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Chess Update

THE MAGNUS TOUCH

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Olympiad Drama – Danny Gormally's highlights from FIDE's vast online event



The Kiwi Has Landed! – John Saunders on Murray Chandler's arrival in the UK



The Mann who beat Fischer – John Henderson pays tribute to Wolfgang Uhlmann

Chess

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Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
60 Seconds with...Peter Wells	7
The acclaimed author, coach and GM still very much likes to play	
Online Drama	8
Danny Gormally presents some highlights of the vast Online Olympiad	
Carlsen Prevails - Just	14
Nakamura pushed Magnus all the way in the final of his own Tour	
Find the Winning Moves	18
Can you do as well as the acclaimed field in the Legends of Chess?	
Opening Surprises	22
Matthew Lunn has some handy tips for when you next prepare	
Exploring the Science of Chess Improvement	24
An insight into Barry Hymer and Peter Well's forthcoming book	
How Good is Your Chess?	26
Daniel King reminds us of the Candidates tournament	
The Kiwi has Landed!	30
John Saunders recalls Murray Chandler's arrival in the UK	
Studies with Stephenson	33
Brian has been enjoying Werner Keym's new book	
Chess Behind the Iron Curtain	34
Ben Graff looks back at the role of chess in the Soviet Union	
When a Book Makes a Difference	36
David LeMoir stumbled upon a fine game from one of his readers	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	38
Carl is determined to show that the French is a fighting opening	
The Mann Who Beat Bobby Fischer	40
John Henderson remembers the late, great Wolfgang Uhlmann	
The West London Chess Club	44
Bob Jones acquired a fascinating book which used to be BH Wood's	
Playing "Positionally"	47
Geoff Chandler explains the knack of 'Positional Hope Chess'	
Home News	48
The North vs the South, 4NCL Online and the John Naylor Memorial	
Readers' Letters	52
Your recollections and corrections – and news of upcoming events	
Solutions	53
This Month's New Releases	54
A Gambit and two Elk & Ruby books receive detailed attention	
Saunders on Chess	58
John recalls Les Blackstock's finest hour at Marlow in 1970	

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Opening Surprises

Matthew Lunn has some handy tips for next time you prepare for a game

Ben Johnson's superb 'Perpetual Chess Podcast' includes a variety of advice on how to improve, and given the range of interviewees, this advice is often contradictory:

i. Focus on endings – this will have the biggest impact on your results, as you will convert promising positions and save worse ones.

ii. Focus on tactics – you will find opportunities throughout the game that your opponents will miss.

iii. Focus on openings – computers make it easy for your opponent to out prepare you, and extensive knowledge in a range of lines will enable you to spring traps of your own.

I am an adherent of the third option, not because I think it's the best way to improve my chess, but because I enjoy it. IM Kaare Kristensen describes enjoyment as the tenet of chess improvement, which is advice I think we can all appreciate.

Preparation for a game can reap benefits at all levels, and over the last few months I have come to believe in the value of surprise. If you play the same variation of the Sicilian Dragon week in, week out, your opponent has a clear target. Conversely, whilst springing surprises can undermine an opponent's prep, and give a psychological advantage, it will be for nought if you don't understand the resultant positions. With this in mind, I wanted to explore different types of opening surprise, and summarise the advantages and pitfalls of each.

The Theoretical Novelty

There are two types of opening preparation that are guaranteed to surprise your opponent. The first, and most dramatic approach, is to play a move that you know they won't have seen before, such as:

1 d4 f5 2 ♖a3!?

This move doesn't appear in Chess24's database (unlike moves such as 2 a3, 2 ♗d2 and 2 ♜d2, for some reason). If your opponent rarely varies their openings, the odds of you being able to play a novelty like this are very high. This particular move has two advantages: the knight will find a home on c2 (or e5, if your opponent is very compliant); and White is not worse.

The biggest disadvantage is that there's no way of engineering a critical position, and that White's best options divert into more familiar territory.

2...♗f6 3 ♖f3 e6

3...d5 makes sense for Stonewall players, preventing ♗c4. Then 4 ♗f4 e6 5 ♖b5 ♖a6

6 e3 c6 7 ♗c3 is slow, but pleasant for White, or here 4...c6 5 e3 e6 6 c3 (6 c4 ♗b4+ is irritating).

4 ♖c4 d6

4...d5 5 ♗ce5 justifies White's bizarre approach.

5 ♗f4



White once again goes for a London System, and kicking the weird knight with ...b5 will be positionally risky, as it creates a useful pawn hook.

The Personal Novelty

R.Cumming-M.Lunn
Martlets Cup 2020
c3 Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 g6

I must confess that I had played this move once before, and Rhys was aware of this. It is, nevertheless, a good example of the dangers of trying to surprise your opponent in the opening, as his measured response ultimately exposed my lack of positional awareness.

3 c3

A very good practical choice, and one which I had only superficially prepped for.

I felt comfortable in the Maroczy Bind positions after 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗c6 5 c4 ♗f6 6 ♗c3 d6, and here 4 ♜xd4 ♗f6 5 e5 ♗c6 6 ♜a4 ♗d5 7 ♜e4 is a tabiya in the Hyper-Accelerated Dragon, where I had planned the aggressive 7...♗db4, which I thought Rhys wouldn't expect, given my tedious repertoire. Although White is doing well in a lot of lines, the positions are double-edged and might have taken him out of his comfort zone.

3...♗g7

Had I known Rhys would play this line, I'd

have opted for 3...d5, as recommended by Andrew Greet in his Everyman book on the Accelerated Dragon.

4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4 d5 6 e5 ♗c6

In my glance at this line, I'd assessed that these sorts of positions weren't critical – i.e. not dangerous for Black. This is correct, but unhelpful as White has a straightforward way to achieve an enduring edge, which is exactly the sort of position I wanted to avoid against my stronger opponent.

7 ♗b5 ♗g4 8 ♗xc6+ bxc6 9 ♖bd2 e6 10 h3 ♗xf3 11 ♗xf3 ♗e7



Black's opening hasn't been a disaster, but the resulting middlegame is no fun at all, due to the enduring weakness on c6. The ...c5 pawn break is essential (...f6 is pretty risky), but very difficult to achieve: for instance, I'd love to be able to play 11...c5, but after 12 dxc5 ♜a5+ 13 ♗d2 I can't win the pawn back with 13...♜xc5 because of 14 ♜a4+ with ♜c1 and/or a nasty bishop move to follow.

12 0-0 0-0 13 ♜e1 ♜b8 14 b3 ♜a5 15 ♜d2



White's plan is incredibly simple – put his pieces on good squares and exert pressure on c6. Black must play solidly and take

advantage of any mistake, but it's a grim undertaking.

