

Volume 82 No. 5 August 2017 £4.50

www.chess.co.uk

Chess



HOT & COLD

Magnus Carlsen tops the Grand Chess Tour standings but a poor performance in Norway sees his world number 1 spot in jeopardy



Jose Vilela brings us the lowdown on the Capablanca Memorial tournament

Junior Tay interviews one of the UK's hottest prospects, Daniel Fernandez

John Saunders sheds some light on the enigma that was Hector Shoosmith

Chess

Founding Editor: B.H. Wood, OBE. M.Sc †
Executive Editor: Malcolm Pein
Editors: Richard Palliser, Matt Read
Associate Editor: John Saunders
Subscriptions Manager: Paul Harrington

Twitter: @CHESS_Magazine
Twitter: @TelegraphChess – Malcolm Pein
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.

No parts of this publication may be reproduced without the prior express permission of the publishers.

All rights reserved. © 2017

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: Lennart Ootes

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

Contents

Editorial	4
Malcom Pein on the latest developments in the game	
60 Seconds with... Ravi Haria	7
We catch up with the young star after his first GM norm	
Scintillating Sasi!	8
Krishnan Sasikiran surpassed Vassily Ivanchuk in Cuba	
Awesome Aronian, Carlsen Crumbles	14
Levon Aronian's fine form continued in Norway	
Find the Winning Moves	16
Can you do as well as the stars of the Grand Chess Tour?	
A Return to Kos	19
David Gilbert enjoyed his time at the ACO World Championships	
Rising Stars	22
Daniel Fernandez and Ravi Haria annotate their best 4NCL games	
How Good is Your Chess?	26
One of Daniel King's favourite openings is the Hedgehog	
The Grand Chess Tour in Pictures	30
The opening events in Paris and Leuven certainly caught the eye	
Daniel Fernandez	32
Junior Tay caught up with the rising star after his third GM norm	
Introducing... Hector Shoosmith	34
John Saunders on the tragic life of an early British chess pro	
Azerbaijani GMs Make Their Mark in Iraq	38
Robert Cole of the AMAR Charitable Foundation explains	
Opening Trends	39
Who would have thought Giri could lose to the Colle in 20 moves?	
When Extra is Less	40
Steve Giddins shows why an extra tempo is not always useful	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	42
Carl Portman reflects on teaching chess to juniors	
Home News	46
Bates, Gordon and McShane came joint first at Kings Place	
Forthcoming Events	48
Overseas News	50
China and Russia triumphed at the World Team Championships	
Solutions	53
New Books and Software	55
Sean Marsh reviews new works by Daniel King and Steve Giddins	
Saunders on Chess	58
John enjoyed the DeMontford Bell Rapidplay at Kings Place	

Photo credits: Altibox Norway Chess/Joachim Steinbru (pp.14-15) Chess Club & Scholastic Center of St. Louis (p.10), Chess Magazine archive (p.41), Cleveland Public Library (p.37), Steve Connor (p.52), Calle Erlandsson (p.25), Ray Morris-Hill (p.32), Brendan O'Gorman (pp.19-21), Bill O'Rourke (p.46), Lennart Ootes (pp.4-7, 14-15, 23, 30-31, 50-51), John Swain (p.49), Jose Vilela (pp.8-9, 12)

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



Never Mind the Grandmasters...

Here come the amateurs - by Carl Portman (carl.portman@hotmail.co.uk)

Kids say the funniest things. There I was, coaching one of my junior chess classes and today was the day that we were all going to 'nail this thing forever'. I refer to the *en passant* rule as there had been much confusion and, indeed, a few tears over this curious move. I had just asked if anyone in the class actually knew what *en passant* meant. I had already told them that it was French and therefore just one of the several languages that we use in chess.

After a few seconds an arm shot skywards accompanied by the inevitable,

"Ooh, ooh, me sir! I know this."

"Yes?" I asked.

"Is it a goldfish?"

"A goldfish?"

"Yes, it is a goldfish isn't it?"

(Desperately trying to stifle laughter)

"Erm, no it isn't."

"Yes, it *is*", he confidently replied.

After some detective work it transpired that the youngster thought that I was asking about the meaning of the word *poisson* (not *en passant*), which is, of course, fish. In that respect I gave him the benefit.

More on kids' thoughts. My good friend Neil Staples furnished me with a nice quote from *Alan Bennett's Diaries*. Headed the '13th May' in his diary there followed: "Talk to Archie Powell. His four-year-old son Wilfred is learning chess and was recently taken to a Church of England confirmation service where the bishop officiating was Richard Charteris. Having ascertained that Charteris was a bishop, Wilfred whispered, 'Does that mean that he can only move diagonally?'"

Classic. Back to that class now and I was asked a very difficult question by one young lad. Instead of asking the usual 'what is the best game you have ever played?', he asked what the best move was that I have ever played. Honestly I could not answer him.

The criteria for a best move is determined perhaps only by ourselves. It could be the most aesthetically pleasing, the one that secured a beauty prize or the most prize money. Perhaps it was one that beat the highest-rated player you have ever played, the best attacking move or, indeed, defensive move. There again, it might be the move not that won a game, but that snatched a draw from the jaws of certain defeat or it might be the move you saw after the deepest calculation you ever made. As I say, it is very tricky. What's yours, dear reader?

To some actual chess, and I want to share a game played by one of my chess students. Ben Aubury is simply obsessed with chess. He eats and sleeps the game. Like any junior, there was a time when he never knew how the pieces moved. Now he has an ECF grade of 108 and is getting stronger by the week.

Ben studies hard, and is the epitome of an autodidact. I never have to push him to do homework, and like Oliver he often asks for more. What particularly impresses me for an eleven-year-old is his knowledge of chess history. Ben can tell you all about Botvinnik, Tal, Morphy and what year Steinitz won the world championship. I threw a name in the ring recently – Lajos Portisch – and he was able to tell me about him too.

Like any youngster, Ben has his opinions. He thinks that Petrosian is "boring" and that Fischer was not an attacking player, but was more positional and only attacked (like a crocodile) when he was sure of the kill. Let's see if that view is held in five years' time. Conversations with Ben are always illuminating, and the reward I get for putting in some extra chess work with him is to see his game begin to blossom as he improves.

With that improvement comes more victories, of course, and we all like to win. Recently Ben won a prize at the Cotswold Chess Congress. He wanted to show me the game that helped him win "fifty quid" which he is going to spend on chess equipment – good lad!

We went through the game and I enjoyed listening to his thoughts. I want to share it here. Bear in mind, Ben is 11 and graded 108, but don't worry – he won't be either of those for too long and you might be playing him over the board in the coming years. He is also a subscriber to this magazine, so, Ben, this is for you.

B.Aubury-R.Jones

Cotswold Congress, Cheltenham 2017

Ruy Lopez

Ben said that before the game he was nervous, not just because he was playing a higher-rated opponent (albeit by only one point), but that this was the last round and he wanted to win some prize money. This is a feeling that he will continue to experience throughout life when playing competitive tournament chess. It's about how one copes with that feeling. He knows, though, to focus on the board not the potential prize.

