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# Aleksandra the Great!

**Goryachkina wins Women's Candidates' with two rounds to spare!**

ISSN 0964-6221



Vera Menchik - 75 years after the death of a great pioneer, Andrey Terekhov pays tribute

A New Initiative - Sean Marsh reports from the Teesside International Women's Invitational

Is Magnus Beatable? - Carlsen was once again in ominous form as he triumphed in Zagreb



# Chess

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# Getting Hackneyed

## Hackney captain Paul Conway reveals how the Middlesex League was conquered

Three seasons ago Hackney's Middlesex League team was in need of a new venue and my Chief Exec said we could use a room at the office. The club's view was that, since I'd have to be there for each of the home games, I might as well captain.

I quickly realised that Hackney has a lot of strong players on its books. I was able to get decent teams out the first two seasons, but we dropped points to sides other than Hendon I and they powered through each time. We took a match off them at the end of last year, but they'd already won the league by then so it didn't really count. We finished second in these first two seasons. After the first year we migrated to the Clarence Tavern, a decent pub in Stoke Newington with a nice line in halloumi fries and garlic mayo.

In 2018-19 the time had come to make sure we didn't drop careless points, and to take on Hendon I for the crunch matches. Hendon had two teams in the first division, had won the championship for the last eight years and took things very seriously.

Muswell Hill had taken us down before; on 22nd November we played them at the Clarence and won 5-3, including this convincing performance.

### M.Manelidou-D.Shaw

Hackney I vs Muswell Hill

*Sicilian Rossolimo*

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 g6 4 0-0 ♙g7  
5 ♙xc6 bxc6 6 ♗e1 ♘f6 7 ♘c3 0-0 8 d3  
♗b8 9 h3 d6 10 e5 ♘d5 11 ♘e4 dxe5 12  
♘xc5 ♗d6 13 ♘b3 ♘f4 14 ♙e3 ♗c7 15  
♗d2 ♙e6 16 ♙c5 ♙d5 17 ♗e3 a5 18 d4  
a4 19 ♘bd2 ♗xb2 20 dxe5 ♗xc2 21 ♗xf4  
♗xc5 22 ♗xa4 ♗a5 23 ♗c2 ♗fa8 24 ♘b3  
♗a3 25 ♘bd4 ♗xa2 26 ♗xa2 ♗xa2



The Middlesex League season finale, with Hackney away against Athenaeum. In the foreground IM Richard Bates has the black pieces in a rook ending grind against Mark Gray. FM Richard Britton (left) and John Reid (right) spectate, while in the background FM Bob Eames and Carl Hetherington are still slugging it out too. Both these games were drawn and so Hackney won the match 6½-1½ to take the Championship for the first time since 2002.

Black has two bishops against two knights and an extra pawn – what's not to like?

27 ♗c5 ♗a7 28 ♗xa7 ♗xa7 29 ♗b1 h6  
30 ♗b8+ ♙h7 31 ♗c8 ♗a1+ 32 ♙h2 ♗c1  
33 ♗c7 c5 34 g3 ♙xe5 0-1

The centralised bishops are a picture, and too much for the knights; White is losing more material or getting mated on h1.

On 12th March we played away against Hendon I. Both teams were on 100%, but they had played more matches than us. We were giving this our best shot and had a good team on paper. As I was finishing work, Dave Ledger texted to say he was having trouble with his journey and could we get our sub to play. I replied that I was the sub and for him to get an Uber. This was an Uber gambit declined, and he advised me to play a captain's innings.

As is customary on these occasions, I lost the toss. This did mean that I was White on bottom board. My young opponent Gautam Jain was graded 183, and I mentally added about 20 points for a fast-improving junior, while I'm a well-weathered 166. The match was being played at speed: 60 minutes for all

the moves, plus a 15-second increment per move. In a main line Spanish, he looked to be limbering up to play a Marshall, I avoided this with 8 a4, and we reached a position which was perfectly playable, before I lashed out with an unnecessarily loosening f2-f4.

### P.Conway-J.Gautam

Hendon I vs Hackney I





This is the position after 26 c4, which I played to stop his rook on the seventh becoming too dangerous, and to liquidate some pawns on the queenside. My bishop is out of play, and the centre is going to collapse. It had all looked so promising. On the plus side, Black has used up his time and is playing on the increment, and also the position of my bishop is not completely without merit.

