

Chess



Sergey Karjakin (Russia) 2760 Elo
The loser of the 2016 World Championship

**Levon Aronian (Armenia) 2805 Elo
& Ding Liren (China) 2777 Elo**
Qualified via the 2017 Chess World Cup

**Shak Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan) 2799 Elo
& Alexander Grischuk (Russia) 2772 Elo**
Qualified via the FIDE Grand Prix 2017

**Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2799 Elo
& Wesley So (USA) 2788 Elo**
Qualified via their FIDE rating

Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) 2787 Elo
Organiser's Wildcard

MEET THE CANDIDATES BUT WHO WILL EMERGE TO CHALLENGE CARLSEN?



William J. Lombardy - John Henderson pays tribute to an American Great

The Christmas Quiz - Charles Higgin's entertaining festive challenge

AlphaZero - DeepMind's baby learns chess and crushes Stockfish

Chess

Founding Editor: B.H. Wood, OBE. M.Sc †
Executive Editor: Malcolm Pein
Editors: Richard Palliser, Matt Read
Associate Editor: John Saunders
Subscriptions Manager: Paul Harrington

Twitter: @CHESS_Magazine
Twitter: @TelegraphChess - Malcolm Pein
Website: www.chess.co.uk

Subscription Rates:

United Kingdom

1 year (12 issues)	£49.95
2 year (24 issues)	£89.95
3 year (36 issues)	£125

Europe

1 year (12 issues)	£60
2 year (24 issues)	£112.50
3 year (36 issues)	£165

USA & Canada

1 year (12 issues)	\$90
2 year (24 issues)	\$170
3 year (36 issues)	\$250

Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues)	£72
2 year (24 issues)	£130
3 year (36 issues)	£180

Distributed by:

Post Scriptum (UK only),
Unit G, OYO Business Park, Hindmans Way,
Dagenham, RM9 6LN - Tel: 020 8526 7779

LMPI (North America)

8155 Larrey Street, Montreal (Quebec),
H1J 2L5, Canada - Tel: 514 355-5610

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors. Contributions to the magazine will be published at the Editors' discretion and may be shortened if space is limited.

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Chess Magazine (ISSN 0964-6221) is published by:
Chess & Bridge Ltd, 44 Baker St, London, W1U 7RT
Tel: 020 7288 1305 Fax: 020 7486 7015
Email: info@chess.co.uk, Website: www.chess.co.uk

FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read
Cover photography: Lennart Ootes

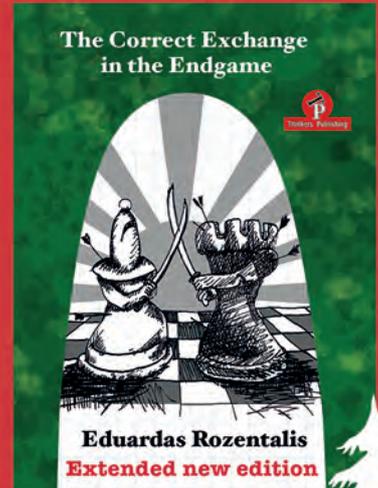
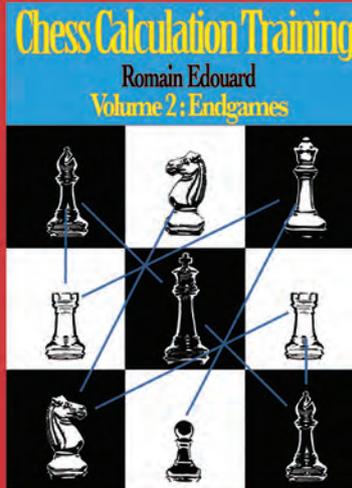
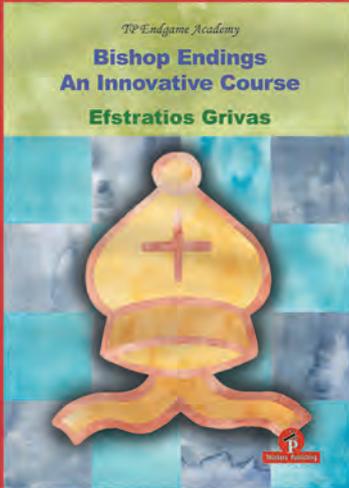
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Printed in the UK by The Magazine Printing Company using only paper from FSC/PEFC suppliers www.magprint.co.uk

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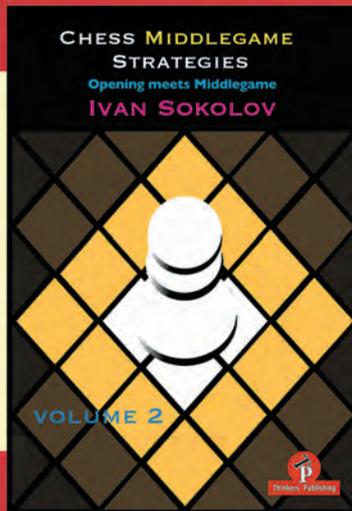
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ALWAYS ONE MOVE AHEAD

