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Chess

ALL HAIL TO... KING DING

Ding Liren defeats Magnus Carlsen
in blitz tie-breaker to capture the
Sinqefield Cup

ISSN 0964-6221



It's chess Jim, but... - Matthew Sadler enjoyed the Mind Sports Olympiad

To Hull, and Back - Sean Marsh reports from the English Women's Championship

"It Starts with Hello" - Ben Graff sees how the 64 squares can bring people together

Chess

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Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
60 Seconds with...David Kramaley	7
We catch up with the founder of Chessable	
Drama & Burnout	8
Magnus Carlsen struggled as the GCT arrived in St. Louis	
It's Chess Jim, but not as we know it	18
Matthew Sadler enjoyed the variety of chess on offer at the MSO	
Playing Silly Buggers	21
After a wild encounter, James Plaskett lost an endgame he knew	
To Hull and Back	24
Sean Marsh was impressed by the English Women's Championship	
Find the Winning Moves	26
Can you do as well as the GCT players and those in Torquay?	
Remembering Benko	30
Matthew Read pays tribute to the Hungarian great Pal Benko	
"It Starts with Hello"	32
Ben Graff sees how the 64 squares can bring people together	
Chess on the Net	35
Let Danny Rosenbaum be your guide to chess on YouTube and Twitch	
You've been Beckered!	38
Geoff Chandler imagines what might happen if moves were copyright	
Forthcoming Events	39
How Good is Your Chess?	40
Daniel King on the Grand Chess Tour and the rise of Yu Yangyi	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	44
Carl Portman could hardly believe who he got to play in Chartres	
You Never Know...	46
Bob Jones reports from Paignton where a record was possibly set	
Pula Stars	48
Matthew Lunn reports back from his busman's holiday in Croatia	
Overseas News	51
Evgeny Tomashevsky and Olga Girya are the Russian Champions	
Home News	52
Who has qualified for the final of the UK Open Blitz Championship?	
Solutions	53
This Month's New Releases	54
James Vigus very much enjoyed Quality Chess' latest offering	
Saunders on Chess	58
John discovers that a book has been written on just final round games	

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60 Seconds with... David Kramaley

Born: Rostov-on-Don, Soviet Union, 1987.

Place of residence: I've been in Britain since 2008 and in Swindon for the last four years, but am currently contemplating/trying out a move somewhere else – Bristol, maybe?

Occupation: All things Chessable.com.

Enjoyable? Very.

And home life? Busy, as got a little one running around. She's three.

But sometimes good to escape to: The outdoors. I enjoy any outdoor activity, especially hiking. I've been to the three tallest peaks in the UK and enjoyed every single minute of that, although lately my time outside has been limited.

Sports played or followed: When I have time, I follow football and support Liverpool and Barcelona.

A favourite novel? Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* and George Orwell's *1984*.

Piece of music? Anything by Coldplay.

Film or TV series? *Friends*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? The ability for it to quickly fully absorb you into a flow state where chess is the only thing you can think about. It's awesome. The theory of flow was developed by psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and it's super interesting and important.

And the worst? Time trouble.

Your best move? As Black, 1 e4 d5. Good luck!

But less memorable than your worst move? I had been following my book moves until this point and was either second or third, just half a point off first in a tough field at the Frome Congress.



S.Crockart-D.Kramaley Frome Open 2017



Due to my position in the standings and playing the tournament leader, I thought I'd be aggressive and throw a curve ball here. The resulting positions I knew nothing about and instead of at least holding a draw, I lost the game. The lesson: stick to what you know, unless you are a GM and can truly figure things out in unfamiliar positions!

10...f5?! 11 0-0 ♟d6 12 b3 0-0 13 a4 ♟c7 14 ♟a3 ♟f6 15 b4 ♟h6 16 b5 ♟e8? 17 bxc6 bxc6 18 cxd5 exd5 19 ♟c1 a6 20 ♟c2 ♟g6 21 ♟h1 ♟h5 22 ♟h2 ♟g5 23 ♟f3 ♟d8? 24 ♟e7 ♟e8? 25 ♟xg5 ♟xg5 1-0

And a highly memorable opponent? I once played GM Jacob Aagaard with time odds of

two minutes versus 30 seconds, which were his rules. I won the game, which was great fun. It should be up on social media some day soon.

Favourite game of all time? I don't have one.

The best three chess books: It's very easy for me to be biased here, so I won't pick any.

Is FIDE doing a good job? From what I've seen in the last year they have really upped their game and are heading in a positive direction. I hope it continues.

Or the ECF? I don't know enough to comment.

Any advice for either? Help develop young talent and focus on reducing the amount of girls dropping out from chess.

Can chess make one happy? Definitely. Flow baby!

A tip please for the club player: Check out Chessable before your opponents do!

