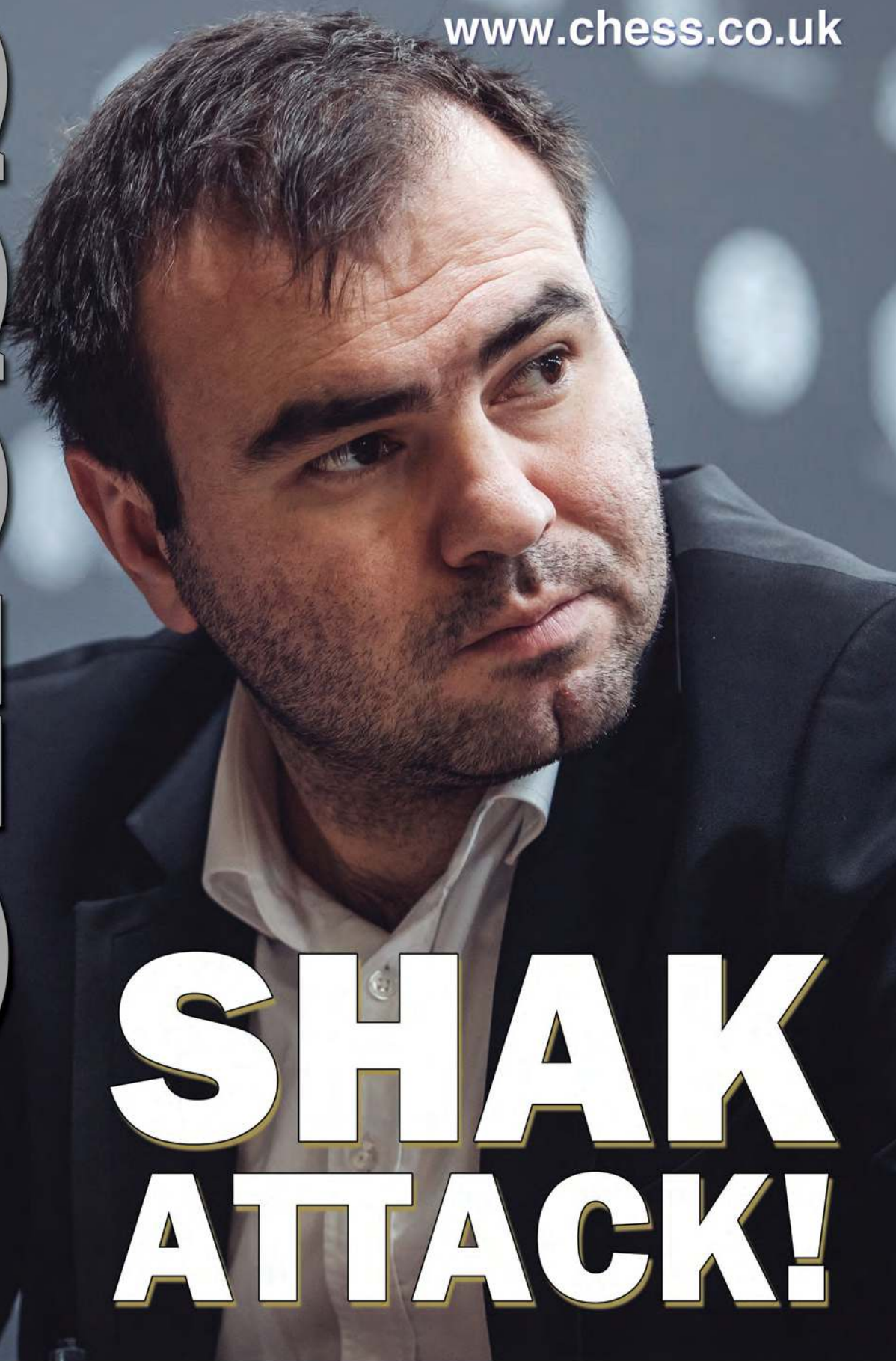


Volume 82 No. 4 July 2017 £4.50

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Chess



SHAK ATTACK!



Shak Mamedyarov wins Moscow Grand Prix and breaks the 2800 barrier!

James Plaskett reports from the World Senior Team Championship

Jonathan Speelman on drawn-looking rook and knight endgames

Chess

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Website: www.chess.co.uk

Subscription Rates:

United Kingdom

1 year (12 issues)	£49.95
2 year (24 issues)	£89.95
3 year (36 issues)	£125

Europe

1 year (12 issues)	£60
2 year (24 issues)	£112.50
3 year (36 issues)	£165

USA & Canada

1 year (12 issues)	\$90
2 year (24 issues)	\$170
3 year (36 issues)	\$250

Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues)	£72
2 year (24 issues)	£130
3 year (36 issues)	£180

Distributed by:

Post Scriptum (UK only),
Unit G, OYO Business Park, Hindmans Way,
Dagenham, RM9 6LN - Tel: 020 8526 7779

LMPI (North America)

8155 Larrey Street, Montreal (Quebec),
H1J 2L5, Canada - Tel: 514 355-5610

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

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Chess Magazine (ISSN 0964-6221) is published by:
Chess & Bridge Ltd, 44 Baker St, London, W1U 7RT
Tel: 020 7288 1305 Fax: 020 7486 7015
Email: info@chess.co.uk, Website: www.chess.co.uk

FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read
Cover photography: Eteri Kublashvili

US & Canadian Readers – You can contact us via our American branch – Chess4Less based in West Palm Beach, FL. Call toll-free on 1-877 89CHESS (24377). You can even order Subscriber Special Offers online via www.chess4less.com

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

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60 Seconds with... John Bartholomew



Born: 5th September 1986 in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA.

Place of residence: Minneapolis.

Occupation: Chess teacher, CCO of Chessable.com (check us out!), and part-time YouTuber.

Enjoyable? Absolutely. I quit law school in 2012 to pursue chess full-time, and I've never regretted the decision. Being self-employed has its challenges, but I love making my own decisions and feel incredibly fortunate to make my living from chess.

And home life? Content. In my twenties I spent time in various cities (Dallas, Denver, NYC), but I've always enjoyed the laid-back pace of the Midwest. Now I live by myself near where I grew up, and I'm lucky to have lots of friends and family in the area.