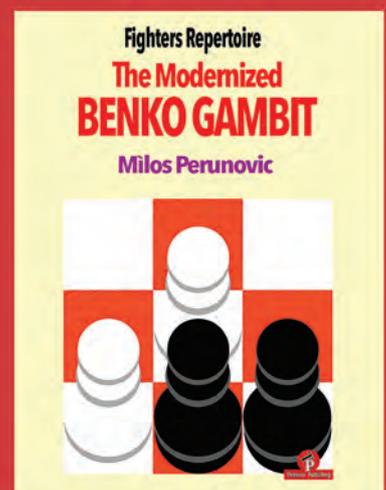
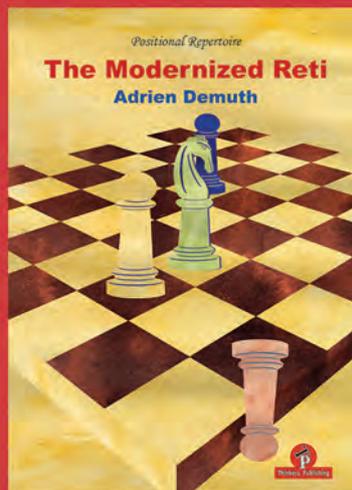
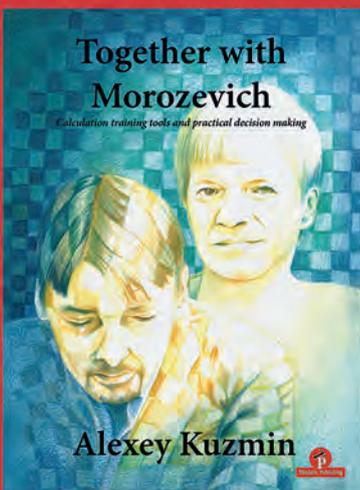


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WINTER
2017-2018

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Full Steam Ahead

Matthew Lunn reports from this autumn's USIC Six Nations railway tournament

One of the supreme joys of working on the railway is its rich sense of tradition, which gives you a wonderful feeling of comradeship with your colleagues. The USIC Six Nations tournament celebrates this in excellent style, as the dubious talents of Europe's finest chess-playing rail professionals are put to the test in a convivial all-play-all team event.

As one of a small pool of eligible chess players, I had the fine, but rather misleading honour of representing Great Britain, along with Graham Bolt, Will Taylor, John Bass, Richard Cowan, Tony Lee, Trevor Jones and Mike Broad (our non-playing captain) at this year's event in København, a Czech mountain village close to the border with Poland. Along with the Czechs, who boasted two FMs in their ranks, we would face a strong German side and experienced teams from Austria, Belgium and Switzerland.

The event followed the format of the classic Swiss weekender, with a round the first evening and two on each of the remaining days. These first rounds rarely find one in the best of form, and the two-hour drive from Prague offered little room for preparation, aside from Will attempting to learn and subsequently giving up on the Czech Pirc, and some decidedly dodgy King's Indian analysis. Yet after checking into our rooms, eating a hearty lunch and bonding with the hotel dog, we were raring to go, and only slightly concerned by the idiosyncratic kings and queens that characterised the Czech chess sets.

Round One: Austria vs. Great Britain

Drawn against Austria in Round 1, we got off to a flier, with Richard's opponent committing hara-kiri in the middlegame, allowing a mate in one. Tony's game took a strange turn when his opponent, having begun to execute a winning plan, played an alternative that lost a piece.

A.Lee-W.Krammer Round 1



White is a pawn up, but his position is hopeless – Black's passed e-pawn is devastatingly strong.

34...♙d4+ 35 ♖h1 ♗d2

Black threatens ...♗d1, and would meet 36 ♙b4 with 36...♙f2.

36 ♙xf4 ♙f2??

Sometimes it doesn't matter if you execute a plan in a different order, but this is not one of those times. 36...♗d1 37 ♙g3 ♙c3 was indicated, and decisive.

37 ♙xd2 1-0

Graham and I achieved slightly underwhelming draws on the top two boards; mine a grotty game in which my lack of positional understanding led to me having to hold a worse ending in severe time trouble, and Graham's characterised by a nicely played opening which made way to a complex, but unhappy ending, which he held thanks to an ingenious rook manoeuvre. John played characteristically solidly, but failed to conjure an advantage, whilst Will, having been two pawns ahead from the opening, found himself in the following pleasant middlegame.

Notes by Will Taylor

H.Ross-W.Taylor Round 1



In this position, I had been planning to push my c-pawn and plant a rook on d4, when I grew impatient and decided on a quicker way to win.

30...♗h8??

Planning to mate him down the h-file. My sense of danger completely let me down here, as I didn't imagine he could have any real threats on the kingside. With this move Black throws away a '+5' advantage and hands over the advantage to White, but worse is yet to come!

30...c4 31 ♙c2 ♗d4 is overwhelming; White's threats on the kingside don't amount to anything, and the queenside passed pawns will run home.

31 ♗ef1! ♗h6??

Now Black is totally lost (the engine says '+7'). My opponent, visibly excited, gestured at the g-pawn and offered me a draw. In the few seconds since I had played my move I had realised that ♗xf6 was potentially problematic, but not that I was lost, so I asked him to play his move.

32 ♗xg5+??

