

Chess Magazine

DUDA DAZZLES!

The rising Polish star was the last man standing at the World Cup

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Guildford's 25 Years - Nigel Povah & Roger Emerson on their 4NCL star team



Remembering Dima - Carl Strugnell looks at the chess of Dmitry Svetushkin



Coffeehouse Fun - Gawain Jones explains all about his new 1 e4 repertoire

Chess

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Coffeehouse Repertoire



Gawain Jones explains all about his exciting 1 e4-based repertoire for Quality Chess

As Coronavirus spread in the spring of last year we saw tournaments and leagues cancelled. My wife, Sue, suggested I should do something with my spare time as she correctly predicted it would be some time before over-the-board chess returned. I decided to see if there was still interest in me writing a book or two. After receiving positive feedback on my Dragon books back in 2015, I returned to the Quality Chess stable with another project. This time we agreed on an offbeat 1 e4 repertoire, provisionally titled 'Coffeehouse 1.e4 Repertoire'.

The idea of the title is to convey the aggressive, often sacrificial approach favoured in the 19th Century. However, unlike a lot of those swashbuckling games, I have made sure that the openings have objective merit too. The only criticism I have so far received is that the title is a little misleading. See my first aim below. Perhaps we should have gone with '21st Century 1.e4 Coffeehouse'.

As with the Dragon, the repertoire quickly expanded to two volumes as I made sure everything was covered. I wanted the suggestions to fulfil three criteria. Firstly, I wanted the recommendations to be sound. In the past I've got pretty fed up reading books offering tempting lines to discover that the lines are rather dodgy and riddled with holes. Of course, you can gamble that your opponent might not know the refutation, but I wanted the lines featured to have some durability.

Secondly, I wanted the ideas to have teeth. The proposed lines aim to give White the initiative and force Black to be accurate in defence. My final aim was to surprise the opponent with an offbeat idea, presuming the first two aims have been met. It's no good surprising someone with an insipid line. My ambition is that after studying the books you can be confident you'll know the themes in the proposed openings better than any opponent.

Volume One was published at the end of June, and the second half of the repertoire is scheduled to be released in September. In book one I examine the Sicilian, Caro-Kann, Scandinavian, and Alekhine, while everything else will be covered in Volume Two.

The Sicilian is the most common response to 1 e4. There we'll immediately take Black from whatever his beloved variation might be with 2 ♘c3. If Black plays the Najdorf he'll

usually respond with 2...d6, when I recommend following Magnus with 3 d4!?. Developing the queen this early looks premature, but the idea is simply to fianchetto the queenside bishop, castle long and attack on the kingside. If Black doesn't know his stuff extremely well he can run into immediate problems. Have a look at Carlsen-Wojtaszek to see how an extremely strong and well-prepared GM failed to solve his opening problems.

M.Carlsen-R.Wojtaszek

Gashimov Memorial, Shamkir 2018
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♘c6 5 ♗d2 ♘f6 6 b3 e6 7 ♙b2 a6 8 0-0-0 b5 9 f3 h5 10 ♘h3! ♙e7 11 ♘g5 h4?! 12 f4 ♙b7 13 ♗b1 ♖c8 14 ♙e2 ♗c7 15 ♖he1 ♘h7?! 16 ♘xh7 ♖xh7 17 g4



17...hxg3 18 hxg3 ♙f6 19 ♙d3 ♖h8 20 g4 ♘d4 21 ♖e3 ♗f8 22 ♘e2 ♘xe2 23 ♖xe2 ♙c3 24 ♙xc3 ♗xc3 25 ♗e3 ♖c5?! 26 e5! dxe5 27 fxe5 ♖h1 28 ♖xh1 ♙xh1 29 ♖h2 ♖xe5 30 ♖h8+ ♗e7 31 ♗a7+ 1-0

2...♘c6 is the more common response, and here I offer a choice. If you know your opponent is a Najdorf player then the Chameleon variation with 3 ♘ge2! will really annoy him. I offer this an alternative, but chiefly focus on 3 ♙b5. Here our big hope is to capture on c6 when we have an improved version of a Rossolimo. Check out the following position.

Zeng Chongsheng-Wang Yue Chinese Team Championship 2015



Here I write:

White's plan now is to exchange dark-squared bishops too. The strategic dream for White would be an endgame with knight vs c8-bishop. There's no need to grab the pawn on c5 yet. Indeed it would actually help Black's position quite a lot if he could push the knight back and play ...c6-c5, as then the light-squared bishop would come back to life.

You might be forgiven for thinking your opponent will never take such liberties with his structure. However, Black is the extremely strong Chinese Grandmaster Wang Yue, rated 2726 when the game took place. We can jump forward to the position after 44...♖bb8.



45 b4!

White finally decides it's time. This is a pawn sacrifice, but the rooks enter Black's camp.

45...cxb4 46 axb4 axb4

After 46...cxb4 47 cxb4 axb4 48 ♖b3! Black is actually in zugzwang and can't prevent White's knight from finding a strong post in the heart of Black's position. 48...♗h8 49 ♖b6! ♖xb6 50 ♖e7 wins.

47 ♖b3! ♗a8?

47...c5 48 ♗ba1 will probably also be lost eventually as White's pieces swarm into Black's position.

48 ♗ba1

Black can't stop the White pieces from infiltrating.

48...♖c7 49 c5 ♖a5 50 ♖e7 ♗a7 51 ♖d6 ♖b5 52 ♖xd4

The pawns start dropping. Notice the g6-bishop is still a bystander. White has been a piece up in practical terms the entire game.

52...g3 53 ♖b6 ♗a3+ 54 ♗xa3 bxa3+ 55 ♖c2 ♖a5 56 ♖c3 ♖xc3+ 57 ♖xc3 ♖f7 58 ♗xa3 ♗h5 59 ♖d7 ♗d8 60 ♖f6 ♗e2 61 ♗a7+ ♖g6 62 ♗g7+ ♖xh6 63 ♗xg3 1-0

Following 1 e4 c5 ♖c3 ♖c6 3 ♗b5 ♖d4 we'll play with the modern twist 4 ♖f3. Black's main try is capturing the bishop on b5, but lagging behind in development is very risky. 2...e6 is the other main line, and here I keep Black guessing with 3 ♖f3. Depending on Black's set-up our bishop will go to either b5 or g2. Of course I also cover Black's other second move tries, including 2...a6 which is seen a fair bit these days.

