

Chess



**Fabiano
Caruana
Triumphs
in Norway**

**Sam
Shankland's
Winning Run
Continues**

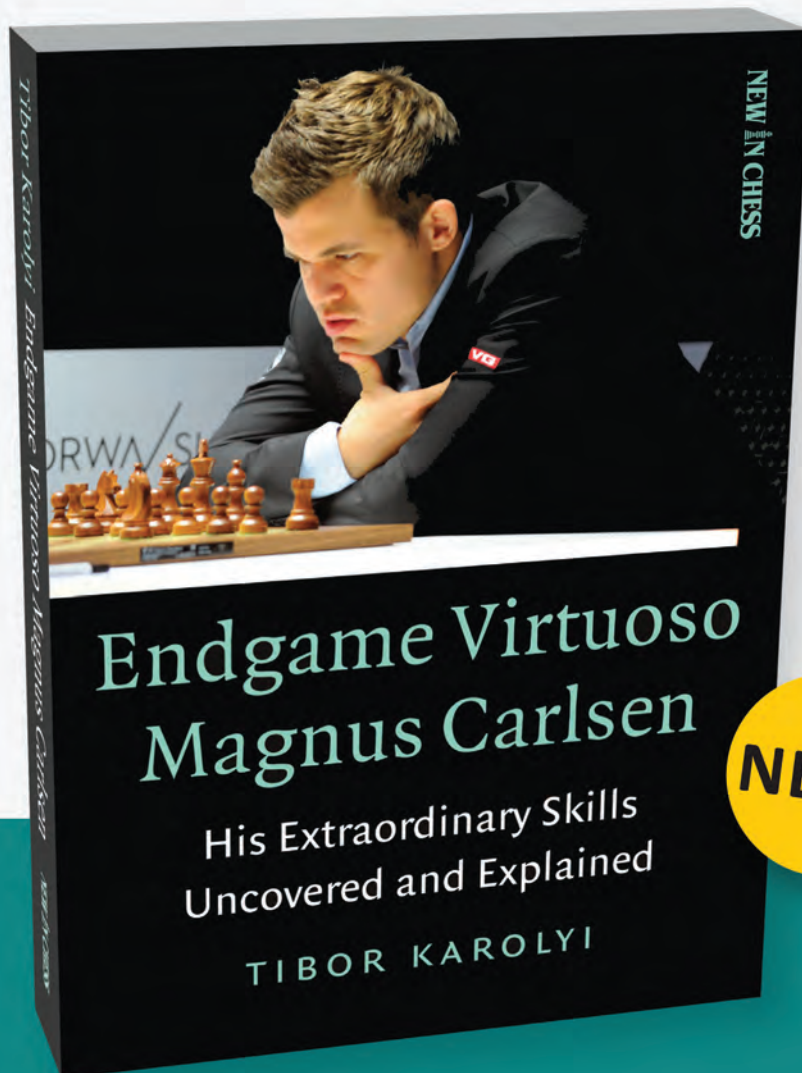


56 Years in the Making... Jose Vilela saw history being made in Cuba

Harry Goes Positional: Junior Tay shows us another use for the h-pawn

Don't Let the King Get in the Way! Steve Giddins instructs in the art of the subtlety

Learn from the World Champion



With his fine technique, great inventiveness and iron determination Magnus Carlsen has won countless endgame positions in which almost everyone else would have settled for a draw. He also has saved endgames that seemed impossible to hold.

Acclaimed chess author Tibor Karolyi has studied Carlsen's career, has selected more than 90 of his best endgames and shows how Magnus developed his skills. His technique and his choices are explained in a manner that is easy to understand for club players.

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

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Chess Editorial

By Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein  @TelegraphChess

After much reflection and hard calculation, I decided to throw my hat in the ring and enter the FIDE election process. The game's governing body has been shambolic for the best part of 25 years and after spending that long being one of FIDE's most vocal critics and supporting the failed candidacies of Bessel Kok (2006), Anatoly Karpov (2010), and Garry Kasparov (2014), I decided that the only way to engender change is from the inside. That means, despite the inevitable compromises that will have to be made, joining a ticket that has a chance to win.

I will stand for FIDE Deputy President on a ticket with the current deputy President and acting President Georgios Makropoulos. After removing executive authority from Kirsan Ilyumzhinov in April 2017, 'Makro' as he is known, and others, tried in vain to find a presidential candidate. Ilyumzhinov may be discredited, sanctioned and pretty much defeated, but he still has influence in Russia and he used it to derail the aspirations of several possible candidates.

I attended a meeting in Abu Dhabi in February where a group of FIDE officials intent on removing Kirsan were hosted by Asian Chess Federation President HE Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan. The intention was that Sheikh Al Nahyan would stand for President. I met him at Riyadh during the World Rapid and Blitz and I was very impressed with him. He went to school and university in England, and has a passionate interest in chess and technology. Unfortunately, at the last minute we learnt that our host would be unable to stand after diplomatic pressure was applied from Russia at the highest levels. This was not the first such episode between October 2017 and February 2018.

It was resolved at a meeting the following day that the candidate for President should be Makro or myself. My position was clear: the candidate who should stand was the one who had the best chance of defeating Ilyumzhinov as he had brought the organisation to its knees and was refusing to stand down. Of course, just months earlier, nothing had been further from my mind than standing for FIDE President.

After some research, it was clear to me that if stood for President I was highly unlikely to win and, ideally, if I were to ever be a candidate, 2022 would suit me better. Makro has indicated that he will not seek re-election in 2022, but of course anything could happen in the next week, never mind four years.

You can compromise on some things

If political compromises need to be made that does not mean there has to be any moral compromise or any compromise on the principles of good governance, openness and



The meeting in Abu Dhabi. Russian pressure prevented Sheikh Al Nahyan standing for FIDE President.

honesty – attributes FIDE is in dire need of. I am fully aware that I will be standing with people who served and supported Ilyumzhinov and, in some cases, got the organisation in the dreadful mess it is in. I have made clear that things will have to change if my involvement is to continue.

The first such change was in the composition of the ticket. When it came to my attention that Aginaldo Jaime of Angola (not Jaime Aginaldo as he is often and mistakenly referred to), one of the nominated Vice Presidents on the Makro ticket, was accused of attempted fraud in a U.S. Senate report from 2010, and that there were no published rebuttals of the allegations, I immediately made it clear that he had to be removed from the ticket or I would play no further part in the election.

We are talking about serious allegations, although no criminal proceedings were ever instituted and Mr Jaime denies any impropriety. See here: <https://goo.gl/YuWmaJ> and <https://goo.gl/M9CW4e>

Mr. Jaime has been a FIDE Vice President for four years, having stood on the Ilyumzhinov ticket in 2014, and no one seems to have noticed these allegations, or if they did, they were unconcerned. I was pretty dismayed to find that the person who appears to have introduced Mr. Jaime to FIDE politics was Nigel Short who is also standing for FIDE President. Nigel has been far more involved than I in the failed attempts to remove Ilyumzhinov.

I was dismayed to find a report on Nigel's visit to Angola in 2010 on Kevin Spraggett's website. Nigel was attempting to recruit Mr Jaime to Anatoly Karpov's 2010 ticket just a few months after the U.S. Senate report was published. See: - <https://goo.gl/XbfcJ5>

At Leuven just a couple of weeks ago, when we discussed the matter, Nigel admitted to me that had been aware of these allegations "A few years ago". Well, I have zero tolerance on such matters. If I find any such issues in the future, I will not hesitate to highlight them.