But sometimes good to escape to: The Mountain States of the U.S. Montana and Colorado are my favourites; the landscapes are simply breathtaking.

Sports played or followed: Basketball. I used to play a lot before I tore both(!) of my anterior cruciate ligaments. Now I like to casually follow the NBA.

A favourite novel? *1984* by George Orwell.

Piece of music? Rush – 'A Farewell To Kings'. Really, anything by Rush, though. I'm a massive fan.

Film or TV series? *Seinfeld*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? The feeling of accomplishment when you win a well-contested game or tournament.

And the worst? Losing, of course. Especially those games where you suffer for ages and finally succumb in the fifth or sixth hour. Or how about those games where you snatch defeat from the jaws of victory with a well-timed, catastrophic blunder? Chess is painful!

Favourite game of all time? Paul Morphy's 'Opera House Game'. It's the first game I memorised and a testament to the sheer talent of the early chess masters.

The best three chess books: *100 Endgames You Must Know* by Jesus de la Villa, *Life & Games of Mikhail Tal* by Mikhail Tal, and *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins* by Jonathan Rowson.

And a highly memorable opponent? Wesley So. I played him twice in over-the-board tournaments back when he was knocking on the door of super-GM status. I learned a lot on both occasions (the difference in class was palpable), and it was an honour to face such an illustrious opponent.

Your best move?

Z.Tverstol-J.Bartholomew
Noel Skelton Open, Minneapolis
2013



The move I played here isn't too difficult to find, but I love the ironclad logic at work. Since

the tempting 1...♖d2? fails to 2 ♜d6+, my thoughts shifted toward a prophylactic move. The humble king retreat still threatens 2...♖d2 and renders White's counterattack useless.
1...♖e8! 2 ♜c3 ♖xb2 0-1

But less memorable than your worst move?

K.Wasiluk-J.Bartholomew
Minnesota Closed Championship,
Minneapolis 2013



36...♖b6??

Actually the worst move on the board!

37 ♜a4# 1-0

Is FIDE doing a good job? No.

Or your National Federation? I believe the USCF has done an excellent job in recent years. The federation's scholastic outreach has been especially impressive, as evidenced by the 5,577 players who participated in SuperNationals, which features the elementary, junior-high, and high-school championships all under one roof.

Any advice for either? FIDE needs to quit the in-fighting and embrace a leadership change. The financial longevity of the organisation is in serious question and ought to be addressed too.

Can chess make one happy? Definitely. It shouldn't be your sole source of happiness, but it's a worthwhile pursuit that can be tremendously satisfying.

A tip please for the club player: Make sure your goals are reasonable. I've seen many players tackle too much, too quickly only to get discouraged when they can't keep pace with their lofty expectations. Also, play longer games and analyse them thoroughly!

Not Quite Petrosian: Part II



The second part of James Essinger's fun look at chess in East Kent

The game we will see below is one I played back in the distant mists of my chess career. It was in May 2009 that I had to face David Horton, a very talented veteran player in East Kent who is notoriously difficult to beat and who in fact, as far as I remember, I had hitherto only lost or drawn against. I was Black.

We played in the third round of the Birchington Swiss tournament where we played a game every few weeks. David always opened 1 d4 and at that time I had really got into the Benoni, which is a defence I still love playing today. I was pretty nervous before this game: I really wanted to do my best against David, an extremely solid and insightful player who rarely misses a trick. Well, anyway, this is what happened.

D.Horton-J.Essinger
Birchington 2009
Modern Benoni

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 c5 4 d5 exd5
5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 ♘f3 ♙g7 8 ♙e2
0-0 9 0-0 ♗e8



This is all thoroughly well known to Benoni players and no doubt by players of most other openings. The Benoni is an inherently fascinating opening because Black voluntarily allows his d-pawn to be left behind. The opening gains its name from the Hebrew word

ben-oni cf. Genesis 35:18. The name refers figuratively to this pawn, which is made potentially weak in exchange for gaining control over key dark squares in the centre that may turn out to be particularly significant in view of Black's fianchettoed bishop.

Interestingly, the word *ben-oni* means both 'son of my sorrow' and 'son of my strength', and whether the backwards black pawn on d6 turns out to be a source of sorrow or strength to Black very much depends on how he handles the opening and the sequel.

White's next move is a common one played to defend the e-pawn, though 10 ♘d2 may be better as in some lines it allows this knight to reach c4 later.

10 ♗c2 a6

Having developed his kingside, Black now tries to seize space on the queenside.

11 a4 b6

The idea behind this move is, of course, to prevent White from obtaining a bind after a5 and also to create the possibility that if White plays 12 a5 now, Black can simply play 12...b5 with a very nice game as he has managed to expand on the queenside and is threatening ...b4.

12 ♗e1

I don't know what the book move is for White, but 12 ♗e1 makes some sense to me, as it guards the e-file, although it does desert the f-file. 12 ♘d2 was also I think worth considering, but it may not be so useful now and I can't see why Black can't simply continue 12...♗g4. Both players are at this point rather like competitors in a sprint cycle race, both going slowly and methodically in order to see who's going to try and do something first.

12...♗bd7 13 ♙f4 ♗e7

Where Black should put the queen in the Benoni is a bit of a dilemma as frequently, as here, the only two squares available are c7 and e7. I don't really think the queen is that well placed on e7 in the Benoni, but on c7 the queen can be out of place so it's a question really of the lesser of two evils.

14 ♙c4



This seems like a reasonable enough move, especially as Black is for the time being stymied from being able to play ...b5, and by moving the bishop to c4, the white rook is now not only guarding the e-pawn, but also creating the possibility of a break with e4-e5. This is just the kind of position that David Horton enjoys and with his pieces developed and having plenty of space, he must at this point have a clear edge. Faced with this kind of situation I always try and do something rather than awaiting passively my fate.

So, like most, if not all, Benoni players who were inspired by Bobby Fischer's great victory as Black with the Benoni in the third match game of the world championship struggle against Spassky in 1972, I decided to move my king's knight to the rim. Maybe it won't turn out to be dim!

