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Chess



SURPRISE!

Sam Shankland wins US Championships ahead of Caruana, Nakamura, and So. Nazi Pakidize claims her second U.S. Women's Championship

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Magnus Carlsen: The Hat-Trick Hero of Shamkir - Steve Giddins reports



Amateur Hour - Bill Forster explains the virtues of the Botvinnik Semi-Slav



The Greatest Chess Player Who (N)ever Lived! John Saunders explains

Chess

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Magnus Carlsen: The Hat-Trick Hero of Shamkir

Steve Giddins enjoyed watching plenty of fighting chess at the Gashimov Memorial

The tragically early death of Vugar Gashimov in January 2014, at the age of just 27, led to the Azerbaijan Chess Federation establishing an annual memorial tournament in the city of Shamkir. This quickly became one of the strongest events of the chess calendar and this year reached its fifth running.

Another powerful field was headed by world champion Magnus Carlsen, bidding to win the event for a third time. His rivals included three of the recent Candidates' tournament competitors, current world number 3, Mamedyarov, ex-challenger Karjakin, and Chinese star Ding Liren, plus such others as Dutch no. 1, Anish Giri and the ever-combative Bulgarian veteran, Veselin Topalov.

The event started with an unwanted, headline-grabbing run of three rounds without a single decisive game, although this was not for want of fighting chess. The reality of the modern game is that opening preparation is so deep and ubiquitous, and top players so well-matched, that it is frequently impossible to achieve sufficient imbalance to outplay another top GM.

The first decisive result came in round four, after a fascinating battle which, predictably, involved Topalov.

V. Topalov-S. Mamedyarov

Round 4

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♖f6
5 0-0 ♗xe4 6 d4 b5 7 ♙b3 d5 8 dxe5
♙e6 9 ♙e3 ♙e7 10 c3 0-0 11 ♗bd2 ♗xd2
12 ♗xd2 ♗a5 13 ♙c2 ♗c4 14 ♗d3 g6
15 ♙h6 ♗xb2 16 ♗e2 ♗e8 17 ♗d4



Guest of honour Nona Gaprindashvili prepares to make the first move for Mamedyarov.

Such is my own positively antediluvian knowledge of the theory of the Open Spanish that I thought this variation had gone out of favour for Black many moons ago. It used to be reached via the move order 9 c3 ♙e7 10 ♙e3, etc, but Black was regularly annihilated on the kingside and later switched to 9...♗c5 or 9...♙c5. A classic example, quoted in one of his books by Edward Lasker (just to show how ancient it all is) was the following: 17...♗c4 18 f4 ♙d7 19 ♗ae1 c5 20 e6! ♙f6 21 ♗g4 cxd4 22 f5 d3 23 ♙xd3 ♙xe6 24 fxe6 ♗b6+ 25 ♙h1, Yates-Gunsberg, Chester 1914. Naturally enough, though, the past 104 years, plus the computer, have yielded the odd improvement and Mamedyarov was happy to take the pawn.

17...♙d7 18 f4

'Compy' thinks White should regain the pawn with 18 ♙xg6 hxg6 19 ♗xb2, but even then, Black is fine after 19...c5 and I doubt most human players would adopt such a spineless course.

18...c5 19 ♗f3 ♗b6 20 ♗f2 d4 21 ♙g5

The pin along the g1-a7 diagonal prevents White taking three times on d4.

21...dxc3 22 ♗h4 c4+ 23 ♙h1 ♙f8 24 f5 ♗d3

Both sides continue logically pursuing their plans. White is clearly committed, but his

attack is extremely dangerous, despite the computer's insouciance.

25 e6 ♙xe6

Absolutely forced, since 25...fxe6 26 fxg6 hxg6 27 ♙f6 ♙g7 28 ♗g5 is just mate.

26 fxe6 ♗xe6



Taking stock, Black has four pawns for the piece, with excellent active pieces, so it is hard to believe that he does not stand well. However, Topalov continues banging away and Mamedyarov seems gradually to lose the thread.

