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# Chess



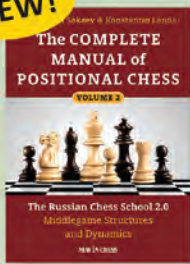
## GARRY KASPAROV CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



- Rex tempts Garry back, but Levon wins in St. Louis
- John Emms annotates his award-winning best game
- Robert Page enjoys a weekend on the Kent coast

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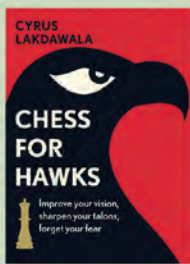
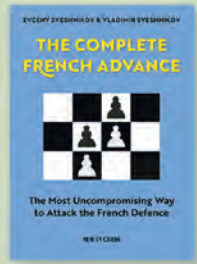
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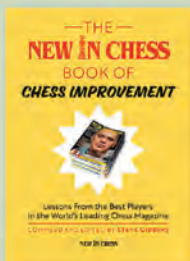
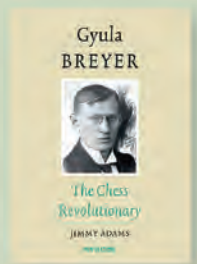
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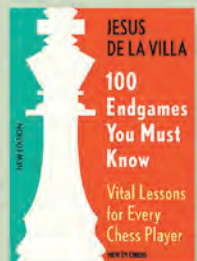
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# 60 Seconds with... Louise Head

## the new English Women's Champion



**Born:** 18th September 1997, London.

**Place of residence:** Crowthorne in Berkshire, but in university term time I live in Leamington Spa.

**Occupation:** Student.

**Enjoyable?** Yes. I completed my first year of physics at Warwick University this summer and I have had a really good year meeting new people, representing the Warwick University Chess Club and going to club nights.

**And home life?** I live with my parents, my sister and have two cats.

**Sports played or followed:** Have played a fair amount of tennis and I've been to some Glimsby Town football matches with my boyfriend. I also enjoy canoeing and I did this for my gold DoFE. This summer I canoed from Henley to Windsor with friends.

**Piece of music?** The album *What Went Down* by Foals. I heard some of their songs at last year's Reading Festival.

**Film or TV series?** *Game of Thrones*.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?**

I have really enjoyed playing abroad in tournaments, particularly the World and European Youths. I also enjoy the friendly atmosphere at the Crowthorne and Warwick University clubs.

**And the worst?** Losing in the last round of a tournament. Even if you are not in contention for a prize, going home having just lost is always difficult.

**Your best move?** 1 d4!

**But less memorable than your worst move?** I've had some terrible mouse slips playing on the internet.

**And a highly memorable opponent?** I once sat down at the wrong board mid-game against one of a pair of identical twins. Typically, the other twin's opponent wasn't at the board at the time and the twins were both sitting at the same side of the table. I realised quickly when the position was completely different from when I had got up from the board!

**The best three chess books:** I read some good chess books when I was younger which helped me a lot with theory, although I haven't read many or had a favourite of late.

The *Ginger GM* DVD collection is good!

**Is FIDE doing a good job?** I believe so.

**Or your National Federation?** All the tournaments I have played in are well organised and they are graded in time.

**Any advice for either?** Continue to promote women's chess!

**Can chess make one happy?** I think so. I particularly enjoy playing competitive chess in tournaments and the 4NCL, and I always look forward to these games. In-between, internet chess and club nights are also fun and keep me entertained. I find that having a good tournament keeps me buzzing for a while after.

**A tip please for the club player:** As there is no time for preparation in league matches, it does help to have a comfortable opening knowledge.