14...♗h5 15 ♙g5 f6 16 ♙d2 ♗e5

I know that the black pawns on f6 and d6 look rather weak, but I quite like the way that they support the knight on e5 and that they can't in fact easily be attacked. Moreover, when all is said and done, there is the possibility now of Black starting to expand on the kingside in certain lines. Of course, White was threatening to win a piece with 17 g4.

I was still very nervous about my position and wondering what I was going to do next, but at least I had two concrete threats at this point which David needed to defend against.

17 ♙e2 ♗f7 18 ♗xe5?

I'm not sure this move actually helps White, but it's not that clear what else he has.
18...fxe5

Because I played this game a long time ago I don't remember clearly what my thought processes were, but I imagine I didn't hesitate very long before taking with the f-pawn, which gives me the open f-file against the white king and also, of course, prevents White's d-pawn from becoming a passed pawn which it would if I'd been so stupid as to take with the d-pawn. Also, of course, with White's d-pawn being stuck where it is hopefully forever, this prevents White from ever having possibilities along the a2-g8 diagonal.

19 ♖xh5

White takes the knight on the same square as which Spassky took Fischer's knight in that third matchgame. I think this move is risky as I now get the g-file as well as the f-file, but if White leaves the knight where it is, Black is going to plonk it on f4 which is a great square for it. Yes, White could then exchange it off with his dark-squared bishop, but in practice, as White against the Benoni, if you exchange off your dark-squared bishop while allowing Black to keep his (or hers) you are probably well on the way to losing.

19...gxh5

I don't think any Benoni player worth their salt is going to be too worried about the doubled and isolated h-pawns because they're only going to be relevant in an endgame and who says this kind of game is likely to get as far as an endgame anyway?

20 ♖f1 ♖g6



My position looks pretty nice to me at this point and it seems to me that Black has the initiative here with lots of open lines on the kingside and White not really doing very much. What's pleasant about the Benoni is that it's easy for White to get into these kind of positions without having done anything specifically wrong. Probably the truth is that White needs to play more actively from the beginning and try to establish a knight on c4. It may be that the bishop manoeuvre to c4, while on the face of it useful, just wasted time, as that bishop ended up giving itself up for the knight on h5.

21 ♖d3 h4

Let's try to make the isolated h-pawn a weapon in the offensive, shall we?

22 h3 ♖h8 23 ♖e3 ♖g8

You don't need to be a chess genius to work out what Black's plan is at this stage of the proceedings. Black clearly would like to checkmate the white king as soon as possible and it's not immediately clear how White is going to stop this plan; his knight is not doing anything particularly useful and he has no opposition to the light-squared bishop. However, the game is still far from being decided and even here both sides have chances.

24 ♖g5

Not surprisingly, White would love to exchange queens, but this is certainly not something I had in mind.

24...♖f7 25 ♖xh4



I seem to remember not realising that the h-pawn was on prise, although maybe I did. But in any case I wasn't especially bothered. In fact if I had exchanged queens, the h-pawn would still have gone before long, but with my chances of attack massively reduced. Indeed, the fact that the white queen has put herself on h4 now gives me some chances to win tempi by attacking her.

25...♖f6 26 ♖h6 ♖g6 27 ♖e3 ♖g5 28 f4

This move is forced now, as if White just moves the queen, then after 28...♖xd2 29 ♖xd2 Black can play 29...♖xh3, which wins the pawn back and the exchange due to the attack on g2.

28...♖xf4 29 ♖f3

This is a classic Hortonesque move and it's true that White has more space now and, of course, the bishop on f4 is pinned, at least for the time being.

29...♖g7 30 ♖xf4 exf4



31 ♖f2?

I admit that I did in fact look at this particular position with *Fritz* sometime after the game, though I don't remember when. *Fritz* suggests 31 ♖e2 in preference to ♖f2. 31 ♖e2 looks impressive, but it's complicated if Black plays 31...♖xb2. That said, I still think the knight move is better than the rook move and presents Black with problems, as his light-squared bishop hasn't moved yet and so his queen's rook can't yet come to the kingside

31...♖g3

Now the game starts to become really exciting.

32 ♖xf4 ♖xh3 33 ♖e2

This is now too late to be very effective as, of course, Black can win a vital pawn.

33...♖xg2+ 34 ♖h1 ♖ag8

It's very interesting how the Benoni attack happened so quickly. I remember reaching this position in a certain state of disbelief that I was doing so well against David. I was very, very excited, but was still nervous because David is famous for wriggling out of extremely difficult situations. Also, when all is said and done, his pieces have got a lot of potential themselves, especially as he currently owns the f-file.

35 ♖h4 ♖xf2 36 ♖xf2 ♖g2+

I saw that I was winning now, but again felt nervous about the outcome as I still believed David could turn the tables if I wasn't very careful.

37 ♖g1

37 ♖h2 ♖h6+ is even worse for White.

37...♖xe4+ 38 ♖f1 ♖f8



I had a brief visual illusion here that I had won the queen, but then of course I realised that David could interpose his knight.

39 ♖f4 ♖f6

Now I thought I'd won the knight, but over-looked that David had a straightforward defence.

40 ♖h3 ♖d3+

Even crisper would have been 40...♖h6.

41 ♖g1 ♖g8+ 42 ♖h2

I do now fortunately have a winning attack.

42...♖e5+ 43 ♖f4 ♖xb2+ 44 ♖f2 ♖xa1 45 ♖xd3

I remember looking at this position and thinking that after all my efforts all I'd really done was win the exchange and two pawns. That's not a trivial consideration, of course, but I wanted something more from this position. Yet chess logic would urge that with White's king being so hemmed in there must be something decisive and, indeed, there is.

45...♖g1+ 46 ♘h3 ♗h1+ 0-1

David resigned as, of course, after the forced 47 ♗h2 then 47...♗f3+ and it is mate in two, whether or not White interposes the queen.

I remember getting up from the board, almost eight years ago (I'm writing this in April 2017), and feeling a state of supreme exaltation at having beaten David, and in such a manner. I still think of this game as one of my best efforts and it's one of the games that I like to play through when I lose to remind myself that I can still play chess, despite frequent evidence to the contrary.