Ed. - As you may have seen in the papers, Chessable was recently purchased by Play Magnus, who will be making a significant investment in David Kramaley's site. Play Magnus has also recently merged with Chess24, and Magnus himself commented: "I am really impressed by what David and his team have been able to achieve in such a short time. I believe this is a tool that can help players at different levels improve their chess games in an effective way." If you're yet to, do check things out at www.chessable.com!

Drama & Burnout

Saint Louis hosted the latest two legs of the Grand Chess Tour. The Rapid & Blitz was typically lively, but the Sinquefeld Cup was something of a draw fest

He arrived at the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz seeking his eighth tournament victory of 2019, not to mention ninth in a row, and was no doubt intending to immediately follow up in the Sinquefeld Cup, but for once it was not to be for Magnus Carlsen in the American chess capital.

Four days into the Rapid and Blitz, with one to go, the audience heard a player confess: "Everything is going wrong. My confidence is long gone. I don't really care any more. To be honest, my number one wish is for the tournament to get over." And who was this demoralised tailender, if one then ranked seventh overall in the tournament? It was none other than the world champion himself. What had gone wrong?

Carlsen Crumbles

The champ wasn't helped in the Rapid by having to begin with two blacks and perhaps it wasn't such a surprise that he was outplayed by Ding Liren in the opening round. Ding has long been threatening a major success and would go on to enjoy his time in St. Louis, as we shall see. Carlsen wasn't fazed for long, however, bouncing back immediately by smoothly outplaying Richard Rapport ahead of displaying almost Kasparovian levels of energy against the latest recruit to the U.S. Olympiad team.

M.Carlsen-L.Dominguez Perez

Round 3

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙f6 4 cxd5 ♘xd5 5 e4 ♗xc3 6 bxc3 c5 7 ♖b1 ♙e7 8 h4!?

A startling new move. Dominguez would later face 8 ♗f3 0-0 9 ♙e2 b6 10 0-0 ♙b7 11 ♖d3 ♙a6 12 ♖e3 ♙xe2 13 ♖xe2 cxd4 14 cxd4 ♗d7, which was likely OK for Black, although he was soon outplayed in Ding Liren-Dominguez, St. Louis (blitz) 2019.

8...0-0 9 h5 h6

Allowing White a long-term fish bone with 9...b6 10 h6 g6 is known in general to be risky for Black and for many a year before *AlphaZero* emerged on the scene. That said, 11 ♗f3 ♙b7 12 ♙d3 cxd4 13 cxd4 ♗c6 may well be playable.

10 ♖g4



Ding Liren gave Magnus Carlsen plenty to ponder when they played some 8 times in St. Louis.



Carlsen's play reminds one of how White often menaces aggression against the French Winawer and one man who liked to do that (remember 7 h4 there?), a certain Garry Kasparov, heaped praise on White's concept: "I admit I was pleased to see Carlsen's early h4 in a nice win against Dominguez, with h5 and ♖g4 and not developing his pieces – moves only a beginner or a world champion would make!"

10...f5?

Black will quickly come to regret weakening g6 so. 10...♗h8 was necessary. Dominguez may have been worried about 11 e5, but after 11...♙d7! and if 12 ♙d3 ♙c6 13 ♖h3 ♗d7 14 ♖g3 ♖g8 15 ♖f4 cxd4 16 cxd4 f5 Black appears to be

defending and maintaining a rough balance.

11 ♖g3 ♗h8

11...cxd4 12 ♙xh6 ♖f7 13 ♙d2 fxe4 14 ♗e2 would have been more messy, but Black should be still struggling here as his centre finds itself quickly undermined.

12 ♗h3! cxd4 13 ♗f4 ♗h7 14 ♙c4 ♙g5

The position may appear rather futuristic, but be in no doubt that White is doing very well, as we can see too from 14...dxc3 15 ♖xb7!? being possible, and if 15...♙xb7? 16 ♗xe6.

15 0-0 ♗c6 16 ♗g6 ♖e8 17 ♗d1

White also continues to call all the shots after 17 f4 ♙f6 18 e5 ♙e7 19 ♗d1.

17...♙xc1 18 ♖bxc1 ♖g5?

Capitulating, albeit in an unpleasant position. The only real way to fight on was to ditch an exchange with 18...e5 19 exf5 ♙xf5 20 ♙f7 ♖f6!.

19 exf5 exf5 20 cxd4 ♙d7 21 ♖c7

Tricky play, but 21 ♖xg5 hxg5 22 ♙f7 ♖e2 23 d5 and if 23...♗d8 24 ♗f8+ ♗h6 25 ♙g6 would have left Black being steamrollered.

21...♖ad8

Just as in the game, 21...♗xd4 would have been fiendishly met by 22 ♖g3!. Black can hold on to his loose pieces for now with 22...♖xg3 23 fxg3 ♖e4 24 ♙d3 ♖e6, but after 25 ♖c4 ♗d6 26 ♙c2! ♗e2+ 27 ♗f2 ♖xd1 28 ♙xd1 the knight is trapped.

