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A Rainy Night in Georgia - Tim Wall reports from the FIDE Congress in Batumi



How Caruana can Beat Carlsen - Erik Kislik shows that Magnus has weak spots



Kipping: Men & Myths - Bob Jones reveals all about a great British chess dynasty

Chess

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Chess Editorial

By Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein



@TelegraphChess

There's really too much to report on this issue, particularly with regard to the FIDE elections that took place during the Olympiad at Batumi. Tim Wall has covered them in some depth on pages 8-12 and I hope, after the world championship match in London, which will be just days away when you receive the magazine, to write about it in a lot more depth.

For the moment, I'll just mention a few points that stood out to me and say that taking part in the election was an incredible experience. I wish FIDE well and right now I want to focus on making the match in London a success. It already feels like it may be something of a wasted opportunity for English chess and I make no secret of the fact that I am working on this with the new FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich and his colleagues.

When I decided to stand for FIDE Deputy President, by far the most important objective was:

Getting rid of Kirsan Ilyumzhinov

Tick in the box. I'll take a little of the credit for this as it seems clear that my entry into the campaign made the electoral calculation significantly worse for Ilyumzhinov and, once his masters figured that out, he was replaced with a far better candidate.

Then there was:

Ensure that there was a timetable for Makro's tenure to end

I thought this would take four years and I had secured his public confirmation that he would go after being President for one term. This commitment proved to be genuinely helpful with many delegates who thought very negatively of him. Well, obviously a tick in the box there, although the 'Accelerated Makro Variation Reversed' was not what I had in mind.

Prevent Nigel Short from becoming FIDE President

Tick in the box. I won't go over old ground.

Prevent Russian Domination of FIDE and its use as a tool of Russian soft power

A total fail there, but let's be positive. I rather liked Olimpiu Urcan's tweet that we have swopped Russian-led incompetence for Russian-led competence – we will have to see.



A Few Interesting Points That Arose...

When we met privately for the first time some days before the vote, Dvorkovich asked me if I would serve on Presidential Board – I declined politely. As the state of relations between our two countries threatens to get worse before it gets better, I could not join a Russian-led FIDE administration even if we can work together in a limited way on specific projects.

Garry Kasparov's silence and his effective support for Dvorkovich

Yes, you read it right – Kasparov, the onetime opposition candidate to Vladimir Putin in Russia's presidential elections. As they used to say on that wonderful American TV series Soap: "Confused? You will be..."

Throughout the campaign, Garry's silence was as prolonged as it was deafening. He initially tweeted some support for Nigel shortly after he declared, and Nigel then went on a tour of Africa, which looks like it was supported by the Kasparov Chess Foundation Africa. Before and during the FIDE Congress in Batumi, Graham Jurgensen, the general manager of the Kasparov Chess Foundation Africa, was to be seen pacing the halls of the Sheraton Hotel in Batumi talking to African delegates, trying to get them to support Essoh Essis, the Cote D'Ivoire delegate in his campaign to become African Chess Confederation (ACC) President.

The twist was that days before the vote Essis then came out for Dvorkovich, and urged African delegates to vote for the Russian.

There was even a farcical postscript. In the Continental elections for Africa held shortly after the FIDE Presidential elections, the deeply flawed incumbent, Lewis Ncube, was re-elected and remained on the Presidential Board. After the FIDE Presidential vote, I got a call from Jurgensen, asking me for help in securing the votes of Makro-supporting delegates from Africa for Essoh Essis. I declined to help, it was a mess of Jurgensen's making, but in truth, Makro's Africa strategy was also a joke.

Makro's candidate for ACC President was a nice chap, but relatively ineffective. After I had earlier this year successfully demanded the removal of Angola's Aguinaldo Jaime from Makro's ticket over corruption allegations (see the July CHESS), Makro replaced him with the Zambian Health Minister, Chitalu Chilufya. Dr. Chilufya didn't even turn up at the FIDE Congress until the General Assembly, as far as I am aware, instead being represented most of the time by his brother.

It was also notable that the president of the Kasparov Chess Foundation, Michael

Khodarkovsky, the U.S. Chess Federation delegate in Batumi, secured a coveted FIDE Vice President post with the support of the pro-Dvorkovich majority in the General Assembly.

We can only surmise why Garry might support a Kremlin-nominated candidate in the FIDE Presidential election, directly or indirectly, after his long record as an opposition politician in Russia. Perhaps he will explain...

It's too soon to say what will happen in 2022

Let's see how things develop. Dvorkovich's campaign was slick, well-funded and professional, in sharp contrast to Makro's. I also liked many of his ideas — because, let's face it, most right-minded people agree on what needs to be done. Therefore, I'm going to see what develops in the next two years before I decide whether to put myself forward as a candidate in 2022. Literally, as I was writing this, it was announced that the Women's World Championship will be more closely aligned with the Open and that the Women's World Cup will feed four players into the Candidates, which is exactly what I was proposing!