Played immediately and with a great flourish, but this is the third howler in the last four half-moves. After 32 ♗xf6! ♗xf6 (or 32...♗xf6 33 ♗xg5+ ♖h7 34 ♗xf6 and Black has to give up the queen to avoid mate) 33 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 34 ♗xg5+ ♗g6 35 ♗e7+ White will pick up the bishop with a winning position.

32...fxg5 33 ♗f7+ ♗xf7 34 ♗xf7+ ♖h8 35 ♗xb7

Black emerges up an exchange and with his queenside pawns ready to run home. Fortunately I managed to win this position without further misadventures.

35...c4 36 ♙d1 ♗d8 37 ♙g4 ♗c6 0-1

Round 2: GB vs. Switzerland

Round 1 was not a smooth victory, but it put us in extremely good spirits. The same thing could not be said of the realisation that Round 2 would begin at 08.30, a timetable which speaks of a punctuality that most railways could only dream of. I arrived at my board punch-drunk from little sleep, yet it was my Swiss opponent whose play suffered in the early hours.

T.Muelli-M.Lunn Round 2 London System

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 ♙f4 ♙g7 4 e3 0-0 5 h3 d6 6 ♙e2 c5 7 c3 ♙e6

Ever since Andrew Green taught me this line in the late noughties, I've looked forward to facing the London System. If you're a King's Indian player, I highly recommend this set-up, which is great fun to play and easy to learn.

8 dxc5

This felt like an unambitious move, but it has been essayed by a number of strong players, including Seirawan and Speelman.

8 ♗bd2 ♗b6 reveals the point of 7...♙e6, as White cannot defend the b-pawn with ♗b3. White's position is perfectly good, but Black's idea is simple: play ...♗c6, ...♗ac8 and put pressure down the c-file. This leads to a very playable position, avoiding the stodge of a lot of London Systems, though you must remember to meet ♗c4 with ...♙xc4.

8...dxc5 9 ♗xd8 ♗xd8 10 ♗bd2 ♗c6



I now realised that I had no idea how to meet ♖g5.

11 ♖e5?

A reasonable positional move, with a horrible tactical flaw. In the blitz tournament that took place after the fourth round I faced Thomas again, and he wisely opted for 11 ♖g5, outplaying me in the middlegame. In fact after the natural 11...♗d7 12 ♗c4 (or 12 ♗c7 ♗dc8 13 ♗h2 h6 14 ♖gf3 ♗d5 and Black had a comfortable game in Mensing-Timman, Willemstad 2003) 12...♗e8 13 0-0-0 ♖a5 with ...♗d5 to follow is very reasonable for Black.

11...♗xe5 12 ♗xe5 ♗xd2!

This idea is not the sort one expects to encounter in the opening, and therefore would be quite easy to miss first thing in the morning.

13 ♗xf6 ♗xe2+

Played immediately, and I'm slightly concerned that I didn't analyse 13...♗xb2, which is even more convincing than the text.

14 ♗xe2 ♗xf6

However, it is simple enough to convert from here, and I did, eventually.

Richard won quickly against an opponent who essayed an ill-advised 3 c4 ♖f4 in the Alekhine, whilst Tony's opponent blundered two pawns early on and things went downhill from there. John and Will were both unable to extract anything from their advantages, though Will went closest, reaching a promising ending, but opting for the wrong plan. Graham's topsy-turvy game looked to be heading for a draw, before his opponent fell for a well-timed psychological trick.

G.Bolt-O.Buergi

Round 2



The UK Railsport team pictured outside their hotel on the Czech-Poland border. From left to right: Tony Lee, Richard Cowan, Graham Bolt, Michael Broad, Trevor Jones, Matthew Lunn, John Bass and Will Taylor accompanied by the hotel hound.

White has been manoeuvring for the last 30 moves, and Black has held on gamely in spite of his time trouble. Yet Graham has one last roll of the dice:

73 ♖e4!?

Banking on his opponent seeing ghosts, and believing that the knight is immune from capture.

73...♗e6+

Allowing White's king to occupy some valuable squares, making Black's job a lot harder. After 73.♖xe4 74 ♗xe4 ♗e6 White cannot progress.

74 ♗e5 ♖f8 75 ♖f6 ♗e6

Missing White's tactical shot. 75...♗g7 is forced, though White can keep pressing with 76 ♗f5.

76 ♖g8!

Winning the h-pawn, and with it the game (1-0, 90).

We were briefly top of the table, but our celebrations were tempered by the prospect of consecutive matches against the Czechs and the Germans, both of whom would put us at a significant rating disadvantage. With the Czechs having beaten the Germans in Round 1, our third round clash was critical.

Round 3: Czech Republic vs. GB

We fought hard in our Round 3 games; my insipid draw offer was a notable exception, though I felt I was struggling to find a plan on the white side of a Wade Defence. Trevor had a gallant debut on board 6 (replacing Tony Lee); having dropped a couple of pawns in the middlegame, he caused his opponent numerous problems in an ending before eventually succumbing.

Graham emerged from the opening with just two pieces for a rook and three connected passed pawns, but his opponent inexplicably blundered the middle pawn, and had to win the game all over again. John

continued his solid run with a hard-fought draw, whilst Will missed a chance to attain a significant advantage on the black side of a Sämisch King's Indian, the game ultimately petering out to a drawn ending.

Our most exciting game came on Board 5, where Richard Cowan reached a fascinating ending.

