

# Chess



## WANG HAO WINS

ISSN 0964-6221



Chinese Success...and Hao! - John Saunders reports back from the Isle of Man

Is Grabbing Gary Good? Junior Tay ponders what to do when the g-pawn is dangled

Black Sea Bronze - Kanwal Bhatia explains all about England's success in Batumi

# Chess

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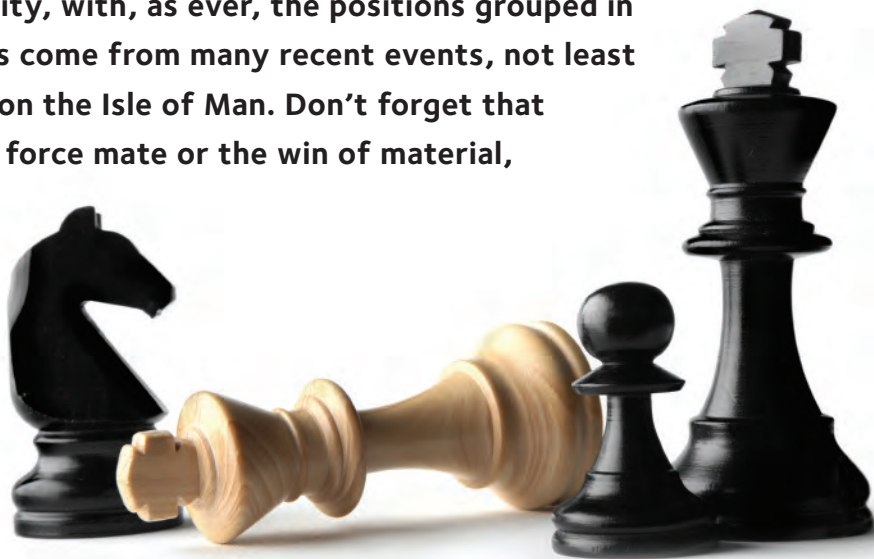
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# Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability, with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from many recent events, not least the World Cup and the Grand Swiss on the Isle of Man. 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) A.Smith-C.Ward**  
British Championship, Torquay 2019  
*White to Play*



**(2) M.Turner-J.Willow**  
Bridgend 2019  
*White to Play*



**(3) A.Dreev-E.Inarkiev**  
Russian Championship, Izhevsk 2019  
*Black to Play*



**(4) M.Mashayekh-A.Wagner Michel**  
European Senior Team Ch., Mali Losinj 2019  
*White to Play*



**(5) R.Cowan-A.Ismail**  
York 2019  
*White to Play*



**(6) S.Sevian-A.Tari**  
FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk 2019  
*White to Play*

# The Moves That Matter

Jonathan Rowson

THE MOVES  
A Chess Grandmaster  
THAT  
on the Game of Life  
MATTER



Jonathan Rowson is back with a thoughtful new work for Bloomsbury, *The Moves That Matter*, from which we're delighted to be able to supply his take on the 4NCL

## 58. Hotel Breakfasts

One ordinary Sunday morning in the autumn of 2012 I was gazing out the window of a large conference-style breakfast room in a conference-style hotel near Reading. I was looking for inspiration but couldn't find it, because while the scenery was verdant and expansive, I could barely see it through the drizzle and fog. At that moment it struck me, like unsettling news from a polite doctor, that I had been playing the 4NCL – Britain's team chess league – for fifteen years.

I looked down at the trusty fried egg on my plate, accompanied by two glistening hash browns and a small puddle of baked beans. This hot food before me, which had once been a symbol of professional on-the-road freedom, now represented, by my rough calculation, my seventy-fifth hotel breakfast in this particular chess event.

I searched for kindred spirits in the faces of fellow chess players, hoping for a nod or wink of solidarity to signal that they felt the moment too. Perhaps they also sensed that our lives are cages of our own making, built by the need for identity and locked by the force of habit. But no, they mostly looked relatively contented, sharing stories of yesterday's game, and thinking ahead to today's.

The faces were very familiar, somewhat older, and, though I had no real way of knowing, not obviously any the wiser. After all, they, like me, were still travelling away from home with a curious sense of purpose, to honour a generic venue with two creative battles, recorded in algebraic notation. They, like me, were hoping for an affirming social experience on the Saturday night, and no doubt also expecting far too much from their hash browns on the Sunday morning.

The closest parallel is the 1993 film *Groundhog Day* with Bill Murray. In that wonderful film, highly recommended as an illustration of spiritual growth, the protagonist is trapped in the same place on the same day, repeated indefinitely as he wakes up to the same radio announcement:



*Jonathan Rowson is a three-time British Chess Champion (2004–2006), and wrote the classic works The Seven Deadly Chess Sins and Chess for Zebras. These days he is a director of Perspectiva, researching and exploring how society can change to meet the needs of the modern day, but retains a strong interest in chess.*

'It's Groundhog Day!' He breaks out by transforming his outlook, developing himself, helping others, and finally winning the affections of the woman he had previously merely desired, but gradually chooses to love.

I wasn't quite up to that scale of liberation, but after breakfast I put my hood up and went for a walk in the rain, phoned some loved ones and tried to muster willpower for the game ahead. Unfortunately, the morning's revelation was just too intense, and I could not shake the unsettling feeling that my game did not really matter. I really did try to fight, but played without sufficient distinction to defeat a young International Master from Canada, fresh from his first-ever 4NCL breakfast.

I noticed a game on the same day that contrasted with my own lacklustre display, and it reminded me of the beautiful and original combinations hidden in the game for keen eyes to find, even when our minds lack the vitality to execute them. Scotland's Graham Morrison, who was probably on his fiftieth or so 4NCL breakfast, unwisely grabbed a hot pawn against Grandmaster Mark Hebden, who started the 4NCL long before me, and may even be a 4NCL breakfast centurion. His opponent was soon, of course, toast.