Fight Corruption

At best a work in progress, but I want to give the new FIDE President a chance to show he means well. There was a lot of what I would regard as unethical behaviour in the election which Tim refers to, but I think this was the most glaring example:



Kirsan's right hand man, Berik Balgabaev, seems set, depressingly, to be given a role in the new administration. He sent this text which was considered into evidence by the FIDE Ethics Commission. I think the text speaks for itself. It was sent to an unknown number of Arab delegates.

Balgabaev clearly hated the text being reproduced at Batumi to the extent that (I think) Makro, myself and others were served with an injunction (in Georgian and therefore incomprehensible to me), to prevent us from handing out leaflets referring to it and corruption. The resulting shenanigans were well covered at: www.chess.com/news/view/dvorkovich-survives-ethics-ruling-lawyer-steals-flyers.

The Olympiad - The Chess

OK, enough FIDE news for now – on to the chess in Batumi. It was a brilliant Olympiad for China who took golds in both the Open and Women's events. In the Open, the Chinese victory came after a tense wait for the arcane tie-break calculations in which they edged out the USA. The last round of the Women's competition was almost unbearably tense and it was the Chinese women who held their nerve against Russia – see inside.

I was hugely impressed by the opening ceremony held in the fabulous Black Sea Arena and attended by the Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili. He was genuinely interested in chess and I had a coffee with him at the Sheraton Hotel, finding him to be very knowledgeable about the game.

There were some justifiable complaints about certain hotels in Batumi, meaning that the England teams had to eat out most of the time, and also about some aspects of the tournament hall, but overall I loved it.

On the home front, there was a brilliant performance from the England teams at the Olympiad, particularly the Open team who came fifth. Ably captained by John Nunn and with all the side fighting illness most of the time, they did brilliantly. Nunn's idea to promote Luke McShane to board two worked a treat as he scored vital wins in the matches against Israel and Argentina. David Howell had a superb tournament on board three, while the others were unspectacular but effective. Here are Howell and McShane sacrificing queens.

D.Howell-M.Kazhgaleyev England vs Kazakhstan





The New Professional Look - Whether inspired by the team blazers or John Nunn (second right), England finished a very creditable fifth in Batumi, Luke and David scoring especially well.

This was the critical last round match. Howell had set up an IQP position from the opening and was exerting a little pressure when his opponent lashed out on the kingside. I suspect this may have been motivated by the grim position his team mate had been forced into by Mickey Adams on board one. Black has just gone for broke with 25...g4, but Howell had calculated well.

26 ∅xe4 fxe4 27 ∰c3 ⊈f7

Both 27...gxh3 28 營h8+ 含f7 29 營xh7+ and 27...d4 28 exd4 gxh3 29 營xh3 are no good.

28 hxq4 **\(\bar{2}\)**q8

The key point is 28... Wh4 29 g3 &xg3 30 fxg3+ and check.



35 **≝xe3!**

Forced, but winning. White secures a material advantage, the e-pawn will advance and Black's king is exposed.

L.McShane-D.Flores

England vs Argentina King's Indian Attack

1 e4 c5 2 🖄 f3 e6 3 g3 🖄 c6 4 🕸 g2 🖄 f6 5 d3 d5 6 👺 e2 b6 7 0-0 🕸 b7 8 🗵 e1 🕸 e7

9 🗓 a3

Diverging from the standard set-up with the queen's knight on d2.

9...a6 10 c3 c4 11 exd5 cxd3



12 dxc6!? dxe2 13 cxb7 \(\bar{2}\)b8 14 \(\bar{2}\)e5 \(\bar{2}\)e5 2f4 \(\bar{2}\)d6

16 🖾 ac4 🔔 xe5

16...0-0 17 ②xd6 ②h5! is a defensive idea found by the computer, after which 18 ②dxf7 ②xf4 19 gxf4 罩xf7 20 ②xf7 堂xf7 21 罩xe2 is still somewhat better for White.



Material is equal, but this is very hard to

play for Black who now suffered in the upcoming time scramble.

21... 這b8 22 罩ab1 f6 23 息h6 ②c5 24 罩b2! ②xb7 25 罩bxe2 e5 26 息e3 ②d6 27 c4 ②f5 28 息e4! 營d7 29 罩d2 營c8 30 息xf5 營xf5 31 b4 h5 32 h4 罩c8 33 罩c1 營e4 34 罩dc2 罩c6 35 a4 b5?

After 35...f5! 36 b5 axb5 37 axb5 罩c8 38 &xb6 f4 Black has a lot more play.

36 axb5 axb5 37 &c5+! \$f7 38 cxb5 \$\mathbb{Z}\$c8 39 \$\mathbb{Z}\$d2 f5 40 \$\mathbb{Z}\$d7+ \$\mathre{C}\$e6

Likewise, 40... \$\delta 6 41 \quad \text{aa} 1 \quad f4 42 \quad \text{aa} 6+ \$\delta 5 43 \quad \text{g4} 44 \quad \text{g7} + (not 44 \quad \text{g6} 6+ \$\delta 5 3) 44... \$\delta 6 3 \quad \text{ga} 3 + \$\delta 2 46 f3 \quad \text{gb} 1+ 47 \quad \text{gh} 2 \quad \text{and wins is a brilliant variation.}

41 \(\bar{2}\) cd1 f4



42 g4!! 1-0

A lovely finish. 42...hxg4 43 罩1d6+ 當f5 44 罩f7 is mate.

