

Chess

CARUANA'S CONQUEST

the full story of the 9th London Chess Classic



Opposite Castling - Steve Giddins explores beyond conventional wisdom



Hastings Heroes - Sengupta fought back to tie for first on the south coast



Quiz Solutions - how did you get on with Charles Higgle's fiendish quiz?

Chess

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Changing the Rules

International Arbiter Alex Holowczak takes a look at the new laws of chess that have come into effect and a certain illegal move from the World Rapid & Blitz

On 1st January 2018, new Laws of Chess were introduced, just six months after the previous revision. They tidy up the 1st July 2017 revision, in which changes were rushed and had not gone through the normal levels of scrutiny.

The hot topic in the chess world as I write this is the King Salman World Rapid & Blitz Championship. While pre-tournament there was much conversation about the merits of holding it in Saudi Arabia, sadly much of what happened coming away from the tournament was comment on the Laws of Chess and the quality of arbiting.

When I took up arbiting, the 2009 Laws of Chess were current. The illegal move rules had one or two woolly edges, but in principle were simple enough – if a player made an illegal move, for the first two give two minutes to your opponent, and a third loses the game. In Blitz, one illegal move lost the game.

The definition of an illegal move was simple. It was the result of not moving a piece the way it should: moving a bishop like a rook, for instance, or not getting out of check. If the player did something of that nature before pressing his clock, it was an illegal move. In general, it appeared to be a non-issue in many amateur tournaments I was involved with, and there didn't appear to be any major illegal move scandals reported by the world's chess media at the time. If there was an illegal move that was incorrectly handled, no one really noticed – the penalty was comparatively trivial to what it would become.

In the 2013 Laws of Chess – which came out a year late in 2014 – things changed. The Laws changed to two illegal moves losing for classical chess, and one for Rapid & Blitz. The reason reported at the time was that players were making illegal moves deliberately when short of time, to gain time while the arbiter adjusted the clock.

As a result of this, amateur players could now lose games of chess due to carelessness that they couldn't before. Meanwhile, the professionals would play in tournaments like the World Cup with large numbers of arbiters, which were able to opt in to using the 'Competition Rules', which allowed them to use the classical Laws, i.e. that two illegal moves would lose. Consequently, the people with the most to gain by cheating in the way they were trying to prevent still could, and the amateurs now had their games of chess spoiled through carelessness. It was a step in the wrong direction.



Russian GM Ernesto Inarkiev provided arguably the talking point of the whole World Rapid & Blitz in Saudi Arabia with his startling claim of the game against Magnus Carlsen no less.

In time for the 2018 tidying up, suddenly the Law was changed, and now two illegal moves would also lose in Rapid & Blitz. The rationale for this is that by default, the same rules apply for classical, Rapid and Blitz chess, which might be important at an event like the World Cup with so many different types of game.

Certain issues with the new rules came to light due to the high-profile clash between Carlsen-Inarkiev in Riyadh, where in the diagram below White played **27 ♖xb7+**.



The arbiter had just moved away to look at one of the other games – in Riyadh, there was one arbiter for every five games. Inarkiev then played **27...♘e3+** and pressed the clock. This is an illegal move, and if Carlsen had brought this to the arbiter's attention, the arbiter should have awarded Carlsen the

win because of Inarkiev's illegal move.

However, for whatever reason, Carlsen instead played **28 ♕d3**. At this point, Inarkiev immediately stopped the clock and signalled for an arbiter. The arbiter arrived and declared the game lost for Carlsen, ruling that **28. ♕d3** was an illegal move. Sadly, the arbiter had made the wrong decision, and as the players were leaving the playing area, Chief Arbiter Takis Nikolopoulos overruled the board arbiter, and said that the game should resume from the position after **28 ♕d3**, which was a legal position. Inarkiev refused and decided to appeal Nikolopoulos's decision, but the Appeals Committee upheld the decision. Inarkiev refused to play on, and so Carlsen won the game.

Various commentators have now picked up on the following position:



This arose after the moves **1 e4 d6 2 ♟b5+ h5**. The commentators then provide the following two options for White:

- i. Claim the illegal move, and get an extra minute in Blitz, or two in Rapid;
- ii. Play 3 ♟xh5 and carry on.