It's a strange feeling to be opposed to Nigel as we are old friends and have been on the same side many times. Moreover, we agree on many of the problems FIDE has and on some of the solutions; not least the arrangement with Agon/WorldChess who have all the rights to events within the world championship cycle and have been responsible for many a debacle that has been reported here.

This contract needs to be radically amended or cancelled altogether. Nigel and I also agree in principle that FIDE needs to end its dependence on wealthy individuals and go more down the corporate route, although I believe both have a part to play. For example, I would welcome the involvement of Rex Sinquefeld's Chess Club and Scholastic Centre of St. Louis in the world championship cycle at some point in the future.

Nigel and I disagree on one thing of great importance to English chess and that is the plan for a world championship match in London. Nigel is on the record as being against it. I see it as potentially a great opportunity for English chess, if organised properly. The board of the English Chess Federation also sees a Carlsen-Caruana match as an opportunity to promote the game here and I don't see how the ECF can vote for anyone who is against having the WCC match in London.



Please don't make plans for Nigel

I also feel that for all Nigel's great exploits over the board, he is entirely unsuited for a leadership role. To put it mildly, he lacks diplomacy, as you can see from his writings in which he has laid into all kinds of groups, people, even countries. Short also went viral for all the wrong reasons with his comments on the differences between men and women. This led to him complaining that he had been turned into a "misogynist pantomime villain" and I fear he was right.

I don't see how we can credibly try to encourage more women to play with Nigel at the helm of the game's governing body. It would be like putting the CEO of Philip Morris in charge of the World Health Organisation. In the political arena one sometimes has to let bygones be bygones and make compromises; Nigel too often seems to hold a grudge. His notorious stab in the back of Tony Miles after England's first grandmaster had passed away still makes me shudder whenever I think of it.

Despite my reservations about Nigel in a leadership role, I believe he has a part to play, for example in the strengthening of anti-cheating measures - something I know he feels passionately about, as do I. My fear is that by standing for President, the electoral arithmetic, which has been fairly stable for many years, means that he has no chance of winning, so all he is doing is splitting the vote and helping the Kremlin candidate, whoever that turns out to be.

Let's be positive

You can't fight an election without a positive vision for change. Here are just a few ideas I will promote.

Term limits

These would be 8 years for President and a limit for Board members. That would be 8 years in total so that no matter what happens, Ilyumzhinov cannot return, even if the Kremlin tries to parachute him back in.

Beef up and rebrand the Anti Cheating Commission

I'd call it the Fair Play Commission and have it comprised of arbiters, legal professionals, organisers and most importantly, players. Indeed someone of Nigel's stature as a player would be ideal as chairman.

Rescind or completely renegotiate the arrangement with Agon/WorldChess

As reported here, the sight of Alexander Grischuk holding a bottle of his own urine at a press conference at the Berlin Candidates, because he had been unable to go to the toilet during the game, demonstrated that Agon/WorldChess can organise a piss up, but not in a brewery.

Scrap the FIDE Online Arena and work with the major online providers instead

The FIDE online arena was only a factory for duff titles as far as I can see; another crude



Nigel Short has been involved in three previous failed campaigns to unseat Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

attempt to raise money. Chess.com, Playchess, Lichess, Chess24 and ICC are natural partners and do online chess a lot better than FIDE. Why not have the official world online championship with an established partner or partners?

Arbiting standards

Create cadres of professional or semi-professional arbiters as the core of any official event and end the use of such appointments for political purposes. Arbiting standards need to be raised generally.

The Verification Commission needs to be strengthened

This is the body that oversees all the important functions and it does not report often enough. I would appoint one salaried member who is responsible for independent oversight of the FIDE bank account throughout the year and should have online access to scrutinise all transactions in real time if required.

Title fees

These need to be reduced. It seems to me that the approach is often: how can we raise

more money from players? It's time to look at new sources of income. Rating fees for developing countries must be kept to a minimum and abolished for as many poorer countries as possible.

Africa

African chess has advanced far too slowly for decades and it's the fault of FIDE's long-time neglect. I would propose that a proportion of surplus funds over the target reserve of €2.5 million generated be transferred to an African development fund.

Transition *not* continuity

There needs to be significant change both in outlook, policy and personnel. Many of the people in the higher echelons of FIDE have been apologists for Kirsan, who started out as a white knight for chess with funds of dubious provenance and ended up as a complete fraud, even offering a fake person on his election ticket.

Makro should be seen as the transition candidate and, in my view, many of his colleagues need to be replaced. The

Presidential Board should be composed of people with specific skills, as well as ensuring all continents are represented. Even if I am elected, this is not going to be easy, but I prefer to take on the challenge from the inside than to be perpetually complaining from the outside.

The Kremlin tries pulls the strings

Just as we went to press, Arkady Dvorkovich, the former Deputy Prime Minister of Russia and the head of the FIFA World Cup organising committee, also declared his candidacy. At time of writing he had not put together a ticket. This has to consist of: President, Deputy President, Treasurer, General Secretary and two nominated Vice Presidents on the FIDE Presidential Board.

In one sense, this is welcome news as it looks like Ilyumzhinov's reign is finally over, but it also looks like the Kremlin is trying to keep control of world chess and that would inevitably mean maintaining the relationship with Agon/World Chess whose main sponsors are exclusively Russian. I will oppose Dvorkovich if he does submit a ticket. Although he is on the so-called 'liberal' wing of Kremlin insiders, he is already on a pre-sanctions list prepared by the U.S. Congress earlier this year. If FIDE is to have its banking facilities restored, it cannot have another PEP (Politically Exposed Person) at the helm.

Fabiano triumphs in Magnus' back yard

On the board it's been a busy month and a profitable one for world title challenger Fabiano Caruana who followed up his triumph at Grenke with victory at Altibox Norway Chess. At Grenke, Caruana drew with Carlsen; at Norway he got off to a bad start against him, and who would have bet against Carlsen winning the tournament after he scored this psychological blow?

The odds looked even better when Carlsen outplayed Levon Aronian and was the only player on a positive score after three rounds. Yet Caruana overhauled him by defeating Vishy Anand, Wesley So and Sergey Karjakin while Carlsen lost a horrible game to So and then remained marooned on '+1'.

M. Carlsen-F. Caruana

Norway Chess, Stavanger 2018

Bishop's Opening

1 e4 e5 2 ♘c4

The prep for the Petroff can wait for London.

2... ♖f6 3 d3 c6 4 ♖f3 d5 5 ♘b3 ♘b4+

5...a5 is definitely worth consideration, as if 6 a4 ♘b4+!, depriving White of the natural ♖b1-c3 attacking d5. After 7 c3 ♘d6 8 0-0 0-0 9 exd5 cxd5 10 ♖a3 ♖bd7 Black was very comfortable and later won both this

game and the match in Tan Zhongyi-Ju Wenjun, Women's World Championship (Game 5), Shanghai 2018.

6 ♘d2 ♘xd2+ 7 ♖bxd2 a5 8 c3 ♖bd7 9 exd5 cxd5 10 0-0 0-0 11 ♖e1 ♖e8 12 ♖f1 b5

Aggressive, committal and by no means bad as Black gains space Also fine is 12...b6 13 ♖e3 ♘b7.

13 a4 b4 14 cxb4 axb4 15 ♖e3 ♘b7

If 15...♖c5 16 d4 ♖xb3 (or 16...exd4 17 ♖xd4 ♘d7 18 ♘c2 followed by b2-b3 and White's position is a little easier to play) 17 ♖xb3 exd4 18 ♖xd4 with the better pawns and the kind of edge White might get in lines of the Tarrasch French where Black has an IQP and a light-squared bishop that struggles to get into the game.

