

Volume 82 No. 9 December 2017 £4.50

www.chess.co.uk

Chess



Not so Sunny in Crete - a report from the European Team Championships



Enjoying Life à Paris - how does chess in France compare to the UK?



Brexit Looms for White Rose - all the news from the European Club Cup

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.

No parts of this publication may be reproduced without the prior express permission of the publishers.

All rights reserved. © 2017

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: 123rf.com

US & Canadian Readers – You can contact us via our American branch – Chess4Less based in West Palm Beach, FL. Call toll-free on 1-877 89CHESS (24377). You can even order Subscriber Special Offers online via www.chess4less.com

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

Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
60 Seconds with...Chris Ward	7
The leading Kent coach and GM will be commentating at the Classic	
Brexit Looms for White Rose	8
Steve Barrett reports from a final foray into the European Club Cup	
How Good is Your Chess?	14
Daniel King presents a fine win by Santosh Gujrathi Vedit	
Magnus on the Move	18
Junior Tay watched Carlsen's first appearance in Singapore	
Chris Ward defeated in Orpington Simul	22
Actually Chris scored pretty well, as Conrad Allison explains	
Not so Sunny in Crete	24
Kanwal Bhatia reports from the European Team Championships	
Stocking Fillers	30
Sean Marsh has some suggestions for your Christmas list	
How <i>not</i> to Organise a Simul	32
Charles Higgin hopes you will learn from his mistakes	
Enjoying Life à Paris	34
Carl Strugnell witnessed a lecture down the local club by a GM	
Find the Winning Moves	37
Can you do as well as the stars at the European Club Cup?	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	42
Carl Portman enjoyed some good fortune in a recent league game	
A Return to Norway	44
John Pigott was inspired by the beautiful scenery in Oslo	
Home News	48
Alan Merry scooped the big prize at the Coventry 4NCL Congress	
Forthcoming Events	50
Will you be squeezing in a trip to the Classic or Hastings?	
Overseas News	52
Vassily Ivanchuk wasn't fazed by having to walk his king to d4	
Solutions	54
New Books and Software	55
Sean Marsh was inspired by two young Canadian authors	
Saunders on Chess	58
John ponders a recent game by Stephen 'the Rookie' Moss	

Photo credits: euroteams2017.com (pp.26, 28), Rolf Haug (p.47), Andy Howie (p.50), Eteri Kublashvili (pp. 10, 36), Phil Makepeace (pp.7, 33, 52), Amruta Mokul (p.35), Lennart Ootes (p.52), Fiona Steil-Antoni (pp.15, 45), Sophie Triay (p.11, right), The *Guernsey Press* (p.49).

Olimpiu Urcan succinctly put it, I was about to be subjected to severe medieval torture.

27...♖ed8 28 ♜c3 ♜e8 29 ♜f3 ♜c8 30 ♜b5 g6 31 g4!

Stopping ...f7-f5 and keeping absolute control on the kingside.

31...♙e7 32 ♙f2 ♜a8 33 ♙e2 ♙g7 34 ♙d3 ♜a1 35 h3 h6 36 e4 ♙g1 37 e5 ♜e1 38 ♜d5 ♙g5 39 ♙c4 ♙d2 40 ♜fb3 ♜c1+ 41 ♙d3 ♙g5 42 ♜c3 ♜h1 43 ♜xb7 ♜xh3+ 44 ♙c4 ♜d8 45 ♜e4 1-0

And with his knight jumping to d6, my kingside stymied by a solitary pawn on g4, and with his passed pawns about to be set in motion, I'd seen enough.



I believe the following game best reflects Magnus's boa-constrictor style of play, this exchange sacrifice being played against the CEO of the Edge Group Singapore, Tom Hellebø. The latter plays at about 1700 level on Chess.com and performed best among the Norwegian contestants.

M.Carlsen-T.Hellebø

Singapore (simul) 2017

King's Indian Defence

1 ♜f3 ♜f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♜c3 ♙g7 4 d4 0-0 5 h3 d6 6 e4

The world champion decides on the Makogonov System, a big squeeze line.

6...♜bd7

6...e5 7 d5 ♜h5 is the vogue continuation in master praxis these days.

7 ♙e3 e5 8 d5 ♜e7?!

A 'wasted' move as the queen isn't better on e7 than on d8. I suppose there is some logic if Black intends to play...c7-c6 and the queen on e7 holds the d6-pawn, but ...c7-c6 mostly helps White open lines on the queenside.

The standard continuation is 8...♜c5, though the knight usually gets here via the a6-square: 9 ♜d2 a5 10 ♙e2 ♙d7!? (White obtained a slight plus after 10...c6 11 0-0 ♜fd7 12 ♜c2



Magnus awaits Kevin Goh's 38...♙g5.



Success! Ms. Esther Koh and Ms. Michelle Tay managed to get Magnus to sign chess books and boards for their children after parking themselves next to Magnus's rest area. Of course, the all-important photo opportunity with the world champion was a must and they were rewarded for their perseverance and strategic positional sense with a beaming Magnus pose.

f5 13 exf5 gxf5 14 f4 exf4 15 ♙xf4 ♜e5 in Matlakov-Shimanov, Sochi 2017) 11 g4 a4 12 g5 ♜e8 13 h4 and now Black played a cool pawn sacrifice with 13...c6!? 14 ♙xc5 dxc5 15 ♜xa4 in Li Chao-Schmaltz, Deizisau 2015, when 15...cxd5 16 ♜xc5 d4 gives Black powerful compensation for the pawn minus in the form of the protected passed d-pawn and the space advantage that comes with it.

9 g4

Beginning the Petrosianic (Carlsenesque or Carlsenic somehow doesn't sound quite so fluent) squeeze.

9...c6?!

The resulting opening of queenside lines benefits White more than Black.

10 ♜d2 cxd5 11 cxd5 a6?!



This removes the a6-square from the queen's knight. Perhaps Black was anticipating queenside castling by White, though in this set-up there is usually no need for White to castle for a long time.

The only way I can see for Black to make use of ...c6 and ...cxd5 is 11...♜c5 12 b4 ♜a6 13 ♜b3 ♜c7 with ...♙d7 to follow, but

it is still not much fun from his perspective.

