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MAGNUS'S MASTERCLASS

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Classy Carlsen - Magnus's rating soars as he triumphs at Shamkir and GRENKE

New York, New York! - Ben Graff immersed himself in the Big Apple's chess scene

Senior Successes - Reports on silver for England's Over-65s and the English Champs

Chess

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Oh, Maggie!

Watch out the record books – Magnus ‘Maggie’ Carlsen is back to his very best

He was rated 2835 after the world championship match and heading into Wijk aan Zee. Magnus Carlsen’s return to form on the windswept Dutch coast saw him finish on ‘+5’ for a gain of 10 rating points; ‘+5’ was also the winning margin at the Gashimov Memorial, which propelled the Norwegian superstar up to 2860 on the live rating list. And had Carlsen stopped? The GRENKE Chess Classic was to give a resounding answer to that naive question: no! In Karlsruhe and then Baden-Baden, the world champion went one better, racking up a huge ‘+6’ to gain 14 rating points and so now top the list at a whopping 2875.

Unsurprisingly Carlsen’s dominance in Azerbaijan and then Germany drew comparisons with Garry Kasparov in his pomp. The Norwegian world champion was playing at his very best, arguably for the first time since 2014–15 (readers may recall Magnus’s quip during a press conference in London late last year that his favourite player of all time was: “Myself, three or four years ago”), and weren’t some of his opponents seemingly quaking with fear and so below their usual level?

In his Editorial last month, our Executive Editor rightly pointed out that it was a case of “Magnus at his fantastic best” at the Gashimov Memorial, partly helped by “The post title-match boost players sometimes have when some of their unseen prep gets the chance to see the light of day.” Malcolm went on to explain why it was foolhardy of Giri, Karjakin and Navara to challenge the champ in lines which he had had on the board and clearly prepared in great detail for London.

The Gashimov Memorial

Amazingly this year’s Gashimov Memorial was already the sixth in Shamkir, honouring that extremely talented Azeri Grandmaster, the former world no. 6 Vugar Gashimov (1986–2014). Carlsen had won three of the previous editions; Shakhriyar Mamedyarov the other two. With a field averaging 2780 it didn’t look in advance like a walkover for Magnus, but having enjoyed two months’ rest since Wijk, he was clearly determined to carry on from where he had left off in the Netherlands.

No doubt wanting to avoid a forced draw in a Sveshnikov, as had occurred in their encounter at Wijk, Carlsen opted for 1...e5 against Teimour Radjabov in the opening round in Shamkir. He even followed up with a fairly early ...f5, but it was to be the super-



The face of a 2900? The champ was determined and utterly ruthless at the Gashimov Memorial, his play getting even better by the round, culminating in a positional masterpiece.

solid Azeri who was to be on the more comfortable of the draw. The world champion was a little more restrained the next day against his predecessor, but soon had the sort of position he thrives in and once Anand slipped up, a vintage Carlsen grind ensued.

improve over 12 0-0 ♖xc3 13 bxc3 h6 14 a4 ♗e7! 15 ♗e5 ♗d6, which was already quite comfortable for Black in Carlsen-Caruana, 2nd matchgame, London 2018.

12...♗xc3 13 bxc3 exd5 14 0-0 h6 15 a4 ♗d6 16 ♗xd6 ♗xd6 17 c4 ♗e6

The obvious move, but in the final round in Shamkir, 17...♗b8!? was introduced and after 18 c5 ♗d8 19 ♗d2 ♗e6 20 ♗b1 ♗dc8 Black was rock-solid in Mamedyarov-Karjakin.

18 c5 ♗dd8

M.Carlsen-V.Anand

Round 2

Queen’s Gambit Declined

1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 d5 4 ♗c3 ♗e7 5 ♗f4 0-0 6 e3 c5 7 dxc5 ♗xc5 8 ♗c2 ♗c6 9 a3 ♗a5 10 ♗d1 ♗d8 11 ♗e2 ♗e4

The inventor of 11 ♗e2 appears to be the West Midlands’ very own Don Mason, who after 11...a6?! 12 0-0 dxc4 13 ♗xc4 ♗xd1 14 ♗xd1 b5? 15 ♗d3 ♗e7 16 ♗e4 was already doing extremely well in Mason-Tambini, British Championship, Aberystwyth 2014.

12 cxd5

Possibly this was prepared by Team Carlsen during the world championship match, if never deployed there. It attempts to



Readers' Letters



Joe Bunting & Chesterfield

My late father transferred to Chesterfield with his job in 1945 and we lived there until 1948. I was too young then, between 5 and 8 years of age, to go along to evening chess matches, but did go along to club and county matches on Saturdays and Joe Bunting was a member of the team.

Dr. L.K. Ingram was the Chesterfield top board and his contribution to the fortunes of the club appears on the Chesterfield Club website. I had no idea that Joe Bunting was a problemist until reading Brian Stephenson in the March *CHESS* and thus solving the problem Brian set gave me some special pleasure.

Keith Ingram, Shirley



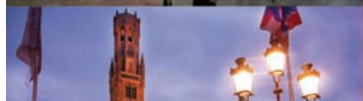
Smaller Pieces Please!

I enjoyed *Saunders on Chess* in the March issue about medium-size chess pieces. Pressure of work forced me to give up active playing some 20 years ago, but I still play through games and positions.

I have several sets, but like John, I have found a set with a three-inch king and small

squares is the right size for home analysis, especially if you only have small space available.

Also, the game John gave in April's *CHESS* was a slight variant on a very ancient trap in the Berlin Defence: 1 **e4 e5** 2 **d4 f3** 3 **♘b5** 4 **0-0** 5 **♙xe4** 6 **♙d6** 7 **♙xe5** 8 **♙xe5** 9 **♙e7** 10 **♙c3**.