**26...♟xb2 27 ♟xb2 ♟xb2 28 ♟xb3 ♟c3 29 ♟c1 ♟e3 30 ♟d1 ♟xe4 31 ♟xe4 ♟xe4 32 h3 ♟c6 33 ♟h2 ♟e2**

Some sort of natural law operates, so that the side giving up material tends to get compensation, even when it's not been a deliberate sacrifice. Here the offside bishop on h6 and the unlikely march of the cavalry c-pawn combine to set my opponent more problems than he could solve in 15 seconds a move.

**34 ♟d5 ♟e1 35 c5 ♟e8 36 ♟xd6 ♟a1 37 c6 ♟g7 38 c7 ♟h1+ 1-0**

We won this away match 5-3, with 8 keenly contested games. A word of appreciation here for Michael Bennett, the Hendon captain, who drove round all the local pubs until he found us – in the heat of victory, I'd gone out into the March cold and left my coat at the venue.

On 11th April we faced the rematch at home. It was obvious that Hendon were going to bring the strongest side they could, and so it proved: three GMs and an average team grading of 230. We were significantly outgraded on all boards, but had also worked to strengthen our team – club stalwart Francis (Frank) Chin is a former Malaysian Champion, and knew the Malay junior Li Tian Yeoh who had had been a regular top board for Imperial College in the London League, and at the time of the match was just back from the Dubai Open where he'd been trying for his third GM norm. For obvious reasons Li Tian was Black on top board.

### T.Fodor-Li Tian Yeoh Hackney I vs Hendon I *Modern Benoni*

**1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 ♟c3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 h3 ♟g7 8 ♟f3 0-0 9 ♟d3**

Back in 2014 I'd not long returned to competitive play after 30 years out, and this was played against me in the 4NCL. The Modern Main Line of the Benoni was unwelcome news – I'd been working from what I could remember of Bill Hartston's 1973 Batsford monograph *The Benoni* in descriptive notation, and the line is not mentioned there. I hadn't kept up with the latest nuances, but it was still a shock to find there was a new main variation about which I knew nothing. Black is going to have trouble finding a useful deployment for his light-squared bishop, and some other problems besides. I watched this game with increased interest.

**9...a6 10 a4 ♟h5 11 0-0 ♟d7 12 ♟h2 ♟e8 13 g4**

Li Tian commented later that White has misplayed this: ♟h2 and g4 weaken the important dark squares f4, e5, and d4.

**13...♟hf6 14 ♟f4 ♟e5 15 ♟e2 ♟fd7 16 ♟d2 c4**



This is an advance I want to play in these positions, but it often weakens the d4-square. Here White can't get a knight to it and when the bishop gets there, Black's knights make a good job of shutting it out.

**17 ♟e3 ♟a5 18 ♟b1 ♟c7 19 ♟c2 ♟c5 20 ♟d2 ♟cd3 21 ♟d4 ♟f4 22 ♟d1 h5 23 ♟a3 ♟d7 24 ♟xe5 ♟xe5 25 ♟xc4 ♟g7 26 ♟f3 g5 27 a5 ♟ac8 28 b3 h4**

I'd been expecting 28...hxg4 here to play for more of an attack, but I'm not the one with two GM norms and Li Tian plays to lock down the dark squares further. He had used nearly all his time by now and was playing on increment. The reason that I've got the moves is that he was not only recording his moves, but also writing down the clock times, probably with neat little brackets, i.e. (0.03). The match was played at the slightly more sedate time control of 75 minutes plus 15 seconds a move, but I'm still impressed.

**29 ♟xf4 gxf4 30 ♟f3 ♟b5 31 ♟fd2 ♟e5 32 ♟g2 ♟c5 33 ♟d3 ♟b4 34 ♟c2 ♟f8 35 ♟b1 ♟e7 36 ♟f3 ♟xc4 37 bxc4 ♟xc4 38 ♟xb7+ ♟f6 39 g5+ ♟g6 40 ♟xh4+ ♟xg5 41 ♟f3 ♟f6 42 ♟d3 ♟g8+ 43 ♟h2**



**43...♟xd3!**

The triumph of Black's dark-square strategy. The queen is immune from capture because of 44...f3+ and back-rank mate. There are only spite checks left for White.

