

Chess

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DAVID'S DELIGHT

The Full Story of England's
Astana Triumph

ISSN 0964-6221



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-  A Silver Lining - Michael Adams, Luke McShane and Jon Speelman annotate
-  Endgame Masterclass - Gawain Jones presents two very instructive endings
-  U.S. Championships - Jennifer Yu and Hikaru Nakamura dominated proceedings

Chess

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Home News

BELFAST – March 23rd saw the Ulster Rapidplay Championships take place in their modern home, the Falls Bowling Club. Teenager Daniil Zelenchuk (Strand) proved too strong, his 6/6 a point and a half more than Danny Roberts (Civil Service) made. The Intermediate, Under-1400 section also saw a 100% score, achieved by Adrian Dornford-Smith, with Ciaran Rowan and young Taufik Kamal (all Strand) back on 4½/6.

BIRMINGHAM – Mark Hebden triumphed in the Birmingham Rapidplay at the Quinborne Community Centre on March 31st.

Open: 1 Mark Hebden (Leicester) 6/7, 2 Lawrence Cooper (Stafford) 5½, 3-6 Tomasz Sygnowski, Henrik Stepanyan (both Sutton Coldfield), Shabir Okhai (Syston), Andrew Brett (Writtle) 4½.

Major: 1 Oleg Cukovs (Poulton-le-Fylde) 5½, 2-4 Shahab Quraishi (West Bromwich), Gheorghe Albu (Braunstone), Dustin Bowcott (Halesowen) 5.

Intermediate: 1 Joe Hirst (Newcastle-under-Lyme) 6½, 2 Gary White (Telford) 6, 3-5 Steve Whatmore (Rugeley), Christopher Evans (Mutual Circle, Birmingham), Tony Shaw (Worcester) 5.

Minor: 1 Don Curry (Halesowen) 6, 2-4 Granville Hill (Latimer), Ansh Agrawal (Harborne), Victor Brown (Walsall Kipping) 5½.

CHESTER – GM Stephen Gordon was held to a draw by both Paul Townsend and John Carleton, but still scooped the £250 first prize as Chester Chess Club celebrated turning 100 with the Chester Centenary Rapidplay on April 7th.

Open: 1 Stephen Gordon (Wood Green) 5/6, 2-4 John Carleton (Chester), Henrik Stepanyan (Sutton Coldfield), Paul Townsend (York) 4½.

Major: 1-2 Philip Zabrocki (Shrewsbury), Michael Connor (Great Lever) 5, 3-4 Robert Clegg (Huddersfield), Tim Jones (Bristol) 4½.

Minor: 1 Robert Owens (Formby) 5½, 2-4 Andrew Hughes (Rhyl), Barry Edgar (Hetton Lyons), Vijay Kakarparthi (Altrincham) 4.

EDINBURGH – Two grandmasters and two IMs were four of the players who shared first place in the Open at the strong and popular Edinburgh Congress (5-7 April).

Open: 1-6 Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant (Edinburgh West), Danny Gormally (Alnwick), Michael Kopylov (Ukraine), Adam Hunt (Woodbridge), Alan Tate (Wandering Dragons, Edinburgh), Junhao Xian (Glasgow University) 4/5.

Major: 1-2 Joy Durno (Newmachar), Michael

Ash (Musselburgh) 4½/5, 3-5 Ewan Taylor, Neil Fleming (both Wandering Dragons, Edinburgh), Martin Robinson (Edinburgh West) 4.

Bishops: 1 Vagif Ramazanov (Bon Accord, Aberdeen) 4½, 2-7 Jamie Hand (Edinburgh University), Louise Adrian (France), David Teague (Harrogate), Steve Gibson (Musselburgh), Andrew Whalley (Edinburgh), Pranav Arcot (Aberdeen) 4.

Knights: 1 Greig Gordon (Dunfermline) 5, 2 Gary Clarke (Gosforth) 4½, 3-6 Graham Wilson (Corstorphine), David Cubitt (Edinburgh), Iain Hope (Musselburgh), William James (Edinburgh University) 4.