1 e4

Ben is capable of trying anything in the opening, but today it was the classic 1 e4.

1...e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4

The Closed Ruy Lopez. Actually, Ben and I have not studied this popular opening in any great detail (we like to do endgames, as well as openings!), so anything he has learned in addition he has done by himself.

4...b5 5 ♙b3 ♙e7 6 c3

6 d4 is a viable alternative.

6...♘f6 7 d3 0-0 8 0-0 d6

8...d5 9 ♗e2 ♙b7 10 a4 is another line.

9 h3

We don't want that light-squared bishop getting to g4, pinning the knight, thank you.

9...♙b7 10 ♗e1 ♘a5

Putting the question to the bishop: stay on b3 or vacate the square.

11 ♙c2

Very nice. Preserving the bishop, and therefore the bishop-pair. This fine piece now points at h7 for possible tricks later in the game.

11...c5

Black is also playing well to his credit and has no problems at the moment.

12 ♘bd2 ♗c8 13 ♘f1 ♗e8



14 ♘e3

This knight could also have visited the g3-square. Ben's opinion was that centralising it would be the better option. One comment I would make at this point is a general one aimed at all juniors.

Many juniors learn opening moves by rote. They know, for example, from following master games on the internet that the knight goes from b1 to d2 to f1 and e3, but sometimes they don't really know why. This is very important, and I try to coach juniors to understand the ideas, rather than just the



Ben Aubury studies at the Dragon School, Oxford, and is one of Carl Portman's leading pupils.

moves behind openings. This way I also learn myself! Move orders often have to deviate from the plan in the opening because the opponent does not always do what you want or expect, so you need to know the big idea behind what you are doing in order to move your pieces to support that.

14...♖c7

This does seem to be a strange move and only Black knows why he played it. He put his bishop on c8 after this so that might be the reason.

15 ♠f5

We discussed this move. I questioned what White wanted to achieve. Does he really want to swap off that rather attractive knight for the more sedentary bishop or was there another purpose to the move?

15...♗c8

We will soon find out.

16 ♖e7+

This has the advantage of depriving Black of the bishop-pair, but the cost is to lose that influential knight. Most moves in chess have advantages and drawbacks – simultaneously. Especially pawns, where one obvious disadvantage is that they cannot be moved backwards.

16...♞xe7 17 ♗e3

This could equally have gone to g5.

17...♗e6 18 ♖g5 ♞d7 19 ♞f3

I like the fact that White did not just exchange the knight for the bishop for the sake of it. Ben would definitely have done this in the early days. The position has been begging for White to play a2-a4 for ages and this would have been a good time to do that. Why? Well somehow (and it is only one idea) we have to try to fix those marauding black pawns and try to activate the rook on a1.

19...h6 20 ♖xe6

Pretty much forced.

20...♞xe6



These are the sorts of positions where juniors say, "I don't know what to do next". Being able to form a plan is critical and young brains take time learning how to do this.

21 ♗d2!

Ben said that his idea was to play c3-c4 and if the knight moved then play ♗b3 and look to play ♗xh6. Big ideas, but it is a plan and that is so much better than not having any plan at all. Here Ben is making moves with a purpose – whether they are good, bad or indifferent.

21...♖h7

21...♞e7 22 c4 ♖c6 23 ♗xh6 was Ben's idea, but note it would only have been speculative, not concrete. It would not have 'worked' in terms of concluding the game or gaining an advantage, in view of 23...♗d4, and if 24 ♞g3 ♗h5 25 ♞g4 ♗xh6.

22 c4 ♖c6 23 cxb5 ♗d4!

A nice logical move, centralising the knight. Black can take on b5 on his next move if he so wishes.

24 ♞d1 axb5 25 ♗b3

White has a backward pawn on d3, but Black cannot really get at it so the bishop does not need to defend it; rather, it finds a more effective square on b3.

Emily Green and the Tower of Caissa

by James Essinger



I took this photo at Bridge Chess Club on the evening of June 6th, 2017. Emily Green, who is 15, a member of the England Girls' team and the Under-16 Girls ECF Grand Prix Champion, had just beaten me in one quick game and found my winning move in the second, so we decided that game should be a draw.

After the games I suggested to Emily that she solve the Eight Queens Puzzle; she solved it in about thirty seconds. I then idly suggested she build the highest tower she could using the pieces from one chess set. I was expecting her to use the four rooks and a king, which is the highest chess tower I knew. But at once Emily used three of the knights to make a base, then built the tower above it.

I've given this photo the Harry Potterish title of 'Emily Green and the Tower of Caissa'. I've been playing chess since about 1969 – 32 years before Emily was born – and I've never thought of using three knights in that way.

The two gentlemen playing in the background are (left to right), Lee Butcher and Bill Tracey.

25...♖g6!



Another good move. White must be careful: Black has active pieces ready to charge into the kingside and already ...♗xh3 is threatened.

26 ♖h2

Well spotted.

26...♘g5 27 ♗d5??

Ben inserted the double question marks for this move. 27 ♗xg5 28 ♗d5 and it is all to play for.

27...♗df3+!

Really pretty, and again well found.

28 ♖h1

And most certainly not 28 gxf3?? ♗xh3+ 29 ♖g1 ♗xf3#.

28...♗xe1 29 ♗h5?!

Even after 29 ♗xe1 Black is clearly winning. However, one should always keep in mind the saying: 'The hardest game to win is a won game'.

29...♗xg2

Indeed, rather than 29...♗xd3 30 ♗xg6 ♗xf2+ 31 ♖g1, although I would prefer Black even here: 31...♗fxe4 32 ♗xg5 ♗xg5.

30 ♗xg2

30 ♗xg6 ♗xh3+ 31 ♖g1 ♗f3+ 32 ♖f1 ♗f4+ 33 ♗g2 ♗xg2# is very nice.

30...♗f8 31 ♖h2

Of course, moving off the g-file which the black rook occupies. Note that there is the possibility of ♗xg6 if circumstances were ever right.

31...c4 32 dxc4 bxc4 33 ♗g1



33...♗xh3+?

A very odd decision indeed. The youngster playing Black has worked hard to obtain this

position, but gives away the significant advantage in one move (33...♗d8 would be fine). We have all been there!

34 ♗xh3 ♗xh3 35 ♗xg6 fxg6 36 ♖xh3

The tables have turned and White now has the advantage with two bishops against a rook, though at this level (by that I mean 'our' amateur level), there is all to play for and many mistakes can occur especially where clocks and time are involved.

36...♗e7 37 a4!

Absolutely. Pawns are there to be pushed. The rook is pretty helpless against the power of the bishop-pair.

37...♗c8 38 a5

Chaaaaarrge!

38...♗f8 39 ♖g3 h5 40 ♗g5+!



A cute little move. White could have pushed the a-pawn again, but this move shows that Ben is looking not just at one obvious possibility, but other options too. That gladdens my heart.

40...♗d7 41 a6

Run, run, run.

41...♗c8 42 a7

The caterpillar will soon become a butterfly, though like the real insect, its life will be very short.