### L.Head-K.Bhatia

English Women's Ch., West Brom 2017  
*Benko Gambit*

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6 5 b6 d6 6 ♘c3 ♗bd7 7 e4 g6 8 ♗f3 ♙g7 9 ♙e2 0-0 10 0-0 ♖xb6 11 ♗d2 ♗e8 12 ♗c4 ♗a7 13 ♙g5 ♗e5 14 ♗e3 f5 15 exf5 gxf5 16 ♗c4 ♗g6 17 ♗d2 ♗f6 18 ♗fe1 ♗b8 19 ♗ad1 ♗h8 20 h4 ♗g4 21 ♗a5 ♙d4 22 ♙xg4 fxd4 23 ♙e3 ♙xe3 24 ♗xe3 ♙d7 25 ♗e2 ♗b4 26 g3 ♗e5?



27 ♗xe5! dxe5 28 ♗xe5+ ♙g8 29 ♗g5+ ♙f7 30 ♗h5+ ♙g8 31 ♗g5+ ♙f7 32 ♗e1 ♙e8 33 ♗e5 ♗b6 34 ♗c6 ♙xc6 35 ♗f5+ ♙e8 36 ♗h5+ ♙d7 37 dxc6+ ♙xc6 38 ♗xf8 ♗xb2 39 ♗e8+ ♙d6 40 ♗d8+ ♙c6 41 ♗d5+ ♙c7 42 ♗d8 1-0

# In the Shadow of a Legend

**Garry Kasparov was the centre of attention as he made a one-off comeback in the fourth leg of the Grand Chess Tour in Saint Louis, but he had to settle for a supporting role as Levon Aronian enjoyed his third major success of the year**

Four of the stars of the Sinquefeld Cup jetted straight home after that tournament, Magnus Carlsen, Wesley So, Peter Svidler and the winner, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, being either wild cards or having already played in three 2017 GCT tournaments. Vishy Anand, Levon Aronian, Fabiano Caruana, Sergey Karjakin, Hikaru Nakamura and Ian Nepomniachtchi, however, stayed on in Saint Louis for the fourth leg of the Tour. For this rapid and blitz event they were joined by Lenier Dominguez Perez, Le Quang Liem, David Navara, and a certain Garry Kasparov.

Kasparov's presence unsurprisingly generated a media frenzy, no matter how much the man himself tried to play down expectations beforehand. Even after the opening day of rapid chess he pronounced himself happy, commenting that: "Unlike 20 years ago, I was happy with three draws. My plan was to survive day one." Karjakin gradually neutralised Kasparov's favourite 4 ♖c2 Nimzo and a well-prepared Dominguez drew fairly easily with the QGD, while an early, topical pawn sacrifice in the Grünfeld gave the former champion the upper hand as Black against Nakamura, although in the end Kasparov had to demonstrate good technique to hold a pawn-down endgame.

Whilst Kasparov was shaking off a little bit of rust – his play was uncharacteristically slow at times, as our Executive Editor pointed out last month – Aronian, Caruana, Liem and Nepomniachtchi were a little faster out of the blocks, all four finishing the opening day on '+1'. Caruana did particularly well, bouncing back from a drastic turnaround in a frantic finish with Liem, and with crushing wins over Navara and Karjakin no less, but despite that the game of the day belonged to Levon Aronian.

## L.Aronian-D.Navara

Round 1 (rapid)

*Queen's Indian Defence*

**1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♞f3 b6 4 g3 ♟a6 5 b3 ♟b4+ 6 ♟d2 ♟e7 7 ♞c3 0-0 8 ♟g2 ♟5 9 cxd5 exd5 10 0-0 ♟e8 11 ♞e5 ♟b7 12 ♖c2**

Three rounds later Navara switched sides

and against QID expert Karjakin no less. The Czech no.1 preferred 12 a3!? and after 12...c5 13 dxc5 bxc5 14 ♖c1 ♞a6 15 ♞d3 ♖c8 16 ♟g5 ♟a8 17 e3 a typically complex hanging pawn position was discussed, perhaps very slightly better for White and, indeed, Navara did eventually prevail thanks to a brutal late attack.