16 d4! e4 17 ♖e5!



17... ♖xe5

Carlsen admitted afterwards he was a little concerned about 17...♖xe5!? 18 dx5 ♖xe5 19 ♖d4 ♖c6 20 ♖d2 and my computer is not averse to it.

18 dx5 ♖xe5 19 ♖d4 ♖e7 20 ♖ac1

20 ♖ec1!? was also promising. White cannot regain the pawn immediately, but he has an excellent blockade, b4 is permanently weak and the passed a-pawn a long-term asset. However, he had to avoid 20 ♖xb4 ♘c6 21 ♖d4 ♘b7 with good counterplay for Black. **20 ♖d7 21 ♖ed1 h6 22 ♖c5 ♖a5 23 ♖xa5 ♖xa5 24 h3 ♖h7 25 ♖c1**



25... ♖c7?

Criticised by Carlsen and quite hard to understand. White has sufficient compensation for the pawn, but probably no more and I guess Caruana was struggling to

find a good move here. However, 25...♖a6 26 ♖c5 ♖e2 was possible and the threat of ...♖e1+ gives sufficient counterplay: 27 ♖f5 (27 ♖c1 ♖a6 repeats and 27 ♖c2 ♘a6 28 ♖xb4 ♖b7 29 ♖xd5 ♖xb3 30 ♖xf6+ gxf6 31 ♖xf6 ♖f3 32 gxf3 ♖f1+ is also equal) 27...♖h5 (better than 27...♖d3 28 ♘c2 ♖xd4 29 ♖xd4 intending a4-a5 and there is still annoying pressure) 28 ♖g3 ♖g5 29 a5 ♘a6. It is not clear how White makes progress and perhaps 30 ♖c6 ♘b7 31 ♖c5 with a repetition would have been a logical outcome;

26 ♖xc7 ♖xc7 27 ♖xb4 ♖c1+ 28 ♘d1 ♘a6 29 ♖d4 ♘e2 30 ♖h2

Simple chess. White has a big advantage as he has two passed pawns on the edge of the board and Black's pawns are still blocked.

30... ♘xd1 31 ♖xd1 ♖c7+ 32 ♖g1 ♖c1 33 b4 e3

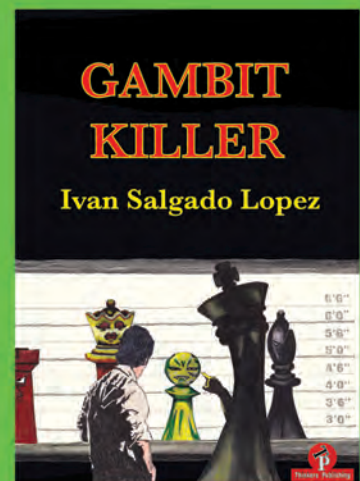
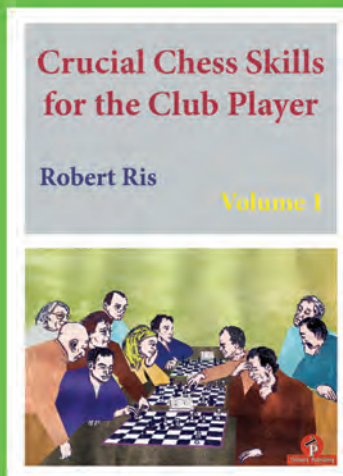
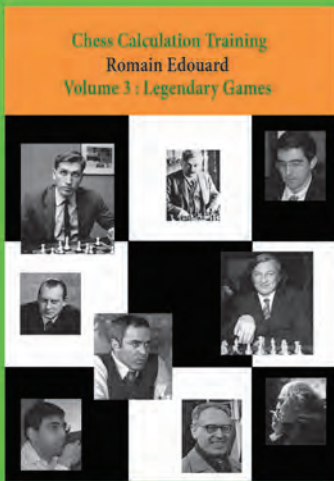


A last attempt to get counterplay, but Carlsen was not going to let this one slip.

34 fxe3 ♖e4 35 ♖xd5 ♖d2 36 ♖f5+ ♖h8 37 ♖g4 f5 38 ♖e2 ♖e4 39 ♖e1 ♖a1 40 a5 ♖d6 41 ♖d2 ♖c4 42 ♖d4 ♖c1 43 ♖f1 ♖xe3+ 44 ♖xe3 ♖xd1+ 45 ♖f2 ♖c2+ 46 ♖g3 g5 47 ♖e5+ ♖h7 48 ♖h2 f4 49 ♖d5 ♖a4 50 ♖f7+ ♖h8 51 ♖g6 ♖xb4 52 ♖xh6+ ♖g8 53 ♖xg5+ ♖h7 54 ♖h5+ ♖g7 55 ♖g5+ ♖h7 56 h4 ♖d6 57 ♖h5+ ♖g7 58 ♖g5+ ♖h7 59 h5 f3+ 60 g3 f2 61 ♖g6+ ♖h8 62 ♖xd6 f1+ 63 ♖h6+ ♖g8 64 ♖e6+ ♖h8 65 ♖e3 ♖b5 66 ♖c3+ ♖h7 67 g4 ♖d5 68 ♖c7+ ♖g8 69 ♖g3 ♖e6 70 ♖d8+ ♖h7 71 ♖d3+ ♖h8 72 a6 ♖e5+ 73 ♖h3 ♖a1 74 ♖d8+ ♖h7 75 ♖e7+ ♖h6 76 ♖e3+ ♖h7 77 a7 1-0

It's been a great month for U.S. chess as Sam Shankland followed up his triumph at the U.S. Championship by winning the Capablanca Memorial and then the Continental Championship of the Americas to get himself in to the World Cup in 2019. Shankland was catapulted into the world's top-30 and was promptly selected again for the U.S. team to play at the Olympiad in September.

The England teams have not been finalised, but the captains have been announced. GM John Nunn replaces me as Open captain and IM Lorin D'Costa will captain the Women's team.

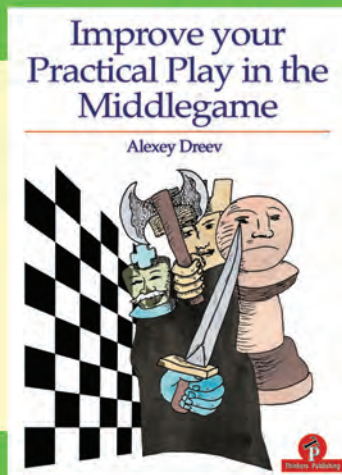


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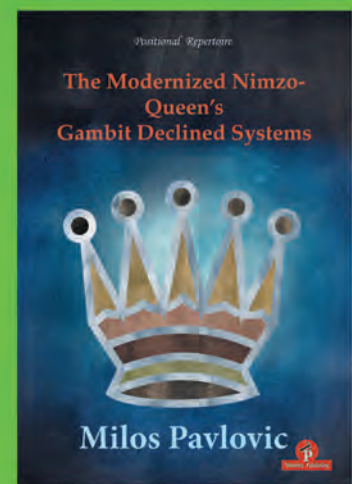
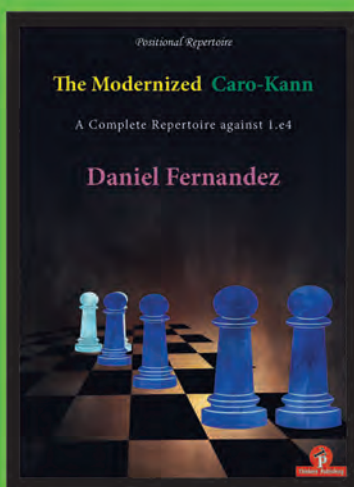