12 a4 Standard stuff. **12...h6 13 a5 ♜h7**

Black prepares to play ...f7-f5, so Magnus trains his guns to await it.

14 ♙g1 ♜h8 15 ♜c4 White has a firm grip on the queenside and the touring c4-knight is well placed for any central action.

15...f5

I wanted to put a question mark here, but to be fair I can't see any decent plan for Black to provide counterplay.

16 gxf5 gxf5 17 exf5 e4



A good idea by Hellebø, freeing up the King's Indian bishop and preventing Magnus from using the e4-outpost for his knight. However, the world champion had already taken this into account as shown by his stunning rejoinder.

18 ♜xg7!!

A most impressive concept, removing Black's best piece and ensuring a restless future for the black king with the bishop on e3 poised to cause trouble. That said, Magnus actually has a second and different agenda in



Valentina Gunina once again starred for the gold-medal-winning Russian women's team.



Mamedyarov (second left) looks to the heavens as the Azeris win the Open competition.

White has given up a pawn to control the eighth rank. While the position should be about equal objectively, creating threats against someone's king is always a good psychological strategy. The white queen has just gone back and forth between b5 and b6, the black rook

switching in response from e7 to d7.

50 ♖d5

With the match score at 2-1 to Azerbaijan, accepting the repetition was unthinkable.

50... ♜d7?

White is instantly rewarded for her courage.

50... ♜c7 was safer, as if 51 ♜d4 ♜xg3+ 52 ♜g2 (or 52 fxg3 ♜e2+) 52... ♜e5.

51 ♜g1 ♜e7 52 ♜d4! ♜e1+ 53 ♜g2 ♜e5 54 ♜d8 ♜e4+ 55 ♜h2 ♜xg3+ 56 ♜xg3 ♜d3+ 57 f3 1-0

Black is out of checks and mate inevitable.

Overall, the Women's section was more predictable than the Open. While Spain and Italy over performed in this section too (it would be interesting to see what their national federations have done in the past few years), the final standings of Russia, Georgia, Ukraine went according to seeding, and were never really in doubt once Russia had beaten Ukraine in round 3 and Georgia in round 4.

The ever-entertaining Valentina Gunina won critical games in both these matches.

V.Gunina-A.Ushenina

Russia vs Ukraine

Sicilian Rossolimo

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♜b5 g6 4 ♜xc6 bxc6 5 0-0 ♜g7 6 ♜e1 ♜f6 7 e5 ♜d5 8 c4 ♜c7 9 d4 cxd4 10 ♜xd4 ♜e6 11 ♜h4 d6 12 exd6 ♜xd6 13 ♜c3 h5 14 ♜e4 ♜c7 15 ♜d2 ♜xb2 16 ♜ad1 ♜g7 17 ♜b4 a5 18 ♜a3 ♜a7 19 ♜fg5 0-0 20 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 21 ♜g5 ♜b7 22 h3 ♜b6




23 g4! c5 24 gxh5 ♜f5 25 h6 ♜f6 26 ♜d5 ♜d4? 27 ♜xd4! cxd4 28 ♜xe7 ♜e8 29 h7+ ♜g7 30 c5 ♜b4 31 ♜f6+ ♜xf6 32 ♜xe8 1-0

Chessable

Learn chess books quickly with our science based training tools.

 Chessable.com

 @Chessable

CHESSBASE BESTSELLER:



Fritz 16

**HE JUST WANTS TO PLAY.
ENJOY THE WORLD'S MOST
SUCCESSFUL CHESS SOFTWARE!**

When is chess the most enjoyable? When you win! When Fritz entered his first tournaments some 25 years ago, humans still had a real chance of taking the engine down. Only a few years down the line, Fritz was already beating grandmasters left, right and centre, but ever since his 4:2 victory over Kramnik in 2006, Fritz has been considered unbeatable. Who would want to play against him? In the case of Fritz 16, however, playing against an engine is now once again the very definition of fun! A host of features, including „Assisted Analysis“, which gives you discreet visual hints as you move, and emoticons, which show Fritz's mood, are there to help you. Even with little knowledge of chess, you can enjoy many an exciting game, and more importantly, victory, against Fritz. If things don't work out, Fritz 16 shows you the combinations you might have missed directly after the game with the handy "Tactical Analysis" function, or you can dive right into „Easy Play" calculation training to hone your skills. Fritz doesn't come up short when it comes to playing strength either: the new multi-processor engine was developed by star programmer Vas Rajlich („Rybka") and is up there with the global elite.

Stay mobile with Fritz 16: With a 6-month ChessBase Premium Account included, you're guaranteed full access to the world of ChessBase Web Apps (also for iPads, Android Tablets and Smartphones) on the move: 6,000 chess training videos, 60,000 tactical exercises, 8 million games in the Live database and, of course, the best online action on playchess.com. Fritz now also annotates and analyses as you play, immediately providing you with move-by-move summaries to replay after a game ends.

No other chess program offers you more. Still, Fritz 16 is intuitive and easy to use, and whether you want to play against the engine, analyze or enjoy some online blitz, Fritz 16 will open just the functions you need at the click of a mouse.

Fritz 16 £ 59.99

System requirements for Fritz 16:

Minimum: Pentium III 1 GHz, 2 GB RAM, Windows 7 or 8.1, DirectX9, graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, Windows Media Player 9 and internet access. **Recommended:** PC Intel i5 (Quadcore), 4 GB RAM, Windows 10, DirectX10, graphics card with 512 MB RAM or more, 100% DirectX10-compatible sound card, Windows Media Player 11, DVD-ROM drive and internet access.

System requirements for ChessBase Account:

Internet access and up-to-date browser, e.g. Chrome, Safari. Runs on Windows, OS X, iOS, Android and Linux.

Order online: shop.chess.co.uk OR order by telephone, call us on 020 7486 7015

Stocking Fillers



Unsure what to buy or request for Christmas? Sean Marsh has some suggestions...

Q: What to buy the chess player who has everything?

A: More chess books, of course.

Did you ever see a chess player unhappy to receive a chess book as a present? Me neither. So permit me to offer a selection of ideas to help you finish off your Christmas shopping. Here, then, is our festive look at some products so tempting that even Scrooge would be swayed into digging deeply into his long pockets.

