was no doubt hoping for 20 ♙xf6!? ♙e7, although even this and then 21 ♗xd5 gxf6 22 ♘h4 is somewhat better for White.

20...♙e7 21 ♗d6



The queen is wonderfully positioned here, quite safe while bringing a fair amount of pressure to bear on the black position.

21...♙c7 22 g4!

White is completely taking over.

22...♙e7

22...♙h8!? would at least bring this piece back into the game, well on top though White would still be after 23 ♙g2 ♘xe5 24 dxe5 ♘e4 25 ♗xd5+ ♙c6 26 ♗e6!.

23 ♙g2 ♗b5 24 a4! ♗a6 25 ♘g6!

The 13-year-old Turkish FM has been comprehensively outplayed and now resorts



Jonah Willow has been playing a lot of late and was almost rewarded with a norm in Pardubice.

to desperate measures.

25...b5 26 ♗xa6+ ♙xa6 27 ♘f8!



Graphically highlighting Black's lack of coordination.

27...♙h8 28 ♙e6 ♙c6 29 axb5+

The straightforward 29 ♘c5+ was also highly promising.

29...♙xb5 30 ♘xg7 ♙d7 31 ♙xa7 ♙g8 32 ♙xd7! ♘xg7

The point is that 32...♘xd7? 33 ♙f7 would be a deadly skewer.

33 ♙xf6! ♙xf6 34 ♙xd5 ♙xf2 35 ♙xh6 ♙xg4 36 ♙b7+ ♙a4

Just compare the difference in king safety and coordination between the two sides. Unsurprisingly the end is nigh.

37 ♙a7+ ♙b5 38 ♙b7+ ♙a4 39 ♙xc4 ♘c8 40 ♙b8 1–0

FRANCE – The 97th French Championship took place at L'Alpe d'Huez (August 16–25), with Jules Moussard triumphing 4–2 against Laurent Fressinet after a rapid then blitz playoff in the final of this knockout event. Romain Edouard defeated Pierre Laurent-Paoli in the third place playoff, while

Deimante Daulyte-Cornette won the Women's Championship after overcoming Pauline Guichard 3½-2½ in the final.

Etienne Bacrot was absent from the Alps as he was competing in Paris in the latest leg of 'Hans Niemann against the World' (August 20-24). Last month we reported on Niemann's victory against Giri in Utrecht, he then defeated Nikita Vitiugov in London (see *Home News*), and also proved too strong for Bacrot. The format may have been chosen to favour Niemann, but even so it was hard not to be impressed by his 4½-1½ triumph over three days of classical, while he also took the blitz 9-3 before the rapid ended all square at 3-3.

Niemann would then go to finally face Magnus Carlsen after qualifying for the semi-finals of Chess.com's Speed Chess Challenge in Paris. These took place at Esport in Paris, with the players just yards apart, but playing on computers. On Friday September 6th Carlsen put Niemann in his place for now, triumphing 17½-12½ in a match played with 5+1, 3+1 and 1+1 time controls. There was, however, a shock in the other semi-final, Hikaru Nakamura failing to qualify for the final for the first time ever as he lost 16-11 to the in-form Alireza Firouzja. A red-hot Carlsen then crushed Firouzja 23½-7½ and Nakamura walloped Niemann 21-9 to come third.

GEORGIA – The first leg of the 2024/25 FIDE Women's Grand Prix took place appropriately in the capital of that powerhouse of women's chess, Georgia (August 15-24). However, the big home hope, Nana Dzagnidze could only finish on '+1' in Tbilisi as the very strong Polish IM Alina Kashlinskaya prevailed with an unbeaten 6/9 to finish half a point ahead of Bibisara Assaubayeva, with Dzagnidze sharing third alongside Stavroula Tsolakidou and Anna Muzychuk in what was a fairly draw-laden event.



Alina Kashlinskaya was a cut above in Tbilisi.

A.Kashlinskaya-R.Vaishali Tbilisi 2024 King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♜c3 ♟g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♟e2 0-0 6 ♟e3

This has been fairly fashionable of late.
6...c5 7 d5 e6 8 ♜f3 exd5 9 cxd5

White doesn't have to enter a Modern Benoni structure, but this must be fairly critical, as are the next moves from both sides.