**12...c5 13 dxc5 bxc5 14 ♖ad1 ♖c8**

14...♞a6!? à la Karjakin might improve, intending 15 e4? ♟d6.

**15 e4!?**

A new move and a decent one at that, especially at such a time limit. Moreover, it marks the beginning of a most powerful sequence of moves from Aronian.

**15...♟f8 16 f4 d4!**

Correctly provoking White's next and a better choice than solidly suffering in a slightly worse position after 16...dxe4 17 ♞xe4 ♞xe4 18 ♟xe4 ♟xe4 19 ♖xe4 ♞d7 20 ♟c3.

**17 ♞d5 ♞xd5 18 exd5 f6 19 ♖de1!**



White's d-pawn would become quite vulnerable after 19 ♞c4 ♖d7 when even 20 ♟e4 h6 places the burden on him to demonstrate potential compensation, but instead Aronian makes a strong offer of a piece.

**19...fxe5!?**

A bold decision. 19...♞d7 20 ♞c6 would have given White some pressure, but Navara was soon to regret conceding such a strong initiative by grabbing the piece.

**20 fxe5 ♞d7 21 e6!?**

The prelude to a further sacrifice. Instead, after 21 ♖f5 ♞xe5 22 ♖xe5 ♖xf5 23 ♖xf5 ♟d6 Black would have been OK, but

White might have begun with 21 ♟e4! when 21...h6 22 e6 ♞f6 23 ♖xf6 gxf6 24 ♟h7+! ♟h8 25 ♖g6 generates a very strong attack indeed.

**21...♞f6 22 ♖xf6!**

Naturally the defender had to go. White is all in and must keep rolling forwards.

**22...gxf6 23 ♖f5**



**23...♖d8?**

Losing, but 23...♖c7! 24 ♖e4 h5! is just the



*Czech no.1 David Navara is one of the most popular GMs, but had no answer to Aronian.*

A shocking new idea which Kasparov wheeled out not once, but three times in the blitz. He clearly believes in it.

**9...c5**  
Both Aronian and Anand preferred 9...♙b7 and after 10 ♙g5 ♕d5 11 ♖c1 ♜bd7 12 ♗xd5 ♙xd5 13 ♚e5 c5?! 14 ♙xf6 ♚xf6 15 dxc5 bxc5 16 f3 ♜ab8 17 e4 ♙a2 18 ♝c2 White was in control in Kasparov-Aronian, while the solid 10...♜bd7 11 ♚e5 h6! 12 ♜xd7 ♗xd7 13 ♙xf6 gxf6 14 ♜h3 f5 15 ♚d1 ♚h7 seemed OK for Black in Kasparov-Anand.

**10 dxc5 bxc5 11 h5 h6 12 g4!**  
Highly consistent and already Black faces a powerful initiative against his king. Unsurprisingly Nakamura hurries to remove the queens.



Black has beaten off the first wave of the assault, but that's the end of the good news

for him: his kingside remains vulnerable, c5 is weak and White has the bishop-pair to boot.

**16...♜c6 17 ♖c1 ♚d4 18 ♜xc5 ♚xf3+ 19 exf3 ♙d7 20 ♜h4!?**  
Kasparov isn't sure where his light-squared bishop will be best located, so leaves it alone for now, swinging the rook into play.



At first it appears that Black has worked wonders and blockaded the position, but as Kasparov now paused, he realised that the pure opposite-coloured bishop endgame isn't a trivial draw for Black.

**28 ♙xd5!?** **exd5 29 ♜dxd5 ♜xd5+ 30 ♜xd5 ♚d7 31 ♜xd7 ♙xd7 32 ♚e3 g6**  
Instead, 32...♚h6 33 ♜d4 ♚hx5 34 ♚c5 ♚g4 35 ♙d2 ♚f3 36 ♚b6 ♙b5 37 a4!  
**33 h6**

Kasparov has realised that an extra g-pawn isn't important, as will quickly become clear.

