

Volume 86 No. 1 April 2021 £4.95

www.chess.co.uk

Chess Update

ANISH GIRI JOKER OR CHOKER?

Danny Gormally discusses
if the Dutch no.1 was just
unlucky at Wijk aan Zee

ISSN 0964-6221



The State of Play - Stephen Moss on how chess might improve after the pandemic



The Other Saga - John Henderson on the Icelandic legend that is Fridrik Ólafsson



Sharpening the Blade - Chess is not always a civilised game, as Steve Firth explains

Chess

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Chess Magazine (ISSN 0964-6221) is published by:
Chess & Bridge Ltd, 44 Baker St, London, W1U 7RT
Tel: 020 7486 7015
Email: info@chess.co.uk, Website: www.chess.co.uk

Twitter: @CHESS_Magazine
Twitter: @TelegraphChess - Malcolm Pein
Twitter: @chessandbridge

Subscription Rates:

United Kingdom

1 year (12 issues)	£50
2 year (24 issues)	£90
3 year (36 issues)	£125

Europe

1 year (12 issues)	£60
2 year (24 issues)	£115
3 year (36 issues)	£165

Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues)	£75
2 year (24 issues)	£145
3 year (36 issues)	£210

Distributed by:
LMPI (North America)
8155 Larrey Street, Montreal (Quebec),
H1J 2L5, Canada - Tel: 514 355-5610

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors. Contributions to the magazine will be published at the Editors' discretion and may be shortened if space is limited.

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FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read
Cover image: Jurriaan Hoefsmit

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Printed in the UK by The Magazine Printing Company using only paper from FSC/PEFC suppliers www.magprint.co.uk

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60 Seconds with... Geert van der Velde



the forthcoming Chessable course on it by Baskaran Adhiban!), but Bent Larsen didn't always employ 1 b3. He went 1 d4 and allowed one of my favourite combinations.

B.Larsen-L.Ljubojevic Milan 1975



26...♖h4! 27 ♖xe5 (27 h3 ♖xh3+ 28 ♖g1 ♗d4+ doesn't help White) 27...♗f2! 0-1 A gorgeous finish, overloading White's rook. He can't defend g2 and his back rank, as if 28 ♗g1 ♖xg2+! 29 ♗xg2 ♗c1+.

But less memorable than your worst move? 1 e4.

Favourite game of all time?

B.Jobava-A.Giri

Beijing Sportaccord (rapid) 2012
Nimzo-Larsen Attack

1 b3 b6 2 ♗b2 ♗b7 3 e3 e6 4 ♗c3 c5 5 ♗ge2 ♗f6 6 d4 ♗e7 7 ♗d2 0-0 8 0-0-0 ♗c6 9 d5 exd5 10 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 11 ♗xd5 ♗f6 12 ♗c3 ♗b8 13 ♗f5 ♗d8 14 ♗d3 ♗f8 15 ♗xh7 d5 16 ♗b1



17 ♗a6! ♗xa6 18 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 19 ♗xd5 ♗g6 20 ♗xf6 gxf6 21 h4 ♗e8 22 h5 ♗e5 23 f4 ♗g4 24 ♗hd1 ♗b5 25 h6 ♗f2 26 ♗d8 ♗xd1 27 ♗xa8 1-0

And a highly memorable opponent? IM John Bartholomew.

The best three chess books: *How to Re-Assess Your Chess* (4th edition) by Jeremy Silman, the Chessable course *The Checkmate Patterns Manual* by Raf Mesotten and John Bartholomew, and Yakov Neishtadt's *Improve Your Chess Tactics: 700 Practical Lessons & Exercises*.

Is FIDE doing a good job? Much better than before, but there is still a lot to be done.

Or your National Federation? I am a Dutch Federation member. In general, yes, but read my advice below.

Any advice for either? Make chess more visible and accessible by emphasising community-building and fun over the sports element. There are not nearly enough social chess events. FIDE and chess organisers in general place too much emphasis on seriousness and classical chess at official events. But we all know that most of the chess played everywhere in the world is blitz. If we want chess culture to thrive, grow and be inclusive then we need to focus on making it accessible and enjoyable, especially for women and children.

Can chess make one happy? Without a doubt!

A tip please for the club player: Focus on improving a little every day, not on the outcome of your game, by focusing on what you enjoy about the game. It's how world champions become world champions. They do what they love doing.

Ed. – The world champion's Play Magnus company has been busy of late, adding leading publishers New in Chess and Everyman Chess to their portfolio. Do expect to see more of their bestselling books appearing as Chessable courses in the near future. Chessable are also part of the Play Magnus Group and have recently secured the full-time services of the Ginger GM, Simon Williams himself, who will be leading their commentary on the Champions Chess Tour, as well as presenting more of his popular courses.

Born: July 1st, 1979.

Place of residence: Barcelona.

Occupation: Vice President of Content for Play Magnus Group.

Enjoyable? An early morning hike.

And home life? One wife, three little kids and a cat.

But sometimes good to escape to: The mountains.

Sports played or followed: Chess, tennis, American football.

A favourite novel? *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World* by Haruki Murakami.

Piece of music? Anything by the Fleet Foxes.

Film or TV series? *Full Metal Jacket*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? Flow.

And the worst? Lying awake at night replaying your loss over and over again.

Your best move? 1 b3. The Nimzo-Larsen may be my favourite opening (look out for

The BIG Rivalry

And a very friendly rivalry at that, as Bill Forster explains. In the UK, we have Mark Hebden and Keith Arkell; in New Zealand they have Anthony Ker and Russell Dive

In the February issue of this magazine I presented some games from an annual FIDE-rated classical tournament played in Wellington, New Zealand. The Wellington Chess Club Championship is a decent little tournament, but hardly noteworthy internationally. Except in these strange times a classical over-the-board tournament proceeding routinely with no special provisions is at least a little bit newsworthy all by itself, when most chess fans in the world are confined to online play only.

This year, as in most years, I got to play both IM Anthony Ker and IM Russell Dive in the tournament, and, like most years, sadly I lost both games. When I told your editor Richard Palliser about the rather special rivalry these players enjoy he encouraged me to write it up.

If I check the New Zealand and Wellington Club databases I find 78 classical rated games between the two players since 1984 when both players were teenagers (many of these games are NZ rated, but not FIDE rated). Unfortunately this is by no means a complete list. The two have been active members of the same club, competing in the same club tournaments for about 30 years, and club captain Ian Sellen has been transcribing games for the last 10. The 20 missing years of club games likely account for another 60+ games that I haven't given up hope of digging out of Anthony's cupboards sometime.