**44 ♟xf7+ ♟xf7 45 ♟h5+ ♟e7 46 ♟f5+**

**♟d8 47 ♟h4+ ♟c7 0-1**

We won this one 4½-3½ and were the only side still on 100%. There were six matches to play, and we continued with wins until we had an upset at home against Athenaeum, languishing near the bottom of the table and eager to avoid relegation. On June 12th we played them again, away, and this time got the result we needed.

### Notes by Richard Britton

#### C.Menzies-R.Britton Athenaeum I vs Hackney I *Sicilian Moscow*

**1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 d6 3 ♟b5+ ♟d7 4 a4 ♟c6 5 0-0 ♟f6 6 ♟e1 e6 7 d3 ♟e7 8 ♟bd2 0-0 9 ♟c4**

9 ♟f1 a6 10 ♟xc6 ♟xc6 11 a5 is also about equal, but maybe Black can make something of the two bishops.

**9...♟d4**

The first new move. 9...d5 10 exd5 exd5 11 ♟ce5 ♟xe5 12 ♟xe5 looks a bit better than my choice as the bishop on b5 is a bit isolated after 12...♟e6.

**10 ♟xd4 cxd4 11 c3?!**

11 ♟f4 should be an edge, and if 11...♟c8 12 a5 d5 13 e5 dxc4 14 exf6 ♟xf6 15 ♟xc4 ♟d7.

**11...d5 12 ♟xd7 ♟xd7 13 ♟d2?!**

13 exd5 exd5 14 ♟a3 dxc3 15 bxc3 would have been about equal.

**13...dxc3 14 bxc3 ♟c8 15 ♟b2 ♟c5 16 ♟b3?**

After 16 ♟c2 I intended 16...♟g5 17 ♟f3 dxe4 18 dxe4 ♟e7 when I think Black is a little better and 16 ♟b1 dxe4 17 ♟xe4 seems quite good for Black, in view of 17...♟xd3 18 ♟a3 ♟c4 19 ♟xc5 ♟xc5 20 ♟xc5 ♟xc5 21 ♟xb7 a5.

**16...dxe4?!**

I could have exploited the unfortunate line-up on the b-file with 16...♟b6!: for instance, 17 ♟a3 (or 17 ♟xc5 ♟xb2 18 d4 ♟xc5 19 dxc5 ♟xc5) 17...♟xd3 18 ♟xd3 ♟xa3 19 ♟xa3 ♟xb3 20 ♟xf8 dxe4 21 ♟xe4 ♟xf8.

**17 ♟xc5 ♟xc5 18 ♟xe4?**



**18 d4 ♟b6 19 ♟b1 ♟d6 20 ♟xe4 ♟fd8 is**

better, but White's c- and d-pawns are targets.

**18...xf2+! 19 xf2? b6+ 20 f1 xb2 21 c4 f8**

This looked natural to me, but 21...c5 22 f4 e5 23 g3 d6 24 e2 e5 25 f3 is clearly preferable.

**22 b1 a3 23 b3 xd3 24 xb7 cd8 25 xa7**



Getting the pawn back, but Black's king is the safer and his pieces the better

coordinated. Besides having to look after his king, White also has to keep an eye on his two queenside pawns.

**25...d6**

25...d2 26 e3 a2 (and not 26...xa4?? 27.xd2) 27 e1 h6 is cleaner.

**26 g1 d2 27 f1 f5 28 e3 b2 29 a5 c6 30 g3 d7 31 e3 dd2 32 g5 g6 33 h4 xc4 34 a1**

If 34 h5 xf1+!  
**34...d4+ 35 h2 d6 36 h3 f4 37 a6**



A last trick.

**37...a2 38 xa2 xa2 39 f3**

39 c3 xa6 40 h2 a8 41 c4 e5 42 e4 e8 43 h5 g7 44 a4 e7 45 h6+ f7 is hopeless too for White.

**39...e5 40 c3 xa6 41 c8+ g7 42 d8 e6+ 43 h2 h6 0-1**

The Middlesex is a highly competitive league, with no quarter asked or given. It is also very social – there have been many interesting in-match conversations when I've not been playing, and many post-mortem drinks with our opponents.

The recent popularity of playing on increment has been a welcome development – at a time when grandmaster games do not use adjournments. It really is an anachronism to adjourn and hand over to computer analysis. The London League will now be dispensing with adjournments in the majority of games. Increments provide a mechanism for games to end without the brutality of a pure quickplay finish, in which three hours' work can be spoiled in an instant.

Already October is coming up, and we look forward to the challenge of a new season.