42...c3 43 b4

Cheeky. It would have been slightly stronger just to take the c-pawn, but this is fine. The dark-squared bishop covers c1 plus a new queen is imminent on a8. It's all too much.

43...h4+ 44 ♖xh4 c2 45 a8 ♗xa8

46 ♗xa8 ♖c7 47 ♗d5 ♖b6 48 ♗b3 ♖b5

49 ♗xc2 ♖xb4 50 f3

After 50 ♗e7 ♖c3 "the bishops get closed", as Ben remarked. Thankfully, they still have plenty of scope for slaughtering pawns.

50...♖c3 51 ♗a4 ♖d3 52 ♗e7 ♖e3

53 ♖g3 1-0

I thought this was an excellent fight between two juniors who wanted to play open chess. Credit goes to both of them and I look forward to seeing their progress over the coming years.



CAPTION COMPETITION



To promote the release of Carl's new book, *Chess Behind Bars*, his publishers, Quality Chess, are offering two prizes of a copy of the book to the readers who can come up with the most amusing caption to the above picture. Email your caption ideas to info@chess.co.uk or post it to the usual magazine address. Closing date for entries: Sunday 10th September. The winner will be announced in Carl's October column.



Home News

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE – After a break of 30 years the Ashton Rapidplay has returned to the north-west chess scene. Congress Director David Hardy was “really pleased that players and parents supported the event as they did”, and, indeed, several young players did well on July 9th.

U-150: 1 Paul Woodfinden (Northwich) 6/6, 2-3 David Wells (York), Thomas Nyahwo (Wigan) 4½.

U-115: 1 Michael Fisher (Oldham) 5½, 2-3 Niamh Bridgeman (Morecambe), Steven Rush (Rhyl) 4½.

U-80: 1 Sajjad Dehghan-Afifi (Sale) 6, 2-3 Tyrone Supatan (Ashton), Les Hall (Crewe) 5.

BIRMINGHAM – The Birmingham and District Chess League saw a great scrap at the top of Division One, where Halesowen's 20/24 was just enough to edge out Sutton Coldfield by a point, with South Birmingham B two points further adrift. The title was only decided after an appeal by Sutton Coldfield was rejected by the league, following a dispute in their match against Shirley & Wythall involving an incorrectly set clock. At least top honours in the Birmingham Summer League, a rapidplay competition, went to Sutton Coldfield, who finished a point ahead of South Birmingham.

BRISTOL – Keith Arkell once again shone at the Bristol Summer Congress (9-11 June), racking up a perfect and actually required 5/5, despite the presence of two IMs, one of whom was Paul Littlewood, making a welcome return to the board ahead of the British Championships.

Open: 1 Keith Arkell (Paignton) 5/5, 2 Graham Moore (Ipswich) 4½, 3 Martin Lewis (Southend) 4.

Major: 1-5 Geoff Brown (north London), Robert Radford (Keynsham), Chirag Hosdurga, Alan Papier (both Bristol), Richard Kachuma (Swindon) 4.

Minor: 1 Tomas Jankowski (Bristol) 5, 2-3 John Green (Solihull), Martyn Maber (Taunton) 4.

CHELTENHAM SPA – The 49th Cotswold Congress (27-29 May) saw victory in the top section go to a Welsh FM and a teenage local star.

Open: 1-2 Tim Kett (Cardiff), Michael Ashworth (Gloucester) 5/6, 3-5 Martin Simons (Bournemouth), Joey Stewart (Gloucester), Don Mason (Shirley) 4.

Major: 1 Tim Woodward (Trowbridge) 5, 2-6 Brendan O’Gorman (Coulsdon), Ian White (Gloucester), Chirag Hosdurga, Alan Papier (both Bristol), Derek Edwards (Witney) 4½.

Minor: 1-2 Simon Butterworth, Kevin Langmaid (Yate) 5, 3-5 Ben Aubury (Didcot), Rachel McIntosh (Chepstow), Chris Fraser (West Bridgford) 4.

COLWYN BAY – The second North Wales FIDE Open was the top section at the fourth Colwyn Bay Congress (30 June – 2 July).

Open: 1-3 Richard Dineley (Wrexham), Oliver Jackson (Cheshire), Mike Surtees (Bolton) 4/5.

Major: 1-2 Robert Clegg (Huddersfield), Petko Petkov (Bangor) 4, 3-5 Mark Bastow (Colwyn Bay), Paul Doherty (Bolton), Roman Pyrih (Conwy) 3½.

Minor: 1-2 Patrick Coleman (Lytham St Annes), Julian Hawthorne (Kidsgrove) 4, 3-8 Timothy Allen (Battersea), Martin Gill, Chris Rhodes (both Crewe), John Green (Solihull), Paul Jackson (Morecombe), John Sutcliffe (Chester) 3½.

COVENTRY – 21 players contested the Coventry Summer Cup in late April and May, with Dave Ireland and Ed Goodwin (both Coventry; Ireland triumphing on tie-break) finishing top on 5/6, half a point ahead of Mike Donnelly (Kenilworth).

LARGS – The Largs Congress (23-25 June) saw Stephen Mannion edge out fellow IM Mark Orr on tie-break.

Open: 1-2 Stephen Mannion (Paisley), Mark Orr (Edinburgh) 4½/5, 3-5 Stephen Robinson (Ardrossan), Michael Ridge (Edinburgh), Stephen McQuillan (Hamilton) 3½.

Challengers: 1 James Hartman 4½, 2-3 Dave Watson (both Edinburgh), Pranav Arcot (Aberdeen) 3½.

LEAMINGTON SPA – The ECF’s County Finals day at the Trident Centre on July 1st once again proved a major success. Under the guidance of non-playing captain John Lyth, Lancashire were worthy winners in the Open section, denying Yorkshire a record-equalling fourth title. The match might have concluded with the Red Rose side winning on board count

thanks to wins on boards 3 and 5, and with the black pieces, by Graham Morrison and Martin Mitchell, but in reality the White Rose troops were behind from an early stage and slightly flattered by the final score. Impressively under Bill O’Rourke’s watch, Lancashire also triumphed in the U140 section.

Open: Lancashire 8*-8 Yorkshire

Minor Counties: Suffolk 7½-8½ Lincolnshire

U180: Devon 8*-8 Middlesex

U160: Lancashire 6½-9½ Yorkshire

U140: Nottinghamshire 7-9 Lancashire

U120: Middlesex 5½-6½ Essex

U100: Leicestershire 8½-3½ Warwickshire.

LONDON – Another high-class DeMontford Bell Rapidplay took place on July 8th, as hundreds of players were attracted by the £4,000 prize fund and fine venue of Kings Place, next door to *The Guardian’s* offices, just to the north of Kings Cross. Perhaps a little rusty, Luke McShane wasn’t quite at his very best, but still reached 5/5, as did fellow GM Stephen Gordon, who defeated David Howell. The two leaders then drew, which enabled IM Richard Bates to catch them up by completing a fine recovery from a first round draw.