Notes by Richard Cowan

Z.Ruzicka-R.Cowan

Round 3



49...♗b8!

The only move worth playing. Although 49...h3? looks tempting, it is definitely a bad plan: 50 ♖xd6 h2 51 b7 h1♗ 52 ♗c5! (not 52 b8♗? ♗f1+ 53 ♗b7 ♗xf2 54 ♖xf5+ exf5 55 ♗e5+ and it's only a draw) 52...♗h8 (or 52...♗b1? 53 ♖b5+! ♗f6 54 b8♗) 53 ♗a7! and White is winning.

50 ♗c5+ ♗f6

Definitely the best square, as shown by 50...♗f7? 51 ♗d6 h3 52 ♗xb8 f4 53 ♖d6+ ♗e7 54 b7 h2 55 ♗e4 h1♗ 56 ♗d6+.

51 ♗d6 f4??

I miscalculate at a crucial moment. I should



Based on this match, we shouldn't be worried about the age of our railway employees (right).

have boldly played 51...♙xd6! 52 ♖xd6 h3 53 b7 h2 54 b8♖ h1♖.



Now:

a) 55 ♖d8+ ♗g6 56 ♗e8+ ♗g5 57 ♗x6 ♖f1+ 58 ♗a7 ♗xf3 59 a4 ♖f2+ (59...♗e3+ 60 ♗xe3+ ♖x3 is unfortunately just a draw) 60 ♗b7 leads to a draw: 60...g6 61 ♖f7+ ♗h5 62 ♖e5 ♖f4 63 ♗e7 ♖b2+ 64 ♗a8 ♖b6! and White has nothing better than to take one of the many repetitions on offer.

b) 55 ♖b2+ ♗g6 56 ♖e8 ♗f7 57 ♖d6+ ♗g8 58 ♖b3 ♖f4 59 ♖xf5 ♖c1 is unclear, although this position should be easier for Black to play due to his safer king.

c) 55 ♖e8+ ♗g6 56 ♗e5 ♖f1+ 57 ♗b6 ♖f2+ 58 ♗b5 ♖xf3 59 ♖xg7+ ♗h5 60 ♖f7+ ♗h4 61 ♖xe6 f4 62 ♖d6 ♖d3+ 63 ♗c5 ♖e3 64 a4 and this should probably peter out to a draw, though it would have been slightly hair-raising to play for both players.

52 ♙xb8 h3 53 ♖d6 ♖e1

53...h2 54 ♖e4+ ♗f5 55 ♖f2! is the move I had missed, and unfortunately for the GB team it was crucial.

54 ♖e4+ ♗f5 55 ♙xf4 ♖xf3

Or 55...♗xf4 56 b7 h2 and then either 57 b8♖+ or 57 ♖f2. The game is now over, although I played on for a few moves simply

because my opponent was playing on the increment, and I was annoyed at myself for playing 51...f4.

Round 4: Great Britain vs. Germany

First place was now out of our hands, but we knew a result against the Germans would give us a good chance of second or third, which would represent our best return in the competition. With the demands of early morning weighing heavily upon us, Graham and I quickly absented ourselves from the fight, with him accepting an early draw offer after generating little momentum with White and me allowing my opponent to force a repetition in a Maroczy Bind. Trevor, this time playing in place of Richard Cowan, faced the Germans' highest-rated player (due to a quirk of their team's qualification event), but he soon had him on the ropes before mistiming a piece sacrifice and eventually going down.

Yet things took a happy turn on the other boards. John obtained an unsurprising, but welcome draw against his strong opponent, whilst Will outplayed his opponent in an Italian Game, utilising some previous prep against an early ...g5 and quickly obtaining a comfortable advantage. This left Tony fighting for our honour in a gruesome ending, which he impressively held. This 3-3 draw felt very much like a victory, all but guaranteeing third place and leaving us with an outside chance of second if we thrashed the Belgians.

Round 5: Belgium vs. Great Britain

We acquitted ourselves well on route to victory in the final match, though tiredness had evidently begun to set in. My opponent sacrificed a pawn in a QGD, and I was soon a very clear pawn ahead – yet a misplayed middlegame, during which both of us missed a tactic which won back the pawn, meant it

was a rather incoherent victory.

Graham's top board clash against fellow Railsport veteran 'Fast' Eddy Van Espen led to a fascinating positional encounter, concluding with a bishop sacrifice that did not quite lead to a repetition, and a valuable British win. Tony's knight sacrifice, though not the best continuation, deserved better than it got, and soon he was material down with no semblance of an attack. Yet he persevered and, not for the first time in the tournament, was duly rewarded, with his opponent dropping first a knight and then the exchange. John could not break down his opponent's robust defence, whilst Will, as in Round 1, found himself in an excellent position on the black side of a Ruy Lopez.

Notes by Will Taylor

P.Deblauwe-W.Taylor

Round 5



White has played too slowly in the opening, and come under attack on the kingside. He now (after 17...g4) had to grab on g4 and hope for the best, but instead tries a tactic:

18 dxe5 dxe5 19 ♖xe5 gxf3

19...♗xe5 also works. White was no doubt hoping to exploit the pin after 20 ♖d3, but 20...♖xh3+ 21 gxf3 ♖g5 retains a strong attack.

20 ♙xf4 hxg2?!