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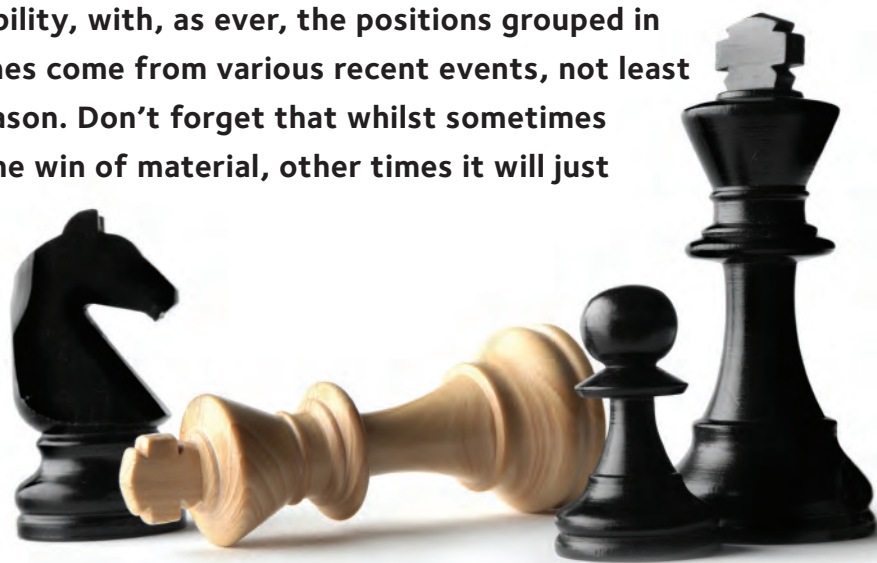
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Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability, with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from various recent events, not least the final 4NCL weekend of the season. 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) R.Maciol-A.Punnett
4NCL, Telford 2018
White to Play



(2) M.Wadsworth-T.Kabos
Jersey 2018
White to Play



(3) A.Suarez Real-S.Chow
4NCL, Telford 2018
White to Play



(4) K.Arakhamia-Grant-M.Wadsworth
4NCL, Telford 2018
White to Play



(5) M.Staniforth-P.Ehsandar
Welsh Championships, Cardiff 2018
White to Play



(6) P.Mercs-S.Hodge
4NCL, Doncaster 2018
Black to Play

Quality Chess congratulates the new US Champion – Sam Shankland



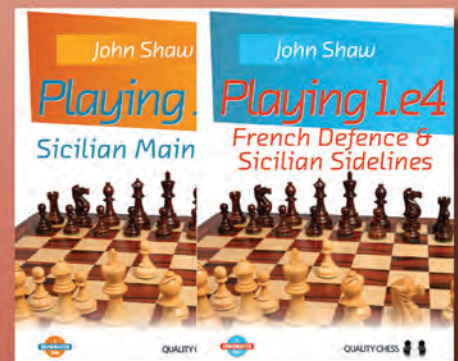
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Sam Shankland breaks down the principles of Pawn Play to basic, easily understandable guidelines every chess player should know. Shankland starts with extremely simple examples, but then lifts the level, illustrating the universality of the book's guidelines by showing how grandmasters could have made better decisions by using them.

GM Sam Shankland is a permanent member of the US Olympiad team, winning an Individual Gold Medal in 2014 and Team Gold in 2016. He also played on Board 1 at the two most recent World Team Championships. Shortly after this book was published, Shankland won the 2018 US Championship, ahead of Caruana, So and Nakamura. This result took his rating over 2700.

In these two volumes, **GM John Shaw** completes his state-of-the-art 1.e4 repertoire. He turns the analytical spotlight on the French Defence, advocating his own favourite weapon for White, the Tarrasch Variation, before considering a number of rare but tricky options available to Black in the Sicilian. The final volume tackles the biggest challenge of all: the main lines of the Sicilian Defence.

John Shaw is a grandmaster and three-time Scottish Champion.



Newly published!
456 pages 384 pages



Newly published!
272 pages in hardcover

Grandmaster Opening Preparation addresses such questions as how to balance computer preparation with human considerations, along with a wealth of practical advice on how to go about building the opening repertoire which is right for you. The book also provides an in-depth treatment of the evolution in understanding of Isolated Queen's Pawn positions, which will enable the reader to become more effective in a multitude of openings, with either colour.

Jaan Ehvest is an Estonian-American grandmaster, a former Estonian Champion, and a former Soviet and European Junior Champion. Ehvest is also an Olympiad Gold medallist and has been ranked in the top five in the world.

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Never Mind the Grandmasters...

Here come the amateurs - by Carl Portman (carl.portman@hotmail.co.uk)

Apart from being pleasantly surprised, I am always humbled when people approach me at chess events (or email and write to me), and say that they enjoy this column. Almost without exception, the thanks come from people like me – amateurs who are passionate about their chess regardless of playing strength. Their games will most often be littered with mistakes, but there will be some memorable moves and combinations to savour also. We might not be grandmasters, but many of us do have grandmaster scalps, especially in simultaneous exhibitions. This is the form of giant-killing I wrote about in my February 2018 column.

I am delighted to introduce you to one such giant-killer. His name is Richard Myers and I am sure that his name will resonate with many readers. He wrote to me recently saying that he enjoyed my column (always a good start!), and he submitted a delightful game which I want to share via this column. After all it is not every day that one gets to 'play and slay' a former world champion.

Richard lives in East Sussex with his wife. He retired at the age of 50 on health grounds and has worked in several fields, including being a magistrate. Now, at the age of 80, he does not play competitive chess for health reasons, but enjoys reading about the game and has a substantial chess book collection. He has a special affinity for the *How Good is Your Chess?* column in this magazine.

Richard learned chess at the age of 13 at Preston Grammar School and began to improve after borrowing books from the town library (remember those establishments?). He quickly became school chess champion and represented Lancashire Juniors. He was chosen to play for England in the Glorney Cup matches in Dublin in 1955 and at the age of 17 won the Preston Club Championship.

After National Service and University he moved to Bristol, winning the Bristol and Clifton Championship in 1964/5, and his grade was BCF (not ECF back then) 200, so he knew his way around a chess board for sure.

After moving to London, Richard played regularly for the Civil Service and in other chess leagues. Today he plays against a computer program and reads *CHESS* along with various books from his large collection. Richard used to write a chess column himself, for the *Western Daily Express* in Bristol, and he most certainly knows a thing or two about the game. He is a classic example of all that is good about the game – the people who play and encourage others to play. This month's column is dedicated



Former *Western Daily Express* chess columnist Richard Myers had a memorable win in 1963.

to Richard and others like him, who promote and enjoy our game at all levels.

Vassily Smyslov was not an amateur. He was a grandmaster and, at his zenith, world chess champion from 1957-58 after defeating Mikhail Botvinnik. It was a short reign though, as Botvinnik wrested the title back in the rematch. Smyslov wrote, "I have no reason to complain of my fate. I fulfilled my dream and became the seventh world champion in the history of chess".

Smyslov gave a simultaneous exhibition in Bristol in January 1963 after having played at Hastings where he finished third on an unbeaten 6/9, half a point behind the winners, Kotov and Gligoric. The simul would have been a major coup, of course, and Richard more than played his part in this historical event.

Richard knew that Smyslov was renowned for his quiet positional style, accumulation of small advantages and exceptional endgame play. Therefore Richard saw no point in playing in the same way; rather he would play a Dutch Defence and give Black some fighting chances if White were to play too quietly. Richard felt that he had nothing to lose, which, of course, is quite correct – it is usually the master who puts his/her reputation on the line in these events.