In classical chess, if this happened, White would have the following options:

- i. Claim the illegal move and get two extra minutes;
- ii. Play 3 ♟xh5 and carry on.

The options are the same. The only change is what happens if the arbiter sees the illegal move. Again, in all three formats, if the arbiter observes 2...h5 and the clock being pressed, then the game can be reset to the position before 2...h5 and White gets extra time.

The difference is what happens after 3 ♟xh5. If at this point the problem is brought to the arbiter's attention in classical chess, then the game goes back to the position before 2...h5, and the game continues. You can do that because the players will have maintained a scoresheet. In Rapid & Blitz, you can't do that, because the players are not obliged to maintain a scoresheet. As a result, because the position on the board is legal, the game continues, as if no illegal move has been made.

If there are no scoresheets, what other options are available? The Laws of Chess permit a tournament to use the Competition Rules (i.e. the classical Laws) for Rapid & Blitz if two conditions are met:

- i. There is one arbiter for at most three games in Rapid (one arbiter per game in Blitz);
- ii. Each game is recorded manually by the arbiter or an assistant, and if possible by electronic means.

The World Championships in Riyadh couldn't meet these requirements, but in my opinion they are much too restrictive. As a suggested improvement for the next revision, I would think it enough that if all games were being recorded on a live board, then this should be enough to use the Competition Rules. That way, the World Championship can use the liveboards rather than the scoresheet to see the position, and go back to the position before 2...h5 and play on from there. Meanwhile the local Rapid tournament in a town hall in the English countryside, played with plastic pieces and plastic boards, can use the new Laws happily because there is no evidence that anything other than a normal game of chess has taken place.

What do you do if a liveboard fails? Well, what do you do if you can't reconstruct the game from the scoresheets the arbiters have kept, or the players have kept in a classical game? Liveboards ought to be reliable enough these days, and it isn't clear to me that arbiters are able to record the moves at the end of a Blitz game any better than the technology can.

Is this the compromise that works for everyone?

Ed. - For more on this topic, do see Saunders on Chess this month.

Anatoly's Chess Festival (continued from page 15)

P.Pieri-C.Strugnell
Cap d'Agde 2017



20...f5!!

Maybe the best move I have ever played in my life. For the moment it just seems I might consider ...♟g5 or the like after he takes on d5.

I simply could not conform to the normal 20...♟xf3+ 21 ♟xf3 when the blockading knights would reduce my bishop-pair to passive defenders. It was all too depressing, so I spent most of the next 20 minutes in circular thinking looking at 20...♟c4, which is the logical alternative, as it forces 21 ♟xd5 ♟b8, at least aiming at something (g3). However, after 22 ♟d6! ♟xd6 23 ♟xd6 and then going round and round, I finally became convinced nothing good was to come of it. I then went on to 20...♟h8, which does avoid checks in case of ♟xf7 (but what help is that?), and here I noticed the idea of ...♟xf2+ followed by ...♟b6. Was there not a way to make this work?

20...h5 was my before last candidate move, and another five minutes passed before I realised he can actually just take it rather than d5.

21 ♟xd5 ♟xf2+! 22 ♟xf2?

Even after 22 ♟xf2 ♟xd5 White has to be precise to keep the balance, and 23 ♟c7!

♟xc7 24 ♟xd5+ ♟h8 should even slightly favour Black.

22...♟g4+!

My original idea of 22...♟b6+ doesn't work, at least not immediately, but I got lucky (23 ♟f1 ♟xd5 24 ♟xd5 ♟g4 25 ♟d4! is the issue when 25...♟h6 does keep the game alive, but that's another subject).



23 ♟g1

Most importantly 23 ♟xg4?? fxg4 24 ♟xf7+ ♟xf7+ comes with check. Black also wins after both 23 ♟f3 ♟h2+! 24 ♟f4 (24 ♟f2 ♟b6+ resembles the game) 24...♟xd5 (24...g5+ was my line of thought) 25 ♟xd5 ♟b6 and 23 ♟f1 ♟e3+ 24 ♟g1 ♟xd1 25 ♟xf7+ ♟xf7 26 ♟xd8+ ♟xd8.

23...♟b6+ 24 ♟3d4 ♟xd5

All that fuss for a pawn, and things are far from over.

25 ♟e2 ♟ad8!?