Anthony and Russell are very closely matched in ability. Crunching the numbers on the 78 games echoes that: I have Anthony 27 wins, Russell 26 wins and 25 draws. That's a rather low drawing percentage, and it reflects one of the things that makes this rivalry special – Anthony and Russell are best friends, they travel to tournaments together and room together, but there is never any quarter asked or given when they play chess. A soft draw is vanishingly rare.

Brazilian IM Herman van Riemsdijk (a great friend of New Zealand chess) describes the Dive vs Ker games as New Zealand's "El Clasicos". Just as Real Madrid and Barcelona approach the game differently, Ker and Dive have very contrasting styles. It's something like Korchnoi-Karpov in miniature. It's Korchnoi, the tactical dynamic pawn grabber (Anthony), versus Karpov, the strategic squeezing python (Russell).

For this article I thought I'd annotate a win for each player. Before I get to that here's a mini chess biography of each player.

Anthony Ker (born 1967), FIDE 2305 (peak rating 2410, January 1989), FM 1994, IM

TALE OF THE TAPE



Anthony Ker



Russell Dive

IM	TITLE	IM
2305	RATING	2260
1967	YEAR OF BIRTH	1966
27	WINS	26
25	DRAWS	25
26	LOSSES	27

2000. New Zealand champion or joint champion a remarkable 14 times. He has competed at eight Olympiads (from 1988 to 2018). A career highlight came early with a draw against Boris Spassky at the Plaza International tournament in Wellington in 1988. I just played over that game and it ended with Anthony a pawn up. He didn't make Spassky prove his knowledge of a rook and pawn vs rook book draw. That almost surprises me, as Anthony never lets people off lightly and, of course, he would definitely make me play that one out (and would no doubt trick me as well).

Russell Dive (born 1966), FIDE 2260 (peak rating 2448, July 1999), FM 1992, IM 1995. New Zealand champion or joint champion seven times. He has competed at 12 Olympiads (from 1988 to 2018). A career highlight was a classy win as Black versus Armenian Grandmaster Ashot Anastasian at the Moscow Olympiad 1994.

addiction was total. Russell was one opponent who would never be tempted though. Russell's aversion to 1 e4 openings is legendary in New Zealand. He has only been known to play 1 e4 in one chess game of any type on any occasion. And that was in an Olympiad when the opponent had indicated ahead of time that they weren't showing up for the game so there was no danger. Russell does roll out 1 f4 occasionally when he feels like something a little different to 1 d4, 1 c4 or 1 ♘f3. It doesn't make sense to me, but I wish I could play chess like him, so I can't argue my case from a position of strength.

2 d4 g6 3 g3 ♟g7 4 ♟g2 ♘d7 5 c4 e5 6 ♘c3 ♟gf6 7 0-0 0-0 8 e4 ♗e8 9 d5 ♘c5

This very normal looking Kings Indian position doesn't show up often in practice. My best attempt at understanding why is as follows. The main line of the fianchetto Kings Indian is 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘f3 ♟g7 4 g3 0-0 5 ♟g2 d6 6 0-0 ♘bd7 7 ♘c3 e5 8 e4. Then the main moves either prevent or discourage 9 d5 (8...exd4, 8...c6), but even when the rarer 8...a6 or 8...♗e8 are played instead (the latter transposes into our game), White usually doesn't go 9 d5. The Kings Indian books I have consulted don't mention d5 for White in any of these lines. Perhaps loading the long diagonal in front of the

R.Dive-A.Ker

Julian Mazur Memorial, Wellington 2011
Kings Indian Defence

1 ♘f3 d6

For a long time this was Anthony's inevitable response to any first move; his Pirc

fianchettoed bishop with blocked pawns is a little bit anti-positional.

10 ♖e1 a5 **11** b3 ♜f7 **12** ♖b1 f5 **13** f3 ♜f8

We leave the world of known practice (just three games, one for each result in my 2200+ TWIC-based database) in an approximately level position.

Casafus (2337) vs Diaz (2319), Santiago 2007, was an attractive crush for White: 13...♟f6 14 a3 fxe4 15 fxe4 ♟g4 16 b4 ♟a6 17 ♟d3 ♟h6 18 ♟xh6 ♟xh6 19 ♖d2 ♟f7 20 c5 ♟d7 21 c6 bxc6 22 dxc6 ♟e6 23 ♟d5 ♟xd5 24 exd5 axb4 25 axb4 ♖b8 26 ♟f2 ♟g7 27 ♟e4 ♖f8 28 ♟h3 ♖e7 29 ♟e6 ♟h6 30 ♖xf8 ♖xf8 31 ♖a1 ♟b8 32 b5 ♖f3 33 ♖a7 ♖b3 34 ♖f2 ♖b1+ 35 ♟g2 ♖xb5...



...36 ♖xc7! 1-0.

Farago (2292) vs Bognar (2320), Budapest 2000, on the other hand, would please any Kings Indian player: 13...f4 14 a3 a4 15 b4 ♟b3 16 ♟xa4 ♟xc1 17 ♖xc1 fxg3 18 hxg3 ♖g5 19 ♖c3 ♖xg3 20 f4 ♖h4 21 ♖h3 ♖e7 22 f5 gx f5 23 ex f5 e4 24 ♖e3 ♖g5 25 ♖ff3 ♟f6 26 ♖g3 ♖h5 27 ♖d4 ♟g4 28 ♖xg4 ♖xg4 29 f6 ♟h6 30 ♖h3 ♖g6 31 f7+ ♟xf7 32 ♖f2+ ♟g8 33 ♖g3 ♟g5 34 ♟c3 h6 35 ♟c2 e3 36 ♖e2 ♟f5 37 ♟d4 ♖xa3 38 ♖b2 ♖aa8 39 ♟cb5 ♟d3 40 ♟e2 ♟xe2 41 ♖xe2 ♖a1+ 42 ♟f1 ♖f8 43 ♖f3 ♟h4+ 44 ♟h2 ♖xf3 45 ♖xf3 ♖a2+ 46 ♟e2 ♟g3+ 47 ♟h3 ♟e5 48 ♖xe3 ♖xe2 0-1.

14 a3 fxe4 **15** fxe4 ♖xf1+ **16** ♟xg1 ♖f8+ **17** ♟g1 ♟f6

Stockfish really likes the 17...a4! 18 b4 ♟b3 strategy from Farago-Bognar.

18 b4 axb4 **19** axb4 ♟g4?



Exacerbating the effect of b4 because now d7 is off limits for the c5-knight as the



Anthony Ker (left) and Russell Dive (right) are New Zealand's answer to England's top rivals on the weekend circuit, Keith Arkell and Mark Hebden. Just like them, Anthony and Russell enjoy a strong friendship off the board, despite dozens of fiercely contested encounters.

light-squared bishop lacks squares.