22 d5 ♗d4 23 ♖g3!

day after round 11 wasn't the Carlsen who had finished the Sinquefield Cup so strongly, but rather the one who had begun it so diffidently. Carlsen was quickly worse as White in their first rapid game, but manage to draw and then to comfortably hold the return.

The blitz was a different story. Ding quickly gained the upper hand as White and found himself with a huge advantage in a rook and opposite-coloured bishop endgame. However, he missed several fairly simple wins and it appeared that Carlsen would hold until he somehow lost on time on move 87, despite the three-second delay. That meant that the world champion again had to win on demand, and this time it wasn't to be.

M.Carlsen-Ding Liren
Play-off, Game 3 (blitz) 2019



Ding has boldly just captured on e4 and after 32 ♖xe4 ♜xe4 33 ♖xa3 ♙h4 34 ♖xa6 d5 Black should have sufficient compensation.

32 g5 ♙a8!

This retreat poleaxed Carlsen. No doubt he saw 33 gxf6 ♖b7 34 ♙f1 ♖g2+ (34...♙c2? 35 ♙e2 defends and wins) 35 ♙e2 ♖f3+ 36 ♙f1 (36 ♙d2 ♙d8! is a decisive deflection) 36...♖g2+, but as a draw was no good, he was forced to decline the knight.

33 ♖xa6 ♜d5 34 ♙a7 ♖c7 35 ♙ec1 ♖xc1+

Ding continues to display no fear, although he might have won more simply with 35...♙c6 36 ♙c4 ♖d7 37 ♙ac1 a2!, and if 38 ♖xa2



Pictured in front of St. Louis' famous giant chess king, Ding Liren could show off the hardly tiny replica trophy given to the winner of the Sinquefield Cup, as he enjoyed his best result to date.

♖xh3 39 ♙xc6 ♙xc6 40 ♙xc6 ♜f4.

36 ♙xc1 ♙xc1+ 37 ♙h2 ♙c6 38 ♖xa3 ♙xg5 39 ♖xd6?

White needed to find 39 ♜e2 when anything might yet have happened after 39...♙e1 40 ♖xd6 ♜e7 41 ♖xe5 ♜f5.

39...♙f4!

Ice calm, having spotted that...

40 ♙c5 ♜e7 0-1

...is an only move, but a deadly one. The threat of mate on h1 decides.

As the champ had to admit, Ding was "A lot better than I was today", and so the Chinese

no.1 could enjoy the greatest result of his career, first place at the Sinquefield Cup, which bagged him \$82,500. Both Ding and Carlsen pocketed 16.5 GCT points and on the Tour leaderboard Carlsen remains way out in front with 54.5 points. He, Ding (37.8) and Vachier-Lagrave (36.8) will surely qualify for the final four in London, even though the Frenchman has played five events to the other two's four. The Tour heads next to Bucharest and then Kolkata in November, with Aronian lying in fourth, back on 25.5, but as he has played only three events, he must be favourite to claim the final qualifying berth.

7th Sinquefield Cup, Saint Louis, USA, 17-30 August 2019 (Category 22, average rating = 2783 Elo)																
Player	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts	TPR
1	Ding Liren	CHN	2805	*	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	6½	2845
2	Magnus Carlsen	NOR	2882	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	6½	2838
3	Viswanathan Anand	IND	2756	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	6	2820
4	Sergey Karjakin	RUS	2750	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	6	2821
5	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	AZE	2764	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	5½	2784
6	Anish Giri	NED	2779	0	½	½	½	½	*	½	1	½	½	½	5½	2782
7	Fabiano Caruana	USA	2818	0	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	1	½	5½	2779
8	Ian Nepomniachtchi	RUS	2774	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	*	1	0	1	5½	2783
9	Hikaru Nakamura	USA	2743	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	*	½	½	½	5	2750
10	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave	FRA	2778	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	1	½	*	½	5	2746
11	Levon Aronian	ARM	2765	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	*	4½	2719
12	Wesley So	USA	2776	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	*	4½	2718

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 many recent events, not least the Grand Chess Tour and the British Championships. 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 53.