Against the Caro-Kann I recommend a deceptively tricky version of the Exchange variation. Following 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 I like 4 ♖f3!?. The main idea is to jump the knight into e5 to prepare ♗b5 with the intention of forcing Black to give up his light-squared bishop. We'll then be able to build up a solid attack on the kingside. The line is unusual, but has a good pedigree, e.g. Vladimir Kramnik used it to defeat Fabiano Caruana at Wijk in 2018. If that's too mainstream for you I also offer an interesting alternative move order with 1 e4 c6 2 ♖f3 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 ♖e5!? with very similar themes.

V.Kramnik-F.Caruana

Wijk aan Zee 2018



White is clearly better with the bishop-pair and superior structure. Here Vladimir



Two-time British Champion Gawain Jones recently shone in the French League, as we saw last time, and is in action this month in both Reykjavik and Malmo, where he'll face Karpov and Short.

cashied in with 19 ♗xh7+! ♖xh7 20 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 21 ♖h5+ ♖g8 22 ♗xe5 and went on to convert the extra pawn in the major piece endgame.

To annoy Scandinavian players I've gone with 3 ♖f3. The move is likely to be ignored in your opponent's preparation, but as John Bartholomew notes in his excellent Chessable course: 3 ♖f3 is underrated. The key difference to the main move of 3 ♖c3 is that the c-pawn isn't blocked. If Black continues with the most common 3...♖f6 then he allows us to later expand with c2-c4 when Black reaches a very passive position. He's unable to carry out his typical plans. Instead, Black needs to know his stuff and go into the sharp lines with 3...♗g4, but there I've offered a couple of options which challenge Black in different ways.

In general I've wanted to recommend sidelines, but against the Alekhine I couldn't resist the Four Pawns Attack. The variation has built up a fair bit of theory, but as I demonstrate in the book, most of it simply loses for Black! I don't believe Black can get anywhere close to equalising, and needs to be extremely accurate not to lose immediately. The 4PA fulfils all my aims, and is the critical test of the Alekhine.

With Volume Two not out yet, I'll not reveal too many details. Clearly 1...e5 is the main focus, when I advocate putting the bishop on c4. However there's no Giuoco Piano here. Instead we're going to open the centre with a d2-d4 break, either prepared with c2-c3 against ...♗c5 or immediately against ...♖f6, reaching the Scotch Gambit. In both cases we often reach a structure with a pawn on e5 against Black's d5-pawn. We can use it to either play positionally on the queenside or

for a direct attack on the kingside. If we're going aggressive it's very useful that we control the f6-square, depriving Black of a good square for his knight.

The other main opening covered in Volume Two is the French Defence. Here I'm recommending the Advanced Variation, and an improved Milner-Barry Gambit. We sacrifice a pawn to deprive Black of counterplay and make it very difficult for him to develop his pieces. Magnus Carlsen used it successfully recently to defeat Pentala Harikrishna. Anish Giri's recent Chessable course initially omitted this approach. The line was subsequently brought to Anish's attention and he said it was dangerous and underrated. If the top theoretician in the world overlooks the variation then I think it's safe to say your opponents won't be ready for it.

Finally, we'll be equipped with various surprises against Black's offbeat openings too. Whatever Black goes for I hope to prove that life won't be easy for him, and we'll be the ones having more fun. I hope this snippet has piqued your interest, and you'll find the repertoire entertaining and very useful.



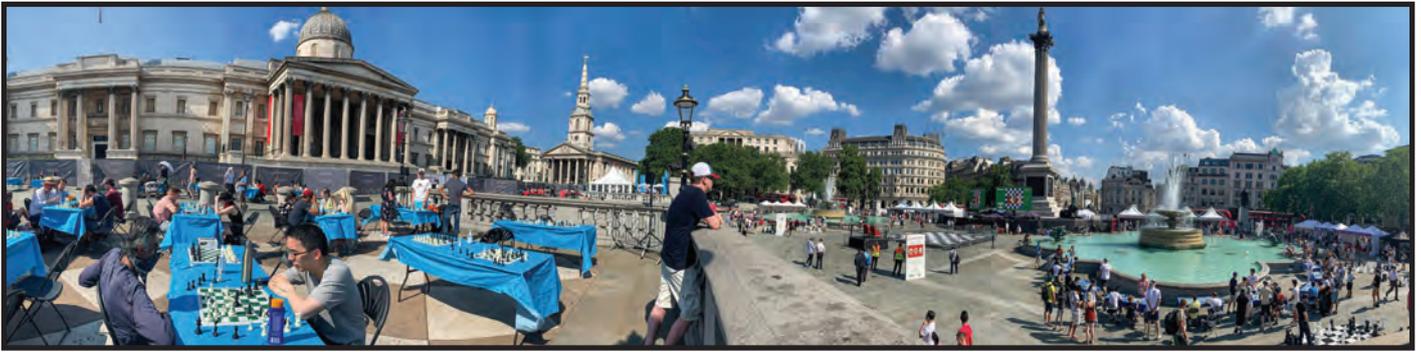
Coffeehouse Repertoire 1.e4 Volume One is available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £24.95 or just £22.45 for Subscribers. Keep an eye out too later this year for Volume Two where Gawain will complete his 1 e4 repertoire against 1...e5 and the French Defence.

It's Coming Home...



