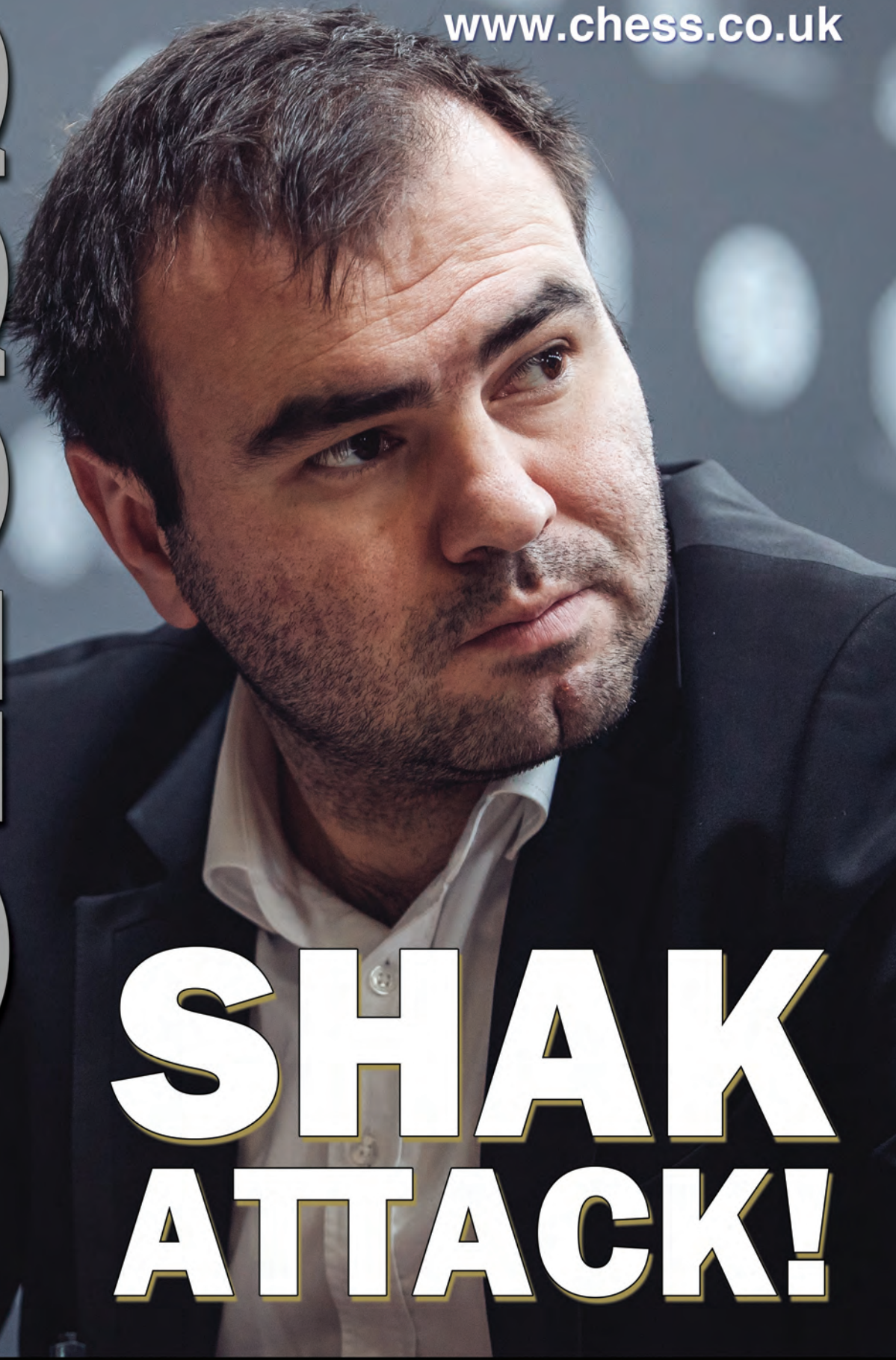


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Chess



SHAK ATTACK!