Open: 1-3 Luke McShane, Stephen Gordon (both Wood Green), Richard Bates (Hackney) 5½/6, 4-5 Ameet Ghazi (Birmingham), Mark Hebden (Leicester) 5, 6-15 Simon Williams (Drunken Knights), Thomas Rendle (Shepherd’s Bush), Lorin D’Costa (Hendon), Graeme Buckley (Wimbledon), Jovica Radovanovic (Sandhurst), Paul Talsma (Maidstone), John Merriman (Petts Wood), Theodoros Varvadoukas (Greece), John Richardson (Hendon), Michal Lercel (Poland) 4½.

Major: 1 Anshu Ramaiya (Wimbledon) 5½, 2 Robert Stern (Pimlico) 5, 3-7 Ray Tarling (Guildford), David Millward (Writtle), Ian Capes (Hertford), Geoff Brown (north London), John Allen (Lewisham) 4½.



2016/17 County Champions Lancashire. The front row contains (left-right) Martin Hamer, Nick Ivell, John Lyth (captain), Paul Macklin, Graham Morrison and Bob Newton, while among those standing are, furthest right, Paul Timson, Martin Mitchell, Andrew and Jamie Horton.

Minor: 1 Maxmillian Muskath (Barnet) 6, 2 John Bussman (Surbiton) 5, 3-8 Peter Horlock (Godalming), Jean-Claude Sarternaer, Mohsen Abedian (west London), Shreyas Royal (Coulsdon), Anthony Jiang (Richmond), James Merriman (Petts Wood) 4½.

Amateur: 1-2 Jack Sheard (Staines), James Flowers (Chelsea) 5½, 3-4 Matthew Porter (Essex), Paul Mottram (Melton Mowbray) 5.

My First Tournament: 1 Michael Corbett (Aylesbury) 6, 2-4 James Lindquist (Middlesex), John Cattermole (DHSS), Johan Mathew (Surbiton) 5.

T.Rendle-R.Bates

Kings Place Rapidplay 2017

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 d6 3 c3 ♟f6 4 ♟e2 ♟d7 5 ♟c2 ♟c6 6 d4 cxd4 7 cxd4 ♟c8 8 ♟c3 e5 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 0-0 ♟e7 11 ♟d1 0-0 12 ♟g5 h6 13 ♟h4

Both sides have their trumps in this symmetrical structure. In the battle of rapid experts, Black now comes up with a strong pawn sacrifice from a practical perspective.

13...♟h5!? 14 ♟xe5

Actually there was an element of bluff behind Black's last, as 14 ♟xe7! ♟xe7 15 ♟d5 ♟e6 16 ♟b3 would likely give White a pull.

14...♟xe5 15 ♟xe7 ♟xe7 16 ♟xh5 ♟g5 17 ♟e2 ♟h3

The point of Black's play. He has the initiative and White must defend well.

18 ♟f1 ♟f3+ 19 ♟h1 ♟h5



20 ♟e2?

Rendle must have seen what follows and presumably badly overestimated his chances or missed a check. Instead, 20 gxf3 ♟e5 21 ♟g2 ♟h4+ 22 ♟h1 ♟f3 would have led to a repetition, as would 20 gxf3 ♟xf3+ 21 ♟g1 ♟g4+ 22 ♟h1.

20...♟xg2+! 21 ♟xg2 ♟xh2+! 22 ♟xf3 ♟h3+ 23 ♟f4 g5+ 24 ♟e5

Another only move, but such advanced and isolated kings very rarely survive.

24...f6+ 25 ♟d4 ♟f6d8+ 26 ♟d5 ♟xc2

Queen for two pieces down and with the king still badly exposed, this looks absolutely hopeless for White, but to his credit Rendle was able to muster some resistance, even if he ultimately couldn't save the day:

27 ♟c4 b5 28 ♟b3 ♟xf2 29 ♟c5 ♟g7 30 ♟e7 ♟e3+ 31 ♟xb5 ♟b8+ 32 ♟c6 ♟xe4+ 33 ♟d5 ♟e6+ 34 ♟c5 ♟c8+ 35 ♟b4 ♟d6+ 36 ♟a4 a5 37 ♟ac1 ♟f4+ 38 ♟xa5 ♟c5+ 39 ♟xc5 ♟xc5+ 40 ♟a6 ♟d4 41 ♟c3 ♟d6+ 42 ♟xd6 ♟xd6+ 43 ♟b5 ♟e5+ 44 ♟c6 g4 45 a4 g3 46 ♟d5 ♟e8+ 47 ♟c5 ♟e7+ 48 ♟c4 ♟c7+ 49 ♟d3 h5 50 ♟e2 h4 51 ♟d4 ♟e5 52 ♟g2 f5 53 b4 f4 54 a5 ♟e3+ 55 ♟c4 ♟f2 56 ♟f5+ ♟f6 57 ♟xh4 ♟c2+ 58 ♟b5 ♟e2+ 59 ♟b6 ♟e3+ 60 ♟a6 f3 61 ♟xf3 ♟f4 62 b5 ♟xh4 63 b6 ♟c4+ 64 ♟a7 ♟c3 65 a6 ♟xf3 66 b7 ♟e3+ 67 ♟a8 ♟e4 68 ♟a7 ♟d4+ 69 ♟a8 ♟d5 70 ♟a7 ♟c5+ 71 ♟a8 ♟c6 72 ♟a7 g2 73 b8 ♟g1 ♟# 0-1

We were sad to hear about the death following a short illness of one of Britain's leading players in the 1970s, FM David Edward Rumens (23 September 1939 - 8 July 2017). Rumens honed his skills at the thriving Cedars Chess Club in the 1950s and finished third in the World Junior Championship of 1959.

Rumens was extremely active on the British tournament circuit during the 1970s and 1980s. He not only won numerous tournaments, but also did much to publicise a new opening, which appropriately became known as the Grand Prix Attack. Nevertheless, Rumens didn't just excel at bunny bashing, as shown by his result in the 1980 British Championship in Brighton where he finished joint third with Jonathan

Speelman, just half a point behind the winners, John Nunn and Bill Hartston.

Bar a brief comeback in 2001, Rumens was pretty much absent from the board from the mid-eighties onwards, but was still heavily involved in chess, regularly coaching a number of talented London and Home Counties children.

D.Rumens-M.Ginsburg

Lloyds Bank Masters, London 1981

Sicilian, Grand Prix Attack

1 e4 c5 2 f4

The old move order before the strength of 2...d5 became fully appreciated.

2...g6 3 ♟c4 ♟g7 4 ♟f3 ♟c6 5 0-0 d6 6 ♟e1 a6 7 d3 ♟f6 8 ♟c3

Now we reach a position familiar to all Grand Prix players who prefer the modern route, 2 ♟c3 ♟c6 3 f4. The future American IM counters in a fairly familiar manner in the centre, but without housing his king.

8...♟d4 9 ♟b3 e6 10 f5!? ♟e7?

10...0-0? 11 fxf6 hxf6 (or 11...fxg6 12 ♟xd4 cxd4 13 ♟e2) 12 ♟g5 followed by ♟h4 would give White his ideal and very dangerous attacking set-up, but Black might have countered on the dark squares with 10...♟xf3+! 11 ♟xf3 ♟g4.

