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# Chess

## THE STREAK ENDS!

Magnus Carlsen's 125-game unbeaten streak is ended by Jan-Krzysztof Duda

ISSN 0964-6221



The Run is Over - But Magnus Carlsen still won and Firouzja impressed in Norway



Jovi's World - James Essinger discovers all about England star Jovanka Houska



Looking Deeper - Ben Graff explores the blind and partially sighted chess scene

# Chess

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# 60 Seconds with... Michael Duke

a.k.a  
Mr Dodgy



**Born:** 22nd March 1987, Dundee.

**Place of residence:** Skellefteå, in the north of Sweden.

**Occupation:** I work for Chessable (part of the PlayMagnus group) on social media, marketing, and creating new chess content.

**Enjoyable?** I'm very lucky – I get to work on chess projects with some of the best players in the world and the Chessable team are a ton of fun. PlayMagnus is an incredibly ambitious company and it's exciting to see the plans they have to push chess forward.

**And home life?** I live with my partner Lisa and our three children, along with three horses and many, many cats. We live 30km outside of the city and we often get large visitors in the garden – reindeer and moose (no bears, yet!).

**But sometimes good to escape to:** The winter is very long and dark with snow on the ground for up to five months of the year. It would be nice to go anywhere without snow in January!

**Sports played or followed:** I used to follow tennis pretty religiously, but nowadays chess occupies most of my time. With the explosion of streaming there's always something to watch.

**A favourite novel?** *Children of Time* by Adrian Tchaikovsky is a phenomenal work if you don't mind spiders. *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman is the book I've most re-read.

**Piece of music?** Anything by Coheed and

Cambria or Enter Shikari.

**Film or TV series?** *Game of Thrones* (season 8). Hugely underrated.

**What's the best thing about playing chess?** Time moves differently when you're intensely focused on a game of chess – you're completely immersed and you're in a different world. It's hard to repeat this experience with any other game.

**And the worst?** The soul-crushing, gut-wrenching pain of losing. And the London System.

**Your best move?**

**G.Burton-M.Duke**  
4NCL 2016  
*Ponziani Opening*

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 c3 d5 4 ♚a4 f6  
5 ♙b5 ♗ge7 6 exd5 ♚xd5 7 d4 a6 8 c4?  
♚e4+ 9 ♙e3 exd4 10 ♗bd2



Here **10...axb5!** isn't particularly hard to find (**11 ♚xa8 ♚e6** is the point), but the game was in an opening I'd never faced and was entirely preparation to this point. Rather than brilliant moves, most of my victories would be firmly in the confusing swindles category.

**But less memorable than your worst move?** I've blundered 1 d4 on more than one occasion.

**And a highly memorable opponent?** I played Magnus Carlsen in banter blitz on Chess24 – he delivered a fascinating lecture on the history of bananas whilst dismantling me.

**Favourite game of all time?** Kasparov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1999. It's just a masterpiece. My other half is a baking genius

and she once made a cake of it. Kramnik-Vocaturu from the 2016 Baku Olympiad would be my second choice – it's such a fantastic example of long-term compensation.

**V.Kramnik-D.Vocaturu**  
Baku Olympiad 2016



17 ♙e7! ♚xd4 18 ♚xd4 ♚xe7 19 ♗d8+  
♗e8 20 ♗xe4 ♙e6 21 ♚a8 ♙e5 22 ♗dd8  
♗f8 23 ♚xa7 ♙c7 24 ♗da8 ♙b6  
25 ♚xa6 bxa6 26 ♗f6 ♙d7 27 b4 c5  
28 ♗d5 ♙c6 29 ♚xa6 ♙xd5 30 ♙xd5  
♙d8 31 b5 ♗d7 32 b6 ♗e7 33 b7 ♙c7  
34 ♚a8 ♗f6 35 ♚c8 ♙d6 36 ♙c6 ♗d8  
37 a4 ♗d7 38 a5 ♙b8 39 a6 ♗e5  
40 ♚xb8 ♚xb8 41 ♙d5 1-0

**The best three chess books:** *Chess for Zebras* by Jonathan Rowson, *Michael de la Maza's Rapid Chess Improvement* and *The Woodpecker Method* by Axel Smith. As a loyal Chessable employee, I have to mention too *Lifetime Repertoire: Jan Gustafsson's 1.e4 e5* (which I may have helped out on).

**Is FIDE doing a good job?** In terms of bringing chess to the masses, the big websites are doing a lot more than FIDE. But things do seem to be heading in the right direction.

**Any advice for them?** More people watch classical chess than rapid or blitz. The number of viewers will let you know what people want – not a vocal minority.

**Can chess make one happy?** My experience is that chess can definitely make other people happy – mostly my opponents.

**A tip please for the club player:** Solve puzzles until your eyes bleed! Relatively simple tactics decide most games and they're the building blocks for complex calculations.

# England Shines



## Danny Gormally continues his coverage of that mega event, the Online Olympiad



Last month we saw Gawain Jones's win against Bulgaria from the vast event that was the Online Olympiad. Let's now look at some more highlights from the England team. England were ultimately eliminated in the final group stage, which sounds a bit like what happens in the football world cup.

If all chess players had nicknames then David Howell would be known as 'the Total Package'. Judging by his recent video for Ginger GM, he seems to have given a lot of thought to every aspect of his career. There David also discusses how in awe he was of working with Garry Kasparov and how the great champion would go for a daily walk for an hour at exactly the same time, regardless of what was going on in his life. No doubt working with such players has had a positive effect on David's chess as shown in the match against Hungary.

### T. Banusz-D. Howell Hungary vs England Grünfeld Defence

**1 d4 ♟f6 2 ♞f3 g6 3 g3 ♙g7 4 ♙g2 d5 5 c4 dxc4 6 ♞a3 c3 7 bxc3 0-0 8 0-0 c5 9 ♙b2 ♞c6 10 e3 ♙f5 11 ♞d2**

The battle lines are set: White wishes to put pressure on the black queenside with ♞b3, and will also look to advance in a convenient moment with e3-e4; Black has a break with ...e5 available and has a very solid position.

**11... ♞b6 12 ♞b3**

12 ♞ac4 ♞a6 13 a4 looks like a blunder (13 e4? ♞xe4 does just drop a pawn), but after 13... ♙d3 14 ♞b3 ♙xf1 15 ♙xf1 I think that White has interesting compensation and practical chances, although possibly this is all too optimistic. In general these Grünfelds are incredibly tough to crack, because Black always has good piece play.