20 ♖c2 ♟a6 **21** h3 ♟d7 **22** g4 h6 **23** ♟e3 g5 **24** ♟d3 ♖e7

Black had the opportunity to invite some serious mayhem with 24...h5!?. It would be risky, but the alternative of being slowly crushed isn't exactly inviting.

25 ♖e2! ♟h7

Now 25...h5 can be met by 26 ♟f3!, keeping the kingside firmly closed.

26 c5



To me this looks like a Classical Kings Indian where White's queenside play is well advanced, but Black's mating kingside attack was stillborn due in part to the unusual presence of a staunch defender on g2. Maybe the fianchetto variation is worth a look as a way of solving my chronic Kings Indian problem? I think I've tried everything else.

26... ♟f8 **27** c6!

The crushing process accelerates from here.

27... ♟c8 **28** ♖a2 bxc6 **29** dxc6+ ♟e6 **30** ♟d5 ♖e8 **31** ♖c2 ♟xd5 **32** exd5 e4 **33** ♟f2 ♖b8 **34** ♖c4 ♟c5

The hopelessly stranded knight was a real liability and a tactical opportunity to get it off the board is a small measure of strategic relief

for Black. The trouble is there are tactical problems, but in truth the position is already hopeless for Black.

35 ♟xc5 dxc5 **36** d6+ ♖e6 **37** dxc7 ♖e8 **38** ♖xe6+ ♟xe6 **39** ♟xe4 ♟d4+

Black's problem is that White's small numerical material advantage is going to include a pair of very advanced connected passers: for example, after 39...cxb4 the prosaic 40 ♟d6 leaves White up an exchange and a pawn (although prettier is 40 ♟f6+!! anticipating the game continuation by sacrificing a piece to insist on a new queen, i.e. 40...♟xf6 41 ♟d5 ♟f7 42 ♖e1).

40 ♟h1 ♟xc7 **41** b5 ♖b8 **42** b6 c4



Black has organised a second attacker on b6, apparently forcing the concession b6-b7, after which the bishop on g2 is sad and the knight on c7 is transformed from a partially en prise liability into an ideal blockader, so that the pawns are securely blockaded at least for a while. The computer calculates a win after the sad 43 b7 and considers it just as good as the lovely 43 ♟f6+. This tells you everything you need to know about whether machines are really playing chess!

43 ♟f6+!!

Is there a prettier move in this issue? Now the knight must go else it comes to d7.

43...♙xf6 44 bxc7!!

White has to be consistent and sacrifice all three pieces.

44...♖xb1+ 45 ♙f1

Of course, not 45 ♙h2?? ♙e5#.

45...♖xf1+ 46 ♖g2



White has no pieces and Black has two, but they are in a tangle. If Black could make his bishop on f6 disappear he'd win easily (which is why the knight was sacrificed to put the bishop on that square), but as it is there's no way to stop White promoting the first pawn and winning a rook for the second.

46...♖e1 47 c8♖+ ♖f7 48 c7 1-0

A.Ker-R.Dive

Oceania Open Zonal, Auckland 2017
Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3

Anthony invariably plays the Panov-Botvinnik against the Caro-Kann. Russell didn't take up the opening until comparatively recently, but they have now discussed this position five times. **5...♗c6 6 ♗f3 ♙g4 7 cxd5 ♗xd5 8 ♖b3 ♙xf3 9 gxf3 ♗b6**

9...e6 is played more often here, but it does commit Black to a wandering king. An entertaining high level encounter was Grischuk-Vidit, World Rapid Championship, Doha 2016: **10 ♖xb7 ♗xd4 11 ♙b5+ ♗xb5 12 ♖c6+ ♙e7 13 ♖c5+ ♙e8 14 ♖xb5+ ♖d7 15 ♗xd5 exd5 16 ♖d3 ♙b4+ 17 ♙f1 f6 18 ♙g2 ♙f7 19 ♙f4 ♙a5 20 ♖hd1 ♖ad8 21 ♖ac1 ♙b6 22 ♖c2 d4 23 ♖dc1 ♖c8 24 ♖b3+ ♙g6 25 ♖d3+ f5 26 b4 ♖xc2 27 ♖xc2 ♖c8 28 ♖xc8 ♖xc8 29 a4 ♖d7 30 ♖a6 ♙h5 31 a5 ♙d8 32 b5 d3 33 ♙d2.**



Taken ahead of a New Zealand match at the 2014 Tromsø Olympiad, Russell Dive (centre) and Anthony Ker (right) line up in their Kiwi caps next to the talented young IM Puchen Wang.

This position may well be '0.00', but it is also much easier to play as White. Now **33...♙g5?** is a mistake, after which Grischuk solved the White to play and win puzzle to win in style: **34 ♖c6!! ♖d4 35 f4! ♙d8 36 ♙e3 ♖b2 37 ♖e8+ g6 38 ♖xd8 (it's mate in five) 38...♖xb5 39 ♖g5#.**

10 ♙e3 e6 11 0-0-0 ♙e7 12 d5 exd5 13 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 14 ♖xd5 ♖c7 15 ♙b1 0-0 16 f4 ♖ad8 17 ♙g2 ♖xd5 18 ♙xd5 ♙f6 19 ♖c1



With a wide-open centre, this is not the kind of opposite-side castling position which will see mutual attacks on the king. Instead, White hopes the bishop-pair and c-file will create queenside pressure, while Black takes comfort from his better pawn structure.

19...♖d7 20 ♙e4 h6

Sadhvani-Dreev, Villorba 2019, saw a super-grandmaster neutralising the white pressure: **20...♖d8 21 ♖a4 h5 22 ♖b5 ♖e6 23 ♖f5 ♖xf5 24 ♙xf5 ♙d4 25 ♙e4 ♙xe3 26 fxe3 ♖d6 (an almost identical position is reached at the same point in Ker-Dive, and amusingly although both games saw solidity with ...♖d6, the engine is unhappy and sees immediate equality instead through activity with ...♖d2 in both cases) 27 ♖c5 ♖e6 28 ♙xc6 bxc6 29 ♖xh5 ♖xe3 30 ♖a5 ♖e7 31 ♖a6 ♖c7 32 ♙c2 ♙h7 33 ♙d3 ♙g6 34 ♙e4 ♖e7+ 35 ♙f3 ♖c7 36 b4 ♙f5 37 h4 ♖d7 38 ♖a5+ ♙e6 39 ♙e4 g6 40 a3 f5+ 41 ♙f3 ♖d3+ 42 ♙g2 ♖d4 43 ♙g3 ♖d3+ 44**

♙g2 ½-½.