Don't forget that if you're ever in Edinburgh on a Thursday or Sunday afternoon to drop by the Fountain Cafe in the stunning setting of Princes Street Gardens beneath the castle, where from 2-5pm Chess in the Park takes place, often attracting 40 players of all ages.

HULL – It was great to see the 2018 British Chess Championships being shortlisted in the Remarkable Tourism Category at the Remarkable East Yorkshire (REYTA) Awards. Unfortunately that award went to the Humber Street Sesh, although we were pleased to see the Remarkable East Yorkshire Passion Award being presented to Graham Chesters, a strong chessplayer and the chair of Hull's Freedom Festival.

LONDON – What to do when you come up against powerhouse Wood Green in the London League? Battersea Chess Club had a novel solution on April 10th. Rather than field their normal line-up, they allowed 10 England juniors to gain experience against titled opposition. Aditya Verma lost to Luke McShane on top board and Shreyas Royal to Stephen Gordon on board 3, but 11-year-old Luca Buanne drew with Richard Pert and 17-year-old Jacob Watson with John Emms, as Wood Green ran out 9-1 winners.

Latvian FM Dmitrijs Tokranovs triumphed at the latest Golders Green Rapidplay on March 2nd.

Open: 1 Dmitrijs Tokranovs (Latvia) 5½/6, 2 Davit Mirzoyan (King's College) 5, 3 Charles Tippleston (Northampton) 4½.

Major: 1-2 Jonathan Arnott (Sheffield), Neil Davies (Pimlico) 5, 3 Nicholas Mohnblatt (France) 4½.

Minor: 1 Georgi Aleksiev (Bulgaria) 6, 2 Paul Chantrell (Kings Head) 5, 3-4 Matthew Ball (St Albans), Salvatore Pepe (Hendon) 4½.

Amateur: 1 Alexander Funk (Kings Head) 6, 2 Frankie Badacsonyi (Muswell Hill) 4½, 3-6 Allyn Blake (Golders Green), Faye Ainscow (Kings Head), David Dane (Letchworth), Geoffrey Simms (Surbiton) 4.

Improver: 1 Michal Kajda (Newham) 5, 2-3 Aaron Dhillon (Kent), Andrew Jacobs (London) 4½.



We're pleased to report that sales of Roger Noble's (pictured above) lavishly-produced history of chess in Hull, Rank and File, have raised over £1,200 for Yorkshire Cancer Research. If you'd like to purchase one of the few remaining copies, do please contact roger_noble@hotmail.com. The Hull & District Chess Association would like to thank and acknowledge the funding from Hull Culture and Leisure which made this publication possible.

Under-80: 1 Vladislav Negura (Bloomberg) 5½, 2 Nick Silver (Middlesex) 5, 3 Oliver Dorn (Hertfordshire) 4½.

Stephen Prior (Grantham) bagged sole first with 4½/5 at the Hampstead Under-2200 Congress (9-10 March), finishing half a point ahead of Aaravamudhan Balaji (Coulsdon), Nicholas Tavoularis (Middlesbrough) and Marcus Osborne (Wimbledon). All of James McDonnell (Streatham), Oliver Finnegan (Loughton), Arnav Srivastava, Steve Pride (both Cambridge), and David Smith (Maidstone) shared first place with 4/5 in the Under-1900 section, while Gert de Block (Cambridge) won the Under-135 with 4½/5, finishing half a point ahead of Michal Kajda (Newham).

NEWBURGH – To celebrate discovering a chessboard and pieces featuring in a 500-year-old inventory of Lindores Abbey, on the edge of the small Fife town, the Lindores Abbey Distillery are putting on a very special chess event over the weekend of May 25th and 26th. None other than the world champion, Magnus Carlsen, will be taking part in a unique tournament, with Vishy Anand and Ding Liren two of the other three players confirmed. To celebrate the occasion the distillery are creating a special edition of their Aqua Vitae spirit. For further information, do see lindoresabbeydistillery.com.

NOTTINGHAM – The Nottingham Congress (23-24 March) featured an incremental time control and computerised pairings, with IM Alan Merry holding off two GMs to pocket the £1,000 first prize.