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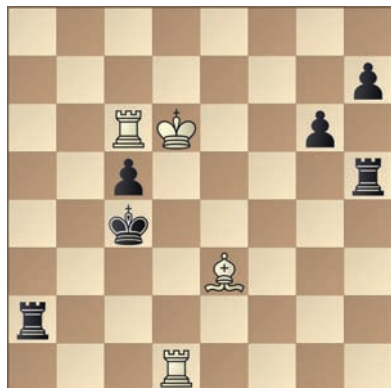


We have reached the position given in the diagram on page 58 in April, except the black pawn is on a7 not a6, the black knight on d6 not c5, and the white bishop on b5 not a4. After 8...**♙xb5?** 9 **♙d5** Black had to resign just six moves later in Bachmann-Fiechtl, Regensburg 1887.

Russell Sparkes, London

Both involving the black king and keeping it safe.

38 ♖d1 ♠a5 39 ♖xa7+ ♠b4 40 ♖b7 ♠xb3
41 ♖xb6+ ♠xc4 42 ♖xc6 ♖h4+ 43 ♠xe5
♖h5+ 44 ♠d6



Black has defended very well thus far and now after 44...♖f5!? 45 ♠xc5 ♖f6+ 46 ♠d7 ♖xc6 47 ♠xc6 h5 48 ♖g1 ♖a8 she also most likely would have been able to avoid defending just rook against rook and bishop.

44...♖a8 45 ♖c1+ ♠d3 46 ♠xc5 ♠e4 47 ♖e1+ ♠f3 48 ♠b6 ♖a3 49 ♠e7 ♖f5 50 ♖h1 ♖h5 51 ♖f1+ ♠g2 52 ♖g1+ ♠h3 53 ♠c7 ♖e3+ 54 ♠d7 ♖d5+ 55 ♠c8 ♖ed3 56 ♖h1+ ♠g4 57 ♖xh7 g5

Gormally has done well to win two pawns, but his coordination remains an issue and the g-pawn will save the day for Black.

58 ♖h1 ♖d1 59 ♖h8 ♖1d3 60 ♖f8 ♖d1 61 ♠b6 ♖1d3 62 ♖h8 ♖d6 63 ♖c4+ ♠f5 64 ♠b7 ♖d7+ 65 ♠c8 ♖7d6 66 ♠c7 ♖6d4 67 ♖c6 ♖d5 68 ♖f8+ ♠g4 69 ♖e6 ♖c3 70 ♖f7 ♖dc5 71 ♠b7 ♖b3+ 72 ♠b6 ♖f5 73 ♖d7 ♖fb5 74 ♖d1 ♠f5 75 ♖c6 g4 76 ♠c7 g3 77 ♠d4 ♖d5 78 ♖f1+ ♠g4 79 ♖c4 ♖d3 80 ♠c5+ ♠h3 81 ♖h1+ ♠g2 82 ♖g1+ ♠f3 83 ♖c2 ♖d1 84 ♖c3+ ♖5d3 85 ♖xd1 ♖xc3 86 ♠d6 ♖xc5! 87 ♠xc5 g2 88 ♠d4 ♠f2 89 ♖d2+ ½-½



Danny Gormally was frustrated by stiff resistance in the final round at Edinburgh.

EXMOUTH – Bob Jones reports from the West of England Championships (19–22 April):

“The presence of a grandmaster or two in a relatively small provincial event can be guaranteed to raise the interest level and attract further entries. In recent years this function has been provided for the West of England Championship by locally-based Keith Arkell. This year, however, he was unavailable, playing instead in the World Seniors’ events on the island of Rhodes, so interest focussed on Matthew Turner, resident chess master at Millfield School in Somerset. Already a five-time West of England Champion, Matthew was no stranger to the event nor the venue, but this year was able to accompany two of his pupils.

“Matthew has clearly been on-form recently, after his showing at the very strong Bunratty tournament in February, coming third with David Howell. He was streets ahead of the opposition in Exmouth, and predictably finished on 7/7, but had to work hard in some of his games, especially in the final round against Richard McMichael. However, he did get chances to shine, as in his entertaining miniature from round 5 against the joint runner-up.”

Open: 1 Matthew Turner (Street) 7/7, 2–3 Dominic Mackle (Torquay), Patryk Krzyzanowski (South Bristol) 4½.

Major: 1 Yasser Tello (Wimbledon) 5½, 2–4 Stephen Mitchell (Slough), Jamie Morgan (Cornwall), Matthew Wilson (Teignmouth) 5.

Minor: 1 Patrick O’Brien (Worthing) 5½, 2 Jason Madden (Leamington Spa) 5, 3–4 Ken Alexander (East Budleigh), Jacque Barber-Lafon (Newton Abbot) 4½.

Notes by Matthew Turner

M.Turner-P.Krzyzanowski
Exmouth 2019

Sicilian Hyper-Accelerated Dragon

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 g6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 ♖c6 6 ♖a4

This line seems surprisingly challenging for Black. The most obvious approach leads to a small but enduring advantage for White after 6...d6 7 e5 dxe5 8 ♖xe5 ♠d7 (8...♠g7 is a more ambitious alternative) 9 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 10 ♠e3. Patryck attempts a more interesting idea, but it looks a bit dubious.



The new West of England Champion, Matthew Turner, who racked up a full house, receives his trophy at Exmouth from the West of England Ladies Champions, Jacque Barber-Lafon.

6...♙g7 7 e5 ♘g8 8 ♙f4 f6 9 exf6

I considered 9 e6, which looks very dangerous, but I'd probably need to invest a piece to maintain the attack which seemed a bit unnecessary.

9...♜xf6



After the game, I was amazed to learn this position had been played by both Ponomarev and Zvjaginsev as Black. I was also a little surprised that their opponents had opted for 10 ♙c4. In principle this seems wrong, because it leaves the bishop on f4 undefended and brings the possibility of ...♙a5 more into play.