21 ♖d5 ♖h3 22 ♖f5 ♖xf5 23 ♙xf5 ♙d4 24 ♖c4 ♖d8 25 ♙e4 ♙xe3 26 fxe3 ♖d6

26...♖d7, defending the seventh rank is better, and if **27 ♙xc6 bxc6 28 ♖xc6 ♖d2 29 ♖c7 ♖xh2 30 ♖xa7 g5 31 fxc5 hxc5** when Black is holding his own in the race.

26...♖d2 immediately is also OK, but difficult since if **27 b4** the non-obvious **27...g5!** is necessary, simultaneously creating luft and looking to advance and promote on the kingside (**27...♖xh2?** loses to **28 b5 ♗e7 29 ♖c7** when White is a long way ahead).

27 ♙c2

Through this next phase the engine wants to go ...g5 to get some counterplay going on almost every move.

27...♙f8



But Russell prefers to keep a compact position and challenges his opponent to break it down.

28 b4 a6? 29 a4?

29 ♙xc6 bxc6 is apparently a winning rook ending for White.

29...♙e7 30 b5 axb5 31 axb5 ♗d8 32 ♖c7+ ♖d7 33 b6

This looks good, but Black is actually holding everything together here.

33...♙d6 34 ♖xd7+ ♙xd7 35 ♙c3 ♙d6 36 ♙c4 g5!

Finally making Stockfish 13 proud and, yes, still the number one engine move.

37 h3 f6 38 ♙g2 gxf4 39 exf4 ♗e6



This is a very subtle ending. Trying to understand it involved a lot of time hoping to persuade the engine to explain its reasoning to me. Black has a powerful drawing idea: basically if the knight can sacrifice itself for the f- and b-pawns, Black can draw due to the bishop being the wrong colour for the h-pawn. Providing the black king can get to the corner, of course. Sometimes this idea works; sometimes it fails because the black king gets caught offside and can't get back to g8 in time, so the h-pawn promotes unhindered.

40 f5

40 ♖xb7? allows Black to demonstrate his drawing method: 40...♗xf4 41 h4 f5 42 ♖b5 ♗e6 43 ♖c8 ♗d4+ 44 ♖a6 f4 45 ♖g4 ♗b3 46 ♖b7 ♗c5+ 47 ♖c8 ♖c6 48 b7 ♗xb7 49 ♖f3+ ♗d6 50 ♖xb7 ♖e7.

40...♗d8 41 ♖b5 ♖e5?

The losing move. Black's king has to stay close to home, as in the previous variation.

42 ♖c5! ♖xf5 43 ♖d6 ♗f7+ 44 ♖c7 ♗e5 45 ♖f1

Simpler is 45 ♖xb7! as White gains a move with a check, i.e. 45...♗c4 46 ♖c8+ ♖f4 47 b7.

45...♖e6 46 ♖b5! Dominating the knight.

46...♖d5

46...♖e7 is more resilient. Black can try the drawing plan we've already seen, and it only fails because of a specific detail –

maintaining the knight in a position to sacrifice on b7 now leaves the black king offside and prevents it getting back to stop the h-pawn, despite the wrong-coloured bishop. For example, 47 ♖xb7 ♗f7 48 ♖c7 ♗d6 49 ♖c4 f5 50 ♖d5 f4 51 ♖c6 ♖e6 52 ♖d8 ♗f7+ 53 ♖c7 ♗d6 54 h4 ♖e7 55 ♖f3 ♖e6 56 ♖c6 ♖e7 57 ♖d5 ♖d7 58 ♖e2 ♖e7 59 ♖g4 ♗b7 60 ♖e4 ♗d6+ 61 ♖xf4 ♖f6 62 ♖f3 ♖e6 63 ♖e4 ♖e7 64 ♖d5 ♖d7 65 ♖e5 ♖e7 66 h5 ♖d7 67 b7 ♗xb7 68 ♖xb7 ♖e8 69 ♖f6 ♖f8 70 ♖d5, keeping the king out of the corner and so winning.

47 ♖xb7



47...♗f7

The only way to try to cover b7.

48 ♖c4+!

An attractive tactic seals the deal.

48...♖xc4 49 ♖c7 ♗g5 50 b7 ♗e6+ 51 ♖d6 1-0

Just to wrap things up nicely, the day before I wrote this article I witnessed in person an epic swindle. This time Russell was on the right side of same idea we've just seen, a desperado bishop check prevailing in that other eternal rivalry, bishop vs knight.

P.Rossiter-R.Dive

Summer Cup, Wellington CC 2021



Russell has been up against it, but now a draw is inevitable. His opponent having spoiled a winning ending, makes what he thinks is a final winning attempt...

62 ♖b6??

...Only to fall victim to a truly vicious swindle.

62...♖c7+! 0-1

And the g-pawn queens.

Studies & Winners

British Online Solving Masters

The pandemic caused the postponement of the British Chess Solving Championships, the final of which normally takes place in February. In its place the British Chess Problem Society staged the British Online Solving Masters. It was perhaps no surprise that John Nunn took first place, although he tied on 60 points with both Eddy van Beers (Belgium) and Martynas Limontas (Lithuania).

Nunn prevailed thanks to taking the least amount of time overall (120 minutes to van Beers' 126 and Limontas' 170 minutes). Nobody obtained full marks (65), due to everyone failing to solve the closing selfmate, a real brute composed by Michel Caillaud.

February's Studies Solution

The winner was Miles Patterson of Canberra. The solution, with thanks to Brian Stephenson and especially Yochanan Afek:

Árpád Rusz

2nd Prize, *The Problemist*, 2018-19



White to play and win

An amazing artistic discovery as well as a genuine celebration for solvers and over the board players.

1 ♖c1+!

1 a8♖+? even loses to 1...♖g1 (not 1...♖g2? 2 ♖c1# or 1...♖g2? 2 ♖c1+ ♖h2 3 ♖h8+) 2 ♖c1+ ♖f1+! (2...♖f2? 3 ♖a7+ ♖e3 4 ♖c2+ ♖f3 5 ♖b7+ ♖g3 6 ♖g7+ ♖f3 7 ♖g4#) 3 ♖xf1+ ♖xf1 4 ♖a6+ ♖g1 5 ♖g6+ ♖g2 6 ♖f6 ♖f2+.

1...♖f1+!

Deflecting the white rook. Instead, 1...♖g2 2 a8♖+ ♖f3+ 3 ♖xf3+ ♖xf3 4 ♖c3+ ♖e2 5 ♖a3 ♖d1 6 a6 ♖c1 7 a7 ♖h8 8 ♖xa2 wins.

2 ♖xf1+ ♖g2 3 ♖h1!

Two for the price of one! A stunning counter deflection preventing the retreat of the enemy rook, and not 3 a8♖+? ♖xf1.

3...♖xh1 After 3...♖xh1 4 a8♖+ White will pick up the a2-pawn with checks.