**33...♚hx6 34 ♚d4 ♚h5?**  
This is too slow. White will be able to hold the kingside with his bishop, while his own king and queenside majority win material on the other flank. Instead, 34...♚g7! 35 ♚c5+ ♚f7 was essential when Black is just in time to hold after 36 ♚b6 ♙b5 37 a4 ♙xa4 38 ♚xa6 ♙d1! 39 b5 ♙e2 (gaining a key tempo) 40 ♚b6 ♚e7.  
**35 ♚c5 ♚g4 36 ♙d2 ♚f3 37 ♚b6 ♙b5 38 a4!**



**38...♙f1**  
Likewise, after 38...♙xa4 39 ♚xa6 ♚xf2 40 b5 there's no way past the dark-squared barrier for Black who will shortly lose his bishop.  
**39 b5 axb5 40 axb5 ♚xf2 41 ♚c6 ♚e2 42 ♙c1 ♚d1 43 ♙a3!**  
Heading for that most ideal of blockade squares, g5.  
**43...♚d2 44 ♙e7 1-0**

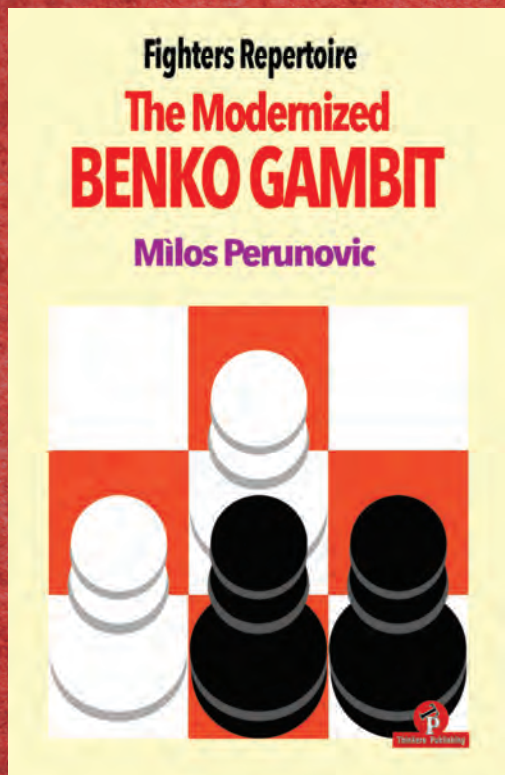
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Player	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts	TPR	
1	Levon Aronian	ARM	2799	*	½	1	0	1	0	1	½	1	1	6	2895
2	Hikaru Nakamura	USA	2792	½	*	½	1	½	0	½	½	1	1	5½	2851
3	Fabiano Caruana	USA	2807	0	½	*	½	1	0	1	1	½	1	5½	2849
4	Ian Nepomniachtchi	RUS	2751	1	0	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	5	2818
5	Leinier Dominguez Perez	CUB	2739	0	½	0	½	*	1	½	½	½	1	4½	2777
6	Le Quang Liem	VIE	2739	1	1	1	½	0	*	0	0	½	0	4	2734
7	Sergey Karjakin	RUS	2773	0	½	0	½	½	1	*	½	1	0	4	2730
8	Garry Kasparov	RUS	2812	½	½	0	0	½	1	½	*	½	0	3½	2688
9	Viswanathan Anand	IND	2783	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	*	1	3½	2692
10	David Navara	CZE	2737	0	0	0	½	0	1	1	1	0	*	3½	2697

Saint Louis Blitz 2017, Saint Louis, MO, USA, 13-19 August 2017 (Category 21, average rating 2773)