15...♖a6 16 ♜e2 ♗a5

Swapping off queens makes White's task even easier.

17 ♖d2 ♗a3 18 ♙c1 ♗a5 19 ♙g5 ♜f8 20 ♜ec1 ♗b6 21 ♜c5 ♖f5 22 ♜ac1



I now calculate a plan that would still leave me worse, but with a little more counterplay, and greater chances of a white error. Unfortunately, I miss an important nuance.

22...h6?

Positionally correct, but tactically unsound. 22...♙f8 immediately is correct, and after 23 ♜xc6 ♖xd4 24 ♖xd4 ♗xd4 25 ♜c7 ♙g7 26 ♗f3 ♜f8 White has the better position and more active pieces, but the c6 weakness is gone and Black has a small amount of counterplay.

23 ♙d2 ♙f8

Expecting 24 ♜xc6, with similar play to the 22...♙f8 line. However, with the bishop now on d2, White has the intermezzo...

24 ♙a5!

...Winning a pawn, so I tried to mix up the position:

24...♙xc5 25 ♙xb6 ♙xb6 26 ♗d2 ♙g7 27 ♜xc6 ♜ec8 28 ♜xc8 ♜xc8 29 g4

Despite my efforts, Black's position is doomed in the long run, and I went on to lose.

I think this kind of surprise can work well, but only if you're comfortable in a range of positions. With this in mind, there is a more pragmatic approach to opening surprises...

The Personal Finesse

The personal finesse involves sticking to your basic repertoire – which your opponent has likely prepared for – but to play an early finesse. This is the easiest to learn in the hours before a game, and the option with the least risk, as you are likely to have a base knowledge of the lines.

M.Lunn-C.Brewer
Martlets Cup 2020
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♙b4 4 ♗c2 0-0 5 e4 d5 6 e5 ♖e4 7 ♙d3 c5 8 ♖f3

My finesse, a line that has been played by

a variety of strong players.

I have numerous games in the database that continue 8 cxd5 exd5 9 ♖ge2, and although the resultant positions are messy, Black has good chances of obtaining a pleasant or even advantageous position, if they're well prepared: for instance, 9...cxd4 10 ♖xd4 ♖d7 11 f4 ♗h4+ 12 g3 ♗h3 13 ♙f1 ♗h6 14 ♙g2 ♗a6 15 ♖de2 ♗b6 16 ♙xe4 dxe4 17 a3 ♖c5 18 ♙e3 ♖d3+ 19 ♗xd3 exd3 20 ♙xb6 axb6 and I had to grovel my way to a draw in Lunn-Kucuksari, Reykjavik 2018.

8...cxd4 9 ♖xd4 ♖d7 10 ♙f4 ♖dc5

A good practical choice from my higher-rated opponent. 10...♗h4 is a trickier line, but one that I believe increases the chances of Black making a mistake. There are also a few variations that lead to a draw by repetition, or endings where White has a small edge.

11 0-0 ♙xc3 12 bxc3 ♙d7 13 ♙e2 ♖a4 14 cxd5 exd5 15 c4 ♜c8 16 ♜ac1

I spent a long time on this move, as although it hadn't featured heavily in my prep, I had discussed the variation with one of my 4NCL team-mates a few weeks previously.

16...♖ac3 17 ♗b2 ♗a5



My opening finesse has left me with a comfortable position, and I can be happy with how my prep has gone, not least as Black has played extremely well.

18 cxd5?

A mistake, giving my opponent the opportunity to seize the advantage. 18 ♗xb7 is the best move, which I rejected because I felt it was 'too risky'. Such thinking is problematic as a risky move might be the only route to an advantage: 18...♜fd8 (or 18...♙c6 19 ♗b2 ♜b8 20 ♗c2 ♙a4 21 ♗d3 dxc4 22 ♗e3 and although Black has gained some tempi against the queen, his pieces aren't brilliantly coordinated) 19 ♗b2 with an unbalanced position.

18...♖xd5?

Black makes a mistake in turn. After 18...♗xd5 the only move is 19 ♙e3 (I'd looked at 19 ♖f3?, but it loses an exchange to 19...♖xe2+ 20 ♗xe2 ♙b5), but Black probably has the better chances after 19...♗xe5 20 ♗xb7 ♜c7 21 ♗b2 ♜fc8.

19 ♙g3

19 ♗xb7 is still the only route to an advantage. Nevertheless, Black's best line requires White to find a difficult only move:

19...♖ec3 (if 19...♗b8 20 ♗xd7 ♖xf4 21 ♗f5! ♖xe2+ 22 ♖xe2 and White has the better chances) 20 ♙g3 ♗a4 and because of the threat to d4 and e2, White has only one move, namely, 21 ♙d1! ♗xd4 22 ♗xd7 ♜fd8 23 ♗g4 ♗d2 24 ♗a1 and whilst Black has compensation for the pawn, White is doing OK.

19...♖xg3

19...♖dc3, hitting the e4-pawn, is a good alternative: for example, 20 ♙f4 ♗d5 21 ♙e3 ♗xe5 22 ♗xb7 ♜fd8 and Black has the better chances.

20 hxg3 ♖b6 21 ♖b3



21 f4 with ♙f3 to follow is a more aggressive idea – the black queen can't really take advantage of White's dark squares.

21...♗b4 22 ♜xc8

I was running a bit short of time, but this wasn't the right idea, as Black was always going to be the only person playing for a win in the minor piece ending. Instead, 22 ♗d4 ♗xd4 (or 22...♗e7 23 ♖c5 ♙c6 24 ♖e4 ♜cd8 25 ♖d6 f6 26 f4 when White might claim an edge) 23 ♖xd4 is pretty level; it's a case of whether e5 or b7 is the bigger target.

22...♜xc8 23 ♜c1 ♜xc1+ 24 ♗xc1 ♙c6 25 ♗d2

I was worried about ...♗e4, but in fact 25 ♙f3 is a better way of clarifying the position. After 25...♖c4 (otherwise, 25...♙xf3 26 gxf3 ♖c4 27 ♗g5 h6 28 ♗d8+ ♖h7 29 ♗d3+ ♖g8 30 f4 is pretty level, but White might have marginal chances, and after 25...g6 26 ♙xc6 bxc6 27 ♖c5 ♗d4 28 e6 ♖d5 the e6-pawn doesn't do a lot and Black always has the threat of ...♗d1-h5+ with a repetition) 26 ♙xc6 bxc6 27 ♗g5 ♗e1+ 28 ♖h2 ♗d1 29 ♗e7 Black doesn't have anything better than a repetition with 29...♗h5+ 30 ♖g1 ♗d1+ 31 ♖h2 ♗h5+ 32 ♖g1 ♗d1+ 33 ♖h2.