4 a8♖+ ♖g1 5 ♖g8+ ♖g2 6 ♖h8

All corners are instrumental! White wins.

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The Queen's Gambit - Accepted and Adored

A personal view of the big Netflix hit by a star-struck James Essinger

Dear reader, why am I offering *CHESS* another article about the marvellous TV series *The Queen's Gambit*, which was covered thoroughly and very well by John Henderson in his article in the December 2020 issue of this august journal?

I read John's article both before and after actually seeing the entire *The Queen's Gambit* series and enjoyed his piece even more after my viewing than I did before. Unlike John, I didn't watch the show in a single binge, though if I had the time I probably would have done. But I run a publishing firm, The Conrad Press, which is a big commitment time-wise, and so I found it more convenient to watch this tremendously entertaining, thought-provoking and moving show by viewing one episode per evening for seven days.

John's article covered the mini-series in detail and also delved into its backstory, even including a call with Bruce Pandolfini, one of the chess consultants to the project and a consultant too to the eponymous book on which the programme was based.

I'm writing this the day after I finished watching the last of the seven episodes. I am not an expert on the making of the series like John is; my reaction to the show is simply gutsy and emotional. So let me start by saying this: *The Queen's Gambit* is, quite simply, in my view the best chess-based screen fictional narrative entertainment produced so far in human history.

You might argue that there isn't really all that much competition, and that's probably a fair point. Chess in the past, when it's featured in TV shows or movies at all, has normally been something played by crusty, elderly men in large houses with spacious libraries, where the games tend to have the pieces on all the wrong squares and frequently the chessboard the wrong way round (echoes of the former immortal regular *CHESS* feature the League Against Setting The Board Up wRong – LASTBUR). Inevitably, in those brief chess scenes on TV or in movies, one of the protagonists would announce "checkmate", even if the position had little resemblance to one in which checkmate was either a sensible possibility or indeed even a legal one.

Yes, I'm aware of some really excellent chess-based films over the past ten years or so. One of my favourites is the remarkable



As well as *The Queen's Gambit*, James highly recommends *The Dark Horse* featuring Cliff Curtis.

The Dark Horse (2014), written and directed by James Napier Robertson and starring Cliff Curtis as the splendidly inspirational fellow Genesis Potini, who finds a deep satisfaction in helping underprivileged children in New Zealand to become expert chess-players. It's a wonderful film and unforgettable. But when all is said and done, it doesn't aspire to do for the game what *The Queen's Gambit* does and there is plenty of room in the world of entertainment for both of these remarkable films.

One of the many, many marvellous things about *The Queen's Gambit* is that its central character is not a male chess player at all. The series devotes seven hours focusing on the life of a girl, Beth Harmon, as she becomes a woman who is more and more focused on chess and who puts her personal life far away on the back burner. The story really is primarily about her professional life as an aspiring world-class chess player and the series makes no apologies for making that the core story of the production.

Yes, Beth as a woman does have some emotional and sexual relationships, but they are,

while not exactly glossed over, only depicted briefly and shown as simply reflecting her particular emotional needs at the time, which are only ever presented as an adjunct to her passionate desire to excel at chess.

Anya Taylor-Joy plays the heroine Elizabeth (Beth) Harmon in every episode apart from the first one, in which – and I totally agree with John in his praise of this actress – young Isla Johnston plays the young Beth. The quietness and comparative emotional passivity of Isla's portrayal of Beth really does set the scene so believably for the woman she becomes. The first episode also introduces Bill Camp, whom I remember well from the movie *Tamara Drewe* (2010), as the janitor, Mr Shaibel, who teaches young Beth to play chess and inspires for her a love of the game. That's not giving away too much, because there's a picture of Mr Shaibel showing Beth how to play chess on the first page of John Henderson's article.

As for the sheer quality of the show, I totally agree with chat-show host and self-confessed chess player Ellen DeGeneres, who

when she interviewed Taylor-Joy on TV in December 2020, said to her, "When you hear it's a show about chess, you're like, well, how can that be exciting? And it is. You're so good. And chess sets are selling out".

Other actors whose performances I really enjoy in the show are Harry Melling as Kentucky state champion Harry Beltik. You may remember Harry from the *Harry Potter* films, where he played the hardly sympathetic Dudley Dursley; the spoilt son of the Muggles whom Fate appoints to be Harry's custodian when he is a child and who hates anything to do with magic. Melling doesn't look much like Dudley nowadays, and also plays a far more sympathetic character in *The Queen's Gambit* and has a big role in the wonderful finale.

Another hugely talented young actor, Thomas Brodie-Sangster, plays the reigning U.S. chess champion Benny Watts. His character is an extremely strong chess player, and a close friend of Beth. Benny also scores five stars for haute couture, with his tremendous hat. You may remember Thomas from *Love Actually* (2003); his character was not very convincingly – and even rather tastelessly – depicted by the script as falling in love, despite only being about a kid, with a marginally older girl in his school. But there's nothing remotely tasteless about the actor's performance the character in *The Queen's Gambit*. He admires Beth, is pretty much in love with her and does all he can to advance her career.

I also want to mention Moses Ingram as Jolene, a rebellious African-American teenager at the orphanage, The Methuen Home, who becomes a close friend of Beth and later meets her again, to great dramatic effect, when they are both women.

Very enjoyable too is the performance of Marcin Dorocinski as the stern-faced Vasily Borgov, the current Soviet-Russian world champion. Nor should I miss mentioning Millie Brady, as Cleo, a French model Beth meets in Paris. Cleo ends up in bed with Beth, although it might just have been the case been two women sharing a bed to save money. And also very unforgettable is Marcus Loges as Luchenko, a veteran former world champion, who is Beth's penultimate opponent in Moscow and greatly appreciates the opportunity to play her. By the way, his hair is all Marcus's own; he isn't wearing a wig.

But enough stellification. The show is also brilliantly well done at a sheer production level. I've always thought that production design, which is the branch of film-making responsible for the whole look of the film, is woefully undervalued by TV and film fans. Production designers give the audience the visual information and impact that is needed for the scene to work visually, and also at an emotional and psychological level. Production design must require a vast amount of work, not just artistically, but also when it comes to assembling, and in many cases no doubt actually making, all the props that are needed to give the firm its sense of location and sense of place.

This is of course particularly the case when a film has a period setting, as *The Queen's Gambit* does, being set in the 1950s



Benny Watts leads an analysis session, involving Beth and the latest news arriving by phone.

and 1960s. The whole look of the mini-series could hardly be improved and is unquestionably a major reason for its success. You really do feel you're inhabiting the world of the film and while nowadays we are used to movies and TV shows having extremely high production values, *The Queen's Gambit* excels even by modern standards.