Open: 1 Alan Merry (Bury St Edmunds) 4½/5, 2-4 Mark Hebden (Leicester), Oleg Korneev (Spain), Jonah Willow (West Nottingham) 4.

Major: 1 Stefan Walentowicz (West Bridgford) 4½, 2-3 Jim Davis (Sheffield), John Cawston (Selby) 4.

Intermediate: 1-4 Neal Fisher (Peterborough), Alan Ruffle (Swadlincote), Andrew Allen (Worksop), Bill Egan (Scunthorpe) 4.

Minor: 1 Leonard Barham (Peterborough) 4½, 2-4 Ben Larkin (Stratford-upon-Avon), Lijith Job, Douglas Bramley (both Spondon) 4.

One of Alan Merry's victims was Aditya Munshi, but the Nottingham High School pupil bounced back with a fine queen sacrifice en route to finishing on 3/5.

Notes by Aditya Munshi

A.Munshi-J.Garnett

Nottingham 2019

Scandinavian Defence

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♟f6 3 d4 ♞g4 4 ♞b5+ ♞bd7 5 ♞e2

5 f3 is the main move, but sharper.

5...♞xe2 6 ♞xe2 ♞xd5 7 c4 ♞5b6 8 ♞f3 g6 9 ♞c3 ♞g7 10 0-0 0-0 11 ♞f4



Nottingham teenager Aditya Munshi was in action in the Reykjavik Open as we went to press. In his home congress he crushed the Scandinavian with the aid of a fine queen sacrifice.

e6 12 a4

Provoking Black's next to make ♞b5 more powerful.

12...a5 13 c5 ♞d5 14 ♞xd5 exd5 15 ♞b5 b6 16 cxb6 ♞xb6 17 ♞ac1 ♞c4



18 b3! ♞b8 19 bxc4!

Also the engine's top suggestion after some thought.

19...♞xb5 20 cxb5

Black is hopelessly uncoordinated.

20...♞e7 21 ♞xc7 ♞b4 22 b6 ♞xd4 23 ♞xd4 ♞xd4 24 b7 ♞xa4 25 ♞b1!

The most precise. White is now winning.

25...♞g7 26 ♞d6 ♞d8 27 b8♞ ♞xb8 28 ♞xb8 ♞e4 29 ♞f8+ ♞f6 30 ♞b6+ ♞f5 31 ♞g7 a4 32 ♞f6+ ♞g5 33 ♞f3

Threatening ♞f6+ and intending to meet 33...h5 with 34 h4+! ♞xh4 35 ♞f6+ ♞g4 36 ♞d1.

33...f5 34 ♞g3+ ♞h5 35 ♞h3+ ♞g5 36 f4+ ♞g4 37 ♞f6 g5 38 ♞xg5 ♞d4+ 39 ♞h1 1-0

PENCOED – Tom Brown (Cardiff) triumphed with 5½/6 in the Welsh Rapidplay

Championship on March 23rd. Grzegorz Toczek (Cardiff) and Ian Jones (Swansea) shared second on 4½, while in the subsequent Welsh Blitz Championship, Alex Bullen (Cardiff) finished first with 9/11, half a point ahead of Toczek, with Brown and Robert Taylor (Malpas) a further half point back.

SOLIHULL – Paul Littlewood and Kevin Bowmer became the English Over-50 and Over-65 Champions respectively at the English Seniors Championships (4-7 April). We'll have the best of the chess and a full report next time.

ST ALBANS – Thanks to a final round victory over IM Richard Bates, John Merriman triumphed ahead of plenty of titled opposition at the St Albans Congress (6-7 April).

Open: 1 John Merriman (Petts Wood) 4½, 2-3 Richard Pert (Billericay), Chris Ward (Beckenham) 4.

Challengers: 1 Joshua Pink (Stockport) 4½, 2 Brendan Ruane (Hastings) 4, 3-6 Victor Jamroz (Petts Wood), Ernest Karumazondo (Watford), Robert Collopy (St Albans), Mark Whitehead (Rochdale) 3½.