Planning ...♟h6 and I want the knight on d4 pinned to avoid ♟f3 ♟xf3; gxf3, defending h2 with the rook on e2. However, even simpler would have been to crash straight through with 25...f4! 26 gxf4 ♟xf4.

26 ♟d2 f4 27 gxf4?

In romantic-era fashion, he allows me to seal my win. 27 ♟e1 is objectively speaking winning for Black, but still requires some work.

27...♟h6 28 ♟e7 ♟h2+ 29 ♟f1 ♟c4+ 0-1

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Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability, with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from various recent events, not least the London Chess Classic. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just win a pawn.

Solutions on page 54.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) G.Heap-W.Hewitt
Swansea 2017
White to Play



(2) M.Rivlin-N.Tassell
Essex 2017
White to Play



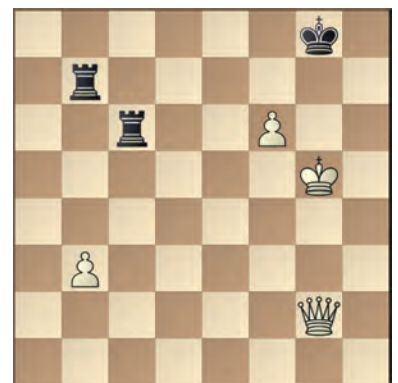
(3) J.Houska-S.Edwards
London 2017
White to Play



(4) J.Volovich-F.Fernandez Aransay
London 2017
Black to Play



(5) M.Rogacewicz-T.Rushbrooke
London 2017
White to Play



(6) S.B.Hansen-B.Bok
German Bundesliga 2017
Black to Play and Draw



Home News

BATTLE – A welcome announcement from the English Chess Federation was that about a new event, the 2018 British Blitz Championship. On Saturday 8th September Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, London, Manchester and Newcastle will host 15-round qualifying tournaments, with two players from each qualifier progressing to a final in November with a prize fund in excess of £5,000 in place. Keep an eye on englishchess.co.uk for more details.

BRIDGEND – Three of Wales' best players tied for first in the South Wales New Year Congress (5–7 January).

Open: 1–3 Tim Kett (North Cardiff), Thomas Brown (Cardiff), Jonathan Blackburn (Holmes Chapel) 4/5.

Major: 1 Conor Gay (Holmes Chapel) 4½, 2 Tomasz Miga (Llanelli) 4, 3–5 Andrew Di-Vetta (Bridgend), Simon Gay (Holmes Chapel), David Williams (Malpas) 3½.

Minor: 1 Joel Chung (Morriston) 4, 2–3 Marque Fernando (Long Eaton), Edward Mason (Cardiff) 3½.

HASTINGS – The annual Hastings Chess Club Rapidplay took place on December 17th. Bogdan Lalic was top seed, but once again was too solid for his own good, conceding draws to Bernard Cafferty, Ollie Willson and Francis Rayner to finish on 5½/7. Going half a point better was 83-year-old Bernard Cafferty and so for quite possibly the first time in his life, Lalic finished behind an octogenarian.

Away from the Masters section, as chronicled earlier in these pages, the Hastings Congress once again played host to a number of different sections at the Horntye Park Sports Complex (28 December – 7 January).

Christmas Morning 'A': 1–2 Tserendorj Batsaikhan (Mongolia), Helge Hjort (Hendon) 3½/4, 3–4 Jacob Boswell (Cheddleton), Ian Deswarte (Guildford) 3.

Christmas Morning 'B': 1–2 Adrian Cload (Hastings), Jeremy Hudson (Bexhill) 3½, 3–5 Chris Fraser (West Bridgford), Gregory Richards, Harunobu Oyama (Cambridge) 3.

Christmas Afternoon 'A': 1 Chris Howell (Redhill) 4/5, 2–4 Joshua Pink (Coventry), Cassie Graham (Worthing), Peter Broszeit (Germany) 3½.

Christmas Afternoon 'B': 1 Thomas Finn (Bexhill) 4, 2–5 Dirk Broksch (Germany), Carl Gartside (Buxton), Shreyas Royal (Kent), Christopher Hann (Bexhill) 3½.

Christmas Afternoon 'C': 1–2 Hugh Tassell (Tunbridge Wells), David Fowler (Snodland) 4, 3 Jeremy Hudson (Bexhill) 3½.