25...♗xd2 26 ♖xd2 ♙d5

26...♖d7 is a better idea, as the knight isn't very well placed on b6: 27 f4 f6 28 exf6 ♖xf6 and White has got very decent drawing chances, but Black can try and make things uncomfortable.

27 a3 ♖f8 28 f4 ♖e7 29 ♖f2 f6 30 exf6+ ♖xf6 31 g4 h6 ½-½

Black can probably keep pressing here, as it's a lot easier for him to create a passed pawn. That said, White's pieces can become pretty active on the kingside and a3 isn't easy to target, so it probably should end as a draw.

Exploring the Science of Chess Improvement

Professor Barry Hymer and GM Peter Wells provide an insight into their forthcoming book, which has already attracted attention in the chess world

Albeit in very different subject areas, we're both experienced writers, but neither of us had anticipated the time, *sturm und drang*, it would take for this project to bear fruit – just over four years from its conception (with Tim Kett, in an incongruously African-themed restaurant in Bournemouth during the British Championships of 2016) to its birth this month.

We could cite competing commitments and Peter's predilection for time trouble as contributory factors in this lengthy gestation, but possibly chief amongst these was the scale of our ambition, which was lofty. We hoped to create a conceptual framework for a trio of audiences – players, parents and coaches – that allowed them to connect academic knowledge with chess practice, whilst mapping all this on to the insights and experiences of the pre-eminent English players of recent years. Oh, and making it an accessible and enjoyable read too.

Whether we succeeded in this ambition will be for our readers to judge, but any failure won't be for want of effort on our part, or that of Crown House – a dashing new entrant on the chess publishing scene. Or the generosity and insight of our distinguished interviewees. Or the kindness of the reviewers who saw early proofs of the book and clearly 'got' our intentions.

We were especially gratified that Magnus's father, Henrik, who provided a remarkable foreword, appreciated our efforts to resist "Making the common mistake of generalising and pronouncing too much". This was, indeed, an important aim, as neither theory nor practice provides a credible excuse for offering a glib, join-the-dots route to chess excellence. The often diverse experiences of our interviewees attest to this.

So if our readers are struck by a number of equivocal 'but on the other hand' qualifications to our evidence, there is good reason for this: the 'truth' is more likely – but not invariably – to be found in the mediated centre than on the implacable extremes. An example: though the whole book is predicated on a theoretical framework that seems to privilege nurture (efficient practice) over nature (inherent talent), we see the need to reject this tired dualism. Nature embraces nurture, and theory gets enmeshed in practice, in ways that are inseparable.

We resist therefore claims of this sort: "Magnus and Fabi are like Messi and Ronaldo

– talent versus preparation" (from an online article). This is a claim that is journalistically attractive of course, but it could reasonably be contested by any of the four individuals cited, and others. Gawain Jones, in his interview with us, notes that he suspects Magnus's apparently offhand openings often belie deep preparation. Moreover, in his foreword the champion's father references Magnus's exceptional "passion, drive and curiosity" – which are of course the very motor of high-quality preparation.

So do our attempts at balance, restraint, and caution in our claims make for a worthily dull read? Well, there is still plenty of scope for intellectual and indeed personal feather-ruffling – in fact we suspect we've disturbed a few ruffle-worthy feathers already. And we do make this claim: that for all the variance in their chess experiences and personalities, every one of our elite English interviewees has in his or her career managed adroitly to navigate the subjects of our seven chapters: maintaining a growth mindset, nurturing intrinsic drivers, embracing challenge and feedback, investing time in purposeful practice, dealing productively with failure, thinking and reflecting well, and seeking out opportunities for effective cooperation. More than that, we claim that every one of us, however modest our existing skills might be, can significantly improve our own chess by navigating these channels too. It's all in the mindset!

An extract from the 'theory' section of Chapter 3: 'Challenge and feedback'

The obscure origins of the suggestion that we don't learn from experience but by *reflecting* on the experience do not negate its essential truth. It is active reflection that turns experience into learning, and skills of self-regulation or good quality coaching are two tools for supporting reflection. More usually though, in situations of extreme mismatch [between tournament section and playing strength], players would be well-advised to choose to compete meaningfully in a lower section (but one which will still stretch them), and to judge carefully when to progress back up.

Since this book is aimed at readers concerned to improve at chess – or to

support others to do so – we have no interest in passing judgement on those players who content themselves with playing, year in and year out, in the same lowly sections, with no discernible improvement in their level of play. We must assume they choose to play competitive chess purely for its aesthetic joys and satisfactions and/or for the social buzz, but with no expectations or intentions of becoming stronger players *per se*.

Caissa needs and blesses these players too, and perhaps even looks beyond them at those experiencing hypertension in the open sections or on the professional circuit with bewildered amusement. But that said, we are certainly very happy to pass implied judgement on that semi-mythical beast – the sandbagger. The sandbagger is one of those players, darkly whispered about on private chess forums and in unfiltered, well-lubricated bar-room discussions, who keeps his grading artificially low in order to qualify for the cash prizes in lower sections. He will not be bothering to read this book. We assume he plays chess largely for its extrinsic rewards, and is therefore sufficiently punished.

An extract from the 'practice' section of Chapter 5: 'Dealing with failure'

P. Wells-D. Abbas
4NCL 2017



20 a3!

This is the kind of position in which unrefined attacking instincts will serve a

player quite well. I was looking at little aside from trying to make a sacrifice on d5 work and with this focus it is but a small step to see that this deflection sacrifice greatly increases the attacker's possibilities. Nonetheless, there was still a good deal of detail to be calculated and this move cost me a lot of time on the clock. This took a toll later, since there is at least one more major decision still to make. Of course, Black can bail out by exchanging on c3, but in that case my longer-term strategy of trying to prove that Black has weak dark squares will have definitely taken a promising turn.

20... ♖xa3 21 exd5 cxd5 22 ♗xd5! ♗xd5 23 ♖d4!

The rather elegant point of the combination which needed to be foreseen during my lengthy think at move 20. Black has been relying on being able to meet 23 ♗xd5 with 23... ♗xc2, which, whilst not without any danger, would indeed have held the balance. Now, however, Black has a serious problem since 23...0-0 24 ♗xd5 exd5? allows a decisive fork after 25 ♗xc8 ♗xc8 26 ♖g4+.