Major: 1 Andrew Brocklehurst (Civil Service) 4½ 2-5 Alan Prince (Edinburgh), Gavin Hughes (Brentwood), Stephen Mitchell (Slough), Vladimir Bovtramovics (Woking) 4.



Recently retired former world champion, Vladimir Kramnik, paid a friendly visit to the Chess & Bridge shop in Baker Street. He ended up buying some books and magazines (strong players do still read chess books!), and even had the time to analyse with Malcolm a recent Carlsen game.

Intermediate: 1 Dave Turner (Bourne End) 4½, 2-5 Simon Moth (Loughton), Dennis Wright (Barnet), Francois Swiegers (Stevenage), Simon Morris (Hertford) 4.

Minor: 1 Anthony Dunford (Exeter) 5, 2

Steven Ashworth (Ely) 4½, 3-8 Gul Kapur (Enfield), Tim Cutter (Guildford), Joan Gardner (Buckinghamshire), Patrick Sartain (Harrow), Tomy Joseph (Watford), William Stock (Hastings) 4.

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www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk

This Month's New Releases



Play the Alekhine Defence

Alexei Kornev, 288 pages

Chess Stars

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Chess Stars are not as prolific as some chess publishers and their range, focussing on opening manuals, could be said to be bordering on the unambitious. However, I always find their output to be well thought out and offering genuine instruction.

Alekhine's Defence lacks a devoted superstar to elevate it from "occasional weapon" to "no.1 defence to 1 e4". Fischer tried his best – and famously used the defence successfully in his 1972 title match with Spassky – but we never got to see how he would have developed the theory further than in the relatively small amount of games in which he utilised 1...d6.

Nevertheless, Fischer's name is a curious omission from the introduction, when it name-checks other famous players who liked to play the opening – including, somewhat obscurely, Smyslov. It is also pushing it to claim "It was to the efforts of Alexander Alekhine, who contributed greatly to the development of the main lines of this opening, that it was named after him and was universally acknowledged." History aside, I found the actual chess content to be more inspiring.

Anyone looking to take up Alekhine's Defence has three main issues to ponder and they all receive sound coverage in this volume. The Four Pawns Attack and other provocations will be welcomed by the second player, who is looking for a wild battle. Frankly, anyone going into a game without having carefully studied the sharpest lines is not going to have a much fun in this opening.

However, white players often don't pick up the gauntlet. Indeed, there are lots of club players who prefer 2 d3, hoping to keep the game quiet, or at last away from any deeply prepared lines. These are the sort of players who simply refuse to enter into any complications and after 2...d5 they even like to play 3 exd5, when it is not at all easy to play for a win with Black. 3...d5 is a common choice and the recommendation here is for Black to station the knights on b6 and c6, and the bishops on e7 and f5. Black must try to create an imbalance to counter White's recalcitrance on the matter and one way to do so is to try and seize the bishop-pair with a timely ...a5. There are some

sharp tries with Black eschewing castling kingside and playing ...g5 instead.

The Voronezh System presented 1...d6 aficionados with significant problems a decade or so ago. This offshoot from the Exchange Variation (5...cxd6 6 d3 g6 7 e3 g7 8 d2 0-0 9 c1) sees White striding into a space advantage, but it doesn't leave any legs trailing. Finally, the classical approach by White with 1 e4 d6 2 e5 d5 3 d4 d6 4 f3 remains a real test of Black's resources. The recommendation here is 4...g6. "This move was in the shadow of some other systems for long years, but it gradually became more and more popular." The formerly-popular 4...g4 is dismissed as it "Has failed to withstand the test of time and presently there are just a few players who might be willing to defend Black's position."

Black's biggest problem after 4 f3 is the spectre of passivity. Think of being on the wrong end of a 1970-style Karpov squeeze, which is exactly the fate awaiting Black if the second player tries to ascend the slippery slope.

Careful steps are required from the very start. After **1 e4 d6 2 e5 d5 3 d4 d6 4 f3 g6 5 c4 b6 6 b3 g7 7 g5** Black already has to be very careful and play **7...e6!** "This is the only way for Black to fight not only for equality, but also for creating active counterplay." Fast-forward a few moves and we can see what the author has in mind for this system.