27 ♗ad1 ♗ae8 28 ♙xd3 cxd3 29 ♗xd3 ♗e4!?

The computer approves, but perhaps 29...b4 was better. Mamedyarov was highly



The Battle for Second and Third in the 4NCL!

Guildford were again impressively dominant, watched by FM Jonathan Rogers

The 2017/18 4NCL season ended over the first Bank Holiday weekend in May. A further round-up follows next month, but in rapid response style, we look at what happened at the top of Division One.

Guildford or Guildford

Rather, we won't look for too long at the very top of Division One. Why would we? Presumably you already knew the winner, even if you don't much follow 4NCL chess. Yes, it was Guildford! They won their sixth consecutive title over the weekend, and their ninth overall (Wood Green, in case you are curious about the 25-year history of the league, have won six).

Since Guildford were in fact the first team to win it even *three* years in a row, three years ago now, it has become a bit dull. Most titles? Tick. Most consecutive match wins? Tick (now 55 and counting). Has the team won 8-0 more than any other side? Tick – we long since lost count on that one. Has the second team sometimes finished second as well? Tick. Has their first team gone through the whole season without even losing a single individual game, dammit? Well, almost, this year – they did lose one game (!), but does even that really count, since it was against their own second team?

The first team is only partially British, because they don't accept any old GM (and many of our GMs *are* getting old). Matthew Sadler and Gawain Jones represent the 2700-odd English interest, followed by two regular French players (Laurent Fressinet and Romain Edouard). Others can be added at will. Ivan Cheparinov made his 4NCL debut over this weekend, thus doubling the Bulgarian contingent in the Guildford team, since Antoaneta Stefanova, the former women's world champion was brought in to play on board eight. The expectation that she would beat female players from other teams who were some 400 points lower rated proved to be entirely realistic.

For all of that, it is impressive that the Guildford players seem hardly ever to have any individual accidents. They do play hard to win each game, which ought itself to lead to the odd incident. Gawain Jones fought for over six hours to win a 121-move game against Florian Grafl (Barbican) on the Saturday, for example. The following day, we saw this from their most outstanding player in recent years, a player who is an extraordinary writer on the game and very approachable to boot, but who does evince an almost psychotic determination to win when seated at the board.

N.McDonald-M.Sadler Wood Green vs Guildford I



What would you play here, in this rather broken-looking position, where neither side has an obvious plan, and each has weaknesses to defend?

22...♖d7!

Easy to understand when you have seen a world-class GM play it. It is not just a matter of overprotecting the only weak point in the position (though there are worse things one might do). Also, the rook is next going to c7, and then either bishop will be able to move from c8 if it has anywhere useful to go, or (more likely) the rook will enter play by going to c6 and then a6 or e6. Progress! And how else?

23 h4 ♖c7 24 hxg5 fxg5 25 ♔d4 ♖f7 26 ♖b6 ♖a4 27 ♖b2 ♖c6 28 ♖b5 ♖e6 29 ♗d4 ♖e4

And Black has just what he wanted. Neil decides to liquidate one of his weaknesses at the cost of allowing Black to exchange his dormant c8-bishop.

30 c6 bxc6 31 ♗xc6 ♗d7 32 ♖b6 ♗xc6 33 ♖xc6 ♖e2 34 ♖b6 ♗c5



This looks very bad for White, and it is, but Matthew doesn't take the conversion of such

positions for granted. One just looks at him, and wants to give up. Somehow, an Englishman has captured the essence of Botvinnik.

35 ♖b7+ ♗e6 36 ♖c1 ♖c4

36...♗xf2+ would have been too hasty: 37 ♖f1 ♖d2 38 ♖c6+ ♖f5 39 ♖f6+ and after 40 ♖xf2, White's own bishop would still be defended.