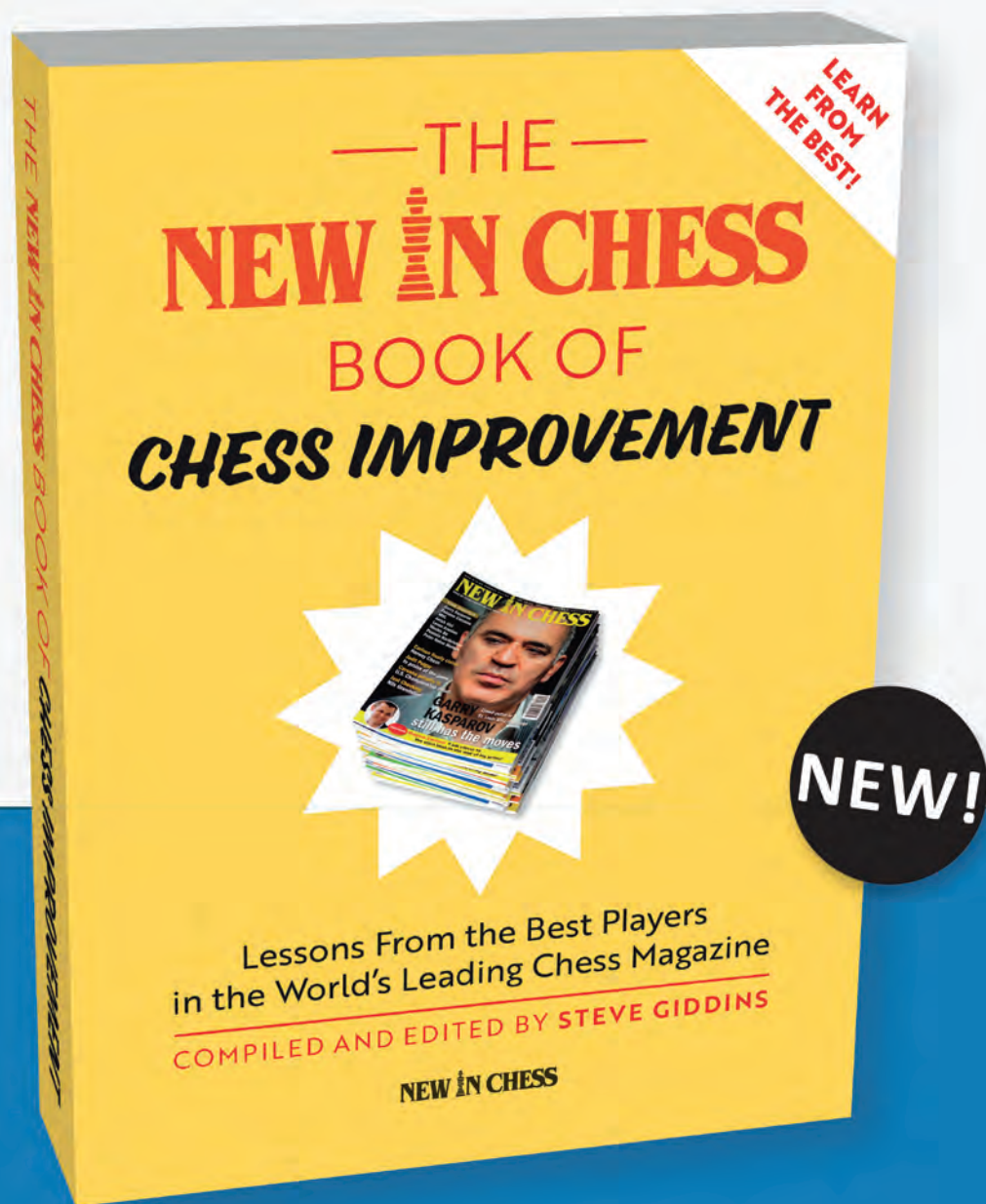


Shak Mamedyarov wins Moscow Grand Prix and breaks the 2800 barrier!

James Plaskett reports from the World Senior Team Championship

Jonathan Speelman on drawn-looking rook and knight endgames

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Photo credits: Kanwal Bhatia (p.33, right), Grand Chess Tour (p.27), Eteri Kublashvili (pp.1, 9-10, 13), Sean Marsh (p.33, left), Ray Morris-Hill (p.37), Brendan O'Gorman (p.46), Lennart Ootes (p.28, 36), Niki Riga (pp.23-25), Fiona Steil-Antoni (pp.7, 14, 16, 38), Sophie Triay (pp. 15, 50).



Tripled pawns are always a sight to be cherished. The position has now become very complicated. White's pieces have a lot of potential, but with the exception of the e1-rook, no immediate potency, whilst Black's d4-knight and rook are tremendous, but his c5-knight is achieving little, and he's an exchange down.