What a weekend it was in late July when ChessFest came to town! Above, we see children from various CSC schools around the country enjoying a sunny Friday afternoon in Manchester Square Gardens. They received tuition, got to play in a tournament, faced the likes of Shreyas Royal in a simul and were able to try on some armour from the Wallace Collection which lies on the north side of the square. The following day it was the turn of the DecodeChess Rapidplay (below), where most played under a canvas roof, although some still dressed to avoid the sun. It was actually pleasantly cool, if not on the board as Peter Roberson and Marcus Harvey sprang a major upset to both reach 6/6. Come the Sunday in Trafalgar Square and it was, however, hot, hot, hot. As you'll see on the right, there really was something for everyone, ranging from casual games (some youngsters were even playing an off-line game for the very first time!) to tuition to simuls from the likes of Michael Adams and Gawain Jones. There was also plenty of activity on the big screen, not least when Woody Harrelson opened the event and Shreyas played in the square against Tani Adewumi in New York. And, especially, there were the brilliant displays of living chess staged by the fabulous actors from the Bearded Kitten agency, who really brought the Immortal Game and a special Alice-themed encounter to life.







Overseas News

FRANCE – The 23rd edition of the famous Vins du Medoc tournament took place in Hourtin in south-west France (July 3-10). French IM Wojtek Sochacki edged out German GM Sebastian Siebrecht on tie-break after the pair had pulled a point clear to finish on 7½/9. That meant that Sochacki won his weight in wine, while chess author and psychologist Barry Hymer almost played a lovely combination.

B.Hymer-T.Jahn Hourtin 2021 Barry Attack

1 d4 ♟f6 2 ♟f3 g6 3 ♟c3 d5 4 ♟f4 ♟g7
5 ♟d2 ♟f5 6 ♟e5

A typical Barry leap and one which prepares the upcoming expansion.

6...♟bd7 7 f3 c6 8 g4! ♟e6 9 0-0-0
♟a5 10 e3 0-0-0 11 ♟b1 h5?



Natural enough, but 11...♟xe5 12 ♟xe5 h5 was the way to restrict White to an edge after 13 g5.

12 ♟xd5

Far from bad, but there was something much stronger in 12 ♟xc6!! bxc6 13 ♟xd5 with the neat point 13...♟xd2 14 ♟a6#. Black might prefer 13...♟a4, but after 14 ♟b4! White is still winning in style in view of 14...♟xb4 15 ♟a6+ ♟b7 16 ♟xe7#.

12...♟xd2 13 ♟xe7+ ♟b8 14 ♟xd7+

14 ♟xd2!? ♟a8 (or 14...♟xe5 15 ♟xe5+ ♟a8 16 ♟d3 when the knight is safe enough as Black can't use e8 for both a rook and knight, and if 16...hxg4 17 fxg4 ♟xg4? 18 ♟f2) 15 ♟7xg6 fxg6 16 ♟xg6 should clearly favour White with four pawns for the piece and such a fine centre.

14...♟a8 15 ♟b6+ axb6 16 ♟xd2 ♟f8

And with White's knight in some trouble behind enemy lines, the position was by now no more than rather unclear.

IRELAND – Coláiste Éanna Christian Brothers School in Dublin hosted the 100th Irish Chess

Championship, which saw 53-year-old Mark Heidenfeld, son of the legendary six-time Irish Champion Wolfgang, add a second Irish title to the one he won back in 2000. Sound positional chess was the basis of Heidenfeld's success and while he was defeated by defending champion FM Tom O'Gorman, he otherwise only conceded one draw, to GM Alex Baburin, while defeating FM Conor Murphy. In contrast, O'Gorman would suffer losses to both Murphy and 1990-rated Sean Murphy, who was simply steamrolled by Heidenfeld in the last round.

Leading scores: 1 Mark Heidenfeld 7½/9, 2 Conor Murphy 6½, 3-7 Alex Baburin, Tom O'Gorman, David Fitzsimons, Conor O'Donnell, Tarun Kanyamarla 6.

M.Heidenfeld-S.Murphy Irish Championship, Dublin 2021 Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 ♟f6 2 ♟f3 c5 3 e3 g6 4 c4 ♟g7
5 ♟c3 d5?

Now Black obtains a bad type of a Grünfeld, whereas 5...cxd4 6 exd4 d5! is known to be a fairly comfortable version for him.

6 dxc5! ♟a5?! 7 cxd5 ♟xd5 8 ♟xd5!
♟xc3+ 9 ♟d2 ♟xd2+ 10 ♟xd2 ♟xc5??



Oh dear. Instead, 10...♟xd2+ 11 ♟xd2 0-0 12 ♟c1 restricted White to a rather pleasant extra pawn in Yusupov-Nyback, Puhajarve 2019.

11 ♟c1 ♟f5 12 ♟d4!

The game is already up as Black's queen will be chased away from defending the bishop on c8.

12...♟d7 13 ♟b5 ♟c6 14 ♟xc6! ♟f8 15 ♟xg6 ♟d5 16 ♟g3 e5 17 ♟b4+ 1-0

NORWAY – As part of the Play Magnus stable, Chess24 once again played host to the latest leg of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, one named after their sister company, the Chessable Masters (August 1-9). A clash with the final stages of the World Cup meant that the event

was a little weaker than normal, but new faces rarely go amiss in such tournaments and the youngest grandmaster of all time, Abhimanyu Mishra, had the pleasure of defeating his coach, Pentala Harikrishna, while obtaining plenty of experience and 2½/15 in the preliminaries.

Wesley So top scored with 11/15 to finish half a point ahead of Levon Aronian, Alireza Firouzja and Hikaru Nakamura before the shocks really began at the quarter-final stage as Le Quang Liem stunned Firouzja 3-1 and 2-0, while Vladislav Artemiev knocked out Nakamura after winning at Armageddon. So had meanwhile eased past Jorden van Foreest and then put pay to Artemiev's hopes to set up a final against Le Quang Liem, who had seen off an Aronian comeback only come their Armageddon game.

So took the first set of the final 2½-½, but had to fight back from an opening loss in the second to tie that 2-2 and so pocket the \$30,000 first prize as he won his third Tour event in a row. He now trails Carlsen on the leaderboard with 257 points to the champ's 291, with both expected to play in the ninth and final regular Tour event (August 28 - September 5), as well as the final in San Francisco (September 25 - October 4).

RUSSIA – Alexandra Kosteniuk defeated in-form compatriot Aleksandra Goryachkina in a topsy-turvy final to the FIDE Women's World Cup in Krasnaya Polyana (July 12 - August 2), and so picked up \$50,000. Impressively Kosteniuk didn't need to resort to a third day and tie-break to get past any of Deysi Cori, Pia Cramling, Mariya Muzychuk, Valentina Gunina, Tan Zhongyi and even Goryachkina, who could have won their opening game and never got anywhere as Black in the return.