One set that made a particularly powerful impression on me was a newsagent's shop near the house where Beth lives after she gets adopted. The newsagent sells a wide variety of goods and they are all there on the shelves for us to see and every single one of them looks totally authentic. There are even period-looking posters on the wall advertising consumer goods from the day.

Yet the comprehensive excellence of the production design, while certainly deserving praise, isn't ultimately the reason why I love *The Queen's Gambit*. After all, when all is said and done, excellent production design is all very well, but you've got to have actors creating a drama, of which the production design is obviously a vital part.

I think the reason, ultimately, why I love *The Queen's Gambit* so much is that presents a variety of perspectives on how people cope with their love of chess and how they adjust their lives to incorporate it. To a large extent the show is all about the bargains which the different chess players depicted make with chess. With Beth, chess is her life and her single-mindedness and determination to get to the top are a crucial part of her personality and, to me at least, what makes her so interesting.

I'm sure Walter Tevis, the author of the source *Bildungsroman* book *The Queen's Gambit* (1983), based the character of Beth to some extent on the late, great Bobby Fischer (1943-2008), whose meteoric rise to the summit of chess and then sad decline into mental illness is known to pretty much all chess players. Fischer left behind some of the most wonderful games ever played.

To some extent, the lost potential of Fischer's own impact on the chess world – many people thought there could have been an enormous global chess revolution inspired by

him after he won the world championship in 1972, but that never happened – has finally been fulfilled by *The Queen's Gambit*, which has been viewed by more than 60 million people and has given many millions of people an interest in chess which they didn't have before. The dates of Bobby's birth and early career are a good approximate fit with that of Beth, as is the fact that Beth challenged Soviet supremacy in the chess world.

Beth herself is totally focused on chess and highly convincing in that focus. One of the many remarkable things about the show is that you don't ever feel she would be happier doing more girly things. The other characters tend to have made a different kind of bargain with chess. So, for example, Harry Beltik specifically states to Beth that he isn't obsessed with chess. He wants to make a career in other things and he feels that only people obsessed with chess can rise to the top. Benny Watts is, we feel, always going to be a material and enthusiastic chess player, but he has many other interests as well and is depicted as being socially highly competent, as well as highly attractive to women. We feel that his interest in chess is healthy and happy, but he is always going to be interested in other things too.

I think, as chess players, whatever our strengths, and whether we become professional players or remain as enthusiastic amateurs, we need to find ways of enjoying our lives while also enjoying chess and perhaps, not spending so much time on chess that we neglect other things we want to do.

This may seem like fairly trite advice, but the show tells us what chess players mostly all know – that there is unquestionably a potentially obsessive aspect to the magnetism of chess. Probably you, like me, have at some point in your life felt the strength of that magnetism and wondered just how much you wanted to devote your life to chess.

Personally, while I play pretty much no chess nowadays. I still adore the game and I love writing about the game. Much of my enjoyment of *The Queen's Gambit* was due to enjoying the games Beth was playing and the



Anya Taylor-Joy's depiction of Beth Harmon won her a Golden Globe award for Best Actress.

atmosphere of the tournaments, which was depicted so convincingly.

I had my own big 'just how big a role do I want chess to play in my life?' moment back in the early 1980s, when I lived in Finland and I remember very distinctly feeling that I was spending too much time being enthusiastic about chess when I wanted to do other things. It was in connection with a tournament I was considering playing in, in the town of Jyväskylä, the city in central Finland where I lived from 1982-1983. I did in fact play in that tournament, but by the time I did I had decided that I was more interested in trying to be a writer than in being a chess player and nowadays, as a writer who writes about chess and many things, I feel I made the right decision.

What this article doesn't have, or at least not so far, is any specific chess in it and as readers of my pieces in *CHESS* will know, I always like my articles to include a game of chess. I wouldn't presume to give one of my games in an article about a player as wonderfully talented as Beth. (Oh, by the way, that's another reason I love *The Queen's Gambit*; Beth has the same surname as the hero, John Harmon, of my favourite Dickens novel, *Our Mutual Friend*.)

Fortunately, I have a trick up my sleeve and that trick is my good friend International Master and British Woman's Chess Champion Jovanka Houska, who as well as being a far better player than I am or ever will be, has played many marvellous games. I asked Jovi to choose from her chess career a Queen's Gambit which she particularly enjoyed playing and she has come up with the following game, which I hope you'll enjoy.

As Taylor-Joy said to Ellen of the show *The Queen's Gambit*, "It's ultimately a heart-warming story, which is a nice thing to have right now".

Amen to that, Anna.

Let's dedicate this article to Mr Shaibel, the crusty janitor with the heart of gold, who introduces our heroine Beth to the pleasures

of the most profound and most exciting board game in the world.

Chess may yet Go Large world-wide, and if it does, *The Queen's Gambit* will certainly have started the pawn rolling.

S.Mihajlov-J.Houska
Gibraltar 2014
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙e7 4 ♘f3 ♘f6
5 ♙f4 0-0 6 e3 ♘bd7 7 ♚c2 c5 8 cxd5
♘xd5 9 ♘xd5 exd5 10 ♙d3 ♚a5+ 11
♚c3 ♚b6 12 0-0 c4! 13 ♙e2 ♘f6 14
♚c2 g6 15 b3 ♙f5 16 ♗d1 ♚ac8 17
bxc4 dxc4 18 ♚c1 c3



19 ♙d3 ♙xd3 20 ♚xd3 ♘d5 21 ♙h6
♚fd8 22 ♘e1? g5! 0-1

James Essinger is the author, along with Jovanka Houska, of the novel, The Mating Game (2016), which is being developed into a feature film by SB Entertainment of Los Angeles, and also with Jovanka, of The Ada Lovelace Project. James's other work includes the lyrics and libretto for Ada's Algorithm – The Ada Lovelace Musical, Spellbound (2007), The Lost City of Cantia (2019), the comedy thriller Rollercoaster (2021) and with James Walker, a screenplay, Song of Buchenwald.



A little bird just told me

A round-up of what the top players and chess personalities have been saying on Twitter

The Queen's Gambit - @NetflixTheQG

The Queen's Gambit - Best Television Limited Series, Anthology Series, or Motion Picture Made for Television. #GoldenGlobes

Tom Hayden Millward - @WestEndReporter

From the small screen to the stage! @levelforwardinc has officially acquired the theatrical stage rights to Walter Tevis' #TheQueensGambit! A Broadway musical adaptation of the novel that inspired the hit @netflix series is now in the works! @queensgambitbwy @NetflixTheQG

Hikaru Nakamura - @GMHikaru

So @MagnusCarlsen calls #pogchamps3 on @chesscom a "good initiative." @lachesisq thinks it's "popcorn stuff is replacing and displacing any real chess content and this is just terrifying." Can both be true, just one? Neither? Discuss.

