

THE COMPLETE CHESS WORKOUT II

Another 1200 puzzles to train your brain!

EVERYMAN CHESS

Richard Palliser

About the Author

Richard Palliser is an International Master, the editor of *CHESSE* magazine, and assistant editor at Everyman Chess. He has numerous tournament successes to his name, and in 2006 he became Joint British Rapidplay Champion. He has established a reputation as a skilled chess writer and has written many fine works.

Also by the Author

Beating Unusual Chess Openings

Chess Developments: The Modern Benoni

Dangerous Weapons: Anti-Sicilians

Dangerous Weapons: Flank Openings

Dangerous Weapons: The Benoni and Benko

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Dangerous Weapons: The Dutch

Dangerous Weapons: The King's Indian

Dangerous Weapons: The Nimzo-Indian

Dangerous Weapons: The Pirc and Modern

Dangerous Weapons: The Queen's Gambit

Dangerous Weapons: The Sicilian

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How to Play against 1 d4

Starting Out: Closed Sicilian

Starting Out: d-pawn Attacks

Starting Out: Sicilian Najdorf

Starting Out: The Colle

Starting Out: The Trompowsky Attack

Tango!

The Bb5 Sicilian

The Complete Chess Workout

The Scotch Game

The Torre Attack: Move by Move

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Introduction

Spending as little as 10-15 minutes a day on one's tactical ability really can reap dividends. I can certainly testify to that myself and it's always very welcome to see a pupil regularly trying to solve a number of tactical exercises: not only do they become more tactically alert, but they also improve their clock handling and gain in confidence.

That's what I wrote at the start of *The Complete Chess Workout* in 2007 and it's something I most certainly still believe. Back then after months of studying the output of innumerable database searches to compile 1200 puzzles, I vowed never again to produce a tactics book, but times change and the gentle, constant probing from friends and readers for a follow-up work caused me to go back into the laboratory as it were.

Since the start of the year I've been noting down interesting positions every time I've followed a tournament or studied the latest games in an opening variation. That does not, however, produce anywhere near 1200 positions, even allowing too for drawing heavily on my own games, as well as those of pupils and friends. Thus the summer has been largely dominated by not only running searches and then sifting through the results for all the key tactical motifs which the club player must be aware of, like ♘h7+, but also much lesser known combinational ideas, such as ...♙e5, which should improve readers' calculation skills while ideally helping them become more creative in their own games.

Well into this project a highly interesting work, *Greatest 365 Puzzles*, by Csaba Balogh appeared, drawing solely on games from the first four months of 2012. I've certainly enjoyed solving some of those, but in case any strong club players have purchased that work as well as this, I did remove several puzzles. The two works now have fewer than 20 positions in common; ones which were so rare, instructive or just plain beautiful that I could hardly leave them out. Likewise, knowing too that many English readers subscribe to *CHESS* and solve the many puzzles presented monthly in that magazine, I've again tried to keep the number of recent positions in common with that publication to well under two dozen. Nobody likes to solve a position from a very well-known game more than once, unless it's extremely challenging, but finding several, say, ♗g7+ sacrifices in this work should help to mean that you never miss that motif again in your own games.

As with its predecessor, do please aware in this work that by no means every position sees one side attacking. Tactics lurk in even the quietest looking positions, especially when a piece is loose. Try, indeed, never to forget John Nunn's useful mnemonic LPDO ('loose

pieces drop off'). Knowledge of that, as well as a recognition of all the available pawn breaks in a position, can really help most club players to make noticeable progress in my view. As such I've tried to include a few more positions this time where the humble pawn plays a pivotal role. Elsewhere, we have slightly fewer opening traps, but that is more than compensated by a small increase in the size of the Fiendish chapter; 60 positions which should tax even the very strong club player. I've again sorted each chapter by place, thereby ensuring that not all examples of a theme are grouped together and meaning that a straightforward combinational blow might be followed by a challenging, unusual idea.

Finally, special thanks are due to all those who kindly submitted positions for inclusion, as well as to my colleagues, Byron Jacobs and John Emms, for their unstinting help and support.

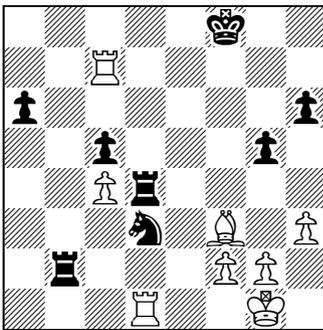
Richard Palliser,
York,
September 2012

Chapter One

Warming Up

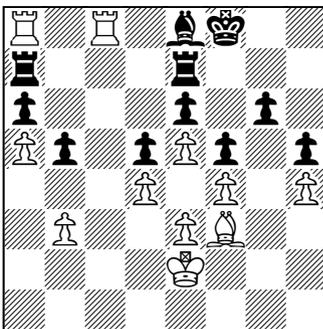
Even those fairly new to the game should find the following hundred puzzles quite solvable. Just remember that you're not always looking to force mate; quite often the solution is just a little tactic to pick up a pawn or the exchange.

