

# Chess

## *McShane* **MONARCH OF THE MANX**

Luke reports from Douglas as international chess returns to the Isle of Man

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**Second Half Stunner** – Carlsen dug deep to turn things round and win in Norway

**The President's Men** – Ben Graff examines FIDE's history under Euwe and Olafsson

**Rereading Reykjavik** – Stewart Player on why Spassky humoured Fischer's demands

# Chess

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John has remained rather gripped inputting the Regency Masters	

Photo credits: Altibox Norway Chess/Joachim Steinbru (pp.13, 15-17), Maria Emelianova (p.12), Calle Erlandsson (p.25), John Henderson (p.19), Bob Jones (p.46), Anastasia Karlovich (p.28), Brendan O'Gorman (p.48), Lennart Ootes (pp.1, 50-51), John Saunders (pp.8-10), John Stubbs (p.47), John Upham (p.30).

# A Sense of Urgency

FM Julian Way takes a look at the attacking genius of Russian GM Vadim Zvjaginsev



Vadim Zvjaginsev is a Russian Grandmaster who was born in 1976. He graduated from Moscow State University in 1997 with a degree in economics, prior to which he was trained by Yusupov and Dvoretzky. Studying with Dvoretzky was certainly unconventional at times: Zvjaginsev used to particularly enjoy listening to Dvoretzky recite anecdotes about Russian chess history and culture. Training sessions evidently involved a lot of football and late night blitz.

Zvjaginsev has consistently been in the top-100 in the world without ever quite breaching the 2700 barrier. He has an enterprising approach to chess, often favouring dynamic possibilities over materialistic concerns. His most famous game against Cifuentes Parada from 1995 has been dubbed 'The Pearl of Wijk aan Zee' as it features an audacious queen sacrifice and an extravagant king hunt. The game is typical of Zvjaginsev's willingness to complicate and illustrates perfectly his amazing tactical prowess.

Zvjaginsev has also introduced some interesting ideas into the opening: for instance

2 ♖a3 against the Sicilian which he has used to defeat the former FIDE World Champions, Khalifman and Ponomarev. This line is a paradoxical choice as it develops the knight on the edge of the board, something which is normally discouraged. However, it is worth bearing in mind that a knight frequently arrives on a3 in the Sveshnikov variation, albeit via a circuitous route, and an early ♖a3 is often seen in the c3 Sicilian. Indeed, 2 ♖a3 gives White the option of playing c2-c3 and d2-d4, so it clearly has its merits. Furthermore, it certainly takes Black out of his/her prepared lines.

It is worth noting that Zvjaginsev's opening repertoire tends to focus on lines which are extremely sharp and have not been subjected to extensive theoretical scrutiny. After 1 e4 e5 he is well known for championing the King's Gambit, which is a rare choice in elite chess. Against the French he has tried 2 f4, a move analogous to the Grand Prix Attack. With Black he is a great advocate of the Schliemann Defence to the Ruy Lopez and against 1 d4 unsurprisingly he opts for counterattacking defences such as

the King's Indian.

In the middlegame Zvjaginsev is prepared to make bold attacking choices which lead to unbalanced positions. For instance, in one of the games featured below, he sacrifices the exchange without any immediate or obvious compensation. Instead, Zvjaginsev identifies certain long-term advantages resulting from a lasting initiative. This initiative enables him to put his opponent under considerable pressure and eventually it proves impossible to withstand. With correct play Malakhov may have been able to defend, but it must be stated that being under constant pressure is no easy task from a psychological perspective and so fighting for the initiative in this way actually makes good practical sense.

In the second game, we'll again see Zvjaginsev harnessing the initiative to good effect, if this time for the sake of a mere pawn. In this game the sheer urgency and accuracy of his attack means that it is only a matter of time before Black wilts. It is urgency which may well be the defining aspect of Zvjaginsev's play. I hope it is a

concept which readers can transfer into their own games or at the very least sit back and savour rather like a high octane action thriller.

**V.Malakhov-V.Zvjaginsev**  
Poikovsky 2004  
*King's Indian Defence*

**1 ♖f3 ♜f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♗c3 ♘g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♙e2 0-0 6 0-0 e5 7 d4**

We have reached a standard King's Indian Defence via a slightly unusual move order. Zvjaginsev tends to choose openings which offer good counterattacking opportunities.

**7...♗c6 8 d5 ♗e7 9 ♗d2 a5 10 a3 ♙d7**

Threatening to play ...a4 and create a clamp on the queenside, the sector of the board where White wants to expand.

**11 b3 c6**

Black decides to undermine the centre in this manner. An alternative is to play 11...♗e8, expand with ...f5 and perhaps create a king-side initiative. It is curious that Zvjaginsev achieves this goal, but by playing 11...c6 instead.

**12 ♙b2 ♖b6!**



This provocative sortie is typical of

Zvjaginsev's determination to persistently muddy the waters.

**13 dxc6 bxc6**

This allows Black to create a crucial majority in the centre.

**14 ♗a4 ♖c7 15 c5!?**

White wants to secure b6 for his knight, but the downside is a mobile black pawn centre.

**15...d5 16 ♗b6 ♗ad8**

Zvjaginsev calmly brings his last piece to the party.

**17 ♙c3**

The bishop is aiming for a5, hoping to skewer the black queen and rook.

**17...♗xe4 18 ♗xe4 dxe4 19 ♙xa5 ♗f5!**



Zvjaginsev is not concerned about losing the exchange. In return he gains active piece play and an impressive knight on d4. In contrast, the white rooks are fairly pitiful.

**20 ♗c4 ♖b8 21 ♙xd8 ♗xd8 22 b4**

As in other variations of the King's Indian Defence, it is White's prerogative to initiate a queenside expansion.

**22...♙e6 23 ♖e1 ♗d4!**

Black's knight assumes an ominous authority over the centre of the board.

**24 ♗a5 ♖c8!**

Zvjaginsev decides that it is time for his queen to operate on the light squares, not only that she defends c6. Slowly Black is empowering each of his pieces. Next he will turn his attention to the bishop on g7.

**25 ♗d1 ♙h6!**



The bishop will soon become a powerful asset in the ensuing attack.

**26 ♙h1**

Perhaps White fears ...e3 and then Black recapturing on e3 with check.

**26...♙f4!**

A wonderful square for the bishop as it eyes up the vulnerable white king position. There is real venom and accuracy in the way Zvjaginsev deploys his pieces.

**27 a4 ♙d5!**

Again Black optimises his bishop with latent threats against the isolated monarch.

**28 ♙c4**



White is seeking to exchange pieces, but it is too little, too late.

**28...♗f3!!**

A really nice infiltration into White's camp. The knight is clearly immune.

**29 ♖e2 ♗xh2!** The attack removes an important defensive pawn.

**30 ♙xd5**

This exchange only serves to strengthen Black's centre, but what else can White do?