10 0-0-0 ♜h5

Again this is probably a bit ambitious. 10...0-0 should probably be preferred when Black can try to spread merry chaos by, for example, 11 ♜g5 d5 12 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 13 ♜xd5 ♙b6.

11 ♜b5 ♜xf4 12 ♙xf4 d6 13 ♙c4 ♜f8 14 ♙g3

Originally I had intended 14 ♙e3 here, which is the computer's preferred move, but I didn't see a clear way to proceed after 14...♜f6. The computer seems to think Black can get away with 14...a6 after the text, but it looks incredibly risky.

14...♜e5?



Allowing rather a pretty tactic.

15 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 16 ♙xe5! dxe5 17 ♜xd8+ ♜xd8 18 ♜d1+ ♜d7

Not many attacking pieces left, but enough for mate after 18...♙e8 19 ♜c7#.

19 ♙e6 a6 20 ♜xd7+ ♜c8 21 ♜d6+! 1-0

The last little tactic. The game just about stumbles on after 21 ♜xe7+ ♙b8 22 ♜d6

♜a7, but after 21 ♜d6 Black is left with no way to carry on: 21...♙b8 22 ♜xb7 is mate and 21...exd6 22 ♜f7+ gets rid of both rooks.

FALMOUTH – Grant Healey became Cornish Champion as the successful Cornwall Congress (3-5 May) attracted 77 players to the Falmouth Hotel. It was the first year the tournament has been open to players from outside the county, although we note that the top, 'championship' section was restricted to those graded under-190.

Championship: 1-2 Jonathan Wells (Norwich), Paul Helbig 4, 3-4 Stephen Dilleigh (both Bristol), Grant Healey (Truro) 3½.

Major: 1-2 Raymond Gamble (Derby), David Teague (Harrogate) 4, 3-4 Stephen Williams (Cwmbran), Graham Shepherd (Shrewsbury) 3½.

Minor: 1 Harry Minor (Isle of Man) 4½, 2-3 Christine Constable (Bude), Maurice Richards (Liskeard) 4.

JERSEY – Open tournament expert Sergei Tiviakov edged out defending champion Tiger Hillarp Persson to claim the £1,500 top prize at the Polar Capital Jersey Festival (6-13 April).

Open: 1 Sergei Tiviakov (Holland) 7½/9, 2 Tiger Hillarp Persson (Sweden) 7, 3 Alan Merry (Bury St Edmunds) 6½, 4-5 Damian Lemos (Argentina), John-Pierre le Roux (France) 6.

Holiday: 1 Eric Boisyvon (France) 8, 2 Richard Morgan (Chiswick) 6½, 3-5 Russell Finch (Guernsey), David Wilson (Jersey), Mike Gunn (Guildford) 6.

LEICESTER – The Midland Open Junior Championships took place in Leicester the week before Easter (16-18 April), comprising Under-18 and Under-9 Swiss tournaments.

Under-18: 1 Kishan Modi (Leicester) 6/6, 2 Merlin Davies (Daventry) 3½.

Under-14: 1-2 Jason Lv (Wigston), Pavel Murawski (Oxford) 4, 3-5 Teo Rybak (Maidenhead), Imogen Dicen (South Birmingham), Adam Hussain (Truro) 3½.

Under-11: 1 Jude Shearsby 4, 2-4 Manvith Sandhu, Margarita Sanchez (all Coventry), Tashika Arora (Oxford) 3.

Under-9: 1 Elis Dicen (Birmingham) 6, 2 Joshua Tang (Braunstone) 5, 3 Jan Murawski (Oxford) 4.

LONDON – Grantham's Stephen Prior triumphed with 4½/5 in the latest Hampstead Under-2200 Congress, finishing half a point ahead of Leo Sanitt (Hendon). Connor Clarke (Middlesex) won the Under-1900 section, also with '+4', and so edged out Alan Prince, Peter Lim (Harrow) and Dylan Mize (UCL) by half a point, while victory in the Under-135 went to Michal Kajda (Newham), who amassed a perfect score to finish a point clear of Nikita Berezin (Russia).

The latest Golders Green Rapidplay on May 11th was won by Ilya Iyengar.

Open: 1 Ilya Iyengar (Hendon) 5½, 2-3 Bao Nghia Dong (Loughborough), Nadia Jaufarally (St Albans) 4½.

Major: 1-2 Gopakumar Siddharth (Basildon), George Clarkson (north-west London) 5, 3-7 Rohan Pal (Birmingham), Mohammed Alahi (London), Sydney Jacob (Lewisham), Anum Sheikh (Ilford), Colin Lyne (Camberley) 3½.

Minor: 1 Savas Stoica (Barnet) 5, 2-6 Robert Kender (Mushrooms), Georgi Aleksiev (Bulgaria), Paul Chantrell (Kings Head), Alex Funk (Hendon), Declan Kilcline (Dunmow) 4½.

Amateur: 1-2 Patrick Damodaran (Kent), Tomas Garau (Battersea) 5½, 3 Mark McLeod (Didcot) 4.

Improvers: 1-3 Aaron Dhillan (Mottingham), Tianyou Xu (Hammersmith), David Clarkson (north-west London) 5.

Under-80: 1 Eliot Kalfon (London) 5, 2-3 Layla Bracken (Barnet), Abeer Gogia (Maidenhead) 4.

SOUTHEND – Cambridge undergraduate FM Matthew Wadsworth had another good result in the 12-player Southend Masters, sharing first place and £1,500 with an Indian IM and Argentinean GM.

Leading scores: 1-3 Matthew Wadsworth (Maidenhead), Khamparia Akshat (India), Damian Lemos (Argentina) 6/9, 4-6 Iain Gourlay (Richmond), Bogdan Lalic (Sandhurst), Alex Golding (Guildford) 5½.

Alongside the Masters, the traditional sections of the Southend Easter Congress took place (18-22 April).