9...b5! 10 e5! dxe5

10...♟g4?! 11 ♟g5 doesn't seem as good and after 11...♟a5?! 12 exd6 b4 13 ♜e4 f5 14 ♜ed2 ♟xb2 15 ♜c4 ♟c3+ 16 ♜fd2 ♟b5 17 ♟e7 the King's Indian expert and future champion had taken control in Jones-Graham, English Championship, Kenilworth 2024.
11 ♟xc5 ♟e8 12 ♟xb5 ♜bd7 13 ♟a3



13...e4

Tempting, but perhaps Black should flick in 13...a6!? when 14 ♟c6 e4 15 ♜d2 ♜e5! 16 ♟xe8 ♜d3+ 17 ♜f1 ♟xe8 feels like a decent exchange sacrifice.

14 ♜d4 ♜g4?!

Not the best of over-the-board novelties, although even after 14...a6!? with 15 ♜c6! ♟b6 16 ♟e2 e3 17 f3 White would have seized a clear plus.

15 ♟xg4?

The simple approach, but Kashlinskaya should have taken the bull by the horns, since 15 0-0! ♟h4 16 h3 simply leaves Black in trouble, and if 16...♜xf2!? 17 ♟xf2 e3 18 ♟c2 ♜xd4 19 ♜e2! ♟f2+ 20 ♟h1 ♟e5 21 ♟xc8! ♟axc8 22 ♜xd7.

15...♜xd4 16 0-0 f5?

A horribly overambitious move, in clear contrast to which 16...♜xc3! 17 bxc3 ♟a5 18 ♜xd7 ♟xa3 would have been fine for Black.

17 ♟d1 ♟e5 18 d6!



Advancing Delroy secures a big advantage for White, in part because Black's kingside play is nowhere to be seen.

18...♟b8 19 h3

Far from terrible, although there was no

really good reason to avoid 19 ♟e1 ♟h8 20 ♟c1, involving the final pieces to leave Black's cause beginning to look quite bleak.

19...♟h8 20 ♟a4?

Drifting and 20 ♟c1 g5!? 21 ♜xd7! ♜xd7 22 ♜d5 was one way to preserve a dominating position.

20...a6 21 ♟c6 ♜b6 22 ♟c2?!

And here 22 ♟b4 ♜d7 23 ♜xd7 ♜xd7 24 ♟c4 would still have been a clear advantage for White – don't forget that Delroy is an extra pawn.

22...♜d7 23 ♜d5!

Finally getting back on track and now it's Vaishali's turn to lose the thread.

23...♜xd5 24 ♜xd5 ♟c8?

24...♟g5! would have offered Black reasonable play for the pawn and left all three results possible.

25 ♟d2 g5?

And here 25...♟f6 was a much better try.

26 ♟ac1! g4 27 ♟xc8! ♜xc8



28 ♟f7

Or just 28 ♜c6!, and if 28...♜d7 29 ♜xd7 ♟xd7 30 hxg4 fxg4 31 g3! when Black would have been out of tricks.

28...♟f8?

Collapsing, whereas 28...gxh3! would have fought on, angling for 29 ♜xe8? (29 ♟c1! ♟h4 30 g3! e3! 31 d7! is an impressive line, at the end of which White appears to be winning) 29...hxg2 30 ♜xg2 f4! with a big attack for the rook.

29 ♟d5!

Decisive, as if 29...♟f6 30 d7.

29...♜g7 30 d7!

Winning material.

30...♜b7 31 ♟xf5 gxh3 32 ♜xf8 ♟xf8 33 ♟g5 1-0

ITALY – Iran's Mahdi Gholami Orimi prevailed on tiebreak finishing alongside fellow IM Kundu Kaustuv and Polish GM Marcin Tazbir on 7/9 at the Spilimbergo Open (August 9-15). There was also British success as Lan Yao won Open Sicilians in rounds seven and eight en route to finishing on '+3' to achieve her second IM norm.

POLAND – Vincent Keymer lost his last two games to Sam Shankland and Jan-Krzysztof Duda at the 60th Rubinstein Memorial in Polanica Zdroj (August 17-25), but his start of 4/4 (wins against Mateusz Bartel, Alexey Sarana, Pentala Harikrishna and Vladimir

Fedoseev) ensured that with 6/9 he still came home in first place, even finishing a point clear of Shankland, Duda, Fedoseev and David Navara.



19-year-old Vincent Keymer started too well for his rivals to cope at the Rubinstein Memorial.