Magnus Carlsen - @MagnusCarlsen

I do think the event is doing a great job in bringing chess to more people, I'd never stoop as low as to watch it myself though. If I did watch, I'd probably be rooting for Ludwig.

Ian Nepomniachtchi - @lachesisq

Thanks for the dialogue and the passion everyone :) To clarify a little:

1. I'm obviously happy more and more people are getting involved into chess.
2. Although I'm not the biggest fan of #PogChamps, the show is easy&fun to watch. And indeed it serves the aforementioned purpose

BBC News Press Team - @BBCNewsPR

The verdict's out – chess champion Koneru Humpy has been named winner of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award in a public vote! #BBCISWOTY #IWD2021

Judit Polgar - @GMJuditPolgar

I wish my Mom, sisters, and all ladies on the Globe a very Happy International Women's Day! Dare to dream big and fight for it!

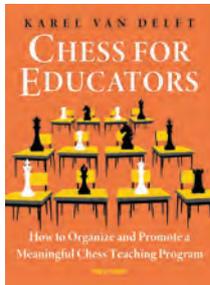
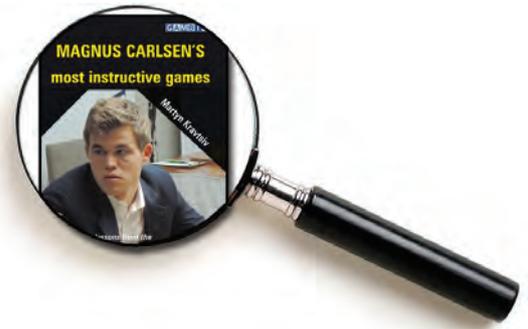
Shohreh Bayat - @ShohrehBayat

I would like to share the 2021 International Women of Courage Award with all Iranian women labouring under the yoke of religious bigotry and oppression. Have courage, our time will come! #WomensDay

Olimpiu G. Urcan - @olimpiuurban

A remarkable fact about Akiba Rubinstein. He beat Emanuel Lasker, José Raúl Capablanca and Alexander Alekhine in his very first encounter with each of these iconic masters.

This Month's New Releases



Chess for Educators

Karel van Delft, 272 pages
New in Chess

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

The subtitle informs us this book is on the subject of 'How to Organize and Promote a Meaningful Chess Teaching Program'. The author may not be so well known as a player, but it is true that "Karel van Delft is a Dutch chess teacher and chess organizer. He holds a Master's degree in Psychology of the University of Amsterdam and has lectured and published widely on the subject of the benefits of chess in education."

Karel and I have worked together several times at the annual London Chess Conference, which is part of the festival of events traditionally held at the same time as the London Chess Classic. I can personally testify that Karel is a perfect gentleman with an abundance of excellent ideas. Admirably, he is always more than willing to share his ideas and it is very good to see how many he has managed to squeeze into a single book.

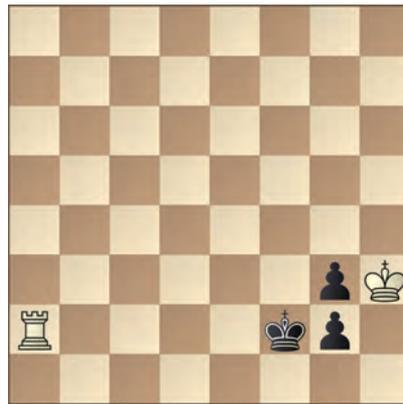
Karel is quite correct when he states: "Chess has the rare quality that children love it despite the fact that it is good for them." Without the children having a love of chess, most of what we do as chess educators would be pointless and fruitless.

In 21 chapters, Karel covers everything from a survey of school chess world-wide up to an alphabet of methods and teaching tips for chess education. In between there are chapters on subjects such as the role of parents, chess for the blind and partially sighted, and girls' and women's chess.

This book does not need to be read systematically. It is a work of ideas and advice, which will retain a long shelf. Chess tutors and teachers will be able to dip into the book in search of inspiration and they will certainly find it waiting for them.

There is very little actual chess content; it is just not that sort of book. When diagrams do appear they are well-timed and instructive. Here is one example, which helps to explain why we teach children never to resign.

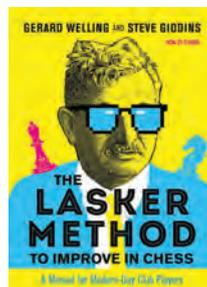
T.Molewijk-K.van Delft Dutch Open Rapid Ch. 2014



Karel resigned here thinking his position was completely lost. However, 1...♔g1 would have saved the game, thanks to a stalemate trick. As Karel correctly says: "It can be worthwhile to first give your imagination another chance to find something beautiful."

Ultimately, even though Karel is searching out a niche audience, his book has a very noble aim. It is full of very valuable ideas and resources to help teachers and tutors to improve their chess methods of chess instruction. It doesn't matter how experienced a teacher or tutor one may be; there will still be plenty of new ideas to be found in *Chess for Educators*.

Sean Marsh



The Lasker Method to Improve in Chess

Gerard Welling & Steve Giddins, 240 pages
New in Chess

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

The authors of *Side-Stepping Mainline Theory* (New in Chess, 2019) have reunited to write a new book for club players, only this time it is based on the games of a world champion rather than an opening system.

Subtitled *A Manual for Modern-Day Club Players*, this work "enables the average

amateur player to adopt trustworthy openings, reach a sound middlegame and have a basic grasp of endgame technique" because the authors "explain the principles with very carefully selected examples from players of varying levels, some of them from Lasker's own games."

Before we assess the content, we need to deal with the elephant in the room. It is well known we should never judge a book by its cover, but this one takes some getting over. It must have escaped rather than have been commissioned. I don't think it helps the book and it certainly isn't respectful towards Emanuel Lasker.

It is interesting to see a revival of interest in the second world champion. *Emanuel Lasker: A Reader* by Taylor Kingston (Russell Enterprises, 2019) gathered a considerable amount of Lasker's own writing into a chunky 400 pages and the deluxe series by Richard Forster, Michael Negele & Raj Tischbierek (*Emanuel Lasker Volume 1: Struggle and Victories – World Chess Champion for 27 Years* and *Emanuel Lasker Volume 2: Choices and Chances; Chess and other Games of the Mind* Exzelsior Verlag, 2019 and 2020 respectively – with a third volume in preparation) represent the most recent tip of the iceberg.

This new book keeps the club player very much in mind. Are Lasker's games and ideas still relevant today? Indeed they are – and, what is more, they cover all phases of the game.

In keeping with Lasker's own writings, the book starts with a chapter on general chess philosophy and common sense (familiar themes, often associated with the second world champion), and then works its way through various other aspects of the game before concluding with a series of puzzles featuring combinations and tactics.