**M. Hebden-G. Morrison**  
4NCL, Sunningdale 2012  
*Queen's Indian Defence*

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 e6 3 e3 b6 4 ♗d3 ♗b7  
5 0-0 c5 6 c4 ♗e7 7 ♗c3 cxd4 8 exd4  
d5 9 cxd5 ♗xd5 10 ♗e5 0-0 11 ♖g4  
♗f6 12 ♗h4 ♗e4 13 ♗h3 ♗xd4 14 ♗f4  
♗f6 15 ♗e2 ♗a4 16 ♖fc1 ♗a6 17 ♖c4  
♗e8 18 ♗g4 g6 19 ♗h6+ ♖g7 20 ♗e5  
♗c5



## 21 ♖h4?!

21 ♖xc5! bxc5 22 ♘f4 planning some combination of ♖h4, ♘g4 or ♘h5+ is winning.

21...♖h8 22 ♘f4 ♘xd3 23 ♖xd3 ♗d8

24 ♖e3 ♖c6

24...♗f8!

25 ♖c1 ♗d7 26 h3?!

26 ♘h5+! gxh5 27 ♗d4 wins.

26...♗f8 27 ♖c7 ♗d1+ 28 ♗h2 ♘d5



## 29 ♘xd5

29 ♘g7+! ♗xg7 30 ♖e5+ mates in three!

29...♖xd5 30 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 31 ♖f4 f5 32

♘xh8 ♘g5 33 ♖xf5+! exf5 34 ♖xg5

♗d6 35 ♘e5 ♗e6 36 ♗d8+ 1-0

## J.Rowson-R.Panjwani 4NCL, Sunningdale 2012 Sicilian Rossolimo

1 ♘f3 c5 2 e4 ♘c6 3 ♘b5 d6 4 0-0 ♘d7  
5 ♖e1 ♘f6 6 h3 ♘e5 7 a4 ♘xf3+ 8 ♖xf3  
e5 9 d3 ♘e7 10 ♘g5 ♘c6 11 ♘c3 ♘d7  
12 ♘c4 0-0 13 ♘e3 ♗h8 14 g4 ♘g5  
15 ♘xg5 ♖xg5 16 ♖e3 h6 17 ♖f1 g6  
18 f4 exf4 19 ♖xf4 ♘e5



20 ♖f6+ ♖xf6 21 ♖xf6 ♘xc4 22 dxc4  
♗ae8 23 ♖e1 ♖e6 24 ♖xe6 fxe6 25 ♗d1  
♗d8 26 b3 ♗d7 27 ♗f2 ♗g7 28 ♗e3

♗f6 29 h4 ♖f7 30 ♖f1+ ♗e7 31 ♖xf7+  
♗xf7 32 g5 hxg5 33 hxg5 a5



34 ♗f4 e5+ 35 ♗e3 ♗e7 36 ♗d3 ♗d8  
37 ♘d1 ♘d7 38 ♘e3 ♘e6 39 ♖c3 ♗d7  
40 ♗d3 ♗c7 41 ♘d5+ ♘xd5 42 cxd5  
♗b6 43 ♗c3 ♗a6 44 ♗c4 ♗b6 45 ♗d3  
½-½

*The Moves that Matter: A Chess Grandmaster on the Game of Life* by Jonathan Rowson, is out now, published by Bloomsbury Publishing and available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £20.00 or £18.00 for Subscribers.



# Forthcoming Events

**Nov 29 - Dec 8 London Chess Classic**  
www.londonchessclassic.com; events for everyone

**Nov 30 - Dec 1 Hereford Congress**  
www.cornwallchess.org.uk/Hereford/info.shtml

**November 30 Malawi Rapidplay, Prestwick**  
www.chessscotland.com/events/ or call 07876 454863

**November 30 Omagh Rapidplay**  
www.ulsterchess.org

**November 30 Southampton Rapidplay**  
www.southamptonchess.org.uk/rapidplay/

**December 1 Bolton Rapidplay**  
boltonchessclub.webs.com

**December 1 Plymouth Rapidplay**  
plymouthchess.uk

**December 5 Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz**  
www.hendonchessclub.com or call 07855 036537

**December 8 Coventry & District Rapidplay**  
covchessleague.blogspot.com/p/2nd-rapidplay.html

**December 14-15 Leyland Congress**  
congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/49/home

**December 14-15 Northwick Park Congress & London Junior**  
www.ljcc.co.uk

**December 14 Poplar Rapidplay**  
www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub

**December 26-28 London Christmas Congress & London Junior**  
www.ljcc.co.uk

**Dec 28 - Jan 5 Hastings International Congress**  
www.hastingschess.com or call 01424 445348

**January 3-5 Shropshire Chess Congress**  
www.shropshirechesscongress.org.uk

**January 5 Hull Rapidplay**  
www.hullchess.com/Rapid+Play+2020

*And for the Online Connoisseur:*

**December 2-8 London Chess Classic**  
www.londonchessclassic.com; British KO and Carlsen et al

**December 10-24 FIDE Grand Prix, Jerusalem**  
worldchess.com; Aronian, Karjakin, Vachier-Lagrave, Yu Yangyi, etc.

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

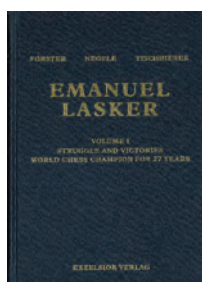
# Christmas Stocking Fillers



**Uncertain what you want for Christmas?  
Let Sean Marsh be your guide!**

What would you like to see in your stocking this year? Well, rather than suggest you send in your own dubious answers on a festive postcard, I shall immediately offer some suggestions, in a desperate attempt to keep the editor from reaching for his blue pencil.

First of all, the four books which made the shortlist for the 2019 English Chess Federation Book of the Year award should be automatic choices for any self-respecting chess player's Christmas list. It was a tough contest this year, with all four books offering something original.