A.Goryachkina-A.Kosteniuk FIDE Women's World Cup, Krasnaya Polyana 2021



33 ♟g5!

This strong attacking sacrifice ought to have led to a white win.

33... ♖xf2+?

If 33... ♖g6 34 ♖xg6 hxg6 35 ♗e4, but 33...h6!? 34 ♗h3 ♖f5 would at least have given Black a few hopes of a swindle with the powerful c-pawn.

34 ♗h2 ♖c2

34... ♖f5? 35 ♗e4 ♖f2+ 36 ♗h3! would just be all over.

35 e4 h6 36 ♗f7+

To win by force White needed to invite another piece to the party with 36 ♗d1! when the rook will land on d6 or d7 with decisive effect, and 36... ♖b2 37 e5! is also rather crushing.

36... ♗g8 37 ♖d5?

Even here 37 ♗e2! ♖d1 38 ♗h3! ♖xf7 39 ♗e6 ♖f1 40 ♗d2 would have left Black in a fair bit of trouble.

37...c3!

And not 37... ♗h7? 38 e5.

38 ♗xh6+ ♗h7 39 ♗f7 ♖f2



40 ♗g5+?

40 ♖h5+ ♗g8 41 ♗h6+! ♗xh6 42 ♖xh6 was the calm route to half a point, and if 42... ♖f6 (or 42... ♖xe1 43 ♖g6+) 43 ♖h4 c2 44 e5 when White's counterplay arrives just in time.

40... ♗g6! 41 ♖h1 ♖d4?

Another twist. Instead, 41... ♖e3 42 ♗h3 c2! 43 e5 ♗d3 should be winning for Black.

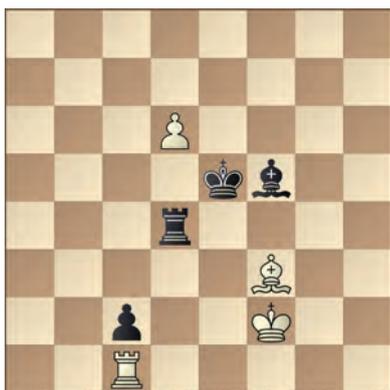
42 ♗h3!

Goryachkina seizes her only chance and both sides fight hard and well over the next few moves.

42... ♖xd5 43 exd5 ♗h6 44 ♖e1 ♗d3 45 ♗f4+! ♗xf4 46 gxf4 ♖xf4 47 d6

Liquidating a set of pawns is natural, but with hindsight White might have preferred 47 a5!?

47... ♖xa4 48 ♗xb7 ♖d4 49 ♗g3 ♗f5! 50 ♗f3 c2 51 ♖c1 ♗f6 52 ♗f2 ♗e5



Alexandra Kosteniuk was somewhat lower-rated than 22-year-old Aleksandra Goryachkina in the final of the FIDE Women's World Cup. However, experience very much counted as 37-year-old Kosteniuk took her chances to run out a worthy winner of the \$50,000 first prize.

53 ♗e3?

Far too routine, although to draw White had to be happy to enter the notorious if drawn endgame of rook against rook and bishop with either 53 ♗e1! ♖xd6 54 ♗d1! or 53 d7! ♖xd7 54 ♗g4!.

53... ♖d3+!

Forcing the king back, whereas Black wouldn't be able to advance after 53... ♖xd6? 54 ♗e2.

54 ♗e2 ♖xd6 55 ♗e1

Black also creeps in after 55 ♗e3 ♖d3+ 56 ♗e2 ♗f4 when 57 ♗h5 continues to prevent an invasion on d1, but Black should still win after 57... ♖d8! followed by switching the rook to the h-file.

55... ♗d4 56 ♗d1 ♗e3!

Black can do much better than reach rook and bishop against rook as now 57 ♗xc2? ♖g6 would force mate.

57 ♖xc2 ♗xc2 58 ♗xc2 ♖d2

Bishop against rook is normally a draw, but not when, as here, the white king is so badly located.

59 ♗f5 ♖f2 60 ♗e6 ♖f6! 61 ♗d5 ♖d6 62 ♗b3 ♖b6 63 ♗c2 ♖a6 0-1

White is completely undone on the back two ranks.

The FIDE World Cup (July 12 - August 5) saw more upsets than the women's version, and not just Ravi Haria's fine opening round elimination of Vadim Zvjaginsev, as we covered last month. 15-year-old Uzbek Javokhir Sindarov eliminated 18-year-old Alireza Firouzja 3½-2½ in the second round before the last-64 saw Sindarov's 16-year-old compatriot Nodirbek Abdusattorov stun Anish Giri 3-1. That same round saw Shakhriyar Mamedyarov eliminated 2½-1½ by 21-year-old Armenian Haik Martirosyan, while Fabiano Caruana crashed out 1½-½ to Rinat Jumabayev.

Meanwhile one of the Gazprom Brilliance

Prizes went to Magnus Carlsen for his lovely King's Indian win over Vladimir Fedoseev, as we can very much look forward to enjoying next month, while the other was awarded to Goryachkina for her win over Antoaneta Stefanova. Another striking game was that played in the very opening round by the Chilean GM Pablo Salinas Herrera.

M.Andersen-P.Salinas Herrera
FIDE World Cup,
Krasnaya Polyana 2021
Semi-Slav Defence

1 ♖f3 d5 2 e3 ♜f6 3 c4 c6 4 ♜c3 e6
5 b3 ♜d6 6 d4 0-0 7 ♜c2 ♜bd7 8 ♜e2
b6 9 0-0 ♜b7 10 ♜b2 ♜e7 11 ♜ad1
♜ad8 12 ♜fe1 ♜fe8 13 ♜f1 c5 14 cxd5
exd5 15 g3 ♜c8 16 ♜h3!? cxd4!