But wait! For our story to begin, we need a very good opening, which brings us neatly to...

to develop the Hedgehog into a weapon to be used against several different openings.

Pelletier – who has played the Hedgehog for 20 years and once used it to beat Magnus Carlsen – spends some time discussing the ideal piece placement and plans for both sides. Indeed, as a 1 c4 player he has also battled against this opening on numerous occasions, so is well placed to guide the viewer through the intricacies and subtleties.

A couple of appetisers set the scene for what is to follow and it is always inspirational to see the young Kasparov at his dynamic best.

Pelletier, although the annotations are often no more than a single line of analysis.

Incidentally, Pelletier, who makes an excellent, composed presenter, recorded the material for this DVD in English, German and French. An impressive feat – and an impressive DVD. This is definitely the pick of the late-2017 ChessBase output.



The Hedgehog: A Universal System against 1.c4 and 1.d3

Yannick Pelletier

ChessBase; PC-DVD, running time: 5 hours, 46 minutes

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

Look, you know how it is. You are fine with your pet defences against 1 e4 and 1 d4. Your systems are sorted and you have already forgotten more about them than your opponents will ever know. However, you never seem able to find the time to put something together to face 1 c4 or 1 d3. It is time to address the problem – and this new DVD could provide the answer.

Pelletier guides the viewer through a thorough examination of the Hedgehog, a system that can be reached via many different move orders. Black will sit with the hedgehog spines set up on the third rank and wait until the right moment to unleash his energy with a well-timed ...b5 or ...d5, which can often blow big holes in the white position. Players of a certain age will remember a young Kasparov winning several great games from the black point of view and British residents may also recall seeing many classic Hedgehog games by Suba as he tore his way around the Swiss circuit back in the 1990s.

The video on move orders is the most important segment on the DVD. White has several slippery ways to try and trick Black out his favourite opening, such as 1 d3, when 1...c5 2 e4 could lead to disappointment unless the Sicilian Defence is also part of the second player's repertoire. Fancy footwork is required

R.Hübner-G.Kasparov Tilburg 1981



We don't hear so much about Hübner now, but it shouldn't be forgotten he was a serious candidate for the world championship when at the height of his powers and was always a difficult player to beat. Here Kasparov has a distinct choice of classic breaks. Pelletier analysis 23...d5 to a draw (although White has to be careful to get there), which means it should be no surprise that Kasparov chose to sacrifice a pawn with the other standard break, **23...b5**, and only after **24 cxb5** did he then play **24 ...d5!** to blow the position wide open and went on to win in brilliantly energetic style (0-1, 49).

Time and again White builds what looks like a big, safe centre only to see it detonated in broad daylight. One recurring theme is the weakness of the e4-pawn. Seeing the examples here reminded me of losing my own e-pawn against Suba's Hedgehog many years ago. Oh, if only I'd had this DVD back then, things could have been very different...

Video lessons on all of the main lines follow and 11 quiz positions bring this fine DVD to a close. There is also a database of 218 games, all selected and annotated by



The Fabulous Budapest Gambit (New and Updated Edition)

Viktor Moskalenko, 288 pages

New in Chess

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

I am happy to admit to being a big fan of Moskalenko's books. His writing inspires me in many different ways, including wanting to try out his confident opening ideas and utilising his test positions for coaching purposes. He has a good sense of history and unflinchingly promotes an ethos of dynamic play.

The first edition of this book came out a whole decade ago and has been difficult to obtain in recent times, so an updated version is definitely a welcome sight. Quite a lot has changed, including the addition of 50 extra pages, new games and introductions plus, tantalisingly, a promise of "proof that the Fajarowicz Gambit is entirely playable now!"

The more common of the two lines, with 1 d4 d3 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 d4, made its top-level debut at Berlin in 1918 when it was uncorked by Vidmar to record a famous victory against Rubinstein. Incidentally, the attendant photograph in the book showing Lasker, Rubinstein, Schlechter and Tarrasch, all clearly – and very sadly – looking much the worse for wear after the terrible years of the Great War, is not from the same Berlin tournament. 3...d4 features a couple of traps Black is hoping to spring, but is actually a more positional opening than is generally realised.

Anyway, what was that about the Fajarowicz Gambit being playable? 1 d4 d3 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 d4 and now White's most challenging move is 4 a3, which cuts out both the bishop check on b4 and a lot of Black's fun at the same time. Moskalenko suggests "A last chance for Black might be the opening of the Milky Way" (the a8-h1 diagonal), with

the unlikely-looking resource 4 ...b6!?, after which White is advised to leave the fork with 5 ♖d5? alone and try to simplify instead with 5 ♖d2. Moskalenko provides evidence that Black is OK after all, especially when he can get a clear shot at the enemy king.

D.Tesic-V.Moskalenko Internet 2008



15...♙xh2+! 16 ♔xh2 ♚h4+ 17 ♔g1
♙xg2! 18 ♙xg2 ♚h3+ 19 ♔g1 g3 0-1

Despite some high-profile games, the Budapest has yet to enjoy a serious spell of popularity, but maybe this book will inspire readers to take it up, at least as an occasional surprise weapon. Moskalenko sets what could easily serve as a New Year's resolution to us all: "It is never too late to spice up your repertoire with the Budapest Gambit! Let's attack more often, my dear chess players!"



Play 1...d6 Against Everything

Erik Zude & Jörg Hickl, 207 pages,
New in Chess

RRP £20.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.89**

Naturally, a lot of amateur players are pushed for time and don't want to learn so many different lines. Fortunately, help is at hand with the latest all-embracing repertoire book for Black.

It is our old friend 1...d6 again, with a repertoire embracing the endgame (1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♖f6 3 ♖c3 e5 4 dxe5 dxe5 5 ♗xd8+ ♙xd8 – or the Lion's Yawn as we old 1...d6 Lion adherents still like to call it), and several tough middlegames via the Antoshin Variation (1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♖f6 3 ♖c3 e5 4 ♖f3 exd4 5 ♖xd4 ♙e7), and the Old Indian Defence (1 d4 d6 2 ♖f3 ♖f6 3 c4 ♖bd7 4 ♖c3 e5). 1 c4 is met by the 1...e5, 2...d6 and 3...f5 system, making it the most overtly aggressive part of the whole repertoire.