**30...cxd5 31 f3 ♗xf1**

The exchange is recovered, and the initiative is still retained.

**32 ♗xf1 e3**

This releases the tension, but Black now has a bind reinforced by a mobile pawn centre.

**33 c6 d4 34 ♗d1 ♙g3!!**



This fixes the g-pawn, preventing g2-g4; the black queen can now swing over to h5 with devastating effect.

**35 f4**

White is doing his best to prevent the black queen from reaching h5.

**35...e4!**

Black resists the free booty on f4 preferring to surge forward in the centre.

**36 ♗b3 d3! 37 ♖xe3 ♖g4**

The black queen enters the fray.

**38 ♗b1 ♖h4 39 ♙g1 ♖h2 40 ♙f1 ♖h1 41 ♖g1**

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**41...e3!!**

An audacious queen sacrifice which leads to a forced mate.

**42 ♖xh1 e2 43 ♔g1 d2! 0-1**

A truly amazing final position reminiscent of McDonnell versus de Labourdonnais (4th match, 16th game, London 1834).

### V. Zvjaginsev-S. Slugin

Moscow 2008

Caro-Kann Defence

**1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 f3**

The Fantasy variation which is very provocative and fully in keeping with Zvjaginsev's style.

**3...g6 4 ♖c3 ♗g7 5 ♗e3 ♖b6!?**

A very double-edged choice by Black. The opening is now similar to the Gurgenzidze variation of the Modern Defence.

**6 ♗d2!**

Once provoked, Zvjaginsev is in no mood for mercy. He tempts his opponent to take on b2 and hopes for dynamic compensation in the form of a dangerous initiative.

**6...♗xb2**

Black bravely takes the bait.

**7 ♖b1 ♖a3 8 ♗d3**

White's plan is to complete his development and then go for an all-out assault against the black king.

**8...dxe4?**

Opening up the position in this way seems like a poor choice. A better policy is to keep the position closed if one is behind in development.

**9 fxe4 e5?**

Again opening the position further seems unwise.

**10 ♗c4!**



This is a superb move redeploying a piece which has already moved. Perhaps development should not be seen simply as moving a piece from its initial square, but rather activating it with optimum potency.

**10...♗f6**

The board beckons chaos. One can sense the huge potential of White's army as it prepares to co-ordinate an attack.

**11 ♗f3 exd4 12 ♗xd4**

Recapturing with the bishop is very precise and allows it to control the key long diagonal.

**12...0-0 13 0-0 ♖e7 14 e5!**

Gaining useful space and asserting a compelling initiative.

**14...♗g4!**

Black attempts to stay active which is the best approach in such circumstances.

**15 h3 ♗h6 16 ♗e4!**



Controlled aggression: Zvjaginsev effortlessly exerts control of the centre and suggests that Black's extra material will prove to be irrelevant.

**16...b6**

Black desperately seeks to develop his queenside.

**17 ♗e3!**

Zvjaginsev seeks to redeploy his excellent bishop so that it can make an even more meaningful contribution.

**17...♗f5 18 ♗g5**

Gaining a useful tempo.

**18...♖c7 19 g4 ♗e7 20 ♗f6!**

An important intrusion into the black camp.

**20...♗h8**

Taking the knight would leave the dark squares indefensible.

**21 ♖f2**



Zvjaginsev expertly repositions his queen, intending to place her on h4 with clear intent.

**21...♗g8**

Black is forced to grovel unceremoniously. Surely it is only a matter of time...

**22 ♗xh7!**

White eliminates a vital defensive pawn.

**22...♖xh7 23 ♖h4 ♗h6 24 ♗xh6 ♗xh6**

**25 g5 ♗f5**

Meeting the threat of 26 ♖h6 ♗g8 27 ♖xg6.

**26 ♖xh6 ♗g8 27 ♖bd1!!**



Zvjaginsev patiently invites the queen's rook to join the attack. He intends to place it on d6 where it will cause serious havoc.

**27...♖e7 28 ♖d6**

As anticipated.

**28...♖d8 29 ♗xf7!**

Tactics flow from effective piece placement.

**29...♗xf7 30 ♖h7 ♗f8 31 ♖h8 ♗f7 32 ♖f6! 1-0**

It is significant that the rook which Zvjaginsev called upon on move 27 delivers the decisive blow. This game is very typical of Zvjaginsev's mercilessly precise style.

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# 60 Seconds with... Anastasia Sorokina



**And the worst?** Losing.

**Your best move?** Mating with ♖h7!

**But less memorable than your worst move?**  
I prefer to forget all the bad things in my life.

**And a highly memorable opponent?** Ruth Sheldon. We battled long and hard in the final round of the World Under-12 Championship for third place. It was a draw, so I missed out on a medal, finishing fifth.

**Favourite game of all time?** That classic Sicilian, Kupreichik-Tal.

**V.Kupreichik-M. Tal**  
Sochi 1970  
*Classical Sicilian*

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘c6  
5 ♘c3 ♘f6 6 ♙c4 ♖b6 7 ♘b3 e6 8 ♙e3  
♖c7 9 f4 a6 10 ♙d3 b5 11 a3 ♙e7



12 ♖f3 ♙b7 13 0-0 ♗c8 14 ♗ae1 0-0  
15 ♖h3 b4



16 ♘d5!? exd5 17 exd5 ♘b8 18 ♙d4 g6

19 ♗f3 ♙xd5 20 ♗fe3 ♙d8 21 ♖h4 ♘bd7  
22 ♖h6 ♖b7 23 ♗g3 ♘c5? 24 ♘xc5 dxc5



25 f5! cxd4? 26 fxf6 fxf6 27 ♙xg6  
♙h8 28 ♖xf8+ ♘g8 29 ♙f5 ♖b8 30 ♗e8  
♖f7 31 ♗h3 1-0

**The best three chess books:** *My 60 Memorable Games* by Bobby Fisher, Tal and Zhuravlev's *Encyclopaedic Manual of the Game of Chess* and Kupreichik: *The Maestro of Minsk*.

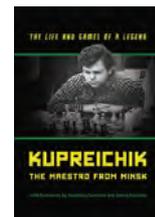
**Is FIDE doing a good job?** Yes! FIDE is developing a lot of new projects. Many of them are social projects, which I believe are extremely important.

**Or your National Federation?** Depends which one!

**Any advice for either?** I try to only give advice when asked too.

**Can chess make one happy?** For sure.

**A tip please for the club player:** Just enjoy playing chess! Chess is kind of a little copy of life and you always should remember that freedom is inside us. Everything in life, as in a chess, is possible – you just need to believe and be honest.



*Ed. – Anastasia supplies a foreword and contributes to an exciting new book about her uncle, Viktor Kupreichik. Copies of Kupreichik: The Maestro of Minsk will, of course, be available from Chess & Bridge from November 1st, retailing at £25 or £22.50 for Subscribers.*

**Born:** 26th January 1980, Minsk.

**Place of residence:** Riga, but with a second motherland on top of Belarus in Australia.

**Occupation:** Chess person! FIDE Vice-President, WIM, International Arbiter and Organiser, and leader of the social projects Infinite Chess (chess for children with autism), and Chess for Protection (chess for refugees).