14-year-old Alex Golding must be one of the youngest winners of the London Under-21.

Christmas Afternoon 'D': 1 William Stock (Tunbridge Wells) 4, 2–5 Paul Buswell (Hastings), David Howes (Ewhurst), Faye Ainscow (London), Harunobu Oyama (Japan) 3½.

New Year Morning 'A': 1–2 Thomas Thorpe (Leamington Spa), Roger Hutchings (Burwash) 3½/4, 3–4 Tserendorj Batsaikhan (Mongolia), Niloy Chakraborty (India) 3.

New Year Morning 'B': 1–2 Jan Petter Opedal (Norway), Phil Foley (Rainham) 3½, 3–4 Nicholas Mahoney (Doncaster), Marc Bryant (Hastings) 3.

New Year Morning 'C': 1 Barry Miles (London) 3½, 2–5 Jeff Fleischer (Croydon), Boris Stoyanov (London), Harunobu Oyama (Cambridge), Anna Pontonutti (Hastings) 3.

New Year Afternoon 'A': 1–2 Alan Barton, Paul Kelly (both Hastings) 3½/4, 3–4 Jerry Anstead (Tunbridge Wells), Chris Lake (Brighton) 3.

New Year Afternoon 'B': 1 Adrian Cload (Hastings) 4, 2 Jaques Parry (London) 3½, 3–5 Marc Bryant, Mason Woodhams (both Hastings), Jeremy Hudson (Bexhill) 3.

Weekend Open: 1–2 Mark Hebden (Leicester), Jahongir Vakhidov (Uzbekistan) 4½/5, 3 Ollie Willson (Hastings) 4.

Weekend Intermediate: 1 Laurence Butt (Eastbourne) 4½, 2–3 Keith Aitchison (Edinburgh), Geoffrey Bishop (Chislehurst) 4.

Weekend Under-130: 1 Chris Fraser (West Bridgford) 4½, 2–4 Neal Fisher (Peterborough), William Stock (Rainham), Neil Lang (Chislehurst) 4.

LONDON – The concluding parts of the London Junior Championships took place in Northwick Park and were held alongside a congress from December 28th to 30th.

Christmas Open: 1 Alex Golding (Guildford; London Under-18 and Under-21 champion) 6/6, 2–4 Jim Burnett (Doncaster), Stephen Prior (Grantham), Alfie Onslow (Hampton) 4.

Christmas Major: 1 Graham Ashcroft (Preston) 5, 2–4 Ganeshbabu Gnanagurusamy (Bradford), Jonathan Rubeck (Hendon), Adithya Pramod Paleri (Watford) 4.

Christmas Minor: 1 David Wray 5½, 2–3 Philip Truscott (both Harrow), Emma Bienvenu (France) 4½.

Under-16: 1–2 Rajat Makkar (France), Devan Patel (Rushall) 5, 3 Oliver Stubbs (Bristol) 4½.

The younger sections had been played over the weekend of December 16th and 17th, in which new champions were crowned: Under-14, Rajat Makkar (France); Under-12, Jacob Yoon (Enfield); and Under-10, Louis Khoo-Thwe (Norway).

As our Christmas issue went to press, the London Chess Classic (1–11 December) was drawing towards a close. After six rounds of the Open, Jonathan Hawkins shared the lead with Hrnt Melkumyan and Jahongir Vakhidov on 5½/6. Unfortunately Hawkins was then defeated by Melkumyan who went on to tie for first after finishing with two draws, but at least Jon Speelman salvaged some revenge for the Brits as he eliminated Melkumyan in the last-16

of the impressively strong Super Blitz, which was won by Venezuela's Eduardo Iturrizaga who overcame David Howell in the final.

Open: 1-3 Gabriel Sargissian, Hrant Melkumyan (both ARM), Sebastian Mazé (FRA) 7½/9, 4-9 Alexander Motylev (RUS), Tamir Nabaty (ISR), Nils Grandelius (SWE), Matthieu Cornette (FRA), Alexander Donchenko (GER), Vassilios Kotronias (GRE) 7.

Weekday Under-2050: 1-5 Tim Rogers (Hackney), Julien Shepley (Guildford), Benedict Keohane (London), Jonathan Landau (Chislehurst), Stefan Marsina (Slovakia) 4/5.