How wonderful it must have been to pit one's wits against one of the world's top grandmasters. Richard stepped up to the plate and battle commenced. Comments are by Richard unless marked otherwise.

V.Smyslov-R.Myers

Bristol (simul) 1963

Dutch Defence

1 d4 f5 2 c4 e6

The Dutch Defence, no doubt requiring a liberal amount of Dutch courage – Carl.

3 ♖c3 ♜f6 4 ♙g5 ♙e7 5 e3 b6 6 ♙d3 ♙b7 7 f3 c5!

This prevents an early e3-e4.

8 ♜ge2 ♜c6 9 0-0 0-0 10 a3 ♚e8
11 d5?! ♜e5 12 e4 ♚g6 13 ♙f4? ♜xd3
14 ♚xd3 ♜h5

A clear signal of my intended kingside attack.

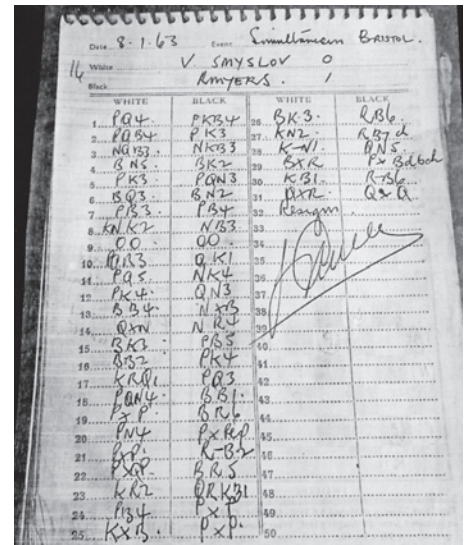
15 ♙e3 f4 16 ♙f2 e5 17 ♜fd1 d6 18 b4
♙c8 19 bxc5 ♙h3



This is where the fun begins.



Those were the days... Straight after the 1962/3 Hastings Smyslov gives a simul in Bristol.



Richard Myers' record of his win over Vasily Smyslov, graciously signed by the loser.

20 g4 fxg3

Black is gaining the initiative.

21 hxg3 ♖f7! 22 cxd6 ♙h4 23 ♖h2

Black's two bishops are now under attack.

23...♗af8

Here we observe a veritable cloudburst of Black artillery lined up against White's kingside. Richard (and Smyslov, I am sure) must have been able to smell blood at this stage – Carl.

24 f4

but you can find that for yourselves I am sure.

25 ♖xh3 fxg3 26 ♙e3 ♗f3



27 ♖g2

27 ♖xh4 ♗f2 (the engine gives 27...♗f6 as a clearer way ahead – Carl) 28 ♙xf2 ♗xf2 29 ♖h1 ♗f6 and now 30 ♗f3 is forced because of the mate on g4, but loses immediately to 30...♗xf3. Note that if 30 ♗xg3 then 30...♗h5 is mate.

27...♗f2+ 28 ♖g1 ♗g4 29 ♙xf2 gxh2+ 30 ♖f1 ♗f3 31 ♗xf3 ♗xf3 0-1



With the aid of a modern chess engine, it is possible to see that the crunching move for Black here is 24...♗f4. This was not played, but back then, we did not have metal machines to assist in the post mortem. Also taking on f4 with the knight with an unclear path ahead against Smyslov would have been brave or asinine. Richard understandably took the path that he could navigate – Carl.

24...exf4

Black is clearly winning.

Carl – After 24...♗f4!! everything somehow loses: for example, 25 ♗f4 (if 25 ♙e1 ♗xd3 or 25 ♗e3 ♗xe2 26 ♗xe2 ♗xf2+ and, again, have fun working out the mate in 8!) 25...♗xf4 26 ♙e1 ♗f2+ 27 ♙xf2 ♗xf2+ 28 ♖h1 ♙g2+. It is still mate in seven,

Richard's aggressive and positive strategy paid off, and I can imagine how elated he must have felt at that very moment in his life. Chess gives us so much pleasure – especially when we win. Richard recalls an exciting and at times nerve-wracking evening, but fortunately his nerve held and he played a game that he can always be proud of. After the game, Smyslov graciously signed the scoresheet.

Many thanks to Richard for submitting this game and congratulations on achieving such a memorable and instructive win. As well as an elite chess player, Vassily Smyslov was a very talented singer – well, here Richard wrote a song of his own on the chessboard.

The Trends in Chess Openings

The top 20 openings as played by International Masters and Grandmasters in April

- 1 = Reti Opening 99 games
- 2 ♠ King's Indian Defence 99 games
- 3 ♘ 1 d4 ♗f6 sidelines 77 games
- 4 = Caro-Kann Defence 72 games
- 5 ♠ Slav Defence 69 games
- 6 ♘ Queen's Gambit Declined 62 games
- 7 ♠ Ruy Lopez - Berlin 50 games
- 8 ♠ English, 1...e5 49 games
- 9 ♠ English, 1...c5 49 games
- 10 ♘ Sicilian - Najdorf 48 games
- 11 ♘ Nimzo-Indian Defence 76 games
- 12 ♘ Catalan Opening 41 games
- 13 ♘ English, 1...♗f6 37 games
- 14 ♘ 1 d4 d5 sidelines 37 games
- 15 ♠ English, 1...e6 36 games
- 16 ♠ Grünfeld - Classical 35 games
- 17 = Queen's Indian Defence 32 games
- 18 ♘ Sicilian 2 ♗f3 d6 sidelines 31 games
- 19 ♠ Four Knights Game 30 games
- 20 ♠ Petroff Defence 29 games

1,810 games played between 1-30 April where both players were rated over 2400 Elo



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This Month's New Releases



Small Steps to Giant Improvement

Sam Shankland, 336 pages
Quality Chess

RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

It is timely indeed that Shankland's hardback book should appear almost immediately after his smashing success at the 2018 U.S. Championships, where he outscored world-class luminaries Caruana and Nakamura, and just before his fabulous follow-up at the Capablanca Memorial, in which he finished one and a half points ahead of the pack. Yet it was a tournament experience of a different kind that led to the idea of the book.

"I failed to qualify for the 2017 World Cup. [...] With time on my hands, I could take on a big project without being interrupted by tournaments. [...] I chose the topic of pawn play because I have always struggled to explain the nature of good pawn play to my students, and struggled to make sense when it came up in interviews." This is what gives the book its strapline of 'Master Pawn Play in Chess'.

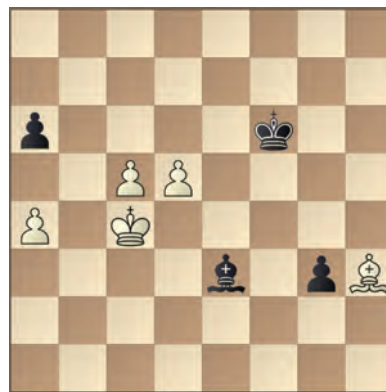
This book does not attempt to classify every type of pawn in the style of Hans Kmoch's *Pawn Power in Chess* (Dover Publications, 2003), but rather deals with four specific genres, each with its own chapter, with the titles already revealing the humorous side to Shankland's writing: Pawns Can't Move Backwards; Compelling Enemy Pawns Forward; Pawns Seldom Move Sideways; and Compelling Enemy Pawns Sideways.