Just as with the book's full, illustrative games, the puzzles are not confined to examples from Lasker's own efforts. I was even reacquainted with a position of my own against Steve, played all of 30 years ago, in which I was surprised by a winning tactic. The three decades that have since passed us all by put Lasker's 27-year reign as chess champion of the world into context, as does the fact that Garry Kasparov managed 'just' 15 years.

The authors also present a slim-line repertoire based on Lasker's own approach. Further reading will be required to flesh out the repertoire, but some of the lines are offbeat – or at least unpopular, such as the Exchange variation against the French, for example. The idea is to follow in Lasker's

footsteps and “to reach a middlegame without weak points”. If we can bring the opponent outside of the comfort zone by avoiding their main lines, then it is all for the better. After all, Magnus Carlsen has been doing exactly that for years.

I particularly like the chapter on defence, which shows how Lasker had mastered “the fine art of doing nothing”, as opposed to seeking counterplay and risking opening up the floodgates at the same. I also like the use of quality games by amateur players, which demonstrate how to play to one’s strengths. For example, the games showing the amateur Michael Cook exploiting his opponents’ preconceived ideas of a bishop usually being better than a knight by repeatedly trading without prejudice really is typical of Lasker’s own play.

Here is a puzzle to try.

P.Johansson-S.Giddins
Gausdal 1995



“Black has obviously achieved the maximum positional advantage, but how does he decide the game immediately?”

Fans of the Exchange Ruy Lopez (a favourite weapon of Lasker’s in certain competitive situations) will be pleased to see it in action in several illustrative games. The long-term advantages it offers White should not be underestimated.

This book, which is accessible to all levels of player due to the quality of the writing and the well-chosen material, is a refreshing attempt at producing a chess manual with a difference. The point is that “amateurs shouldn’t waste energy on rote learning but just strive for a good grasp of the basic essentials of attack and defence, tactics, positional and endgame play.” In a world full of noisy information, it is worth remembering that sometimes less is more.

Sean Marsh



ChessBase Magazine #200

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

The latest issue of *CBM* is for ‘March/April 2021’ and unsurprisingly contains plenty of coverage of Wijk aan Zee. There are also special features on the play of the young Magnus and on 6 ♟g5 e6 7 ♟b5 in the Richter-Rauzer, with contributors including Nils Grandelius, Daniel King, Wesley So and Simon Williams.

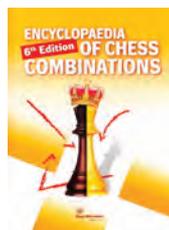


Defensive Tools:

A Tournament Player’s Manual

T.Sakelsek & M.Tratar, 360 pages, paperback
RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

It is easy to associate Chess Evolution only with puzzle, training and high-end books, but this new work from a Slovenian GM and IM author team promises to be something a bit different. It is written a little like a textbook, but a very useful textbook at that. Sakelsek and Tratar begin by seeing what defensive skills we can learn from Howard Staunton and Louis Paulsen as they map out a useful summary of how our appreciation of defence has widened over time. They progress to look in some detail at the more common defensive methods (stalemate and forcing a repetition), before devoting the majority of the book to active defence ahead of covering prophylaxis and supplying a number of training positions.



**Encyclopaedia of Chess Combinations
6th Edition**

Chess Informant, 736 pages, paperback
RRP £44.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £40.45**

The famous *Encyclopaedia of Chess Combinations* first appeared in 1980 and now, as then, it remains a ginormous collection of tactics. Those who like to solve combinations, as well as those who like to look for unusual motifs and very beautiful ones, will be able to lose themselves for many an hour in this sixth edition, which now contains a whopping 3,198 positions.

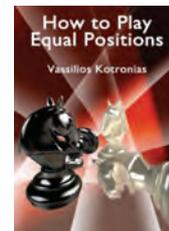


Fat Fritz 2 Chess Program

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £89.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £80.95**

This second edition of *Fat Fritz* hasn’t been entirely free of controversy, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t an impressive program, combining the *Stockfish 12* engine with Albert Silver’s neural network training. The program comes with the latest version of the standard *Fritz* interface, making it ideal for the club player to save their own games or analyse a position. For further details – see page 53.



How to Play Equal Positions

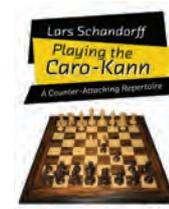
Vassilios Kotronias, 228 pages, paperback
RRP £20.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.89**

We tend to associate the leading Greek Grandmaster with detailed repertoire works, but while this book is for Chess Stars it is a middlegame work – and another likely to be of some practical benefit to the club player. Kotronias supplies detailed, text-heavy annotations to a number of top-level games. Along the way the reader should learn plenty about how to play when there isn’t a clear plan, when to bale out or burn your bridges, deciding when to apply common sense sayings such as ‘attack is the best form of defence’, and conquering any fear of not rushing to resolve the tension.

**Magnus Carlsen’s
Most Instructive Games**

Martyn Kravtsov, 176 pages, paperback
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Works on the world champion remain pretty popular and this is also a welcome new book from Gambit Publications. Kravtsov examines 42 of Carlsen’s games, which are all presented in classic, clear Gambit fashion with plenty of diagrams. Every game is essentially a mini-lesson while in each Kravtsov especially focusses on ‘the Magnus Moment’, a particular move or passage of play which reveals his great insight into the game and sets the world champion apart from his rivals.

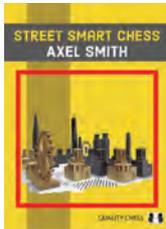


Playing the Caro-Kann

Lars Schandorff, 344 pages, paperback
RRP £22.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.25**

It’s 11 years since Schandorff’s *The Caro-Kann* appeared and now the Danish

Grandmaster is back, presenting a vastly updated repertoire with his favourite 1 e4 c6 for Quality Chess. The Advance is still met with 3...d5, with the most notable change in the main line where Schandorff now advocates 4...d6 5 dxf6+ exf6 for Black. Do note too that a hardback version of this work is also available from Chess & Bridge for £26.99 or £24.29 for Subscribers.



Street Smart Chess

Axel Smith, 248 pages, hardback
RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

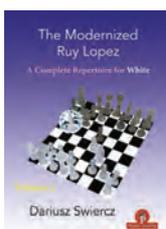
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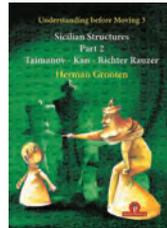
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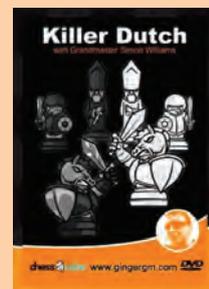
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