29...♖e2 30 ♖a1 ♗e8 31 fxg7 d2

31...♗e2+ feels wrong, removing the knight from its wonderful outpost, but after 32 ♖h1 ♗c3 it is attacking both d5 and d1, the queening square.

32 f6

The f- and g-pawn combo are quite stunning, but time will tell whether they will exert any influence.

32...♗d8 33 ♗h4

White has played such a good game up until now, but the position begins to get away from him. 33 ♗ad1!, offering the f6-pawn, looks like



Fabiano Caruana is often seen as quite solid, but he can mix it up with the best of them.

a strong continuation: 33...♗db3 (33...♗xf6 34 ♗xd2 is an extremely favourable trade for White) 34 ♗c3 and White is holding everything together – the question is whether he can activate his f1-rook. In this respect 34...b5 is a very valuable resource, pushing another passed pawn and preparing to meet 35 ♗f3 with 35...♗b6 and ...b4. Nevertheless, I would fancy Rapport's practical chances after 36 ♖h1.

33...♗f5 34 ♗g5 ♗e3 35 ♗fb1

35 ♗f3 looks best, although Black's position is rather dangerous after 35...♗e4.

35...♗c2!



A very accurate move – Caruana doesn't want an exchange, he wants a whole queen!

36 ♗h3 ♗e4!

The simplest route to a win. Alternatively, if 36...♗xa1 37 ♗f5 ♗e1+ 38 ♖f2 and once again 38...♗e4+ seals White's fate – his position is hopeless once his light-squared bishop is off the board, as his beautiful f- and g-pawns frustrate his kingside attack.

37 ♗f5 ♗xa1 38 ♗xa1 ♗d6

A delightful killer blow – now ...♗e1+ is unstoppable.

39 ♗e5

Rapport elects to create as strong a pawn chain as possible, before resigning.

39...♗xe5 40 fxe5 ♗c4 0-1



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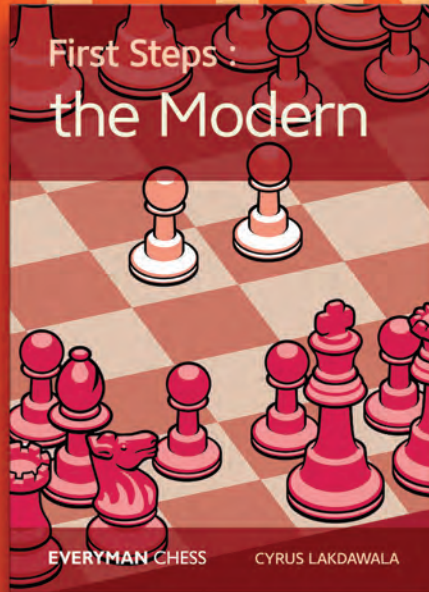
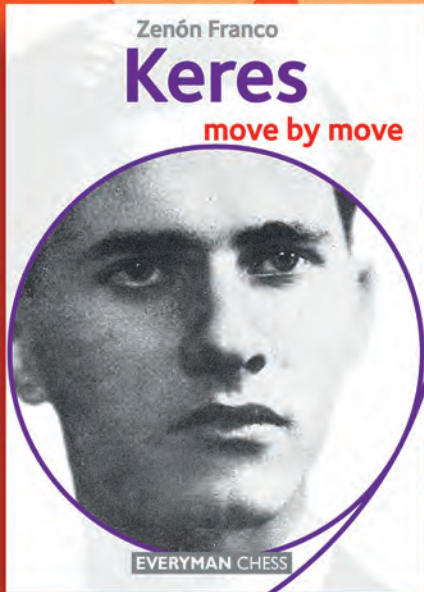
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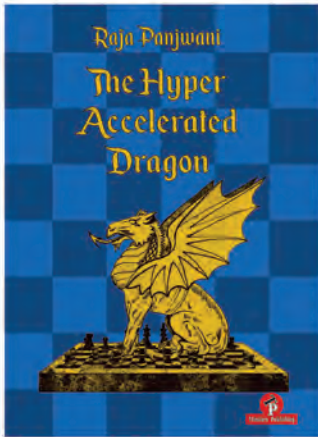
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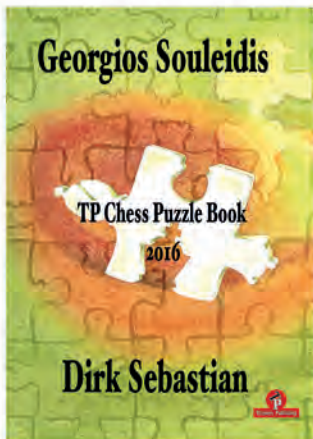
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The Hyper Accelerated Dragon
Raja Panjwani
226 pages