The first game in the book is the infamous 'did he/didn't he' fiasco of *that* Polgar-Kasparov encounter from Linares 1994, which is used to demonstrate that making a mistake with a piece can often be corrected by simply moving the piece back to where it came from (in this case Kasparov's knight). This is followed up by an example showing the rather more permanent problem of making a mistake with a pawn and not being able to put it back to repair the defence. Polgar-Kasparov is a strange game to choose as the incident cannot be separated from the occasion and Shankland runs the risk of allowing his initial message to be diluted. Perhaps he has an axe to grind with this particular incident, but there must be a plethora of untainted examples to choose.

Quirkiness aside, one of the strengths of Shankland's material is the way in which they will resonate with readers of all playing strengths. Most will be familiar with the problem of opposite-coloured bishop endings and the issue of how to make the most of an

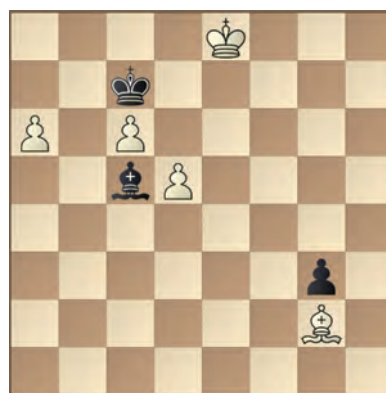
advantage in pawns. It is never as simple as it seems and in the section on 'Avoiding Potholes' there is a very instructive example from another era.

B.Kostic-S.Tartakower Bled 1931



"White has two connected pawns, but Black's blockade chances are real, and the g3-pawn restricts the h3-bishop. How can White make progress? The obvious move is 50 d6, but it turns out not to work." This is because of 50...♗e5! which, remarkably, draws because: "Even though the white pawns are on the same color as the black bishop, they cannot advance further without being blocked. 51 d7 ♕g5 and the bishop will be perfectly placed on d8."

Consequently, Kostic played the anti-intuitive **50 c6!** – "The only winning move" – and then sent his king around to pick off the a-pawn. Fast-forward a few moves and White's winning plan becomes apparent.



Black seems to be holding the blockade together, but Kostic broke it with **65 ♕f3!**.

"Zugzwang. Moving the king will allow 66 ♗d8, while moving the bishop will allow 66 ♗e7. Note how important the a-pawn is. If White did not have this pawn to distract one of the black pieces from the defense of the d6-square, Black would just hold."

The game concluded **65...♗a7 66 ♗e7 ♕c5+ 67 ♗e6 ♗b6 68 d6 ♗xa6 69 c7 1-0**. "What earned Kostic a victory over an illustrious opponent was that he understood when a pawn is too far advanced due to weakened squares...and when it isn't."

Apart from offering one in the eye for modernists who habitually denigrate the old masters, this really demonstrates the mission of the book: to help chess players (from strong club player upwards) to use Shankland's lessons to further their own understanding of a plethora of pawn situations. Or, as the author puts it: "Selfish as my original purposes were, a successful book that helps a lot of people improve their chess would be a very pleasant side effect of my studies!"

Small Steps to Giant Improvement represents an impressive transfer of energy for the author, who clearly applied himself fully to the task following his disappointment regarding the World Cup. His writing style is engaging and content fresh and interesting, making this book quite different to the norm. Students of chess have every opportunity to increase their own understanding of this important subject if they study the material carefully.

Sean Marsh



The Amazing Albin Counter-Gambit

Lawrence Trent, PC-DVD;

running time: 5 hours, ChessBase
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The Albin Counter-Gambit is a sharp attempt by Black, in which a determined effort is made to seize the initiative with **1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5**. Black's intention is to drag the opponent into unfamiliar territory after **3 dxe5 d4**, when according to Trent the advanced d-pawn "Acts as a very big nuisance in the white position; a wedge" interfering with the smooth and natural development craved by 1 d4 players.

It is possible that some readers have already used the Albin as a one-off weapon in a club or tournament game, but it would be much more difficult to think of anyone who uses the sharp opening on a regular basis. Trent is out to change the standard opinion of this rare opening – and he has form to back up his mission, thanks to a history of being an Albin player himself.

Three immediate questions present themselves when dealing with gambits such as these, namely:

- i. In what sort of shape are the main lines?
- ii. Can it be effective at all levels?
- iii. Can Black still find dynamic play if White declines the gambit?

Trent is quick to nail his colours to the mast, backed up with a rallying cry, claiming the gambit is “One of the most underrated openings, gambits-wise” and, furthermore, “Is absolutely sound and one I have not been able to refute after extensive weeks and months of studying this, with some of the strongest computers in the world.” He promises dynamic play, with the “Most in-depth analysis I’ve ever done” and is clearly very passionate about the whole project.

The early deviations are dealt with in the first lecture, with everything from the poor 3 e4 (“Absolutely garbage; nothing to worry about. Just take it!”), to the standard club player attempt to keep Black away from his dynamic plans with the potentially dull 3 e3. It’s interesting how the spectre of the French Defence manifests itself in some of these lines. Against 3 ♖f3, for instance, 3...e4 is the recommendation with a reversed French, and 3 e3 exd4 4 exd4 ♕f6 transposes to an Exchange variation.

It is clear even from this segment demonstrating the non-critical lines just how much effort Trent has put into this DVD, as evidenced by a strong novelty he casually introduces on move 19 in one of the lines. We then move through the fourth move alternatives, including Spassky’s old favourite 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 d4 4 ♖f3 ♗c6 5 a3 ♗ge7 6 b4 ♗g6 7 ♗b2 the threat is clear: White intends b4-b5 and simply capturing the pawn on d4. Black can keep afloat but has to tread a narrow path with 7...a5 8 b5 ♗cxe5 9 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 10 ♗xd4 ♗xc4 11 e3 ♗e6 12 ♗c2 ♗d6 13 ♗d3 ♗g5 14 f4, reaching what Trent calls the “Absolute main line of the main lines of the main line; the most critical; the most ambitious way for White to proceed.”

The most critical of all is the last of these, especially as it is recommended in various repertoire tomes for White. Here we see Lawrence keeping the Albin afloat against the analysis of Boris Avrukh. After 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 d4 4 ♖f3 ♗c6 5 a3 ♗ge7 6 b4 ♗g6 7 ♗b2 the threat is clear: White intends b4-b5 and simply capturing the pawn on d4. Black can keep afloat but has to tread a narrow path with 7...a5 8 b5 ♗cxe5 9 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 10 ♗xd4 ♗xc4 11 e3 ♗e6 12 ♗c2 ♗d6 13 ♗d3 ♗g5 14 f4, reaching what Trent calls the “Absolute main line of the main lines of the main line; the most critical; the most ambitious way for White to proceed.”



White is on the way to consolidation and a stable advantage, so Black must cause some trouble. The DVD recommends 14...♖h4+ 15 g3 and now 15...♖h3 instead of the usual 15...♖h5, which Lawrence finds insufficient. Admittedly, in this critical line there are ways for White to force a draw, but Trent did not find any way to put Black under severe pressure. Time and experience will tell whether or not all of his analysis holds up to the scrutiny of the higher levels, but at the moment it does seem as if Black could indeed play the Albin with confidence at any level.

In answer to my initial questions at the start of this review it appears to be a positive outcome on all three fronts.

There is a lot of analysis on this DVD with copious amounts of brand new moves and ideas of Trent’s own. He reiterates the need to prepare by “Repeat(ing) the lines time and time again” to breed familiarity with the material, while the DVD helps by concluding with 15 quiz positions to test the viewer’s new Albin skills.