This seems a better reaction to White's ambitious last than 16...c4 17 bxc4 ♜xc4 18 ♜d2 ♜c7 19 ♜b3 when Black came under a bit of pressure in Espenko-Giri, Wijk aan Zee 2021.
17 ♜xd4 ♜b4



18 ♜de2?

Not for the first time these days, the correspondence world had already shown how White should play: 18 f3! a6 19 ♜c1 g6 20 ♜f2 maintained the balance in Standke-Dijon, correspondence 2018.

18...♜e4?

Giving White a chance, whereas 18...♜e5! 19 ♜g2 (19 ♜xc8? ♜f3+ 20 ♜f1 ♜xc8 leaves Black with far too rampant an attack) 19...d4! 20 ♜xd4 (20 ♜xd4 ♜xg2 21 ♜xg2 ♜xc3 22 ♜xc3 ♜d5 23 ♜e2 ♜c5 recoups the piece with quite some interest) 20...♜c5 would have left White rather vulnerable down both the long light-square diagonal and to ideas of ...♜eg4.

19 a3?

There's to be no second chance after this. Instead, 19 ♜xe4! dxe4 20 ♜xd7 ♜f6 21 ♜xb7 ♜xc3 22 ♜xc3 ♜xc3 23 ♜xc3 ♜xc3 24 ♜d1 would have given White full positional compensation for the queen.

19...♜xf2!! 20 axb4

20 ♜xf2? ♜xe3+ is clearly hopeless, and if 21 ♜f1 ♜f3+ 22 ♜g1 ♜c5+, etc.

20...♜xh3+ 21 ♜f1 ♜xe3 22 ♜f5 ♜f6!

Not the only good move, but one which teed up the following gorgeous finish.

23 ♜c1 ♜g4!



24 ♜d3

Of course, if 24 ♜xe3? ♜xe3# and 24 ♜g2 d4+ 25 ♜xh3 ♜f2+ is also quite hopeless, in view of 26 ♜h4 ♜xd1 27 ♜xe3 ♜xe3 28 ♜d7 ♜c6 29 ♜xa7 ♜g2+.

24...d4!

Threatening mate on h2...

25 ♜ed1 ♜g1+!

...which Black now insists on and in some style.

26 ♜xg1 ♜xh2# 0-1

SWITZERLAND – The FIDE Office remains in Lausanne and they continue to publish monthly rating lists. Jan-Krzysztof Duda's victory at the World Cup gained him some 18 points and pushed him up to world no.13 on 2756, some seven points shy of the top-ten, which was, at the time of going to press: 1 Magnus Carlsen (NOR) 2855, 2 Ding Liren (CHN) 2799, 3 Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2799, 4 Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS) 2792, 5 Levon Aronian (ARM) 2782, 6 Anish Giri (NED) 2777, 7 Alexander Grischuk (RUS) 2775, 8 Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE) 2772, 9 Wesley So (USA) 2772, 10 Teimour Radjabov (AZE) 2763.

Meanwhile Aleksandra Goryachkina has closed the gap on Hou Yifan at the top of the women's rating list, Goryachkina becoming only the sixth woman ever to cross the 2600 barrier. She now stands at 2608, with You Yifan clear on 2658 and Humpy Koneru back on 2586, ahead of Ju Wenjun (2560) and Kateryna Lagno (2550).



Forthcoming Events

September 24-26

Northumberland Congress, North Shields

Northumberlandchess.wixsite.com/congress or call 07852 192072

And for the Online Connoisseur:

September 7

Muswell Hill Rapidplay

muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

September 10-12

4NCL Congress, Leamington Spa

www.4ncl.co.uk

September 11

Golders Green Rapidplay

goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

September 11

Guildford 125th Anniversary Simuls

guildfordchess125.eventbrite.co.uk

September 14

Muswell Hill Rapidplay

muswellhillchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

September 17-19

Hendon FIDE 2300 Plus

bit.ly/chessinhendon or call 07855 036537

Aug 26 - Sep 5

European Individual, Reykjavik

reykjavikopen.com; Jones, Navara, Nisipeanu, Sargissian, etc.

September 7-18

Norway Chess, Stavanger

norwaychess.no/en; Carlsen, Firouzja, Karjakin, Nepomniachtchi, Rapport & Tari.

September 23-29 **Sigeman Chess, Malmo**

tepesigemanchess.com; Bacrot, Grandelius, Jones, Karpov, Keymer, Sarin, Short & van Foreest.

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

This Month's New Releases



How to Study Chess on Your Own

Davorin Kuljasevic, 384 pages
New in Chess

RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.05**

Nowadays there are more high-quality training resources than ever before, whether books, magazines, videos, engines, databases or coaches. How, though, can we best choose the right selection for our needs? And how can we create an effective training schedule in order to increase our playing strength?

These are questions that the Croatian Grandmaster and now full-time trainer Davorin Kuljasevic, author of the acclaimed book *Beyond Material*, answers in impressive detail in this new work. Depth, objectivity and ambition are the keynotes of the book.

The author refuses to offer quick fixes, using the insights of sports psychology to support his approach. He is justly sceptical of the mechanical methods that often dominate a player's training time, such as learning openings and endgames by rote or running through strings of tactical puzzles. Instead, he focuses on ways to develop our understanding of the game, sometimes revealing the full depth of grandmaster homework in the process. He discusses fifteen training methods, which include 'reviewing' information, solving puzzles or studies, and his favourite technique of 'simulation' – guessing each move by the winner of a game as in Daniel King's *How Good is Your Chess?* feature in this magazine.

A couple of the recommended methods, analysing with a friend or playing sparring games, make the book's (Covid-era inspired?) title sound perhaps a little incongruous. In tabular form, Kuljasevic evaluates factors such as the intensity and long-term value of the various methods. He recommends a realistic balance: the ambitious reader should make a diversified training plan with an ultimate goal in mind, but should not assume that equal intensity can be maintained at all times.

Kuljasevic gives many valuable tips. One of these is the principle that a computer engine should be the servant of our analysis, not the master. As he explains: "Sure, the engine will usually provide accurate evaluations, but [...] these are forward looking. This means that the engine does not evaluate the position that you see on the board, but rather some position that arises 10, 15 or more moves later [...] This is where many people make a mistake because they take the

engine's evaluation at face value, not realizing that it is practically beyond human capability to foresee the position on which the engine bases its evaluation" (p.86). This has important implications for the analysis of our own games as well as the general study of all phases.