**12... ♙e6!**

Typically accurate, not giving White time to play ♞ac4 and orchestrate a favourable queen exchange where White would take back with the pawn on b3.

**13 ♞b5**

13 ♞xb6 axb6 would be a dream for Black,

with easy play against the weakening on a2.  
**13... ♞fd8 14 ♞fc1 ♞a5**



Black understands that the fight for the queenside, particularly the c4-square, is all important.

**15 c4**

15 ♞ab1 would normally be a good move because it would prepare ♙a1 with pressure down the b-file, but here it just drops the a-pawn. 15 ♞cb1 looks less convincing because the idea of ♙c1 looks too strange, although in the computer era pretty much any plan seems possible.

15 e4! looks more natural to me, and the main difference between this and the game, is that the bishop on b2 is not exposed in the case of a later d4-d5 advance: 15... ♞xb5 16 ♞xb5 ♙d7 17 ♞a3 (17 a4 a6 18 ♞a3 is also possible, as grabbing the pawn on a4 could be risky for Black: 18... ♙xa4 19 e5! ♞d5? 20 ♙xd5 ♞xd5 21 ♞ac4 is excellent for White) 17... e6 with a roughly equal game. Here the engine points out the exceptionally tricky 17... ♙h6!, hoping for 18 ♞d1? ♙a4!. This is the kind of smooth piece play that makes the Grünfeld such an attractive opening, particularly for modern players who work a lot with computers.

**15... ♞e8**

Now ...♞d6 is threatened, as well as the simple capture on d4, and so White has to break the tension. It's these mini-battles in the middlegame that often decide the final result.

**16 ♙c3 ♞xc4!**

Black is already clearly better.

**17 ♞xb6 ♞xb6 18 dxc5 ♙xc3 19 ♞xc3 ♞xd2 20 cxb6 axb6 21 ♙xb7 ♞a7 22 ♙c6 ♞d6 23 e4 ♞a5 24 ♙g2 ♙g7 25 ♞c2 ♙xa2**



Black is probably winning now, at least in a higher sense. David is strong in a strategic sense and hard to beat. He is simply very good at putting his pieces on natural squares and outplaying the opposition positionally, which is exactly what he did in this game. It's a rare gift.

**26 e5 ♞f5 27 ♞e1 ♙e6 28 ♙f3 ♞a2 29 ♙e4 g5 30 h3 ♞b2 31 g4 ♞h4+ 32 ♙g3 b5 33 f4 b4 34 ♞c7 ♞b3+ 35 ♞e3 gxf4+ 36 ♙xf4 ♞d4 37 ♙g5 ♞xe4 0-1**

If we are talking about the ability to put your pieces on natural squares, then step forward Luke McShane. I often have this discussion with my chess friends about who is the biggest natural talent in British chess history (Adams, Short, Gormally?), and Luke McShane always seems to crop up. And deservedly so. Although Luke didn't quite fulfill some of the early chat about him becoming world champion, possibly because he went down a different path in life, he remains a formidable player, especially for one who is hardly full-time. He drew blood in the auld derby.

### A. Tate-L. McShane Scotland vs England Bogo-Indian Defence

**1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♞f3 ♙b4+ 4 ♙d2 c5**

This is the fourth most popular choice for Black according to my database, but scores pretty well at the highest level. Black loses some control over the centre, but gains a formidable grip on the queenside.

**5 ♙xb4 cxb4 6 g3 0-0 7 ♙g2 d6 8 0-0 a5**

Luke has used this with some success in the past. Instead, 8... ♞c6 is the main line when a typical continuation would be 9 a3 bxa3 10 ♞xa3 e5 11 ♞c3 ♙g4 12 d5 ♙xf3 13 ♙xf3 ♞b4. I don't know what the

theoretical assessment is here, but Black looks absolutely fine to me. The Bogu is simply an exceptionally tough nut to crack.

**9 a3 ♖a6**



**10 ♖bd2**

Why not take? 10 axb4! ♖xb4 11 ♖c3 when I guess Black would prepare the ...e5 break with 11...♗e7 (11...b6!?, simply sorting out the queenside, is also sensible, and after 12 ♖e1!? ♖b8 13 ♖d3 ♖xd3 14 ♗xd3 ♖b7 15 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 16 ♖fb1 White prepares b2-b4, with some pressure on the queenside, so perhaps here Black would prefer 12...d5 13 ♖d3 ♖xd3 14 ♗xd3 ♖a6!; note too that 12 e4 ♖b7 13 ♗e2 just seems fairly unclear), when again Black looks absolutely fine, although I would like to try 12 ♗d2! e5 13 c5!, and if 13...e4? 14 cxd6 ♗xd6 15 ♖g5 when the pawn on e4 is critically weak.

**10...♗e7 11 e4 e5 12 c5 dxc5 13 dxe5 ♖g4 14 ♖c4 ♖e6 15 ♖xa5 ♗c7!**

Perhaps this sly queen move was overlooked by Tate. Now White's position lacks co-ordination.

**16 axb4?**

This turns out to be too compliant. When you are up against elite players, they can easily outplay you in such a smooth way that it becomes hypnotic. Often the only way to fight against this is to throw the game into as much tactical chaos as possible, and to that end the engine recommendation 16 ♖g5! was the way forward: 16...♖xe5 (16...♗xa5 17 ♖xe6 ♖xf2 18 ♖xf2 fxe6 19 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 20 ♗d6 seems to favour White, as Black will end up putting his knight on an awkward square on c7) 17 ♖xe6 fxe6 18 f4 ♖f7 19 ♖c4 is just unclear.

**16...♖xb4 17 ♗d6 ♗xd6 18 exd6 b6**



**19 ♖g5?**

Seeing no good way to save the knight, White panics. Watching the recent U.S. Open tennis final, at one point Dominic Thiem played a shot which seemed to require exceptional calmness of the mind. A point he couldn't afford to lose, and he started a forehand outside of the court, which landed just on the line. Thiem went on to win the game and the match. You need to possess superhuman belief to play that way.

If not panicking in critical situations is an important asset, then 19 h3 ♖h6 20 ♖fc1!! would be a good example of that. The point is that if Black grabs the knight then c5 falls and White has excellent play for the material investment.

**19...bxa5 20 ♖h3**

20 ♖xe6 fxe6 21 ♖h3 h5 22 f3 ♖e3 is also hopeless, as the d-pawn does not afford White enough compensation.