Player	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts	TPR											
1	Sergey Karjakin	RUS	2773	*	*	½	½	1	0	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	0	1	1	13½	2966	
2	Levon Aronian	ARM	2799	½	½	*	*	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	½	½	0	0	1	12½	2911	
3	Hikaru Nakamura	USA	2792	0	1	½	½	*	*	½	½	½	0	½	0	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	10½	2828	
4	Ian Nepomniachtchi	RUS	2751	0	½	0	0	½	½	*	*	½	½	1	1	1	½	0	1	½	1	1	10	2818	
5	Garry Kasparov	RUS	2812	½	0	0	½	½	1	½	½	*	*	0	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	0	1	9	2768
6	Le Quang Liem	VIE	2739	0	0	0	0	½	1	½	0	1	½	*	*	½	½	½	½	0	1	1	1	8½	2756
7	Leinier Dominguez Perez	CUB	2739	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	½	½	*	*	½	1	1	1	1	1	7½	2720
8	Viswanathan Anand	IND	2783	0	½	0	½	½	0	½	1	½	½	½	½	0	*	*	½	½	½	0	0	7	2692
9	David Navara	CZE	2737	0	1	½	1	0	0	0	½	½	½	1	0	0	0	½	½	*	*	0	0	6	2652
10	Fabiano Caruana	USA	2807	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	½	1	1	1	*	*	5½	2628	

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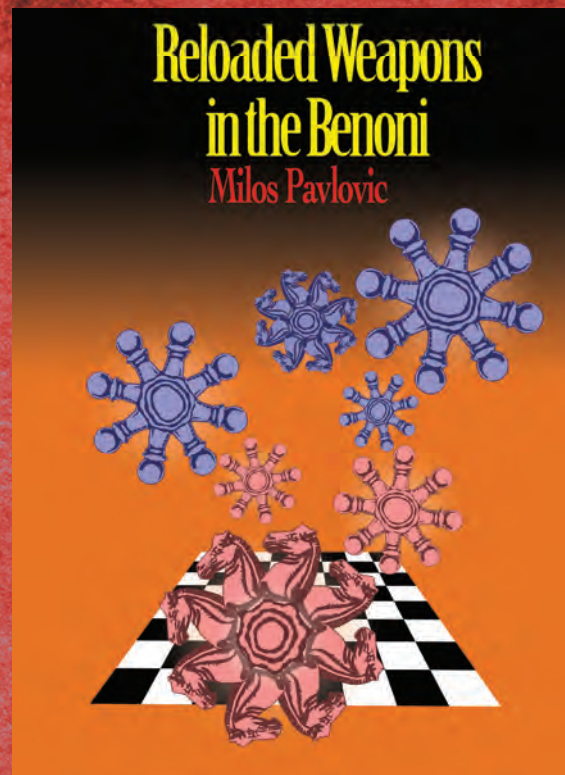
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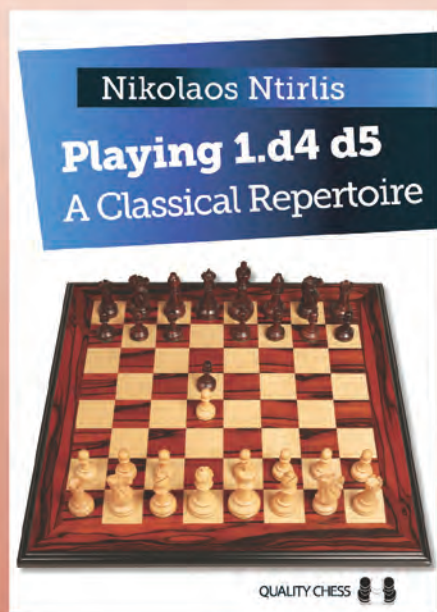
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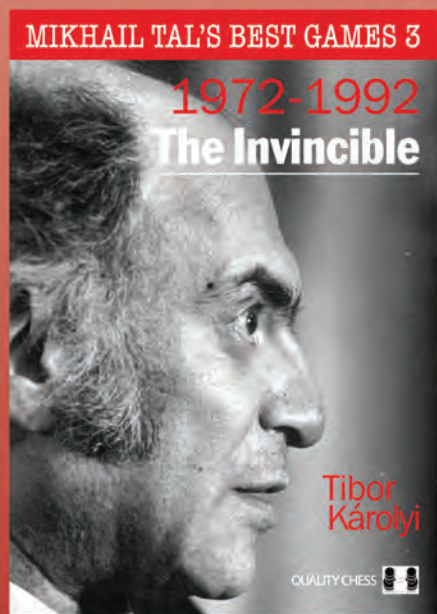
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# Steel Success