PORTUGAL – French GM Pierre Baillet won the Maia Open (August 23-31) with 8/9, finishing half a point ahead of Kevin Spraggett, the 69-year-old Canadian former candidate demonstrating that he can very much still play, although he may still be kicking himself for repeating moves in the final round against Alexandr Fier rather than spot a deft way to win. A younger senior, 64-year-old Nigel Davies, finished a point further back in a share of seventh.

A.Fier-K.Spraggett Maia 2024



Play concluded **57...♗f4 58 ♔g2 ♗f1+ 59 ♖h2 ♗f4?** ½-½, but 57...♗f2+! would have won, and if 58 ♗g2 (58 ♖h3 ♗f5+! 59 ♖h2 g6 secures Black's kingside and leaves him with a devastating attack) 58...♗f4! 59 ♖xg7 ♗xh4+ 60 ♖h3 (or 60 ♗h3 ♖d2+) 60...♗f4+ 61 ♗g3 ♗d2+ 62 ♗g2 ♗xg2+ 63 ♖xg2 ♖xg7.

ROMANIA – Hungarian GM Adam Kozak edged out Gergely Kantor, Constantin Lupulescu, Pouya Idani, Grzegorz Nasuta and Emre Can on tiebreak after they had all



It was back in 1989 Kevin Spraggett lost a Candidates quarter-final match to Artur Yusupov.

finished on 7/9 at the Arad Open (August 5-11), a point in front of IM Ezra Kirk who wobbled mid-tournament before finishing with three straight wins.

RUSSIA – The Russian Championships took place in Barnaul (August 16-29), with both Andrey Esipenko and Vladislav Artemiev finishing on an unbeaten 7/11 before victory in the 77th Russian Championship went to Artemiev courtesy of a 2-0 rapid playoff win. In the Women's Championship, second seed Kateryna Lagno was defeated by Polina Shuvalova, but was strong against the tail and her 7/11 sufficed for outright first, by half a point over Daria Charochkina and Aleksandra Goryachkina.

SPAIN – Harry Grieve returned to Tenerife for the San Cristobal de La Laguna Open (August 23-31), which was won by the 21-year-old Icelandic GM Vignir Stefansson with 7½/9. Grieve was held to a draw by fellow Brit Aaravamudhan Balaji, who made his third and final IM norm as both he and Grieve finished on 6/9, a point in front of Harry Zheng and George Zhao.

SWITZERLAND – The latest official rating list appeared from the FIDE Office in Lausanne on September 1st and by the time these pages were compiled Hans Niemann was up to 2733 and world no.16, just ahead of Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and only three places behind world champion Ding Liren who is down to 2736, while the top-10 comprised: 1 Magnus Carlsen (NOR) 2832, 2 Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 2802, 3 Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2798, 4 Arjun Erigaisi (IND) 2778, 5 Alireza Firouzja (FRA) 2767, 6 Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB) 2766, 7 Dommaraju Gukesh (IND) 2764, 8 Wei Yi (CHN) 2762, 9 Ian Nepomniachtchi (FID) 2755, 10 Wesley So (USA) 2752.

The Chinese retain their cast-iron grip on the top of the women's list (Hou Yifan, Ju Wenjun, Tan Zhongyi and Lei Tingjie, with Aleksandra Goryachkina squeezing in at world no.5), while England has two new number ones. David Howell at 2677 is now the highest-ranked British player, albeit by just one point from Nikita Vitiugov and then Michael Adams (2661), Gawain Jones (2646) and Luke McShane (2611), while Lan Yao heads the women's list on 2353 followed by Jovanka Houska (2333), Harriet Hunt (2304), Elmira Mirzoeva (2260), Susan Lalic (2227) and Bodhana Sivanandan (2196).



Lan Yao was typically focussed in north-eastern Italy as she attacked in style en route to making an IM norm at the Spilimbergo Open, a handy warm-up for board one at the Olympiad.



The Woodpecker Method 2: Positional Play

Axel Smith, 384 pages
Quality Chess

RRP £29.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.55**

Another welcome return to print sees Axel Smith back in action, with a very worthy follow-up to an established classic. "Since its publication in 2018 *The Woodpecker Method* has been the go-to manual among chess players with a thirst for tactical improvement. *The Woodpecker Method 2* is the long-awaited sequel, designed to skyrocket your positional decision-making skills."

For those unfamiliar with the first volume, "The Woodpecker Method means solving a large number of puzzles over a period of weeks; then solving the same puzzles again and again, faster each time. This will program the unconscious mind, improving both accuracy and speed of one's decision-making."