**Enjoyable?** It's great to be back to chess travel time.

**And home life?** The pandemic meant more time spent with my daughter.

**But sometimes good to escape to:** Greece, for frappé and girls' chat with my best friend Anastasia Karlovich.

**Sports played or followed:** I enjoy boxing, Muay Thai, hockey and tennis, and from time to time I do some fitness work.

**A favourite novel?** *Arch of Triumph* by Erich Maria Remarque.

**Piece of music?** I love The Doors.

**Film or TV series?** *Rain Man*, *Money Heist*.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?** Meeting new people and old friends.

# Guildford Chess Club Turns 125!

by Nigel Povah

As mentioned in September's *CHESS*, 2021 is Guildford Chess Club's 125th anniversary. To commemorate the occasion we decided to stage a 125-board simultaneous display on Guildford High Street on 11th September and to accommodate all-comers, we invited nine masters to each take on 12-15 opponents. Thanks to our long-standing involvement in the 4NCL, we had a wide pool of strong Guildford players to choose from, so we had a good mix of talents to appeal to a wide array of participants.

We put out a significant amount of publicity amongst local schools and chess clubs across Surrey and the surrounding area, as well as through the ECF and various other chess outlets. We also put up a series of banners and posters in Guildford Town Centre.

We set up a booking system on Eventbrite, so come the day we were fully booked on all 125 boards for each of the three one and a half hour playing sessions at 10.30, 12.30 and 14.30, with over 50 people awaiting the opportunity to step in, if games finished early or there were no-shows.

We were fortunate with the weather on the day. After a brief opening ceremony with an address by the Mayor of Guildford, play got underway and we saw a huge number of people taking interest throughout the day.

Every participant received a certificate acknowledging their participation and their master opponent, and those achieving a result (win or draw) also received prizes. The event was well managed by a team of helpers, acting as controllers and stewards. Over 410 games were played, with the masters only conceding 17 draws and seven losses. The most notable performances came from Gawain Jones (who only conceded two draws in his 50 games, despite facing the strongest opposition), and Andrew Martin and Alex Golding, both of whom won all their games.

The event was so well received that there were many enquiries about how regularly we ran this and would we be doing it again next week or next year! Most pleasingly we attracted a lot of interest, resulting in a boost to the club's adult membership, as well as in our junior section, which was relaunched after the pandemic. For more details please visit the Club's website at: [www.guildfordchess.org.uk](http://www.guildfordchess.org.uk).



The nine masters: Back row (left to right): IM Matthew Wadsworth, IM Andrew Martin, FM Harry Grieve, GM Gawain Jones; Middle row: IM and sterling organiser Nigel Povah, FM Alex Golding, GM Nick Pert; Front row: FM Akshaya Kalaiyalahan, Jessica Mellor.



The Mayor of Guildford, Mrs Marsha Moseley, kindly opened the event and here plays the first move on Gawain's board against William Golding. Note the iconic Guildford Clock in the distance on the right, which is the foundation of Guildford Chess Club's logo.



Enjoying the day, Andrew Martin tackles a group of boys from Guildford's RGS Prep School.



# Home News

**BATTLE** – The 2021 ECF Book of the Year is Sergey Voronkov's *Masterpieces and Dramas*, which covers the first ten Soviet Championships. Judges Ray Edwards, Jovanka Houska and Sean Marsh commented that "Potential readers might be discouraged by the apparently obscure subject, but they should not be!" Indeed, Voronkov's prose flows beautifully as he paints a rich picture of the players and how the tournaments were staged against a backdrop of economic hardship. The chess is unsurprisingly also rather good. Notably too Nigel Short's *Winning* received a special commendation from the judging panel.

**BLenheim** – Blenheim Palace supplied a sumptuous setting for the Terafinal, the concluding stage of the 2021 UK Chess Challenge, which was staged over the weekend of October 9th and 10th. This year's event featured five sections, each a 12-player rapid all-play-all. The Under-18 section was especially hard fought with Aaravamudhan Balaji (Petts Wood) edging out Tanmay Chopra (Harrow) on tie-break, having won their individual encounter. Just half a point behind on 8½/11 was Yichen Han (Forest Hall).

Both Rajat Makkar (Reading) and Arjun Kolani (Brighton College) racked up a huge 10/11 in the Under-14s, the former taking the £250 first prize on tie-break. The Under-10 Champion is Elis Denele Dicon of Coventry Chess Academy, with Advait Keerthi Kumar (Watford) winning the Under-8s on tie-break from George Zhao (Barnet), while Freddy Gordon won the Under-12 Championship by a point and a half. The Edinburgh schoolboy will make his full Scotland debut in the upcoming European Team Championship in Slovenia, where he will line up on board 5 behind Alan Tate, Andrew Muir, Graham Morrison and Adam Bremner.

**BUDE** – Bob Jones reports:

"The early signs of a post-Covid & OTB recovery were seen in Cornwall in late September when, after a gap of two years, the 2nd Peter & Peggy Clarke Memorial Rapidplay took place at the Parkhouse Centre in Bude. Of their three daughters, Sally, the oldest, was unable to travel down from Derbyshire, but the youngest, Susie, played in the tournament, while Pennie manned the refreshments stall, with proceeds going to a cancer charity. Their uncle, Chris Wood, also played.

"The favourites were, of course, John and Petra Nunn, now resident in the town, but there was also a vanload of young students from Exeter University of various nationalities and untested skills, all of which made for an interesting mix of talents.

"It was the best-known of the students, Will Claridge-Hansen, who in the final round denied John Nunn the chance of a perfect 6/6 score, though he came clear first anyway. Not to be outdone, Petra was runner-up on 5/6, with Claridge-Hansen back on 4½."

## Notes by Will Claridge-Hansen

### W. Claridge-Hansen-J. Nunn

Bude (rapid) 2021



After having declined an early draw offer and completely misplaying the opening, I was happy to have reached a position with some play in it.

1...♗cb7 2 ♖xc7 ♗xc7 3 ♖xc7 ♗xc7 4 b4! ♗b6 5 ♗f3 ♗c4?

5...f6 maintains the rough balance.

6 ♗xc4 bxc4 7 ♖c3 f6 8 ♖h3?

White is doing very well after the more natural 8 a4! ♗d6 9 ♗d2.

8...♗d6 9 ♖e6+ ♗h8 10 h5? ♗b5!

Now White has no more advantage, and the game soon ended in a draw.