11 fxe6 ♟xe6 12 ♟xd4 cxd4 13 ♟e2

The d4 point is weak and White's king much the safer, factors Rumens is quick to exploit.


13...♟d7 14 ♟f2 ♟e5 15 ♟xd4 ♟g4



Clearly the move Black was relying on, but

Chessable

Learn chess books quickly with our science based training tools.

 Chessable.com

 @Chessable

White has seen further.

16 ♖xe6!! ♜xf2 **17** ♜xg7+ ♔d7

17...♟f8 18 ♙h6 pretty much forces 18...♜g4 19 ♜f5+ ♜xh6 20 ♜xe7 ♟xe7 21 ♜f3, but this is but a very miserable, pawn-down endgame for Black.

18 ♜xf2 ♜af8 **19** ♙d2

White's three pieces totally dominate the board and, indeed, Ginsburg quickly decides he's had quite enough.

19... ♟c8 **20** ♜af1 **1-0**

Back on the tournament scene and in the latest Richmond Rapidplay of June 17th, rapid expert IM Ameet Ghasi was simply too strong.

Open: 1 Ameet Ghasi (Birmingham) 6/6, 2 Peter Sowray (Hammersmith) 4½, 3-6 Graeme Buckley (Wimbledon), Nasir Rizvi (Coulsdon), Jacob Yoon (Enfield), Charlie Nettleton (Uxbridge) 3½.

Major: 1 Geoff Brown (north London) 5½, 2 Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells) 5, 3-4 Viktor Jamroz (Kent), Lohia Siddhanth (India) 4½.

Minor: 1 Anish Ramakrishnan (Surrey) 6, 2-4 Erasmus Kahane (Twickenham), Daniel Knight (Uxbridge), Marcel Neo Han Sheng (Singapore) 5.

Just like the Kings Place Rapidplay, Adam Raoof was also responsible for both the latest Hampstead U2200 Congress (1-2 July) and the Muswell Hill Weekday Rapidplay of June 27th. In the former, Frederico Rocco (Hendon) edged out Amardip Ahluwalia (Crowborough) and Oscar Pollock (Berkshire) by half a point in the top section, while in the U1900 Yu-Chin Lim (Harrow) and John Bussman (Surbiton) shared first place, as did Steven Ashworth (Ely), Hari Stewart (Surbiton) and Yacine El Bachir (Ashtead) in the U135. Meanwhile over in Muswell Hill

there was a small surprise as Richard Cannon claimed top honours in the Open.

Open: 1 Richard Cannon (Richmond) 5/6, 2 Jonathan Pein (Hendon) 4.

Major: 1 Julian Macdonald (Chatham) 5½, 2-4 Geoff Brown (north London), Richard Dunn (Kings Head), Phillip Gardner (Letchworth) 4.

Minor: 1 Kamil Miczek (north London) 5½, 2 Andres Perez Fadon (Wimbledon) 5.

MANCHESTER – 3Cs conceded just one draw from seven matches en route to winning the top division of the Manchester Chess League, finishing three points ahead of Stockport and five clear of both Chorlton and Heywood. It was but the latest success for the leading junior club in the north of England, who were able to draw on the likes of both Horton brothers, Andrew and Jamie, as well as Daniel Abbas, Adam Ashton and Alan Walton.

SHEFFIELD – IM Alan Merry had to settle for a share of first at the Sheffield Congress (23-25 June).

Open: 1-4 Alan Merry (Bury St Edmunds), Steven Jones (Widnes), Richard Britton (Hackney), Conor Murphy (Charlton) 4/5.

Major: 1 Patrick Reid (Rugby) 4½, 2 2 Khaled Muflehi (Sheffield) 4, 3-5 Paul Evans (Lytham St Annes), Julian Cast (Long Eaton), Karl Potter (Syston) 3½.

Intermediate: 1-2 Bill O'Rourke (Heywood), Richard Desmedt (Wombwell) 4, 3-8 Alan Sutton (Stannington), Stephen Pride (Cambridge), Shane Frith (Sheffield), David Tate (Ravensfield), Andrew Di Vetta (Bridgend), Neal Fisher (Peterborough) 3½.

Minor: 1-7 Con Carey (Heywood), Brendan Ashmore, Saeed Hassani (both Sheffield), Roger Walker (Belper), Saurav Sunny (Derby), Andrew

Beswick (Chorlton), Samuel Parry (Cheddleton) 4.

UPPINGHAM – The former *Sunday Times* and *The Times* National Schools Championship is now into its 60th year. The current sponsors are Winchester College, with 130 teams from 92 schools entering the 2016/17 competition. 16 schools qualified from around the country for the finals at Uppingham School (5-6 July).

Haberdashers' Aske's had Ravi Haria on top board, while last year's champions Reading were headed up by Matthew Wadsworth. Haberdashers' (Elstree) were to lose to the Judd School (Tonbridge) in the second round, while Hampton School defeated Reading in the third. However, even Hampton had no answer to RGS Guildford who won all four matches to finish ahead of Hampton, Reading, Haberdashers' and Queen's Elizabeth's, Barnet

R.Haria-M.Ashworth

Haberdashers' vs Sir Thomas Rich's,
Uppingham 2017



Forthcoming Events

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

August 3 **Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz**
www.hendonchessclub.com or call 07855 036537

August 5 **Golders Green Rapidplay**
goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

August 11-13 **Midland Open Championships, West Brom**
www.mccu.org.uk

August 12-13 **Hampstead U2200 Congress**
hampsteadchess.blogspot.com or call 07855 036537

August 13 **Richmond Rapidplay**
rjcc.org.uk or call 020 8756 0474

August 18-20 **Chester-le-Street Congress**
foresthallchess.org.uk/

August 18-20 **Manchester Congress**
boltonchessclub.webs.com/apps/blog/

August 18-20 **Thanet Congress, Broadstairs**
www.thanetchess.org.uk

August 19-25 **Jessie Gilbert Celebration International, Coulsdon**
www.ccfworld.com/Chess/

August 25-27 **Steve Boniface Memorial, Bristol**
tim1949jones.wix.com/bristolchesscongress

August 25-27 **Marymass Congress, Irvine**
www.chessscotland.com or call 01294 230852

August 26-28 **Berks & Bucks Congress** berksandbuckschess.com

August 26-28 **Leyland Congress**
www.leylandchess.org.uk/congress/

And for the Online Connoisseur:

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

August 1-12 **Sinquefield Cup, St. Louis**
saintlouischessclub.org; Aronian, Carlsen, Caruana, Nakamura, So, etc.

August 14-16 **GCT Rapid & Blitz, St. Louis**
grandcheststour.com; Anand, Caruana, Karjakin, Kasparov, Nakamura, 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.



Play is underway in the finals of the ECF National Schools Competition at Uppingham School.



Champions Royal Grammar School Guildford receive their trophy from ECF supremo Mike Truran.

Here one might expect 18 h5 or even 18 b4, but Haria wanted to win à la Tal.

18 e4!? dxe4 19 d5 ♖a4 20 ♘g5!? ♘e5 21 ♜xe4! ♙xd1 22 ♜xe5

Olé.