# Readers' Letters



## Paul Littlewood

I enjoyed the 60 Seconds interview with IM Paul Littlewood in the June edition. Your readers might be interested to see the game he described as one of his most memorable. I remember it too!

**P.Littlewood-P.Andrews**  
Rugby vs Oxford University II,  
National Club Ch. 1981  
*Queen's Gambit Accepted*

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 f3 f6 4 e3 g4 5 xc4 e6 6 h3 h5 7 c3 a6 8 0-0 b7 9 e4 e5? 10 g4 exd4 11 gxh5 dxc3 12 e5**



According to my engine this gives up most of White's advantage because 12...b6 is a reasonable defence, and if 13 b3 d5, but Black had different ideas.

**12...cxb2? 13 exf6 bxa1 14 xf7+! xf7 15 d5+ e8 16 f7+ e7 17 e1+ e5 18 g5+ 1-0**

*Peter Andrews, Dulwich*

## Vera Menchik

I was extremely interested in Malcolm Pein's latest Editorial, regarding D-Day, and the anniversary of Vera Menchik's death.

My wife kindly bought me a book on Vera Menchik from Chess & Bridge last year, while back in 1994 I was requested to write an article about John Lewis becoming the National Chess Centre, which appeared in the September 1994 issue of *CHESS*.

John Spedan Lewis, who was the founder of the John Lewis Partnership, was a chess fanatic. He employed some very well-known people, who were famous in chess, which included Vera Menchik, who became Manager of the Chess Centre, which was due to open in September 1938.

The original invitation for Vera Menchik to become manager came from C.H.O'D Alexander who was already working for Spedan Lewis, in the research department. Alexander became an International Master in 1950. In his opening paragraph to Vera

Menchik, Alexander wrote the following:

"Dear Mrs Stevenson, I am never quite sure whether to write to you as Mrs Stevenson or Miss Menchik; I use the former name as you so often defeated me as Miss Menchik, but I like to hope a change of luck may follow a change of name."

Unfortunately the National Centre didn't last long, since it was bombed in 1939 and, even more sadly, Vera was killed a few years later.

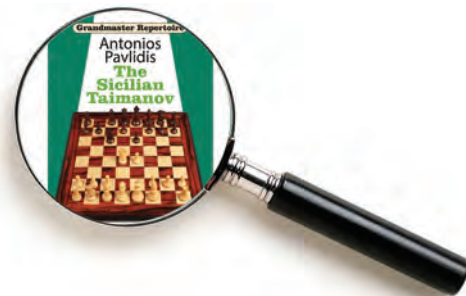
*Martin Leanse (Former chairman, John Lewis Partnership Chess Club 1997-2002)*



*Read on for much more about Vera Menchik.*



# This Month's New Releases



## The Sicilian Taimanov

Antonios Pavlidis, 480 pages

Quality Chess

RRP £22.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.25**

There is no doubt the Sicilian Defence is still one of the most popular and resilient ways of meeting 1 e4 at all levels of play. Even the world champion has now settled on 1...c5 as his main weapon. Before him, of course, Fischer and Kasparov were devoted to the defence almost to the point of excluding alternatives from their respective repertoires.

The three aforementioned champions preferred to utilise the Najdorf, Scheveningen and Sveshnikov variations rather than the subject of this new book, although those who are long in the tooth and young in the heart will remember Fischer switching to it to win the final game against Spassky back in 1972. Yet finding heroes of the Taimanov variation is not such an easy task. Apart from the eponymous grandmaster himself, other staunch adherents are harder to identify.

Pavlidis went through various spells playing the Dragon and then 1...e5 before working seriously on the Taimanov after becoming a grandmaster in 2014, before elevating it to his number one opening choice in 2015. In some respects it is an easier variation to get to grips with than the more illustrious lines of the Sicilian, as the author explains:

"In general, I regard the Sicilian Taimanov as an opening which can largely be played by understanding, without much need for long, forcing computer lines", although he admits that "A certain amount of memorization is required to play any opening against strong opposition, and the Taimanov is no exception."

Sensibly Pavlidis is also careful to warn against trying to cram in too much information: "For the great majority of readers, the longer lines of analysis may be of interest for their illustration of certain tactical resources, thematic piece manoeuvres and so on, but attempting to memorize every move would be unnecessary, and perhaps even counterproductive."