11 ♗d2 ♗xc3 12 ♗xc3 ♗f2+ 13 ♗h3 ♗f1+ 14 ♗h2 ♗f2+ 15 ♗h3 ♗f1+ 16 ♗h2 ♗f2+ ½-½

**HULL** – The British Chess Championship took place at the University of Hull (October 2-10), and saw top seed Nick Pert win his first British title. Just 22 players took part this year, due in part to the first prize being just £2,000 and because non-titled players could only qualify through the earlier British Online Championship. The event was marred too by a number of withdrawals, albeit understandable ones in the case of illness and juniors departing for the Terafinal. Huge credit must still be given to the ECF for staging a Championship and especially to Stephen Greet, who was able to secure a fine venue with excellent playing conditions.

*Leading scores:* 1 Nick Pert (Sandhurst) 6½/9, 2-6 Danny Gormally (Alnwick), Marcus Harvey (Witney), Mark Hebden (Leicester), Andrew Ledger (Sheffield), Hamish Olson (Edinburgh) 6.

We'll have much more on the British next month, which was certainly a gripping tournament to follow, full of twists and turns. Andrew Ledger was a slightly surprising leader for a long while, until he was outplayed



A perhaps typical prize-giving for the Covid era as John Nunn receives his first prize from organiser and fellow Bude resident John Constable, with Pennie Channing (née Clarke) behind.

by Hamish Olson in the final round, at the same time as Nick Pert held against Marcus Harvey. The 2021 Champion's best effort put British Online Champion Keith Arkell out of the reckoning in round 6.

## N.Pert-K.Arkell

British Championship, Hull 2021  
Bogo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 e6 3 c4 ♙b4+ 4 ♙d2 ♙xd2+ 5 ♖xd2 d6 6 ♘c3 ♗e7 7 g3 0-0 8 ♙g2 c6?!

This creates a slightly strange impression. 8...e5 would be normal.

9 0-0 e5?!

9...d5 was a little grim, if also possibly a better try.

10 c5!



Pinpointing the downside to Black's 8th move and now 10...exd4 11 cxd6 ♗xd6 12 ♘xd4 ♙d8 13 ♙ad1 would leave White clearly for choice, as would 10...♗bd7 11 cxd6 ♗xd6 12 ♙ad1. **10...dxc5 11 dxe5 ♘fd7 12 ♗f4 ♙a6 13 ♘e4!**

Homing in on the hole on d6. Black's opening has not been a success.

13...♗c7

13...f6!? would have undermined the bridgehead, although even here 14 exf6 ♘xf6 15 ♘d6 ♙e6 16 ♘g5 would leave White running the show.

14 ♘d6 ♘d5 15 ♘f5! ♗d8 16 ♗g4

White begins to put his superior development and activity to good use. Already Black's kingside is looking rather shaky.

16...g6 17 e4 h5 18 ♗h3 ♘c7 19 ♙ad1 ♘e6



20 ♙d6!?



Nick Pert began slowly, including being held to a draw by IM Neil Bradbury in this second round encounter, but fought his way through the field while remaining undefeated in Hull.

A tempting sacrifice, but 20 ♗fe1! would have been a stronger one, and if 20...gxf5? 21 exf5 ♘g7 22 f6 ♘e6? 23 ♗h4!.

20...♗e8?

Now it's easy for White. As such, Black had to be brave and try 20...gxf5 21 exf5 ♘g7 when 22 ♗e1 (22 f6? ♘xe5! is a clever defence) 22...♗e8 23 g4!? would have left White with a dangerous attack, but nothing clear.

21 ♗h4 ♘b6 22 b3

A little slow and 22 ♗f6! would have won on the spot, in view of 22...♘d7 23 ♘e7+ ♘h7 24 ♘g5+ ♘xg5 25 ♗xg5 followed by ♘f5 or 22...gxf5 23 ♘g5 ♘xg5 24 ♗xg5+ ♘h7 25 ♗h6#.

22...♘h7 23 ♙fd1

And here 23 ♗f6! gxf5 (or 23...♗g8 24 ♗xe6 fxe6 25 ♘g5#) 24 ♘g5+ would have led to mate.

23...♗h8 24 ♘g5+ ♘xg5 25 ♗xg5 ♙xf5 26 exf5

The attack remains overwhelming. Sooner or later g6 is going to collapse.

26...♘d5 27 fxxg6+ fxxg6 28 ♙e4 ♘e7 29 ♙d7 1-0

The British Women's Championship also took place in Hull (October 14-17), with Harriet Hunt claiming the title just as we went to press.

**LONDON** – Adam Raof's Golders Green Rapidplay returned to St Luke's Church in Hampstead on September 25th, where Russian GM Alexander Cherniaev (Hackney) won the £100 first prize with 6/6, a point ahead of Maciej Czopor (Poland), Peter Finn (Cambridge), Kabir Pandit (West London), John Pigott (Little Heath) and Sanjit Kumar (Richmond). The last of those also won the

£50 Under-1880 rating prize, with the Under-1675 and Under-1475 prizes going to Vinay Vekaria (Harrow) and Shrayan Majumder (Southampton) respectively, while Sam Pritchard (Golders Green) won the separate Under-1450 tournament with 6/6, finishing a point ahead of Alexander Kairat (Battersea).

It was the turn of IM Peter Large (Epsom) to dominate with 5½/6 on October 9th, with Alexander Cherniaev (Hackney), Lorenzo Lucchi (Lewisham) and Gary Senior (Hendon) finishing a half point behind. Rating prizes went to Stefanus Phan (London), David Maycock (Richmond), Avyukt Dasgupta (Watford), Rian Sarkar (Barnet), Lorenzo Fava (Cambridge) and Andrea Passariello (Italy).

**MILTON KEYNES** – The British Seniors Championships took place (October 4-10) at Kents Hill Park, a conference centre and hotel in Milton Keynes. Roger De Coverly wasn't one of the highest-rated players in the Over-65 Championship, but dominated the event as he burst clear with 5½/6 before losing a spectacular game in the final round against Phil Stimpson. Meanwhile in the Over-50 Championship Mike Waddington bounced back from an opening round defeat at the hands of fellow FM Andrew Lewis – and how. Waddington won his remaining six games, including against the two players who landed up tying for second.

**Over-65 Championship:** 1 Roger de Coverly (Bourne End) 5½/7, 2 Ivan Myall (Chelmsford) 5, 3-4 Phil Stimpson (Guildford), Paul Habershon (Bedford) 4½.

**Over-50 Championship:** 1 Mike Waddington (Dorchester) 6, 2-3 Ian Robson (Gloucester), Don Mason (Shirley) 5.

## P.Stimpson-R.De Coverly

British Over-65 Championship,  
Milton Keynes 2021  
*Scotch Gambit*

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♙c4 ♘f6 5 e5 d5 6 ♙b5 ♘e4 7 ♘xd4 ♙d7 8 ♙xc6 bxc6 9 0-0 ♙c5 10 f3 ♘g5 11 f4 ♘e4 12 ♙e3 ♙b6 13 ♘c3!?

White's most direct choice and a move explored in Gawain Jones's recent *Coffeehouse Repertoire*.