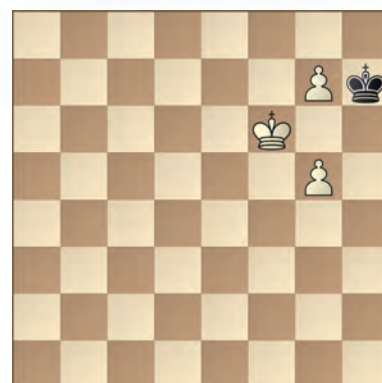
Warm-up Puzzles



(1) P.Leko-S.Bogner
Biel 2019
White to Play



(2) C.McNab-A.McClement
Scottish Championship, Edinburgh 2019
White to Play



(3) U.Bajarani-N.Javanbakht
Turkish League 2019
White to Play



(4) F.Caruana-H.Nakamura
Paris (blitz) 2019
White to Play



(5) T.Rushbrooke-M.Ifalore
Major Open, Torquay 2019
Black to Play



(6) V.Anand-D.Dubov
Paris (blitz) 2019
Black to Play

the e-file; the more brutal 3 ♖xf6! gxf6 4 ♖h5+ ♗g7 5 ♖e1 also does the business) 3...♗d5 (perhaps remarkably, there's simply no defence for Black, shown too by 3...b5 4 ♖e1 ♗g8 5 ♗xf6 gxf6 6 ♖xf6, as given by John Watson, and 3...♗d5 4 ♖e1 ♗g8 5 ♗c4

h6 6 ♗e7) 4 ♖xf6+! gxf6 5 ♖h5+ ♗e7 (or 5...♗g8 6 ♗xf6 ♗e6 7 ♖e1, and if 7...♖f7 8 ♖g5+ ♗g7 9 ♖xe6) 6 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 7 ♖f5+! ♗e7 (7...♗g7 8 ♖g5+ ♗f7 9 ♖xd5+ ♗g7 10 ♖d4+! ♗f7 11 ♗c4+ is crushing) 8 ♖xd5 leaves Black a rook ahead,

but completely undone by his exposed king: for example, 8...♖d8 (8...♗h6 9 ♖e1+ ♗f6 10 ♖d4+ is again fatal) 9 ♖e1+ ♗f6 10 ♖e6+ ♗g7 11 ♖g4+ ♗f7 12 ♗c4+ ♗f6 13 ♖e6+ ♗f7 14 ♖h5+ ♗g7 15 ♖g5+ ♗f7 16 ♖e7#

This Month's New Releases

An Attacking Repertoire for White with 1 d4

Viktor Moskalenko, 368 pages
New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Moskalenko has returned with another inspirational book full of interesting ideas in the openings. This time, instead of choosing one opening from Black's point of view, as he has formerly done with the French, Dutch, Pirc and Budapest Gambit, he is offering a 1 d4 repertoire for White replete with "Ambitious ideas and powerful weapons."

In fact it has to be said this is not a full repertoire. Anyone looking for something to combat the Dutch will only find a referral to *The Diamond Dutch* (Moskalenko, New in Chess 2014). It would have been better to offer a couple of new Dutch games alongside the referral, just to give some starting ideas for White.

Similarly, there is no coverage of the 1...d6/1...g6 family of openings, which don't always transpose into the main lines, and neither will the reader find anything on the Tarrasch Defence to the Queen's Gambit or the Budapest Gambit. This is a flaw in the book which should have been picked up and corrected, or at least the word 'repertoire' should have been avoided.

What we do have against everything else is a series of aggressive and sometimes offbeat lines, aimed at putting each of Black's defences under pressure right from the start. We have, for example, the Four Pawns Attack against the King's Indian Defence, the Taimanov variation with 8 ♗b5+ against the Modern Benoni, the Sämisch against the Nimzo-Indian, and the Exchange variation against both the Slav and the Queen's Gambit Declined.

More obscure are 4 ♖c2 against the Benko/Volga Gambit and 5 ♗d2 against the Grünfeld. These two lines will definitely be of use against unsuspecting club players, who have crammed in the finer details of the main lines, but may struggle against the unexpected nuances of the rarer ones.

Black's problems when facing 1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♗c3 d5 4 cxd5 ♗xd5 5 ♗d2

♗g7 6 e4 ♗xc3 7 ♗xc3 can become more apparent when he achieves his usual goal of melting the a1-h8 diagonal; the dark-squared bishops can easily be exchanged and Black's king will be weakened as a result. This is in stark contrast to the usual scenario, in which Black's king's bishop is a menace throughout the game. Creative play is the order of the day and Grünfeld aficionados will no longer be able to rely simply on the long main lines they have somehow memorised.

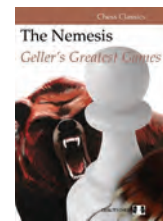
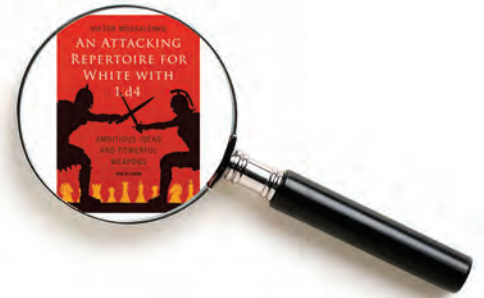
V.Anand-J.L.Hammer Stavanger 2013



It is clear to see Black's king has been weakened on the dark squares. Anand now played a novelty, in place of the known and perfectly valid 13 h5. He sacrificed material with 13 ♗h3!? ♖xh4 14 0-0-0 ♖xe4. Now, according to Moskalenko, 15 ♗g5 was the best way to proceed, instead of Anand's looser 15 ♗d3?! which allowed Hammer to pick up another pawn and worry the white king with 15...♖a4 16 ♗g5 ♖xa2. Anand still went on to win (1-0, 43), but it was messy.