23... ♗xb3

A slightly panicky if understandable reaction to the unexpected turn of events. In practical terms I think 23...0-0 24 ♗xd5 ♖g5 should be a somewhat tougher defence, since the only line that leads to a decisive advantage is 25 ♗xc8 ♗xc8 26 ♗f6+ ♖h8 27 b4!, which is far from obvious, not least the fact that White's attack with just queen and knight after the simplifying 27... ♗c1 28 ♗xc1 ♗xc1+ 29 ♖g2 ♖c6+ 30 ♖h3 is quite so powerful. After the move played, White's task should be a lot more straightforward.

24 ♖xh8+ ♖f8



25 ♖d4?

I would like to think that it was only time-trouble that prevented me from finding the decisive and very elegant 25 ♗d5! ♖xh8 26 ♗xc8+ ♖d7 27 ♗b6+! (it was, for the record, this cute but not especially difficult zwischenzug that I missed) 27... ♖e7 28 ♗d7+ ♖f6 29 ♗xh8 axb6 30 ♗d3, and I think even I would have been content enough with this simplification. The shocking secret of the game, however, is that I *did* see 25 ♗e4 ♖xh8 26 ♗xc8+ ♖e7 27 ♗xh8 ♗xd1 and even noticed the important detail that I can net the a-pawn too after 28 ♗a8! ♗b4 29 ♗xa7+. Quite how I came to reject this line will be revisited in the narrative that follows the sad recounting of how things now limped



Peter Wells has of late been running the Accelerator programme for England's leading juniors.

on to a draw by perpetual check.

25... ♖c5!

The only move, but a resilient one which I had completely overlooked. In a state of shock I assumed that there was no way back and it was now incumbent upon me to lower my ambitions. In fact, I could have still tried the clever 26 ♖h8+ ♖e7! 27 ♖xc8! ♖xc8 28 ♗d5+ exd5 29 ♗e1+ ♖e6 30 ♗xe6+ ♖xe6 31 ♗c3!. This clearly cannot compare with the liquidations which have already been rejected, but would nonetheless be worth a try given a chance for objective reflection.

26 ♗e4 ♖xc2 27 ♖h8+ ♖e7

The mate in two that follows on 27... ♗f8?? would by this stage feel like an undeserved as well as very unlikely bonus. Now White has no choice but to make a draw.

28 ♖f6+ ♖e8 29 ♖h8+ ♖e7 30 ♖f6+ ♖e8 ½-½

A truly upsetting experience! A crucial half-point jettisoned from the standpoint of my team, but also a missed aesthetic opportunity to produce a finish with 25 ♗d5!, which would have been very satisfying.

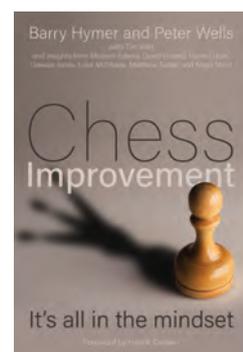
An engine analysis combined with superficial reflection could easily lead to the conclusion that my failure in the game against Abbas was simply attributable to the clock and revolved around missing 25 ♗d5!. However, it is clear to me that the focus should rather be on the move that I saw and rejected. What was going on at the point at which I calculated the favourable liquidation that follows 25 ♗e4, but somehow decided against it? More importantly, what could I learn from that going forward?

I would suggest two things. In the first place, it made me aware that a historic nervousness about my endgame technique, acquired through some painful episodes and somehow not assuaged by some far more auspicious ones, still takes a severe toll. The other lesson, which is vitally important for improving performance in time-trouble – and

therefore of great practical importance given that avoiding it completely has proven such an elusive goal – is to be very rigorous in addressing the question of risk and certainty.

Part of my selection of 25 ♖d4? was based on the belief that Black simply had no effective way to defend against the mate threat on d7. However, this belief required consideration of a range of possible moves and, not implausibly, one of them slipped through my analytical net. Especially in time-trouble there is a huge amount to be said for choosing forcing lines. I had little doubt that the line I had calculated after 25 ♗e4 was forced and that it should be winning. This insight alone should have made the selection for me.

Part of what we do as chess players should be to calculate, assess the relative objective merits of the end positions of our calculation and make a choice. However, there is another vitally important element which I think is under-emphasised. We should also factor in the complexity of the calculation, the likelihood of having made an error, and the degree of risk that exists both through the variations and in the respective end positions. Had I done this, it would have made for a decision-making procedure with a far higher probability of success.



Ed. – Chess Improvement: It's All in the Mindset (Crown House, 2020) will be available in early October from Chess & Bridge.

Readers' Letters



Chess and the Dance of Death

Tim Wall's article in the July *CHESS* took me back to the evening of 22nd March 1957, the day before the Oxford and Cambridge chess match in which I would be making my second appearance for Cambridge. I was staying with an old school friend who, to calm my nerves, proposed a visit to the cinema. We joined the queue outside the Academy Cinema in Oxford Street – only to realise that the film was to be *The Seventh Seal*, featuring a game of chess between a Knight and the Devil...

On the following morning I made my way to the Hampstead Chess Club, who were hosting the match that year, and found that I was to play the amiable Michael Furnston on board 3. We had heard rumours that Oxford had been preparing an opening variation as a secret weapon, but we had no idea whether it was for White or Black.

As it happened I had White and opened with **1 e4** to be met by the Sicilian Defence. It was only after the moves **1...c5 2 dxf3 dxc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 dxd4 e5** that I realised something was up. This was an old move played by Lowenthal against Morphy, the idea being to induce **5 dxb5 a6 6 dxd6+ dxd6 7 dxc6** **7...xf6**, so that if White exchanges queens Black can develop the knight with at least equality and even a slight initiative.



I suspected that this was the rumoured 'secret weapon' and sank into deep thought. I decided to withdraw the queen, but where to? After much thought I chose **8 d2** as being unlikely to come within Oxford's preparation and to oblige my opponent to think deeply. I had an idea that it might be useful to be able to move the queen from d2 up the diagonal to g5 if Black began to threaten kingside activity, and that was what actually happened.

The game continued: **8...dxe7 9 dxc3** **9...g6 10 g5 dxb4 11 dxc6 hxc6 12 d1** **12...d5? 13 a3 d4 14 axb4 dxc3 15 bxc3 dxe6**

16 dxb5+ dxc6 17 e2 fxc8 18 d3 dxa7 **19 e3 dxb5 20 dxb5+ axb5 21 dxc5** **21...h4 22 f3 f6 23 a7 fxc7 24 h3 h8 25** **25...d1 dxf7 26 d6 dxc4+ 27 dxf2 e8 28** **28...d6 dce7**



29 d8 e6 30 dxb7+ dxf8 31 ddd7 **31...a6 32 dxe7+ dxf7 33 dxc5+ 1-0**

A highly unusual game in which White's queen's bishop described a tour more usual in a problem. Black could no doubt have prolonged the game by sacrificing the exchange towards the end, but I think White's rooks would have prevailed.