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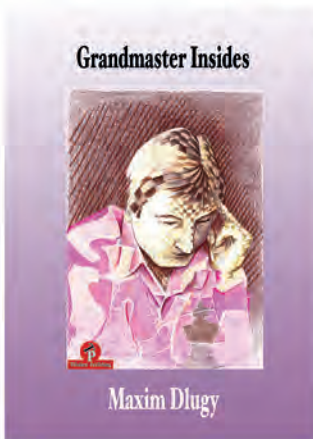
In this book International Master Raja Panjwani presents the Hyper Accelerated Dragon. He demonstrates from the second move on a dynamic way to fight 1.e4. He covers all of White's main variations and sidelines and even the most critical 'Maroczy bind' gets a new treatment. Raja's book is recommended for all players that are eager to enter the critical lines in this exciting Sicilian.



TP Chess Puzzle Book 2016
Georgios Souleidis & Dirk Sebastian
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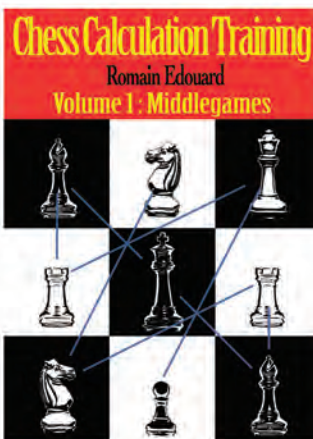
International Masters Souleidis and Sebastian started for TP a yearly new series of exercise books. They selected for their first volume an exceptional amount of great tactical 'personalized' themes, making this book unique in its kind. Their message is loud and clear: focus, exercise and improve your tactical intuition!



Grandmaster Insides
Maxim Dlugy
405 pages

03.17

Grandmaster Maxim Dlugy presents an overview of his Life and explains how he reached the World elite of Chess. He guides the reader into his analytical kitchen and explains his way of thinking. We are convinced that his training methods will help many players improving their level.



Chess Calculation Training
Romain Edouard Vol. 1: Middlegames
237 pages

04.17

Romain Edouard launches a brand new series of exercise books. In this first volume, he focuses on middlegames. Romain has carefully selected 496 positions, which arose in real games in the recent past. To obtain the best possible training result out of each position, he has separated the exercises into 11 different categories, covering both tactics and strategy, attack and defence.



Jonathan Speelman was undefeated in the over-50 section of the World Senior Team Championship in Crete. Don't forget that if you'd like to submit your 'agony' and 'ecstasy' games for his weekly ChessBase column to submit them to jonathan@speelman.demon.co.uk.

S. Franklin-J. Speelman
4NCL, Hinckley 2014



White is in huge trouble here with ...g4 followed by a back rank mate in the air. Sam tried 65 f3, thinking, or perhaps hoping, that he was setting a trap. At first I believed him, but then I realised that Black can have his cake on f3 and successfully digest it.

65 f3

65 ♖e2 g4!, ignoring the threat of ♜e8+, wins easily, while 65 ♗d1 makes the best of a bad job, though 65...g4 66 hxg4 ♜xg4+ 67 ♜g1 ♖b2 68 ♖f1 ♗c2 69 ♜b5 e5 looks awful.

65...♖xf3! 66 ♖e2 ♗c3! 67 ♜e8+ ♜e7

67...♜f7 68 ♜d6+ ♜f6! comes to the same thing.

68 ♖xe5 ♗c6!



The point. The white knight is trapped and so Black can defend e6 before eating it.