**20...♖d7 21 f3 ♖e5 22 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 23 f4 ♖fe8 24 ♖ae1 ♖c2 0-1**

The U.S. Open final was contested by two players in their twenties trying to break through and win their first slam. The scary thing about Michael Adams, board one for England in the Online Olympiad, is that he was a defending British champion when he was only 18.

I have a theory that those who are exceptional at a particular activity, tend to tip their hat early, such as Boris Becker winning Wimbledon when he was 17 and Pele winning the World Cup at the same age. So, 17, that's a good number. Times that by two and add ten years, and you get my current age, 44. I must be due a good year?

### C.Rios-M.Adams

Colombia vs England



Rapidplay is often about fighting for the initiative and grabbing any faint tactical chances that come along. Rios does a good job of that here.

**23 ♖c4! ♖a6 24 dxc5 ♖xc5 25 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 26 ♖d6! ♖xc1?**

Adams misjudges the resulting position – it turns out the queen is more powerful than the two rooks. 26...♗c6 27 ♖xc5 ♗xc5 would have maintained the balance.

**27 ♖xb7 ♖xe1 28 ♗c3!**

Once again, a tactically very astute choice.

It turns out the black pieces are badly placed, as we can see from 28...♖d1 29 ♗c8+ ♖h7 30 e5 and 28...♖xe4 29 ♗c8+ ♖h7 30 ♖c5, with a decisive advantage for White in both cases.

**28...♖b1 29 ♗c8+ ♖h7 30 e5 ♖ab6!**

Adams is incredibly tough and he finds the only line to make White think.

**31 ♖d6 ♖g4**



**32 ♗c2+?!**

Something of an over elaboration. At rapid it was not easy to find the accurate 32 ♗f8! ♖1b2 33 ♖e8 ♖e3+ 34 ♖h3 ♖f5 35 ♗xf7 ♖h8 36 ♗d7 ♖b3 (if 36...♖xf2 37 ♗d8 ♖bb2 38 ♖f6#) 37 f4, but this would have given White an overwhelming advantage.

**32...♖g8 33 ♗e4**

Allowing Black to expose the white king. The quiet 33 ♖c4! ♖b5 34 h3 ♖xf2 35 ♖xf2 is similar, and also tough to win.

**33...♖xf2! 34 ♖xf2 ♖6b2+ 35 ♖f3 ♖f1+ 36 ♖g4 ♖xh2 37 ♗xa4 ♖h7 38 ♗e4+ g6**



**39 a4??**

Not sensing the danger. After 39 ♗b7 h5+ 40 ♖g5 ♖hf2 White's king is too badly placed for him to be able to win the game, so 41 a4 ♖f3 42 ♖h4 ♖h1+ 43 ♖g5 ♖hf1 would be indicated, with a repetition.

**39...♖f5! 0-1**

Ouch. The threat is 40...h5# and 40 ♖xf5 exf5+ forks king and queen.

Two of the female boards did very well for England – Jovanka Houska and Harriet Hunt. Harriet doesn't play much chess these days because she tends to have other priorities, so this was a welcome return to the kind of form that we first saw when she burst on to the

### H.Hunt-M.Medic England vs Croatia



17 ♖b1!

An easy idea to find for a naturally gifted attacking player, although it seems like Black now panics.

17...e5?!

White appears very well set up for this opening of the kingside. If Black's queen was on h5 it might be a different story, but here she lacks counterplay.

Instead, 17...♗e7 18 ♖d3 (18 ♕f4!?, trying to grab some dark squares, is a potential improvement, and if 18...♗xf4 19 ♗xf4 ♖b8 20 ♗d3! with a clamp on e5, although even here Black has 20...♗e8 21 ♗de5 ♗h5 22 ♗xc6 bxc6, intending 23 ♗xc6? ♗e4! with counterplay) 18...♗e8 seems to maintain the position.

18 dxe5 ♗xe5 19 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 20 ♗d4!

It's always nice to play chess like this, when your pieces access natural squares and the opponent is struggling to come up with a plan.

20...♗e7 21 ♗e1



21...e4?

A pointless lunge, which only gets Black into trouble. Quite possibly she was already in trouble, as an attempt to prepare a counterattack also falls short: 21...♗b8 22 ♗f3! with smooth play for White, who has the threat of ♗c5, or if 22...♗f7 23 ♗g5!.

22 ♗f3!

Black's position now collapses as 22...♗c6 23 ♗xe4 dxe4 24 ♗c5 ♗f6 25 ♗xe5 wins. 22...♗b8 23 ♗xd5+ ♗f7 24 ♗xe4 1-0

There were also designated junior boards in the competition. In his *Sunday Times* column David Howell was quite scathing about the Elo difference between the junior boards who represented England and some of the opposition, and it's true that when you compare the best juniors we have in this country and countries like India, it can be quite embarrassing. There might be problems with the coaching set-up, but for me it's not about coaching. If you want it enough and the ambition is there then you can still succeed.

I think the problem we have in England is that we had a golden generation of players like Miles, Nunn, Speelman, Short and Adams, which carried on into McShane, Jones and Howell. That's a fearsome array of talent which the players emerging nowadays are always going to struggle to live up to. Those players were all uniquely driven in some way, and I don't see that same hunger in most of the players that we have coming through. There are always exceptions to that rule, however, and let's hope that Nadia Jaufarally can be one of them. She's done precious little wrong in her chess career so far and here she got the better of her opponent with typically aggressive play.

### N.Jaufarally-M.Espinosa Cancino England vs Scotland



17...c5!?

This looks somewhat artificial, but is probably OK. If we use the Dominic Thiem philosophy of not panicking then 17...♗d7 was more consistent with Black's previous play and it seems an important point that Black is still hitting the pawn on f4, discouraging the annoying ♖d3. Here 18 h4 ♗d6!? 19 ♗hf1 ♗ad8 seems solid enough (I wanted to play 19...e5 20 fxe5 ♗xe5 to breathe some air into those bishops, but the computer spoils my fun with 21 ♗xb7!).

18 ♖c3!?

Very tactically astute. However, the engine sees no need to break the pin and espouses the blunt 18 h4!.

18...♖b6

18...♗d7?? 19 ♗b3!, winning material, is one of the ideas behind White's previous move, but 18...♗d6! is tougher to refute: 19 ♖xc7 ♗xc7 20 ♗hf1 and after 20...g6! Black is better if she manages to unravel, with the two bishops being a formidable asset in the

long run.

19 ♗b3 ♗b4 20 ♖d3!

Forcing a weakness, and now the attack becomes relentless.