## Chris Ross reports from an enjoyable visit to the Darnall & Handsworth Rapidplay

On a lovely autumn Saturday, the Sheffield-based Darnall and Handsworth chess club held its second FIDE Rapidplay. Ably organised by Geoff Brown, the tournament was a success, with over 100 participants in total, and four sections. FIDE Arbiter Adam Raof oversaw proceedings with his usual efficiency and everybody appeared to enjoy an enthralling tournament.

The depth in camaraderie at this chess club is seldom seen in many local chess venues. It was truly refreshing to witness the amount of willingness to support setting up and then clearing away after the event. The night prior to the tournament, members of Darnall and Handsworth gathered to organise the venue, including setting out the multitude of sets, tables and chairs. So smooth was this operation that it took under an hour to clear the whole venue at the conclusion of the prize-giving. With plenty of playing space, vast amounts of green space surrounding the building and light refreshments available, every comfort was taken care of.

In the Open section, it was a tight affair for the prize positions. Tim Wall and Richard Britton shared first place on 4½/6, finishing half a point ahead of four players. In the Under-170 Major, Attar Ansari took outright first place with 5/6, as did Andrew Lake in the Under-145 Intermediate. Finally, Danny Damson claimed sole first place in the Under-120 Minor with an impressive 5½/6, Jeff Wilson coming second with 5/6, half a point ahead of Anna Szasz in third.

As for myself, despite the pressure of being top seed in the Open, I played fairly well, even though I do not really enjoy

rapidplay as a general rule. Since using my own Braille chess set would be too laborious and time-consuming at such a time control, I tend to play 'blindfold', which becomes rather stressful after three or four rounds! Still, I enjoyed this tournament and can be content with my final 4/6, with my only loss against the eventual joint winner of the tournament.

This game was a long protracted affair, where Black adopted the policy of not creating a target for the white attack. The King's Indian Attack is fundamentally about attacking the black king when he flees to the kingside. If the black king remains in the centre, White's plan is somewhat thwarted. As it is, Richard played sensibly, defended on the queenside and broke through on the f-file in due course. Indeed, it was a patient and well-executed game by White.



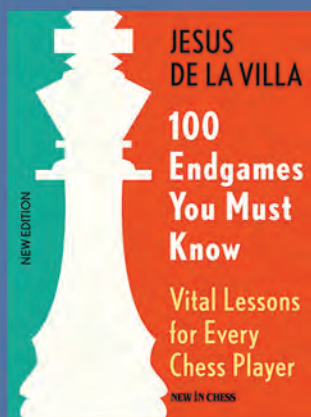
Chris Ross showed that one can play well at rapidplay even without sight of the board.