Open: 1-2 Rhys Cumming (Hove), Antanas Zapolskis (Hendon) 6/7, 3 Henrik Stepanyan (Sutton Coldfield) 5.

Under-1900: 1 Alan Price (Edinburgh) 5½, 2-5 Alaa Gamal (Basildon), Seun Maraiyesa (London), Brendan O'Gorman (Coulsdon), William Golding (Guildford) 5.

Under-145: 1 Christopher Willoughby (Brentwood) 5½, 2 Olga Latypova (Chelmsford) 4½, 3-4 David Smith (Maidstone), Timothy Crouch (Kings Head) 4.

Under-95: 1 Charlotte Willoughby (Brentwood) 6½, 2 Parag Kumar (London) 6, 3-4 Mae Catabay (Colchester), Kameron Grose (Wetherby) 4.

STEVENAGE – The 4NCL put on a strong Easter Congress at Stevenage (19-22 April).

Open: 1-2 Marcus Harvey (Southampton), Mark Hebden (Leicester) 6/7, 3-6 Graeme Buckley (Sutton), Danny Gormally (Alnwick), Jonah Willow (Nottingham), John Richardson (Hendon) 5.

Under-2050: 1-2 Rangarirai Karu (Watford), Omowale Nelson (Welwyn Garden City) 6, 3-4 Richard Johnson (Bristol), Tony Slinger (Garforth) 5.

Under-1825: 1-2 Ron Usharovsky (Richmond), Zak Tomlinson (Doncaster) 6, 3 Stephen Pride (Royston) 5.

Under-120: 1-4 Tomy Joseph (Watford), Mo Jaufarally (St Albans), Tim Cutter (Sandhurst), Geoff Ainsley (Halifax) 5.

TELFORD – The 2018/19 4NCL season concluded in Telford, Blackrod and Daventry. On top of the action from the first division, as covered earlier in these pages, the winners and losers elsewhere were:

Division Two: Promoted – Barbican 4NCL II, Cambridge University, Spirit of Atticus, Gonzaga; Relegated – Manchester Manticores, Wessex, Bradford DCA Knights, West is Best II.

Division Three North: Promoted – White Rose II, Manchester Manticores II.

Division Three South: Promoted – Kings Head, Check Innmates 1; Relegated – CSC II, Icenii II, Leeds University Old Boys, Sussex Martlets II.

Division Four: Promoted – Crowthorne, Ashfield, and possibly two others.

The 4NCL have also announced the dates and venues for the 2019/20 season: 9-10 November 2019 (Divisions Three and Four; Maidenhead, South Normanton); 11-12 January (Daventry, Maidenhead, Blackrod); 8-9 February (Daventry, Maidenhead, Blackrod); 29 February - 1 March (Divisions One & Two, Daventry); 28-29 March (Daventry, South Normanton), 4-5 April (Divisions Three & Four, Daventry); 2-4 May (Daventry, Mortimer, South Normanton).



The Cornwall Congress could be considered a success. Grant Healey became Cornish Champion.



Overseas News

CHINA – Anish Giri has finally won a super-tournament, the Dutch Grandmaster outplaying Pentala Harikrishna in the last round of the 3rd Du Te Cup in Shenzhen (16-26 April). Prior to that encounter the Indian no.2 had won an extraordinary five games in a row, and in a tournament which is normally known for its high percentage of draws. Giri unsurprisingly remained undefeated, his other wins coming against Dmitry Jakovenko and Yu Yangyi before he journeyed on to Moscow for the first FIDE Grand Prix event.

GERMANY – A strong open took place alongside the first half of the GRENKE Chess Classic in Karlsruhe (18-22 April), also sponsored by the German IT company. Last year the Open was, of course, won by Vincent Keymer. This year it was the turn of a 43-

year-old, not 13-year-old, to qualify for next year's top section, as Daniel Fridman prevailed on tie-break.

Leading scores: 1-8 Daniel Fridman (GER), Anton Korobov (UKR), Andreas Heimann (GER), Samvel Ter-Sahakyan (ARM), Dommaraju Gukesh (IND), Matthias Bluebaum, Alexander Donchenko (both GER), Tamas Banusz (HUN) 7½/9.

GREECE – Ahead of the World Senior Team Championships, the island of Rhodes also staged the European Individual Senior and Amateur Chess Organisation Championships (5-15 April). Terry Chapman led outright for two rounds in the Over-50s, which was eventually won by Zurab Sturua (GEO) on tie-break from Milos Pavlovic (SRB). Chapman eventually finished on '+2' for a

gain of some 37 rating points, while Keith Arkell missed out on bronze by half a point. Danish GM Jens Kristiansen won the Over-65s, while Norfolk's John Wood made a welcome return to the board as he won the Under-1800 ACO section, with Bradford's Chris Bak bagging bronze in the Under-2200.

ICELAND – Gawain Jones had to be at his most determined and resourceful to save a lost endgame against Erwin L'Ami in the final round of the Reykjavik Open (8-16 April), and so join a large tie for first place, with Manx 4NCL player Constantin Lupulescu taking the title on tie-break. Gawain's wife, WIM Sue Maroroa, also did well, gaining some 40 rating points, while paying homage to the third game of the 1972 world championship match as she dismantled a strong Dutch FM.