This book follows the move order of **1 e4 c5 2 f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 fxd4 f6**, rather than the more traditional 2...d6, which has the advantage of making 3 f3 undesirable for White. The early deviations (5 a3, 5 g3, 5 c4, 5 f4 and 5 f5) are dealt with first. None are up the task of troubling Black and neither is the older favourite of **5...d6 6 f4 e5** is currently in good shape for the second player. So much so in fact that White already has ways to go very wrong. For example, **7 f5** allows "Black the chance to make an excellent exchange sacrifice" with

**7...fxg5! 8 f6+ g8 9 fxa8 f6!**



This supplies "A lead in development and the initiative, plus good chances to trap the knight in the corner. White's position may already be objectively losing."

The bulk of the book covers those positions arising from 5 f3 f6, when a plethora of sixth moves come under scrutiny before attention is switched firmly to the main lines with 6 f4. After 6...a6 one of the most testing moves is 7 f5. This makes it difficult for Black to switch to a good Scheveningen position, as White's bishop is more actively placed on d3 than e2 and, according to the author, a quick attack is on the cards when White castles on the kingside and follows up with f4 and f5.

Incidentally, it would be a mistake to think a positional battle is always the intention in the Taimanov. I was intrigued by all of the highly tactical middlegame positions on offer and how much of a different flavour they have compared to those often found in the Najdorf and the Dragon. It makes it look like a whole new world, where even strong opponents could very easily go astray due to unfamiliarity with the nuances. Here is one example:



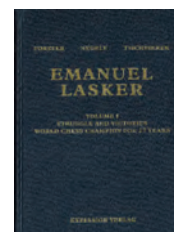
Black plays **17...f5!** when White's best reply is 18 exf6. 18 f5 is another option, which "May appear tempting, but the tactics work well for Black after 18...fxg2! 19 f2 d5 [...] Black is simply threatening to play ...a5 and carry out his attack on the queenside." White can now try the forcing 20 h5, but after 20...fxf4! 21 f4 d6 "Black only has two pawns for the piece, but his position looks dominant while White's pieces seem uncoordinated and weirdly placed."

That shows how difficult these positions can be, especially when one considers 18...fxg2! is a novelty still waiting to be uncorked over the board.

The author clearly believes in the power of the Taimanov. "I cannot think of a better Sicilian variation for a practical player than the Taimanov. It blends a number of the positive features of other Sicilians: excellent theoretical soundness, a flexible pawn structure and dynamic counterattacking prospects."

Yes, there is still a lot to learn if one wants to play the Taimanov in tournaments, but anyone with the time and commitment to indulge in some serious preparation should be able to forge a reliable pet defence from the material offered in this deep book.

Sean Marsh



## Emanuel Lasker: Volume 1

Richard Forster, Michael Negele

& Raj Tischbierek, 450 pages

Exzelsior Verlag

RRP £54.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £49.45**

Back in 2009 there appeared a massive, 1,097 page biography on the second world champion: *Emanuel Lasker — Denker, Weltenbürger, Schachweltmeister*, but, sadly, that was published only in German. Fortunately, a whole decade on, we now have the first of three volumes from the same publisher, available in English, to bring this important work to a wider audience.

Subtitled 'Struggle and Victories: World Champion for 27 Years,' this fabulous volume packs in an extraordinary amount of material, of which a significant amount will be new even to long-term Lasker aficionados. The next two volumes are already in the pipeline, but the full set will not be available until 2021

– 80 years (to the very day, if the plan comes to fruition) after the death of the great champion.

Production values are well to the fore, with the book enjoying a fine blue hardcover adorned with golden text, high-quality paper, an abundance of photographs, of which only some will be familiar to readers, a bibliography running to six pages, and a general index of seven pages. There have clearly not been any corners cut here, in any department, nor have any stones been left unturned when it comes to the actual content.

It has long been common sport to highlight inaccuracies in Jacques Hannak's standard biography, *Emanuel Lasker – The Life of a Chess Master*, but here Negele offers a reappraisal: "From a present-day perspective, however, Hannak has authored a valuable book given the circumstances of the time." Another area of contention has always centred on whether or not Edward Lasker was related to Emanuel and this is also addressed here.

There are significant contributions from several authors in addition to the three editors. To name but two, Tony Gillam writes about Lasker in Great Britain and John Hilbert covers 'American Views', which should be quite enough to give an indication as to the quality of the writing.