1) J.Hawkins Z.Lim
Amersham 2012



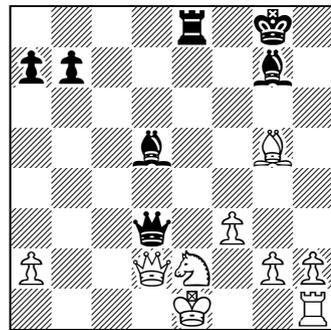
White to Play

2) M.Hebden P.Tozer
Amersham 2012



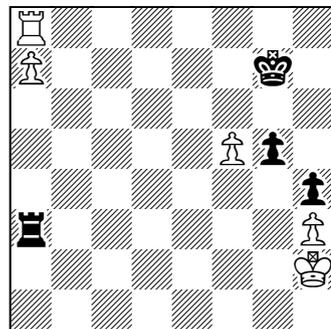
White to Play

3) D.Reinderman S.Ernst
Amsterdam 2012



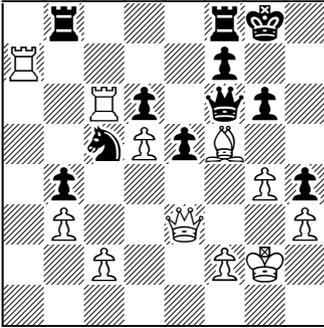
Black to Play

4) A.Grischuk V.Bologan
Astana (blitz) 2012



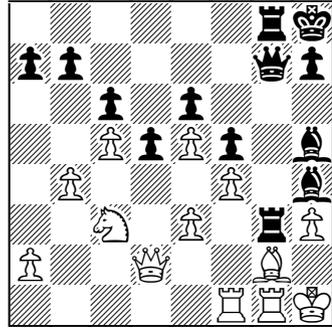
White to Play

5) M.Carlsen V.Bologan
Astana (blitz) 2012



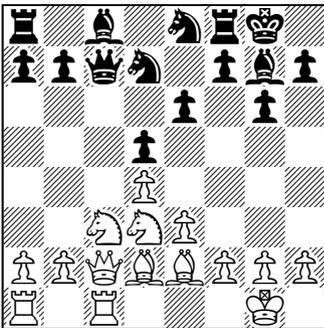
White to Play

8) N.Unapkosvili I.Osmak
Athens 2012



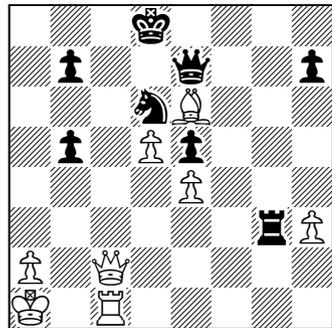
Black to Play

6) L.Messam Sparks M.Psofimi
Athens 2012



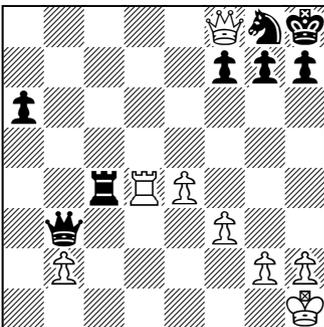
White to Play

9) C.Lovrinovic J.Perndl
Austrian League 2012



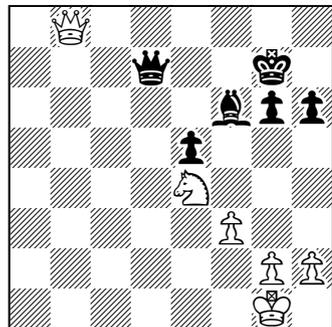
White to Play

7) L.Muhammad C.Rios
Athens 2012



White to Play

10) Z.Kozul C.Weiss
Austrian League 2012



White to Play

Chapter Eight Solutions

Chapter One

1) Hawkins-Lim

1 **fxc5!** **xc5** 2 **fxd4** wins a pawn.

2) Hebden-Tozer

1 **fxe8+**! 1-0

White emerges a piece up after 1...**fxe8** 2 **fxa7**.

3) Reinderman-Ernst

1...**xc3!** 2 **xc3** (or 2 0-0 **xd2** picking up a whole queen) 2...**xe2#** 0-1

4) Grischuk-Bologan

1 **f6+**! 1-0

1...**f7** (or 1...**xf6** 2 **ff8+**) 2 **fh8** is the classic winning rook swing.

5) Carlsen-Bologan

1 **xc5!** **gxf5** (or 1...**dx5** 2 **fxf6** **gxf5** 3 **xf5**) 2 **xd6** **xd6** 3 **xd6** wins a pawn.

6) Messam Sparks-Psofimi

1 **xd5!** **xc2** (or 1...**exd5** 2 **xc7** **xc7** 3 **xc7**) 2 **e7+** **h8** 3 **xc2** nets a pawn.

7) Muhammad-Rios

White forces mate on the back rank: 1 **xg8+**! 1-0

8) Unapkoshvili-Osmak

1...**xf3!** 2 **xf3** (or 2 **xf3** **fxg1+** 3 **h2** **g3#**) 2...**xf3** 3 **d1** **f2** 0-1

9) Lovrinovic-Perndl

1 **c8+**! 1-0

It's mate next move.