3rd Du Te Cup, Shenzhen, China (Category 21, average rating = 2754 Elo)																		
Player		Country	Rating	1		2		3		4		5		6		Pts	TPR	
1	Anish Giri	NED	2797	*	*	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	6½	2855	
2	Pentala Harikrishna	IND	2723	0	½	*	*	1	0	1	0	½	1	1	1	6	2832	
3	Ding Liren	CHN	2809	½	½	0	1	*	*	½	½	1	½	½	½	5½	2779	
4	Richard Rapport	HUN	2726	½	½	0	1	½	½	*	*	½	½	½	½	5	2759	
5	Dmitry Jakovenko	RUS	2719	½	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	*	*	½	½	3½	2651	
6	Yu Yangyi	CHN	2751	½	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	*	*	3½	2644	

2...♖d4+ 3 ♜e7 ♗g7 4 ♜e8 ♜d5 is OK for White, as 5 f8♗ comes with tempo) 3 ♜e7 (or just 3 ♜g7) 3...♞e5+ (3...♞xh4+ isn't trivial, but by remaining precise, White can draw: 4 ♜e8! ♞e4+ 5 ♜d8 ♞f5 6 ♜e7 ♞e5+ 7 ♜f8 and the standard drawing mechanism arises after 7...♜d5 8 ♜g8 ♞g5+ 9 ♜h7 ♞f6 10 ♜g8 ♞g6+ 11 ♜h8!) 4 ♜f8 ♜d5 5 ♜g8! ♞e6 6 ♜g7 ♞g4+ 7 ♜h7 and Black is unable to make 'progress', apart from with 7...♞xh4+ 8 ♜g7 ♞g5+ 9 ♜h8.

22) Grandelius-Keymer

1 ♜f5! (highly thematic; 1 0-0 and only then 2 ♜f5 also does the business) 1...exf5 2 ♜d5 ♞d8 3 0-0-0 leaves Black temporarily a piece up, but quite helpless due to the pressure against both members of his royal family: 3...♜e6 4 ♜f6+ ♜xf6 5 exf6 (or just 5 ♞xd8+ ♞xd8 6 exf6) 5...♜b3+ 6 cxb3 ♞c8+ 7 ♜b1 f4 8 ♜f2 ♜d7 9 h4 ♞g8 10 hxg5 hxg5 11 ♜d6 ♜f8 12 ♞xe6! fxe6 13 ♞xe6 1-0

23) Rapport-Laznicka

1 ♜xb4! 1-0 Black was hoping to resist after 1 ♜g5+ ♜xg5 2 ♞1xg5 ♞f7 3 ♞5g6+ ♞f6, but 1 ♜xb4! cleans him up, in view of 1...♜xb4 (1...c5 2 ♜xc5 changes little, while 1...♞e8 2 ♜g5+ ♜xg5 3 ♞1xg5 forces mate) 2 ♞1g6+ ♞f6 3 ♜g5+ ♜d6 4 ♞xf6+ ♜c5 5 ♞xc7+.

24) Nielsen-Maze

1 b4! (clearing the c-file; 1 ♞g4 ♞e8 was preferred in the game, when 2 cxd5 f5 3 dxe6! would still have been pretty effective) 1...♜xb4 2 cxd5 exd5 (naturally not 2...♞xb5? 3 c8♗, while 2...♞xd5 fails to 3 ♞e4! ♜f7 4 ♞xb4 ♞xb5 5 ♞xf8+!, as pointed out by John Emms) 3 ♜d6! (neat; 3 ♞e3 ♞e7 4 ♞d3 also does the trick, and if 4...♞d7 5 ♞f5, overloading the defence) 3...♜xd6 (3...♞xb5 4 ♜xf8 and 3...♞xd6 4

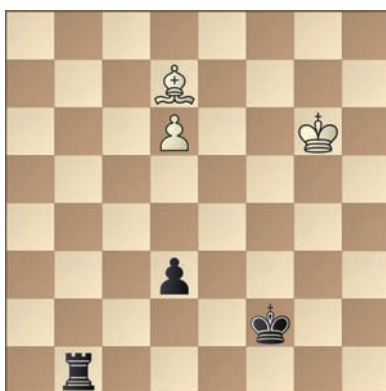
♜xd6 ♜xd6 5 ♞xd5+ are both hopeless) 4 ♞xd5+ ♜h8 5 ♜xd6 and the c-pawn will decide after 6 ♞e6 or 6 ♞f5.

Studies Winners

The winner of the November Studies competition was M. Ashton from Bury. The solution:

Henning Källström

2nd Prize,
Tidskrift för Schack, 1960



White to play and draw

1 ♜f6! ♞b6

1...♞b4? 2 ♜f5 d2 3 ♜c2 is an easy draw.

2 ♜e6!

And not 2 ♜e5? ♞b4 3 ♜f5 ♞b5+ 4 ♜e6 ♞xf5 5 ♜xf5 d2 6 d7 d1♞ or 2 ♜e7? ♞b7 3 ♜d8 ♞xd7+ 4 ♜xd7 d2 5 ♜c7 d1♞ 6 d7 ♞c1+ and wins.

2...♞b4 3 ♜e8 ♞e4+ 4 ♜d7 d2 5 ♜h5 ♞e2 6 ♜xe2 ♜xe2 7 ♜e7

Avoiding 7 ♜e8? d1♞ 8 d7 ♞a4.

7...d1♞ 8 d7

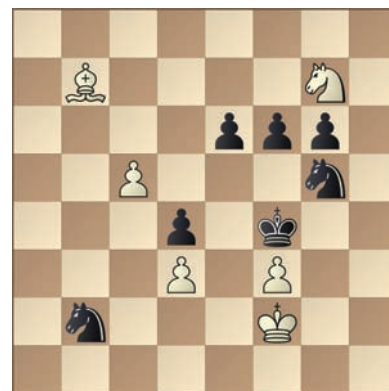
And as Black can't check on the e-file,

White draws.

And the winner of the February competition was F. Girard from France. The solution:

Borislav Ilincic

4th HM., *Phénix*, 2017



White to play and win

1 c6

1 ♜e2? ♜a4 2 c6 ♜c3+ 3 ♜f2 ♜d5 enables Black to draw.

1...♜a4

Or 1...♜xd3+ 2 ♜g2 ♜f7 3 ♜e8 ♜d8 4 c7 ♜xb7 5 c8♗ ♜bc5 6 ♜xf6 and wins.