The Antoshin and Old Indian may not be the

most dynamic options at Black's disposal, but for club players there is a lot to be said about sticking to a system and playing with a similar structure against both 1 e4 and 1 d4 (it's something the late, great Bob Wade recommended to me a long time ago). Both variations invite White to build virtually any sort of centre he wants and then hope that eventually – just as in the Hedgehog – a timely break will release the energy of the formerly cramped pieces. The following snippet is an excellent example of what can happen.

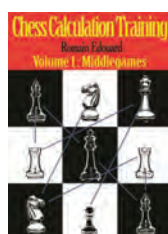
A.Rotstein-J.Hickl German Bundesliga 2006



White just retreated his knight from d4 to b3, heading for a5. Black seizes the moment to initiate the breakout:

19...f5! 20 ♖a5 ♗a8 21 exf5?!
♙xf5 22 ♖c1 ♙h4! and now White cracked under the unexpected pressure with 23 g3?
♙xc1! 24 ♙xc1 ♙c2! (0-1, 31).

There is a lot to be said for club players keeping – and maintaining – a simple yet solid repertoire, rather than chopping and changing by the season. If you have good patience and are prepared to sit looking at a big centre, just waiting for the perfect moment to strike, then this repertoire is worth examining carefully. You will no longer worry or care about which opening your opponent is going to play because your first few moves will be already be set to 'automatic'.



Chess Calculation Training Volume 1: Middlegames

Romain Edouard, 240 pages
Thinkers Publishing

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Openings over, it is now time to enjoy some middlegame action. Edouard offers 496 puzzles, selected and arranged to "Help you improve in specific areas of thinking, such as you may encounter in your own games."

Chapters include 'Play the right move under pressure!', 'Find the stunning winning move!' and several others, similarly decked out in their full exclamation-marked finery. I found myself drawn immediately to the chapter called 'Find the missed move!' as I always enjoy looking at examples of what chess giants have missed. It makes me feel better about my own blunders, somehow.

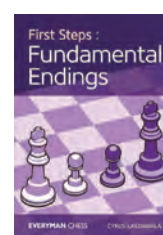
J.Rowson-G.Jones 2nd matchgame, London 2015



Gawain has just played 35...h4 and his attack crashed through. However, 35 ...♗xe4 36 ♔g1 h4 would have been the better path to victory, as White could now have drawn the game. Can you see how?

To boldly misquote Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, "Christmas won't be Christmas without a chess puzzle book". Well, this one, with its 496 puzzles, should prove a worthy companion to those long, dark winter nights.

All Christmas tales require a good ending, which brings us neatly to our concluding offering:



First Steps: Fundamental Endings

Cyrus Lakdawala, 272 pages
Everyman Chess

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Lakdawala writes an incredible amount of books; enough for him to be regarded as a sort of modern-day Fred Reinfeld. I have commented before on his rather flowery writing style, of which I am not a great fan. However, there is no doubt that his books offer plenty of instructive material and I found this volume to be particularly enjoyable. His "Messianic mission in life is to make the chessboard a safer place for students and readers", and when it comes to the endgame he says: "We must master the basics, for the sake of our own over-the-board survival."

Following a demonstration of some elementary checkmate techniques, as *CHESS* readers were able to enjoy last month, the next eight chapters cover everything from pawn endings through to those featuring the queen and other pieces. The reader is challenged by exercises throughout the book.

Capablanca, Fischer and Carlsen are the main heroes and there is a plethora of samples from their finest endgames. Playing through their examples provides a clear reminder of just how great they are and just how small a margin there is between a draw and a win.

A.Bisguier-R.Fischer

U.S. Championship, New York 1966



Fischer has been pushing for some time and now executes his main idea:

69...♙xe4!

"Pure positional players like me secretly want to win like an audience, rather than a participant, who gets his hands dirty in the fight. At one point in the game, in order to win, you must take a chance on your calculation, if you sense the odds are in your favour, as in this case. I have no doubt Fischer calculated all the way to the finish of this game. My question to the reader is: would you dare to trust your calculation and make Fischer's sacrifice in one of your games?"

Accuracy is still required; Fischer needed to find two more excellent moves – especially on move 71.

70 ♖xe4 ♖a4 71 ♙f5 ♖b3!! 72 ♙xg4 e4 73 ♙xh3 ♙xc3 74 g4 ♙d2! 0-1



Fundamental Endings is pitched firmly at the club player and it should serve to demystify the area of the game that is still neglected more than any other. So when the Christmas dinner is over, why not relax over a few pawn crackers, such as this one?

J.Capablanca-A.Conde Hastings 1919



"Surely this is a draw. White can create a kingside passer with g5, but so what? Black's king can halt it. Also Black's protected and passed d4-pawn ensures that White's king is unable to wander. The Cuban endgame wizard proved otherwise. The position is winning for White."

There, I'll leave that one with you. It will provide a handy excuse for not doing the Christmas washing up.

How *not* to Organise a Simul

Charles Higgle enjoyed putting one on, but hopes you will learn from his mistakes

I woke one morning in early September. A thought crossed my mind. I had grandmasters on my Facebook friends list – Danny Gormally, Keith Arkell and Daniel King. Why not contact them and organise for one of them to give a simultaneous display, 'a simul' in my lovely parish of Malpas on the Cheshire-Shropshire border? After all, I know lots of chess players, playing in the Shropshire Chess League, the Chester & District Chess League, and the Wirral Chess League. I know plenty of people in and around Malpas too. Then there are my Facebook friends. Surely I'd easily get enough players to break even?

Therein was my first mistake. I should have remembered what I teach in Business Studies: "If you are thinking of a new

business, do your market research first. Don't just assume people will buy your product. Ask people first; see if they are interested in your product and how much they would be prepared to pay for it." I didn't do that, and maybe I should have done.

Having said all that, I was always afraid that the event might make a loss. Danny Gormally had offered to come over for Sunday October 8th. I publicised this, asked for people to contact me if they were interested in playing in the simul, and said that it wouldn't take place if I didn't get enough interest. I put the price at £20 or £10 for under 18s and full-time students. What I should have done, in order to get a much better idea of how many people would play,

would be to put the prices at, say, £25 and £15, but with £5 discount if people paid in advance. This was my second mistake.