The layout is good and clear, the prose explanations are motivational and the lines of analysis are kept comparatively light. In short, apart from the omissions, this is definitely up to Moskalenko's previous standards and it will be fully accessible to club players – although further reading will definitely be required.

Sean Marsh



The Nemesis: Geller's Greatest Games

Efim Geller, 480 pages
Quality Chess

RRP £26.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.85**

This very substantial tome is a translation by John Sugden of a collection of the games of Efim Geller (1925-1998), first published in Russian. It is magnificent. The games are all annotated by Geller himself. The annotations were gathered by IM Maxim Notkin, who adds corrections to Geller's notes throughout.

Geller can stake a reasonable claim to the status of strongest non-world champion in history. The title, *The Nemesis*, reflects his monstrous record against world champions (summarised in a table on p.477), which includes plus-scores against Botvinnik, Smyslov, Petrosian and Fischer. Some crushing victories against such players appear in this book. Only Spassky succeeded in dominating him.

Geller was an exceptionally deep analyst and researcher, a pioneer in openings such as the King's Indian, the Sicilian, and the white side of the Ruy Lopez, and took a very concrete approach to chess. He is certainly one of the very best and most instructive annotators in history, too.

He carefully balances concise explanations of plans, key moments and sometimes psychology with essential lines. For the most part, the latter are not overwhelmingly dense, though occasionally Geller takes flight into complex trees of variations, as in the two-page analysis of the critical position in his demolition of Fischer with Black in the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn (Monte Carlo 1967, pp.225-6). Jacob Aagaard concludes fittingly in his introduction: "For those that want to understand chess on a deep level, there is much wisdom here – and many chances to go deeper" (p.19). The book is both delightful and of permanent value.

Notkin's computer-assisted insertions are

exemplary. They are concise, avoiding unnecessary intrusion into Geller's text. The use of italics makes it immediately clear where Geller ends and Notkin begins. In general, it is remarkable how well Geller's analysis stands up to the unforgiving scrutiny of modern computer engines. Notkin's conscientiousness is also testified by a note in which he refutes an attempted improvement by Kasparov, vindicating the narrative that Geller provides of his win with Black against Botvinnik in 1952 (p.42). Notkin has chosen quite rightly to present the games chronologically – the first is from 1949, the last from 1990. An earlier Geller collection, austerely titled *The Application of Chess Theory* (1984), grouped the games by opening. Any reader who wishes to reproduce this effect using *The Nemesis* can do so by using the Index of Openings.

There is a great deal in this book: 131 games plus a further four fragments; a rich introduction by Jacob Aagaard, which discusses a few more games; a table of tournament results, and good indices. What does not appear in the book is also noteworthy, however. First, there is no biography of the grandmaster from Odessa here: for personal information beyond the nice anecdotes supplied by Aagaard (pp.10-11), the English-language reader must turn to Genna Sosonko's brief memoir in his *Russian Silhouettes* (2009), and to Bernard Cafferty's out-of-print translation of Geller's 1962 autobiography, *Grandmaster Geller at the Chessboard*.

Sosonko describes Geller vividly: "A man of few words, with a characteristic facial expression, frequent rocking of the head, accompanied by a sceptical raising of the eyebrows, his checked jacket, which he carefully hung on the back of his chair, and the ashtray full of cigarette-ends, always alongside him." He had "A dimpled chin and a slow waddle", and looked like a boxer (Sosonko, p.70).

Second, the claim that *The Nemesis* gathers "All Efim Geller's annotations of his own games" (p.7), his "complete works" (p.8), is incorrect. As a subsequent Quality Chess blog post has made clear, a handful of games from *The Application of Chess Theory* do not appear in the present book. Geller annotated many games for the languageless *Chess Informant* series, also omitted from *The Nemesis*. It would be understandable if permission could not be gained to reproduce the latter notes, but the fact that these omissions go unrecorded is curious. Notkin instead gleaned material from "The periodical press from the 1970s to the 90s" (p.8): nothing further is disclosed. Specialist researchers may be disappointed by the absence of a list of sources, which would hardly have cluttered the text unduly. That said, *The Nemesis* is a great deal longer than *The Application of Chess Theory*.

Anyone who plays through his best games is bound to wonder: what prevented Geller from climbing to the very top? A key part of the answer appears in the title of game 14, 'The horrors of time trouble' (p.60). Although his pre-game preparation often focused on a particular opponent's strengths and weaknesses, at the board Geller took the

purist motto to play the position rather than the opponent to an extreme. He would consume swathes of time in seeking the truth about a position.