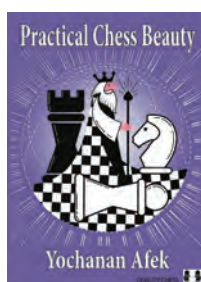


## **Emanuel Lasker – Volume 1**

Richard Forster, Michael Negele & Raj Tischbierek (eds.), 450 pages  
Exzelsior Verlag

RRP £54.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £49.45**

My review of this magnificent book can be found in the August issue of *CHESS*, but those wanting advice in a nutshell could cut to my conclusion, which said: "I recommend finding some quiet time, putting up your feet and losing yourself to the chess world of a former time that has been brilliantly brought back to life by this magnificent labour of love." Two more volumes are in the pipeline and I feel absolutely certain they will be worth the wait.

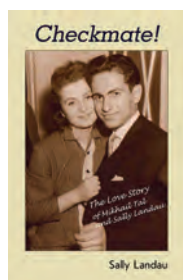


## **Practical Chess Beauty**

Yochanan Afek, 464 pages  
Quality Chess

RRP £26.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.85**

I reviewed this one back in the February magazine, and will now refer readers to that issue for further information, but do recall that I concluded with the words: "This is a very fine book indeed and, whisper it gently, but we may already have a strong candidate for Book of the Year" – which turned out to be accurate.



## **Checkmate! The Love Story of Mikhail Tal and Sally Landau**

Sally Landau, 224 pages  
Elk and Ruby

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Elk and Ruby continue to publish plenty of

very interesting books. Sally Landau was the first wife of the seventh world champion and this is a translation of her memoir, first published in Russian in 1998, which offers a unique insight into the universally popular player. There is no point turning to this book to find games and analysis; there is not even a single move to be found. Instead, we get the inside story of a larger-than-life character, whose lifestyle was as unconventional as his play. This work is not an attempt to "Portray him with a saintly halo or as pure and innocent. That is impossible, not least because he was so unusual and ultimately indecipherable."

There are three parts to the book, with two written by Sally and the middle one written by their son, Georgy. It starts with the first meeting of Tal and Sally, and how she visited his apartment for the first time, with Sally impressing Tal by playing Rachmaninoff on the piano. Incidentally, later on it is said that Tal himself played the piano well, even though he was lacking two fingers on his right hand.

Sally, as an actress, took up smoking to help her play a stage role and admits, "I must confess, it's me who taught Misha to smoke." Typical of Tal, who never did things by halves, he "Would only need a lighter to light the first cigarette – all the others would be lit from the previous one." Of course, it is unlikely Tal would have kept away from cigarettes even if Sally had been a complete non-smoker; his addictive tendencies would surely have brought him to the same dangerous road. Georgy relates one of the occasions when Tal escaped from hospital. "He said he was bored. He put his raincoat on over his pyjamas, surreptitiously ordered a taxi and went home."

There is a very good photographic section; all of the pictures were new to me. There are some new Fischer stories too. Apparently he took quite a shine to Sally, which he handled with his usual awkwardness. "If Fischer came across us on the beach he would come and sit with us, unceremoniously shoving Misha away with his elbow and engaging me in long conversations."

This is a real warts-and-all account of life with the unconventional and unpredictable Tal, sparing no blushes along the way. He always seemed to get away with being the loveable rogue, but living with him was clearly as difficult as trying to deal with the thickets of problems he posed over the board. No other book has ever offered such a candid insight into the brilliant but deeply flawed Mikhail Tal.



## Game Changer

Matthew Sadler & Natasha Regan, 416 pages  
New in Chess

RRP £19.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.95**

It always takes a very special book to win the ECF award and I doubt anyone would be able to read this one and disagree that it was a worthy winner.

'Game Changer' is currently something of an overused phrase, but here it works as the perfect title, because *AlphaZero*, the artificial intelligence created by Google's DeepMind, really has changed our favourite game. Indeed, it is even proving to be a positive influence on the game of Magnus Carlsen.

Garry Kasparov, in his foreword, is full of praise for the project. "Chess has been shaken to its roots by *AlphaZero*, but this is only a tiny example of what is to come. Hidebound disciplines like education and medicine will also be shaken, if slowly, by the improved results promised by AI analysis, if we allow them to." It could be said, without fear of successful contradiction, that the thirteenth world champion is no stranger to bold claims and hyperbole. However, this time his enthusiasm is not misplaced.

Matthew and Natasha have written a simply wonderful and vibrant book with fabulous depth. I usually find games between anything other than humans to be dull and uninvolved, but those given in this book are all extremely interesting, with *AlphaZero* showing plenty of remarkable ideas. The authors bring in plenty of historical parallels, such as showing how Bent Larsen used his rook's pawns and how Alekhine played the endgame. In the former case especially, it is exceptionally interesting as lots of Larsen's ideas were awarded a gold star for being top of the maverick class, yet as can be seen from the book's examples, *AlphaZero* too excels in pushing the rook's pawns as quickly and as far as possible.

*AlphaZero* shines in all parts of the game and is consistently direct in its approach. This example, taken from the chapter on 'Attacking the King: sacrifices for time, space and damage' shows some remarkable touches.

## Stockfish 8-AlphaZero

London 2018

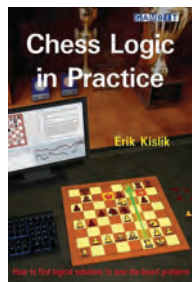


Sadler admits that "Whizzing through this game, I was expecting 40 or 50 moves of tedium with some long manoeuvres from both sides. I wasn't prepared for *AlphaZero's* solution!"

**14...f5 15 exf5 e4 16 ♘d2 e3**

"A fantastic idea. 14...f5 and 15...e4 opened up the b8-h2 diagonal for the dark-squared bishop to aim at the white king, and 16...e3 diverts the white pawn from f2, which prevents White from establishing an effective pawn barrier on the b8-h2 diagonal. A key enabler of this sacrifice is the damaged white queenside structure." Further sacrifices followed, but *Stockfish* gamely held on for a draw.