In his book *Cabbage Heads and Chess Kings* Bruce Hayden refers to Oxford's 'secret weapon' on page 220. Incidentally, according to John Nunn's work on the openings, the move **8 d2** is only mentioned once in a game by Ljubojevic.

John Taylor, Burton upon Trent

Donald Macfarlane

Barry Hymer's article on Donald Macfarlane, 'The Pride and Sorrow of (South African) Chess', which appeared in the July magazine, may have contained the wrong score for Donald's game against Robert Bellin. My own score for the game is as follows:

D. Macfarlane-R. Bellin
Lloyds Bank Masters, London 1985
English Opening

1 d3 e6 2 g3 f5 3 d2 dxf6 4 0-0 dxe7 **5 d3 0-0 6 c4 a5 7 dxc3 d6 8 d1 e8** **9 d2 d8 10 a3 dxc6 11 b4 axb4** **12 axb4 d8 13 b5 d8 14 e3 g5 15 d4** **15...g6 16 f4 gxf4 17 exf4 d4 18 d3** **18...f6 19 d2 g7 20 dxe2 e5 21 h3 d6** **22 d3 d6 23 dbe1**

The score in the tournament bulletin gives **23 dxe1**.

23...exf4 24 dxf6 dxf6 25 dxf4 dxf4 **26 gxf4 d7 27 e2 d8 28 e7 e6** **29 dxf6+ dxf6 30 d5 h6 31 dxe6** **31...xe6 32 dxb7 g6+ 33 d2 a2+ 34 e2** **34...xe2+ 35 dxe2 g3 36 f3 g2+ 37 e3** **37...g7 38 d4 d6 39 d5 d7 40 f1** **40...h2 41 h1 a2 42 g1 h2 43 g2 h5** **44 e3 h4 45 d2 d8 46 d4 1-0**

Some years have passed since I researched this, but, if I remember rightly, the tournament bulletin gives misleading information.

Brian Denman, Brighton

Forthcoming Events

Top-level OTB action is back!

Norway Chess 2020

5-16 October

norwaychess.no/en/

A six-player double-round all-play-all, featuring Magnus Carlsen and compatriot Aryan Tari, as well as Levon Aronian, Fabiano Caruana, Jan-Krzysztof Duda, and Alireza Firouzja.

FIDE Candidates

1-12 November

en.candidates-2020.com

The Candidates finally resumes, either in Yekaterinburg or reserve venue Tbilisi.

Will one of the clear leaders, Ian Nepomniachtchi or Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, prevail and so qualify to take on Magnus, or might Fabiano Caruana, Anish Giri, Alexander Grischuk or Wang Hao run into top form and so overhaul the current one-point deficit?

And for online action closer to home, do just keep an eye on:

4ncl.co.uk
englishchessonline.org.uk
chessscotland.com
welshchessunion.uk

This Month's New Releases

An Idiot-Proof Chess Opening Repertoire

Graham Burgess, 176 pages
Gambit Publications

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

We have had the word 'dummies' incorporated into chess book titles before, but I think this is the first time 'idiot' has appeared. The closest we have to it in chess lore is the (possibly apocryphal) story of Nimzowitsch losing to Sämisch, climbing on to a table and bellowing: "Why must I lose to this idiot?"

The first time I heard the phrase 'idiot-proof' was in an episode of *The Six Million Dollar Man* in the mid-1970s, a reference which will make readers of a certain age suddenly nostalgic for a time when a £500,000 record transfer fee for a footballer seemed outrageous. Naturally, talk of 'idiots' on prime-time television was a source of great hilarity at the time, but it was pointed out to me that idiot-proof merely means something that cannot go wrong, even in the hands of a completely incompetent person.

I am sure most of us feel incompetent at chess from time to time, especially if we head into a game without having had time to cram in as much opening theory as possible. With such busy lives eating up all of our time, it is little wonder legions of players are switching to the London System as a refuge from mainline openings.

This book aims to change the scenario, as explained by the rallying cry of the blurb: "Ever wanted a complete chess opening repertoire – for White and Black – whose basics can be learned in a week? A strategic low-maintenance repertoire that does not require memorizing of long variations, and yet can frustrate both stronger and weaker opponents?"

Time to delve in to see what is on offer... For Black, there is the Scandinavian Defence against 1 e4 and the Slav against 1 d4 (with some crossover into the Queen's Gambit Accepted). The Scandinavian has been undergoing a revival in recent years, thanks partly to the realisation that 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♖xd5 3 ♗c3 ♖d6 is rather more promising than it appears to be at first glance. Indeed, the queen does look rather clumsy on d6 and an easy target for White's minor pieces too, but Burgess puts the situation into context:

"Perhaps it was neglected because White can 'gain further time' by attacking the queen with his minor pieces. However, this gain of time is normally a mirage since those pieces are usually ones that have already moved and/or arrive on squares where they are not

stable and will have to move again. Meanwhile the queen itself generally has plenty of good squares to choose from, so can tailor its choice according to White's set-up."

Furthermore, white players may find they have gone astray rather quickly if they are unfamiliar with the unique features of the position and this could allow Black to seize a very early advantage, as after 4 d4 ♗f6 5 ♗f3 c6 6 ♗c4 ♗g4.



Your 'tactics antenna' will be picking up 7 ♗xf7+? here, to be followed by 7...♗xf7 8 ♗e5+ and the intention of 9 ♗xg4, winning a pawn, in addition to causing discomfort to the black king. However, having the queen on d6 allows the excellent rejoinder 8...♖xe5+! when Black ends up a piece ahead (9 dxe5 ♗xd1 10 exf6 ♗xc2). I liked this trap and shortly after seeing it in the book, I tested 3...♖d6 out in a few online blitz games. It didn't take very long at all to hook an unsuspecting victim with 8...♖xe5+.

The specific move order against the queen's pawn is 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 ♗f3 c6, to keep away from the popular 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 cxd5, which is currently doing very well for White. Black has various ways to hang on to the pawn on c4, which may cause White problems.

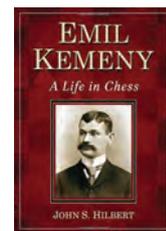
The English Opening is the recommendation for White, with the Botvinnik System representing the cutting edge. Incidentally, Black is given the Symmetrical English against 1 c4. The Slav is not an option, even though it would dovetail nicely into the 1 d4 section, because the risk of encountering the Exchange Variation is not tolerated in this repertoire.