It is often reasonable to assume that a time-trouble addicted perfectionist suffers from an underlying self-doubt. Geller's case seems to have been more extreme than that, sometimes amounting to a self-destructive impracticality. Admittedly his time consumption was often rewarded. In one case, Geller recounts, "By spending a total of nearly one hour on his 8th and 9th moves, Black found a new and interesting plan which was later accepted by theory as the main continuation" (p.346). But, in a Candidates match against Portisch (Game 2, Portoroz 1973), a pawn up in a simple, drawn endgame, Geller lost on time on move 87, staring at the board rather than make a random move to reach the time control on move 88 (according to Robert Byrne's column in the *New York Times*, 21 October 1973). Aagaard presents an only slightly less drastic catastrophe against Korchnoi from their 1971 match (p.16), in which Geller agreed a draw in a won position due to time shortage.

In his obituary of Geller (*The Independent*, 25 November 1998), Bill Hartston offers another theory. Geller did analytical work for Spassky, Karpov and later Kasparov, among many others. "Perhaps if he had been a little more personally ambitious, and less willing to share his discoveries with colleagues, he might have scaled the game's highest summit." Further, it may be that Geller took a little too long to develop a perfectly all-round style. Writing about the young Geller in 1961, Alexander Kotov stated that although a fine attacker, he was "Weaker in positional battles and complicated endgames" that demanded a methodical, logical approach (*Soviet School of Chess*, p.198).

Any such weakness was strictly relative, of course, and Geller remained a formidable competitor for a long period. In 1979 he won the USSR Championship at his twentieth attempt, brushing aside Beliavsky with Black in one of the games given here (pp.387-9). Geller was self-aware about the evolution of his style with age. Commenting on this position (p.42)...

M.Botvinnik-E.Geller Budapest 1952



...He provides a revealing insight about his choice of **25...♖ae8**: "The most purposeful move. Today I might have given some thought to the fate of the bishop on f5 and tried to rescue it with 25...♗d7, securing the d3-square. This doesn't imply any change in the assessment of the position. It merely speaks of the metamorphosis that every chessplayer inescapably undergoes; it speaks (alas!) of the emergence of prejudices." At least by the usual standard of Soviet-era commentators, Geller is witty and warm.

By way of strongly recommending *The Nemesis*, it seems fitting to conclude this review with a sample of Geller's play. Rather than give a spoiler, here is one of my favourites from his twilight years, which does not appear in the book.

E.Geller-J.Hickl Dortmund 1989 Modern Defence

**1 e4 g6 2 d4 ♗g7 3 ♖c3 d6 4 g3 ♗c6
5 ♗e3 e5 6 dxe5 ♗xe5 7 h3 ♖f6 8 f4
♗ed7 9 ♗g2 0-0 10 ♗ge2 ♗e8 11 0-0 ♖b6**



12 ♗d4!

The inexorable quality of this game seems to originate here. The most obvious move is 12 ♗d3, developing, controlling c4 and defending the e4-pawn, as well as the loose bishop on e3. However, after 12...c6 13 ♗ad1 d5 (C.Murphy-J.Vakhidov, Hastings 2017/18), Black's position is pleasant because 14 e5 is met by 14...♗f5, and the queen is beaten back. Geller's choice leaves Black without an obvious plan, and he proceeds to overprotect the e4-pawn, gain space, and exploit the bishop-pair.

12...♗e6?! 13 b3 c5 14 ♗f2 ♖e7

The consistent, but over-sharp 14...d5 also led to an edge for White after 15 f5 gxf5 16 exf5 ♗xf5 17 ♗xc5 in J.Magem Badals-M.Todorovic, Las Palmas 1993.

**15 g4 ♗d7 16 ♗d2 ♗c6 17 ♗g3 ♗ad8
18 ♗ae1 ♗c7 19 g5 ♗fd7 20 ♗d5 ♗xd5
21 exd5 ♗c8 22 c4 a6 23 h4 b5 24 ♗h3
♗cb6 25 ♗c2 bxc4 26 bxc4 ♗f8 27 h5
♗b8 28 hxg6 hxg6 29 f5 ♗xe1 30 ♗xe1
♗e5 31 ♗e4 ♗bd7 32 ♗e2 ♗b2 33 ♗g4
♗a5 34 fxg6 fxg6 35 ♗h4 ♗xf2 36 ♗xf2
♗xa2+ 37 ♗e2 ♗d4+ 38 ♗f1 ♗xc4
39 ♗e6+ ♗xe6 40 dxe6 ♗c1+ 41 ♗e1**

♖c4+ 42 ♔g2 ♗a2+ 43 ♕h1 ♜f8 44 e7 1-0

Geller said: "If I feel anxious or uncomfortable, I sit down at the chessboard for some 5-6 hours and gradually come to" (Sosonko, p.73). Try it – with this wonderful hardback.