69 g4

Instead, 69 ♜g7 ♜f6 70 ♖xe6+ (70 ♜xe6 ♜xe5 71 ♜xg5 ♗c3! keeps complete control, and if 72 ♜f3+ ♖xf3!) 70...♖xe6 71 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 72 ♜g1 ♜e5 is a winning pawn endgame: 73 ♜f1 ♜e4 74 ♜e2 f4 75 ♜f2 f3! 76 gxf3+ ♜f4. As such, 69 ♖a5 ♜xe8 70 ♖a7 was the best chance, but if Black is careful, he can certainly win: for example, 70...♜f8 71 ♖h7 ♗c3 72 ♜g1 ♖g3 73 ♜f2 f4 74 ♖a7 e5 75 ♖a4 (or 75 ♖a2 e4 76 ♖b2 e3+ 77 ♜f1 f3) 75...♜f7 76 ♗c4 ♜f6 77 ♖a4 ♜f5 78 ♖a5 g4 79 hxg4+ ♖xg4 80 ♖a6 ♖g3 81 ♖h6 h3 and wins. **69...hxg3+ 70 ♜xg3 ♜xe8 0-1**



A little bird just told me

A round-up of what the top players and chess personalities have been saying on Twitter

ChessVibes - @ChessVibes

Ding Liren, after winning in Moscow: "My mother accompanied me here. She cooked my meals for me so I could spend more time studying chess!"

Gawain Jones - @GMGawain

Finally home! Success in Dubai, fun times in Reykjavik and then @4NCL Champions with a dominant Guildford. @dubaichess @ReykjavikOpen

Nigel Short - @nigelshortchess

A Giuoco Comatoso against Harika to finish a disappointing tournament. #TePeSigeman

Joel Eklund - @eklundtepe

TePeSigeman groupie! Pleasure having you @HarikaDronavali and the rest of the field in #Malmö

Magnus Carlsen - @MagnusCarlsen

Happy Birthday to @PHChess, a good friend and an even better coach!

Stephanie Allen - @Economic

"Chess hasn't invited computers, it was a hostile takeover!" @Kasparov63

Hikaru Nakamura - @GMHikaru

Fantastic to see a legend and former World Champion like Anatoly Karpov playing chess in the German Bundesliga and doing well!

Ali Mortazavi - @SilenceCEO

Mikhail Tal "I drink, I smoke, I gamble, I chase girls – but postal chess is one vice I don't have."

Jonathan Manley - @KingpinEd

"One of the calmest and cold-blooded players." Mikhail Tal on poker-faced Boris Spassky.

FullEnglishBreakfast - @TheFEBSHOW

Exclusive interview with Hou Yifan on her experience of sexism in chess and her infamous Gibraltar protest.

Magnus Carlsen - @MagnusCarlsen

In final preparations to defend my title at @norwaychess next week. It won't be easy – it's definitely the strongest tournament this year!

chess24.com - @chess24com

Kasparov: "I would bet on Magnus Carlsen making a draw with White vs. a computer if he wanted to. The same isn't true for Go"



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tournament will be on August 12th and 13th at the Terafinals in Daventry, where the UK's best players will compete for the top prize of £2,000 and the prestigious title of 'STRAT' – the overall grand junior chess title!

We are delighted that Lord Mark Price, the Minister of State at the Department for International Trade, who is a former CEO of Waitrose, an avid chess player and the author of the book *The Foolish King* [ed. – see this month's book reviews], has agreed to support the Challenge by donating his book to all schools involved. He will be at the Terafinal to congratulate the winners.

Most of England's top juniors and internationals are playing. The highest-rated players who have participated in the Megafinal so far are Koby Kalavannan (Under-15), Dominic Klingher (Under-14), and Alex Golding (also Under-14). Of the girls, Zoe Varney (Under-17), Lauren Weaver (Under-18), Imogen Camp (Under-16), and Cassie Graham (Under-16) also have high expectations to go far in the competition.

Organisers and Volunteers

The main thing that has become clear to me is that chess in the UK (like so many activities) relies on its volunteer and organisational network. I've met many inspirational people throughout the last 8 months who are the real backbone of chess in the UK and to those people I would like to say a warm thank you on behalf of myself and chess in the UK.

Not everything runs smoothly and as I have witnessed first-hand, it can be hard to run a chess event – especially with lots of young people and parents for whom this may be their first chess event: *"What is a pairing board? Who plays White? What do you mean I can't wait in the playing hall?"*.

What I have realised is that supporting organisers, teachers, coaches and volunteers has to be the number one priority in UK chess and it is absolutely my priority to ensure the UKCC holds this as its core objective. We have lots of ideas and are keen to start piloting them in the coming weeks.