It was a bright May evening. After shaking

hands with David (I don't remember whether we went through the game, but we may have done), I walked, forcing myself to be calm, away from Birchington village hall where this game had been played, then turned to the right down the street and, when I was sure I was out of sight of the hall, skipped jauntily to Birchington station, waited in exultation on the platform, eventually getting a train back to Canterbury either via Faversham or Ramsgate; I don't remember which one.

It was an evening when chess felt like the most glorious pursuit in the world. It was spring. I'd won a lovely game as Black against a player I greatly respected. The chess world was

my oyster. OK, that feeling wouldn't last forever; ultimately I was and am a professional writer who had realised many years earlier that I'd never get very far playing chess.

Yet very likely the thrill of winning this game played a part in turning my mind towards the idea of writing a novel set in the chess world. About five months later, tentatively, not really knowing what I was doing (which is usually what I'm like when I start writing a novel), I began the first draft of what would, more than seven years later, be published, with the delightful Jovanka Houska as my co-author, under the title *The Mating Game*.

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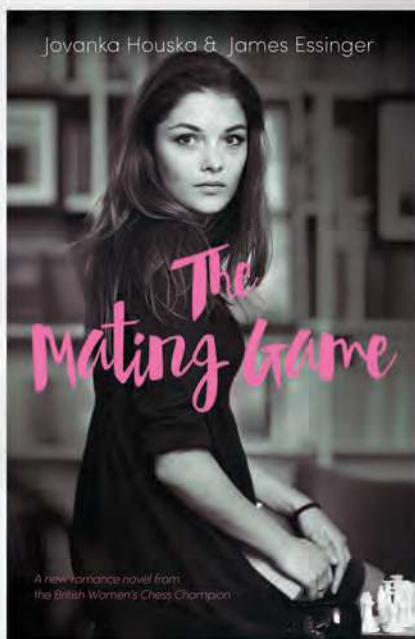
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Home News

AYR – Stuart White is only rated 1906, but dispatched a number of higher-rated players, including top seed Mark Orr, to triumph at the Ayr Congress (26–28 May).

Open: 1 Stuart White (Bearsden) 4½/5, 2–4 Euan Gray (Aberdeen), Peter Smith (Ayr), Jamie Malkin (Kilmarnock) 4.

Major: 1–3 Benjamin Ridge (Edinburgh), Ian MacKay (Carlisle), Jim Kleboe (Kilmarnock) 4.

Minor: 1 John McEwan (Bearsden) 4½, 2–4 Peter Doris (Edinburgh), Trevor Blower (Barrow), Jamie McCallum (Kilmarnock) 4.

BATTLE – The short-list for ECF Player of the Year compromised Michael Adams, Keith Arkell, Jovanka Houska, David Howell, Gawain Jones, Shreyas Royal and Nigel Short. Members received an email with details of how to vote before, in a surprise announcement, the ECF announced that: “Evidence has emerged of widespread attempts in certain quarters to manipulate the voting”, leading to the voting process being abandoned.

Other unfortunate news saw the County Championship semi-final between Kent and Lancashire defaulted by the former after an unfortunate clash with the Richard Haddrell Memorial. In the other semi-final Yorkshire defeated Surrey 11½–4½ in Long Buckby, which is one of only two matches played so far in the knock-out stages of the Open. It won't be popular in all quarters, but quite possibly it is time the ECF looked closely at the top of the County Championships and turned the 'Minor Counties' competition from one for sides averaging Under-180 into a plate competition for the main event.

At least all the other sections have been fully contested and in the U100 quarter-final 6-year-old Jude Shearsby won his first standardplay game while representing Warwickshire. The finals are also bound to be closely contested come July 1st. Once again they will be held at the Trident Centre, Leamington Spa. The Open games should be broadcast online and spectators are certainly welcome.

The finals feature as many as three Lancashire sides – a most impressive effort by Bill O'Rourke. Open, Lancashire–Yorkshire; Minor Counties, Lincolnshire–Suffolk; U180, Devon–Middlesex; U160, Lancashire–Yorkshire; U140, Lancashire–Nottinghamshire; Essex–Middlesex; U100, Leicestershire–Warwickshire.

BELFAST – Queen's University's student union played hosted to the City of Belfast Championships over the weekend of 6th and 7th May. Top seed Gareth Annesley (Muldoons) claimed the Nemtzov Cup with 5/6, edging out second seed Stephen Rush (Queen's) by half a point.

FROME – Welsh Champion Allan Pleasants continued his fine form at the Frome Congress (12–14 May), which attracted some 188 players.

Open: 1–3 Allan Pleasants (Weymouth), Jane Richmond (Swindon), Scott Crockett (Didcot) 4/5.

Major: 1 Ed Osbourn (Worcester) 4½, 2 Tim Woodward (Trowbridge) 4, 3–7 Sam Jukes (Barry), Bob Radford (Keynsham), Brian Gosling (East Budleigh), Hugo Fowler (Street), Chris Timmins (Bristol) 3½.

Intermediate: 1–3 David McGeeney (Bristol), Laurence Tarbuck (Lichfield), Nigel Mills (Yeovil) 4½.

Minor: 1 Jack Opie (Frome) 5, 2–3 Amanda Jones (Salisbury), Yuvraj Kumar (Bath) 4½.

HARROGATE – Castle Chess put on one of their congresses in the West Riding Spa town (5–7 May).

Open: 1–3 Stephen McQuillan (Hamilton), Jim Nicholson (Whixley), Mark Whitehead (Rochdale) 4/6.

Major: 1–2 George Ellames (Poulton-le-Fylde), Bob Stephens (Manningtree) 4½, 3–4 Tim Lewis (Barnet), Kevin Winter (Bradford) 4.

Minor: 1 Gerry Clayton (Norwich) 5, 2–4 Kevin Lamb (Eastleigh), Philip May, Samuel Playford (both Leeds) 4.

KENDALL – Welsh GM Nigel Davies won his second recent event at the South Lakes Congress (2–4 June).