22...♙xe5

The cold-blooded 22...e6! is the machine's suggestion when White is very much still fighting after 23 ♜e3 ♙a4 24 ♜xe6 ♙d7 25 ♙g2 ♙xe6 26 dxe6, but is likely to ultimately come up slightly short.

23 ♘f7 ♜xd5

23...♜xd5!? was safer. White can regain his material with 24 ♘xd8 ♜xd8 (and not 24...♜xd2? 25 ♙e6+ ♖h8 26 ♘f7+ ♖g8 27 ♘e5+ ♖h8 28 ♙xd2) 25 ♙d7 ♙f3 26 ♙xe8 ♜xe8 27 ♜e3, but the endgame after 27...♙g7 must be a draw.

24 ♙e6!



24...♜xd2?

Allowing White to triumph in style and very much in the manner of the Magician of Riga. Black had to find 24...♜d7! when 25 ♙xd5 e6

26 ♘xe5 ♜xd5 27 ♜f4 ♜b7 28 h5 ♙c2 29 ♘g4 ♙d8 30 ♘f6+ ♘f7 would have somehow saved the day according to the silicon monster.

25 ♘xe5+ ♖h8 26 ♘f7+

White has just bishop and knight for the queen and two rooks, but the temporary windmill is a decisive one as...

26...♙g8 27 ♘d6+ ♖h8 28 ♘xe8

...threatens mate on g7. Wonderful vision from Haria.

28...♜h1+!? 29 ♖xh1 ♙f3+ 30 ♖h2

And not 30 ♙g1?? ♙d1+ 31 ♖h2 ♜h1#.

30...♜xf2+ 31 ♖g1 ♙g2+ 32 ♖f1 1-0



A little bird just told me

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

Garry Kasparov - @Kasparov63

Ready to see if I remember how to move the pieces! Will I be able to announce my re-retirement afterward if not?!

Jaideep Unudurti - @Unudurti

27 years in the Top 10 for @vishy64theking. In '91, there was only Karpov above 40 while Vishy and Vlad now. Chess *isn't* getting younger? :)

Alexandra Kosteniuk - @chessqueen

We are the champions! Very happy to win the women's world team championship with my #teamrussia! :-)

Magnus Carlsen - @MagnusCarlsen

Happy and relieved after my first win at the Paris @GrandChessTour Rapid and Blitz!

Anish Giri - @anishgiri

As for myself, a fine result in Leuven, finishing 4th. I am sure though @RadioJan is not satisfied. And rightly so! Up next Geneva #WChCycle

Hikaru Nakamura - @GMHikaru

How 'ironic' of @anishgiri to ruin Jobava's perfect tournament! :)

Lawrence Trent - @LawrenceTrentIM

Very sad to hear about the passing of Dave Rumens. Extremely funny bloke, full of energy and showed me how to play the Grand Prix Attack RIP.

Peter Sowray - @psowray

Yes, very sad news ... Lots of memories of Dave from the 70s and 80s particularly his great rivalry with Tony Miles.

Matthew Sadler - @gmmnds

One of the many bonuses of writing *Chess for Life* with @NatashaRegan123 was that my exclams vanished mysteriously during proofreading!

Nigel Short - @nigelshortchess

Kirsan knifed. Confederation of Chess of America votes overwhelmingly (26-2) not to support candidates under judicial sanction. Adios amigo.

New Books & Software

100 Endgames You Must Know

Jesus de la Villa, 254 pages

New in Chess

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

This popular book has already been through four editions from 2008 and has just evolved again into a brand new version.

The aim of the book is revealed in the following snippet: "As stated in the title, my intention was to include only 'the endings we all should know'. The reader may well wonder: which ones? The answer may be controversial, but these were the criteria used, in order of importance:

- "1) To be frequently encountered in practice.
- "2) To be capable of clear analysis (and therefore, easier to remember).
- "3) To contain ideas that can be applied to similar, or even more complex, positions.

"Furthermore, the practical side of the material is consistently highlighted.

"Thus this book was not intended as an encyclopaedia, dealing with all known endings and used as a reference book, but as a practical tool which allows the reader to improve his knowledge of the theoretical endgames most likely to arise in an actual game."

We are all accustomed to the old advice 'study endgames', but what is never clear is just how much time we should spend studying this phase of the game. Should it really be to the exclusion of all else? The author quickly puts things into perspective: "Recently, the openings have taken over as overwhelmingly the main area of chess study. All great players spend most of their time researching new variations, in order to surprise their opponents and obtain as large an advantage (or as small a disadvantage) as possible, before the game itself really begins. But do not be fooled: it is not that these players have discovered that there is no value in studying the endgame, merely that they have already done their homework and at least have a good command of the most important endings."

The material starts with some real basics – using the king to protect a pawn from the enemy king as it advances from the sixth rank to promotion – and moves steadily on to more difficult positions, including detailed examinations of how to checkmate with bishop and knight against lone king and what is really going in rook and bishop vs. rook.

The reader's knowledge is given a workout

via a series of well-judged tests and the whole book is entirely accessible to all players from club player upwards.

Here is a sample test position to ponder.



White to move, but what is the correct result?

While De la Villa's work is very much still available as a paperback, the big recent development is a new edition being made available in digital format through Chessable.com, in conjunction with New in Chess. This gives the student the opportunity to play through all of the moves on the screen and to try the test positions as if in a real game. Chessable is a site that started in 2013 "as a simple private opening memorisation tool" and has developed quickly since then, with 20,000 members and a growing number of books being made available.

I have no doubt this book will continue to stand the test of time – whether readers prefer the Chessable version or the traditional book form from Chess & Bridge – and will remain as instructive and entertaining for many years to come.

Sean Marsh

The New in Chess Book of Chess Improvement

Steve Giddins (ed.), 350 pages

New in Chess

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

This is a follow-up to Giddins' *New in Chess: The First 25 Years* (New in Chess, 2010) which saw him edit and compile a series of highlights from the magazine's first quarter of a century. This time we have "an instructional volume, based on material published in *New in Chess* magazine over the past 33 years." Steve is "firmly convinced that for the average player, the study of well-



annotated games is the best way to improve" and he aims to assist the chess student with 100 of the finest annotated games ever seen in New in Chess.

The material is split into seven chapters, namely: Attacking the king; Defence; Sacrifices and material imbalance; Pawn structures; Sundry positional themes and Endgame themes. Steve provides a full introduction to each chapter, a brief introduction to each illustrative game and then sums up the key lessons after every one.

The game annotations are from a very wide range of top players including Carlsen, Kasparov, Kramnik and Karpov. Mostly, the players annotate games of their own, but there are exceptions, such as Timman's notes to a classic defensive display from Euwe to beat Alekhine at Amsterdam, 1936. Naturally, the age of that particular game is untypical of the rest of the material on offer here, which has been taken from the mid-1980s to 2013.