Naturally, Lasker's title matches are given plenty of space and the games are replete with instructive annotations. Raj Tischbierek's chapter on the Lasker-Tarrasch rivalry is a particular highlight of the book. When he states that "In the history of championship chess there is only one great match for which the chess world had to wait 16 years: the battle for the world championship between Emanuel Lasker and Siegbert Tarrasch" it makes for a thought-provoking moment. Imagine if we had waited 16 years for Karpov and Kasparov to play their first match, with doubts all the way as to who was the better player.

Unfortunately for Tarrasch, Lasker knew how to "play the man" a little too well. Exploiting Tarrasch's "correctness" allowed him to win the match by the convincing score of eight wins to three (with five draws). Tarrasch, as I have noted before, is still consistently underrated by the English-speaking chess community, but it is

important to remember he was a very fine player and Lasker's resounding victory was typical of his style in match play.

Excellent use is made of annotations from a variety of sources to bring the games to life.

### S. Tarrasch–E. Lasker World Championship (Game 2), Düsseldorf 1908



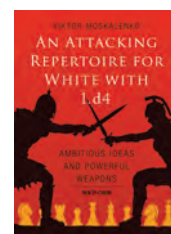
Lasker played an oft-criticised move here in **14...d4?**. Tarrasch dubbed it "an oversight", but Lasker claimed "I decided to allow a ferocious attack against my castled position and to seek in other aspects of the position for compensation." If it is a blunder, it is an obvious one, but Lasker's alternative explanation sounds unlikely too. The point is that after **15. exg7! dxf2** (15...exg7 16. d5+ and exg4 is clearly untenable) **16. exf2 exg7 17. d5+ h8 18. d4+ f6 19. xa7 f8 20. d4 e5** Lasker eventually managed to muddy the waters enough to be able to drown Tarrasch and sail to a 2-0 advantage in the match.

Instead, **16. d4! d4 17. d5** would have been extremely strong for White. As Lasker put it, "If he had with bold daring, as it was with Pillsbury's and also Steinitz's nature, eschewed the small material advantage to embark on the sea of the generous attacking combination – he probably would have achieved victory."

Elsewhere in the book manifold parts of Lasker's personality and achievements away from practical play are examined, such as his chess studies and his love of mathematics. It all helps to shine a light on a truly enigmatic and undoubtedly extremely smart man.

This is an excellent book which will undoubtedly stand the test of time to remain as a very important source for anyone seeking to try and understand the life, games and personality of the most remarkable of all chess characters. Any self-respecting chess historian needs this book on their shelves. I recommend finding some quiet time, putting up your feet and losing yourself to the chess world of a former time that has been brilliantly brought back to life by this magnificent labour of love.

Sean Marsh



### An Attacking Repertoire for White with 1.d4

Victor Moskalenko, 368 pages, paperback  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

We have become used to Moskalenko's ever lively and thought-provoking books tending to examine openings from Black's perspective, such as the Budapest, Dutch and French. However, he also likes to be aggressive when White and here presents a 1 d4 and 2 c4 repertoire designed to take the fight to the opponent from the word go. Unsurprisingly Moskalenko favourites the Four Pawns Attack against the King's Indian, 4 f3 versus the Nimzo-Indian and the Exchange Queen's Gambit are all bedrocks of the repertoire, which also features the Exchange Slav and an early d2 against the Grünfeld.



### Chess Informant 140

Sahovski Informator, 350 pages, paperback  
RRP £32.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.61**

Entitled 'Generations', the latest *Informator* features reports from the Moscow Grand Prix, the Gashimov Memorial and the European Individual, with contributors including Vladislav Artemiev and David Navara. There is also a special feature on the Sicilian Scheveningen, as well as all the latest novelties, instructive endgames and studies.

As usual for an issue of *Chess Informant*, if you'd also like to receive a CD of the material, please add £10 to the cost of your order, or if you only want the CD, that is available too from Chess & Bridge for just £9.99 (Subscribers – £8.99).



### ChessBase Magazine 190

ChessBase PC-DVD  
RRP £16.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.25**

The latest *CBM* is for 'July/August 2019' and focusses especially on the GRENKE Chess Classic. Both Fabiano Caruana and Carlsen's

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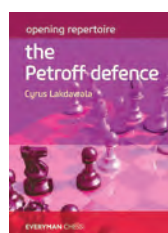
no.2, Peter Heine Nielsen, supply annotations, while there are also all the usual features, including several opening surveys and videos, as well as Karsten Müller on some instructive endgames.