World Championship News

Some good publicity for chess as World Championship sponsor Kaspersky Lab noticed what we had seen at CSC via the *Liverpool Echo* newspaper, namely that Liverpool FC defender Trent Alexander-Arnold is a chess fan and often plays with another Liverpool player, Ben Woodburn.

As Magnus Carlsen was planning to be at the Liverpool vs Man City game en route to his annual *Play Magnus* simul in Germany, a PR stunt was crafted with the footballer taking on Magnus after receiving some tips from 9-year-old Shreyas Royal. Shreyas also helped a little during the game in which Trent lasted 17 moves. The England footballer could at least reflect that this was a lot more than Bill Gates managed on TV against the champ. There was some knock-on publicity as Radio 5 invited Shreyas, Sarah Longson and I on to the 5Live Drive show to talk chess for over 20 minutes.

Home Secretary... Resigns!

Shreyas was in the papers again when the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, invited him to the Houses of Parliament. Mr Javid was genuinely touched by Shreyas's story and, as reported in our September pages, he allowed Shreyas and his family to remain in this

6



Liverpool footballer Trent Alexander-Arnold is a keen chess player, although we fear he'll need more help from his young coaches Kyan Bui (left) and Shreyas Royal (right), as well as some practice on the Play Magnus app before he challenges the world champion again.



The Home Secretary resigns! Sajid Javid has lost almost all his pieces, but likely did well to last so long considering his choice of 1 h4 and that he was up against super-talent Shreyas.

country when they would have otherwise been forced to leave on the expiration of Shreyas's father Jitendra's work visa.

The meeting was arranged through the good offices of ECF President Dominic Lawson, who was not that impressed with the Home Secretary's moves over the board. The game began 1 h4, and things went downhill from there. However, it was a lovely event and great to see chess recognised in this way again.



London Chess Centre & Carlsen-Caruana

The title match proper begins on November 9th. We will be running a satellite event at the London Chess Centre, 44 Baker Street, for those of you without tickets who would like to watch the games with other chess fans. I've seen the venue, The College in Holborn, and it looks like the number of seats in the theatre will only be 170, but with commentary rooms and bars factored in, the overall capacity will hopefully be near 400. Tickets were on sale as we went to press for games 3–9, ranging from £55–£85, but none have been released for later games as yet.

How Caruana can Beat Carlsen

Leading chess trainer, IM Erik Kislik, looks for weaknesses in even Magnus's game

In his excellent book *How to Beat Bobby Fischer*, Edmar Mednis demonstrates 61 games in which Bobby Fischer lost and identifies what caused him to lose those games, trying to put together all of the pieces. In my role as a trainer helping grandmasters play in competitive tournaments that they are vying to win, I have to do very careful analyses and breakdowns of the strongest players in the tournament that are a threat to them and that they need to try to beat.

In one instance in 2013, I was coaching GM Davor Palo who won the Danish Championship. During that event I noticed a major opening weakness that the top player in the tournament, GM Sune Berg Hansen, had by examining his losses. I noticed that while defending, Hansen had a tendency to move his queen too much and avoid moves that he perceived to be weakening to his king. Granted, this was a very strong grandmaster rated almost 2600, who naturally does not have many exploitable weaknesses, but by noticing these two factors, Davor was able to channel play exactly into a line that we expected. He then attacked, aided by this new-found knowledge of his opponent's weaknesses, and managed to beat the toprated player in the tournament and then win the tournament against all odds.

I want to make it clear that even when you identify a targetable weak spot in somebody's repertoire and an attackable feature in someone's play, we rarely get to perfectly exploit both of them. Frequently, even if you are playing a player who only plays one opening line and you seemingly refute the line, usually you'll only get to play your exact preparation about 60 or 70% of the time. Even then, there is no guarantee that you will perfectly convert the resulting good position, or that your opponent will not somehow find a way to save the game.

Moreover, practical playing weaknesses can sometimes be very difficult to take advantage of. A common case is when you notice that somebody, for instance, always wants to trade queens. Even if you notice this, in some cases we are not able to direct the play into a position in which the queens are kept on the board. An example is if you play



Black in the King's Indian when White goes dxe5 or in the 2e3 lines of the Grünfeld in which Black plays ... a5 and frequently trades queens on d2. In these lines, it is very difficult to avoid those common variations, so sometimes we can identify a weakness, but unfortunately we just cannot take advantage of it.

Realistically, I assumed that Davor Palo would only have about a 30% chance of winning with White in the line that we had prepared, and exactly in the manner that we had prepared it. Much to my shock and excitement, he won the game in fantastic style in a way that we really could have only dreamed of. This is exactly why it is so valuable to do a player breakdown when you have the time.