We have big plans for junior chess in the UK and want to grow the numbers of participants at each level significantly in the coming years. To do that we need help and are looking for people to come forward and to reach out. If anyone is interested in one or more of the areas below and/or who would like to hear more about our plans, do please get in touch:

- UKCC schools ambassador
- Teacher
- Coach
- Organiser
- Event management
- Bookkeeping and administration
- Website design
- Full stack developers
- Publishing training materials

I'll finish with a final thought. We estimate around 5% of UK schools have some form of chess participation, yet in areas with higher participation (for example, Surrey and Oxfordshire) this figure is as high as 20%. However, in other counties the figure is only around 1.5%. This shows how much of an impact an effective support structure can have. Please get involved if you, like me, want to see those numbers rising – www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com or email me: sarahhegartychess@outlook.com.

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Man vs Machine

20 years of mindgames - Kanwal Bhatia reports on the rise of the machine

In May 1997, New York City, Garry Kasparov carried the weight of humanity on his shoulders. The undisputed strongest player in the world had never lost a match in his life, but now he was facing judgement day. IBM's leviathan, *Deep Blue*, had been created specifically to take on the strongest human in a chess match. In what was billed as the ultimate test of man versus machine, the winner would inherit the mantle of most intelligent species on the planet. Kasparov viewed it as "The great cultural, scientific experiment of the 20th century"; IBM just wanted to win.

The final match score was 3½-2½ to the machine. Admittedly aided by an absence of celebrity deaths that week, the cover of *Newsweek* declared it to be "The Brain's Last Stand" and murmurs of Skynet and an Artificial Intelligence take-over reverberated through the media following the result. It has taken Kasparov 20 years to be able to finally talk in depth about his loss, though when doing so at a packed hall in London in May this year, it was not without significant emotion.

It has been estimated that there are around 35 possible options at each move in a chess game, and a typical game consists of around 80 moves (40 for each side). That gives 35⁸⁰ possible sequences of moves. For comparison, there are only 10⁸⁰ atoms in the universe. No machine can solve chess by exhaustively searching through all sequences. Due to our own limited mental capacity, human players rely heavily on intuition to select a small set of candidate moves to consider at any point, which we then calculate the consequences of until we can assign some sort of evaluation to the resulting position. Being able to replicate this intuition in a machine might be argued to be a proxy for 'intelligence'.

An Artificial Adversary

Deep Blue was not intelligent at all. It was simply a immense calculating box with added human input. It was capable of evaluating 200 million positions per second, and the search space was reduced by using sets of rules or *heuristics* gleaned from grandmaster games and feedback. In addition, 'human' touches were reportedly added.

In positions where the logical move would be immediately clear to everyone, *Deep Blue* was programmed to stall, adding an element



Arguably the most important non-world championship match ever, Kasparov vs Deep Blue.

of doubt about its thought process, details of which IBM kept firmly hidden from Kasparov. While these days we fear computer interference when playing other humans, at that point Kasparov feared human interference when playing the computer. Thoroughly unsettled, the world champion played far below his best. The IBM-backed chunk of silicon had succeeded in doing what no sentient human was able to do before then – instead of out-calculating or out-thinking Kasparov, it had broken him psychologically.

Nowadays, an off-the-shelf chess program running on a personal laptop could beat even the world's very best. In 2016, Hikaru Nakamura, then ranked no.6 in the world, took on the program *Komodo*, but with the caveat of being given extra material or a number of extra moves at the start of the game. He still lost 2½-1½. Chess players have conceded that Machine has won this war, and banished competitive programs to their own tournaments where thousands of cores can take on billions of Hertz with interest basically only from the computing community.

In chess itself, people have switched their focus from AI to IA – Intelligence Augmentation. The aim is now to use computers to make human players the best they can possibly be. Internet databases containing millions of games played and laptop chess engines allow players to prepare for their tournaments in depth. Even at

amateur level, a well-prepared player can blitz out a large number of moves at the board by relying on recollection over understanding or thought.