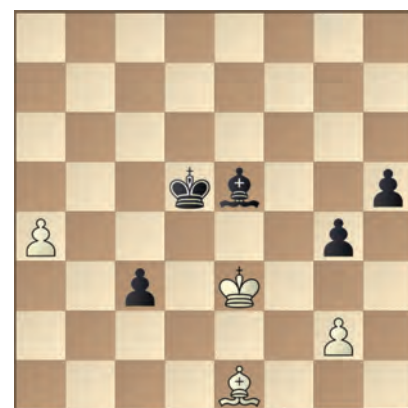
37 ♖xc4 dxc4 38 ♖b5 ♗d6!

I like this move, if only because I wouldn't play it myself. One *could* dive in now, and play 38...♗xf2+; but the pawn will not run away. In the meantime, it is important for the king to be close to the passed pawn and just imagine, if Black could keep the position still for a bit longer and play ...g4-g3...

So it is not just a question of rubbing it in (I can take on f2 when I want!), and showing the opponent who is boss. Or maybe it was. Perhaps Matthew has in fact channelled the entire Soviet chess spirit.

Neil hurries to move his rook back to the second rank.

39 ♗g7 ♖c6 40 ♖b2 ♗xf2+ 41 ♖f1 ♖xb2 42 ♗xb2 ♗g3 43 a4 g4 44 ♗e2 h5 45 ♗e3 ♗d5 46 ♗c3 ♗e5 47 ♗e1 c3



48 ♗d3 g3

Now the threat is 49...h4, at which point White would be wholly immobilised, and Black would have time to capture the a pawn before eventually playing 50...♗d4 then ...♗f2 and ...h3: for example, 49 a5 h4 50 a6 ♖c6 and White could resign.

Incidentally, at most levels this (playing 49 a5) would still have been the best bet. Had Black played the plausible 49...h4 50 a6 ♗d4?, then White would play 51 ♗xg3! hxg3 52 a7 ♗xa7 53 ♖xc3, and White's king gets to f1, from where he can never be evicted without being stalemated.

You Never Know...

Bob Jones explains just what can lie in store for the chess player in a second hand bookshop



Second hand bookshops were always a staple for chess bibliophiles; some neat and tidy with every category clearly labelled, others adopting a near-chaotic Aladdin's Cave approach. Either way, no-one ever quite knew what might be found – anything was possible, from an Alain White problem book in his Christmas Series to a disintegrating but rare antiquarian book. Whatever did, or did not turn up was not so important, the hunt was the thing, the anticipation, the faint possibility of discovering some undervalued gem.

When I first started in this game nearly 25 years ago, I had a regular route to follow that would take a day and include 8 shops; one each in Topsham, Exeter, Ashburton and five closely situated in Plymouth's Barbican area.

On one early trip I stopped off at the bookshop in Ashburton, went up the stairs to the chess section, and picked out three of the dozen books on the shelf. I took them back down to the till where the owner was on duty. We agreed a price of £17.50, and I started writing out the cheque, date and payee, when I heard myself asking, "Are those all the chess books you have or might you have some in the back, unsorted and unpriced?". Not a thing I'd ever asked anyone before.

"No, they're all there," he replied, "On the shelf and in the box".

"What box?" I didn't see a box."

"It's on the floor, under the table where the booklets are kept."

So back up the stairs I went, and there was indeed an unpromising-looking grocery box tucked away, with its four flaps folded over, preventing anyone from seeing what it contained. I pulled it out and opened the lids. It was an OMG moment. There lay a collection of 11 *British Chess Magazines*, beautifully bound, in sequence from 1901–1911. My first thought was that this was a bit out of my league and I wouldn't have enough money to pay for them and how much would they be anyway. Then I noticed that tucked into one book was a piece of paper with £40 scrawled on it. A quick bit of calculation – $£40 \times 11 = £440$ – and I guessed that was probably still a bargain, even 20 years ago. I had to enquire further. The first thing to do was to grab the box and take it back downstairs to the till.

"Err, I see there's a note with £40 on it in one of the books. Is that for that book?"

"No – all of them!" he replied.