13...♘xc3 14 bxc3 0-0 15 ♖d2

Overprotecting the bishop while connecting the rooks, and not 15 ♖f3? f6! when White's centre would have begun to crumble.

15...♗e7 16 ♗ae1 c5 17 ♘b3 ♗ad8?

Badly underestimating the power of White's pawns, whereas 17...c4! 18 ♘d4 c5 19 ♘f3 ♙e6 wouldn't have been too bad for Black.

18 f5! ♙b5?

18...♗xe5 19 ♙g5 wins the exchange, but better this for Black than the game.

19 ♙g5 ♖d7 20 ♙f6!



A lovely move to play and an even stronger choice than 20 ♙xd8 ♗xd8 21 f6.

20...gxg6 21 exf6 ♙h8 22 ♖h6 ♗g8 23 ♗f3 The attack is simply too strong, the doubled f-pawns meaning that White is already threatening a classic mating sacrifice on h7.

23...♗g4 24 ♗e7 ♗e8! 25 h3!

Stimpson is alert and doesn't throw it all away with 25 ♗xd7?? ♗e1+ 26 ♙f2 ♗f1+ 27 ♙e3 ♗e4+ 28 ♙d2 ♗e2#.

25...♗gg8 26 ♗f4 ♗g3



Mike Waddington was seeded tenth of the 19 players in the British Over-50 Championship, but like Roger de Coverly in the Over-65s, sprang something of a surprise as he won six in a row.

27 ♗g4

Good enough, although White also had the calm 27 ♙f2!?, and if 27...♗xe7 28 ♙xg3.

27...♗xg4 28 hxg4 ♗g8 29 ♘d7 ♙xd7 30 ♖f4 ♗e8 31 ♖h6 ♗g8 32 ♖h5 ♗f8 33 ♘d2!

Finally bringing the knight back into play. Unsurprisingly Black is quite lost.

33...c4+ 34 ♙f1 ♙a4 35 ♘f3 ♙e3 36 ♘e5 ♙e8 37 g5 ♙f4 38 g6 fxg6 39 fxg6 1-0

The weekend prior to the Seniors saw the British Junior Championships take place at the same venue. We suspect that a number of future stars will be found amongst the winners, with Mohammed Ismail's 100% in the oldest section just one result of note.

**Under-16 Championship:** 1 Mohammed Ismail (Newham) 5/5, 2 Adam Sieczkowski (Witney) 4, 3 Frankie Badacsonyi (Muswell Hill) 3½ (this was combined with the Under-18 Championship, the title of which curiously Ismail also didn't win, that going instead to Timur Kuzhelev who scored 3/5).

**Under-14 Championship:** 1 Arjun Kolani (Brighton) 4½, 2 Sanjith Madhavan (Glasgow) 4, 3-5 Nina Pert (Brentwood), Dimitrios Zakarian (Oxford), Shivam Agrawal (Wimbledon) 3½.

**Under-12 Championship:** 1 Kenneth Hobson (Cowley) 4½, 2-4 Zain Patel (Richmond), Ethan Li (Edgware), Denis Dupuis (Battersea) 3½.

**Under-10 Championship:** 1 Jan Murawski (Oxford) 6½/7, 2-4 Emils Steiners (Battersea), Kai Hanache (Richmond), Kameron Grose (Barnet) 5.

**Under-8 Championship:** 1 George Zhao (Barnet) 6, 2 Dildarav Lishoy Gengis Paratazham (Maidenhead) 5½, 3 Kushal Jakhria (Charlton) 5.

**NEWCASTLE** – The Northumbria Chess Congress took place at its regular home of The Parks Leisure Centre in North Shields (September 24-26), where Danny Gormally only conceded a draw to fellow grandmaster Nigel Davies en route to claiming the £300 first prize.

**Open:** 1 Danny Gormally (Alnwick) 4½/5, 2-3 Nigel Davies (Southport), David Fitzsimons (Ireland) 4.

**Major:** 1 Andy Hill (Bristol) 4½, 2 John Turnock (Jesmond) 4, 3-8 Mark Taylor (Rochdale), Ned Carmichael (Beverley), Andy Trevelyan (Jesmond), Roger Greatorex (Llangollen), Mark Murrell (Wanstead), Stuart Skelsey (Forest Hall) 3½.

**Minor:** 1-5 Ian Rook (Forest Hall), Noel Boustred (Gosforth), Eddie Czesztochowski (South Shields), Daniel Shek (Crowthorne), Ross Blackford (Dunbar) 4.

**Foundation:** 1 Neil Simpson 7½/10, 2-3 Max Piotrowicz (both Gosforth), Deborah Edmundson (Bishop Auckland) 7.

# This Month's New Releases



## Forgotten Genius: The Life and Games of Grandmaster Albin Planinc

Georg Mohr & Adrian Mikhhalchishin,  
408 pages, Thinkers Publishing  
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

This month brings two books offering worthy tributes to a couple of chess stars who shone extremely brightly in their time, but are now dangerously close to being forgotten. Let's face it; at a time in which even Garry Kasparov, the 13th world champion, is concerned about his relevance in the modern world, the names of chess players from former times who never came close to ascending to the summit will struggle to appear on any radar.

Albin Planinc was a grandmaster from Slovenia who was noted for his extraordinary creativity. His best games are superb examples of attacking chess. Unfortunately, severe mental health problems not only prevented him reaching the heights his talent deserved, but they also led him to withdraw from chess long before his death, in 2008, at the relatively early age of 64. It is possible that many readers have already seen at least a couple of Planinc's games, but probably know very little – if anything at all – about his life. This book aims to rectify the situation, as explained by the blurb:

"This fascinating biography of over eighty-five annotated games and stories are being presented by grandmasters Georg Mohr and Adrian Mikhhalchishin. It covers Planinc's entire life and chess career, including his most fascinating games. This fitting tribute of a forgotten chess genius should be found in anyone's chess library. Thanks to this colorful book Albin Planinc will continue to inspire us all and will keep his spirit alive."

Planinc's victims include Ulf Andersson, Leonid Shamkovich, Jan Timman and Alexander Beliavsky. His best tournament results were startling and included a share of first place with Tigran Petrosian at the IBM tournament of 1973, ahead of established stars such as Lubomir Kavalek and the recently-deposed champion of the world, Boris Spassky.

His first notable success was winning the 1st Vidmar Memorial Tournament in 1969, although it took a lot of persuading to entice him to compete. This is because Planinc had already tried to retire from chess. "It is enough! Chess only confuses me, disturbs the mental balance between me and my mother. I will not play anymore!" His clear first place saw him finish ahead of 15 other players, including Svetozar Gligoric, who had to be content with second place.

It was at this tournament that Gligoric provided an answer to the question numerous people were starting to ask: "Who is Planinc? This question was asked by a surprised friend of mine from West Germany. A superficial answer could be: a very tall, very slim and very calm young man, with glasses that cover the expression on his face. He dropped out of school because of financial problems, tried in vain to become a chess professional for a while, and finally came to terms with the modest position of a worker in a bicycle factory."