A bit lax. The simple 20...♗xf4 was stronger, and completely winning.

21 ♖cd3?!

I had not been impressed by my opponent's opening play, and assumed he would just take back on g2, when after 21 ♗xg2 ♖xf4 he can resign. This game serves as a painful reminder that just because your opponent has played weak moves earlier in the game, one cannot count on him continuing to do so.

21 ♖f3 would have been similar to the game, but without allowing the crushing 21st move which I missed.

21...gxf1♖+?!

Taking a rook with a pawn and promoting to a queen is about as natural as they come, so I do not blame myself too much for missing 21...♗h4 here. Perhaps a strict application of the 'look at all forcing moves' maxim would have allowed me to spot it though. Then the only way to prevent a quick mate would have been 22 ♙h2, when 22...gxf1♖+ 23 ♗xf1 ♖xh2 leaves Black up a whole rook and with

a continuing attack (my team mates will recall me whining about being '+12' here).

22 ♖xf1 ♜d8

From around this point on I was playing on increment. Grischuk frequently manages to play 20 moves on increment rather well, but the rest of this game should serve as a cautionary tale of what can happen to ordinary club players when they manage their time poorly.

I am not entirely sure why I didn't play the stronger 22...0-0-0, but perhaps felt my king was safer on e8. After 23 ♖f3 I may have imagined the white queen landing on a8 some day. Would that I had the same imagination for my own attacks as I have for my opponents'...

23 b3 ♖h4 24 ♖f3 ♖h3+?! ♜d7

Swapping queens is an understandable impulse when you are short of time, but this is where my real problems begin. My queen was capable of causing problems for White, but without it my other pieces appear awkwardly placed. Moreover, 24...♜xd3! was winning, as shown by, for example 25 ♜xd3 ♙g4 26 ♙g3 ♖h3+ 27 ♖g2 ♙e2+ 28 ♖g1 ♖xg2+ 29 ♖xg2 ♙xd3.

25 ♖xh3 ♙xh3+ 26 ♙e2 ♜d7?! ♜d7

Trying to cover c6 before playing f6, but it's a bit slow. 26...f6 27 ♜c6 ♙g4+ 28 ♖d2 ♜d7 was still much better for Black.

27 ♖h1



This was accompanied by a draw offer, which I rejected immediately, as the team needed to win 6-0 to have any hope of beating the Germans on board count.

27...h5?

Trying to keep everything, but kings are more important than pawns, and 27...f6 made more sense.

28 ♙g5 ♖c8 29 ♜f4 c6?

Objectively this is the losing move, but I had already got myself into a horrible tangle. Instead, 29...♙e6 30 ♖xh5 ♖xh5 31 ♜xh5 is a draw: for example, after 31...♖f8 32 f4 f5 33 ♜g6+ ♖f7 34 ♙e5+ ♖f8.

30 ♜xh5

Black is still an exchange up, but despite there being no queens on the board, the king is in danger, and there is no escape without losing lots of material.

30...♖xh5 31 ♖xh5 ♙c5 32 ♖h8+ ♙f8 33 ♙h6 ♙e7 34 ♙xf8+

And I limped on for another seven moves before accepting the inevitable.

With the Czechs completing a clean sweep with a final round victory over the Switzerland, and the Germans playing imperiously against local rivals Austria, we finished the tournament in third – an excellent platform to build on when we host next year's event!

CHESSE Magazine Provides Good Reading – Literally!

After reading an article in the October 2017 edition of *CHESSE*, which featured the 3Cs chess club in Oldham and mentioned their extensive library of chess books which their junior members could borrow without charge to assist with their development, Maurice Richards from Cornwall offered to donate some of his own books to the club for the benefit of the young players. Despite his distance from 3Cs, Maurice has a personal connection with the Oldham area in that his wife Julie's parents, Carol and Frank Bolger, live less than a mile from the chess club's headquarters.

Maurice's in-laws picked up the books on a recent visit to Cornwall and then delivered them to their local club. Well in excess of 50 books were donated by Maurice to 3Cs including many classic publications which will certainly be well researched by the next batch of up-and-coming talent for which the club are well known.

3Cs have also made a further addition to

their impressive trophy room with a specially commissioned honours board listing all their members who have won British Championships at various levels, as well as club members who have been President of the Manchester Chess Federation. The new board is similar to one already on view at the club showing the many players who came through the 3Cs' ranks to eventually gain international honours and was again crafted by CSG Sign Makers of Welshpool, who actually donated their recent production free of charge in honour of 3Cs' achievements for many years in both encouraging juniors to play the game as well as their success in producing many young players of high calibre.

I just thought you might like to know that your own efforts in producing the magazine can lead to unexpected outcomes in many ways.

Alan Burke,
Oldham



The photograph shows Maurice Richards' father-in-law Frank Bolger in the middle of the back row along with 3Cs' officials Phil Adams and Dave Monaghan as well as some of the current 3Cs' young players.