The cheque for £57.50 was completed and I was back on the road to Plymouth within 60 seconds. In those few moments I had laid the foundation of my now near-complete collection of *BCMs*. As I said – you never know what you may find.

Recently, I was telling this story to Prof. Patrick Dillon, a local chess opponent and collector, to which he replied: "That's extraordinary – a similar thing happened to me, also in Ashburton", and he brought out an old

folding pocket chess set, similar to the Portland ones, made in card, that used to be so popular. However, this one was much earlier, a 'Dexter' set, made between 1901 and 1910 by de la Rue, makers of bank notes, top quality playing cards and other games-related equipment.

The exterior was made in leather; various colours were available, and this one was in red, with pieces made of "xylonite", the name given by Bristolian Dr. Daniel Spill (1832–1887) to an early plastic similar to Celluloid.

We decided the name 'Dexter' did not refer to the set's designer, but rather to the Latin word meaning right hand, implying a set that can be held in the right hand while the left hand moved the pieces.

My friend paid £13 for it and took it home, pleased with his purchase. So far, so good, but when checking it over, he noticed that, when



Above and below, an early folding pocket set, the leather-bound 'Dexter' chess set.



opened out, the side opposite the board, the sinister side, contained a half-hidden pocket, and in it he found, tucked away, a newspaper cutting and a folded scoresheet. The cutting, probably from the *Western Morning News*, told of two simultaneous matches in Cornwall given by the great J.H. Blackburne. The first was in Redruth, where, the newspaper said, bad weather had kept attendance down to a mere handful, and the second was in Truro.

The accompanying scoresheet was that used by Blackburne's opponent, Mr. W.C. Smith to record the moves. The likeliest identity of the man is recorded in the 1911 census as a Mr. William C. Smith, a 73-year-old retired farmer living in Budock, roughly six miles south of Truro. Mr. Smith was clearly not an expert and had probably taken up chess in his retirement.

The scoresheet was written in pencil, but was imperfectly recorded and it was not easy to work out the actual moves made, but, thankfully, Patrick helped out. Be warned, it's a terrible game, and a hard-hearted person would probably say it might have been better left undiscovered for another hundred years. That would be a bit unkind – but you never know what you might find, and it is, after all, a hitherto unknown game by the Master.



The legendary 'Black Death', Joseph Henry Blackburne (1841–1924), Britain's leading and an prolific player for most of his life.

J.H.Blackburne–W.C.Smith
Truro (simul) c.1910
King's Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 f4 f5

If Black was thinking imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, he was sadly mistaken.
3 exf5 exf4 4 ♖h5+ ♚e7

Black is already in a very deep hole, but this is the least worst option.

5 ♜f3 d6 6 ♜c3 ♜f6 7 ♖g5 c6 8 d4 ♚e8 9 ♜xf4 ♜bd7 10 0-0-0



10...♜g8 11 ♜e1+ ♜e7 12 ♖h5+ g6 13 fxg6 ♜g7 14 gxh7+ ♚f8 15 ♜g5 ♜e5 16 ♜xe5 ♖e8 17 ♖f3+ ♜f5 18 ♜xd6 ♖g6 19 ♜xe7+ ♚e8 20 ♜f6+ ♚d7 21 ♜e7+ Kc8 22 ♖f4 1-0

One has to feel a little sorry for Blackburne, continually having to trudge around the country, all through every winter, giving displays like this, on his 70th birthday, in order to raise a few shillings. The year before this, in 1910, he had marked his Golden anniversary of active playing, yet so limited were his means that in July of that year an appeal, or "testimonial" was launched to mark this milestone. By the time of this game, £500 had been raised, half of the

original hoped-for target, and the appeal was to be closed in a few weeks. The fund eventually totalled £790 which enabled an annuity of £104 (c.£8,500).

Not that Blackburne ever felt sorry for himself. In their report, the *WMN* made a point of noting the cheerful way in which the Master greeted every opponent as he went round the room, putting them at their ease and endearing himself to them.