**R. Britton-C. Ross**  
Sheffield (rapid) 2017  
*King's Indian Attack*

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 e6 3 d3 d5 4 ♜bd2 ♜c6  
5 g3 ♜f6 6 ♙g2 ♙e7 7 0-0 b5 8 e5 ♜d7  
9 ♚e1 a5 10 h4 b4 11 ♜f1 a4 12 a3  
bxa3 13 bxa3 h6 14 h5 ♜b6 15 ♜1h2 c4  
16 d4 ♙d7 17 c3 ♜a5 18 ♙f4 ♚a7  
19 ♜g4 ♜b3 20 ♚a2 ♜a8 21 ♜d2 ♜c7  
22 ♜b1 ♙c6 23 ♜e3 ♙a8 24 ♙g4 ♙f8  
25 ♙f3 ♙d7 26 g4 ♙e7 27 ♙h3 ♙c8  
28 ♙h2 ♚g8 29 f4 ♚a6 30 ♚f2 ♜b5  
31 ♜c2 ♙c6 32 ♚ef1 ♙h4 33 ♙g3 ♙e7



34 f5 ♙g5 35 ♙f4 ♙h4 36 ♙g3 ♙e7  
37 fxe6 fxe6 38 g5 ♙d7 39 g6 ♙g5  
40 ♜b4 ♚b6 41 ♙g4 ♜b8 42 ♚f7 ♙e8  
43 ♚f8 ♚xf8 44 ♚xf8 ♙e7 45 ♚g8 ♜a7  
46 ♙f3 ♜c1 47 ♜h2 ♜d3 48 ♜xd3 cxd3  
49 ♙xd3 ♙c6 50 ♙f3 ♜xa3 51 ♜xa3 ♙xa3  
52 ♚xg7+ ♙b7 53 ♙f7 ♙c1 54 ♙e8 a3  
55 ♙a4+ ♚a6 56 ♙b5 ♙f4 57 ♙xb7# 1-0