Weekday Under-1750: 1 Brendan O'Gorman (Coulsdon) 5, 2-4 Geoffrey Bishop (Chislehurst), Steven Watson (Hull), David Shalom (Kingston upon Thames) 4½.

Rapidplay Open: 1 Ingvar Andreasson (Sweden) 6/6, 2-5 Matthew Wadsworth (Reading), Colin Menzies (Athenaeum), Nicolas Varley (Hastings), Koby Kalavannan (Surbiton) 5.

Rapidplay Under-2050: 1 Tomas Jankunas (Lithuania) 6, 2-3 Harry Li (Alwoodley), Jonah Willow (Nottingham) 5.

Rapidplay Under-1825: 1-2 Wong Yee Chit (Singapore), Narendhranath Palani (London) 5½, 3-4 Kamil Miczek (North London), Luke Remus Elliott (Hampstead) 5.

Rapidplay Under-1600: 1-2 Lee Kyung Chan (South Korea), Oren Levene (Hendon) 6(!), 3 Robin Kerrison (Newcastle) 5½.

Meanwhile David Howell and Luke McShane were battling it out in the final of the British Knockout Championship. Howell led 1½-½, as we noted last month, only for McShane to level the scores with a classic King's Indian win. Indeed, the match looked to be McShane's when he led by an exchange and two pawns in the fourth and final classical game, but one must never write David Howell off when both sides are down to their final seconds. Indeed, it was to be McShane who cracked and after allowing a passed pawn to get out of control, he found himself two points down (the classical games counted for twice the number of points as the rapid games) heading into the final day, which consisted of four rapid games.

It was Howell's turn to crack and blunder into a mate in the third rapid game by when he had already suffered one defeat to a vintage McShane grind, and so, with the rapid games ending up 3-1, a precursor to what would occur in the main Classic was to happen as the players settled down for a blitz play-off. 34-year-old McShane took the play-off 2-0 to become the third British Knockout Chess Champion and we just hope that this ever exciting event will continue alongside the main London Chess Classic come December this year.

The latest Golders Green Rapidplay took place on January 6th and once again saw a grandmaster discovering that coming outright first is never an easy task at the popular Adam Raoof event.

Open: 1-2 Alexander Cherniaev (Hackney), Federico Rocco 5/6, 3 John Richardson (both Hendon) 4½.



Luke McShane won the British Knockout and then the silver medal in the European Blitz Ch.

Major: 1 Chris Levy (Hackney) 5, 2-3 Raghu Kamath (Richmond), Julian Macdonald (Chatham) 4½.

Minor: 1-2 Han-Sen Choong (Hampstead), Connor Clarke (Middlesex) 5, 3-4 David Smith (Crystal Palace), Oren Levene (Hendon) 4½.

Amateur: 1 Peter Watts (Middlesex) 5½, 2-3 Martin Leanse (Athenaeum), Sam Peterson (Hampstead) 5.

Under-80: 1 Dominic Maynard (London) 5/5, 2-4 James Coward (Bushbury), Alex Usharovskiy (Surrey), Albert Ganyushin (Watford) 4.

SOLIHULL – As we went to press, the latest 4NCL weekend had just taken place with the top two divisions playing in Solihull (13-14 January). Guildford destroyed both Barbican 4NCL II and White Rose 7-1 to continue their most impressive winning sequence, while Cheddleton defeated both Barbican 4NCL I and Blackthorne Russia 5½-2½ in the other pool. A full report next month.

TELFORD – The ever well organised Shropshire Congress (5-7 January) was once again a major success. Alan Merry scooped the £1,000 first prize with a perfect score in the Open, defeating Sophie Milliet and Paul Macklin on the Sunday, while Newport's Nathanael Paul became Shropshire Champion. **Open:** 1 Alan Merry (Bury St Edmunds) 5/5, 2-3 Ameet Ghazi (Richmond), Stephen Gordon (Wood Green) 4.

Major: 1-2 Chris Lewis (Newport), Glyn Pugh (Priorslee) 4, 3-4 Tim Lane (South Birmingham), Mark Whitehead (Rochdale) 3½.