20...g6 21 h4! ♗e7 22 h5 ♗d8 23 ♖e2



23...d7?

In this difficult position it was better to defend with 23...♗xd1+ 24 ♗xd1 ♖c7 with the idea that 25 ♖h2? can be met with 25...♗xg5!. It was also possible to defend with 23...♗f8! when later the bishop can go to g7 and the black king can escape any attack by fleeing to f8.

24 hxg6 fxg6 25 ♖h2 h5 26 ♗xg6 ♗e8 27 ♖xh5 ♗xd1+ 28 ♗xd1 ♗xg6 29 ♖xg6+ ♗f8 30 ♗h1 ♗f6 31 ♖xf6+ ♗e8 32 ♗h8+ ♗d7 33 ♖g7+ ♗d6 34 ♖e5+ ♗d7 35 ♗h7+ ♗c6 36 ♗d4+ ♖xd4 37 ♖xd4 1-0

While on the topic of defence and not panicking, I sometimes think I could write a book about only playing defensive moves when the position demands it, perhaps entitled *Don't Fear Ghosts*. Here Rasmus Svane reaches for a defensive move too soon against another highly-rated young player.

### N.Abdusattorov-R.Svane Uzbekistan vs Germany



25...h5?

Perhaps Black feared the threat of ♗h3, but this only expedites the same idea. Svane has been improving rapidly of late and some of his recent successes include a fierce battle against Magnus in the Katara bullet tournament. Here, however, he miscalculates.

25...♗xc3? is also a mistake, although I wonder if White would have found 26 ♖h3!!.



Nadia Jaufarally of St Albans Chess Club made her full England debut in the Online Olympiad.

Quite possibly he would have done – the top players operate with a high level of tactical imagination. The immediate 26 ♖h3 is presumably what Svane feared, but now 26...♗h5! 27 g4 is better for Black.



27...♞c1+!! 28 ♜xc1 ♜xc1+ 29 ♖f2 ♜8c2+ 30 ♖f3 ♜xa2! is a beautiful resource when White has to find the stunning 31 ♗e4!! to avoid losing on the spot. I'd like to say that I used the extra hours of lockdown to find all these amazing tactical ideas, with a bottle of beer by my side grinding out the hours on a chessboard, but of course it was the default Fritz on my computer...

Instead, after 26 ♞h3!! ♞b4 27 ♜xc3 ♞xd4+ 28 ♖f1 ♞d1+ 29 ♖f2 ♗g4+ 30 ♞xg4 ♞d4+ 31 ♖g3 ♜xc3+ 32 ♜xc3 ♞xc3+ 33 ♞f3 Black only has good chances to hold, but a move earlier the hyper-accurate 25...♞a4! would have got the job done. It's funny how in this position where it seems that rooks are dominating, it's still where you put your queen that proves crucial: 26 ♜c1 (or 26 ♖h3 ♗h5!) and having that extra move with ...♞a4 proves critical: 27 g4 ♞xc2 28 gxh5 ♞d1+ wins) 26...♜xc3 27 ♜xc3 ♜xc3 and wins.

#### 26 g4! ♗xf4?

26...♞a4! was still the best try, limiting the damage after 27 ♜d2 ♞a3 28 gxh5 ♞c1+ 29 ♞e1 ♜c1.

#### 27 ♞h7+ ♖f8 28 ♞h8+ ♖e7 29 ♞xg7

The white queen wreaks havoc.

#### 29...♜f8 30 ♗h7 ♖e8 31 ♞e5

31 ♜f3 was a quicker win, but Abdusattorov's choice leads to an easily winning technical ending.

31...♞d6 32 ♞xd6 ♜xd6 33 ♜f3 g5 34 ♜b2 ♜b6 35 ♜xb6 axb6 36 ♗xf8 ♖xf8 37 ♖f2 ♗g6 38 ♖e3 ♖e7 39 ♜f2 ♗f8 40 ♖d3 ♗d7 41 c4 dxc4+ 42 ♖xc4 ♗f6 43 ♖b5 ♗d5 44 ♖c6 f6 45 a3 ♖f7 46 ♜b2 ♖e7 47 a4 ♗c3 48 ♜xb6 ♗xa4 49 ♜b7+ ♖f8 50 ♜b3 ♖e7 51 ♖b5 ♖d6 52 ♖xa4 ♖d5 53 ♜f3 1-0

## Sensational Shirov

The Gazprom Brilliancy prize for the Online Olympiad was awarded to Alexei Shirov who is back playing for Spain and demonstrated that he still very much has his mojo.

### D.Dvirnyy-A.Shirov

Italy vs Spain

Slav Defence

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 e3 ♖f5 5 ♗c3 e6 6 ♗h4 ♖e4 7 f3 ♖g6 8 ♞b3 ♞c7 9 ♖d2 ♖e7 10 ♗xg6 hxg6 11 0-0-0 ♗bd7 12 cxd5 cxd5 13 ♖b1 a6 14 ♜c1 ♞b8 15 h4

15 e4 was simple and strong, when after 15...♞a7 (Black can scarcely contemplate 15...♜xh2? 16 ♜xh2 ♞xh2 17 e5 ♗h7 18 ♞xb7 ♜b8 19 ♞xa6) 16 e5 ♗g8 our Executive Editor pointed out that as White Shirov would surely have found 17 ♗xd5!? (also strong is 17 ♖b5!) 17...exd5 18 ♞xd5 hard to resist, with a strong initiative.

#### 15...b5 16 a4 Rather risky. 16...0-0! 17 a5

Far more prudent than 17 axb5 axb5 18 ♗xb5 ♜a6 with a strong attack for Black.

#### 17...♜c8 18 ♖d3 ♞g3 19 ♜cg1 ♜c4!? 20 f4?

Trapping the queen, but White should have been targeting the black king with 20 h5!.

#### 20...♜ac8?! 21 ♞d1?!

Unfortunately for the purist, 21 ♖xc4 dxc4 22 ♞d1! b4 23 ♜h3 ♞g4 24 ♞xg4 ♗xg4 25 ♗e4 would have favoured White.

#### 21...b4 22 ♗e2 ♞g4 23 ♗c1 ♗e4!!



Olé! The main point is that 24 ♞xg4? ♗xd2+ 25 ♖a1 b3! simply cleans White up: 26 ♖xc4 ♗xc4 27 ♗a2 ♜a4 or 26 ♖b1 ♜a4+ 27 ♗a2 bxa2 28 ♖xa2 ♗c5! 29 dxc5 ♜xc5 30 ♞d1 ♜xa2+ 31 ♖xa2 ♜xa5+ 32 ♞a4 ♜xa4#. As such, White needed to restrict Black to just an edge with 24 ♖xe4 ♞xd1 25 ♞xd1 dxe4 26 g4 ♗f6.