Burgess is a good writer and he manages to keep an excellent balance between simple prose explanations while offering just enough variations to inform the reader without being overwhelming. Is it an idiot-proof repertoire? It certainly makes it hard to lose quickly,



which is a big step in the right direction. It would be good to road-test the repertoire over-the-board in the furnace of club chess, which should give the reader plenty of time to absorb the material properly.

Sean Marsh



Emil Kemeny: A Life in Chess

John S. Hilbert, 342 pages
McFarland & Co.

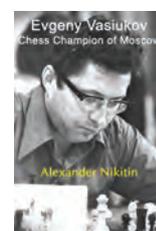
RRP £39.95 **SPECIAL PRICE £25.00**

A further addition to the publisher's series of works on the history of chess. As with many predecessors, it comprises a biography of a lesser-known player who made a significant impact on the game during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The vast majority of the text covers Kemeny's time in the USA between 1890 and 1906, although what few details are known of his life in his native Hungary before and after these dates are included.

Kemeny was champion of several clubs in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago at various times and made an unsuccessful challenge for the title of United States Champion in 1896, losing by a margin of +4 =4 -7 to Jackson Showalter. Having been born abroad, he was not eligible to play for the U.S. in the Anglo-American Cable Matches, 1886-1911, although that was probably the only impediment to his involvement. He became an important chess journalist/annotator, writing for several newspapers, as well as attending the 1903 Monte Carlo Tournament and editing the tournament book.

This comprehensive biography, featuring over 200 of Kemeny's games, is well researched and a valuable aid to chess historians. As with other similar works from McFarland, there are also brief biographical details of many of the players who faced Kemeny.

David Mills



Evgeny Vasiukov:

Chess Champion of Moscow

Alexander Nikitin, 156 pages

Elk and Ruby

RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

This is a collection of 31 annotated games prefaced by a brief personal memoir to honour the career of Evgeny Vasiukov (1933-2018), a grandmaster whose longevity almost bears comparison with Korchnoi. His successes included winning the championship of his native Moscow six times, and victory at the elite tournament in Manila in 1974. The author of this book, IM Alexander Nikitin, well known as Kasparov's early trainer, is of the same generation as Vasiukov.

Most of the games, spanning the years 1953-2017, were new to me. Very few of Vasiukov's trademark demolitions of slightly weaker opponents are included. Instead, the focus is on clashes with the world's top players, gritty and messy though many of these are. For instance, Bronstein is Vasiukov's opponent in three of the first five games, each of which ends in a hard-fought draw. The most memorable encounters include Vasiukov's win against Petrosian and, as veteran and underdog, his cascade of sacrifices against van Wely.

E. Vasiukov-L. Van Wely

Moscow 2002

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♚xd4 ♘c6
5 ♙b5 ♙d7 6 ♙xc6 ♙xc6 7 ♘c3 ♘f6
8 ♙g5 e6 9 0-0-0 ♙e7 10 ♖he1 0-0
11 ♙b1 ♙a5 12 ♘d2 ♙a6 13 ♘d4 ♖fc8
14 f4 h6 15 h4! ♙c4 16 g4! ♘f8? 17 f5!



17...hxg5 18 hxg5 ♘d7 19 fxex6 ♘e5
20 ♖h1 fxex6 21 b3 ♙b4 22 ♖h8+ ♘f7
23 ♙f4+ ♙f6 24 ♖h7 ♘g8 25 gxf6!
♘xh7 26 ♙g5 ♖c7 27 ♘xe6 ♖ac8
28 fxg7 ♘g8 29 ♖h1 ♙xe4 30 ♖h8+
♘f7 31 ♘xc7 ♙xc3 32 g8♙+ 1-0

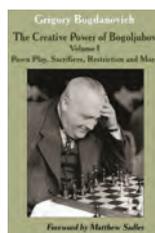
Nikitin's annotations are pleasantly chatty, with occasional digressions. His analysis is detailed, but without overwhelming the reader. He is open about his constant use of *Stockfish*, even including some tips on

analysing with engines. A few guest annotators contribute, too: Alexander Morozevich's account of a blitz game he lost to Vasiukov is a delight. Vasiukov also makes an occasional appearance as an impressive annotator. Those interested in the King's Indian Defence and King's Indian Attack will find quite a bit of material. Tactical middlegames are the norm here.

Nikitin includes a list of Vasiukov's strongest opponents, but it seems rather arbitrary. For instance, had Zoltan Ribli been included, perhaps Vasiukov's 1974 win against him might have made the book. The notes, although careful, are not free from oddities. Two closely similar endgame positions are evaluated as winning then drawn (p.63), and two different analyses of an identical position are given (p.100).

Readers of Elk and Ruby books are used to enjoying Ilan Rubin's excellent translations from the Russian, but with a different translator here, there are some slips in idiom. These, though, are minor quibbles about a book that I greatly enjoyed. It is impossible not to admire Vasiukov's dynamic, courageous play.

James Vigus



The Creative Power of Bogoljubov – Volume I: Pawn Play, Sacrifices, Restriction and More

Grigory Bogdanovich, 408 pages

Elk and Ruby

RRP £33.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £30.55**

What does the name of Efim Bogoljubov mean to chess players? Quite possibly, most who have heard of him will picture an overweight character, best-known for losing two world championship matches against Alekhine. 'Knowledge' may extend to Alekhine using Bogoljubov as a handy excuse for not having to play a rematch with Capablanca. Yet there is so much more to Bogoljubov than such a lazy pen portrait would have us believe.

International Master Grigory Bogdanovich, a USSR Master of Sport and twice Soviet Correspondence Chess Champion, is clearly on a mission to change the popular opinion of Bogoljubov. Bogdanovich is definitely not afraid to nail his colours to the mast. He makes several challenging statements which need to be examined.

This one initially sounds like an exaggerated claim: "In the 1920s, Efim Bogoljubov was one of the strongest chess players in the world, on a par with such titans as Emanuel Lasker, Jose Raul Capablanca and Alexander Alekhine."

However, note the specified decade; a close inspection of Bogoljubov's results during that period makes for very interesting reading. He won in Piastany in 1922 (ahead

of Alekhine), shared first place with Alekhine and Maroczy at Carlsbad in 1923, was the champion at the Soviet Championships of 1924 and 1925 and, most impressively of all, won the 1925 Moscow tournament, ahead of Lasker and Capablanca. He won two matches against Euwe in 1928 and won the Bad Kissingen tournament of the same year, ahead of Capablanca, Euwe and a whole range of other chess stars.