Although the old-fashioned bookshops these days are rapidly closing down for a variety of reasons, if you do happen to find one, keep your eyes peeled – you never know what you may find.

ONLINE CHESS AUCTION

1 June - 10 June

The 21st auction by the Lund Chess Academy will feature rare books, magazines & collectable items. Profits are used to support the training and participation of young players in Sweden.

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This Month's New Releases



Strategic Chess Exercises

Emmanuel Bricard, 224 Pages

New in Chess

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Bricard, a French GM, has been a chess trainer for over 15 years and here he presents material that has been especially useful to him over the years. The exercises are presented in two sections, with one offering middlegame positions and the other covering endings.

One aspect of the book that becomes immediately apparent is the lack of waffle. The editing is tight; the introduction tells us everything we need to know without offering irrelevant material and then it is straight into the first set of exercises. These don't start off easy and they continue to work their way up; the reader is expected to work hard from the start, with very little in the way of clues. Here is an early example.



The book simply asks: "What plan leads to a large Black advantage?"

The answers are fully annotated and sometimes even showcase whole games. Without giving too much away to those pondering the above diagram, I can reveal Bricard shows an admirable appreciation of chess history, as the game is Mackenzie–Steinitz from their 1883 match.

This book will provide plenty of instruction to players who are already of a high club or tournament standard (180 ECF upwards), who will be able to tackle the exercises on a regular basis to improve their assessment of positions and decision-making over the board. The exercises are best used sparingly; it is definitely

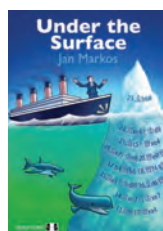
not the type of book to use as quick target practice. One per session would be enough.

Lesser-experienced players will benefit from the assistance of a coach or friend, who, with access to the answers, will be able to offer the occasional clue to guide the student along the correct path, before playing through the answers and explanations together.

I like this book and I hope it finds the audience it deserves, despite a couple of perceived disadvantages as compared to other offerings, namely the lack of a big-time grandmaster author and a lack of an 'immediate' promise in the title ('Winning Quickly/How to Beat', etc).

This is a serious book for serious students and by no means one offering a quick fix. Anyone carefully studying the material will definitely be able to develop their understanding of middlegame and endgame positions.

Sean Marsh



Under the Surface

Jan Markos, 288 pages

Quality Chess

RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Any chess book that tries to do something different always piques my interest, especially if it deals with chess itself or how we think about it. For me, the outstanding books of this type are Rowson's *Seven Deadly Chess Sins* and *Chess for Zebras*. With his new hardback work *Under the Surface*, Slovakian Grandmaster Jan Markos has also given us something special.

Markos sets out to show us how he perceives chess, what he focuses on and how he thinks about positions. In the introduction Markos describes the pleasure he gained when watching top grandmasters analysing their games and the insights his book provides are like those you can sometimes pick up when a grandmaster discusses his or her own game or, occasionally, in the very best annotations of games.

The book is organised into seven parts. The first five are directly related to playing chess with titles such as 'About the inhabitants of the chess board' and 'About time in chess'. The last two parts are about computers and about beauty in chess. There



are 33 short chapters, each of which is like an essay dealing with a discrete theme.

Some chapters offer a new take on familiar topics and others discuss themes that you might never have seen discussed elsewhere. For example, in the chapter on 'Anatoly Karpov's Billiard Balls', Markos discusses the inability of bishops to move from one flank to another – with some nice examples of bishops which are neither classically bad nor immobile, but nonetheless cannot influence the important action on the board.

There is also a chapter on positions without knights, a topic I've never before seen discussed in any detail. Middlegames without knights, but with most of the other pieces remaining are relatively uncommon, and yet Markos points out that looking at such positions helps us better understand what knights do.

Markos makes extensive use of metaphors and creates a new terminology to label the ideas he introduces. At first glance I thought some of the terminology was unnecessary, but it turned out to be useful both as an aid to understanding and as a way of remembering the concepts.