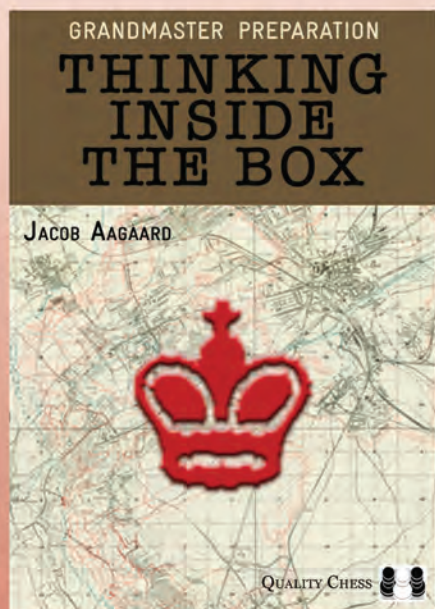
Rise of the Machines

20 years on, and the man versus machine challenge is back. With chess no longer a significant battlefield, the machines have turned their attention to the game of Go. In May of this year, a Go program created by Google DeepMind, *AlphaGo*, took on the World no.1 Ke Jie in a three-game match.

While a typical chess game could have around 35⁸⁰ possible move sequences, a typical Go game is estimated to have around 250¹⁵⁰. But it is not only this huge increase in complexity that poses computational difficulties. The heuristics that can be used to prune the search space in chess are less well-defined in Go, and it is less easy to evaluate any given position (and thus know when to stop calculating a line). Nevertheless, *AlphaGo* triumphed convincingly, winning all three games. Perhaps this has marked a significant shift in the competency of machines?

If Artificial Intelligence does give rise to a malevolent superpower, then the chess world needs to bear its share of responsibility and the DeLorean should be sent back to 1987, Liechtenstein. One of the participants at an

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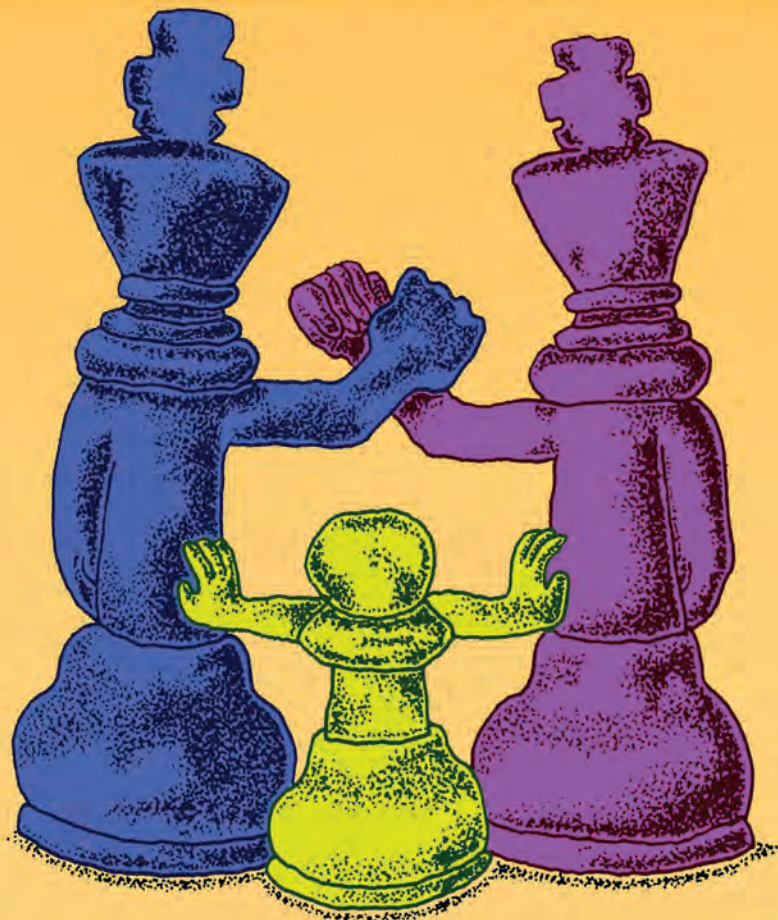
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after 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♗g7 both the critical 5 c4 and 5 ♖c3 ♖c6 6 ♗e3 ♖f6 7 ♗c4 receive two quite meaty chapters.

to set up a fortress, fairly well explained.

active rook and pawn against bishop and knight.