There are many interesting photographs, although some are let down by their quality. Those that are pixelated should not have been included. There is also the case of the 'computer hand' which appears to be sticking a finger up the nose of one of the players on page 276, which should have been easily spotted and corrected at the proof-reading stage.

Planinc played very sharp openings, including the Modern Benoni. He had a talent for finding surprising moves, which bamboozled even his strongest opponents. Here is a case in point.

## R.Vaganian-A.Planinc Hastings 1974/75



Vaganian played **22 ♖xb7** allowing the fabulous **22... ♗c7+!**, which forced resignation as **23 ♗xc7** allows **23... ♘b3** checkmate.

The final two chapters cover the tragedy of Planinc's years without chess, the further decline of his mental health and eventual death. The short chapter titles convey the sadness of the situation: '1980-1985 – Agony' and '1985-2008 – Darkness'. Planinc's chess story cannot and should not be separated from his real-life story and this book balances the two aspects admirably.

This big book is worthy tribute to Albin

Planinc. Hopefully he will no longer be the 'Forgotten Genius' and his games will now find a whole new audience.

*Sean Marsh*



## Kupreichik: The Maestro from Minsk

Translated by Ken Neat, 344 pages  
London Chess Centre Publishing  
RRP £25.00 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.50**

I suspect more people will have heard of Viktor Kupreichik than are familiar with the name of Albin Planinc. He had battles against many of the world's top players and was at his best in the 1980s, when his aggressive and highly combative style of play was more than capable of rattling the best players of his generation.

This new book is an English edition of a work first published in Moscow in 2019 and it acts as a fitting memorial to a fine player. There is a new foreword to the English edition by Genna Sosonko, who starts the ball rolling in typical fashion:

"The names of Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Karpov, Kasparov, Korchnoi, Geller and Polugaevsky were known by everyone in the country, and they were no less popular than film stars. But behind this cohort of champions, there were numerous very strong grandmasters, who were hardly known in the West. One of these was Viktor Kupreichik, whose almost entire career fell within the period of that enormous now non-existent empire."

The foreword to the original Russian edition, by Anastasia Sorokina, is also included. Sorokina holds several positions in the world of chess, including being a FIDE Vice-President, but perhaps the most touching honour of all is being able to call Kupreichik "my uncle". Anastasia writes, "The publication of this book is timed to coincide with the 70th birthday of an outstanding chess player, the first Belarusian Grandmaster, a true friend and a wonderful person, Viktor Davydovich Kupreichik."

Alas, the hero of the book died three years short of the birthday in question, but his games live on. The material is presented in four parts: The Hussar from Minsk, Selected Games, Play like Kupreichik! and Memories of His Closest Family. Along the way, there are 85 sparkling games and 26 interesting puzzles.

The first part consists of memories of Kupreichik from a whole range of players,

including Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov, although the latter's memories are taken from other books and show the 13th world champion on the positive side of a win and a draw from two illustrative games. By way of contrast, Alexander Beliavsky, for example, is not the only person to show a game in which he lost to Kupreichik.

Karpov was a junior at the same time as Kupreichik and remembers the talented player fondly. "In subsequent years Viktor and I rarely met at the board, but playing against him was always interesting: he was an exciting and creative player."

Adrian Mikhalchishin's reminiscences run deeper than most and they touch upon Kupreichik's weaknesses: "But the things that he did not like – manoeuvring and besieging, and stubborn positional defence – Kupreichik did not force himself to master. This restricted his competitive opportunities, but nothing hindered his creativity, and Vitek was assured of the love of all chess fanatics (a Canadian admirer even published a book about him)."

Despite the shortcomings, Mikhalchishin remains enthused by his friend's style and games: "He played several dozen brilliant combinative games, about which his colleagues could only dream. This favourably distinguished him from a number of stronger, but 'boring' grandmasters."

Vladimir Tukmakov provides one of the longest tributes in the book and he draws attention to Kupreichik's role as a trainer, which will be of particular interest to those who remember Vasily Smyslov's extraordinary march in the world championship cycle leading up to the 1984 title match. It took Garry Kasparov to halt the former champion in the final Candidates match.

"Players of this type do not normally become high-class trainers – after all, understanding comes through an appreciation of one's own mistakes, through overcoming oneself. But Kupreichik always remained himself: he did not want and was unable to change. Nevertheless, among those who worked with him were the outstanding and stylistically different players Vasily Smyslov and Viktor Korchnoi. Moreover, they were in that position and age when it seemed already too late to learn anything. With Kupreichik's help, at the age of 62 Smyslov reached the final of the Candidates with a far higher level than before."

The Selected Games section utilises Kupreichik's own annotations, but they have been enhanced by the editorial team, who "added verbal comments to the variations and assessments."

The games are exciting. Kupreichik was certainly a staunch supporter of 1 e4 and there are plenty of Open Sicilians in the book, with the hero playing the role of both player and slayer. He even roughs up Mikhail Tal with a trademark ♖d5! sacrifice; a remarkable achievement.

It would have been good to see the games given more context. Were they key tournament encounters? Did both players need a win? Are there any personal stories

behind the encounters? The inclusion of a selection of tournament crosstables would have been useful. There are, however, plenty of excellent photographs, only one of which I recall seeing before (the one where he is "watching a young Garry Kasparov at the 1979 USSR Championship in Minsk").

It is hard to choose just one of the highly entertaining games to provide a snippet for this review. There are so many to choose from, but I find this one to be particularly impressive and instructive, and the sporting notes by the loser are honest and illuminating.

### V.Kupreichik-E.Sveshnikov USSR Championship First League, Kuybyshev 1986



"A discovered check on e3 is threatened, and I thought that my position was fine. Now White loses after 19 ♖h1?? ♗g7, while 19 ♗g4 ♖h7 20 ♗h5+ ♗g7! 21 ♗g4 ♖h7 leads to a draw, but..."

#### 19 ♗f4!

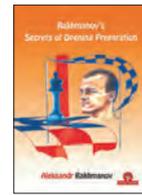
"An elegant interference move, which I had overlooked. White includes his rook in the attack and at the same time defends against the check on e3. When I recovered from the shock I realised that my position was lost: there is no defence against the threat of h2-h4."

We go back to Tukmakov to conclude our review: "Right to the end Viktor was faithful to his life's work. The last time we met was at a veterans' tournament in Sweden. Kuprey, as always, was absorbed in the game and only mentioned in passing his health problems. It was only after the tournament that I learned what it had cost him to participate. Having missed the time for mandatory treatment, he ended up in hospital."

"It is well known that being principled and uncompromising does not make life easier. In chess too these qualities usually only complicate the path to success. However, it was his directness and outright contempt for danger (that) made Viktor Kupreichik's chess style unique, and his path in life honest and worthy."