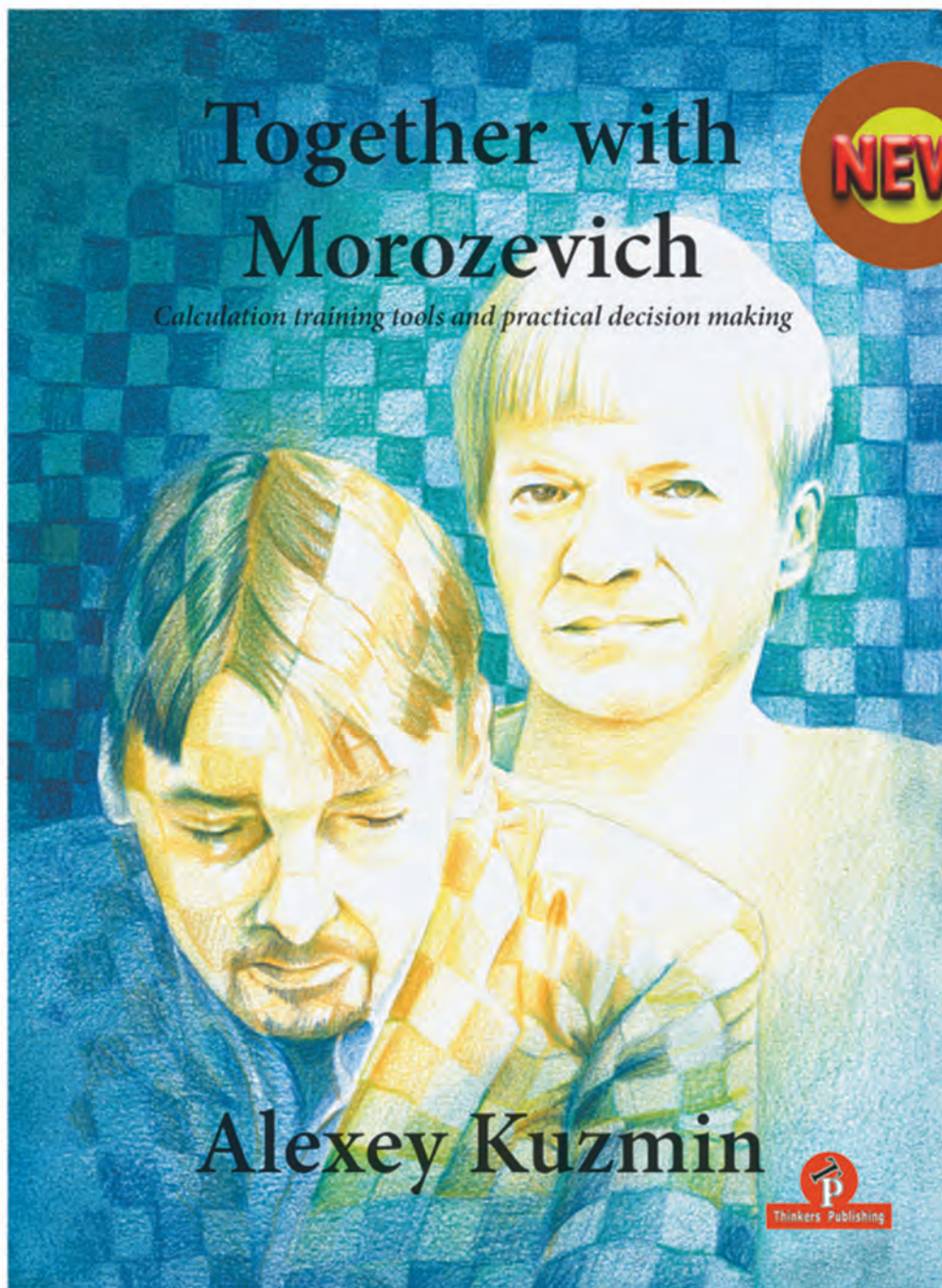
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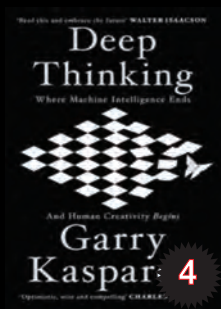
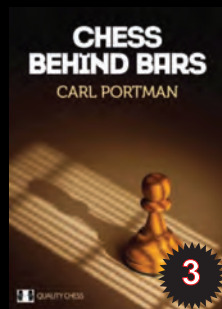
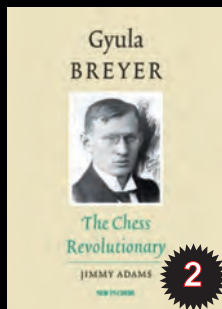
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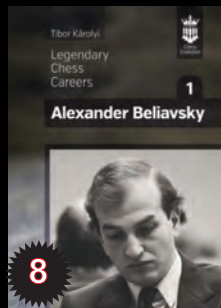
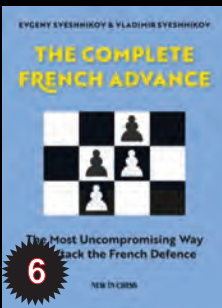
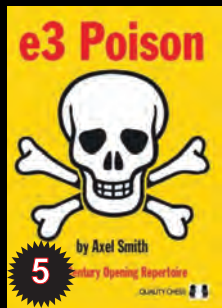


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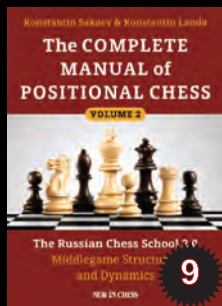
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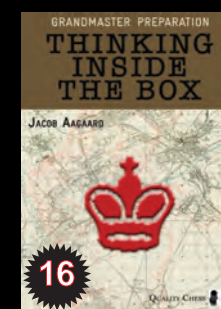
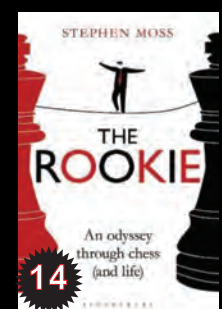


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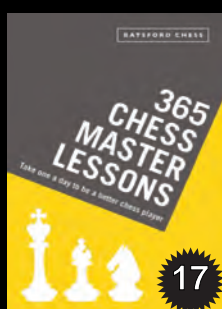


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