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This Month's New Releases



**Legendary Chess Careers:
Alexander Beliavsky, Volumes 1 and 2**
Tibor Karolyi, 216 and 240 pages
respectively, Chess Evolution
RRP £22.95 (each volume) **SUBS' £20.65**

Younger players may be unfamiliar with the name and games of Beliavsky, but he was a very high-flying player back in the 1980s. Indeed, but for the misfortune of being paired with Garry Kasparov in the first round of the 1983 Candidates' matches, he may have made more of an impression in the ultimate title race. Beliavsky did go on to produce a very commanding performance on board one at the 1984 Thessaloniki Olympiad, in the absence of Karpov and Kasparov (whose titanic maiden title match kept them otherwise engaged), and was also the top scorer in the famous USSR versus Rest of the World match of 1984 (three wins and a draw). I was pleased to see two new volumes about this unfairly overlooked player.

The premise of the series is to merge an interview with the subject with a detailed analysis of their games. The first volume takes the story to 1981 and the second includes games all the way up to 2017.

The author admits to having interviewed Beliavsky on one occasion, back in 2009, but he did talk more recently to the star player's trainer, Viktor Kart, via Skype. This effectively lowers the volume of Beliavsky's voice across the two books, especially as many of his answers are too short to reveal very much at all. Indeed, it is always going to be difficult making the interview material stretch across two volumes when the answers tend to be considerably shorter than the questions.

"Q: Did you feel unlucky to face Kasparov right at the first match?"

A: "Not at all."

"Q: One feels a player with your extremely high level should have made it to the Candidates matches more than once. Looking back what would you do differently to achieve this more often?"

A: "Working harder."

There are still some interesting comments, such as his reply to whether or not he did any special training for queen endings. "I belong to a generation that spent a lot of sleepless nights analysing adjourned games. During those nights I learned about endgames much more than from the endgame manuals."

Those sleepless nights certainly must have had the desired effect, as some of Beliavsky's endgame play seen in these books is fabulous.

A. Beliavsky-E. Mukhin Chelyabinsk 1974



This endgame intrigued me. It must be a tough one to navigate over the board and Black appears to have made real progress to reach this imposing position. However, Beliavsky's rook came to the rescue with **1 ♖f2!** "This is a magical, study-like move; White has to keep the king away from the f3-square." Beliavsky then proved the rook was just agile and accurate enough to prevent absolute domination by the bishops: **1...♗e4 2 ♖f1 ♗d2 3 ♗a1 ♗d5 4 ♖b1 ♗f3 5 ♖b3+ ♗e2 6 ♖b2 ♗e4 7 ♗a2 ♗d5** and the draw was agreed here.

We are still in need of a serious, in-depth interview with Beliavsky, so unfortunately that aspect of the books falls somewhat short. The games, however, are a different matter. It is now some time since Beliavsky's own book, *Uncompromising Chess* (Everyman Chess, 1998) was published and it is very good to be able to enjoy the games from across all of the years of his serious chess career.

Sean Marsh



The King's Indian Defence: Move by Move
Sam Collins, 240 pages
Everyman Chess
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

I have always been a King's Indian (KID) player and it has often struck me just how badly the opening is played at amateur level.

The reason for this seems to me to be that old weakness of players spending too much time memorising critical lines of theory and not enough time laying the solid foundations of a repertoire.

In fairness, most KID books I have come across have been weighty theoretical tomes; and it wasn't until Joe Gallagher's excellent 2002 *Starting Out* work that I thought there was a suitable introductory guide with which someone looking to take up the opening could learn both the fundamental principles of the KID and formulate a sound repertoire without wading knee deep in variations.

Since then theory has continued to develop in leaps and bounds, and lines that were considered relatively minor are now cutting edge. Therefore I was highly intrigued to see how Sam Collins would cover the last 15 years of developments and the answer struck me fairly quickly – practically and aggressively.

The book begins with a short introduction consisting of reasons for playing the KID and a look at some typical pawn structures. Here Collins only covers the main structures and ideas for both sides that arise in the proposed repertoire. This is suitable for an introductory guide such as this, but I would recommend experienced KID practitioners to look elsewhere for a more in-depth analysis.

I was then very happy to read a list of 'model players', because in any opening it is always a useful learning device to know strong players whose games one can follow in order to further develop knowledge and understanding beyond the book. The introduction then finishes with a couple of useful notes about the complexity of the KID and the value of each move being higher than in most other openings. This is a suitable warning of what those who are looking to take up the opening will be letting themselves in for.

The repertoire is presented around 29 annotated games and, in keeping with the author's practical approach, the majority of the book covers those lines that are most likely to occur in practice. The selection of main games is excellent because they repeatedly highlight many typical King's Indian themes for both sides, as well as providing the reader with good examples of typical middlegames and endgames. Furthermore, the games provide plenty of inspiration for the prospective black player, which I have no doubt will help them to develop the spirit required to handle such an aggressive repertoire.

And what is this aggressive repertoire? Against the Fianchetto, Collins recommends the

trendy 6...♟c6 and 7...e5, 7...♟c6 mainlines are his choice against the Classical, the Sämisch is countered with the evergreen 6...c5 gambit, and an early ...♟h5 is the order of the day against the h3 systems. What impressed me most about this part of the book was how Collins was able to present coverage of critical main lines without drowning the reader in theory.

The last five annotated games cover ♟e2 non-Classical lines and everything else. I was suitably happy with the former, whereas the latter contains my one concern, namely that I thought the coverage of the Four Pawns Attack was too light. After 1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♟c3 ♟g7 4 e4 d6 5 f4 0-0 6 ♟f3 ♟a6...