There's no doubt about it: the games and annotations really are top-notch and any player studying the material would definitely improve various aspects of their own play. This is partly because the notes utilise prose and do not bog down the reader in virtually endless variations of moves or, as Steve puts it: "The fact that the magazine has never been a languageless, symbol-based publication is also of great significance – it is much easier to study and learn from game annotations written in words, where players explain their reasoning process and the ideas behind their moves."

Apart from the instructive element, the book provides a very pleasant trip down memory lane and the opportunity to acquaint oneself with numerous classic quotes. There is, for example, Kasparov taking a swipe at Movsesian for the latter's lack of knowledge and experience in certain positions arising from a ...♖xc3 exchange sacrifice in a Sicilian Najdorf: "From my perspective, it's a matter of chess culture", sniffs the great champion.

Korchnoi has a few typical quotes too. Steve offers a snippet from the post-mortem of the game Korchnoi vs. Gurevich, with the former's first question to his opponent being: "Why you allow me to play Catalan? I am world expert, and you know nothing about it!" He is equally to the point in his notes to the game, as evidenced by this comment: "After the game my partner astonished (and somewhat annoyed) me by saying that he had not been able to guess any of my moves. Now, after deep analysis, I consider his remark a kind of

compliment." Elsewhere, I was amused to see Carlsen describing his win against Anand (Monaco 2011) as "A nice, smooth win."

There's a coincidental echo in one game featuring a queen's pawn system. After 1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 e6 ♙g5 h6 4 ♙h4 d6, Giri comments: "Watching Kramnik in unusually deep and concentrated thought, I could see how much he enjoyed the way the opening had developed – now they got to play chess as soon as move 4!", which ties in neatly with Daniel King's comments below. And play chess Kramnik certainly did, as this key moment demonstrates.

A.Ipatov-V.Kramnik World Team Ch., Antalya 2013



After **29...e5!** Kramnik blew the position open with a piece sacrifice: **30 dxe5 ♘xe5 31 fxe5 ♙xe5**. Giri comments: "Bang! The most classical way of winning such closed positions with clear positional domination is this sort of breakthrough. As paradoxical as it is, it feels as if it's Black who will be the piece up in the coming open struggle" (0-1, 43).

There are two ways to use this book. Diligent students could go through the games methodically, theme-by-theme, but chess fans could simply dip in and out of the games at leisure. Either way, it would be a rewarding experience.

Sean Marsh

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**

ChessBase stalwart Daniel King's DVDs on defending against the Queen's Gambit and Catalan (*Power Play* 23 and 24) were well received and now he has returned with his recommendations for Black against 1 d4 followed by the alternatives to 2 c4.

There's no doubt that these systems are on the increase at all levels of the game and players with the black pieces need to know their stuff whether they are playing at world or club championship level. As Daniel points out, it seems more and more players simply want to 'play chess' rather than try and memorise long theoretical lines.

The irony is that all of the players who are seeking to avoid heavily theoretical openings by choosing the likes of the Colle and London are forcing theory forwards into what used to be considered the safe domains of senior members of standard chess clubs. It is never easy trying to win as Black against these solid systems so I was interested to see what Daniel would recommend.

In his impressive introduction, Daniel sets out the lines he will cover and stresses that far from being frustrated at facing one of the systems he actually feels happy to see them, because the lack of pressure on his position, especially due to the lack of tension caused by the omission of 2 c4, enables him to develop his own pieces quickly and to castle without encountering early problems. Black can even take over the role of pressuring the centre with his own pawns. The lines given here also promise to keep 'enough juice' in the position to enable Black to play for a win.

There are 26 video lectures in all, starting with the Colle (including the Zukertort variation), and heading through coverage of the London, Jobava (1 d4, 2 ♘c3 and 3 ♙f4), Veresov and Blackmar-Diemer Gambit before ending with recommendations against the Trompowsky. Incidentally, the move order is kept flexible, with Daniel acknowledging that some viewers prefer 1...♘f6 to 1...d5.

I found the material to be consistently strong throughout the DVD, and it certainly lives up to Daniel's promises. For example, against the Colle-Zukertort, popularised at club level thanks to a number of all-embracing repertoire books, including Aaron Summerscale's *A Killer Chess Opening Repertoire* (Everyman 1998 and updated by Gambit Publications, 2010), Daniel recommends a specific set-up for the pieces. Note Black's bishop on b7 (rather than making a quick trip to a6 to trade the light-squared bishops, as advocated elsewhere), the other bishop on d6 (instead of the casual e7), and the knight on c6 (rather than the less flexible – yet popular – d7).

The DVD poses the question: what should Black play?

A.Stefanova-Hou Yifan Beijing (rapid) 2014



The move that brings all of the small details into sharp focus is **11...♘e7**. The e7-square is not occupied by the bishop and the knight is now heading for f5, from where it may pirouette to d6 at the right moment. On f5 it will target the potentially weak e3-pawn and blunt the bishop on d3. Meanwhile, by opening up the bishop on b7, Black is ready to play the other knight into e4. All of this throws White off the usual path of expecting a straightforward attack on the kingside. Furthermore, Black intends to step up the pawn pressure by playing ...b6-b5, possibly followed by ...c5-c4.

Black went on to win a fine game here and the supplementary annotated games in the database show none other than Aaron Summerscale suffering badly on the white side of his favourite opening against John Emms. One can well imagine the psychological problems faced by a player with white who trots out the first 10 or so moves of a favourite system only to discover Black is already on the verge of taking over the initiative.

The other black knight seeks to unsettle the London System after 1 d4 d5 2 ♘f3 ♘f6 3 ♙f4 c5 4 e3 ♘c6 5 ♘bd2 e6 6 c3 cxd4 7 exd4 and now 7...♘h5!?. The pride of White's position has to seek a new home to feel secure, but the natural 8 ♙g5 is hit again by 8...f6.

Elsewhere, some of the older antidotes are still perfectly valid (the Veresov, for example, remains ruffed up by Albur vs. Tal, Baku 1972 and the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit is still too loose to be popular). The tricky Trompowsky has some of its sharp teeth blunted by Black's absolute refusal to play creatively. Instead, in classical style, the recommendation is 1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♙g5 d5 allowing 3 ♙xf6 when after 3...exf6 Black will once again aim to stick to classical development, castle early and then head for the middlegame with confidence and, of course, the bishop-pair.

This is an important DVD that club players should find extremely accessible. Throughout all of the lines Black refuses to be drawn into being too creative and instead plays solid, classical chess while retaining every chance of seizing the initiative in the middlegame. Recommended.

Sean Marsh

The Berlin Defence Unraveled

Luis Bernal, 272 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

It is now some 9 years since John Cox presented his indispensable guide to the Berlin Wall, 1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 ♘f6 4 0-0 ♘xe4 5 d4 ♘d6 6 ♙xc6 dxc6 7 dxe5 ♘f5 8 ♙xd8+ ♙xd8. Bernal, a Spanish IM, also aims to break down the main ideas behind the complex-looking queenless middlegame and present them so that even the club player can join the Berlin bandwagon. These days White often dodges the main line, not least with 4 d3, and here Bernal's coverage is especially up to date, while also including at times some slightly offbeat counters.