Open: 1 Nigel Davies (Southport) 4½/5, 2 Joseph McPhillips (Bath) 4, 3 Mark Cooke (Nottingham) 3½.

Major: 1–2 Keith Maudsley (Culcheth), John Milnes (Bradford) 4, 3–4 Martyn Harris (Newcastle-under-Lyme), Neil Jones (Maryport) 3½.

Intermediate: 1–2 Frankie Murray (East Kilbride), Steve Rush (Rhyl) 4½, 3 Alan Ruffle (Swadlincote) 4.

Minor: 1–3 Marcel Taylor (Radcliffe), Marek Schroeder (Birmingham), Stanley Horken (Middlesbrough) 4.

LONDON – The latest Golders Green Rapidplay of June 3rd saw John Pigott maintain his good run of form as he tied for first.

Open: 1–2 John Pigott (Barnet), David Zakarian (Oxford) 5/6, 3 Peter Sowray (Hammersmith) 4½.

Major: 1–2 Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells), Gabriel Balouka-Myers (Barnet) 5, 3–4 Finlo Rohrer, Hugh Fenwick (both Mushrooms) 4½.

Minor: 1–2 Devan Patel (Rushall), Lorenzo Rocco (Hendon) 4½, 3–5 Mohsen Abedian (West London), Chris O'Bea (Watford), Anum Sheikh (Ilford) 4.

Amateur: 1 Colin Hallett (south-east London) 6, 2 Bill Upton (South Norwood) 5,

3–6 Gen Sompillai, Adam Jorna (Bristol), Lars Carbonez (Middlesex), Nigel White (Wanstead) 4½.

Another FM, Peter Sowray, had enjoyed better fortune on May 20th at the Muswell Hill Rapidplay.

Open: 1 Peter Sowray (Hammersmith) 5½/6, 2 Peter Roberson (St Albans) 5, 3 John Pigott (Barnet) 4½.

Major: 1 Georgi Aleksiev (Bulgaria) 5, 2 Timothy Davis (Farnham) 4½, 3–6 Sabrina Needham (Pimlico), Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells), Jonathan Rubeck (Hendon), Graham Cole (Oxford) 4.

Minor: 1–4 Matthew Porter, Kamil Miczek (both north London), John MacDonald (Kings Head), Nick Goulbourne (Hendon) 5.

Elsewhere in the capital congratulations are due to Brian Smith and his record-breaking, largely professional Wood Green side who made a perfect 100% to once again win the London League, finishing some four points ahead of Cavendish and Drunken Knights. Meanwhile the latest Docklands Rapidplay took place on May 27th. Amardip Ahluwalia (Crowborough) dominated the Major, racking up 5½/6 to finish a point ahead of Jonathan Rubeck (Hendon). There was further junior success in the Minor where Nadhmi Auchy (Barnet) and Rahul Kesavan (Maidenhead) both dropped just half a point.

Two weekends later FM Richard Britton (Hackney) and Federico Rocco (Barnet) made 4½/5 in the Hampstead U2200 Congress. In the U1900 section Shreyas Royal (Coulsdon), Kevin Yanofsky (USA) and Alexander Tsiapouris (Germany) tied for first, as did Mohsen Abedian (west London) and Richard Dunn (Kings Head) in the U135. A month earlier (13–14 May), Chino Atako (Coulsdon) had won the top section with 4½/5, finishing half a point ahead of Ben Ogunshola (Berkshire), Federico Rocco (Hendon) and Joe Everett (Brighton); the U1900 went to Oliver Finnegan (Loughton) and Svein Kjenner (Colchester); and the U135 to Lee Bullock, Manel Fernando (Portugal) and Michael Whitworth (St Albans).

RHYL – Nigel Davies took a half-point bye and was held to a draw by Chris Doran, but by defeating Mike Surtees was able to make his comeback a winning one at the Rhyl Congress (12–14 May).

Open: 1–2 Mike Surtees (Bolton), Nigel Davies (Southport) 4/5, 3–4 David Jameson (Colwyn Bay), Chris Doran (Chester) 3½.

Major: 1 Ifan Rathbone-Jones (Mold) 4½, 2 David Patrick (Halifax) 4, 3–6 Michael Connor (Great Lever), Marek Soszynski

(Sutton Coldfield), Ray Holland (Wrexham), David Levens (Nottingham) 3½.

Minor: 1 David Price (Crewe) 4½, 2-4 Dewi Jones (Holywell), James Babington (Rhyl), Steve Sz wajkun (Telford) 4.

Telford – Guildford claimed their fifth 4NCL title in a row after dominating the final weekend of the season (29 April - 1 May). They were made to work by Barbican I in round 9, Isaac Sanders defeating Nick Pert and Jonathan Rogers completing an IM norm by outplaying Sophie Milliet. However, thanks to wins from Robin van Kampen, Jean-Pierre le Roux and Mark Hebden, Guildford triumphed 4½-3½ ahead of annihilating 3Cs 8-0.

Matters went wrong from the start of the weekend for leading challengers Cheddleton. Captain Fiona Steil-Antoni and new signing Nils Grandelius were delayed returning from the Reykjavik Open and only narrowly avoided defaulting against Wood Green.

In any event Lawrence Cooper's largely youthful side were to pull of a famous 5-3 upset thanks to wins from Lawrence himself, Richard Weaving and our Executive Editor. Matters became even worse the next day for Cheddleton when they were perhaps fortunate to escape with 4-4 against White Rose, meaning that the title was Guildford's even before the big final match.

	Guildford	vs	Cheddleton
1	Matthew Sadler (2860, w)	1-0	Ivan Sokolov (2628)
2	Gawain Jones (2671)	½-½	David Howell (2684)
3	David Anton Guijarro (2684)	1-0	Jonathan Hawkins (2585)
4	Robin van Kampen (2639)	½-½	Nils Grandelius (2641)
5	Romain Edouard (2631)	1-0	Simon Williams (2452)
6	Nicholas Pert (2565)	½-½	Tamas Fodor (2513)
7	Jean-Pierre le Roux (2542)	1-0	Ezra Kirk (2365)
8	Sophie Milliet (2352)	1-0	Fiona Steil-Antoni (2155)
Guildford win 6½-1½			

P.Wells-N.Grandelius White Rose vs Cheddleton *Grünfeld Defence*

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 d5 4 g3 g6!?