This month's brace of books show there is far more to grandmaster chess than merely collecting rating points and titles. Both can be recommended to anyone wanting to lose themselves in a world of creative chess, full of attacking games and sacrifices.

Sean Marsh



### Rakhmanov's Secrets of Opening Preparation

Aleksander Rakhmanov, 360 pages  
Thinkers Publishing

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Thanks to the increased availability of resources such as multi-million game databases, analysis engines, books and myriad online resources, opening preparation has become essential work for many chess players. Some simply accept it as a necessary task, whereas others consider it a blight that is reducing chess to a memory contest. Regardless of our views on that particular matter, there is no doubt that opening preparation is a skill that can be learnt.

However, to this reviewer's knowledge, very few books have covered the topic. Furthermore, those that have usually only give general advice. What makes this book different is that it is the first by such a strong player (Rakhmanov was rated 2651 at the time of publication), which shows how they prepare both their openings and for specific games.

Indeed, Rakhmanov writes in the preface, "Although it's difficult to reveal everything in this book, I don't feel obliged to hold something back for myself". Reading that immediately boosted my hopes, because I have high regard for all the books I have read where the author has taken such an approach.

The introduction aims to provide the reader with the necessary information to make sense of the rest of the book. Rakhmanov starts by outlining his playing style and how he prepares for games. He then describes his repertoire with both colours, and how it has been tailored to fit his stylistic preferences and to play for a win against lower-rated opponents. Finally, he lists some 'Common Mistakes in the Opening', gives some general suggestions about what to do, and emphasises the importance of understanding the arising middlegames.

I think this is sound advice, because it seems to me that too many players place greater emphasis on the computer's evaluation than on the 'human' elements, such as the ability of both players to play the resulting positions. Furthermore, I think the entire introduction sets the reader up nicely to be able to digest the rest of the material.

The remainder of the book consists of 85 games, all played by the author, presented over 11 chapters. The games of the first 10 chapters are grouped around various ways of preparing a particular opening ('Thanks to a Coach', 'One-Game Try', 'Thanks to the Opponents'), and how well the preparation for a particular game worked ('Preparation Fails', 'Home Victory', 'Dubious Decisions').

The games illustrate the themes of each chapter well and are nicely annotated, with emphasis on the opening and middlegame. In some places fairly detailed opening variations

across several games provide the reader with a repertoire for certain opening variations. Indeed, such is Rakhmanov's generosity that throughout the book he offers the readers his complete analysis of certain opening lines. I cannot recall encountering this outside of a specialist openings work, and was suitably impressed.

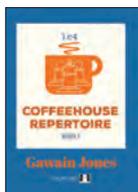
Unfortunately I found the book difficult to navigate at times because Rakhmanov occasionally refers to other games and the complete analysis sections, and there are no page references or games/analysis index to aid this. This, for me, significantly reduced the work's user-friendliness.

Chapter 11 is entitled 'The Book in Practice' and reveals how Rakhmanov used his own ideas over the course of five tournaments. This is up to the quality of the rest of the book, and continues in the same vein of 'This is what I did and this is how I got on'. Throughout the entire work, though, I couldn't shake the feeling that some prospective readers would like Rakhmanov to have said more about why he thought what he played did or did not work.

Overall, this book is an interesting grab bag of ideas that I'm confident will contain plenty of useful information for a wide range of playing strengths. Furthermore, I think Rakhmanov provides considerable hope for the doom mongers who think that chess is being reduced to a memory contest - by showing that it is possible to play at super-grandmaster level with a comparatively small quantity of 'must-know' theory.

Despite the aforementioned quibbles I think that this is a book that can highly reward the prospective reader who is willing to invest the time and effort to take on board the author's ideas, apply them to their own game and try them out. Thanks to Rakhmanov's openness and honesty, it is now possible to obtain thought-provoking insight into an area of the game that, for understandable professional reasons, strong players have previously been unwilling to tread. I, for one, would like to thank him for that.

Paul Hopwood

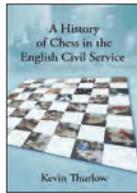


### 1.e4 Coffeehouse Repertoire Volume 2

Gawain Jones, 568 pages, paperback  
RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

The second part of Gawain Jones's fun-looking 1 e4 repertoire has appeared from Quality Chess. Gawain, of course, previewed his repertoire in our September pages and here continues his excellent and deep work. Club players would be advised to stick to the clearly explained key ideas, the main lines and study the various illustrative games; more advanced readers will also want to tuck into the theory, of which there is plenty at times. In this second volume, the main focus is on 1 e4 e5, with 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 met by 3 ♗c4, and if 3...♗f6 then 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 d5 6 ♗b5 or if

3...♗c5 the closely-related line 4 c3 ♗f6 5 d4 exd4 6 e5 d5 7 ♗b5. Full coverage is also provided to enable the reader to confidently meet the likes of the Petroff, the French, countered with the Advance variation, the Modern and the Pirc.



### A History of Chess in the English Civil Service

Kevin Thurlow, Conrad Press, 528 pages  
RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

Former Civil Service Champion Kevin Thurlow is also known as an excellent organiser and arbiter, and is clearly no mean historian either. In this detailed account of the history of chess in the Civil Service, he takes the reader all the way from 1845 up until 2016. Along the way a number of fascinating personalities reveal themselves, while it's hard not to be impressed by the strength of the 50-board teams once regularly fielded by the Civil Service. Coverage is comprehensive, but Thurlow also writes well and this is a surprisingly gripping read at times.



### Calculation Training in Attack & Defence Vol. 1

Robert Ris, PC-DVD; running time: 7+ hours  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Dutch IM Ris is turning into not only a leading trainer in his native land, but also an excellent presenter for ChessBase, not least when, as here, he tackles material aimed squarely at the club player. Ris's starting point is that ever-important question: must I attend to my opponent's threats or can I instead get on with my own plans? Ris helps the viewer to improve their ability to answer that by taking them through 33 positions, which can be solved and have interactive answers, before presenting 10 practice positions to further help drum in the lessons learnt.

There's also a companion DVD, *Calculation Training in Attack & Defence Vol.2*, which also presents more than seven hours of video, retails too at £26.95 and presents a further 33 interactive exercises, or mini-lessons if you prefer, on the topic of judging the strength of your and your opponent's respective play.

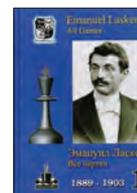


### Chess Informant 149

Sahovski Informator, 344 pages, paperback  
RRP £32.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.69**

The latest high-quality publication from Belgrade is subtitled 'United Colours of Autumn' and features Jan-Krzysztof Duda, no less, explaining how he won the FIDE World Cup. Nigel Davies and Danny Gormally are other contributors as the series of articles at the beginning of each modern volume of the 'Informator' appears to grow ever longer and more wide-ranging. There are, though, also still all the traditional features, including the most important recent novelties, plenty of games annotated in trademark symbol-only fashion, and some stunning combinations.