Intermediate: 1-4 Dominic Bareford (Oswestry), David Gilbert (Coulsdon), Colin Mace (Wellington), Richard Szwajkun (Telford) 4.

Minor: 1 Chinmay Monga (Birmingham) 4½, 2-3 John Hodges (Solihull), Tom Skerrett (Hereford) 4.



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This Month's New Releases

Pieces, Pawns and Squares

Adrian Mikhachishin

ChessBase PC-DVD;

running time: 4 hours, 45 minutes

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

This DVD is all about technique: "How we conduct our plans, our ideas [...] improvement of the position [...] how we conduct it in the best and fastest way." Needless to say, this is a big subject. The material is split into four main parts, namely: how to create weaknesses; how to conquer and exploit important squares; pawns; and tests. There is also a database offering a further 57 examples of positional play with very brief notes (a line or two at best).

Mikhachishin is a ChessBase stalwart. I always find his DVDs to be very instructive, but they demand a lot of work from the chess student. His delivery is fast and heavily accented. Viewers will need to keep a flexible trigger-finger on the 'pause' button.

The first game shows Judit Polgar exploiting the d5-square in a typical Najdorf Sicilian against Anand. Watching the moves and listening to the explanatory commentary really brings home just how much of a sustained effort is required in order to earn a victory at the top level. This is apparent throughout most of the examples on the DVD, but the presenter does a very good job of instilling confidence in the viewer as he explains the ideas behind the plans, often using different illustrative snippets to illustrate a single theme.

This example – taken from the interactive test section, where playing the best move on the screen opens up the next video clip – is a case in point.

S.Bouaziz-A.Karpov Hamburg 1982



At first impression, it looks like Black can only hope for the opponent to make a big mistake in order to have serious winning chances. The potential weakness at g4 is very difficult to attack and the white position looks solid everywhere else. However, Karpov makes this position look like a forced win. The plan starts with **29...♖a6!**. This is difficult to find as I'm sure most players would automatically be thinking of placing the rook on f8, which offers advantages only of the illusory kind. After the further moves **30 ♖e2 ♗a4 31 d4 ♜b6** the b-pawn collapsed under the pressure and White couldn't hold on much longer (0-1, 42).

I found extra examples of this idea in the database, featuring Fischer and Geller. Indeed, one of the games shows Geller using the manoeuvre to target Fischer's b-pawn towards the end of another Najdorf Sicilian, so perhaps Fischer picked up the idea from there. Geller worked with Karpov, of course...

Summing up, I found the examples to be very instructive indeed, but this material is not for beginners. One can imagine Daniel King breaking down the material a little further to make it much more accessible, although Mikhachishin's style and delivery ensures this DVD is for much more experienced players and students, who should be able to learn a considerable amount from this highly respected trainer.

Sean Marsh



The Beastly Botvinnik Variation in the Semi-Slav!

Erwin L'Ami, ChessBase PC-DVD;

running time: 6 hours, 27 minutes

RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

The humorous title – augmented by the flamboyant use of the exclamation mark – is presumably designed to grab the attention and prepare students for a sharp intake of breath before they tackle one of the most fascinating and difficult variations of all.

Anyone wanting to play either side of **1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♖c3 ♗f6 4 ♗f3 e6 5 ♗g5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 7 e5 h6 8 ♗h4 g5 9 ♗xg5 hxg5 10 ♗xg5 ♗bd7 11 exf6**



♗b7 12 g3 c5 13 d5 ♜b6 14 ♗g2 0-0-0 15 0-0 b4...



...needs to put in a lot of hours preparing in a thorough fashion. Players of a certain age will remember Kasparov showing his remarkable ideas back in the 1980s and free spirits, including Shirov, taking up the challenge of defending Black's honour some time later. Several of the games using this variation at the top level look like chess from another planet.

There is no doubt L'Ami has done his homework. The variation has always been of great interest to him and his enthusiasm is clear throughout the DVD, on which he offers a full repertoire against 5 ♗g5, promising only the sharpest responses for Black and paying particular attention to the range of manoeuvres and sacrifices available to both sides. He sets the scene with a very good piece on the history of the variation and speculates whether the variation would have been named differently had the German player Klaus Junge, an early and successful enthusiast for the 5...dxc4, survived World War Two.