Lawrence Trent is an experienced presenter and commentator. There have been times when I have found his style and content a shade on the shallow side (possibly informed by the entry-level standard required for an online audience of keyboard warriors), but this DVD has definitely seen him move up to another level entirely. The depth of his research is very impressive and his delivery consistently strong, making this product a certain hit.

Sean Marsh



A Classical Guide to the French Defence

Yannick Pelletier; PC-DVD,

running time: 4 hours, 27 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The strong Swiss Grandmaster has deployed the French Defence for much of his

career and thrives in the resulting closed centre positions. Pelletier is not only a connoisseur of 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5, but also an excellent presenter, who here explains a number of key points, as well as little-known nuances, and all in a very clear manner. Along the way he maps out a repertoire for Black, largely based around meeting both 3 ♗d2 and 3 ♗c3 with 3...♗f6.

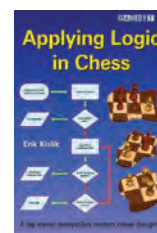
A Complete Guide to the Pirc/Modern Complex

J.Gallagher & N.Davies, 384 pages, paperback

RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Everyman’s latest compendium work will be ideal for the club player who plays or is interested in picking up the Pirc or Modern. It contains both that fine writer Joe Gallagher’s *Starting Out: The Pirc/Modern* and also *Starting Out: The Modern* by acclaimed coach and author Nigel Davies.

Also just out from Everyman is *A Complete Repertoire for Black Using the Sharpest Systems*, retailing at £17.99 for its 404 pages (£16.19 for Subscribers), incorporating both John Emms’ *Play the Najdorf: Scheveningen Style* and *Play the King’s Indian* by Joe Gallagher.



Applying Logic in Chess

Erik Kislik, 320 pages, paperback

RRP £21.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.35**

Readers may recall American IM Erik Kislik covering how Black should meet that fashionable line of the Sicilian Taimanov, 1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗c6 5 ♗c3 ♗c7 6 ♗e3 a6 7 ♗f3!?, in these pages not so long ago. Since then he has continued to work with a range of pupils, including several grandmasters. As such, Kislik is well placed to supply plenty of practical pointers in this thought-provoking work for Gambit, and he also tackles the tricky question: is chess a logical game? Kislik is convinced that it is and by exploring the topics of pawn structure, material imbalance and compensation he could well help the thoughtful reader really take their game to the next level.



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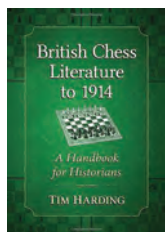
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Bologan's Caro-Kann: A Modern Repertoire for Black

Victor Bologan, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

It's been a while since a Caro-Kann repertoire work appeared and now we have both Bologan's latest book for New in Chess and one by Daniel Fernandez, as we'll see below. Here Bologan once again aims to highlight the key strategic ideas, while against all White's main lines presenting two distinct approaches for Black.



British Chess Literature to 1914: A Handbook for Historians

Tim Harding, 394 pages, paperback
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

Tim Harding's historical works for McFarland have always been very well received and now he has produced a real labour of love, a guide that will likely provide essential for those with an interest in chess history. Harding examines the many Victorian books and periodicals devoted to the game, while also supplying plenty of advice to fellow researchers, such as over how best to use existing chess libraries and those texts which have been digitalised and appear online. There is also a very helpful appendix providing an A-Z listing of 600 chess columns which existed before the first world war.



Catastrophes & Tactics in the Chess Openings Volume 1: Indian Defense

Carsten Hansen, 178 pages, paperback
RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

Carsten Hansen has penned several notable works over the years, as well as a great number of reviews for chesscafe.com, but now branches out on his own with a self-published series. In this opening volume, readers will find 'Winning in 15 Moves or less: Chess Tactics, Brilliances & Blunders', i.e. a selection of miniatures in the likes of the King's Indian, Grünfeld and Queen's Indian. The players featured are generally fairly strong, while along the way the reader should acquire several useful tricks and traps, as well as plenty of guidance in what sort of early mistakes to avoid in general.

Also new in the same series are: *Volume 2: 1.d4 d5*, *Volume 3: Flank Openings*, *Volume 4: Dutch, Benonis & d-pawn Specials*, *Volume 5: Anti-Sicilians*, *Volume 6: Open Sicilians*, *Volume 7: Minor Semi-Open Games*, *Volume 8: 1.e4 e5*, and *Volume 9: Caro-Kann & French*,

all of which retail too at £9.99 or £8.99 for Subscribers.

That's quite some output from the Danish/American FM and those who really like their miniatures can purchase all 9 volumes together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £80 or just £72 for Subscribers.



ChessBase Magazine 183

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

The latest issue of *CBM* mainly looks back to events at Wijk aan Zee and Gibraltar. Daniel King and Simon Williams contribute videos, while the world champion's second, Peter Heine Nielsen, explains all about his blunder against Gawain Jones. Elsewhere the opening surveys section contains one by Alexey Kuzmin on a sharp and topical line of the modern London, 1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♗f4 g6 3 ♝c3 d5 4 e3 ♗g7 5 h4!?



Foxy 185: How to Assess Any Position and Create a Plan For the Tournament Player – Part 1 (DVD)

Andrew Martin, running time: 2 hrs, 53 mins
SPECIAL PRICE £12.95

Andrew Martin returns to the Foxy studio aiming to improve the club player's middlegame skills. His focus is on helping viewers to better assess positions and find the right plan. Plenty of recent positions come under Martin's microscope, while as ever he clearly explains both the right and wrong approaches.

More of the same helpful and important material follows in the companion DVD, *Foxy 186: How to Assess Any Position and Create a Plan For the Tournament Player – Part 2*. That runs to 2 hours, 48 minutes and is also available from Chess & Bridge for £12.95, or you might prefer to purchase both DVDs together for just £25.



Grandmaster Opening Preparation

Jaan Ehlvest, 272 pages, hardback

RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Jaan Ehlvest used to be one of the world's strongest players and now in his mid-50s still boasts a 2538 rating. With his *Grandmaster Opening Preparation*, Quality Chess continue their recent run of original and thought-provoking works, Ehlvest following hot on the heels of Sam Shankland's work, reviewed above, and Jan Markos' *Under the Surface*, which was last month. Ehlvest discusses several important practical issues, not least how one should balance using the computer alongside human considerations when preparing, and also tackles the infamous isolated queen's pawn structure in some detail.



Komodo Chess 12

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £79.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £71.99**

Mark Lefler and Larry Kaufman have tweaked their popular Komodo engine to make it even stronger as *Komodo 12* is unfurled in a 64-bit multiprocessor version. As ever, the engine comes with the 'Fritz' interface, making it very easy to use for analysis and practice games. However, not only can users access the latest *Komodo 12*, but also a 'Monte-Carlo' version of *Komodo*, i.e. one which has learnt and will learn from playing a vast series of games with itself, just as *AlphaZero* did. Currently *Komodo 12* is stronger than the AI-based version, although that is hardly shabby and also has a much more aggressive style.



Opening Repertoire: 1 e4

Cyrus Lakdawala, 336 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

We tend to associate Cyrus Lakdawala with the London and other system-based openings beginning 1 d4 or 1 ♖f3, but at his weekly Gambito Rapid tournaments in San Diego, Lakdawala also likes to begin with 1 e4 on occasion. Unsurprisingly his preference is then for a strategic game, so the repertoire presented here should come as no surprise: 1 e4 e5 2 ♗c4, ♗b5 systems against the Sicilian, and the Advance against both the Caro and French. The repertoire may lack immediate sting, but is solid, will still set some problems, and can be easily picked up by even the weaker club player looking for a reliable 1 e4 repertoire.