...There is no mention of either 7 e5!? or the pawn sacrifice 7 ♟e2 e5 8 dx5 dx5 9 ♟xd8 ♟xd8 10 ♟xe5. These are lines where, even for an introductory guide, it would have been better to provide some coverage because an unprepared black player will struggle to play such sharp lines by hand and survive.

Overall, though, Collins has produced a highly-accessible introductory guide to one of the most popular openings. I feel players looking to take up the opening or aiming to fill in the gaps in their KID repertoire will find this book a suitable successor to Gallagher's 2002 work.

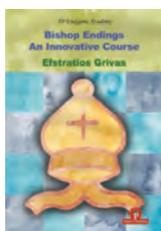
Paul Hopwood



125 Chess Opening Surprises

Graham Burgess, 176 pages, paperback
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

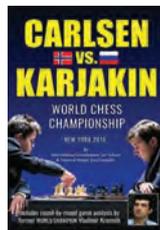
A new version of this Gambit classic is most welcome in general and especially in the run up to Christmas. Sean Marsh was certainly suitably impressed by this work – see his thoughts earlier in these pages.



Bishop Endings: An Innovative Course

Efstratios Grivas, 180 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

This work marks the start of the 'TP Endgame Academy' from Thinkers Publishing, which looks like it will be quite a detailed and ambitious project based on the efforts of the Greek GM and leading FIDE trainer. Grivas aims to improve the reader's general grasp of bishop endgames, while also acquainting them with the most important theoretical positions to remember.

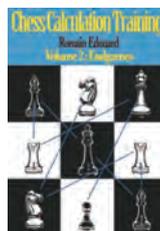


Carlsen vs. Karjakin

Lev Albur, Jon Crumiller & Vladimir Kramnik, 336 pages, paperback

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

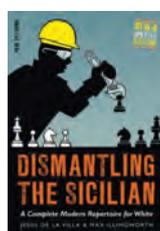
Did you think that the days of books on world championship matches had gone? Well, they haven't and this was certainly no book rushed straight off to print at the end of the 2016 world championship match in New York. To the surprise of many, the match was both close and pretty gripping. Lev Albur and Jon Crumiller, the leading New York-based collector of chess sets and who annotated a game in these pages in October last year, describe the action, and they've also done extremely well to get none other than Vladimir Kramnik to annotate some of the key battles.



Chess Calculation Training Vol 2: Endgames

Romain Edouard, 280 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Following on from *Chess Calculation Training Volume 1: Middlegames*, Edouard turns his attention to the final stage of the game. The reader certainly should not expect to be spoon fed; hard work is very much the order of the day. In short, there are hundreds of exercises to solve, although doing so will not only improve one's calculation and awareness of some important endgame themes, but also one's "reflexes", i.e. general endgame intuition.

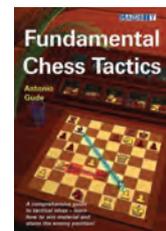


Dismantling the Sicilian

Jesus de la Villa & Max Illingworth, 368 pages, paperback

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

When New in Chess first released *Dismantling the Sicilian* in 2009 it was quickly in huge demand as 1 e4 players flocked to find the way to put all those tricky Sicilian players back in their place. Now, some 8 years on, young Australian Grandmaster Max Illingworth, whom ChessPublishing.com subscribers will know for his work ethic and theoretical expertise, has fully updated de la Villa's original repertoire to make this essentially a completely new work. Indeed, the repertoire has been more than overhauled. Gone is the English Attack-based approach; in its place against, for instance, the Najdorf not one, but two lines, 6 h3 and 6 ♟e2.



Fundamental Chess Tactics

Antonio Gude, 336 pages, paperback
RRP £22.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.25**

Gude's earlier work for Gambit, *Fundamental Checkmates*, was shortlisted for the English Chess Federation Book of the Year Award and he now returns with another book which is tactics-based and should help both those new to the game and the average club player. The Spanish author has aimed to present a systematic course in explaining the key tactical ideas and showing how to get the best out of each of your pieces, knowledge which will be sharpened by solving the hundreds of exercises.

Mega Database 2018

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £144.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £130.45**

The latest version of ChessBase's deluxe database now contains a whopping 7.1 million games, with the most recent being from October 2017. However, users are able to keep their *Mega Database* up to date thanks to the regular update service, which will add a couple of thousand new games every week. As for annotations, 72,000 games now come with notes, including a few from the world's very best players.

If you have the *Mega Database 2017* and would like to upgrade, you can do so for £59.95 (Subscribers – £53.95), and by returning that DVD or providing its serial number when ordering. Users of older copies of the *Mega Database* may meanwhile upgrade to the 2018 version for £99.95 (Subscribers – £89.95). Please note too that if you'd like the latest database from ChessBase, but not the annotated version, *Big Database 2018* is still going strong and available too from Chess & Bridge for £64.99 (Subscribers – £58.49).

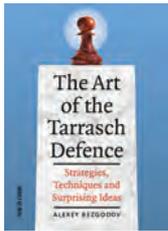
Realizing an Advantage

Sergei Tiviakov, PC-DVD;

running time: 4 hours, 52 minutes

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

The strong Dutch Grandmaster and seasoned tournament campaigner makes a welcome return to the ChessBase studio to tackle an issue most struggle with: how to turn your pleasant position or small material advantage into a full point? Tiviakov is fully aware that the issue is as much psychological as technical and tailors his advice accordingly. Topics covered include creating a second weakness, activating the king in the endgame, and deciding when to simplify, with the illustrative games drawn largely from the games of the world champions and the presenter himself.