The authors have done a remarkable job of putting the inexorable rise of *AlphaZero* into context and explaining the finer points of the deep games. This magnificent book can be enjoyed on several different levels and that includes the quest for self-improvement. As the authors write, "We believe that there is a large amount of new and instructive material in this book that we hope you will thoroughly enjoy reading and trying out in your games." Having spent some time immersed in *Game Changer*, I can definitely agree.



## Chess Logic in Practice

Erik Kislik, 240 pages  
Gambit Publications

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Erik Kislik's previous book for Gambit, *Applying Logic on Chess* (published in 2018), was very impressive and he has now produced a companion volume, with logic again at its heart.

As the blurb has it, "Chess-players understand that it is vital to play logically, but often lack the methods needed to do so. In this book, renowned trainer Erik Kislik presents a wide range of specific concepts that will help them succeed. These include positional techniques, thinking methods, and modes of play to adopt when either better or worse."

There are three main sections, namely: Thinking Concepts, Positional Concepts, and Exercises. The titles for the individual chapters reveal a quirky humour and they include: Only One Way to Lose, When Playing a Bad Move Wins a Good Game, and Painfully Slow Moves. Logic certainly features strongly in the chapter on Incorrect Piece Exchanges.

Here is one example.

## Z. Ilincic-S. Shankland

Budapest 2009

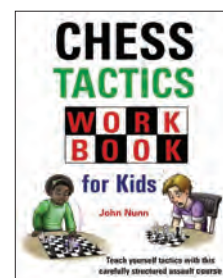


"Black must appreciate the importance of the white d-pawn (especially if it comes to d6) and focus on White's real threats, not fight peripheral battles." With that in mind, Black's next move clearly fails to cut the mustard.

**14...♗h3?**

"A much better idea for Black is simply to improve his worst-placed pieces." This means the rooks and 14...♖ac8 is the recommendation, with a view to playing ...c4, securing the d3-square for action or occupation. Thus the game move is revealed to be the result of stereotypical thinking and not something which is necessary according to the logic inherent in the position.

This book is a very good follow-up to Kislik's previous work. Taking the logical approach to various typical problems that are commonly found over the board can only help readers to identify their errors and find clearer solutions. The author is quite prepared to show games in which he failed to find the answers at the time, all of which led to the flow of logic which has created the material for this thought-provoking book. This is ideal study material for high-end club players and serious tournament competitors.



## Chess Tactics Workbook for Kids

John Nunn, 128 pages  
Gambit Publications

RRP £12.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.25**

The Gambit team has been busily continuing their popular series of books for juniors. The lineage of the series dates all the way back to 1998's *How to Beat Your Dad at Chess*. It would be a mistake to overlook this series, believing them to be junior-specific. In

11 d5 exd5 12 ♖xd5 a6 13 ♜fd1 b5  
 14 ♜c2 is another promising line for White.  
**11...♗xc5 12 ♜fd1 ♜c8 13 ♜ac1 ♜d8**



Natural, but now White is far better, so maybe Black should have tried 13...a5!?

**14 ♗xb8**

Freeing squares for the queen, but 14 b4 ♗cd7 15 ♜b3 ♗c6 16 ♗b5 ♗xb4 17 ♗g5 gives White an overwhelming game.

**14...♜xb8 15 ♜xd8+ ♜xd8 16 ♜d1 ♜e8**

Now Black has more or less equalised, but he was some five or six minutes behind on the clock.

**17 ♜f4 ♜d8**

17...♗f6 is easier, and equal.

**18 ♜xd8 ♜xd8 19 ♗e5 ♗f6 20 ♗xb7 ♗xb7?!**

20...♗xe5 21 ♜xe5 ♗xb7 keeps it level.

**21 ♗c6!**



**21...♜a8**

21...♜d6 22 ♜xd6 ♗xd6 23 ♗xa7 ♗xc3 24 bxc3 leaves Black defending a pawn down.

**22 ♜c7 ♗d8 23 ♗xd8 ♗xd8 24 ♗b5 ♗c6 25 ♗d6 ♗d8**

Black is pinned down and White has several ways to win.

**26 e4 g5 27 ♗c8 ♗c6 28 ♜xc6! 1-0**



British Over-65 Champion Mark Page (left) in action, while Jude Shearsby, the runner-up in the British Under-9 Championship, looks on.

# Readers' Letters



## Copyright & Staunton

I read with interest and amusement Geoff Chandler's article 'You've Been Beekered!' in the October *CHESSE*. The article wishes that Staunton had included copyrighting of games within the 1851 rules... but in fact, he did! (Or, at least, a very similar concept.)

From the Rules and Regulations of the Tournament:

*12. As the managing committee guarantee to every subscriber of a guinea and upwards, a correct copy of the whole games, and as considerable expense must attend the recording of so many games and their subsequent publication, it must be understood that no one will be allowed, in the first instance, to publish any part of them, without the express sanction of the committee.*

Granted, the conceptual 'copyright' is held by the managing committee rather than the players themselves, but the principle is similar: that distribution of the game scores is limited to those who have paid to receive them.

I had recently studied the 1851 rules as research for an article for *Chess Life* on adjournments, which is where I ran across this regulation, and of course it caught my attention.

Jon Crumiller, Princeton, New Jersey

## Gijón & BHW

A few notes about the Gijón article in the September *CHESSE*.

Dad started his *Chess* business in the Masonic Buildings in Sutton Coldfield, with the magazine printed in Kettering. He moved to the old stationmaster's house in Sutton, before starting to print it himself. For a short time, he just did the typesetting. This was on Monotype machinery. Each character was cast from molten poisonous metal, controlled by wide punched paper tape. At the end of each line, a special punched code organised extra spacing, so that lines were of exactly equal length. Characters were cast in reverse order. This all worked without electronics, with diagrams were set by hand. (Linotype machinery was more expensive and even more complex.)