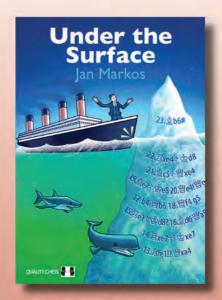
By identifying our opponents' weaknesses and the greatest weaknesses in their opening repertoire, we may be able to win 'free' games or win games that we clearly would not have won otherwise, due to a certain awareness of a type of move that the opponent just may not find or may consciously reject. In Davor's case, we were right on the money. However, even if we had

been unsuccessful, the main point is that this kind of work improves your understanding of chess, improves your opening repertoire, allows you to analyse many games and understand them, and overall gives you a greater appreciation for the different aspects of a player's style.

Additionally the opening preparation that is done in these cases often only gets used years later. All so often, opening preparation that was done for important events is used much later. Likewise, the psychological preparation based on studying all of an opponent's lost games gives us information that may very well be used in future games against the same opponent. Thus, the work is definitely not done in vain and by doing it, we also improve our ability to prepare for matches and competitions of this sort. By going through this process regularly, we simply get better and better, not only at understanding chess and drawing conclusions from large number of games, but at breaking down players and understanding them at a deep level.

You will see that preparation done in world

ECF Book of the Year - Under the Surface



288 pages in hardcover

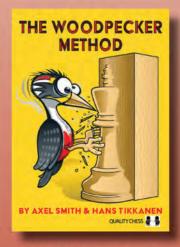
Under the Surface has been named the ECF Book of the Year for 2018, with the judges saying "The winner stood out for its original approach and quality of writing," and "An original, fascinating and very worthy winner of the 2018 Book of the Year."

The most significant difference between a grandmaster and a club player is not simply that the grandmaster calculates more accurately, but rather that he sees more deeply. This book invites you beneath the surface, where you can learn to navigate the depths of chess.

GM Jan Markos is a former European Under-16 Champion and has won the Slovakian Championship twice.

The Woodpecker Method is the name given by GM Axel Smith to a training system developed by his Swedish compatriot GM Hans Tikkanen. After training with his method in 2010, Tikkanen achieved three GM norms within a seven-week period.

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392 pages in hardcover



336 pages in hardcover

Sam Shankland breaks down the principles of Pawn Play to basic, easily understandable guidelines every chess player should know.

"5/5 Stars – A beautifully produced hardback... Shankland wins me over by illustrating these guidelines beautifully... All in all, an excellent, original book."

GM Matthew Sadler, New in Chess

GM Sam Shankland is a permanent member of the US Olympiad team, winning an Individual Gold Medal in 2014, Team Gold in 2016 and Team Silver in 2018. 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.

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This Month's New Releases

Fabiano Caruana: His Amazing Story and His Most Instructive Chess Games

Alexander Kalinin, 208 pages New in Chess

RRP £18.95 SUBSCRIBERS £17.05

It should not be a surprise to see new books emerging on the two 2018 world championship finalists. In the case of Magnus Carlsen, publishers knew he would be one of the London participants and consequently there would have been more time to plan ahead with their schedules.

Writing a book about the challenger would have been complicated by the time factor. It was only in March of this year that we saw Caruana clamber above the rest of the world's elite players to become the official challenger for the title. That is a fast turnaround for a book. Then there is the question of balance. Should a book on a player who might become champion of the world try to deliver a substantial biographical element, a standard collection of best games, or a combination of the two?

This book takes the fusion approach and it is interesting to find out a little about Caruana's background. As he is a quiet and studious person, his personal life story is very much out of the headlines.

Labelling Caruana as "The first American Challenger since Bobby Fischer" neglects Gata Kamsky's unsuccessful attempt to seize the chess crown from Anatoly Karpov in 1996. Perhaps this can be excused by the split in the chess world of that time and the controversy over the true line of champions, or perhaps mentioning Bobby Fischer just makes for a more memorable statement.

This book is split into two main parts: 'The rise of an American chess star' and 'Learn from Fabiano's best games'. The general approach is reminiscent of *Fighting Chess* by Kasparov and Wade (Batsford, 1983 – plus subsequent revised editions), with each chapter containing a short summary of Caruana's career with key games from each period interspersed throughout, plus the occasional photograph.

Caruana's very strong desire to play is always apparent. It would be tempting to some players to keep away from competitions in the direct run-up to a title match, in order to preserve some opening secrets and to put in some intensive work on new ones, yet Caruana has continued to play as much as possible up to the title match and is committed to playing in the London Chess Classic shortly afterwards.

In a 2012 interview with Evgeny Atarov

for the Chess Pro website, Caruana explains his appetite for almost constant activity. When asked, "You feel a need to play and work constantly?" he replied, "Most of all, to play! I can greatly enjoy the feeling of battle." This is because "Study means hours and hours of working with the computer, in which you have to be the creator", whereas over the board: "We are in equal conditions with the opponent: he invents something, then I invent something..."