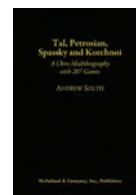


"Black's plan is quite simple. He exerts pressure against the enemy pawn on d4 and wishes to provoke the move f3, after which White will have no attacking chances whatsoever." This is what happens after **13 f3** (if 13 e3 d5!) **13...f6** when Black has made good progress. If such a position appeals to the reader then the Alekhine

Defence is worth considering.

Alekhine's Defence is definitely a perfectly valid option as an occasional or surprise weapon, but it cannot be played without a good grasp of the theory. This book offers solid coverage of everything players with the black pieces need to know to get themselves up and running with 1 e4 d6.

Sean Marsh



Tal, Petrosian, Spassky and Korchnoi

Andrew Soltis, 388 pages

McFarland

RRP £54.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £49.45**

Some may say the chess giants of the title are almost too mainstream for a McFarland hardback, which are normally massive tomes on lesser-known players. Others may say each of the four giants deserve a full volume all to themselves. The justification of utilising a relatively low page count on the careers of three world champions and a twice-runner-up for the title is the way in which Soltis tries to weave together the respective strands of their lives, both on and off the chessboard.

Subtitled 'A Chess Multibiography with 206 Games', the book has 15 chapters taking the story from 'Four Boys' through to 'Countdown to Calamity'. As Soltis explains in his introduction, "Everyone who takes chess seriously knows the games of Mikhail Tal, Boris Spassky, Tigran Petrosian and Viktor Korchnoi. But they know very little about their private lives." He goes on to add, "This is remarkable because their life stories are much more dramatic, heart-rending, even terrifying than those of today's elite players."

The early days make grim reading. Wartime woes, parental deaths and extremely poor family backgrounds; in short, character building of the toughest kind. Chess was the most convenient escape and the terrible backgrounds of the players proved to be one of the main inspirations for them to move through the ranks.

The four giants were always rivals and sometimes friends. Their respective rivalries led to many bitter encounters and jealousy. Soltis points out that Spassky and Korchnoi battled against each for an incredible 61

years, making Karpov and Kasparov's 34 years appear paltry. It really is an incredibly long time and the fact is the games still meant a lot to the players, right to the end. I remember talking to Korchnoi towards the end of the 2009 London Chess Classic as he was just about to go to the airport to head off to play the rapidplay match in Elista and how motivated he was to produce a good result (it ended 4-4).

For a long time the West would have had the impression that the Soviet chess machine was well-oiled and highly efficient, but under the surface there were many tensions. These were in evidence during the famous USSR versus Rest of the World match of 1970, with "Angry disagreements among the players and with the *vlasti*, the Soviet authorities, over who should be on the top boards." Spassky confirmed: "The atmosphere was terrible."

As the players develop and the titles come and go, certain characteristics crystallise in their respective personalities. Korchnoi, in particular, had a grim determination to push himself to the maximum – a quality that never left him. Soltis uses this as a touchstone for comparison with the other three players. "He [Korchnoi] sought the maximum score in a tournament even when he was assured of first prize. In contrast, Spassky would be content with clinching first place. Petrosian would be satisfied with one of the top prizes. And Tal would be happy if he won some nice games."

Along the way, we encounter significant appearances from other chess giants, such as Botvinnik, Stein, Bronstein and Geller. I was not aware that Geller had fallen out with Petrosian and the reasons remain vague, although jealousy cannot be ruled out. Nuances of character are accentuated too. For example, it is interesting to observe that Petrosian, despite being known as 'Iron Tigran', actually suffered from nerves in key encounters, which is why he was content to 'just' take a main prize rather than take a few risks to aim for the top place in a tournament. Compare this ethos with the example in the following game.

J. Diez del Corral-V. Korchnoi

Palma de Mallorca 1968



"Korchnoi's ability to gauge his own

acceptable risk and beat draw-minded players was impressive."

21...♙d8 looks reasonable for Korchnoi, but he set up a typically poisonous counterattack with **21...♙c5! 22 ♖xf6 cxb3 23 axb3 ♗e7!** when the introduction of the queen's rook via f8 proved decisive (0-1, 29).