The big difference this time is that the puzzles all feature aspects of positional play, in contrast to the tactics of the first volume. Most people find positional puzzles to be the harder of the two, thus the excellent selection of presentation of the material given here makes this book essential reading for any readers who have the discipline and determination of the titular woodpecker.

There are five steps to "woodpecking". The first is to solve as many exercises as possible in a four-week period, then take a break (from one day to a week). Then the idea is to solve the same set of puzzles within two weeks, followed by another break and then another spell of tackling the same exercises (aiming for half the number of days from solving cycle to solving cycle), with the final step being to solve all of the exercise within one day. On the face of it, that sounds like a very tall order, but keep in mind the answers should have mainly been committed to memory after so many solving cycles.

The exercises start off in a not-too-difficult fashion, but build up to those offering positional challenges of an expert level. They are taken from the games of many players and it is good to see the world champions represented in style, all the way from Wilhelm Steinitz onwards. Let us not forget that the old masters led the way with their magnificent and pioneering games, which are still very worthy of close study. Indeed, let us delve into the past, with an example from the first-ever official world championship match.



J.Zukertort-W.Steinitz World Championship (Game 13), New Orleans 1886



What would you do here as White? Zukertort played **17 ♖ed1** and went on to win after a long and intense struggle (1-0, 86).

However, the best move is 17 d5!. "A standard isolated queen's pawn position. Pushing and exchanging the pawn is usually favourable, as White's pieces are more actively placed." After 17...exd5 18 ♖xd5 ♗xd5 19 ♗xd5 ♗f6 20 ♖ad1 ♖f8 21 ♗e4 "All White's pieces are on excellent squares and Black has no good defence. For instance, 21...♖ad8 22 ♖c2 with a double threat – or triple if you count ♗d6."

Incidentally, the very next puzzle features the position after Zukertort's inferior move and it tests the reader's ability to exploit the error by showing how Black can gain the advantage: 17...♗a5! 18 ♗c2 b4 19 ♗e4 ♗d5, when "The isolated pawn is blocked for the foreseeable future."

The sense of history is admirable and the material should be of value to any serious chess student. The answers stick firmly to the point, avoiding hyperbole and waffle. It may be hard work being a woodpecker, but the first volume was a big hit and I am sure this sequel will do equally well. Time to sharpen the beak again and start pecking away...

Sean Marsh

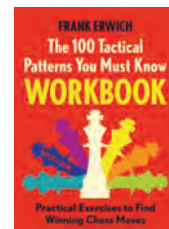


Drill Your Chess Tactics!

Zoran Arsovic, 310 pages, paperback
RRP £31.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.75**

Last month we featured *Drill Your Chess Strategy!* by Miloje & Milovan Ratkovic and now from Informant Publishing comes this accompanying work, subtitled 'Reinforce tactical motifs, improve intuitive thinking'. Serbian IM Arsovic has collected 500 positions from games played last year, selecting them for practical value, sheer

importance or inherent aesthetics, while assigning each a difficulty level from one to four. For those who enjoying solving puzzles, want to improve their calculation or simply be inspired, the choice of material should be very useful. Note too that both *Drill Your Chess Tactics!* and *Drill Your Chess Strategy!* can be purchased together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £60.00.



100 Tactical Patterns You Must Know

Frank Erwich, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

"This book is the long-awaited middlegame companion to *100 Endgames You Must Know*, the all-time bestseller of all chess books published by New In Chess." That sets a high bar, but Dutch FM and highly successful chess trainer Erwich is thankfully up to the task. The material is split into 12 chapters, ranging from double attacks through the likes of pinning bishops and trapped pieces to attacking combinations. The layout is clear, with the use of flash cards likely to further emphasise the key ideas to remember in what does appear to be a pretty decent middlegame primer for the club player.

Frank Erwich has also penned a companion work, *The 100 Tactical Patterns You Must Know Workbook* (336 pages, paperback, RRP £22.95, Subscribers £20.65), featuring 500 positions to solve, ones which will certainly help to force deep into the subconscious many of the key 100 tactical patterns. Both Erwich books can also be ordered together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £42.00.



From Boy to Man to Challenger: The Fiercest Battles of Gukesh D

Cyrus Lakdawala, 256 pages, paperback
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

It's no surprise to see a work appearing on the latest world championship challenger, if perhaps a surprise that the publisher is Elk & Ruby, who have earned an excellent reputation in recent years for their historical works. Thankfully with the author we know exactly what we are going to get and Lakdawala doesn't disappoint, presenting 70 very well-annotated games by Gukesh over the course of eight chapters, on such topics as playing world champions, accumulating advantages and chaos.