#### 24 ♖e2? ♞f5 25 ♖d3 ♗df6

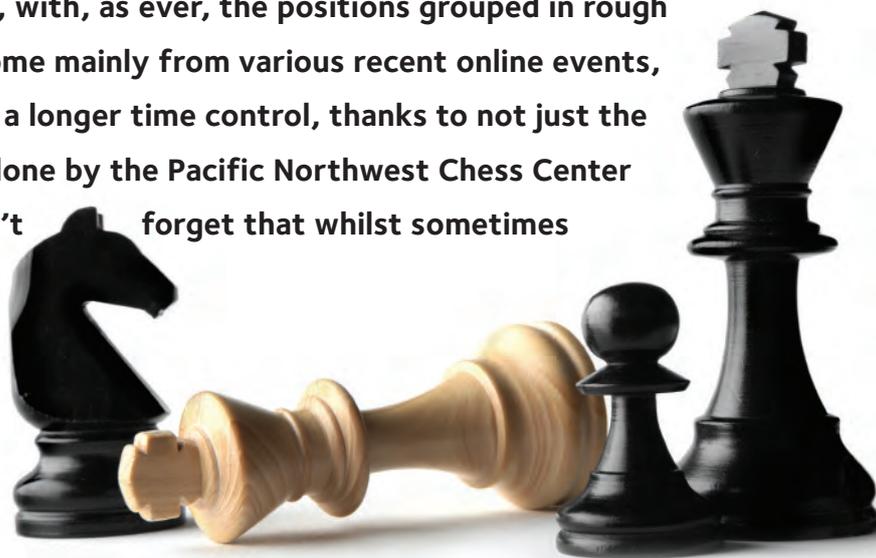
Threatening ...♗g4. There's simply no respite. 26 g4 ♗xg4! 27 ♜xg4 ♞xg4! 28 ♞xg4 ♗xd2+ 29 ♖a1 ♜xc1+ 0-1

If 30 ♜xc1 ♜xc1+ 31 ♖b1 ♜xb1+ 32 ♖a2 b3#.

Magical stuff from Shirov who very much remains the true heir of 'the Magician from Riga', Mikhail Tal.

# Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability, with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games again come mainly from various recent online events, but these do include some played with a longer time control, thanks to not just the 4NCL, but the pioneering work being done by the Pacific Northwest Chess Center (PNWCC) in Kirkland, Washington. 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 pages 52.**



## Warm-up Puzzles



**(1) A.Liang-A.Esipenko**  
Internet 2020  
White to Play



**(2) R.Wojtaszek-N.Studer**  
Biel 2020  
White to Play



**(3) M.Watson-C.Higgie**  
4NCL Online League 2020  
White to Play



**(4) A.Naiditsch-N.Studer**  
Biel 2020  
White to Play



**(5) I.Saric-J.Grabinsky**  
Titled Tuesday (blitz) 2020  
White to Play



**(6) K.Arakhamia-Grant-N.Antonova**  
Online Olympiad (rapid) 2020  
White to Play

Intermediate Puzzles for the Club Player - Solutions on page 52



**(7) J.Wells-J.Dawson**  
Norwich 2020  
Black to Play



**(8) V.Fedoseev-J.Lu**  
Internet (blitz) 2020  
White to Play



**(9) R.Wojtaszek-V.Keymer**  
Biel 2020  
White to Play



**(10) A.Duffell-M.Jones**  
Harrogate 2020  
White to Play



**(11) L.Chapman-B.Rissmann**  
Wyndham 2020  
White to Play and Draw



**(12) L.Aronian-G.Jones**  
Banter Blitz 2020  
Black to Play



**(13) V.Anand-P.Maghsoodloo**  
Online Olympiad (rapid) 2020  
Black to Play



**(14) I.Nyzhnyk-L.Pantsulaia**  
Internet 2020  
White to Play



**(15) M.Carlsen-H.Nakamura**  
Carlsen Tour Finals (rapid) 2020  
White to Play

**Harder Puzzles for the Club Player – Solutions on page 53**



**(16) L.Aronian-M.Vachier-Lagrave**  
 Champ Showdown 9LX (rapid) 2020  
*Black to Play*



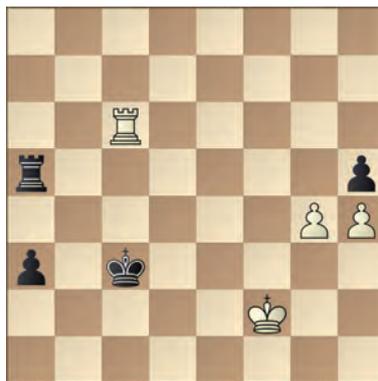
**(17) L.Dominguez-F.Caruana**  
 Clutch Champions Showdown (rapid) 2020  
*Black to Play*



**(18) R.Bates-J.Adair**  
 4NCL Online League 2020  
*Black to Play*



**(19) J.Xiong-S.Mamedyarov**  
 Internet 2020  
*Black to Play*



**(20) I.Nyzhnyk-D.Lintchevski**  
 Internet 2020  
*Black to Play*



**(21) S.Orton-E.Diakonova**  
 Norfolk Online League 2020  
*White to Play*



**(22) M.Adams-D.Anton Guijarro**  
 German Bundesliga 2020  
*Black to Play*



**(23) E.Diakonova-D.Miller**  
 4NCL Online League 2020  
*Black to Play*



**(24) Ding Liren-M.Carlsen**  
 Carlsen Tour Finals (rapid) 2020  
*White to Play*



# Solutions

## Tkachiev Challenge (page 28)



### 1...g4!! 2 fxf4

"After 2 ♗xf4 gxh3 3 g4 exf4 I'm a pawn up and the attack is still growing, although, relatively speaking, it is the best White can hope for" – Tkachiev.

### 2...♗c2

"It's the only time I've been applauded by an audience during the game. Apparently they immediately understood."

### 3 ♖c1

3 ♗d2 ♗h6 may be even more picturesque.

### 3...♗h6

"With the threats of ...♗xe2+ and ...♗xh3+. The queen simply has nowhere to hide. A very rare, and quite mysterious case, of a queen being trapped in her own camp, with a tempo to spare."