A Grandelius favourite to take play away from standard Catalan waters.

5 ♗g2 ♗g7 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♗c3 c6 8 b3 b6

9 ♗a3 ♖e8 10 ♗e5! ♗b7 11 e4?!

A rush of blood after a promising beginning. 11 f4 would have been fairly well met by 11...♗e4!, and if 12 ♗xe4 dxe4 13 ♗xe4 f6 14 ♗f3 f5 15 ♗c2 c5, but 11 ♖c1 ♗bd7 12 e3 would have maintained an edge.

11...c5?!

Returning the favour as both players miss the idea of 11...♗e4!, and if 12 ♗xe4? dxe4 13 ♗xe4 f6 14 ♗f3 f5 15 ♗c2 c5 with some advantage for Black.

12 exd5 exd5 13 ♗xd5!? ♗xd5 14 ♖f3



14...♗e5

A strange choice, especially when 14...f6! was available. Black has no reason to fear 15 ♖xd5+? ♗xd5 16 ♗xd5+ ♖xd5! 17 cxd5 fxe5 and even 15 ♗d3! cxd4 16 cxd5 ♗a6 wouldn't be too terrible for him.

15 dxe5 ♖xe5?!

Grandelius is taking too many risks on the dark squares. 15...♗c6 16 ♖xd5 ♖xe5 17 ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 was the lesser evil.

16 cxd5 ♖f5?! 17 ♖c3 ♖f6 18 ♖d2

Playing for the attack. 18 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 19 ♖fe1 ♗d7 20 ♖e7 ♖d6 21 ♖ae1 would also have been pretty strong.

18...♗d7 19 ♗b2 ♖d6 20 ♖fe1 ♖d8

21 ♖ad1 ♗c8

21...♗f6 22 ♖c3 would complete an ideal realignment and leave d5 taboo.

22 ♖c3 f6 23 f4 b5 24 ♗h3 b4 25 ♖e3



25...♗b6

Desperation as White's bishops would be too strong after 25...♖h5 26 ♗e6+: for example, 26...♗f8 27 g4! ♖h6 28 ♗e5! (Pein).

26 ♗xf5 ♗xf5 27 ♖e7!

The simplest.

27...♗xd5 28 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 29 ♗xf6 ♗e6

30 ♗b2 ♗f7 31 ♖e5 ♗e7 32 ♖c1 ♖a6

33 ♖xc5 ♗d6

Central tactics soon win White the game, as they would have done too after 33...♖xa2 34 ♖cxd5 ♖xb2 35 ♖a5 ♖xb3? 36 ♖xa7+ and 37 ♖a6(+).

34 ♖c2 ♖xa2 35 ♖d2 a5? 36 ♖exd5+! ♗xd5 37 ♗e5+ 1-0

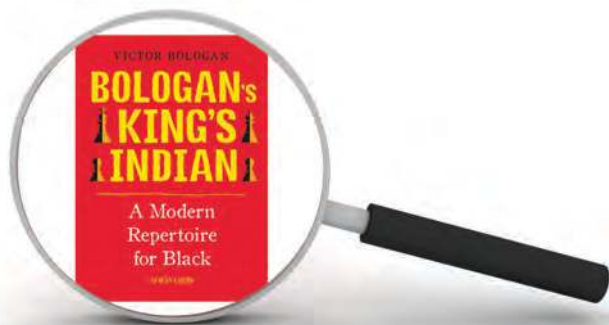
The 2016/17 season certainly featured a bumper norm crop for young players with Guildford II's Daniel Fernandez obtaining his third GM norm after racking up 7½/10. Our congratulations to Daniel whom we'll hear more about next month. Elsewhere Matthias Gantner (White Rose) and Martin Taylor (Barbican) made IM norms, but it was Wood Green's young talents who especially impressed. David Fitzsimons and Richard Weaving both made IM norms, while 18-year-old Ravi Haria (7½/11) completed the requirements for the IM title at the same time as scoring his first GM norm, aided by having the better of a draw with Cheddleton star Ivan Sokolov.



2016/7 4NCL Division 1

	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts	Game Pts
1	Guildford I	X	6½-1½	6½-1½	8-0	5-3	4½-3½	7-1	7½-½	14	45
2	Cheddleton	1½-6½	X	6-2	5½-2½	4-4	5-3	3-5	5½-2½	9	30½
3	Guildford II	1½-6½	2-6	X	2½-5½	5-3	4½-3½	5-3	5½-2½	8	26
4	3Cs	0-8	2½-5½	5½-2½	X	2-6	4½-3½	4½-3½	6½-1½	8	25½
5	White Rose	3-5	4-4	3-5	6-2	X	4-4	5-3	4-4	7	29
6	Barbican 4NCL	3½-4½	3-5	3½-4½	3½-4½	4-4	X	4½-3½	4½-3½	5	26½
7	Wood Green HK	1-7	5-3	3-5	3½-4½	3-5	3½-4½	X	5-3	4	24
8	Grantham Sharks	½-7½	2½-5½	2½-5½	1½-6½	4-4	3½-4½	3-5	X	1	17½

New Books & Software



Bologan's King's Indian

Victor Bologan, 448 pages
New in Chess

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

This is a new edition of Bologan's King's Indian published by Chess Stars back in 2009. Although the format of this new edition remains more or less the same, it has been updated and the page count has increased by almost 100 from the original 356. Readers should be aware from the start that a lot of the material is the same as in the Chess Stars edition.

To play the King's Indian – "Probably the most romantic response against 1 d4, one which has stood the test of time and continues to this day to be used at the very highest levels of the game" – a player must be very well prepared not only in terms of theory, but also in order to face so many different kinds of position. Some white players will seek to simplify as soon as possible to force a draw (a typical strategy when a game features the stronger player as Black), and others will seek to blow Black off the board with a sharp and speedy mating attack.

With this in mind, I always turn first to the most problematic lines at either end of the spectrum. After the infamous series of moves 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♗f3 0-0 6 ♗e2 e5 7 dxe5 dxe5 8 ♖xd8 ♗d8 9 ♗g5 Bologan likes 9...♗f8, "thinking not just of a draw, but of playing for a win."