The book is very readable, especially as the chapters are short. Often I reached the end of a chapter wanting more, but it is the lightness of touch that makes the book such a good read. It's tempting to read several chapters at one sitting, but probably better to read one at a time and to reflect on the content. Markos offers his ideas lucidly and succinctly. His style is not didactic, rather he simply says: "Here is something I found helpful, I hope you do too".

This is an excellent and enjoyable book. Some of the topics will not resonate with less advanced players, but most readers of intermediate strength and upwards will find plenty to enjoy. Highly recommended.

John Pigott



Double Tuition: Tiger on the Modern

Tiger Hillarp Persson & Simon Williams;
GingerGM, running time: 5 hours, 30 mins
RRP £19.99 (download from GingerGM)

It is strange to think Tiger Hillarp Persson's book, *Tiger's Modern* (Quality Chess, 2005), has already been out for 13 years. There have

even been numerous improvements found since the second version of the book, *Modern Tiger* (Quality Chess, 2014). This new download – a DVD will follow soon – sees Hillarp Persson presenting his favourite lines against all the variations after 1 e4 g6 and sharing his views on what has gone on before.

The Ginger GM team is clearly happy to bring the Tiger himself onboard. We learn that “It’s an honour for Ginger GM to produce and share this work with the world”, and they have certainly pushed the boat out in terms of the video running time and the amount of material on show.

The Modern Defence is not for everyone as a lot of players will feel uncomfortable with the variety of positions reached, which depends on how aggressive or solid the opponents may be. However, there is definitely an appealing aspect to always opening with 1...g6 for a certain type of player. As the cover blurb puts it: “After completing this video course the viewer will feel confident to play this exciting and flexible opening, that is well suited for players who like living on the creative or adventurous side of the board.” Furthermore, “It’s an extremely exciting way of meeting 1 e4; it’s really punchy, really aggressive and a great way to play for a win.”

In the case of Hillarp Persson, in the introduction he acknowledges that he “Started playing chess very late” and this is one reason he was attracted to 1...g6, allowing him to bypass lots of established theory.

The material is presented in an unusual way, with Simon Williams discussing the Modern together with Hillarp Persson. Simon, who admits at the start, “I’m excited because I want to start playing this,” stresses that the video is a companion piece to the aforementioned Quality Chess book and they should not be seen as mutually exclusive products.

Simon’s role is to ask questions of Hillarp Persson throughout the presentation and to generate interesting talking points about the opening as a whole. This works a lot better than the similar approach adopted on ChessBase’s *My Secret Weapon: 1 b3* by Wesley So and Oliver Reeh, which I reviewed in April, because the conversation is more natural and the interaction between the two grandmasters is much more effective.

There are 21 videos, covering the whole range of white options, from the solid Classical approach to the ever-dangerous Austrian Attack and on towards the no-nonsense early g2-g4 lunges. The material is pitched at players who are around the 2000 Elo mark; good, experienced players wanting to improve.

Preconceptions had it that Tiger’s Modern would offer the trademark 1...g6, 2...♗g7, 3...d6 and 4...a6 against everything, but this is definitely not the case. Hillarp Persson demonstrates a far broader approach for Black and makes it clear that 4...a6 is certainly not the best way to meet certain variations. Another interesting discussion centres around the Hippopotamus variation (in which Black sets up with ...g6, ...b6, ...♗g7, ...♗b7, ...e6, ...d6, ...♘e7 and ...♘d7), with the grandmasters agreeing on when, exactly, Black can adopt this (admittedly never popular) approach.

One very interesting moment occurs in the coverage of the Classical variation. At first glance it looks as if the typical Tiger set-up with ...a6 and ...b5 will be absolutely fine, but Hillarp Persson shows a new line which has sprung up since his book was published.



Apparently White’s best move now is 7 e5 and Hillarp Persson very honestly admits he has yet to find a way to deal with it. After 7...b4 8 ♘a4 the knight, as odd as it looks right now, will hop into c5 once Black’s d-pawn captures on e5 (which he has to do, in order to undermine the white centre). Indeed, Black’s problems are so difficult the plan of an early ...a6 and ...b5 cannot be recommended against the Classical until a solution is found.