Gideon Ståhlberg – An Epoch in Swedish Chess, Volume I

Peter Holmgren, 582 pages, hardback
RRP £49.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £45.95**

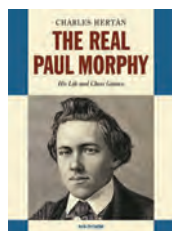
This is a beautiful production from Verendel Publishing and a real labour of love from Swedish author Holmgren. Gideon Ståhlberg (1908 – 1967) was one of the world's leading players for much of his career, as well as a true chess pioneer in his native Sweden. This first volume takes his life up unto the Buenos Aires Olympiad of 1939, with Holmgren providing a full picture of his subject, as well as a wealth of detail on his opponents and the tournaments in which Ståhlberg participated. Throw in a number of excellent games, many with annotations from the time, and this is certainly a book for those who like their chess history to get enjoyably lost in during the long winter months.



Playing the Nimzo-Indian

Renier Castellanos, 438 pages, paperback
RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

This third new release from Quality Chess is a typically detailed and highly impressive repertoire work on 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗b4. 41-year-old Castellanos earned his final GM norm soon after finishing the book and ideally readers will also find their overall understanding enriched by his detailed explanation. There is plenty of cutting-edge theory – on lines like 4 f3 c5 and 4 ♖c2 d5 – but also much attention has gone into the practical aspect: where the pieces belong in each key structure, what the typical plans are, and how much of each line should the reader aim to memorise? In short, this is a repertoire which should benefit the titled player and harder-working club player alike.



The Real Paul Morphy

Charles Hertan, 384 pages, paperback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

This is hardly the first book on Morphy, but Hertan has certainly done his research and aims to provide a comprehensive

biography of the American genius, while also exploring many of his best games, which unsurprisingly these days means in places turning over some long-held opinions and analysis. There are chapters on 19th century life in New Orleans, Morphy's childhood and "Mental Decline: Reanalyzed", as well as on his glory years. The text reads well and Morphy's is certainly a compelling story, although there are also times where the reader may have wished for a little more explanation in the game annotations.

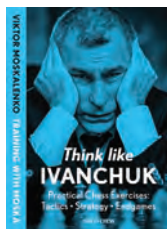


The Sponsor

Fred Das & Jeroen Terlingen,
224 pages, paperback

RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

New In Chess have even branched out into chess-related fiction of late with this novel, subtitled 'Murder at the North Sea Chess Tournament'. For over 10 years one of the sponsors of Wijk aan Zee, Fred Das, made various notes during the tournament, observations and ideas which have now been turned into a thriller by Jeroen Terlingen, with this story of the North Sea Chess Tournament, involving a North Korean player and an American rival who is found dead on the rest day.



Think Like Ivanchuk

Viktor Moskalenko, 288 pages, paperback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Is it possible to think like one of the world's leading players, Planet Ivanchuk? Yes, claims author Moskalenko who has known Ivanchuk since their youth in Ukraine. He has regularly acted as Ivanchuk's training partner and even second, and so is especially well placed to comment on many of the great man's most instructive and striking games. Readers will enjoy detailed commentary, sprinkled with a number of exercises to try and solve, on Ivanchuk's battles with seven classical world champions, four FIDE world champions and "seven top players from the Golden Age". Like Tiger Hillarp Persson's work reviewed above, Vasyl Ivanchuk's chess can only inspire.

Notably New in Chess have joined Quality Chess in releasing hardback versions of some of their works, with *The Real Paul Morphy* retailing at £32.95 in hardcover format (Subscribers – £29.65), *The Sponsor* at £22.95 (Subscribers – £20.25). and *Think Like Ivanchuk* at £30.95 (Subscribers – £27.85).



Typical King's Indian

Karsten Müller, 160 pages, paperback
RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

Karsten Müller is known not just for his vast endgame expertise, but also his ability to clearly explain things in a way which the club player will fully understand. Here he aims to provide "Effective Middlegame Training" in one of the most popular of all openings, the King's Indian. Notably only the structures that arises after ...e5 (not ...c5; with the exception of Black having played ...e5 and ...c5, White d4-d5) are covered, with the book essentially a guide to 100 typical middlegame plans and motifs in those structures. Readers are invited to find the best move in all 100 cases, before Müller provides detailed answers, many running to about a page.

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