There are 62 games in total and the annotations are very good, not falling into the trap of providing too many variations. The prose suffers somewhat from the overuse of exclamation marks, as if trying to make everything live up to the billing of an "amazing story". The problem with such a plethora of positive punctuation is it weakens the desired effect. For example, "The Berlin tournament saw Fabiano realise his dream of obtaining the right to play a match for the world title against Magnus Carlsen!" would have had more impact without the punctuation.

Another editorial oddity is the lack of an index of games. There is one for the openings and another for names, but the most important index is missing. Nevertheless, the pedigree of Caruana's victims is impressive and include Carlsen, So, Nakamura, Karjakin and even Kasparov.

There is no doubt about it: Caruana is an extremely talented and hard-working chess player, with a universal style of play that makes him a very dangerous opponent. The author is right to highlight Caruana's sharp tactical eye, enabling him to produce many a dramatic finish where others might be unaware even of the possibility. This fine dénouement is a case in point.

R.Caruana-R.Ponomariov

Dortmund 2014



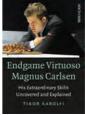


39 **ℤe7!!**

"Lightning from a clear sky! This doublepiece sacrifice combination will be remembered for a long time."

We can expect more books on Caruana to appear in due course and hopefully the man himself will eventually write one about his games. Meanwhile, this book is a good, solid introduction to the American star and one is that fully accessible to all standards from club player upwards.

Sean Marsh



Endgame Virtuoso Magnus Carlsen

Tibor Karolyi, 268 pages New in Chess

RRP £22.95 SUBSCRIBERS £20.65

This book comes from the same pen as another book with a similar premise, namely *Endgame Virtuoso Anatoly Karpov* (New in Chess, 2006). There are parallels between the styles of play of the two champions, as the author explains in his interesting preface to this new work about Magnus Carlsen. "A couple of great players have hailed him as the reincarnation of Karpov, and it is hard to argue with them, as they have actually played both Karpov and Carlsen."

Karolyi points out some important differences too, such as the intimation that Carlsen could be "The first World Champion who has never played an adjourned game" and the theory that Karpov would perhaps not be quite so efficient in the current climate without adjournments, as he "Was not physically strong and sometimes in his career he ran out of energy."

There are even differences between their respective endgame styles. "The Russian World Champion rarely had to save difficult endgames; Carlsen has surely saved many more of those than Karpov" and "Karpov caught the opponent's king more often, while Carlsen more often seems to take advantage of the very subtle choice between knight and bishop."

The 91 illustrative endgames cover all of the years between 1999 and 2017 – in

other words, from Carlsen's junior years to his first five years as world champion. One aspect of his play that is very striking is his undoubted confidence in his own ability. Time and again the positions he reaches look quite equal, with very few winning chances – yet victory still comes his way with alarming regularity.

Trying to replicate this approach at club level is not so easy as often a slight edge is not enough keep the game from ending as a draw. Carlsen has that extra *something*, as ably demonstrated by the games selected by Karolyi. He is quite prepared to wait until the opponent makes an inaccuracy, despite the presence of clearly drawing lines. Here is a good example.

R.Ponomariov–M.CarlsenNice (rapid) 2010



This is not easy for Black to win, but the onus is on White to prove he can hold. According to Karolyi, "72 \$\frac{a}{2}f4!\$ is the only move for White to draw", but Ponomariov erred with 72 \$\frac{a}{2}g8+??\$ which looks reasonable, forcing the king to the h-file. However, after 72...\$\frac{a}{7}73\$ \$\frac{a}{2}8\$ \$\frac{a}{2}f1!\$ the situation had suddenly changed. "Magnus cuts the white king off from the pawns. This is the only winning move." Carlsen eventually sent his king to queenside via 96, 97, f8, e7, d7, c6, and c7 and eventually picked off White's last pawn, going on to win the game on move 100.

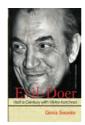
Why does Carlsen excel in this phase of the game, even against other top-quality players? According to the author, "Beliavsky said that Karpov and Carlsen are the only two players whose level of play does not decrease as the game goes on, but goes up." An interesting comment, which could go some way to explaining Carlsen's self-confidence in the endgame.

Some of the analysis in this interesting book is too deep for club players, but the general explanations will hit the mark. Carlsen clearly plays all endgames well and it has been known for some time that anyone wanting to replace him as champion of the world simply must match him in this department.

One can imagine this volume was a prominent addition to Caruana's shopping list in the run-up to their title match. For the rest

of us, this book presents a series of lessons from which we can all try to learn the art of sitting on a tiny advantage until the opponent starts to crack. Endgames still may not appeal to the masses, but they remain an important area to work on if one seeks significant improvement. *Endgame Virtuoso Magnus Carlsen* is an excellent guide to this often neglected part of the game.