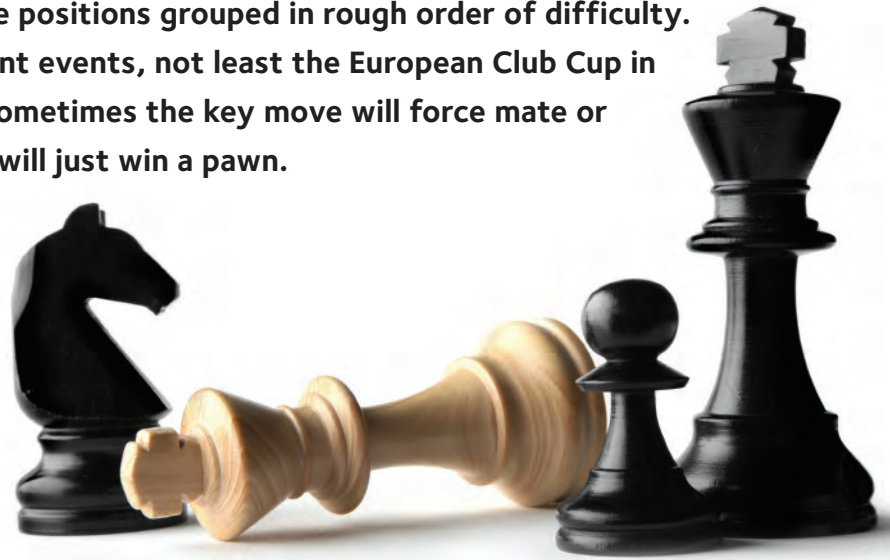
I did get some interest, and a few people paid in advance. I didn't think I would receive enough to cover my costs, but I hadn't the heart to cancel. Some people were really looking forward to it, and besides I had struck up quite a relationship with Danny, and I didn't want to let him down.

I did my best to advertise. I emailed all my contacts in the chess world. I took posters advertising the simul to chess clubs in Chester and Oswestry. I advertised on Facebook. I advertised locally with posters and in local newspapers and free magazines. All this was at minimal cost – just the cost of

Find the Winning Moves

Test your tactical ability with these positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from various recent events, not least the European Club Cup in Antalya. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just win a pawn.

Solutions on page 54.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) P.Eljanov-E.Najer
European Club Cup, Antalya 2017
Black to Play



(2) G.Quillan-G.Runarsson
European Club Cup, Antalya 2017
White to Play



(3) O.Robson-D.Stebbins
Scarborough 2017
White to Play



(4) S.Melia-I.Videnova
Serbian Team Championship 2017
White to Play

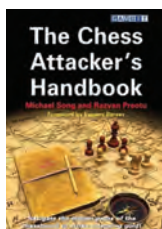


(5) G.Sargissian-A.Pavlidis
European Team Ch., Hersonissos 2017
White to Play



(6) A.Rasmussen-T.Nyback
European Team Ch., Hersonissos 2017
White to Play

This Month's New Releases



The Chess Attacker's Handbook

Michael Song and Razvan Preotu, 176 pages
Gambit Publications

RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Two new authors have announced their presence with a combined effort on the art of attacking in chess. GM Preotu and IM Song are the two highest-rated Canadian juniors and when they opine "Life is too short to play boring chess!", they go on to show they certainly like to practice what they preach.

The strapline suggests we are going to "Navigate the hidden paths of the chessboard to strike attacking gold!". The aim of the book and the desirability of playing aggressive chess is further explained in Song's introduction, in which he states: "While titled players will almost always outplay weaker players in calm positions due to their greater experience and better overall understanding of the game, the playing field becomes more level in a sharp, attacking battle. In such situations, what determine the eventual winner are factors such as which player is able to calculate more accurately and find creative plans, in which 'weaker' and especially younger players' greater motivation allow them to compete better against their 'superiors'."

The authors split the writing duties straight down the middle, with each one contributing seven of the 14 chapters, running through a variety of topics from 'Attacking the Uncastled King' to 'Isolated d-Pawn Positions'. Each chapter follows the trusted formula of short introduction, illustrative games (although most of them are part-games as we tend to jump into the battles just prior to the fun starting), and a series of exercises, followed immediately by the solutions.

The authors use classic, historical examples (Rotlewi-Rubinstein, Lodz 1907/8, for instance), plus their own games and numerous lesser-known sparkling illustrative gems, while the youth of the authors shows up in three main ways: they are enthusiastic and that can be infectious; they also overuse exclamation marks in their prose (well, we all did that, when we were young!); and occasionally, a piece of a

history jigsaw is missing. For example, when annotating the classic exhibition game Fischer-Andersson, Siegen 1970, they rightly call Fischer's 13 ♖h1! 14 ♖g1 and 16 g4! in what is essentially a reverse Sicilian structure "a brilliant idea" and "not something you saw every day". However, annotators tend to forget Fischer had used exactly the same plan four years earlier, as Black in a Sicilian against Julio Garcia Soruco (Havana Olympiad, 1966). The game is often overlooked because it was decided by an early blunder by the latter.

In another case we are given the game Petrosian-Vasiukov, Moscow 1956, which starts with the moves 1 ♖f3 ♖f6 2 g3 g6 3 ♗g2 ♗g7 4 0-0 0-0 5 c4 d6 6 ♖c3 ♖c6 7 d3 ♖h5!? when Petrosian's 8 ♖b1 is given as dubious, with the comment "8 d4! is the best option for White, transposing into a form of Fianchetto King's Indian in which it is not clear if the extra tempo of ...♖h5 helps Black at all." Indeed so, but it was perhaps worth a note pointing out that this improvement was played by Petrosian himself against Fischer (Portoroz Interzonal, 1958), which is the third game in Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games*. Fischer, a well-read player if ever there was one, referenced the Vasiukov game in his notes.

Nevertheless, the material is excellent and instructive. The following is the final twist of an excellent attacking game, from the chapter 'Include all the Pieces in the Attack'.

R.Leitao-F.El Debs

Brazilian Ch., Americana 2010



White now crowned a fine sacrificial display with another bombshell:

25 ♖xb7+!

"Out of nowhere, the rook that was seemingly doing nothing on b1 joins the fray.