Excellent examples illustrate the key training methods. For instance, the annotations to a game Kuljasevic used record his initial guesses alongside subsequent, engine-assisted analysis. Separate chapters are dedicated to opening, middlegame and endgame training. On the latter, Kuljasevic sensibly advises against reading dense endgame manuals from cover to cover. Rather we can make endgame study more fun as well as more useful by taking a deep interest in one theme at a time, seeking out thematically linked studies, theoretical information and games. In another table, Kuljasevic offers a set of sample recommendations for a practical chess training library. Some of these are traditional, others more idiosyncratic. Taken together, they help the reader navigate the increasingly complex chess consumer market.

This is a long book and not always a concise one. Its difficulty level varies. Much of it consists of common-sense advice enlivened by very sharp psychological insights. In keeping with the theme of objectivity, some of the examples will overstretch less experienced readers, but Kuljasevic makes clear when this is the case and why. Also, Kuljasevic's ambitious sample schedules can be readily scaled down by readers who have less time available. In general, I found the author's approach optimistic, even joyous. Kuljasevic has no doubt that any player of any age can improve at chess by using their study time wisely. He makes an inspiring case for this conviction.

Indeed, I wish I could have read this book as a teenager. For one thing, it might have helped me avoid the common mistake of spending too much time on opening study: Kuljasevic indicates that only ten percent of our time should be dedicated to openings. Also, at the board I often lost my way in 'messy' positions, blaming bad luck or coincidental time trouble. Via his personal experience Kuljasevic explains the remedy for this pattern: it is to 'dynamise' our tactical training. This means practising calculation of positions with heavy traffic on the board and those with no clear solution, and Kuljasevic provides various examples to get us started. This invaluable insight is typical of *How to*

Study Chess on your Own: Kuljasevic's ideas may seem novel at first, but quickly come to feel familiar and practical.

While some tips in this book are very modern, in certain respects there is nothing new under the sun. Kuljasevic's favourite 'simulation' method was recommended by Cecil Purdy. That great instructional writer liked to cite the case of the Scottish lawyer Robert Combe who won the 1946 British Championship out of the blue despite a lack of recent match practice. According to Purdy, Combe's secret was playing guess-the-move with top level games every evening, "and therefore there was nothing in the least astonishing in his victory. Right methods must produce good results, and the only reason for good results being relatively few is that relatively few players follow the right methods." This could well have served as an

July's Studies Competition

Clive Gilliam of Four Marks wins £30 of products from Chess & Bridge. The solution:

Vladislav Tarasiuk

Commend, Bondarenko Jubilee Ty.,
1985



White to play and win

1 b4! ♖xa4 **2 c6!**

And not 2 b5+? ♜xb5 3 c6+ ♜xc6.

2...dxc6

White wins too after 2...♜xb4 3 c7 ♜c4 4 ♜b8.

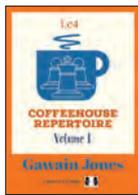
3 b5+! cxb5

Or if 3...♜a5 4 bxc6+.

4 b4! ♜xb4 **5 ♜f7!** ♜a5 **6 ♜xa7#**

epigraph for Kuljasevic's excellent book.

James Vigus



Coffeehouse Repertoire 1.e4 Volume 1

Gawain Jones, 432 pages

Quality Chess

RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

Gawain Jones is back, offering a self-proclaimed coffeehouse repertoire for White.

When Bobby Fischer wrote about the great players of the past in *Chessworld* (1964), in the feature called 'The Ten Greatest Masters in History', he famously described Emanuel Lasker as "a coffee-house player" who "knew nothing about openings and didn't understand positional chess." The term was used in a derogatory way, with Fischer making it clear that he preferred the play of Siegbert Tarrasch over that of the man who held the title of world champion for a record 27 years.

The modern interpretation of a 'coffee-house player' – with or without the hyphen – appears to have evolved from that of a tactically competent yet positionally naive dilettante to a tricky player with a style bordering on the romantic rather than the reckless.

On the practical side, there are good reasons for assembling a repertoire which may not be the most testing in the theoretical sense, but will almost certainly cause problems for opponents, as explained by Gawain.

"These days people know their lines so well that it's often difficult to put them under real pressure. Learning reams of main-line theory might give you a theoretical small edge, but that's not always so useful in a position that your opponent knows well, where he understands the plans and has a good idea of where the pieces should go. Instead, the aim of this series is to play opening lines which ask different questions to those your opponent is used to, and try to put them under immediate pressure."

Three criteria informed the repertoire choices, namely soundness, the capacity to pack a punch and to offer "relatively offbeat choices where possible, provided they met the above two criteria."

The repertoire starts with 1 e4 and this volume covers the Sicilian, Caro-Kann, Scandinavian and Alekhine Defences. The material is very well organised. Each chapter starts with an introduction, a small but useful description of 'What we're hoping for,' a heads-up regarding 'Black's best defences' and some illustrative games. A theory section follows, for those who would like to turn up at their coffee house with a deeper understanding of each line.

The Sicilian is met by 2 ♘c3 and then the options vary, according to Black's initial moves. Magnus Carlsen's intriguing and fresh variation of 1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4

♙xd4 should throw Najdorf and Dragon fans into uncharted waters. Indeed, this quirky variation is typical of the whole repertoire and is certainly faithful to the stated criteria.



At first glance, it looks to be an odd and rather uncoordinated way to play. However, when seen as part of a system, the white moves suddenly make more sense. After the obvious 4...♗c6, the queen drops back to d2 and White continues with b3, ♗b2 and 0-0-0, followed by an attack on the kingside. Who knows the best way for Black to play? It is not so easy to improvise successfully, especially as a Dragon approach gives White good chances after a timely ♗d5 and an exchange of the dark-squared bishops.