The Art of the Tarrasch Defence

Alexey Bezgodov, 320 pages, paperback

RRP £25.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.39**

A young Garry Kasparov liked to meet 1 d4 with 1...d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3/♗f3 c5, but the Tarrasch Defence hasn't been overly popular in recent years. Bezgodov, a Russian Grandmaster known for his often original take on the openings, hopes that things are about to change. He certainly understands the Tarrasch well, having played it for the best part of 30 years, and is fully aware of which lines have been wrongly condemned by theory. The result: a lively repertoire for Black, which should suit both those who like trying to overturn existing theoretical verdicts and all who enjoy active and easy piece play.



The Beastly Botvinnik Variation in the Semi-Slav!

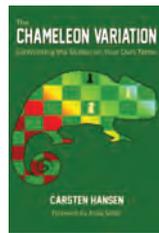
Erwin L'Ami, PC-DVD;

running time: 6 hours, 27 minutes

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

The exclamation mark may be rather unnecessary in the title, but those who like their theory sharp and critical cannot complain about this latest ChessBase DVD from the Dutch international and second of Anish Giri. L'Ami has plenty of experience on both sides of the crazy variation 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 ♗c3 e6 5 ♕g5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 and is certainly well on top of his material. Explaining how to handle the arising, often irrational positions is not easy, but L'Ami gives it a good stab while mapping out a repertoire

for Black and revealing the odd novelty or two along the way.



The Chameleon Variation

Carsten Hansen, 160 pages, paperback

RRP £19.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.95**

It was back in 1982 that Chess Digest (remember them?) published a small monograph by Andrew Soltis entitled 'Beating the Sicilian, The Chameleon Variation'. Fast forward some 35 years and Soltis now supplies a foreword, as the experienced Danish FM and author, Carsten Hansen, takes over the mantle of promoting 1 e4 c5 2 ♗c3 and 3 ♗g2. White feints at an Open Sicilian, but may well just follow up with 4 g3. If you like to be tricky as White, this repertoire could well be the answer against the Sicilian.



The Scotch Gambit

Alex Fishbein, 128 pages, paperback

RRP £18.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.05**

There's likely someone in the local chess scene who wheels out the Scotch Gambit on a regular basis, but this venerable opening hasn't been especially popular of late. In this new work for Russell Enterprises, the American GM aims to show that the direct 1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♕c4!? hasn't been shorn of its fangs. Fishbein is happy to meet Black's theoretically-approved responses head on, while presenting both good general coverage and a number of new ideas for White.

The Sniper (winning with ...g6, ...♗g7 and ...c5!)

Charlie Storey, PC-DVD;

running time: 7 hours, 53 minutes

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

It was back in 2011 that Everyman Chess published *The Sniper* by Charlie Storey and the Geordie FM's infection for his favourite opening remains as a strong as ever. This is a bumper ChessBase DVD in which Storey places a strong emphasis on the typical pawn structures and middlegame plans arising after the advance of the black c-pawn. Throughout the presentation is lively, with football analogies and pet names to the fore – did you know that White's d- and e-pawns are known as Robin and Batman respectively? Storey may be from Newcastle, but he is an Arsenal fan, so 1 e4 g6 2 d4 ♗g7 3 ♗f3 is referred to as the 'Arsenal variation', since it is

apparently White's best line. Here it's notable too that 3...d6 is preferred to 3...c5, which otherwise is very much the third move of choice throughout the vast majority of the given repertoire.



The Thinkers

David Llada, 208 pages, hardback

RRP £34.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.49**

This isn't your usual Quality Chess fare, rather a lavish, glossy collection of shots from one of the world's leading chess photographers. Llada travels all over the world to capture his images with subjects ranging from the world's best in elite tournaments to much less expected photographs from Mombasa and Sao Paulo. The quality of the photography is pretty impressive indeed and this coffee table book should remind even those currently out of love with the game just why we all really love the rich game that is chess.

Winning Chess Middlegames

Ivan Sokolov, 288 pages, paperback

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

Whereas *Dismantling the Sicilian* is an entirely new work from New in Chess, this 'Essential Guide to Pawn Structures' is just a reprint of Sokolov's 2009 work, if a reprint well worth it, since the coverage of some very important pawn structures remains just as important today as then. This modern classic mainly looks at doubled, isolated and hanging pawns, with plenty of well-chosen and clearly explained examples of what one should and should not do in each of those common structures.



Winning with the

Modern London System – Part 2

Nikola Sedlak, 216 pages, paperback

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Chess Evolution haven't been especially prolific of late, but it's still most welcome to see the Serbian Grandmaster expanding his earlier work for White on 1 d4 d5 2 ♕f4 to add 1 d4 ♗f6 2 ♕f4 to the repertoire. Once again, Sedlak draws largely on both his own games and recent grandmaster praxis, and, of course, the London is just pretty trendy these days. The resulting repertoire is both logical and fairly easy to adopt, but is most certainly not without bite either.