The point of the sacrifice is to lure the c6-bishop away from the defence of the e8-rook."

25...♖h8

"25...♖xb7 26 ♖f7+ ♖h8 27 ♖xe8+ ♗g7 28 ♖f5+ is obviously no help for Black either."
26 ♗g3 1-0

This book is fully accessible to all levels of play from club player upwards and lives up to its promise of providing instruction and entertainment in equal measure.

Sean Marsh



Playing 1.d4 d5 – A Classical Repertoire

Nikolaos Ntirlis, 336 pages

Quality Chess

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

This is a companion volume to Ntirlis' well-received *Playing 1.e4 e5* (Quality Chess, 2016), this time offering a complete repertoire against 1 d4. The bulwark of the defence is the classical Queen's Gambit Declined and there is also coverage of the Catalan, the various 1 d4 systems (Colle, Torre *et al*) that are currently very popular, and also some lines for Black to consider when facing 1 ♖f3 and 1 c4.

In his introduction, the author acknowledges that 1 d4 d5 openings are much more reliant on standard pawn structures than openings arising from 1 e4 e5. Similarly, this book "is structured in an entirely different way from my previous work. Every major set-up has a dedicated introduction, where I present vital information about thematic pawn structures and plans", and, furthermore, rather than overload the reader with too much general information, "My goal was to keep things practical, by focusing on specific themes which crop up again and again in my chosen repertoire."

Ntirlis started assembling the repertoire during 2012, to help his students – who, incidentally, range from beginners to 2600 grandmasters. To be accessible to such a range of players with greatly varying strengths suggests the lines advocated here will suit club players as well as stronger, more ambitious tournament players.

The main defence for Black is revealed after 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♖f6 4 ♖f3 ♗e7

5 ♖g5, when 5...♟bd7 6 e3 h6 7 ♖h4 0-0, to be followed by an early ...c5, is on the agenda. "Vladimir Kramnik is the hero of this variation", in which "a good understanding of positional themes and pawn structures will go a long way."

Naturally, White doesn't have to sail down the main lines with 5 ♖g5. Indeed, 5 ♖f4 remains a popular alternative (met here by 5 ...0-0 6 e3 b6), and the Exchange variation is still a very frequent sight. Ntirlis likes an early ...h6 by Black, to be followed immediately by ...♟h5, angling for a liberating exchange of dark-squared bishops.

It seems the currently trendy Catalan will remain in fashion for some time, so 1...d5 players absolutely must have a strong antidote ready to use. Here we find 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♟f3 ♟f6 4 g3 dxc4 5 ♖g2 a6 "when, depending on circumstances, Black may or may not hang on to his extra pawn with ...b5", and the author further remarks he is "satisfied that the proposed repertoire presents a stiff challenge to White."

There are seven main chapters, with each one typically offering an excellent and instructive introduction followed by sections on the theoretical aspects of the given lines. The introductions are constructed not merely of a short piece of prose and a token position or two, but instead they are essential reading for players of all strengths. They take the reader through the basics of the variations and explain the pawn structures, strategic themes and piece placement. Club players will be able to get their repertoire up and running just by reading the introductions, and will be able to return to the more complex theoretical section later on. More experienced players will also benefit from studying the introductions, but will need to add the theoretical meat to the bones before unleashing 1...d5 against strong opposition.

When putting together a repertoire, it makes good sense to see what the popular books for the other side recommend. Ntirlis is strong in this department and here is a small sample. His Quality Chess stablemate mate, Avrukh, gives 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♟f3 ♟f6 4 g3 dxc4 5 ♖g2 a6 6 0-0 ♟c6 and now 7 e3 in his *GM Repertoire 1A – The Catalan* (Quality Chess, 2015). Black is being baited into playing the natural ...b5, but here the recommendation is to resist the temptation with 7 ...♟d7 8 ♖e2 and now to develop with 8...♟d6. The point is that 8...b5 can be met by the troublesome positional pawn sacrifice 9 b3! cxb3 10 axb3, creating a structure favourable to the first player.



It is worth studying this thematic position carefully because White's compensation isn't immediately obvious, but it turns out the open files and Black's weak c5-square – plus his misplaced bishop, which would now prefer to be on b7 – give White's position real positional bite.

Make no mistake, lots of hard work will be required to derive the most benefit from the material in the theoretical section (although the task is not as onerous here as it would be with some other Quality Chess books, such as the Kotronias King's Indian volumes, for example). However, this sturdy 1 d4 d5 repertoire must surely represent a fireproof investment that will last for many years to come.

Sean Marsh



BBC: The Master Game Series 6 & 7

Jeremy James & William Hartston (presenters); 4 DVD Box Set

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Just in time for the Christmas market, the BBC archive has opened up to release series 6 and 7 of the legendary *Master Game* programme. These appeared in 1981 and 1982, and saw many of the leading players of the time taking on each other before producing explanatory and entertaining voice-overs to accompany their moves. Contestants include Ray Keene, Tony Miles and Nigel Short, as well as Jan Hein Donner, Svetozar Gligoric and Bent Larsen, while the second series is followed by a bonus documentary from somewhat later, namely 1989, 'The Lowdown: The Master of the Game' about the success of the young Matthew Sadler.



Grandmaster Repertoire: The Pirc Defence

Mihail Marin, 408 pages, paperback
RRP £20.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.89**

Famous Romanian author and grandmaster Mihail Marin has been playing the Pirc for much of his professional career, and makes a welcome return to the writing fold to present a repertoire with it. Marin does not shy away from explaining the key motifs for each side in the main lines, but in essence this is a typically thorough repertoire work from Quality Chess. The repertoire, with its centres of 4 f4 ♖g7 5 ♟f3 c5 and 4 ♖e3 c6, supplies everything and more that even the stronger player needs to know to take up the Pirc, or refresh their

existing repertoire with it, while challenging existing theoretical assessments throughout.



Hastings 1895 Chess Tournament

Emil Schallopp, 360 pages, hardback
RRP £39.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.99**

This lavish production from the Russian Chess House is devoted to one of the most famous tournaments of all time. Schallopp (1843-1919) was a leading German player and author, who even became head of the shorthand department at the German Parliament. This new translation of his work on the great Hastings tournament of 1895 also sees the Russian editors including a great many annotated games from the tournament, some by Schallopp, some by the players themselves, and some by several leading figures from the Soviet era.