There are some interesting photographs in the book that I don't recall seeing before, including a great one of Geller, Petrosian, Zaitsev and Averbakh exploring midtown Manhattan during the 1954 USSR versus US match.

The story effectively ends in 1972, with Spassky's calamitous loss of the title to Fischer. A three-page epilogue rounds off the stories of the four players and this is the weakness of the book. The rivalries of the four players still raged for some time after 1972, both on the board and behind the scenes. Korchnoi went on to play three more highly dramatic Candidates' matches with Petrosian and one against Spassky. Meanwhile, Tal joined Karpov's team to plot against Korchnoi when the Soviets were desperate to stop the latter – a hated, outspoken dissident – from taking the title. There would have been enough post-1972 material to double the page-count, especially as the Korchnoi-Petrosian matches have never received the attention they deserve.

Nevertheless, what we have is excellent material, despite leaving the story curiously unfinished. This will be essential reading for anyone interested in learning more about four of the most legendary of all players.

Sean Marsh



A Complete Guide to Flank Openings

Neil McDonald, 400 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Club players looking to take up 1 ♖f3 or 1 c4 for the first time could still do far worse than start with Everyman's old *Starting Out* series. That's where their latest compendium work comes from, packaging together two works by the Kent Grandmaster, *Starting Out: The English* and *Starting Out: The Reti*.



Anti-London System

Yannick Pelletier, PC-DVD;
running time: 4 hours, 50 minutes
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The popularity of the London System continues to permeate through the chess

world. French-speaking readers may be interested to know that ChessBase have also released of late Christian Bauer's *Le Système de Londres avec 2.Ff4*, but Pelletier's brief is to present methods by which Black should tackle the pesky London. The Swiss Grandmaster does this in English – and well. Of course, everyone likes to meet 1 d4 in different ways, so by no means all of this DVD will be of use to most viewers, but almost everyone will find something of interest. Pelletier looks at 2...g6 lines, 1 d4 d5 types of London and Queen's Indian set-ups for Black, while even taking a quick look at how Dutch and 2...c5 players should react if faced with the London.



Chess Informant 139

Chess Informant, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £32.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.69**

As ever, the most recent Informator covers the latest novelties, leading games, amazing combinations and instructive endgames, all annotated in trademark languageless fashion. There is also coverage of Wijk and Gibraltar, as well as theoretical surveys from Ferenc Berkes, who looks at new trends in the Symmetrical English, and Aleksander Delchev, who presents a repertoire for White against the Scandinavian.

Please note that if you'd also like a CD of *Chess Informant 139* that is available for a combined price of £42.99 (Subscribers – £38.69) or if you only want the CD, Chess & Bridge can supply that too for just £9.99 or only £8.99 for Subscribers.



Coach Yourself

Neil McDonald, 304 pages, paperback
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

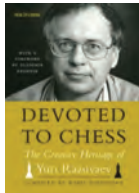
What to do when you find yourself stuck at the same chess level for a while and without access to a good coach? Step forward Neil McDonald, one of the best chess writers out there, who makes a welcome return for Everyman Chess. He believes that the answer often lies in knowing how to make the best use of the time you set aside for chess study. McDonald shows how to really analyse your games to identify then cut out certain types of mistakes, while also presenting plenty of instructive material to help improve the reader's calculational ability, as well as their understanding of the middlegame and the endgame.



Coaching the Chess Stars

Vladimir Tukmakov, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Thinkers Publishing continue to attract some big name authors, Tukmakov being, of course, a famous Ukrainian Grandmaster and chess trainer. The list of players he has worked with is certainly impressive: Geller, Karpov, Eljanov, Giri and So. He has also led Ukraine twice to the gold medals in the Olympiad and has won the European Club Cup as a captain. Now Tukmakov reveals just how he identified what was holding back each of his pupils and how he went about improving their game.