Nevertheless, the name of Botvinnik will be forever associated with the variation. As L'Ami explains, it is important to realise that the system is based on positional considerations. If it was simply a wild tactical melee then Botvinnik would not have been interested in making it part of his repertoire. Indeed, Botvinnik himself, in his essential work *One Hundred Selected Games* (Dover, 1960) also stresses that "a positional sense" is required, "based on the sound estimate of actual positions, functioning in the process of intelligent preparation." He goes on to stress the safety of Black's king after ...0-0-0, the target pawn on d4 and the plan of opening up the black bishops after ...c5.

Material is relative and activity is much more important, ably demonstrated in the section showing a selection of queen sacrifices, often with the person doing the sacrificing earning just two minor pieces in return, but with other factors influencing the evaluations also.

The strategic material on the DVD starts in unusual fashion – with the endgame. We have all seen the brilliant attacking games in which one side is destroyed in a tactical middlegame, but when endgames are reached after this variation there are certain characteristics, such as king safety and the respective pawn majorities, that emerge as factors of major importance. Even in this advanced phase of the game there are game-turning novelties being uncorked as we hit move 30.

Three videos round up the early deviations from the main (6 a4 and others), before moving on to the real meat of the whole presentation. Among the more recent material it was good to be reacquainted with an old favourite, in which a real giant of the game uncorked a sensational strategic idea.

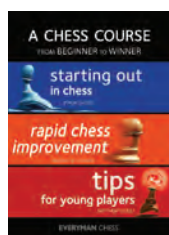
L. Polugaevsky-E. Torre Moscow 1981



Polugaevsky (quaintly rated 2620, which says a thing or two about rating inflation over the decades), having just sacrificed his rook on h1, went on to show his idea with two brilliant pawn moves. **17 h4!!** ♖h6 **18 f4!** and it suddenly becomes clear that Black's kingside pieces are out of the game for good (1-0, 40).

The DVD is aimed at strong, experienced tournament players. L'Ami does an admirable job explaining the ideas, plans and move orders, but club players will still find the variations too deep to handle, especially as they may have to try to remember a large amount about critical if rare variations just in case they appear over the board.

Sean Marsh

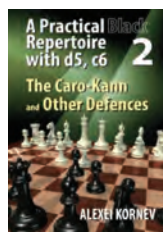


A Chess Course:

From Beginner to Winner

Byron Jacobs, Michael de la Maza & Matthew Sadler, 416 pages, paperback
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Everyman Chess have begun to package up some of their older, best-selling works into one bumper volume. Here readers get to enjoy all of *Starting Out in Chess*, *Rapid Chess Improvement* and *Tips for Young Players*; in other words, a fine primer for those completely new to the game, a controversial guide to self-improvement for the hard-working club player, and an excellent set of tips for the junior or weaker club player.



A Practical Black Repertoire with d5, c6 - Vol. 2: The Caro-Kann & Other Defences

Alexei Kornev, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The Russian Grandmaster moves on from the Slav repertoire of Volume 1 to focussing largely on meeting 1 e4 with the Caro-Kann, although the likes of 1 c4 c6 2 ♖f3 d5 also receive coverage. In true Chess Stars fashion, the main ideas for Black in each variation are presented clearly along with an outline of the repertoire before Kornev really gets down to the detailed theoretical coverage.



Chess Informant 134

336 pages, paperback
RRP £31.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £28.79**

Now that Josip Asik is running *American Chess Magazine*, the quality of the contributors to *Informator* isn't as high as it was under his watch, but there are still plenty of 2600+ players with much of note to impart. The 2017 European Team Championship and Palma de Mallorca Grand Prix receive reports, the Queen's Gambit Accepted and the Scotch see some detailed opening coverage, and there is also the usual

large collection of languagelessly annotated leading recent games and novelties.

Once again if you also like to receive your *Chess Informant* in CD format too, the combined book and CD package is available for £39.95 or just £35.95 for Subscribers.



ChessBase Magazine 181

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

The latest issue of *CBM* is subtitled 'December 2017/January 2018' and covers the major tournaments of the early autumn, namely the World Cup and the Isle of Man. Michael Adams is a guest annotator, while Simon Williams also chips in with a video contribution devoted to 1 e4 c5 2 ♗e2!?