Bogdanovich also says of Bogoljubov: "His tournament results were brilliant, and his games of the time are beyond doubt useful for learning chess." Indeed, the undoubted educational value of Bogoljubov's games is presumably the reason they have been placed according to theme, rather than by chronological order. The themes include 'Sacrifice, to Avoid Becoming the Victim', 'Play with Rook's Pawns' and 'Conversion of an Advantage'. While the arrangement of the games in textbook fashion certainly has its merits, I would prefer to see the traditional arrangement of the chronological sequence when covering the life and games of a single player, in order to follow the ebb and flow of his lengthy career.

There is a more controversial statement here: "Yet his impressive successes in tournaments (his match performances were less stellar) allowed him to challenge the world champion, Alekhine. Their two matches, especially the first, are among the best in chess history."

It is not so easy to find support for this claim. Their 1929 bout ended 15½-9½ to Alekhine. Bogoljubov did beat Alekhine five times in this match, but as a sporting contest it wasn't exactly a thriller. In 1934 Alekhine won 15½-10½ and never looked to be in danger of losing his title. Perhaps they are among the most entertaining title matches up to then, which is not quite the same thing.

In fact the biographical text does not offer much detail on either match, but perhaps there is more to come in the next volume. Similarly, the participation of Bogoljubov in the German tournaments during the Second World War is not examined in any detail and I would have liked to have learned more about his work with Klaus Junge. Modern-day sensitivities being as they are, I suspect it will be a very long time before anyone feels able to cover such an intriguing piece of chess history.

There was a possibility of a match with Capablanca while the Cuban was still the champion. The New York tournament of 1927 was similar to a Candidates' event; whoever finished second to Capablanca would earn the right to a title match. This was the path taken by Alekhine.

Bogoljubov should have been there too, but he asked for a \$1,500 appearance fee, which was turned down. The he made the mistake of offering to play Capablanca in a title match instead of competing in an "average-quality tournament", which didn't go down very well at all with the organising committee. Bogoljubov was no longer considered for the event.

Would he have made much of an impression in New York? He was certainly

strong enough to do so. Here is an interesting moment from a game against one of the New York participants, Nimzowitsch, who finished third in New York, just one point behind Alekhine.

E. Bogoljubov–A. Nimzowitsch Berlin 1927



Bogoljubov sacrificed the exchange on move 24, to forcibly remove a knight from d4. He has made gains since then and now found the an elegant way to convert his advantage: **34 b4!**

Forcing off the queens, thanks to the highly unusual pin on the queen against the rook on a7. After **34...♖xe3 35 fxe3** the queenside pawns advanced and the game didn't last much longer (1–0, 39).

Incidentally, the notes to the 194 games (or fragments, in some cases) are presented mainly with annotations by the players themselves. There have been gentle corrections here and there, but the engines are kept at an anonymous and unimposing level. "The goal of this book is to immerse the reader in Bogoljubov's diverse legacy, and to do it with vivid human speech instead of dry chess symbols." There is an editorial quirk; when the players are referred to by their colours in the game, they are referred to as "white" and "black", dispensing the standard capitalisation.

A fine selection of photographs enhances the book and they bring out more of Bogoljubov's character. There is one of him playing a young Unzicker in 1950, from the Travemünde tournament of 1950. Unzicker won the tournament and Bogoljubov was second; their game was drawn. Bogoljubov was nearing the end of his life (he lived just two more years), and he looks old, grey and overweight. Yet there he is, still doing what he always loved to do.

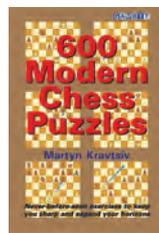
My favourite photograph in the book is the one showing Bogoljubov out for a walk with his wife and children. He looks proud, relaxed and happy. It reminds of when we see our chess opponents in different contexts. The opponent you like to spend a whole evening trying to destroy at the chess board suddenly becomes a real person. In this book, don't just pick through the games, read about the man too; you may agree with the summary of his character offered by the book: "Bogoljubov was a good-natured, gentle man who

shunned politics, which was noticed by his contemporaries. The spectators liked him for his amiability.

For a man who simply wanted to support his family and play chess, Bogoljubov's life was full of extraordinary twists and turns. In amongst the biographical material are numerous documents, all of which shed further light on his life and times. Living through two World Wars must have left scars, but Bogoljubov somehow retained his sunny disposition.

Elk and Ruby are definitely going the extra mile with their range of historical chess books and the extended page count gives the excellent material plenty of room to breathe. I through enjoyed finding out more about the life and games of this greatly underrated player and I await the second volume with great interest.

Sean Marsh



600 Modern Chess Puzzles

Martyn Kravtsov, 192 pages, paperback
RRP £17.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.75**

A mini-renaissance appears to be occurring at former powerhouse chess publisher, Gambit Publications. Hot on the heels of Graham Burgess' latest work, reviewed above, we have new works from John Nunn (see below), and this puzzle book, which mainly features games from the past two years. 2625-rated Ukrainian Grandmaster Kravtsov has aimed to present 600 instructive positions to solve which should be largely new to readers and are accompanied by detailed solutions.

A Complete Repertoire for Black after 1.e4 e5!

Yuriy Krykun, 280 pages, paperback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

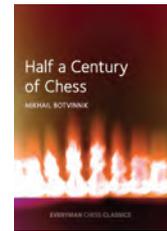
The Ukrainian FM and chess coach maps out a repertoire for Thinkers Publishing with his favourite 1 e4 e5. Susan Polgar pens the foreword, with Krykun combining fairly theoretical coverage with sufficient explanation to make this repertoire accessible to the club player. Some surprisingly aggressive lines are advocated against 2 ♠f3 ♡c6 3 ♠c4, while against 3 ♠b5 he opts for the fairly forcing lines of the Open Lopez.

ChessBase Magazine 197

ChessBase PC-DVD
RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

The latest issue of *CBM* features Anish Giri on the cover. Inside he reveals many of his secrets after 1 e4 e5 2 ♠f3 ♡c6 3 ♠c4 while annotating a number of his own games in the Giuoco Piano. Elsewhere, Rustam

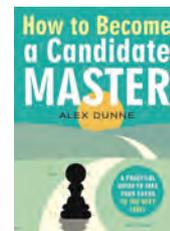
Kasimdzhanov annotates that recent humdinger of a game, Anand–Kramnik (see pages 14 and 15 of our September issue), 5 g4 against the Philidor is advocated, and Simon Williams presents video analysis of a classic Larsen victory over Fischer.



Half a Century of Chess

Mikhail Botvinnik, 280 pages, paperback
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

This is a new Everyman edition of one of their classic Cadogan titles, featuring an updated cover. Inside the Patriarch annotates 90 of his best games, including victories over fellow world champions Alekhine, Capablanca, Petrosian, Smyslov and Tal, all the while imparting plenty of useful advice.