Houdini 6 Chess

ChessBase PC+DVD

RRP £69.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £62.95**

The latest edition of Robert Houdart's famous engine is now out and bound to again prove popular with those who really like to use their chess engines. *Houdini 6* claims to be 60 Elo points stronger than its predecessor, as well as somewhat faster. We wonder just how long it will be before a leading grandmaster credits a novelty to *Houdini 6*?

Do note that if you're using more than 8 cores and 4GB of RAM that you'll likely want *Houdini PRO*, which retails at £89.95 or just £80.95 for Subscribers.

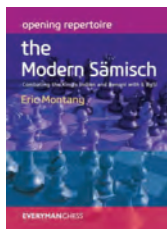


Master Class Volume 9 – Paul Morphy

PC-DVD; running time 5 hours, 45 minutes
RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

Paul Morphy was born 180 years ago, but remains a fascinating figure within the chess world. In this welcome addition to their *Master Class* series, the ChessBase team try to explain exactly what made him so special, and so strong. Oliver Reeh sheds light on Morphy's legendary combinatory skill, while Jonas

Lampert explains just how he mapped out such an effective and ground-breaking opening repertoire. Meanwhile Mihail Marin and Karsten Müller examine respectively Morphy's strategic and endgame abilities – both were very impressed and realised that his skills in such departments have long been underestimated – while Morphy's life story is by no means neglected thanks to the inclusion of a detailed biography by Thomas Eichhorn.



Opening Repertoire: The Modern Sämisch

Eric Montany, 368 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Eric Montany was a late starter in chess, but has gone on to twice become State Champion of Colorado. He does like to attack and even calculate at times, but also understands just what grounding most players require in a line they play regularly. Indeed, as someone who did most of his improving as an adult, Montany is ideally placed to present a repertoire which should be of equal use to both the average and strong club player. He likes to meet the King's Indian with 5 f3 0-0 6 ♗g5, the so-called 'Modern Sämisch', which has a definite emphasis on strategic understanding. Montany's games certainly feature in this Everyman work, but so too do those of Alexey Dreev and Matthew Sadler, the latter contributing a foreword.



Sharp Endgames

Esben Lund, 312 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The final stages of the game are never easy to handle, especially when the position is sharp and accurate calculation is required. Thankfully help is at hand from the Danish IM,

who has come up with '16 Parameters' to help readers handle such endgames much better at the board. Lund's compatriot, GM Lars Bo Hansen, opines that the reader who really works hard with this book will "gain at least 100 rating points". Throughout Lund's love of complex endgames shines through and readers too should begin to enjoy them, even if solving the hundred-plus exercises may be too much for many.

As with Mihail Marin's *GM Repertoire: The Pirc Defence*, if you prefer your Quality Chess works in hardback version, please add £4 to your order.



Strike First with the Scandinavian

Christian Bauer, PC-DVD;
running time: 4 hours, 49 minutes
RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

The French Grandmaster and 3Cs top board is a big fan of avoiding the theoretical highways where possible – and does so while being rated over 2600 and as a three-time French Champion. One of Bauer's favourite openings is 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♗xd5 3 ♗c3 ♗a5, with its accent on both clear strategies and dynamic play for Black. Viewers quickly realise that he appreciates all the ins and outs of the opening, as he explains them clearly and in good English, while also mapping out a repertoire for Black against White's main tries.



The Hedgehog

Sergey Kasparov, 336 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The Hedgehog retains a certain air of mystery at club level, but that may now change thanks to Yannick Pelletier's new DVD, mentioned earlier

in these pages, and this new book by the Belorussian GM Whenever his opponent opens with 1 c4 or 1 ♘f3 and then a quick c2-c4, the lesser known Kasparov likes to exchange his c-pawn for the white d-pawn on d4. White typically then adopts a formation with pawns on c4 and e4, while Black curls up in a Hedgehog formation with pawns on a6, b6, d6 and e6. Such a set-up is rich, dynamic and complex, but readers should gain both a thorough grounding in all the main points behind the Hedgehog and a complete repertoire with it as Black.



The Fabulous Budapest Gambit

Viktor Moskalenko, 288 pages, New in Chess
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

This is a 'New and Updated edition' of Moskalenko's lively labour of love on 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e5 and a work which has certainly impressed Sean Marsh – see page 30.

Veselin Topalov: Selected Games of the Ex-World Chess Champion

Sarhan Guliev, 472 pages, hardback
RRP £29.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.99**

Azeri Grandmaster Sarhan Guliev has long been a big fan of the dynamic, attacking style of the former FIDE World Champion, Veselin Topalov. He has put together a collection of his favourite Topalov games, many annotated in painstaking detail, while the man himself contributes a foreword.

Your First Move: Chess for Beginners


Alexei Sokolsky, 312 pages, hardback
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

This is another new English edition of a classic work brought back to life by the Russian Chess House. We might nowadays remember Sokolsky for his use of 1 b4 or his work with Isaac Boleslavsky, but he was also highly actively involved in the training of young players. This was his final chess book, in which he drew upon a lifetime of teaching the game, aiming to give many useful pointers to both those new to the game and the club player.

Chessable

Learn chess books quickly with our science based training tools.

 **Chessable.com**

 **@Chessable**



Saunders on Chess

Follow me on Twitter:  @johnchess or email: johns@chess.co.uk

My former pupil Stephen 'Rookie' Moss sent me one of his games recently in which he had drawn with a player graded 191 (using the standard $7\frac{1}{2} \times \text{grade} + 700$ conversion formula, that's an Elo of 2132). A very decent result for Stephen, graded 144 (Elo 1780), or so you might think, but after the game Stephen didn't know whether to celebrate the draw or lament the loss of a half-point.

The diagram shows the final position of the game, with Stephen (Black) to play. His opponent's last move was 17 f3-d2 , which he accompanied with a draw offer. Stephen had about 20 minutes on his clock for the next 18 moves, but I don't think he spent long over accepting the draw.