Doubled Pawns: A Practical Guide

Sergey Kasparov, 256 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Hot on the heels of his work on the Hedgehog for Everyman, the lesser Kasparov is back with a work which should be suitable for an even wider audience. Some players rarely think about receiving doubled pawns; others hate to have them, but love to inflict them on the opponent. Neither approach can be entirely correct, of course, and Sergey Kasparov is on hand to help, presenting a number of rules of thumb which should help with all aspects of doubled pawns.



Grivas Method: Middlegame Strategies

Efstratios Grivas, 304 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

The leading Greek Grandmaster is nowadays best known as a prolific author and leading FIDE Trainer. In this new work for Chess Evolution Grivas looks at the middlegame, dividing his material up into 40 loose topics. These concepts vary somewhat, but throughout the author's emphasis is

explaining neglected ideas and paths, while presenting plenty of material for both fellow coaches and the keen club player.

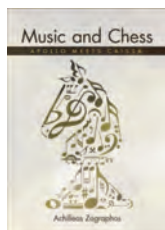


Learn Chess The Right Way – Book 4: Sacrifice to Win

Susan Polgar, 176 pages, paperback
RRP £18.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.05**

The former women's world champion continues to present her chess course for Russell Enterprises, *Learn Chess The Right Way*. In this fourth volume Polgar has plenty of advice for the weaker club player on how to sacrifice. Indeed, one might well view this new work as a puzzle book; in the first five chapters the reader knows which piece to sacrifice, but in the next five which piece to give up is left up to them.

Also new in stock is *Learn Chess The Right Way – Book 5: Find Winning Moves*, which takes the material already presented in the series to a new level, as Polgar discusses such topics as zugzwang and pawn power. This fifth volume is 160 pages long and also in paperback format, retailing at £18.95 (or £17.05 for Subscribers).



Music and Chess: Apollo meets Caissa

Achilleas Zographos, 224 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

We all know of the link between chess, maths and music, but only now is the relatively uncovered connection between chess and music fully explored by the Greek author. Zographos has been rated over 2200

and is also a pianist and music authority of some note, while he has even had some pupils whom he has taught both chess and music to. This work isn't the normal fare available at Chess & Bridge, but certainly takes the reader on a fascinating and wide-ranging journey.



New in Chess Yearbook 125

Peter Boel & René Olthof (eds.),

256 pages, paperback

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Magnus Carlsen features on the cover of the latest *Yearbook* and within Jan Timman takes a detailed look at the openings which have helped the world champion to make the most use of his many talents. There are also all the usual theoretical opening surveys, including three on the Najdorf and four on the English, while these days the *Yearbook* also contains some 75 puzzles for readers to solve.



The Correct Exchange in the Endgame

Eduardas Rozentalis, 168 pages, paperback

RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

Thinkers Publishing are still a very young company, but have already released a new edition of one of their books, this work by the famous Lithuanian Grandmaster. Rozentalis's emphasis throughout is the topic of simplification and exchanging, along the way tackling such subjects as the link between the opening and the endgame, while providing plenty of general pointers on when one should and should not be looking to exchange.



The Modernized Reti

Adrien Demuth, 440 pages, paperback

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

Young French GM and Guildford 4NCL player Adrien Demuth makes his debut as an author. Ever since Kramnik took up the flexible Reti, it has been popular at GM level and is now even being seen more often at lower levels. Demuth explains the key ideas while presenting a detailed and complete repertoire for White. The majority of the coverage is on 1 d4 f3 d5 2 c4 c6 3 g3 and 2...e6 3 g3, but both Black's alternative second moves in that sequence and 1...c5 also receive large chapters. Notably too in many lines of the repertoire White lands up with two powerful bishops in the middlegame and sometimes even without having to gambit a pawn.



Carlsen vs. Karjakin

Lev Albur, Jon Crumiller & Vladimir Kramnik,

336 pages, paperback

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

Did you think that the days of books on world championship matches had gone? Well, they haven't and this was certainly no book rushed straight off to print at the end of the 2016 match in New York. To the surprise of many, the match was both close and pretty gripping. Lev Albur and Jon Crumiller, the leading collector of chess sets and who annotated a game in these pages in October last year, describe the action, and they've also done extremely well to get none other than Vladimir Kramnik to annotate some of the key battles.

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