### Liquidation on the Chess Board

Joel Benjamin, 304 pages, paperback  
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

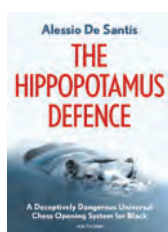
This is a 'new and extended' edition of the Chess Journalists of America 2015 choice as book of the year. Benjamin's focus is very much on how one can realise when it's time to liquidate into a pawn endgame. He also provides much interesting material on pawn endgames themselves, while adding 50 new examples in this second edition.



### Opening Repertoire: The Petroff Defence

Cyrus Lakdawala, 304 pages, paperback  
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

There can be no doubt that Cyrus Lakdawala is a hard worker. His latest work for Everyman covers the solid Petroff Defence, an opening which Lakdawala believes is underemployed at club level. As ever, he is particularly strong when presenting the key ideas and model games, but that does not mean there are no new ideas within waiting to be played. The Petroff might be very solid, but it can also allow Black to counterattack as Lakdawala demonstrates.



### The Hippopotamus Defence

Alessio de Santis, paperback, 320 pages  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The Hippo sees Black set up with a double fianchetto followed by placing his knights on d7 and e7. Flexibility is his watchword and while the opening has slowly gained adherents over the past decade, it remains fairly neglected by theory and might be a good

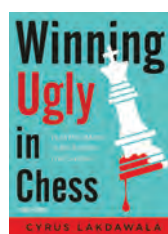
weapon for the creative club player. The author, an Italian FM, presents both the main ideas behind Black's approach and the key moves to remember, while suggesting that the Hippo can be played no matter what White's choice of first move.

### The Shining Sveshnikov Sicilian

Erwin L'Ami, PC-DVD; running time: 8 hours

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e5 6 ♘db5 d6 has arguably never been more topical and it's no surprise to see ChessBase commissioning a leading theoretician to present an up-to-date repertoire with it for Black. Throughout L'Ami does a good job of highlighting the key motifs for both sides, but his main job is covering all the theory which Black needs to know to meet both 7 ♗g5 and the trendy 7 ♘d5. Thankfully L'Ami has sensibly included a number of interactive tests at the end of the DVD, not least some very handy "memory markers".



### Winning Ugly in Chess

Cyrus Lakdawala, paperback, 336 pages  
RRP £20.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.85**

New in Chess have certainly been busy of late, releasing Lakdawala's latest work on top of those by de Santis and Moskalenko. Subtitled 'Playing Badly is No Excuse for Losing', Lakdawala reminds us that winning is

the key goal in chess, not just good moves. Drawing largely on his own games and those of his students, Lakdawala discusses such topics as how to set up cheapos and how to cling on in complex but bad positions. Sometimes the 'wrong player' does win a game, but by studying this work the reader is more likely to become that lucky winner.



## A little bird just told me

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

#### Tarjei J. Svensen - @TarjeiJS

"The World Champion strikes again!", as @thelittlehat put it. Carlsen outplays Giri convincingly and starts Croatia #GrandChessTour with a win, his 69th game without a loss.

#### Olimpiu G. Urcan - @olimpiuurban

Wesley So's incredible admission: "It feels like second place is already a victory whenever he [Carlsen] is playing right now because he's like Bobby Fischer back in the 1970s or 1960s. Whenever he's playing in a championship, the others are just playing for the second place."

#### Grand Chess Tour - @GrandChessTour

Mamedyarov: "Against Magnus I never think about draw, because when you think about draw you lose. If you think about win, you can do draw. You need to think about more." #GrandChessTour

#### Garry Kasparov - @Kasparov63

Congrats to Magnus on another impressive victory. Records are meant to be broken! And to the Croatian organizers, the Grand Chess Tour and all the players for a tremendous fighting event. Classical chess is alive & well in the right hands!

#### Anish Giri - @anishgiri

The chess world is a better place when Vishy Anand holds a worse endgame against Magnus Carlsen. #icons #GCT

#### 2700chess - @2700chess

Meet 18 y/o Jeffery Xiong the youngest member of the 2700 club! He was equal first with 7.5/9 at the World Open in Philadelphia that finished this Sunday.

#### ECF - @ecfchess

Spread the word! The English Women's Championships 2019 - 30th August to 1st September at The Royal Hull Hotel. Total Prize Fund - £3000 and the winner will also qualify for a place in the England women's team in the 2020 Olympiad.

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