## She Plays to Win (page 37)

### Weaver-Varney

After 1 ♖h5 (this is logical and still leads to a good position, but White could have won immediately with 1 ♗xh7+!!, which would lead to forced checkmate: 1...♗xh7 2 ♖h5+ ♗g8 3 g6 and Black cannot defend against mate) 1...f5 (if 1...g6 2 ♗xg6! hxg6 3 ♖xg6+ ♗g7 4 ♖f3 5 ♖h3 dxe3 6 ♖h8+ 7 ♖h7#) 2 ♖f3 (this rook lift to h3 is still extremely dangerous for Black) 2...g6 3 ♗xg6! ♖f7 (avoiding 3...hxg6 4 ♖xg6+ ♗g7 5 dxc5! ♗xc5 6 ♖xg7#) 4 ♗e5 ♗xe5 5 fxe5 ♗f8 6 g6 hxg6 7 ♖g1! ♖g7 8 ♖xg6 ♖xg6 9 ♖xg6+ ♗g7 10 ♖h3 ♗d8 11 ♖h7+ ♗f7 25 ♖g3 somehow Black stayed alive and even went on to win, despite her king having to walk all the way across the board to the b4-square in the time scramble.

### Hapeshi-Graham

1...♗d4+ 2 ♗h1 ♗f2+! 0-1 If 3 ♖xf2 ♖e1+ 4 ♖f1 ♖xf1#, while 3 ♗g1 ♗e4+ 4 ♗e3 ♗xg3 wins the queen.

### Ivanov-Sucikova

1...♖c6! (1...♗e3 2 ♗xe3 ♗xe3 3 ♖f3

defends) 2 ♖e1 (or 2 gxf5 ♖xe4+ 3 ♗h2 ♖xf5) 2...♖xe4+! 3 ♗h2 (3 ♖xe4 ♗g3+ 4 ♗h2 ♗xe4 wins a knight) 3...♖xe1 4 ♖xe1 d2 5 ♗xd2 ♖xd2+ (it's mate next move) 6 ♗h1 ♗g3# 0-1

## Find the Winning Moves (pp. 44-46)

### 1) Liang-Esipenko

1 ♖xh6+! ♗xh6 2 ♖h3+ 1-0 A classic mate, as if 2...♗g7 3 ♖h7#.

### 2) Wojtaszek-Studer

1 ♖xg6+! ♗xg6 2 ♗e5+ ♗f6 3 ♗xf7 ♗xf7 4 e4! forced a winning pawn endgame: 4...fxe3+ 5 ♖xe3 b6 6 h4 c5 7 f4 ♗g7 8 ♗f3 ♗g6 9 ♗g4 ♗g7 10 h5 ♗f6 11 f5 cxd4 12 h6 1-0

### 3) Watson-Higgie

1 ♗d6+! exd6 2 exd6+ ♗d7 3 ♗xh8 ♗xd6 4 g3 picked up the exchange, although Black did eventually manage to save the draw.

### 4) Naiditsch-Studer

1 ♖xc6! (by far the simplest win, ending Black's resistance on the spot) 1...bxc6 2 ♖b8 ♗d6 3 ♗xd6 1-0

### 5) Saric-Grabinsky

1 ♗xe6! ♗xf3 (unsurprisingly 1...♗xe6 2 ♖xa8+ ♗c8 3 ♖b8 ♗e7 4 e6 0-0 5 ♗g5 is hopeless, as is 1...♖c6 2 ♖xd5! ♖xd5 3 ♗c7+) 2 ♗xc7+ ♗d7 3 ♗xa8 ♗xa8 4 e6+ ♗e7 5 ♖b8 picked up the exchange while leaving White with a devastating initiative.

### 6) Arakhamia-Grant-Antonova

1 ♖e6+! (and not 1 ♗xb2?? ♖c3+ 2 ♗b1 ♖b4+ 3 ♗a1 ♖xc1#) 1...♗f8 2 hxg7+ ♗xg7 3 ♖h8+! 1-0 If 3...♗xh8 4 ♖g8#.

### 7) Wells-Dawson

1...♗xh2+! 2 ♗xh2 (2 ♗h1 ♖h4 makes no difference, in view of 3 ♗g4 when arguably the most clinical finish is 3...♖xg4! 4 ♗xh2 ♖g6! 5 g3 ♖h6+ 6 ♗g2 ♗xe3+! 7 fxe3 ♖b2+ 8 ♖f2 ♖e4+) 2...♖h4+ 3 ♗g1 ♖h6 0-1 White might have tried 4 ♗h5 ♖xh5 5 f3, but after 5...♖h1+! 6 ♗f2 ♖b2+ he won't escape, as if 7 ♗e1 ♖xf1+! 8 ♗xf1 ♖h1# or 7 ♗d2 ♖xd2+ 8 ♗e1 ♖xf1+! 9 ♗xd2 ♖f2+ 10 ♗d3 ♖xe3+.

### 8) Fedoseev-Lu

1 ♖g3! (1 ♖e3 ♖d3 2 ♖e6 also wins, but the text leaves Black in a mating net) 1...♗d3 2 ♖g5+! fxf5 3 hxg5# 1-0

### 9) Wojtaszek-Keymer

1 ♗xd5! 1-0 Somewhat more clinical than the like of 1 ♗g4 ♖c7 2 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 3 ♖b2

♗a5 4 ♖e6 ♖c7 5 ♖e5. After 1 ♗xd5! a pawn falls for starters and 1...♖xd5 2 ♖xc6 ♖d7 (or 2...bxc6 3 ♖xe7+ ♗g8 4 ♖e5 ♖d6 5 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 6 ♖a5) 3 ♖ce6 ♖de8 4 ♖c5 is pretty straightforward thanks to the pin.

### 10) Duffell-Jones

1 f6! (ripping open lines, whereas the game very much continued after 1 ♗h5 f6) 1...♗xf6 (even 1...♖e6 doesn't save Black, in view of 2 ♗f5! ♖xf6 3 ♖e3 or even 2 h4 ♖g8 3 ♗f5! ♖xf6 4 hxg5 ♖xg5 5 ♖e2 ♖g4 6 ♖f3) 2 ♗f5! either wins Black's queen or cleans him up with 2...♖e6 3 ♗xh6! ♗g8 (3...♗xh6 4 ♖xg5+ ♗h7 5 ♖xf6 is clearly terminal) 4 ♖xg5! (the more mundane 4 ♗f5 f6 5 ♖e3 also does the business) 4...♖xh6 5 ♖g3 ♖g6 6 ♖h4+ ♗g7 (if 6...♗h6 7 ♖f6) 7 ♖e3 and 8 ♖g3.