Sean Marsh



Evil-Doer:
Half a Century with Viktor Korchnoi
Genna Sosonko, 314 pages
Elk and Ruby
RRP £27.95 SUBSCRIBERS £25.15

The formerly Russian Grandmaster Genna Sosonko, who emigrated to the Netherlands in 1972, is now in his mid-seventies. He is well known for his engaging memoirs of Soviet-era chess personalities, having published several books with New in Chess and, last year, a work on David Bronstein with Elk and Ruby (another of Ilan Rubin's admirably readable translations).

The attractive front cover of the Korchnoi book, dominated by a photograph of Korchnoi with a mischievous grin, promises exciting contents. There is no chess here: it is purely a memoir by Korchnoi's trainer and friend. It also contains 17 pages of Korchnoi photographs, some published for the first time from Sosonko's collection.

The book first relates Korchnoi's early life (he was born in 1931), and ends with his old age and death in 2016. He remained an extraordinarily active player until the very end, famously defeating Caruana with the black pieces in 2011. In between, the chapters proceed by topic – 'Petra', 'Fischer', 'Forgive No-one!', and so on – rather than strictly chronologically. This seems a fitting method for what Sosonko stresses is a personal memoir rather than a full biography.

We learn that Korchnoi's life contained one extraordinary rupture, but was otherwise very consistent. The rupture came on 26th and 27th July 1976 when he defected, departing from a tournament in Wijk aan Zee by taxi without returning to Russia. In leaving the Soviet Union he became persona non grata there, knowing that there could be no return and that his family would be harshly treated. Indeed, Sosonko includes some transcripts of conversations with Korchnoi's son, Igor, who underwent a period in a prison camp.

Korchnoi followed the same path that Sosonko himself had done four years previously, but whereas Sosonko emigrated legally through an 'invitation' to Israel, Korchnoi abruptly fled. The first few chapters fascinatingly relate the secret discussions the two men had about the pros and cons of these methods. Sosonko's departure had already placed Korchnoi's career in potential jeopardy. This was an era of exceptionally tough decisions, strained relationships among chessplayers and their families — and prevalent anti–Semitism.

Sosonko points out that Korchnoi's defection was professionally motivated rather than the act of a political dissident (p.84). He aimed to become world champion. He was, of course, defeated twice by Anatoly Karpov, in 1978 and 1981. Sosonko focuses on the politics surrounding these matches rather than the chess itself. He speculates on Korchnoi's "Jonah-complex" (p.127) – a sort of habituation to being second rather than first in the world. The rest of the book describes his "marriage" to chess. Korchnoi's English autobiography, *Chess is My Life*, could not have been more aptly titled.

Sosonko shows the gift of a raconteur, spicing his narratives with literary quotations and often raising a smile. He is remarkably unrepetitive, as well as alert to the self-justifying tendency of memoirists (p.194). His task is not easy, though. It seems to me that this book will be most fully enjoyed by readers who are already Korchnoi connoisseurs. Once we have learned about Korchnoi's unique stamina, his determination to fight, his exclusive interest in chess, his abrasiveness and his eccentric belief in parapsychology, there are no further revelations.

Snippets of Korchnoi's chess advice appear, but what seems remarkable is how little the grandmaster himself followed it: although he sensibly suggested letting weaker players "play" and undo their own position (p.188), he tended to over-work at the board, not least against amateurs in simultaneous displays. The majority of Evil-Doer consists of personal anecdotes, nicely told, but not especially deep. Sosonko's is an enjoyable and sometimes poignant book, but for detailed insight into Korchnoi's thought-processes, the best source remains his own work of best games. This is no reproach to Sosonko, but inevitable given Korchnoi's uniquely obsessive, lifelong dedication to the game.

James Vigus



Joseph Henry Blackburne – A Chess Biography * Tim Harding, 588 Pages

McFarland and Co.

RRP £56.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £51.25**

We learn initially in this fine hardback work

that Joseph Henry Blackburne was born into a lower middle-class family on 10th December 1841. His father, Joseph Blackburn, is believed to have come from Leeds, working initially as a bookkeeper before making a living as a phrenologist. His mother was from Manchester and Blackburne was their second child.

Blackburne grew up in a fast expanding Lancashire city where the vast majority of people were very poor. In later life he maintained that an interest in draughts predated his knowledge of chess. Publicity concerning Paul Morphy's exploits in Europe in 1858 and 1859 prompted the change. Blackburne's earliest recorded games were against the Manchester club champion, Russian-born Eduard D. Pinder, a player of considerable ability, who had won some games against Falkbeer several weeks earlier when visiting London.

Having joined Manchester Chess Club in the autumn of 1861, Blackburne gave up his job – stated in the 1861 census as 'warehouseman (hosiery)' – in 1863 to concentrate on chess. He moved to London in late 1863 or early 1864, and by late 1864 or early 1865 had joined the City of London Chess Club.

Blackburne began earning fees from chess in 1862. He was prolific in giving ordinary and blindfold simultaneous displays, but his skill at the latter was widely known. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries these displays lasted much longer than today and were often adjourned to another day (a blindfold display at Liverpool in 1870 lasted nine and a half hours with a one-hour interval during which Blackburne performed the 'Knight's Tour' blindfold, starting from any square named). After adjournments, Blackburne often called out details of positions in order that tellers could check for misplaced pieces — a practice that also impressed audiences.