2 c7 ♜b6 3 c8♗

Avoiding 3 ♜e8? f5 4 ♜d6 e5 5 ♜c4 ♜e6 6 ♜xb6 ♜xc7, which is only a draw.

3...♜xc8 4 ♜xc8 e5 5 ♜d7!

Now it's zugzwang, and not 5 ♜f5? ♜xf3 6 ♜xg6 f5 7 ♜xf5 ♜g5 8 ♜e2 e4 or 5 ♜g4? e4!.

5...f5

5...♜xf3 6 ♜e6+ ♜g4 7 ♜xd4+ picks up the black knight.

6 ♜xf5! gxf5

Allowing mate, but if 6...♜xf3 7 ♜xg6 ♜g5 8 ♜h5+ ♜g4 9 ♜f6+, with a technical win.

7 ♜h5#

This Month's New Releases

Coach Yourself

Neil McDonald, 304 pages
Everyman Chess

RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

Subtitled 'A complete guide to self improvement at chess' (shouldn't there be a hyphen there, as there is in the blurb on the back of the book?), this very interesting book is designed to help players who find it hard to move up to the next level. "Usually they get left behind because they don't know how to make best use of the time they have available to study chess."

Neil McDonald, an author who never disappoints, is here to help. "The aim of this

book is to show you everything you need to be working on to become a better player. Tactics, strategy, and the endgame are covered in detail, and you are offered guidance on subjects such as calculation, analysing your games, and choosing your openings." Some of the material is, as he says, "fiendishly hard", but the book is never less than fully accessible.

There are 13 chapters, covering a whole range of subjects from 'Immunizing Yourself Against Blunders' to 'Make Good Opening Choices'. The material is augmented by plenty of common sense advice, helping to put the task ahead into context. Some of

this will act as a timely wake-up call for those who choose not to accept the presence of certain weaknesses: "It is a big mistake to blame your losses on something abstract like not playing with enough creativity or not trying hard enough or feeling under the weather or distracted. These excuses are a way of hiding from the bitter acceptance of the technical inferiority of your play."

The games are well-chosen and highly instructive, with very modern games rubbing shoulders with older classics. One such golden oldie can be found in the chapter on 'Getting Full Value from Your King'.



T.Petrosian-W.Unzicker East Germany vs USSR, Hamburg 1960



"Having built up a dominant position on the queenside and tied down the black queen and rooks there, Petrosian realized the time was ripe to start a direct attack on the under-defended black king. But flinging pawns forwards there would expose his own king to attack. Therefore he began by removing his king from the show towards a safe haven on the queenside."

Petrosian started a remarkable sequence of moves with **29 ♖f1!** He then spent some time walking his king the queenside (it ended up on b1), and broke open the kingside with an eventual h2-h4 and g3-g4. Unzicker resigned on move 55.

We can't all match the creativity and imagination of Petrosian, but the author stresses "The value of examining classic games. Besides the fun element, studying the old masters is an excellent way of learning both positional and tactical chess."

This skein runs throughout the book, connecting the various generations. Later on we find confirmation that Magnus Carlsen is: "An avowed fan of chess history. When asked which player was nearest to him in his chess outlook he cited Reuben Fine, a leading US Grandmaster of the 1930s." It is sad that any author feels the need to explain who Reuben Fine was, but I suppose most people look at database moves and not necessarily names when they are studying chess.

This is a very good book which will prove to be entertaining and instructive to club players who would like to improve their game. The material will be useful for coaches and tutors too.

Sean Marsh



Grandmaster Repertoire 2B – 1.d4: Dynamic Systems

Boris Avrukh, 592 pages, Quality Chess
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Avrukh's latest book in his series offering a repertoire for 1 d4 players examines

promising lines against the Benoni (except the Modern Benoni), Dutch, Benko and Budapest, plus the Modern Defence and anything else Black tries instead of 1...d5 (which is covered in great depth in volumes 1A and 1B).

Although he has written about these defences before, the author is certainly not content to rest on his laurels and he gives plenty of alternative lines this time around. For instance, he formerly recommended 4 ♘f3 against the Budapest, but has changed his mind and now prefers **1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 ♘g4 4 ♕f4 g5** with **5 ♕d2!** instead of the more popular 5 ♕g3.



This allows White to offer sterner resistance to the pressure along the long diagonal, as shown in the sample line **5...♗xe5 6 ♘f3 ♕g7** (6...♗xf3+ 7 gxf3 is apparently very good for White) **7 ♘xe5 ♕xe5 8 ♘c3!** and Black's position is already looking a shade loose, while White is solid and has a good chance of obtaining a stable advantage.

Of course, the Budapest can be seen as more of a fashion accessory than a strong backbone for a repertoire. The Dutch Defence is the most frequently seen of all the openings covered in this volume, thanks partly to the efforts of Simon Williams, whose games and products hold great appeal for club and tournament players. Therefore it makes good sense to prepare some antidotes to Black's main variations. Here, we find White playing with a very straight bat, rather than utilising a sharp gambit. The Stonewall, for example, is met by **1 d4 f5 2 g3 ♘f6 3 ♕g2 e6 4 ♘f3 d5 5 0-0 ♕d6 6 c4 c6 7 ♘c3 0-0 8 ♗c2**.



Seven options for Black are now considered.

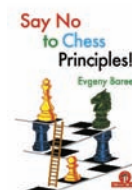
There is lots of interest here, including the conclusion that **8...♕d7**, "A popular and thematic Stonewall idea: Black intends to activate his light-squared bishop, which is undoubtedly a problematic piece in this type of pawn structure, via the e8-h5 route", is actually faulty, as after **9 ♗b3!** White ends up with a clear advantage, especially as Black's best move is now reckoned to be **9...♕c8**, which is clearly not something about which he should feel happy. It seems odd to move the white queen twice on consecutive moves, but it shows flexible thinking and it does look effective.