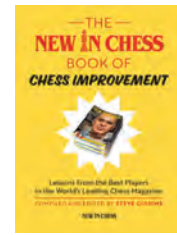
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www.welshchessunion.uk/calendar/

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noelschess.weebly.com or call 07903 913 786

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www.southwaleschess.co.uk

July 8 DeMontford Bell Kings Place Rapidplay
www.kingsplace.co.uk or call 07855 036537

July 14-16 4NCL Congress, Mortimer
www.4ncl.co.uk or call 01993 708645

July 15-23 Scottish Championships, Dundee
www.scottishchesschamp.co.uk

July 15-16 Weald Congress, Cophthorne
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July 15 Golders Green Rapidplay
goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

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congress.leedschessclub.co.uk or call 07877 549926

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www.glorneycupchess.org

July 28 - Aug 6 British Championships, Llandudno
www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk

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June 28 - July 2 Grand Chess Tour Rapid, Leuven
grandchesstour.org; Aronian, Carlsen, Kramnik, Ivanchuk, Topalov, etc.

July 15-23 Dortmund Sparkassen
www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de/2016/; Kramnik, MVL, etc.

July 24 - Aug 2 Biel Chess Festival
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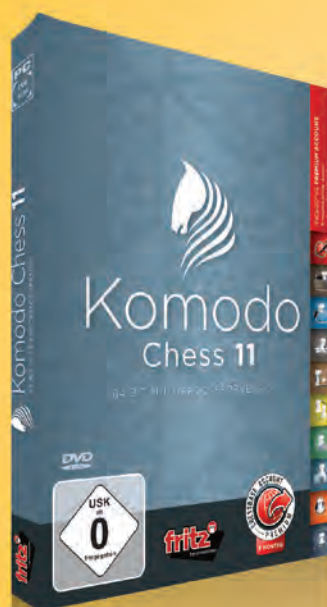
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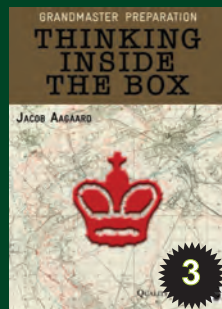
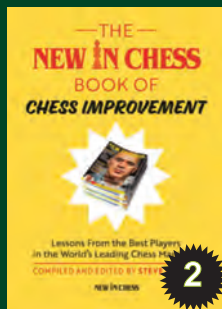
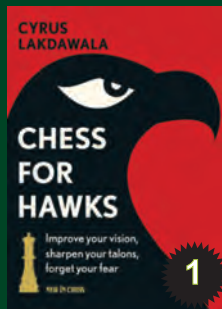


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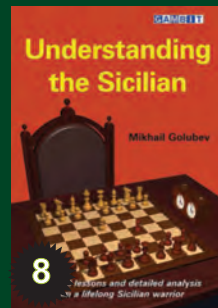
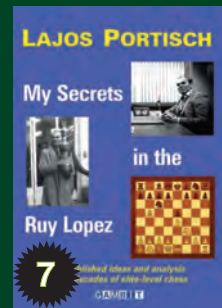
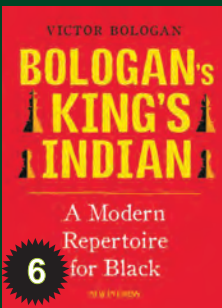
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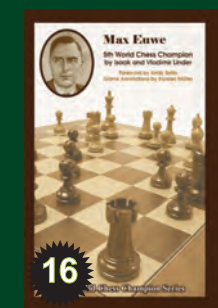
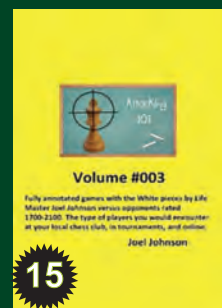
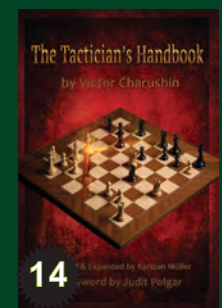
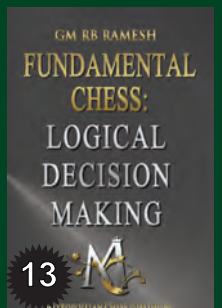
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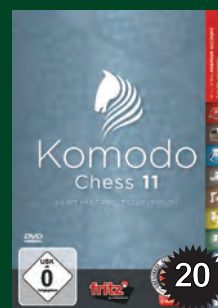
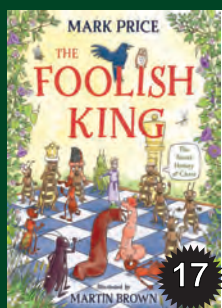
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