*Chess Informant 149* is also available in CD format, compatible with most chess programs, like ChessBase, with the paperback and CD versions available together from Chess & Bridge for £39.99 (Subscribers - £35.99), or you may prefer only the CD, which can be purchased for just £9.99 (Subscribers - £8.99).



### Emanuel Lasker All Games Volume 1: 1889-1903

Russian Chess House, 388 pages, hardback  
RRP £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

In his fascinating article on the second world champion in our October pages, Bob Jones was clearly impressed by the definitive biography of Lasker which is gradually appearing in lavish volumes courtesy of the sterling research done by Richard Forster, Michael Negele and Raj Tischbierek. Now we have a different, new series from the Russian Chess House, devoted solely to Lasker's games, although crosstables are included too. Each game is annotated in languageless, Informant-style, with a second volume, *Emanuel Lasker All Games Volume 2: 1904-1940*, running to 342 pages and also available for £29.95 (Subscribers - £26.95).



### Foxy 195: 1...b6 A Dynamic Universal Repertoire Owen's Defence;

1.e4 b6 2.d4 e6

Andrew Martin, PC-DVD;  
running time: 2 hours, 50 minutes  
RRP £14.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £13.49**

Popular presenter IM Andrew Martin returns to the Foxy studio to map out a repertoire for Black with 1...b6, beginning with the fundamental ideas behind Black's set-up before continuing to map out a reasonably detailed repertoire with 1 e4 b6.

Those interested in the Owen's Defence should also be interested in the companion DVD, *Foxy 196: 1...b6 A Dynamic Universal Repertoire English Defence; Part 2 1.e4 b6 2.d4 e6*, which is the same length and price as part one, but sees Martin tackle those lines where White plays an early c2-c4.



### Grandmaster Gambits: 1 e4

Richard Palliser & Simon Williams, 432 pages, paperback  
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The fifth Chessable course to be turned into a book sees the English authors present a fun, practical and extremely aggressive opening repertoire for White. All of 1 e4 e5, the Sicilian, French and Caro-Kann are met in gambit fashion, while an early  $\text{f3}$  e2 and h2-h4 should surprise and intimidate most Pirc and Modern players. Whether you are looking for a complete 1 e4 repertoire or just to jazz up an existing one, the offbeat weapons within this new work from Everyman Chess should more than fit the bill.



### Grandmaster Repertoire: The Berlin Defence

Michael Roiz, 224 pages, paperback  
RRP £22.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.25**

The Berlin Defence is most certainly here to stay and don't be surprised if it even turns up in a certain match in Dubai. Leading Israeli Grandmaster and theoretician Roiz maps out a full repertoire for Black, which is perhaps most notable for the manner in which it doesn't swamp the reader. The key motifs are highlighted, the repertoire unsurprisingly looks very sound, and plenty of coverage is devoted too to those lines where White avoids the famous endgame.

It's also possible to purchase this title in hardback form if you prefer, for £26.99 or £24.29 for Subscribers.



### Master Class Vol.08 – Magnus Carlsen

Mihail Marin, Karsten Müller, Oliver Reeh, Niclas Huschenbeth & Daniel King, PC-DVD; running time: 11+ hours  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**  
Ahead of the world championship match,

this is a new version of one of ChessBase's most popular DVDs. The presenters examine Carlsen's play in the opening, middlegame, endgame and from a practical perspective, with all four original contributors recording some new material. They are joined by Daniel King, who offers his own take on just what has made the Norwegian superstar such a dominant force in the chess world. Carlsen's games are almost always instructive and this DVD contains a wealth of fine play and high-quality lessons on just about every major topic.



### Nepomniachtchi: Move by Move

Cyrus Lakdawala, 430 pages, paperback  
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Last month Sean Marsh reviewed Zenon Franco's *Nail It Like Nepo!* and now we have another work on the world championship challenger and another detailed effort, this time courtesy of Everyman Chess and Cyrus Lakdawala. The popular American author details Nepomniachtchi's chess career, right from his early days, annotating a large number of games along the way, including plenty of encounters with Carlsen. Not only do many struggle to spell Nepomniachtchi, but they also struggle with plenty of his games. Lakdawala, though, does a typically good job of breaking down and explaining the chaos, and this is another insightful best games collection from him.



### New in Chess Yearbook 140

Peter Boel, René Olthof, Jan Timman (Eds.), 256 pages, paperback  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The latest popular *Yearbook* features a rising Iranian-French star on the cover along with the strapline 'Firouzja breaks the King's Indian chain'. Ivan Sokolov tackles the main line King's Indian in an opening survey, with Michael Adams, David Cummings and Gawain Jones other contributors. There is also a new section, 'From Sadler's Engine Room', in which the world-class grandmaster and *AlphaZero* expert presents some quite remarkable opening finds from the top engines.



### Petr Izmailov: From Chess Champion of Russia to Enemy of the People

Nikolai Izmailov, 216 pages, paperback  
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Subtitled 'The Truth About My Father', Nikolai Izmailov traces the life of his famous father in this new work for Elk & Ruby. Petr Izmailov had a 2/2 score against a young Botvinnik and was one of the USSR's very best players by the end of the 1920s. Then he was arrested in 1936 and executed the following year during one of Stalin's purges. Drawing on the nowadays open Soviet archives, octogenarian son Nikolai has painstakingly reconstructed his father's life and chess prowess, with some of the 25 games annotated by Mihail Marin no less.

Do please note too that this work is also available in hardback format, retailing at £26.99 or £24.29 for Subscribers.

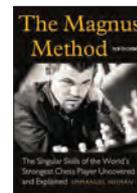


### The Chess Player

Luis Oliveros (director), DVD; running time: 1 hour, 38 minutes

RRP £12.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.69**

This is an award-winning 2017 Spanish film, now available in the UK for the first time with English subtitles, thanks to Alan Byron's Screenbound production company. As the synopsis reveals: "In 1934 Diego Padilla wins the Spanish Championship of Chess and meets a French journalist, Marianne Latour, and they fall in love. At the end of the Civil War, Marianne convinces Diego to live in France with their daughter, where shortly afterwards Diego will be accused of spying by the Nazis and imprisoned in an SS prison. In prison, Diego will try to survive in a hostile environment thanks to Colonel Maier's passion for chess."



### The Magnus Method

Emmanuel Neiman, 320 pages, paperback  
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

French FM Emmanuel Neiman, of *Tune Your Chess Tactics Antenna* fame, attempts to explain just why Magnus Carlsen is so strong. He breaks down Carlsen's skills into 12 chapters, which cover everything from a discussion of his style to how Carlsen likes to attack, defend and especially exchange pieces. Neiman challenges his readers to analyse a number of positions of Carlsen's before explaining in some detail what the champ played, and crucially why. The work concludes with plenty of complete games and, overall, is essentially an excellent collection of chess lessons, not least from the aspects of technique and psychology.