The summing up of salient points after key games works well and definitely helps the learning process. Incidentally, don’t be put off by the Ginger GM note that says, “Please be aware that due to technical problems, video and audio quality is variable in some places” as this does not distract from the fine material on offer.

Simon Williams is a popular character with a lot of chess followers. This suggests *Tiger on the Modern* could start a trend and we will see 1 ...g6 appearing more often in club and tournament encounters. If so, you will need this fine work to stay ahead of the crowd.

Sean Marsh

Candidate Moves: Find & Choose the Best

Christian Bauer, 408 pages, paperback
RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

This is another ambitious work from Thinkers Publishing and on a rather important topic. The 2600+ French Grandmaster delves deeply into his own praxis to help the reader learn how best to identify candidate moves and then select the right one. Along the way, one also learns plenty about such topics as exchange sacrifices, prophylaxis and trusting one’s intuition.

Chess Informant 135

Chess Informant, 336 pages, paperback
RRP £29.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.99**

The latest ‘Informator’ contains a report on Gibraltar by Richard Rapport no less, while Baadur Jobava and Mihail Marin contribute columns. There’s also the usual selection of several hundred top-level games, annotated in typical languageless format, the same still applying too to the sections on combinations, endgames and problems.

Please note that if you’d like on top of the paper format a CD of the same material for

Chess Informant 135 that is available for £39.99 (Subscribers – £35.99) or you might want only the CD, which is available for just £9.99 (Subscribers – £8.99).

Great Games by Chess Legends Volume 2

Craig Pritchett & Neil McDonald, 480 pages,
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Everyman’s latest compilation volume throws together Pritchett’s *Chess Secrets: Heroes of Classical Chess* and McDonald’s *Chess Secrets: The Giants of Strategy*. That means readers can enjoy a wealth of well-annotated games by all of Anand, Capablanca, Carlsen, Fischer, Karpov, Kramnik, Nimzowitsch, Petrosian, Rubinstein and Smyslov.

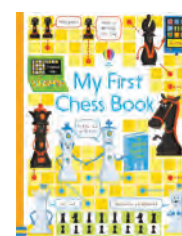
Also released by Everyman is *Simple and More Simple Chess*, combining two popular works from John Emms (288 pages, paperback), and available for £17.99 or £16.19 for Subscribers.



Let Me Ask You, Do You Know...?

Nikola Karaklajic, 352 pages, hardback
RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

It’s been a while since the Chess Informant team produced a stand-alone book, but now they have with this “Practical Endgame Guide”. Nikola Karaklajic (1926–2008) was a Serbian IM and the inventor of the Belgrade Gambit, as well as the author of this apparently classic endgame work. The 40 endgame lessons are certainly clearly presented and there is a wealth of well-chosen positions. Now the work, which has been computer-checked and slightly updated, can be enjoyed by a wider audience.



My First Chess Book

Katie Daynes, 40 pages, hardback
RRP £7.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £7.19**

Usborne have dabbled in chess books aimed at children before, but there’s always going to be room in a bookshop for a well-illustrated work such as this. Over 40 large pages, the pieces are introduced before tips follow on topics such as attacking and winning material. The book will enable the curious child to learn all about our game and might also serve as a handy refresher course for the rusty parent or grandparent. The chess content is certainly good thanks to Usborne’s decision to employ Sarah Hegarty as a consultant, while the author is an Usborne regular and mother of British Under-9 Chess Champion Joe Birks.

Opening Encyclopaedia 2018

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £89.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £80.95**

Six times a year *ChessBase Magazine* presents a number of theoretical surveys, and these can all be found on the *Opening Encyclopaedia*. There are now some 6,500 surveys in total on this DVD and apparently at least one for each of the 500 ECO codes, with the theoreticians contributing including the likes of Avrukh, Moskalenko and Rogozenko.