This is mysterious at first sight, but after the further moves 10 ♗d5 ♗xd5 11 cxd5 c6 12 ♗c4 b5 13 ♗b3 ♗b7 14 ♗c1 a5 one point is revealed: "If the black rook stood on e8, then White would play 15 a4 bxa4 16 ♗xa4, but with the rook on f8, in this variation there is the capture 16...cxd5, and Black seizes the initiative."

Indeed, attempting to seize the initiative is

definitely the order of the day. Against the Sämisch (1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 ♗e3), Black's 6...c5 pawn sacrifice is still the weapon of choice, where the second player generates serious play for the pawn whether White trades queens early on or not. It's 6...c5 and 7...e6 against the Four Pawns Attack and against the fianchetto lines the sharp 6...♗c6 and 7...a6 is Bologan's recommendation. Both are consistent with the plan of hitting the white centre as quickly as possible and generating counterplay at the earliest opportunity.

It is good to see examples of the Classical variation with both sides going all-out on opposite sides of the board. This is precisely the uncompromising battlefield that attracts so many players to the King's Indian Defence in the first place.

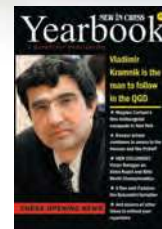


This position is exercise 54. Bologan informs us: "There is no cheer in 30...♗g5 31 ♗xf8+! ♗xf8 32 ♖c2! – White has repulsed all threats and goes over to a decisive counterattack." Instead of 30 ...♗g5, what would you play to save the game for Black?

There is also a chapter dealing with the London System and Torre Attack. These are currently very popular and King's Indian players will definitely need to know how to handle them. Finally, there are 86 test positions at the end of the book, most of which feature sacrificial denouements with Black on the sunny side.

Owners of the original edition of this book may wish to browse at the bookstalls to see if enough of the material has been updated to justify purchasing this new version. However, players who do not possess the 2009 edition will find this a very accessible and useful guide to this ever-popular defence.

Sean Marsh



New in Chess Yearbook 122

Peter Boel & René Olthof (eds.), 256 pages
New in Chess

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

Despite the apparent misnomer, *New in Chess Yearbook* appears four times a year. It is a series displaying admirable longevity, with the current issue marking an impressive 122 volumes to date.

The meat of any Yearbook comes in the form of the in-depth opening surveys. These usually follow an identical format, starting with an essay rounding up latest developments and key ideas followed by recent key, annotated games and three exercises. In contrast, 'Bologan's Opening Bulletin' is a new regular Yearbook feature. The first instalment runs to 12 pages and focuses on various pieces of opening preparation deployed at the Doha rapid and blitz events of late 2016.

In amongst the heavyweight theory it's still possible find refreshing ideas to be used early in the game, such as Jobava's caveman lunge in the Veresov – 1 d4 d5 2 ♖c3 ♗f6 3 ♗f4 e6 4 ♗b5 – and the interesting early deviation in Igor Stohl's survey on 1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 g6 3 g3 ♗g7 4 ♗g2 0-0 5 ♖c3 ♗c6, when 6 ♗f3 d5 is Black's idea, causing White some problems different to the norm. However, some of the new ideas start much later in the game, as seen in the coverage of the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn.



Here a whole survey analyses 21 ♗d6. Arthur Pijpers tells us "the position after 21 ♗d6 has only occurred 10 times in regular

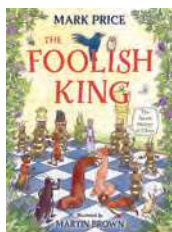
play so far, but it should be noted that most of these games are from 2016, and by people like Giri and Vachier-Lagrave on the black side.” However, “the correspondence database has over 200 games after 21...d6.” The split in the frequency of occurrence between the two genres is interesting and a form of dichotomy continues with the next move. “Here Black faces a crucial choice. He can either move his rook to safety or sacrifice the exchange with 21...f5. Perhaps not surprisingly, the former option has been favoured in correspondence chess, while the latter is by far the main move in over-the-board chess.”

Glenn Flear’s book reviews are a regular Yearbook feature and here they are given a generous 11 pages, allowing him to dig quite deeply into several books. This time he pays particular attention to the rash of books that have recently erupted on the King’s Indian Defence and still finds time to look too at recent books on the Italian Game and Zaitsev Ruy Lopez. The reviews are very positive in this issue.

In short, *New in Chess Yearbook* can be seen as a collection of in-depth reports on chess opening news, which will benefit players of Open tournaments and upwards. Standard club players who do not necessarily need to know the latest wrinkles of the Poisoned Pawn variation will probably prefer to learn about their openings from more fully-inclusive repertoire books, but will be able to pick and choose bits and pieces from the more eclectic material on offer in a typical Yearbook.

Recommended – if you are prepared to work hard on your openings.

Sean Marsh



The Foolish King

Mark Price, 80 pages, David Fickling Books
RRP £10.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £9.89**

The Foolish King combines two of author Mark Price’s favourite subjects – chess and nature – to produce an amusing gestalt, guaranteed to appeal to the younger side of primary school. The book is very nicely illustrated by Martin Brown (of *Horrible Histories* fame), with whom many children are already acquainted.

The book begins thus: “Long, long ago, when kings ruled the land, dragons filled the sky and magic still existed, two small children stumbled upon the game of chess. This is your chance to discover it with them...” Readers are then invited to “join Pip and Holly on a magical adventure and become a chess master.”

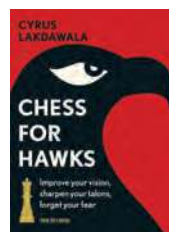
That this is no ordinary primer is evident from the very start, when the author renames most of the chess pieces. The royalty keep their real names, but pawns become bees (white) and ants (black); knights become grasshoppers

(white) and crickets (black), and so on. The moves of the pieces are introduced as part of an ongoing story, complete with little challenges. Matters come to a head in chapter 14 (starting, very appropriately, on page 64), when Pip and Holly take charge of the game’s night-time creatures (black pieces) against the might of the daytime creatures (white pieces).