Dad was keen to get the magazine out with hot news. He did a short course and bought a press, to do the printing too. A lecturer from the Birmingham technical college did some work for him. Such people were exempt from the union membership requirement. The printers' union was very powerful, probably because they agreed to print newspapers that were largely politically on the right (*The Guardian* being the exception).

Francesco Perez was the other foreign master regularly present at Dad's festivals. He often took third place behind O'Kelly and Donner. He told us Wood children that he was a communist. We thought this was a joke, and dangerous for a Spaniard, but later we heard that he had moved to Cuba. All these star players were very pleasant in different ways. I played once against O'Kelly. Donner on the next board was annoyed that I missed a sacrificial forced draw, but I had played with no such hope.

I remember the huge bunch of bananas brought back from Spain. They hung in the hall, not the living room. We could pluck them from halfway up the stairs.

The real hero of Dad's early career was my mother, who nurtured four children and helped nurse our uncle (back from near-death as a POW in Burma), while Dad indulged his passion for chess. She also correctly diagnosed diabetes for Dad and herself, about 30 years too late. Our GP refused to waste NHS money on a test.

Chris Wood, Munich

*Ed. - We always want to hear from you! To get in touch simply email editor@chess.co.uk or write to us at 44 Baker Street, W1U 7RT.*





Now Short probably didn't hesitate before playing his next move, especially against the world's best player.

**13 a3 ♖d8 14 f3**

In *Informant 59*, Short analysed 14 ♖xg7? ♗g8 15 ♖h6 d5! and the d-pawn cannot be swiped because of 16 exd5? ♖xd5 17 ♖xd5 ♗xd5 and Black is already winning.

**14...0-0 15 ♖h6 ♖e8 16 ♖h1 ♖h8 17 ♖g5 ♖xg5 18 ♖xg5 ♖f6 19 ♗ad1 ♗d7 20 ♗d3 ♗fd8 21 ♗ed1 ♖c5 22 ♖e3 ♖g8**

Speelman pointed out that after 22...♖xe3 23 ♗xe3 d5 24 exd5 ♖xd5 25 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 26 ♗ed3 ♖c6 27 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 28 ♗xd7 ♖xd7 29 c4! ♖g8 30 c5 White is better.

**23 ♖g1 ♖f8**



Kasparov is losing ground and Short demonstrated that he really had to prefer 23...♖xe3+ 24 ♗xe3 ♖f8.

**24 ♖f2 ♖a8?! 25 ♖e2 g6?**

It was the last chance to remove the queens.

**26 ♖d4! ♖e5**

26...e5 27 ♗c3! ♖a7 28 ♖c6 ♖xf2+ 29 ♖xf2 ♗c8? 30 ♖xe5 wins, as shown by Short.

**27 ♗e1 g5 28 c3 ♖g7 29 ♖c2 ♗g8 30 ♖b3 ♖f8 31 ♗d4 ♖e7 32 a4! h5? 33 axb5 axb5 34 ♗b4 h4 35 ♖d4 g4 36 ♗xb5 d5 37 ♖xh4 ♗h5 38 ♖f5+! 1-0**

And Black gave up in view of 38...exf5 39 exf5+ ♖f8 40 ♖xf6 ♖b7 41 ♗xb7 ♗xb7 42 ♖d8+ ♖g7 43 f6+ ♖h8 44 ♖xg8+ ♖xg8 45 ♗e8#.

In the above position after 12...♖b7, not many grandmasters have dared to take the g7-pawn and weather the subsequent heat from the heavy-piece battery. According to the ChessBase Online Database, only four GMs have done so: Ivanchuk (why are we not surprised?), Kiril Georgiev, Degraeve and



'You really want to play that?' thinks Garry, but the boot was on the other foot come Game 16.

Nijboer. Most of the games contested in the pawn-grab lines are, unsurprisingly, from correspondence praxis, but what if you do a thorough study of the line and know the defensive nuances inside out?

Is it worth the trouble grovelling for most of the game for one measly pawn and, even then, can one convert the ending? Well, the Suffolk IM Adam Hunt did just that. Black had his chances in the following game, but you just have to admire White's grit.

### A.Hunt-A.Collinson

4NCL, West Bromwich 2004

*Sicilian Najdorf*

**1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 a6 6 ♖c4 e6 7 0-0 b5 8 ♖b3 ♖e7 9 ♖f3 ♖c7 10 ♖g3 ♖c6 11 ♖xc6 ♖xc6 12 ♗e1 ♖b7 13 ♖xg7!?**

Hunt wants his opponent to prove that the line-clearance is worth a pawn. Compared to the Solomon-Paevskiy game, the compensation looks even more compelling as there is a potential long-diagonal battery and White's counterplay (either doubling on the d-file or attempting to push e4-e5 or f4-f5) looks light years away.

**13...♗g8 14 ♖h6 0-0-0 15 ♖h3 ♖b8 16 a3 ♗g6 17 ♗e2 ♗dg8 18 f3 h5 19 ♖h1 ♖e8**



Vuckovic noted that 19...h4!? 20 ♖e3 ♖h5 21 ♗d1 ♖e8 offers Black sufficient compensation for his material deficit, citing Saenko-Yamaliev, correspondence 2010. However it seems that Black can make headway with 22 ♖g1 (after 22 ♗e2 ♖c8! the threat of ...e5, uncovering the bishop against the queen, forces White to sacrifice the exchange on d6 or play 23 f4 when Black has 23...♖g3+) 22...♖f6 23 ♗xd6 and now, instead of Yamaliev's 23...♖e7 24 ♗e2, stronger is 23...♖e5!. Black aims to annex the dark squares with the queen and bishop after 24 ♗d1 ♖e7 25 ♖f1 ♖f6 26 ♗d3 ♖f4 27 ♖xf4 ♖xf4 when *Stockfish* even gives a '+2' advantage, despite Black's two-pawn deficit.