Devoted to Chess:

The Creative Heritage of Yuri Razuvaev

Boris Postovsky, 365 pages, paperback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Yuri Razuvaev (1945-2012) is a name likely known to readers for being a strong grandmaster and a noted theoretician, but he is actually best known in the former Soviet Union for being a top-class trainer. Gelfand, Karpov and Salov were but three leading players who worked with Razuvaev, while more recently both the young Carlsen and Caruana travelled to learn from him. With a foreword from Vladimir Kramnik, Postovsky's work presents Razuvaev's best games, as well as his finest articles and thoughts. It's an inspiring read, Razuvaev coming across as witty and accessible, as well as highly intelligent and with a great feel for the game to which he really did devote his whole life.



Grandmaster Repertoire 1.d4: Dynamic Systems

Boris Avrukh, 592 pages, paperback
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Also known as 'Volume 2B', Boris Avrukh completes the latest version of his 1 d4 repertoire for White by examining the likes of the Dutch, Czech Benoni and the Benko. The most notable changes to Avrukh's earlier repertoire are that 4 ♗f4 is now the line of choice against the Budapest and that 1 d4 d6 is no longer met by 2 ♗f3, but rather 2 c4.

If you'd prefer to receive your latest Avrukh theoretical tome in hardback format, that is available too for £27.99 or £25.19 for Subscribers.



New in Chess Yearbook 130

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

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The latest Yearbook features the world champion on the cover with the headline 'Carlsen rules in obscure Sicilians'. Fans of theory will enjoy the many letters in the Forum, as well as Erwin L'Ami on 'Incredibly Demanding Lines', not to mention the meat of the product, the 26 theoretical surveys themselves. These ranging from razor-sharp Sicilian theory to René Olthof's discussion of Mike Basman's g-pawn opening preferences to Luke McShane's coverage of 1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♗b5 g6 4 d4 exd4.

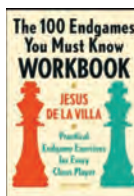


Openings: Semi-Open Games

Jerzy Konikowski & Uwe Bekemann,
236 pages, paperback

RRP £19.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.95**

Konikowski and Bekemann continue their series for Joachim Beyer Verlag by explaining the basics behind the Caro, French, Alekhine and Scandinavian. Their aim is to help even the most inexperienced player pick up the initial moves of each opening and especially understand the ideas behind them. Almost every move receives plenty of explanation, as do the various pawn structures and key plans.



The 100 Endgames You Must Know Workbook

Jesus De la Villa, 288 pages, paperback
RRP £20.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.69**

That modern classic *100 Endgames You Must Know* showed that endgame books can sell, and well. Quite possibly only *Game Changer* has sold better for New in Chess, who must have been delighted to receive new material from De la Villa. The result of the Spanish Grandmaster's labours is a wealth of material which will serve to reinforce the lessons presented in his seminal work. If you wanted

more material to help master the technique of, say, rook and pawn against rook, it can be found here, in abundance and amongst some hundreds of exercises for the reader to solve.



The Modernized French Defense Volume 1: Winawer

David Miedema, 272 pages, paperback
RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

David Miedema, a Dutch IM, is certainly an enthusiastic advocate of the French Defence, not least his favourite Winawer variation. The good news for many French exponents is that Miedema doesn't disappoint, the backbone of his repertoire for Black being the highly complex 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗c3 ♗b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 ♗xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♗e7 7 ♖g4 ♗c7, dangling the g- and h-pawns before White. Coverage is extremely up to date, as well as complete and features plenty of unplayed improvements for Black.

The Science of Strategy

Alexander Kotov, 240 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Alexander Kotov is best known for *Think Like a Grandmaster*, but he was also a very strong player who liked to instruct his readers and pupils. Kudos to Quality Chess for introducing the English-speaking world to this translation of a Soviet classic. Unsurprisingly Kotov's coverage is pretty scientific, but structured thought is no bad thing when it comes to planning and assessing various types of pawn structure. Flank play, counter-attacking and manoeuvring are some other topics covered in slightly old-fashioned, but also clear and instructive fashion by Kotov.

Once again from Quality Chess, it's also possible to enjoy *The Science of Strategy* in hardback format, available from Chess & Bridge for £23.99 or £21.59 for Subscribers.

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