James Vigus

A Complete Guide to Practical Play

John Emms & Volker Schlepütz,
496 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Everyman Chess continue to produce compilation books and while some contain works which are undoubtedly now a little dated, this latest one is most welcome to see. It features Emms' *The Survival Guide to Competitive Chess*, which was one of his very best books and still contains much material of use to the over-the-board player, as well as *The Chess Tactics Detection Workbook* by Emms and Schlepütz. That remains a fairly unique project, with the reader being forced to go through games, aiming to pinpoint which moves were mistakes.

Also recently released is *A Complete Guide to Systems Where Black Meets 1 e4 by Supporting a Pawn on d5*, featuring both *Starting Out: The Caro-Kann* by Joe Gallagher and Byron Jacobs' *Starting Out: The French*, which runs to 368 pages in total, while retailing at £17.99 or £16.19 for Subscribers.

Attack and Counterattack in Chess

Fred Reinfeld, 88 pages, paperback
RRP £12.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.65**

Russell Enterprises continue to reproduce some of Fred Reinfeld's classic works. This one is split into two halves, beginning by showing how White exploits an early initiative and takes advantage of typical mistakes by Black, before demonstrating how Black might neutralise White's early initiative and even aim to take over himself. The book may have first appeared in 1958, but almost all the examples are still relevant today and of a type regularly seen at club level, where many a player continues, for example, to struggle to handle an early gambit from White.

Chess Tactics Workbook for Kids

John Nunn, 128 pages, hardback
RRP £12.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.25**

The leading chess author's latest work has a similar cover to Murray Chandler bestselling *How to Beat Your Dad at Chess*. The premise isn't dissimilar, if pitched at a higher level. Nunn knows that the quickest way for those new to the game to improve is by expanding their tactical repertoire. He presents 12 chapters, each devoted to an important tactical theme, such as forks, discovered attacks and in-between moves. In each chapter the key motif is clearly introduced before the reader has 18 positions to solve, with the work concluding with an additional chapter of puzzles entitled 'Test Papers'. As

well as those new to the game, the weaker club player and keen junior should also learn a lot from going through this latest book from Gambit.

Also due out soon from Gambit Publications is *Chess Logic in Practice*, the follow-up to Erik Kislik's *Applying Logic in Chess*.

ChessBase Magazine 191

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

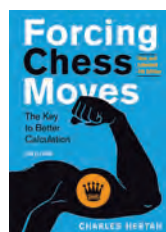
The latest issue of *CBM* is for 'September/October 2019' and covers the GCT event in Zagreb, as well as the likes of Biel and Dortmund. Anish Giri explains how he overcame Ian Nepomniachtchi in the Croatian capital, with Wesley So, Baskaran Adhiban and Vidit Gujrathi other notable contributors. Elsewhere Simon Williams looks at 1 b3 e5 2 ♗b2 e4!? and Najdorf aficionados may not want to miss Daniel King on 1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜f6 5 ♜c3 a6 6 ♗g5 e6 7 f4 ♗e7 8 ♜f3 h6!? 9 ♗h4 g5 10 fxg5 ♜fd7, the infamous Gothenburg variation.



Coaching Kasparov Volume 1: The Whizz Kid (1973-1981)

Alexander Nikitin, 200 pages, paperback
RRP £20.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.85**

Elk & Ruby are to be commended for bringing to light much which has remained in a dim shade in the west concerning the legendary Soviet chess scene. Here Kasparov's early trainer reveals just how they worked together, while annotating 46 of the future world champion's games from those early years (Kasparov turned 18 in 1981), including all 14 of a previously unpublished blitz match between Kasparov and Tal.



Forcing Chess Moves

Charles Hertan, 432 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

Remarkably this is already the fourth edition of Hertan's modern classic based on the principle that humans miss many possibilities by not examining forcing moves first in a position. The book will undoubtedly improve your calculation and chess vision, with this expanded new edition adding 50 pages of new and instructive combinations.

Greatest 460 Puzzles Part 1: From Practical Games of 2019

Csaba Balogh, 216 pages, paperback
RRP £19.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.95**

The latest puzzle book from Chess Evolution does just what its says on the tin. Inside one will find 460 positions – some beautiful, others simply neat – taken from games played in the first half of this year and divided into easy, medium and hard categories.



Master Class Volume 12 – Viswanathan Anand

ChessBase PC-DVD; running time: 7 hours
RRP £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

There can be little doubt that Yannick Pelletier, Mihail Marin, Karsten Müller and Oliver Reeh present a quality line-up and here those four ChessBase presenters team up to examine the chess of a living legend. Anand is famous for his deep understanding of the game and the way in which he can quickly come to grips with a new position, rarely missing tactical resources which may arise. All aspects of his game are examined on this DVD, from his opening repertoire to those endgames he especially excels in, with the viewer also having the bonus of 399 tactical exercises to solve.