### 11) Chapman-Rissmann

Black has just blundered with ...♗c4-b3 (...♗d3 was one way to win), and 1 b5! (1 a5? fails to 1...♗c4 followed by ...♗b5 and ...♗d5-c4, and 1 ♗xa6? ♗xa4 was clearly hopeless in the game, since c3 then b4 will fall, or if 2 c4 ♗b3! 3 c5+ ♗d5 4 ♗b6 ♗a4) 1...axb5 2 axb5 (2 a5? fails to 2...♗d5 3 a6 c5! 4 ♗xb5 ♗c6+! 5 ♗b6 c4!, as pointed out in David LeMoir's excellent Norfolk journal, *En Passant*) 2...c5 (or 2...cxb5 3 ♗xb5) 3 ♗a7 ♗d5 4 b6 ♗e5 5 b7 ♗xb7 6 ♗xb7 ♗d5 7 ♗b6 ♗c4 8 ♗c6 would have forced a draw.

### 12) Aronian-Jones

White was able to save the day after 1...♗b1? 2 ♗e3 ♗c3 3 ♗e4 ♗a2 4 ♗c1+ ♗b2 5 ♗e2 ♗b3 6 ♗d3, Gawain eventually realising that he had nothing better than the ending with bishop and wrong-coloured rook's pawn. Instead, 1...♗c3! would have won, and if 2 ♗c1 (2 ♗e3 ♗g5+ will also lead to zugzwang, as with 3 ♗e4 ♗d2 4 h4 h5) 2...♗g5 3 ♗a2+ (or 3 ♗d3 h5 4 h4 ♗h6) 3...♗b3 4 ♗d3 h5! 5 h4 ♗h6 when there's simply no good move for White.

### 13) Anand-Maghsoodloo

1...♗d4! 2 ♗h1 (2 ♗xd4 ♖xd4 3 ♗h1 ♗g4 4 ♖a8+ ♗g7 5 ♖f3 ♖f6 is no better) 2...♗xg2! 3 ♖b3 (3 ♗xg2 ♖e2 is also a fatal pin) 3...♖a8 0-1

### 14) Nyzhnyk-Pantsulaia

1 g6! (1 ♖xh3? was preferred in the game when 1...e6! 2 g6 ♖g5+ 3 ♖g2 ♖c5+ would have been very unclear) 1...♖h5 2 ♖h7+! ♖xh7 3 ♖f8+! ♖xf8 4 ♖xf8+ ♗xf8 5 gxh7 leaves White with only a pawn against knight and five, but obviously winning as he'll queen next move.

### 15) Carlsen-Nakamura

Black was able to hold after 1 ♖e8? ♗h6 2 g4 ♖g2+ 3 ♗h1 ♖g3, but 1 ♖e7! would have won, and if 1...♗h6 (or 1...♖b1+ 2 ♗f2 ♗d1+ 3 ♗e2 ♗h6 4 ♖c7 when Black's pieces are in a right pickle and White will at least win g5) 2 ♗f7+ ♗g6 3 ♗h8+ ♗h6 4 ♖xe3 ♗g7 when the simplest win is likely 5 ♖e5 ♗xh8 6 ♖xg5.

### 16) Aronian-Vachier-Lagrave

1...♟xg3! 0-1 1...♞xe3 2 ♞xg4 ♞xg4 is winning, but still leaves a bit of work to be done, whereas 1...♞xg3! 2 ♞xg4 (2 fxg3 ♞xg3+ 3 ♟f1 ♞xh4 4 ♞f3 ♞h1+! 5 ♞xh1 ♞xd2 forces mate) 2...♞xg4 3 fxg3 (or 3 ♞f3 ♞e2+) 3...♞xd2 is clearly quite hopeless for White.

### 17) Dominguez-Caruana

1...♞g5+! 2 ♟h2 ♟e5+ 3 ♟h3 ♟e6+ 4 ♟h4 ♞g4+ 0-1 If 5 ♟h3 ♞g1+ 6 ♟h4 ♟f6#, neatly combining all Black's attacking pieces.

### 18) Bates-Adair

1...♞d3? 2 ♞d8+ ♟b5 3 ♞d5+ ♟b4 4 ♞d6+ ♟b3 5 ♞c5+! ♞xc5 6 ♞xd2 ♞xd2+ left Black with two knights against a king, which is, of course, a draw, but 1...♞d3+! (or 1...♞b4+ 2 ♟c2 ♞b3+!, transposing) 2 ♟b2 ♞b3+! would have won, and if 3 ♟xc1 ♞c3+ 4 ♟b1 ♞d2+ 5 ♟a2 ♞b3+ 6 ♟a1 ♞b1#.

### 19) Xiong-Mamedyarov

1...♞dg8! (obvious enough, but the only way to win with 2 ♞xc7+ ♟b8 3 ♞xb7+ threatened and 1...♟b8? 2 ♞xc7 would force Black to find 2...♟xe4! 3 ♞xe4 ♞xf3 4 ♞b7+! ♟xb7 5 ♞xa6+ ♟b8 6 ♞b6+ ♟a8 7 ♞xd8+ ♟a7 just to draw) 2 ♞xc7+ ♟d8 0-1 There's simply nothing to be done about the threat of 3...♞xh2+! 4 ♞xh2 ♞g1#.

### 20) Nyzhnyk-Lintchevski

To win Black needs to hide his king on a4, which is most simply achieved with 1...♟b3! (1...♟d3? 2 ♞c1! got back in time to save the day in the game: 2...hxg4 3 ♟g3 ♞a4 4 h5 a2 5 ♞a1 ♟c3 6 ♞xa2! ♞xa2 7 ♟xg4 ♟d4

8 ♟f5 ♞h2 9 ♟g6 ♟e5 10 h6 ♟e6 11 ♟g7 ♞g2+ 12 ♟f8 ♞h2 13 ♟g7 ♟e7 14 h7 ♞g2+ 15 ♟h8 ♟f8 ½-½) 2 ♞b6+ (Black's king is too fast after 2 ♞c1 a2 3 gxh5 a1 ♞ 4 ♞xa1 ♞xa1 5 ♟g3 ♟c4 6 ♟g4 ♟d5 7 ♟f5 ♞f1+ 8 ♟g6 ♟e6 9 h6 ♞g1+ , and if 10 ♟h7 ♟f7 11 h5 ♞a1 12 ♟h8 ♞a8+ 13 ♟h7 ♞a6) 2...♟a4 3 ♞b1 (3 ♞e6 a2 4 ♞e4+ ♟b3 5 ♞e1 a1 ♞ 6 ♞xa1 ♞xa1 7 gxh5 ♟c4 leaves Black a tempo ahead of our last note) 3...♞b5 when 4 ♞a1 (or 4 ♞h1 hxg4 5 h5 a2 6 h6 ♞b1) 4...♞b4! 5 g5 ♞g4 reveals the simplest winning idea, neutralising any counterplay and leaving White helpless against ...♟b3-b2.