The amount of travel involved in earning a living in this manner was phenomenal. Blackburne benefited from the expansion of the railway network during the second half of the 19th century. He wrote just one book, *Mr. Blackburne's Games of Chess*, which was published in 1899. Tim Harding makes reference to a variety of errors which it contains. The obvious conclusion is that simultaneous displays offered greater remuneration than writing books.

During the final quarter of the 19th century, Blackburne was one of the top few players in the world – in a group that included Steinitz, Zukertort, Chigorin and Tarrasch. However, his results in tournaments are in stark contrast with his performances in matches. Regarded by many contemporary authorities as "World Champion of Tournament Chess", he was one of the final members of the "Romantic Chess order". His tactical style was supported by a deep understanding of the endgame.

Blackburne played tournament chess into the early part of the 20th century, his final major event being the 1914 British Championship, which took place during the early weeks of World War One. After tying for first place with Frederick Dewhurst Yates, he was not fit enough to contest a play-off match and had to concede the title.

Records show Blackburne continued to give exhibitions and play consultation games into his 80th year, scoring heavily – often against strong opposition. A rare photograph of him appears on p.502 of Harding's work, giving his final simultaneous display at the Imperial Chess Club in December 1921. In the remaining years of his life he adjudicated unfinished games sent via the post. Visitors to his address included Capablanca and Alekhine.

Blackburne died at home on Monday 1st September 1924, the death certificate citing 'senility and heart failure'. The funeral took place at Ladywell Cemetery three days later. He was buried in the same grave as his third wife. Amos Burn's comments in his obituary of Blackburne on 4th September 1924 for *The Field* are worthy of repetition:

"There have been many very strong British chess players, but as a real chess genius Blackburne stood alone." This was qualified by adding that Blackburne "Was essentially a disciple of the old school of purely combinative players" who preferred tactical solutions to the "More scientific methods of Steinitz, Lasker or Tarrasch." Burn added that "Blackburne was peculiarly fitted to take part in the exciting contest of a chess tournament" and was "A chivalrous player who scorned to take the slightest undue advantage of his opponent."

I found the three months reading this book for review purposes enjoyable and rewarding, albeit hard work. It comprises an exceptionally detailed record of Blackburne's life. If you want to know when/if he gave a display in a certain area or place, some reference is almost certainly to be found here, along with a note as to the source. A biography comprising over 500 pages and nearly 1,200 games is followed by appendices detailing Blackburne's Match and Tournament Records, Record against Principal Rivals, Chess Compositions, Interviews, Blindfold Exhibitions, Two Articles for The Strand Magazine and Corrections to Game Scores. There are Chapter Notes, a Bibliography, Index of Players, Indices of Openings and a General Index. As with other McFarland publications, many interesting facts – chess and non-chess – come to light about events during the subject's lifetime.

The use of high-quality paper combined with library-quality binding completes a publication worthy of any chess library.

David Mills



An Aggressive Counterattacking Repertoire Based on ... a6

Joe Gallagher & Andrew Martin, 384 pages, paperback

RRP £18.99 SUBSCRIBERS £17.09

Everyman Chess's latest compendium volumes pairs together Starting Out: The King's Indian and Starting Out: The Sicilian Dragon, which certainly makes for an aggressive repertoire. Martin does explain some important general ideas, but overall the passage of time has been less kind to his work. Of course, theory has also developed a tempo in the King's Indian, but Gallagher's work is rightly regarded as a classic and those looking to take up this famous opening could do far worse than begin with his excellent explanation of the key ideas and lines.



Caruana: Move by Move Cyrus Lakdawala, 368 pages, paperback RRP £18.99 SUBSCRIBERS £17.09

Hot on the heels of Kalinin's work for New in Chess comes Everyman's offering on the world championship challenger. Lakdawala begins with a brief biography of his compatriot, then splits the chess skills of both Caruana and Carlsen up into some 21 categories, comparing their ability in each ahead of giving his prediction for the big match. However, by far the main part of this work is devoted to Caruana's games. These are certainly well annotated across six chapters, which include 'Caruana on Exploiting Imbalances' and 'Caruana in the Endgame'.



Endgames of the World Champions: From Fischer to Carlsen

Karsten Müller, PC-DVD, running time: 9 hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

It's hard to believe who else one would want than Karsten Müller to present this DVD. The German Grandmaster is not just one of the world's leading endgame authorities, but is a regular in front of the camera for ChessBase. Plenty of the endgames covered by Müller will be known to the experienced player, but not all and everything is very clearly explained in this monster-length DVD. Along the way Müller looks at such topics as how Fischer loved to

torment opponents with rook and bishop against rook and knight, and how even in the endgame both Anand and Kasparov still strive for the initiative whenever possible.