Side-Stepping Mainline Theory

Gerard Welling & Steve Giddins,
272 pages, paperback

RRP £21.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.75**

What percentage of the club player's study time did Emanuel Lasker advise should be devoted to the study of the openings and how long do you actually spend? The answer to the first part of that is just 5%. Of course, theory has evolved somewhat in the last hundred years, but the highly-experienced duo of Giddins and Welling are firmly of the belief that the modern club player spends far too long studying openings. Their advice: the club player should be happy to emerge from the opening with a reasonable position. Their proposed repertoire: the Hanham Philidor and Old Indian as Black and, as White, the same set-up in reverse. The result: the authors map out the main lines well, highlight the few precise sequences the reader simply must know, and especially demonstrate exactly

what to aim for in the typical middlegames which arise. You may not win many games quickly with this repertoire, but you also won't be in major trouble by move 10 with it.



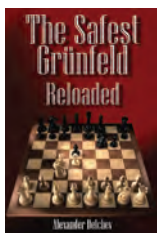
The Nasty Nimzowitsch Defence

Christian Bauer; PC-DVD;

running time: 3 hours, 44 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The French Grandmaster is making a deserved name for himself as a leading authority on a number of offbeat openings and all the while as he maintains a rating over 2600. Bauer returns to the ChessBase studio to reveal why there is much more to 1 e4 ♖c6 than you might have realised. He maps out a repertoire for Black with the Nimzowitsch Defence, although it must be said that his main goal is to reach the Nimzowitsch-Pirc hybrid which arises after 2 ♗f3 d6 3 d4 ♗f6 4 ♖c3 g6.



The Safest Grünfeld Reloaded

Alexander Delchev, 352 pages, paperback

RRP £20.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.85**

The strong Bulgarian Grandmaster has fully updated his Grünfeld repertoire from 2011. The core of the repertoire remains broadly unchanged, but there can be no doubt that in certain places an extensive reworking has occurred, which is no surprise considering both the scale of modern praxis and the improvement in the strength of chess engines. The tournament player will be pleased to learn that publisher Chess Stars have retained their earlier format, their classic one, introducing the key ideas and main line of each chapter first before delving deeply into the theory. Meanwhile Delchev has especially added plenty of new material in the chapter dealing with White's attempt to avoid the Grünfeld with 3 f3, while also revealing how readers should meet both 2 ♗g5 and 2 ♖c3 d5 3 ♗f4.

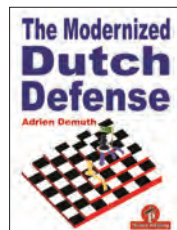
The Chess Gamer Volume 2: Return (2004-2013)

Gata Kamsky, 454 pages, paperback

RRP £30.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.85**

Having covered in the first volume, 'The Awakening 1989-1996', his early meteoric

rise, Gata Kamsky returns by examining how his chess career unfolded after an eight-year hiatus from the board. Kamsky admits that it is not always a light read, as he tries "To share [his] vision of chess as a great intellectual battlefield where many factors play a role, including psychology and the science of computer home preparation." Those who do study the many deeply-annotated games should learn much, others will simply enjoy Kamsky's sometimes controversial take on various chess and non-chess topics.



The Modernized Dutch Defense

Adrien Demuth, 470 pages, paperback

SPECIAL PRICE £29.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.95**

The French Grandmaster is acutely aware that 1 d4 f5 unsettles many white players, while giving Black every chance to strive for the full point. In this detailed repertoire for Thinkers Publishing, Demuth maps out a black repertoire centred on the Leningrad variation, while also revealing how to meet all White's tricky sidelines, such as 2 e4 and 2 ♖c3, as well as those no-less-tricky lines which White might prefer after 1 c4/♗f3 f5.



The Royal Chess Couple in Action

Hans Böhm & Yochanan Afek,

384 pages, paperback

RRP £30.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.85**

This impressive project presents some 480 positions, divided into two parts, dedicated respectively to the king and queen. The erudite authors have further divided the positions, which come from both over-the-board play and composition, by themes and motifs. Publishers Thinkers have also included a number of photographs, not of the players or composers featured, but rather of old versions of the pieces in question, as the book includes an historic review of their development.

British readers may be especially interested in one of the 120 mini-chapters entitled 'The Fearless Kings of Nigel Short'. We are most grateful to Yochanan Afek and Thinkers Publishing for permission to reprint the positions from that section in this month's PGN download. You're right that Short-Timman appears, but which other three king marches feature too?



Typical Mistakes by 1000-1600 Players

Nicholas Pert, PC-DVD;

running time: 4 hours, 40 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The ECF's Head Coach is the ideal guide to the most common mistakes made by different levels of club player. Pert's aim is to help all those between 1000 and 1600 cut out many of those mistakes and so improve. He looks at such topics as tactics, attacking and the endgame, while also going through some very revealing complete games and providing a number of interactive tests to ensure his advice really sinks in.

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