Recently I put this book to the test in the classroom and played through the game – complete with the surrounding story – to a number of Year 2 and Year 3 children (ages 6-8). The children were enthralled by the story and enjoyed taking turns coming out to the demonstration board to move a variety of worms, slugs, woodlice and the like. In subsequent weeks, a number of children told me they had been using the book for independent reading and had enjoyed the experience.

The recommendation of youth should be proof enough that *The Foolish King* holds definite appeal for children of primary school age.

Sean Marsh



Chess for Hawks

Cyrus Lakdawala, 288 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

One associates Cyrus Lakdawala with Everyman Chess, but now he has popped up with a new work for New in Chess which has the lively sub-title of ‘Improve Your Vision, Sharpen Your Talons, Forget Your Fear’. Drawing heavily on his own playing career, which has led to him winning the South Californian Championship on no fewer than six occasions, Lakdawala has essentially penned a practical primer. Throughout the author finds himself addressing such questions as ‘Do I want to exchange queens too much?’, looking at their impact on his games and then addressing how we can try to cure or at least manage such a possible weakness.



ChessBase Magazine 178

ChessBase PC-DVD
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

CBM came under Sean Marsh’s spotlight just last month and the latest edition features plenty of video and analytical content. Highlights include Levon Aronian presenting his win against Naiditsch from his triumph at Baden-Baden,

while in the opening surveys Robert Ris is keen on meeting the Dragon with 6...e3 g7 f3 c6 8...d2 0-0 9 0-0-0 d5 10...e1.



Komodo Chess 11

ChessBase PC-DVD
RRP £69.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £62.95**

The Hamburg software giants nowadays produce the latest *Komodo* engine, which comes accompanied by the *Fritz* interface. Mark Lefler and Larry Kaufman’s baby remains well known for its positional understanding – and rightly so: this latest version of *Komodo* is pretty strong. See the inside back cover for full particulars.



Power Play 25: Popular Queen’s Pawn Openings – A Repertoire For Black

Daniel King; ChessBase PC-DVD,
running time: 5 hours
RRP £25.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.39**

Having written and produced a pair of DVDs for his famous *Power Play* series on playing the QGD and countering the Catalan as Black, Daniel King now completes his 1 d4 d5 repertoire. As such, viewers get to enjoy both clearly explained and pretty effective counters to the likes of the Colle and London, as well as advice on how to handle the various modern twists White might employ, like Jobava’s 2...c3 d6 3...f4.



The Hyper Accelerated Dragon

Raja Panjwani, 232 pages, paperback
RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

The Canadian IM has long been a fan of a fairly dynamic handling of the Accelerated Dragon, influenced perhaps more by Larsen than Petrosian’s handling of the opening, although at times he does acknowledge that Black should be a bit more solid. As this work is devoted to the Hyper Accelerated Dragon, a 2...g6 move order is recommended and

after 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♗g7 both the critical 5 c4 and 5 ♖c3 ♖c6 6 ♗e3 ♖f6 7 ♗c4 receive two quite meaty chapters.

to set up a fortress, fairly well explained.

active rook and pawn against bishop and knight.



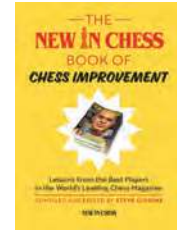
The Modern Endgame Manual: Mastering Queen vs Pieces Endgames
Efstratios Grivas, 312 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Chess Evolution continue their instructive endgame series as the famous Greek author, trainer and GM looks at some fairly uncommon types of endgame, namely those in which a queen finds herself up against an array of pieces. As one would expect, the examples are generally well chosen and the methods of winning, for instance, queen against rook where the defender is trying



The Modern Endgame Manual: Mastering Rook vs Pieces Endgames
Efstratios Grivas, 344 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

Here Grivas tackles some more common endgames, namely those in which a rook finds itself up against one or two minor pieces. Coverage begins with the Philidor position, i.e. how to win rook and bishop against rook when the pieces are favourably aligned. Later on one comes across deeper analysis, but always accompanied by some textual commentary with Grivas keen to supply pointers on how, for instance, one should assess the chances of an



The New in Chess Book of Chess Improvement
Steve Giddins (ed.), 352 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

New in Chess Magazine has long been known for presenting a few games in every issue analysed by the very best players in the world. Now Steve Giddins has selected both some of the best and some of the most instructive of those, grouping them by theme, such as attacking or endgame play. With notes by the likes of Kasparov, Kramnik, Tal and Timman, it seems unlikely that most players won't learn plenty from this compendium.



Forthcoming Events

June 30 - July 2 Colwyn Bay Congress
www.welshchessunion.uk/calendar/

June 30 - July 2 Whitby Congress
noelschess.weebly.com or call 07903 913 786

July 1-2 Hampstead U2200 Congress
hampsteadchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

July 6 Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz
www.hendonchessclub.com or call 07855 036537

July 8-14 South Wales International, Cardiff
www.southwaleschess.co.uk

July 8 DeMontford Bell Kings Place Rapidplay
www.kingsplace.co.uk or call 07855 036537

July 14-16 4NCL Congress, Mortimer
www.4ncl.co.uk or call 01993 708645

July 15-23 Scottish Championships, Dundee
www.scottishchesschamp.co.uk

July 15-16 Weald Congress, Cophthorne
www.wealdchesscongress.org

July 15 Golders Green Rapidplay
goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

July 21-23 Leeds Congress
congress.leedschessclub.co.uk or call 07877 549926

July 23-26 Glorney & Gilbert Cups, Cardiff
www.glorneycupchess.org

July 28 - Aug 6 British Championships, Llandudno
www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk

And for the Online Connoisseur:

June 28 - July 2 Grand Chess Tour Rapid, Leuven
grandchesstour.org; Aronian, Carlsen, Kramnik, Ivanchuk, Topalov, etc.

July 15-23 Dortmund Sparkassen
www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de/2016/; Kramnik, MVL, etc.

July 24 - Aug 2 Biel Chess Festival
www.bielchessfestival.ch; Bacrot, Harikrishna, Leko, Navara, etc.

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

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