Paul Felix Schmidt: A Winning Formula

Eva Regina Magacs & Michael Negele,
320 pages, hardback

RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £36.95**

The name Paul Schmidt may not be too familiar to younger readers, but he was a very strong player in the 1930s, as well as prolific writer on the game. Schmidt later emigrated from Germany to the United States and became a leading scientist in the field of semiconductors. This detailed biography, with the text supplied in both English and German, sets Schmidt's chess career and family background against the turbulent times in which he lived. Also included are a number of fine photographs and 12 games annotated by Schmidt himself.

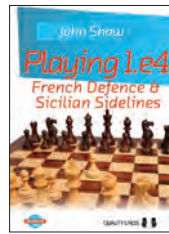


Play the Semi-Tarrasch! Part 1

Tibor Karolyi, 224 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

As was apparent at the Berlin Candidates, the Semi-Tarrasch, 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 f3 f6 4 c3 c5 5 cxd5 dxd5 , is currently at the forefront of grandmaster fashion. The opening is dependable and also offers Black scope to outmanoeuvre White. In this first volume of a two-work project for Chess Evolution, the Hungarian IM and theoretician explores both the main line, 6 e4 xc3 7 bxc3 cxd4 8 cxd4 b4+ 9 d2 xd2+ 10 xd2 0-0, and also how Black can meet the Exchange variation, 3 c3 f6 4 cxd5 , with 4... $\text{xd5}!$?. Then play can transpose to the

Semi-Tarrasch, but can also remain in independent waters as Karolyi demonstrates.

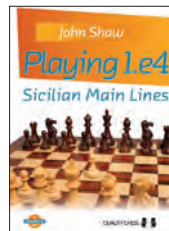


Playing 1.e4:

French Defence and Sicilian Sidelines

John Shaw, 384 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Many readers may possess a copy of John Shaw's 2016 work *Playing 1.e4: Caro-Kann, 1...e5 & Minor Lines* and now he returns to complete his 1 e4 repertoire. In this first of two new volumes, the Scottish Grandmaster advocates his favourite Tarrasch variation against the French and also tacks on coverage of some of Black's rarer Sicilian lines after 1 e4 c5 2 f3 . As with the first volume, the coverage is cutting-edge, clear and contains a plethora of new ideas.



Playing 1.e4 – Sicilian Main Lines

John Shaw, 456 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Here Shaw turns his attention to an Open Sicilian repertoire no less, which was most certainly no mean feat on his part. That means tackling the likes of the Dragon and Najdorf, the former being tackled by means of 9 0-0-0 in the Yugoslav and the latter with 6 f3 , leading to the English Attack. Once again Shaw's analysis is first rate and the layout easily accessible.

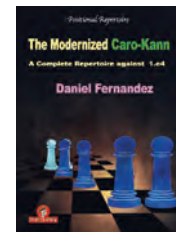
Please note that both new books by John Shaw are also available in hardback version for an extra £4 each.



The Modern Endgame Manual: Mastering Basic Rook Endgames

Adrian Mikhalchisin, 258 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

This is the first volume in an apparent eight-strong series, produced by Chess Evolution and with the approval of FIDE. The series begins with acclaimed endgame expert and highly experienced trainer, the Slovakian GM Adrian Mikhalchisin covering the most important things which we should all know about rook endgames.



The Modernized Caro-Kann

Daniel Fernandez, 416 pages, paperback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

The young English Grandmaster has produced his debut work for Thinkers Publishing and on one of his favourite openings, the Caro-Kann. Fernandez is not afraid to take his own path at times, while improving on existing main line theory at others. Against the Advance variation, both 3... f5 and 3...c5 are covered, while in the main line the focus is on that favourite move of both Karpov and Speelman, 4... d7 . We're also delighted to say that we'll hear more next month and from Daniel himself no less.

Ed. - 'Saunders on Chess' can be found on page 29 this month, while Double Tuition: Tiger on the Modern is now available in DVD format and available from Chess & Bridge for £22.99 or £20.69 for Subscribers.

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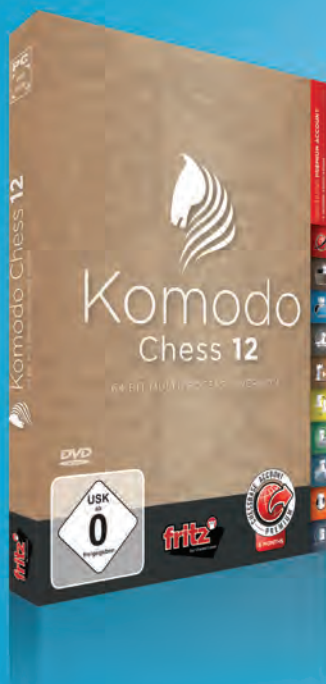
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KOMODO 12

Komodo gets going! The new version of the multiple world champion program not only plays stronger than ever. What's more, the additionally supplied "Monte Carlo" version of Komodo 12 uses the analysis technology employed by the AI project "AlphaZero" in its recent sensational match triumph.



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In computer chess there is no getting past Komodo; Komodo is a triple TCEC Champion. Last year Komodo won the computer rapid chess world championship with an incredible score of 96%! But what does the surprising success of the AI project AlphaZero mean for the future of computer chess? Will the classical engines, with in addition to cunning algorithms any amount of human chess knowledge, still manage to keep their nose in front? Or will the "Monte Carlo" process win through, which works with huge numbers of games and statistical evaluations?

The new Komodo 12 may have no answer to this question but it does have two engines up its sleeve! For with Komodo 12 you get on one hand the new and improved classical Komodo engine. The developing team of computer expert Mark Lefler and chess grandmaster Larry Kaufman has cranked up the playing strength of the top program a bit further. And on the other hand a Komodo 12 "Monte Carlo" version is included. Here the engine behaves quite differently in analysis: within a short time it plays a whole series of games against itself and comes to its evaluations based on the results of these games. As for playing strength, the "Monte-Carlo" version is not yet up there with the classical Komodo 12. But what is interesting is that the playing style of the two versions clearly differs: the "Monte-Carlo" version plays clearly more ag-

"I am deeply moved by the style of Komodo. In my opinion it's the perfect combination between computer accuracy and human positional understanding. I get the feeling it's taken positional understanding to the next level. After such an impressive performance I am going to test Komodo in my future work, especially in very positional play, and am really looking forward to working with it."

GM Boris Avrukh

gressively and thus also bases its play less on the material balance on the board. Komodo 12 is thus two things: an absolutely top program and an exciting analysis partner, which will often surprise you with its suggestions and introduce you to interesting ideas!

It is delivered with the new program interface of Fritz 16 and premium membership (6 months) for the ChessBase Account, including access to playchess.com, ChessBase Video-Portal, LiveDatabase, and much more.

KOMODO CHESS 12:

- Improved Komodo 12 multi-processor engine
- New Komodo 12 "Monte Carlo" engine
- New Fritz 16 program interface
- 6 months ChessBase Premium Account

RRP £ 79.95 **Subscribers' £ 71.95**



System requirements:

Minimum: Dual Core, 2 GB RAM, Windows 7 or 8.1, DirectX11, graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, Windows Media Player 9 and internet access.

Recommended: PC Intel i5 (Quadcore), 8 GB RAM, Windows 10, DirectX11, graphics card with 512 MB RAM or more, 100% DirectX10-compatible sound card, Windows Media Player 11, DVD-ROM drive and internet access.

Available from Chess & Bridge

To order visit: shop.chess.co.uk or call 0207 486 7015