**20 ♖d2**

20 ♖e3 h4 21 ♗d1 ♖h5 transposes back to Saeko-Yamaliev.

**20...h4! 21 f4**

Hunt has completed his development and reckons his chances lie in advancing his pawn centre, which is not a bad policy given that Black's flank pressure is becoming extremely strong and that 21 ♖xh4 fails to 21...♖xe4.

**21...d5?!**

A logical way to free up the long white diagonal, but this gives White the chance to prise open the centre.

The incredible 21...♖xe4!! wins because after 22 ♖xe4 ♗xg2! 23 ♗xg2 ♖xe4 24 ♗ag1 ♖c6...

5 c6 ♖d6 6 ♖a4 a2 7 ♖a3 ♖xc6! 0-1  
 Remaining precise to the end, Mikhaevski  
 having spotted that White was playing for  
 7...d2? 8 ♖d3+! ♖e5 9 ♖xd2 ♖f1+ 10 ♖xf1  
 a1 ♖+ 11 ♖f2.

### 23) Shuvalova-Afonasieva

White has a most aesthetic mating sequence:  
**1 ♖xg7! ♖xg7 2 ♖xh7+! ♖xh7 3 f6+  
 ♖h6 4 ♖e3+ ♖h5 5 ♖f3+ ♖h4 6 ♖f2+  
 1-0** Black should really have played out  
 6...♖h3 7 ♖g4#.

### 24) Duda-Xiong

**1 e5!!** (the classic breakthrough on a square  
 Black thought he controlled; 1 ♖a7 ♖h6 2  
 ♖xa6 g4 is much less clear) **1...dxe5?** (of  
 course, 1...fxe5? 2 ♖xg5+ forces mate, but  
 with 1...♖h5 2 exd6 ♖f7 Black would have  
 been able to stay on the board, if not for too  
 long; in his excellent ChessPublishing column,  
 David Cummings supplies the logical sample  
 line 3 ♖g2 a5 4 ♖d3 a4 5 ♖f5 a3 6 d7!  
 ♖xd7 7 ♖xf6 ♖f7 8 ♖xg5+ ♖g6 9 ♖xg6+  
 hxg6 10 d6 and wins) **2 ♖a7 ♖h6 3 d6 ♖c1  
 4 ♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 5 ♖g2 g4 6 h4!** (this really  
 needed to be seen in advance!) **6...gxh3+ 7  
 ♖h2 ♖g6 8 ♖a8+! 1-0** Taking control of  
 the key diagonal before queening and thereby  
 avoiding 8 d7?? ♖h1+! 9 ♖xh1 ♖e4+ 10  
 ♖h2 ♖g2#.



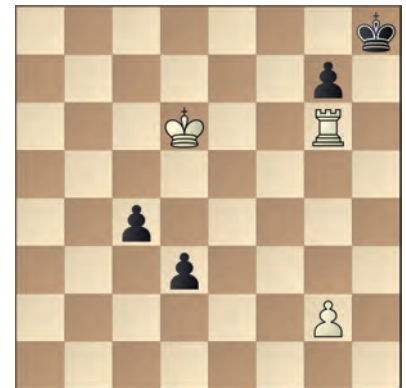
## Benko's Bafflers (p. 31 of the October *CHES*)



Did you do better than Bobby Fischer? The  
 only way to mate in three is **1 ♖c4! ♖e5** (or  
 1...♖f5 2 ♖f3+ and if 2...♖e5 3 ♖f4# or  
 2...♖g6 3 ♖f7#) **2 ♖d5+ ♖f6 3 ♖g5#.**



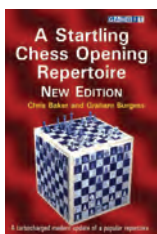
Max Euwe struggled with this study which  
 was composed for him in the shape of the  
 letter 'E'. White mates in three with **1 ♖c4!**  
 (threatening 2 ♖d4#) **1...♖c6** (or 1...c5  
 2 ♖xc5+! ♖xc5 3 ♖d4#) **2 ♖xa4+! ♖xa4  
 3 ♖xc6#.**



White wins with **1 ♖e7! d2** (1...c3 2 ♖f7  
 c2 3 ♖c6 ♖h7 4 g4! is similar) **2 ♖d6 c3  
 3 ♖f7 ♖h7** (3...c2 fails to 4 ♖d3) **4 g4!**,  
 which leads to mate: **4...c2** (if 4...g6 5 g5 c2  
 6 ♖xg6 c1 ♖ 7 ♖h6# or 4...g5 5 ♖d3 and  
 6 ♖h3#) **5 g5 d1 ♖ 6 ♖h6+! gxh6 7 g6+  
 ♖h8 8 g7+ ♖h7 9 g8 ♖#.**



# This Month's New Releases



**A Startling Chess Opening Repertoire –  
 New Edition**  
 Chris Baker and Graham Burgess, 192 pages  
 Gambit Publications  
 RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

The first edition of this interesting book  
 was published back in 1998. Theory has  
 obviously moved on a great deal since then,  
 especially since everyone started using chess  
 engines. To catch up with the new  
 developments, Graham Burgess, who has

updated Chris Baker's earlier repertoire,  
 explains: "This new edition brings the  
 repertoire completely up to date. The basic  
 choice of main lines is unchanged, but each  
 move has been re-examined and new ideas  
 from practice and analysis incorporated at  
 every turn."

The back-cover blurb puts it very directly:  
 "Tired of being surprised in the opening?  
 Horrified by studying many hours each week  
 to keep on top of the latest developments in  
 main-line openings? Then this is the book for  
 you!"

The aim is to offer a full 1 e4 repertoire  
 that will be accessible to club players and will  
 be essentially sound – but dangerous for the  
 opponent. The Max Lange Attack (1 e4 e5 2  
 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♖c4 ♖f6 4 d4) forms the  
 backbone of the repertoire. This is a very old  
 line, of course, but might carry more of a



sting now that everyone is playing the regular  
 Italian Game.