Staying with the Dutch, Avrukh coins a new name for variations beginning with 1...g6 before committing to ...f5. "As Black is toying with a 'modern' version of the Leningrad, the St. Petersburg Dutch seems an appropriate name for this scheme." White's plans are rather straightforward here, including **1 d4 g6 2 c4 f5?! 3 h4!**. Meanwhile, Avrukh's recommendation against the Benko Gambit has changed from the fianchetto lines to **1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6 5 bxa6 ♕xa6 6 ♘c3 g6** and now **7 e4**, allowing Black to exchange bishops and force White to castle artificially.

As usual with opening books from Avrukh specifically and Quality Chess in general, this one is definitely not for beginners and the material will also intimidate standard club players. Furthermore, I suspect some readers will find the '1A', etc, numbering system of similar-looking books confusing. However, diligent students who have a strong desire to increase the power of their 1 d4 repertoire and have the necessary motivation to do so will find lots of deep and impressive material here. Serious stuff, for serious players.

Meanwhile, fans of Avrukh's books will be disappointed to hear that he is going "To take a break from writing to pursue other chess-related projects", and it is currently not at all clear if or when he will return.

Sean Marsh



Say No to Chess Principles!

Evgeny Bareev, 278 pages
Thinkers Publishing

RRP £27.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.15**

Being a cynical soul, I had of late become rather disturbed by the number of five star reviews handed out to chess books, both on Amazon and elsewhere. It seemed to me that the whole industry was an exercise in backslapping, so when Chess & Bridge sent me a copy of *Say No to Chess Principles!* by the famous Russian Grandmaster Evgeny Bareev, I saw it as a challenge. The first thing that struck me was the price: £27.95. Are chess books really that expensive these days? No wonder I wasn't buying any. And is Bareev's book worth the investment? Well, I would say: yes!

The material is divided into several chapters, including 'A Queen Behind Enemy Lines', 'At the Edge of the Board', and 'Killer Delayed Castling', all intended to convey the central message of the book, which Bareev explains at the beginning: "However it also happens that chess players often discover significant resources which formally exist outside the typical rules of chess. Those who know how to break all the rules and work around those specific guide-lines reach the very top."

Very true words. I feel like the whole issue of thinking outside the box has been underestimated and most chess players are slaves to dogma, something that Bareev attempts to overturn in this book. It must be said that while some of the subjects covered here like 'play without castling' I was already familiar with (some of Karpov's games being striking examples of this), some of the other subjects like 'when a piece in the center is grim' and 'a piece down in a worse position' felt fresh and new.

Yes, I have often been in such positions thanks to my bad play, but the difference is I haven't seen an author analyse this situation before in anything more than a vague sense, which makes this book unusual and therefore interesting.

Bareev presents his material in a typically humorous and self-deprecating style, all the while illustrating the personalities behind the moves: for instance, "The very talented Alexey Vyzmanavin was so shocked by what happened that he ended up embracing alcohol. He lost interest in both chess, and as it turns out, life itself." While this feels like an exaggeration as it's hard to believe that the result of a chess tournament was entirely to blame for a chessplayer's demise, the reader can be thankful for this kind of penetration into the heart of the chess world.

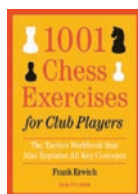
The book does have its faults though; some more serious than others. At the start of the chapter 'A Piece Down in a Worse Position', Bareev writes: "The last example we will examine even happened at an elite level, in the game Magnus Carlsen-Gawain Jones, Wijk aan Zee, 2018", and yet the game never appears! I was left feeling short-changed.

The laid-back approach of the book is also something I'm not completely sure about. You can't help but think that other authors might have picked apart the material a bit more, explaining in more specifics why each game was included, and, indeed, most of the games in the book are from Bareev's own games. This can give the sense of the book becoming repetitive, although I'm probably being picky. You could also argue the opposite as well: perhaps the unscientific approach of the book is its genius. We are all too used nowadays to heavy tomes, where every subject is analysed in excruciating detail by authors in love with their own writing, and you don't get that from Bareev. He leaves it to the reader to make their own decisions.

Ultimately though these are trivial matters. What I do look at when I think about a chess book is whether the material will help me to improve, and whether I will recall any of it in six months' time. I feel that this book fulfils those goals, because what is within is

both thought-provoking and inspiring.

Danny Gormally



1001 Chess Exercises for Club Players

Frank Erwich, 192 pages, paperback

RRP £15.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £14.35**

Subtitled 'The Tactics Workbook that Also Explains All Key Concepts', this new work maps out all the most common types of tactical blow. Dutch FM Erwich also shows how to look for weaknesses in the opponent's position and covers some important defensive skills. The material at the beginning of each chapter is clearly explained; the exercises which follow will certainly improve readers' vision, calculation and tactical memory banks.



Checkmate! The Love Story of Mikhail Tal and Sally Landau*

Sally Landau, 224 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Unlike the Chetverik book listed below, Elk and Ruby's other recent release is not your conventional chess book. Mikhail Tal and Sally Landau were married from 1959 until 1970, arguably the most important years of Tal's chess career. The couple remained friends until his death in 1992 and this memoir, first published in Russian in 1998, is certainly a gripping read, perhaps best summed up as a tale of triumph and tragedy.

*While *Checkmate! The Love Story of Mikhail Tal and Sally Landau* is likely to prove popular with Tal's many fans, do please note that at the time of going to press, stock was limited at Chess & Bridge. If interested in ordering a copy, do please contact the shop first via info@chess.co.uk or on 0207 486 7015.



ChessBase Magazine 189

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

The latest issue of *CBM* is for 'May/June 2019' and features Vladislav Artemiev on the cover of the booklet which accompanies the DVD. The World Team Championship and Prague Chess Festival are the main featured tournaments, with various players annotating their best games, including Luke McShane on



A little bird just told me

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

Levon Aronian - @LevAronian

Scariest of them all



Anish Giri - @anishgiri

Wonderful to see @MagnusCarlsen in his absolutely top shape, crushing carefree and relaxed. I guess knowing that he is free from the World Championship match torture for a year gives wings! #GrenkeChess

Gawain Jones - @GMGawain

Thanks for a great event @tepesigeman. It was an honour to be invited. I could never have expected the chess to go so well.