ChessBase Magazine 186 ChessBase PC-DVD RRP £17.95 SUBSCRIBERS £16.15

This latest edition of *CBM* is for 'October-December 2018'. It features Shakhriyar Mamedyarov on the cover and contains detailed reports on the main tournaments of the summer. Contributors include Daniel King, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Peter Heine Nielsen and Simon Williams, while users are able to enjoy 10 detailed opening surveys, as well as various interactive features.



Chess Informant 137

Chess Informant, 340 pages, paperback RRP £29.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.99**

As well as the latest collection of languagelessly annotated top games and novelties, readers can enjoy contributions from the likes of Aleksander Delchev, Mihail Marin and Pentala Harikrishna. There is also a special focus on Hikaru Nakamura, as well as plenty of endgames and studies to solve or just enjoy.

Those who also want to receive *Chess Informant 137* on CD can do so for £39.99 (Subscribers – £35.99), of if you prefer just the CD, that option too is available from Chess & Bridge for only £9.99 (Subscribers – £8.99).



Encyclopaedia of Chess Problems * Chess Informant, 520 pages, hardback RRP £42.99 SUBSCRIBERS £38.69

Now in its third edition, this is certainly an extremely detailed collection of chess problems. Billed as "The life work of GMs Milan Velimirovic and Kari Valtonen", it is hard not to agree that this work is a "Must for any

chess lover and enthusiast". Many over-theboard players are not into the world of chess problems, but it's hard not to be impressed by the vast array of positions, as well as the beauty of many of the solutions.



How Bobby Fischer Battled the Sicilian Adrian Mikhalchishin, PC-DVD, running time: 4 hours

RRP £26.95 SUBSCRIBERS £24.25

The Slovenian Grandmaster, author, trainer and presenter reveals himself to be a big fan of Bobby Fischer. Moreover, Mikhalchishin still believes that many of the ideas Fischer pioneered are still quite viable against the Sicilian today, and for players of all levels. Unsurprisingly Fischer's trademark 6 &c4 against the Najdorf receives plenty of attention, but Mikhalchishin also tackles the likes of the Classical, Taimanov and even Rossolimo variations.



New In Chess Yearbook 128

Peter Boel & René Olthof (eds.), 256 pages, paperback

RRP £26.95 SUBSCRIBERS £24.25

Luke McShane features on the cover of this latest *Yearbook* along with the headline 'McShane paints the Ruy Lopez in KID Colours'. Luke has contributed a survey on the under-rated but becoming topical 4...d6 in the Lopez. Elsewhere there is plenty more cutting-edge theory on display, including two surveys devoted to 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ©c3 ©f6 4 e5 ©fd7 5 f4 and three on the Advance Caro-Kann.



The Aggressive Classical Dutch for Black

Nicholas Pert, PC-DVD, running time: 6 hours

RRP £26.95 SUBSCRIBERS £24.25

These days Nick Pert is known as an expert on the Slav, but after recording this DVD he did return to the Dutch at the

Olympiad. Like Simon Williams, both teenage Pert brothers scored very well with 1 d4 f5 2 g3 \$\oldsymbol{2}\$f6 3 \$\oldsymbol{2}\$g2 e6 4 \$\oldsymbol{2}\$f3 \$\oldsymbol{2}\$e7 5 0-0 0-0 6 c4 d6. Fans of Williams' works will no doubt want to check out this DVD, as Pert has certainly reviewed various recently suggested paths for White and often counters them with some of what are an impressively large number of new ideas for Black. Coverage begins with some illustrative games to present the key ideas, after which Pert maps out a detailed repertoire for Black.



The Modern English Volume 1: 1.c4 e5

Kiril Georgiev & Semko Semkov, 212 pages, paperback

RRP £18.99 SUBSCRIBERS £17.09

The 'modern' English does not see White meet 1 c4 e5 with 2 g3, as recommended by Kosten and Marin, but rather 2 2c3 2f6 3 2f6 3 2c6 when repertoires are mapped out with both 4 e3 and 4 d3. In true Chess Stars fashion, each chapter builds up to its theoretical section and ends with a couple of instructive complete games. As such, readers should certainly be able to grasp the key ideas and most important ideas to remember. Coverage is certainly detailed enough for most players, with Georgiev and Semkov covering not just the main lines, but all Black's early alternatives after 1 c4 e5.



Understanding Before Moving Part 1: Ruy Lopez-Italian Structures

Herman Grooten, 144 pages, paperback RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

This new series from Thinkers Publishing kicks off by seeing the famous Dutch trainer tackle those famed 1 e4 e5 structures, where both sides elect to manoeuvre rather than gambit. Grooten's main aim is to explain all the key motifs, so that when the Ruy Lopez or Giuoco Piano player runs out of theory, they will not find themselves in completely unfamiliar territory. Unsurprisingly the main emphasis is on plans, but Grooten doesn't neglect to explain those hidden ideas which may lie behind a position or tactical opportunity.

* Limited stock. If interested in ordering one of these titles please first contact Chess & Bridge to check on availability.

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