What is classed as startling? The Cochrane  
 Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖f6 3 ♖xe5 d6 4  
 ♖xf7) may well be unpleasant for a solid  
 Petroff fan, but I am not so sure anyone  
 would ever claim to have been startled by 1  
 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♖b5, the main line in the  
 Caro-Kann, or 2 ♖c3 against Alekhine's  
 Defence. Indeed, White will have to leave the  
 main repertoire after 1 e4 ♖f6 2 ♖c3 e5 as  
 the Max Lange Attack is no longer a  
 possibility. Here the recommendation is to  
 head for a Four Knights with 4 h3.

Burgess, in the new introduction, suggests  
 some changes "If there are any  
 recommendations you don't like, or you just  
 want some variety," and these include the  
 Morra Gambit and the Fantasy Caro-Kann.

The lines given in the book have been

tested with chess engines and this process has unearthed some interesting twists, such as this one, from a line in the French Defence (which starts with 1 e4 e6 2 d3 d5 3 c3).



Black now plays **12...g5** which is met by the truly startling sequence **13 ♕xg5!? ♖g8 14 f4 h6 15 ♕xe7 ♗xg4 16 ♕xc5**. The white queen has gone but the position “offers White a bind and a lot of compensation.”

Club players should be able to get a 1 e4 repertoire up and running relatively quickly, but anyone hoping their opponents to be in state of startled shock when facing the advocated lines will have to lower their expectations somewhat.

Sean Marsh



### Beyond Material

Davorin Kuljasevic, 336 pages  
New in Chess

RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

This interesting new book encourages the reader to “Ignore the face value of your pieces and discover the importance of time, space and psychology in chess.” Or, in short, “Improve your ability to take calculated risks!”

Kuljasevic, a grandmaster from Croatia with a peak rating of 2591 (achieved in 2013) is also an experienced coach and writer who used to be the host of a Croatian chess television programme. He is firmly of the view that when it comes to sacrificial play “Modern chess players need to be able to suppress their need for immediate gratification. In order to gain the upper hand you often have to live with uncertain compensation.” This is very interesting indeed, because I am sure most of us have the need to have something definite in mind when offering even small amounts of material, whether it is a fast return of anything sacrificed or a real chance of checkmating the opponent’s king.

There are five main parts to the book and the titles give a useful indication of what to

expect: Attachment to material; Time beats material; Space beats material; Psychology of non-materialism; Is it good to be greedy in chess? These are followed by the solutions to the 50 exercises which can be found throughout the book.

Some well-known classics are present and correct, such as Petrosian’s 30 ♖h8+! finale against Spassky in game 10 of their 1966 title match and Kasparov cutting Pribyl’s Grünfeld position in two with the sacrificial 16 d5! (Skara 1980), but there is an abundance of fresh examples such as this startling example.

### D.Khismatullin-P.Eljanov Jerusalem 2015



White looks to be in a bad way, but the tables are turned in remarkable fashion.

**44 ♖g1!!**

“Usually, when people take my rook with check, I lose the game. However, Khismatullin’s idea is much deeper: by giving up the rook, he gains enough time to tuck away his king on the safe h2-square and claim that he can organize a mating attack with his queen and pawns only.”

**44...♗xd1+?**

“Black had an only defense, which is brilliant in its own right: 44...Rd5!! The point is twofold: firstly to keep the queen on c2, so that both the rook on d1 and the c-pawn would remain under control and, secondly, to bring the rook into the defense via the fifth rank.”

**45 ♖h2 ♗xc6 46 ♗e7+ Kh6 47 ♗f8+ ♖g5 48 ♗xf7!**

“Such quiet moves that close the mating net are possible only when your own king is safe.”

**48...♗f6 49 f4+ ♖h6 50 ♗xf6** (1-0, 57).

I like the author’s style. He does not dumb anything down – which is a very common mistake when writing for club players – and he is clearly an erudite and knowledgeable chess player. There is enough material here to keep even the keenest of chess students busy for some time and it definitely has the potential to change the way a player thinks.

*Beyond Material* is a very good book. It provides a plethora of excellent material, which is both entertaining and instructive, while remaining fully accessible to club players.

Sean Marsh



### Advanced Chess Tactics

Lev Psakhis, 416 pages, paperback  
RRP £22.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.25**

This is a new edition of a modern classic from Quality Chess. There’s little doubt that the weaker club player will struggle with the material, but stronger players keen on working hard to improve their game will find a great range of material and challenging exercises to solve. As well as various tweaks, Psakhis has added a chapter on something he knows very well: attacking ideas in the French Defence.

Please note that if you’d prefer to receive a hardback version of *Advanced Chess Tactics*, you should simply add £4.00 to your order with Chess & Bridge.

### Alma and the Dark Dominion

Judit Berg, 272 pages, hardback  
RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

This represents a new direction for Quality Chess, being a novel written by an award-winning Hungarian children’s author. Judit Berg received help from a famous fellow Judit with the chess content of this adventure story. If your children like the premise of “On a fateful summer afternoon Alma, Drifter, Felix and Bella are mysteriously transported to an alien world. Can they find their way back home? To succeed, they will need to make clever decisions – and perhaps even some sacrifices” then this might make for a nice Christmas present.

### ChessBase Magazine 192

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

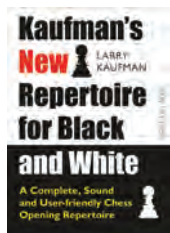
The latest *CBM* focusses on the Sinquefield Cup and Rex Sinquefield’s immense contribution to modern chess, while presenting analysis from the likes of Vishy Anand and Nikita Vitiugov. Of special interest to the keen theoretician will be Igor Stohl on the Chinese Dragon (9 ♕c4 ♕d7 10 0-0-0 ♗b8!?), while those interested in the trendy Giuoco Piano should enjoy seeing Mihail Marin demonstrate how White can aim to attack on the kingside in the resulting middlegames.