How to Become a Candidate Master

Alex Dunne, 272 pages, paperback
RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

Subtitled 'A Practical Guide to Take Your Chess to the Next Level', this is an updated and expanded edition from New in Chess of Dunne's 1985 work. The author rose through the amateur ranks in the U.S. to become an FM and correspondence IM. Dunne is quite aware that the journey to improvement is rarely a smooth one, but imparts plenty of very handy practical advice, such as on always making sure you are looking for ways to activate your pieces, while annotating 50 club-level games.



Magous Wins with White

Zenon Franco, 242 pages, paperback
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

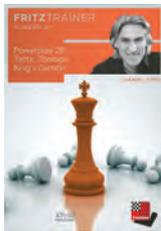
Elk & Ruby's latest work sees the experienced Paraguayan Grandmaster, who has written several highly instructive works for Everyman, tackle the games of the current world champion no less. Franco mainly focusses on Carlsen's recent games and fully explains how he regularly outplays world-class grandmasters in the middlegame,

as well as endgame. The notes to the 32 games are detailed and contain a number of exercises and tests. There's a companion work in the pipeline, focussing on Carlsen's wins as Black, while we'll have a full review of this book next time.

Modern Sicilian: Properly Played

Jerzy Konikowski, 328 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

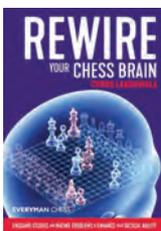
This latest production from German publishers Joachim Beyer Verlag sees an experienced author present a repertoire for Black with the Najdorf variation of the Sicilian. Konikowski splits his coverage into 18 chapters, devoted not just to the theoretical lines after 1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6, but all the anti-Sicilians too, making this a complete repertoire against 1 e4. The coverage is fairly detailed at times, but throughout the author is keen to emphasise the main strategical and tactical themes, while basing his coverage around 74 complete games.



Power Play 28: Tactic Toolbox King's Gambit

Daniel King, ChessBase PC-DVD;
running time: 3 hours, 35 minutes
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Our popular columnist follows up his earlier DVD on the King's Gambit, where he mapped out a repertoire for White, by presenting 50 interactive puzzles to solve in typical positions arising not just from 1 e4 e5 2 f4, but that earlier repertoire. As such, this is a good refresher course for those following the recommendations in *Power Play 27: The King's Gambit* or just a good test for any club player of their tactics. King provides detailed video-based solutions to each position and also supplies a supplementary database with a further 101 tactics to solve.



Rewire Your Chess Brain

Cyrus Lakdawala, 528 pages, paperback
RRP £25.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.39**

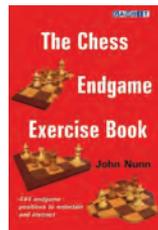
Even by Lakdawala's standards, this is a large book and his first which doesn't present any actual games. Instead, Lakdawala's coverage is on chess problems and endgame puzzles, areas of the game ignored by many club players, but which he believes are not only enjoyable, but contain a large amount of instructive material. Indeed, the diligent

reader who works their way through this new release from Everyman should improve not only their calculation, but their creativity.

The Berlin Defence

Andy Mack, 292 pages, paperback
RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

Andy Mack will be well known to many London and Kent chess players. Away from being a strong chess player, he is pretty good at poker and a successful accountant – and now also a novelist. His main protagonist is Lothar Hartmann, an East German Grandmaster who discovers that the world away from the chess board can be far from black and white. Readers should certainly be able to identify with Hartmann in this enjoyable tale of chess, love and loss.



The Chess Endgame Exercise Book

John Nunn, 192 pages, paperback
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

John Nunn is, of course, an acclaimed endgame expert and here helps readers improve their skill in the final stages of the game. He fully recognises that "While endgame theory books are helpful, active participation by the reader is a great aid to learning." Plenty of thought clearly went into the 444 puzzles, which cover all types of endgame, ranging from pawn endings through to ones involving a queen against an array of pieces. There is also a very useful chapter on endgame tactics, while throughout readers are able to keep track of their score.



The Italian Renaissance I: Move Orders, Tricks and Alternatives

Martyn Kravtsiv, 312 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Martyn Kravtsiv has certainly had a busy 2020 with this new work from Quality Chess being published around the same time as his puzzle book. Here he essentially presents two weapons for White after 1 e4 e5, the Bishop's Opening, 2 ♘c4, and 2 ♘f3 ♘f6 3 ♘xe5 d6 4 ♘f3 ♘xe4 5 ♘c3. The coverage is typically detailed, featuring a number of important-looking new ideas for White, but also contains plenty of explanatory text.

The Italian Renaissance II: The Main Lines

Martyn Kravtsiv, 264 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

In this companion volume Kravtsiv moves on to his main repertoire recommendation, 1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♘c4, meeting 3...♘c5 with 4 c3 ♘f6 5 d3, the Giuoco Piano and which 2 ♘c4 can easily transpose into. Once again the coverage is cutting edge with Kravtsiv also showing how to handle the 3...♘f6 4 d3 lines where Black omits ...♘c5.

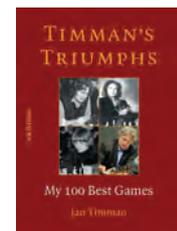
You may wish to purchase both *The Italian Renaissance I* and *The Italian Renaissance II*, which can be done from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £38.00 or £36.00 for Subscribers.



Thinkers' Chess Academy with Grandmaster Thomas Luther Volume 2: From Tactics to Strategy Winning Knowledge!

Thomas Luther, 312 pages, paperback
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

It may have a rather long title, but there is plenty of instructive material packed into the experienced German Grandmaster and widely respected coach's latest work. Luther begins by presenting 50 positions to solve which should ensure readers have fully mastered the material in the first book of the series, which was aimed squarely at the beginner. Club players, as well as juniors fairly new to the game, should benefit from this second volume, which presents a wide array of topics, including back-rank tactics, deflection and advice on how to analyse your own games.



Timman's Triumphs: My 100 Best Games

Jan Timman, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £30.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.85**

The Dutch Grandmaster is now in his late sixties, but still rated over 2500 and very much a living legend. Timman is known not only for his strength and longevity, but also for being a quite brilliant and very insightful chess author. Here he presents a new collection of his best games (only 10 from the much earlier *Timman's Selected Games* are included). They are all annotated in Timman's typically lucid style and include victories against the likes of Bronstein, Kasparov, Smyslov, Topalov and Karpov, with whom, Timman, of course, played a match for the FIDE world championship.

Do note that *Timman's Triumphs: My 100 Best Games* is also available as a hardback version from Chess & Bridge for an extra £4.