Owners of the *Opening Encyclopaedia 2017* can upgrade for £54.95 (Subscribers – £49.95) by quoting the serial number or returning their current DVD to Chess & Bridge.



Power Play 26: Checkmate Challenge – Essential Knowledge (PC-DVD)

Daniel King; running time: 5 hrs, 51 mins

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Something slightly different from our columnist in his acclaimed *Power Play* series. Viewers have to solve 100 positions culminating in mate, which are presented in 10 groups, ranging from ones suitable for beginners to “brain-busters”. In each case, the viewer has to play out their solution on a board, after which a video pops up offering feedback from Daniel.

Quality Base 2018:

Chess Informant 1965-2017

Chess Informant DVD-ROM

£159.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £143.95**

Quality Base contains all the material ever published in the acclaimed ‘Informator’, which means from its 134 volumes some 116,969 encounters, of which 72,244 are full games. This is a vast collection of annotated games and just about every leading player has contributed, some hundreds of times. The DVD can be opened by ChessBase users, as well as by anyone with the facility to open and play through .pgn files.



Strike like Judit!

Charles Hertan, 256 pages, paperback

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Subtitled ‘The Winning Tactics of Chess Legend Judit Polgar’, the popular American author and FM presents the most instructive combinations from the many great attacking games which the youngest Polgar played. Joel Benjamin once described Judit as “A tiger at the chessboard. She absolutely has a killer instinct.” Now, thanks to Hertan’s well-written explanations, the reader too should be able to increase their own killer instinct.

The Amazing Albin Counter-Gambit (PC-DVD)

Lawrence Trent; running time: 5 hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

These days IM Lawrence Trent is mainly known as a chess commentator, but returns to the Hamburg studio to follow up his earlier DVDs on the Grand Prix Attack, Morra Gambit and Two Knights’ Defence with another devoted to a club player favourite, this time 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5!?. After a surge of interest following the efforts of Morozovich, the Albin hasn’t been so popular of late, but Trent still firmly believes in the black cause and presents a number of new ideas to demonstrate why it remains a dangerous practical choice.

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www.barrowchessclub.co.uk/southlakes.htm or call 01229 472100

June 2-3 EACU Congress, Newmarket
www.eacu.org.uk or call 01908 234014

June 2 Golders Green Rapidplay
goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

June 2 Southampton Rapidplay
southamptonchess.org.uk/rapidplay

June 7 Hendon ‘First Thursday’ Blitz
www.hendonchessclub.com or call 07855 036537

June 9-10 Hampstead U2200 Congress
hampsteadchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

June 9-10 Tunbridge Wells Congress
www.invictachess.co.uk or call 07729 624141

June 10 Richmond Rapidplay
rjcc.org.uk or call 020 8756 0474

June 15-17 Bristol Summer Congress
www.bristolcongress.co.uk

June 16-17 Heywood Congress
www.heywoodcongress.org.uk or call 01706 627874

June 22-24 Largs Vikings Congress
www.chessscotland.com/events/

June 22-24 North Wales Congress, Llandudno
www.welshchessunion.uk/calendar/

June 23 Poplar Rapidplay
www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub

June 24 Brighton Rapidplay
www.sussexchess.co.uk

June 29 - July 1 Whitby Congress
noelschess.weebly.com

June 30 - July 1 Hampstead U2200 Congress
hampsteadchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

And for the Online Connoisseur:

May 27 - 8 June Norway Chess, Stavanger
norwaychess.no/en; Aronian, Carlsen, Caruana, So, MVL, etc.

June 12-16 Grand Chess Tour Rapid & Blitz, Leuven
grandchesstour.org; Anand, Caruana, Giri, Mamedyarov, So, etc.

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grandchesstour.org; Caruana, Grischuk, Kramnik, MVL, etc.

Congress organisers – Don’t forget to email editor@chess.co.uk to ensure your event is listed, or if you really want to guarantee a good entry, contact Matt@chess.co.uk to discuss having it advertised.