### Daily Chess Training: Chess Tactics Vol. 2

Carsten Hansen, 330 pages, paperback  
RRP £20.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.85**

This self-published work from the erudite and experienced Danish FM presents 404 positions to solve, all selected with the aim of improving the reader’s over-the-board play. Yes, one knows that there is a tactic to solve in each one, but not what type. It must also be said that the range of difficulty is quite a

wide one, just as you might encounter a simple pin and also a complex mating attack to calculate in the same game, while the size of the book should give some indication as to the thoroughness of the solutions.



### Kaufman's New Repertoire for Black & White

Larry Kaufman, 464 pages, paperback  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Larry Kaufman is back for a third time with a repertoire work for both colours and one which is likely to prove highly popular based on the success of his earlier works. This time he draws heavily on Monte Carlo analysis from his own *Komodo* engine and other modern ones, while aiming to present a repertoire which is sound, trouble-causing and durable. As Black, Kaufman still advocates defending the Ruy Lopez and the Grünfeld, although he now prefers the Marshall to the Breyer in the former. The big change, however, is the shift from 1 d4 to 1 e4, with the new repertoire being both topical and fairly positional, the Italian Game and ♟b5 Sicilians featuring predominantly.



### Navigating the Ruy Lopez Vol. 1

Fabiano Caruana, PC-DVD;

running time: 5 hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

ChessBase have scored something of a coup by luring the world no.2 to their Hamburg studio. In conversation with IM Oliver Reeh, Caruana maps out a repertoire for White with his favourite 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♟b5, drawing heavily on his own games and analysis. This first volume focusses on the main lines, showing the key motifs White needs to know to face the likes of the Chigorin and Breyer, while also revealing how to play the Anti-Marshall with 8 a4.

Also available in the same series are *Navigating the Ruy Lopez Vol. 2*, where Caruana and Reeh examine the Archangel, Open and Berlin variations (running time: 5 hours, 52 minutes), and *Navigating the Ruy Lopez Vol. 3* in which all Black's early deviations such as the Schliemann are discussed (running time: 5 hours, 26 minutes). Both volumes 2 and 3 also retail at £26.95 (Subscribers – £24.25), or you might prefer to purchase all three DVDs

together for the special price of £75.00 or just £67.50 for Subscribers.

### Opening Repertoire: The Modern Defence

Cyrus Lakdawala, 416 pages, paperback  
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The Californian IM has already penned a *Move by Move* work for Everyman on the Modern, but this new repertoire work features a different set of lines. It is largely a fairly traditional interpretation of the opening, 1 e4 g6 2 d4 d6 3 ♘c3 being met by 3...c6 and if 4 f4 d5 or 4 ♟e3 ♟g7, rather than the more fashionable 3...♟g7 followed by 4...a6. As such, the repertoire may suit old fans of David Norwood's Modern approach, while another cornerstone of the Lakdawala approach is the 'Maybe Benoni', 1 d4 g6 2 c4 ♟g7 3 e4 c5 4 d5 d6 5 ♘c3 e6.

Also recently released from Everyman Chess is *The Modern Interpretation of Two Classical Systems*, which incorporates both Simon Williams' *The New Sicilian Dragon* and *The New Old Indian* by Alexander Cherniaev and Eduard Prokuronov, while running to some 384 pages and retailing at £18.99 (Subscribers – £17.09).



### Openings: The King's Indian Defense

Jerzy Konikowski & Uwe Bekemann,  
228 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Joachim Beyer Verlag continue to reveal the main ideas behind some of the most important openings for the club player. There is, of course, much, much more to the King's Indian than just the famous race between White's queenside play and Black's ideally mating attack in the Classical main lines. Experienced authors Konikowski and Bekemann are quite aware of that and supply plenty of explanation of the key ideas as they take the reader through the various lines and position types associated with this famous opening.



### Power of Tactics Volume 1

Tadek Sakelsek & Adrian Mikhalchishin,  
272 pages, paperback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

The sub-title 'Tactics according to Smyslov' reveals that Smyslov's games feature prominently in this new work from Chess Evolution, which

focusses on a "Simpler model of tactics described, one according to the great former World Champion Vassily Smyslov." These are essential the basics of checks, pins, double attacks and unprotected pieces, all of which receive plenty of exercises, with the authors aiming to improve the tactical ability of all readers up to about 1800 strength.



### Soviet Outcast

Grigory Levenfish, 304 pages, hardback  
£26.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.85**

Did you know that Levenfish was the only Soviet Grandmaster to be denied a state stipend in later life? Thanks to this new translation from Quality Chess, English-speaking readers can now enjoy Levenfish's take on the Russian chess world, pre- and post-revolution. *Soviet Outcast* also contains Levenfish's notes to 79 of his best games, which include some lesser-known gems, while Jacob Aagaard has contributed a highly thoughtful Afterword.



### The London System with 2...f4 Reloaded

Simon Williams, PC-DVD;

running time: 7 hours, 39 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

This is an entirely new DVD which updates the Ginger GM's earlier repertoire for ChessBase – and much more. DVD repertoires can sometimes be accused of being on the short side and missing out important sidelines, but not here. Williams examines some of Black's newest ideas, such as 1 d4 d5 2 ♟f4 ♖f6 3 e3 e6 4 ♖f3 c5 5 c3 ♘c6 6 ♖bd2 cxd4 (the main line with 6...♟d6 also receives extensive coverage) 7 exd4 ♖h5, showing how White should counter them, with the coverage of 1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♟f4 g6 3 ♘c3! also significantly updated.

Throughout *The London System with 2...f4 Reloaded* there is a good balance of general explanation and theory, but those who really want to improve their mastery of the London should consider purchasing too Williams' companion DVD, *Tactic Toolbox London System* (RRP £26.95; Subscribers – £24.25). This runs to four hours and sees Williams emphasising the key ideas, while presenting a great range of interactive tests for the viewer to solve.