Fans of the other black defences are also likely to find themselves out of book rather early in the game. The Caro-Kann runs into "a twist on the common Exchange Variation", which sees White angling for an early ♗f3-e5 and an attempt to gain the early advantage of the bishop-pair. The Scandinavian is met by 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♙xd5 3 ♗f3 and the Alekhine Defence is met by the Four Pawns Attack, in which "Black needs to walk a narrow line to avoid being squashed in the opening."

The second volume will cover 1...e5, the French, Pirc, Modern, Philidor and everything else which may be used against 1 e4.

I get the distinct impression that if over-the-board chess becomes normal once more then many club and tournament players will be so relieved that they will be playing for fun rather than taking their games very seriously – at least initially. This makes a 'coffeehouse repertoire' all the more appealing. Anyone who feels the same will welcome this interesting book with its fresh and intriguing lines.

Sean Marsh



Winning

Nigel Short, 416 pages

Quality Chess

£29.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.55**

Twelve years ago, *CHESS* published my

interview with Nigel Short. We discussed many topics, including the books which had been written about him.

I asked: "Why haven't we got a book by Nigel Short?"

He replied: "I'm too lazy."

Nigel was, however, thinking about putting pen to paper and he already had in mind a plan for a book. "There are certain matches and tournaments which I could talk about at great length".

Fast forward to 2021 and the book is finally here, although it took a (hopefully) once-in-a-lifetime event to bring the project to fruition, as explained in the author's typically deadpan style. "This is my first book, and it has taken a global pandemic for me to write it."

Nigel's chess career stretches back a very long way. It is easy to forget now that chess was on both BBC2 and Channel 4 every day he played a game in his title match against Garry Kasparov back in 1993. The coverage was unprecedented and has never been equalled.

His book has been hugely anticipated since Quality Chess announced it was on its way. The structure remains true to the initial thoughts of 2009:

"The format of *Winning* is highly unusual. Indeed, I believe it is unique in the vast literature of chess. Rather than attempting to squeeze my entire career into a single volume, and failing miserably, or produce an entertaining, but grossly distorted, 'best games' selection, in which I might con you into believing that I am a brilliant player; I have chosen instead to focus in detail on eight tournaments spanning several decades."

Each tournament receives its own chapter; each one uses a song title as its title, including 'Happy' and 'China Girl'. The time scale runs from Wijk aan Zee 1987 up to Anjali 2016. The tournament crosstables serve to remind us just how successful Nigel was when he was on top form. In the 1991 Amsterdam tournament, for example, he shared first place with Valery Salov, ahead of eight other top players, including Garry Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov and Viktor Korchnoi.

One particularly interesting feature is that every game played by Nigel in the tournaments in question is included, "For it is only by examining all the games from a tournament that one gets a proper appreciation of how an event unfolded." This is not a cherry-picked selection; the author readily admits that "The quality of games ranges from the exceptional to the utterly dire."

The notes are surprisingly self-deprecating. Summing up his tremendous success in the aforementioned Amsterdam tournament, Nigel comments: "One might normally expect such a result to require a Herculean effort, but I am struck, looking back, at how unexceptional my play was." Furthermore, "I played sensible, logical, good chess but not more."

His last round game against Karpov is particularly instructive, as are the notes; they show how much has changed between now and then.

A.Karpov-N.Short Amsterdam 1991



A draw was required to share first place. Nigel played:

14...♖d7!

And the game was drawn after 30 moves.

“Garry Kasparov was absolutely convinced that this, and indeed most of the game, was the product of home preparation. No doubt it should have been, but I did not enjoy the benefit of going to the Botvinnik School and therefore, to my great detriment, had never been inculcated with good chess habits.

“I played this excellent move over the board, and calculated it very precisely. The problem with such an amateurish approach is that it places an intolerable strain on your problem-solving ability. I passed the test with flying colours, on this occasion. But on many others I failed.

“The computer generation barely understand this dilemma because, if they want an evaluation and analysis, they simply switch on the engine and the secrets are revealed in a matter of minutes; or seconds. Homework is a lot easier when you have an all-seeing electronic servant at your beck and call.”

It has been a long time coming, but this book proves to be worth the wait. Quality Chess have gone the extra mile, giving *Winning* the hardback treatment and interspersing the text with numerous photographs. There is one suggested improvement (or two – I don’t like the cover): I would like to read more of Nigel’s thoughts and opinions on his opponents. He is usually an outspoken character and I am sure he has plenty of personal thoughts to share on his great rivals. He doesn’t normally appear to be particularly concerned about speaking sharply about others, but this facet of his character is absent from the book.

Nigel clearly has more stories to tell and the initial signs regarding another volume are good: “With the exception of the Anzali tournament (Chapter 8), which featured the rather rare Scheveningen System format, all the events contained herein were round-robins. This was a deliberate choice, as I am intending (if the book sells) that matches and open tournaments will be covered separately in future editions.”

Well, readers; if you would like more then you must vote with your wallet – and I sincerely hope that you do.

Sean Marsh



2020 Endgame Maze

Ivan Ivanisevic, 236 pages, hardback
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The Serbian Grandmaster has analysed in some detail a great number of endgames from last year and presents his findings for Chess Informant. 151 made the final cut, split up into chapters on pawn, minor piece, queen and especially rook endings. There are also some 42 equally instructive positions to solve. Throughout the English flows pretty well in what is another nicely produced hardback volume from Belgrade.



A Complete Black Repertoire versus the English, 1...e5

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

Nick Pert returns to the ChessBase studio to reveal how he has long liked to meet the English, namely with 1 c4 e5. He explains the key ideas behind his main recommendations of 2 ♖c3 ♗f6 3 ♗f3 ♖c6 4 g3 ♗b4 and 2 g3 c6 for Black, while also mapping out enough theory for even the stronger club player to quickly get up and running with the repertoire. Not only has Nick played what he preaches, but he regularly draws on the games of Anish Giri for some nuances and model displays.



Chess Crusader

Carl Portman, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

Regular readers will be fully aware of Carl Portman’s monthly column in these pages, which always combines instruction and insight on various important chess issues with being most readable. *Chess Crusader* is similar and this account of Carl’s life, in which chess has undoubtedly played a major role, has already sold out once at Chess & Bridge. To learn more about the book, do just turn to page 32 of this issue.