Romain Edouard - @romain_edouard

Seventh @4NCL title in a row for Guildford - with the help of a few Women World Champions and a few Frenchies! Tomorrow off to @STLChessClub! @FressinetL

@chessnotes - @chessnotes

It'd surprise no one to learn that Ivanchuk is rated higher than: Gelfand, Ponomarev, Leko, Kamsky, Eljanov, Shirov, Morozevich... except that he's now 57th @2700chess

Peter Doggers - @peterdoggers

Fischer Random or #Chess960 officially recognized by @FIDE_chess is huge. After Steinitz-Zukertort in 1886 we'll see the first official Fischer Random world championship in 2019!

Simon Williams - @ginger_gm

Will be hard to stream for a week or so, busy schedule. This is what's on...

- 1) Currently at @chessbase HQ filming some DVDs. Then I fly direct to a stag do
- 2) Work on @chessable course
- 4) Film a joint DVD for GGM with @fionchetta
- 5) @DavidHowellGM filming for GGM.

Puzzle Rush - @puzzlerushchess

New #PuzzleRush World Record is now 62. Set just a few hours ago by @RayShayRobson who confirms his position as the World #1 #PuzzleRush player.

Follow us on Twitter!
@CHESS_Magazine

his dynamic draw with Sam Sevan. Simon Williams also contributes and there are opening surveys on the likes of the Classical Sicilian, Reti and Tarrasch Defence.



Emanuel Lasker: Volume 1

Richard Forster, Michael Negele & Raj Tischbierek, 450 pages, hardback
RRP £54.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £49.45**

The first of a three-part set, this volume is a major reworking and translation of the German edition of 2009 by printers Exzelsior Verlag. The names of the editors appear on the cover and are listed above, but plenty of other experts have contributed to this definitive work on the great German world champion. Michael Negele maps out Lasker's life story before Wolfgang Kamm and Tomasz Lissowski go into detail about his upbringing, while Tony Gillam contributes a very interesting chapter on 'Lasker in Great Britain'. Later we find Raj Tischbierek exploring the clash of dogmas that arose in the early twentieth century between Lasker and Siegbert Tarrasch, while Mihail Marin explains just how strong Lasker was in his chapter 'Dominator of the Chess World'.



Louis Paulsen:

A Chess Biography with 719 Games

Hans Renette, 442 pages, hardback
RRP £59.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £53.95**

McFarland may not be the only publisher producing serious works on chess history, but their lavishly presented books continue to impress. Author Hans Renette is a strong Belgian FM and something of an expert on the life of Louis Paulsen (1833-1891), the leading German player and theoretician of the second half of the nineteenth century. Paulsen is nowadays best known for his revolutionary opening ideas; others will recall that he was renowned for the slowness of his play. However, we shouldn't forget that he once drew a match with compatriot Adolf Anderssen for the 'world championship'. Those who want to learn much more about this dynamic and talented player should look no further than this new work, which is brought to life not so much by the vast quantity of the games Renette has unearthed, as by the biography and the 108 photographs.



Opening Encyclopaedia 2019

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £88.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £80.05**

ChessBase's *Opening Encyclopaedia* has been around for many a year now, initially collating and building on the opening surveys in each issue of *CBM*. For 2019 the product has been completely redesigned, making for a clearer, more user-friendly interface: for instance, your favourite openings can now be found quickly by name, not just ECO code. In total the *Opening Encyclopaedia 2019* features some 6,680 opening surveys, as well as 1,136 'special theoretical databases' and 20 opening videos.

Those wishing to upgrade from *Opening Encyclopaedia 2018* may do so for £54.95 (Subs' – £49.95), but do please return the old DVD or quote the serial number when ordering.

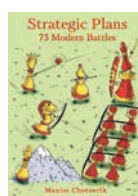


Opening Repertoire: 1 d4 with 2 c4

Cyrus Lakdawala, 448 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

When one thinks of an author for a main-line 1 d4 repertoire, Cyrus Lakdawala is perhaps not the first name which springs to mind and yet for his 40th chess book, the prolific Californian is determined to show that he too can cover some dynamic and fairly theoretical lines. There's perhaps no great surprise to see the Petrosian recommended against the King's Indian or 4 ♘f3 ♗g7 5 ♗f4 against the Grünfeld, but 4 f3 is the weapon of choice versus the Nimzo-Indian, while 4 cxb5 a6 5 f3 is advocated in the Benko and even the Meran variation is covered. Lakdawala presents sufficiently detailed coverage for even the stronger club player to be able to rely on this repertoire, while throughout, in characteristic fashion, he is especially strong when presenting complete games and explaining the key middlegame ideas for both sides.



Strategic Plans: 75 Modern Battles

Maxim Chetverik, 240 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The emphasis of the Russian IM is on positional chess and especially planning.

Drawing largely on games from 2018, Chetverik examines a number of battles where the aims of the two sides clashed, explaining clearly why the victor came out on top. Topics covered include when to open up the position, handling pawn chains and positional sacrifices, while along the way the reader will become used to the concepts of 'microplans' and 'macroplans'.



The Modern English Volume 2: 1...♗f6, and 1...e6

Kiril Georgiev & Semko Semkov, 256 pages,

RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

The high-powered Bulgarian team of Georgiev and Semkov complete their repertoire with 1 c4 for White. The coverage is certainly theoretical in places, but is by no means inaccessible to the average club player, since in typical fashion publishers Chess Stars map out each chapter with the 'Main Ideas', which is a summary of the key lines and concepts, followed by 'Step by Step' coverage and then a few annotated games.

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