Attacking 101 Volume #003

Joel Johnson, 428 pages, paperback
RRP £27.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.19**

The American National Master continues to annotate his own attacking games, with the aim of helping those rated "1700-2100" in particular. 249 games are fully annotated in Johnson's latest work, which has particular coverage of both the Grand Prix Attack and the Centre Game.

First Steps: The Modern

Cyrus Lakdawala, 226 pages, paperback
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Opening with 1...g6 remains a decent choice for those who like to punch back as Black and avoid excessive theory. Here the prolific American IM explains the key ideas, while trying to reduce the complexities of the Tiger Modern (1 e4 g6 2 d4 ♟g7 3 ♞c3 d6 4 ♟e3/4 f4 a6), so that the average club player can grasp what's going on. As one has come to expect from the *First Steps* series, the illustrative games are clearly annotated and the repertoire, which even includes the Dzindzi-Indian, 1 d4 g6 2 c4 ♟g7 3 ♞c3 c5 4 d5 ♟xc3+ 5 bxc3 f5, should more than hold up at club level.

Fundamental Chess: Logical Decision Making

R.B.Ramesh, 286 pages, paperback
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Writing for Metropolitan Chess Publishing, the former British Champion aims to use "logical reasoning to guide decision making". Ramesh chiefly wants to improve the reader's intuitive grasp and does this by supplying many well-chosen examples. Later on he devotes plenty of space to both practical play and the fundamentals of chess training, a section which certainly serves to show why he has been instrumental in helping to develop the careers of so many young Indian talents.

GM Preparation: Thinking Inside the Box

Jacob Aagaard, 408 pages, hardback
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

This final volume in the award-winning *Grandmaster Preparation* series touches on many of the topics covered in the earlier five works, while adding plenty of handy practical advice. Chapter topics include Decision Making, The Calculation Process, Analyse Your Own Games, and Training Methods, so the hard-working, stronger club player should certainly find plenty to help them progress.

Kotronias on the King's Indian Volume 5: Sämisch & the Rest

Vassilios Kotronias, 560 pages, paperback
RRP £22.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.25**

The Greek Grandmaster and leading theoretician concludes his mighty King's Indian repertoire series for Quality Chess. The first 306 pages discuss White's lesser tries against 1 d4 ♞f6 2 c4 g6, such as the Four Pawns Attack and Yasser Seirawan's old favourite, 3 ♞c3 ♟g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♟d3. However, the largest section by far is devoted to the Sämisch, against which Kotronias

advocates the main lines for Black with 6...c5, uncovering plenty of new and sharp ideas along the way.

Do note that this work is available too as a hardback edition, retailing at £26.50 or £23.85 for Subscribers.

My Secrets in the Ruy Lopez

Lajos Portisch, 160 pages, paperback
RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Gambit Publications make a welcome return to the publishing front this month and with no less than a Hungarian legend picking up his pen for them. During his long career as part of the chess elite Portisch was widely recognised for his knowledge of the Ruy Lopez and here he opens up his notebooks on the many lines of this famous opening. Portisch may now be 80, but he has checked his lines with the computer, adding further discoveries. The blend of important games and new ideas is quite fascinating at times, as are the various anecdotes included along the way.

Reti: A Repertoire for White

Victor Bologan; PC-DVD, running time: 5 hours
RRP £25.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.39**

1 ♞f3 followed by 2 c4 is, of course, by no means a new development, but it has been quite topical of late and might just surprise many opponents at club level. Bologan is certainly keen on emphasising the typical plans and motifs for White, as he takes the viewer through some 30 mini video lectures. The Symmetrical English lines after 1 ♞f3 c5 2 c4 ♞f6 3 ♞c3 can certainly become quite theoretical, but here and with 1 ♞f3 d5 2 c4 c6 3 g3 there should be sufficient coverage for most viewers. Bologan admits that he has not covered quite every black defence, which is honest and shouldn't be too big a deterrent to getting the viewer up and running with 1 ♞f3, but quite possibly not all will want to meet the King's Indian, 1...♞f6 2 c4 g6, with 3 b4!?

Rocket Repertoire: The Four Knights

Simon Williams; PC-DVD, running time: 5 hours
RRP £25.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.39**

The popular English Grandmaster isn't a man one associates with dull positions, so that he considers 1 e4 e5 2 ♞f3 ♞c6 3 ♞c3 ♞f6 to be quite a viable position as White makes one sit up and take notice. Williams covers both 4 ♟b5 and 4 d4 exd4 5 ♞xd4, two sensible options where he does his best to avoid excessive theory and to inject an attacking bent where possible. Unsurprisingly, though, some of the recommendations are still quite positional, something which one couldn't describe the concluding Belgrade Gambit (4 d4 exd4 5 ♞d5!?) coverage as.

The Blumenfeld Gambit:

A Sharp Weapon in the Benoni

Andrew Martin; PC-DVD, running time:
4 hours, 44 minutes

RRP £25.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.39**

This is quite a detailed DVD on that sharp counter to 1 d4 ♞f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♞f3, namely

3...c5 4 d5 b5!?. Martin presents some classic Blumenfeld games, as well as a fair bit of cutting-edge theory and, of course, in his usual style does a very good job of explaining all the key ideas for both sides. If you like to fight for the initiative as Black from the word go and revel in unbalanced, sometimes fairly irrational positions, the Blumenfeld might just be a good fit.

The Tactician's Handbook

Viktor Charushin & Karsten Müller,
240 pages, paperback

RRP £20.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.89**

The late Russian correspondence master Victor Charushin produced five tactically-based works in the late nineties, *Alekhine's Block*, *Combination Cross*, *Lasker's Combination*, *Mitrofanov's Deflection*, and *The Steeplechase*. He also penned two unpublished works, 'Domination' and 'Less Common Combinations'. Now Karsten Müller has waded through all seven of Charushin's books, selecting the most enlightening material for this new work, while adding many instructive exercises.

Understanding the Sicilian

Mikhail Golubev, 240 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The Ukrainian Grandmaster has long been a noted expert on the Sicilian, as well as a fine author and here makes a welcome return for Gambit. Golubev presents some of his most instructive Sicilian encounters, all well annotated and with opponents ranging from the likes of Shirov and Svidler down to lower-rated players he was desperate to win against. This work cannot fail to make the reader love much about the Sicilian and is especially recommended to all who venture 1 e4 c5 2 ♞f3 and 3 d4 as White, as well as to Dragon and Najdorf adherents.

W.H.K. Pollock:

A Chess Biography with 523 Games

Olimpiu G. Urcan and John S. Hilbert,
500 pages, hardback

RRP £54.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £49.45**

Two of McFarland's leading authors team up to present another most impressively researched work, but who was William Pollock (1859-1896)? Readers not from the U.S. may not realise that he was one of that country's leading players during the final years of his life. A Cheltenham-born man, Pollock trained in Ireland as a doctor and only first went to America in 1889 for the Sixth American Congress in New York. Shortly after he turned professional and also served as Wilhelm Steinitz's secretary. Throughout Urcan and Hilbert examine Pollock's many abilities at the board, while providing plenty of fascinating material about the chess scene of the time in Britain and especially America.