Before reading any more of his email, I wanted to test this position for myself, so I set up the board, looked at it from the black side and imagined myself having been offered a draw by a player of a much higher rating than me, let's say 2450 or 2500. After a few minutes I had come up with a fancy move which I thought might have won, but then a minute or so later hit upon a simpler move which looks absolutely lethal, after which I would have fancied my chances against Magnus Carlsen. I'll leave readers to ponder over the position for themselves and give solutions at the end of the article.

Would Stephen have been strong enough to find the right move? Knowing his predilection for the attack, I think he would have had a chance, given a few minutes' calm thought. That said, his 2132-rated opponent didn't seem to have spotted it as he mentioned a different line at the end of the game, and one that would not have been so forcing. And, having found the right move, could Stephen have won? I think that one is a definite 'yes', since the best move is a crusher.

The real clue, of course, was the very fact of a much higher-rated player offering the draw to the opponent in the first place. Players rated more than 300 rating points higher than their opponents only offer draws when they think they are busted. It is their last, desperate chance to salvage a 'draw by reputation'. The draw offer in those circumstances is an amalgam of a confession and a challenge, which translates thus: "OK, there's no use pretending – I know I'm dead lost here. But are you really that confident you can beat me?" I was tempted to end that imaginary speech with the word "punk", but maybe I have watched too many Clint Eastwood movies.

Suddenly the 'offeree' is in a quandary. As the host of that terrible old 1950s game

show used to say, it is a question of "Take the money or open the box." It's bad enough making one decision – trying to find the right move – without your opponent suddenly landing you with a second one. Often the draw offer thoughts interfere with your move-finding process and your calculations turn to mush. So I don't find it hard to empathise with Stephen's decision to call it a day and take the draw.

There is, of course, another school of thought that says that you should always play on to the bitter end; a wholly admirable philosophy and I could only wish I had been brave enough to adhere to it in my active playing days (or perhaps I should describe

breath. Admittedly the process of going through a game using an engine is a useful and necessary one, but it is best put off for a day or two. One should definitely never attempt this immediately before going to bed, because you won't get much sleep.

If you do find yourself tossing and turning in bed one night after inviting an analysis engine to show you all the moves you missed, here's an important thing to focus on to help you sleep: you are not alone – our silicon overlords show us all up as patzers, even that Norwegian guy. More importantly still, when you calm down and think about it, you should realise that a large proportion of the moves the machine spits out can't be found by any human in the short time provided in the tournament room. Paradoxically, I find that the stronger the player, the easier they find it to reconcile themselves to missing complex tactics found by computers, whereas weaker players find it harder to distinguish between genuine missed opportunities, which could feasibly have been exploited at their playing level, and impossible to see computer moves that Carlsen and co would struggle to find.

Computers affect us in other more insidious ways. Bad news has never travelled faster. In the old days you could play a stinker of a game and only you and your opponent would know anything about it. You'd have to be very unlucky for the opponent to send it off to a magazine and see it immortalised in their pages. Even then you might be let off full exposure as your name could be anonymised to 'NN' or 'Amateur'.

These days the ubiquity of chess software means that privacy is non-existent, even for the humblest wood-pusher. An obscure game played in an amateur competition can be published around the world faster than one of the Fischer-Spassky games of 1972. I have even seen a social media meme in which people comb databases for games featuring the worse move on the board, as played by amateurs as well as professionals. The latter have to take it on the chin since publicity contributes to them earning a living, but it seems a bit cruel to expose amateur players to this form of ridicule.

Solution: The decisive continuation is 17...d3! threatening ... c2+ winning the queen. If White plays 18 f3, then 18... c2+ anyway and the a4-knight drops off. If 18 b3 c2+ and the a1-bishops falls. If the d2-knight moves, 18... c2 becomes double check and mate. My first idea was 17... e4! ? which, though unnecessarily complex, also seems to win.



Black to Play and Win...

them as my passive playing days). On the whole I regret more the moves I never made, through premature abandonment of the game, than the myriads of bad ones that I did make.

In his email Stephen was beating himself up about not playing on, but only after an engine had revealed the win that he had overlooked. I'd like to adapt a famous Homer Simpson quote about alcohol: "Analysis engines – the cause of, and the solution to, all the chess world's problems."

It used to be one of the pleasures and solaces of a chess player's life – after a game, you would go home and play through a game, maybe transcribing it into your scorebook, exulting in a victory or maybe calming down after a loss. Do it these days on a computer with an analysis engine switched on, regardless of the result of the game, and the computer will demonstrate in the most painful detail imaginable that you are the most laughably incompetent chess player who ever drew



MAGNUS CARLSEN
NORWAY

2858 URS - WORLD # 1
WORLD CHAMPION



MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE
FRANCE

2795 URS - WORLD # 3



WESLEY SO
USA

2782 URS - WORLD # 8



FABIANO CARUANA
USA

2772 URS - WORLD # 10



IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI
RUSSIA

2764 URS - WORLD # 14

**5 TOURNAMENTS IN
4 COUNTRIES WITH
10 OF THE BEST PLAYERS
IN THE WORLD...**

AND IT ALL ENDS AT THE

LONDON CHESS CLASSIC

**AT THE OLYMPIA CONFERENCE CENTRE,
HAMMERSMITH ROAD, LONDON W14 8UX**

**FRIDAY 1 - MONDAY 11
DECEMBER**

**PLAY STARTS AT 4PM WEEKDAYS / 2PM WEEKENDS
(NO PLAY ON SATURDAY 2 OR WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER)**

TICKETS: £20 (DAY TICKET), £80 (SEASON TICKET)

FREE ENTRY* FOR WOMEN & UNDER 25s

** Applies to UK residents only, who have pre-booked tickets, proof of age may be required, under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.*

**TICKETS ON SALE AT:
WWW.LONDONCHESSCLASSIC.COM**

OR BY CALLING 020 7935 3445



HIKARU NAKAMURA
USA

2797 URS - WORLD # 2



LEVON ARONIAN
ARMENIA

2793 URS - WORLD # 4



SERGEY KARJAKIN
RUSSIA

2777 URS - WORLD # 9



VISHY ANAND
INDIA

2776 URS - WORLD # 12
FORMER WORLD CHAMPION



MICHAEL ADAMS
ENGLAND

2732 URS - WORLD # 22

GRAND CHESS TOUR