Master Class Vol.14 – Vasily Smyslov

Mihail Marin, Karsten Müller, Yannick Pelletier & Oliver Reeh, PC-DVD;
running time: 7 hours, 45 minutes
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

We tend to associate the seventh world champion with harmony and viewers will certainly learn plenty about piece coordination and technique in this latest and welcome addition to the *Master Class* series. The coverage is split up into 61 short segments, while there are also puzzles to solve, a short biography to enjoy and a complete collection of Smyslov’s games. Smyslov remained a strong player well into his sixties, even facing Garry Kasparov in the 1984 Candidates final, and the experienced team of presenters explain how his intuitive style and love of the queen exchange helped such longevity.

Also recently in stock is *ChessBase Magazine 202* (RRP £17.99; Subscribers – £16.19). The latest PC-DVD format of *CBM* pays homage to Jan Timman, who turns 70 later this year, while giving plenty of coverage to the Yekaterinburg Candidates and supplying a number of new opening ideas.



Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Taimanov and Averbakh

Andrew Soltis, 380 pages, hardback
RRP £59.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £53.95**

Soltis has certainly been busy of late and it’s good to see more coverage of Vassily Smyslov in McFarland’s latest lavish publication, which is subtitled ‘A Chess Multibiography with 220 Games’. On top of the 44 photographs and generally excellent annotations, Soltis is keen to reveal plenty about his subjects, not least the role that fate played in all their chess careers. For instance, while Bronstein’s fatal mistake costing him the world championship against Botvinnik is quite well known, that a different pivotal decision saved him from death at the hands of the Nazis is less so.



The Chessmaster Checklist

Andrew Soltis, 256 pages, paperback
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Soltis’s works for Batsford are always aimed squarely at the club player and this

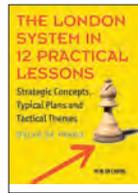
latest one is no exception. The focus is on what questions should we ask ourselves before making a move, some of which over time may even be done subconsciously. You might have thought that any checklist was quite small, but Soltis demonstrates that there is much more to consider than just what the opponent is threatening. Throughout the examples and advice stand out for their clarity and there will be many worse books to study as a warm-up for the upcoming chess season.



The Creative Power of Bogoljubov Vol. II: Attack, Defense, Planning and More
Grigory Bogdanovich, 402 pages, paperback
RRP £34.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £31.45**

In the second and final volume of his coverage of the arguably forgotten and underrated Efim Bogoljubov, IM Bogdanovich groups the Russian-born German player's games by various instructive themes, into which the 191 games are divided. The two-time world championship challenger certainly contributed much more to opening theory than we might perhaps realise nowadays when his name is only really associated with 1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 ♘b4+. Likewise, Bogoljubov was no mean endgame player and there is undoubtedly a wealth of information in this book for the keen student and/or those who like to study the giants of the past. Fittingly for such a labour of love, publisher Elk & Ruby have also produced a hardback version, which is

available for £44.99 or £40.49 for Subscribers.

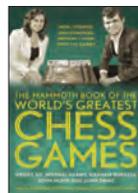


The London System in 12 Practical Lessons

Oscar de Prado Rodriguez,
272 pages, paperback

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

The popularity of the London System shows no sign of abating, so it's perhaps no surprise to see the Spanish author return to the New in Chess fold to follow up his 2016 work *The Agile London System*. This time around the emphasis is more on general ideas and practical play rather than theory. As such, chapters include typical attacks in the London System and the early exchange of the London bishop.



The Mammoth Book of the World's Greatest Chess Games

Wesley So, Michael Adams, Graham Burgess,
John Nunn & John Emms,

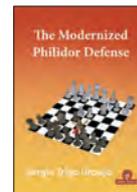
814 pages, paperback

RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

When this book first appeared in 1998, it was far from small and presented excellent value for money. This latest, fourth edition sees the three original authors joined by

world-class stars Adams and So, whose thoughts are well worth reading. The book now contains some 145 games, with all the earlier notes revised in light of the ever-increasing strength of the engines. In short, a modern chess classic has become even more of a modern chess classic.

The latest edition of *The Mammoth Book* is from French publisher Hachette, who have taken over Hodder & Stoughton. Hachette have also brought Laszlo Polgar's classic *Chess: 5334 Problems, Combinations and Games* back into publication with a new foreword from Bruce Pandolfini. This monster paperback runs to some 1,104 pages and retails at £25.99 or £23.39 for Subscribers.



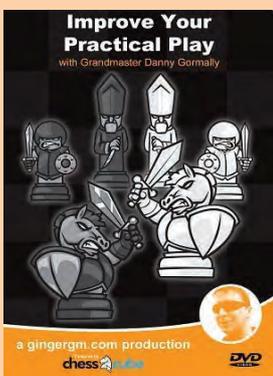
The Modernized Philidor Defense

Sergio Trigo Urquijo, 416 pages, paperback
RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

This is a no-nonsense repertoire for Thinkers Publishing devoted to 1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♗f6 3 ♗c3 e5, which is sometimes known as the Black Lion and will often become a Philidor after 4 ♗f3 ♗bd7. The author is a Spanish FM and theoretician who has certainly put in the hours on mapping out this detailed repertoire for Black, as attested by the size of the bibliography. If you want a sensible, largely bomb-proof repertoire against 1 e4, as well as one which avoids the main lines, then Trigo Urquijo's may well be it.

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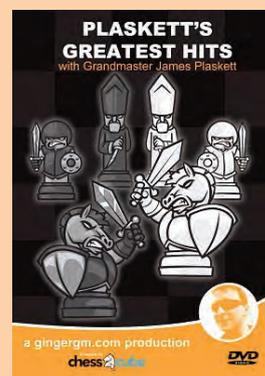
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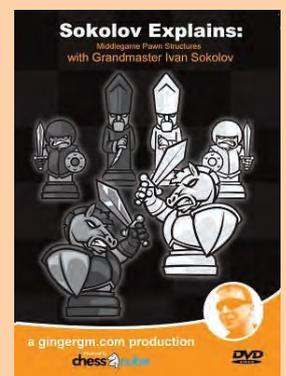
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