### 21) Orton-Diakonova

1 ♞f3! (after the game's 1 ♞d4, Black might have successfully untangled with 1...♟g8!, but 1 ♞h4! is also good, and if 1...♞xc3+ - 1...♟g8? now fails to 2 ♞g6 - 2 ♞xc3 ♞xc3 3 ♞g6+ ♟e8 4 ♞xc3 ♞d7 5 ♞d6 when White's initiative vastly outweighs the two pawns, in large part thanks to the stranded rook on h7) 1...♞xc3+ (1...exf5? 2 ♞xf5+ either mates or wins mundanely with 2...♞f6 3 ♞xh7) 2 ♞xc3 ♞xc3 3 ♞d8+! ♟f7 4 ♞h4+ ♟e7 5 ♞ff8! (LeMoir) leaves White a knight and two pawns in arrears, but with the massive threat of 6 ♞g6#. Indeed, Black has nothing better than 5...♞d7 (if 5...e5? 6 ♞f5+ ♟e6 7 ♞d6#) 6 ♞fe8+ ♟d6 7 ♞xa8, which must be hopeless with his remaining rook stuck so out of play and 7...g5!? failing to 8 hxg6 ♞g7 9 ♞h8.

### 22) Adams-Anton Guijarro

After 1...♞xg4? 2 ♞xg4+ ♟xg4 3 ♞c7 f5? 4 ♞xf7 White was able to escape with a draw,

but 1...♞f2+! would have won, and if 2 ♟g1 (or 2 ♟e1 ♟g3 3 ♞c3+ ♟g2) 2...♞hg2+ 3 ♟h1 ♞g3 4 ♞f5 ♞fg2 followed by 5 ♞a1 ♟h3 or 5 g5+!? ♟h3!.

### 23) Diakonova-Miller

1...♞d5+! (stronger and more forcing than 1...♞h8) 2 cxd5 ♞xd5 (threatening a powerful check on c5 to collect c2) 3 ♞a4 and now 3...♞a5!! (3...♞c5+? 4 ♟d2 saw White escaping in the game) 4 ♞e4 (4 ♞xa5 bxa5 5 ♞b1+ ♟c8 6 ♞a1 ♞d5 leaves the queen far too powerful) 4...♞xa3+ 5 ♟d2 ♞d6+ 6 ♟c3 (how else to save the white queen with 6 ♟c1? failing to 6...♞a1+ 7 ♟b2 ♞a3#?) 6...f5! (LeMoir) would have left Black with a decisive attack, which is no surprise with the white king so exposed: for example, 7 ♞h4 (7 ♞xe6 ♞c5+ 8 ♟b3 ♞d4 is a neat slow-motion win, or if 7 ♞e2? ♞a3+ 8 ♟b2 ♞b4+ 9 ♟c1 ♞a1#) 7...f4 8 ♞h8+ ♟b7 9 ♞a1 ♞c5+ 10 ♟d3 ♞d5+ 11 ♟e2 ♞e4+ 12 ♟d2 ♞e5, as given in *En Passant*, when the threat of 13...♞d4+ is a killer, as 13 ♟c1 ♞d4 threatens 14...♞xa1+ and 14...♞e1+!, uncovering an attack on the white queen.

### 24) Ding Liren-Carlsen

1 ♟h7+! (1 ♟xg7 ♞xg7 2 ♞f5 ♞xf5 3 ♟xf5 ♞d4+ fights on) 1...♟h8 2 ♞xe8! ♞fxe8? (even 2...♟xh6 wouldn't have saved the day in view of, for example, 3 ♞e7! ♟g7 4 ♞be1 ♞d4+ 5 ♟h1 ♞d5+ 6 ♟e4 ♞xe4 7 ♞g6+ ♟g8 8 ♞xe4 ♞xe4+ 9 ♞7xe4 ♞f2 10 ♞f4 when White's extra pawn and grip on the position should prove decisive) 3 ♞g6+ ♟xh7 4 ♞f8+ ♟xh6 (4...♟g8 fails to 5 ♞h7+, and if 5...♟f7 6 ♞f1 ♞e2+ 7 ♟g2) 5 ♞h7+ ♟g5 6 ♞h4+ ♟f5 7 ♞f4# 1-0

# This Month's New Releases



### Chess Improvement: It's All in the Mindset

Barry Hymer & Peter Wells, 324 pages  
Crown House Publishing  
RRP £15.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £14.39**

Another book on chess improvement... Every chess player's shelves are already groaning with the weight of such tomes. What do authors Barry Hymer and Peter Wells have to say that is new on the subject? Will it be a collection of chess puzzles, a selection of instructive (yet hackneyed) famous games, or another 'copy and paste' assortment of quotes from the old masters – or will it genuinely offer something new?

The promise is of "An evidence-based framework for thinking about and acting on

your own development as a chess player – or that of a child you parent or coach."

Instead of attempting to fine-tune the pure chess element of a player's operating system (some games are included, but they are by no means the driving force of the book), the authors prefer to address the inner struggle, digging very deeply down into highly significant and important subjects which are more often than not completely absent from chess literature. The material is split into seven highly interesting chapters, covering diverse subjects including Mindset, Motivation, Feedback, Effort, Failure Metacognition and Cooperation.

One especially noteworthy aspect is the inclusion of quotes and advice from a whole host of British chess greats: Nigel Short,

Matthew Sadler, Luke McShane, Gawain Jones, Harriet Hunt, David Howell and Michael Adams all make appearances and are quoted extensively throughout the book. We don't hear enough from these chess players, yet their combined experience of playing at a very high level (in the case of both Short and Adams, all the way to the final of the world championship), and the amount of work they had to put into the game on the way up all makes for very instructive reading.

The experts consulted are not confined to the world of chess. Most notable among those from a step beyond the 64 squares is Professor Carol Dweck, a psychologist and leading world expert in the field of mindset theory. There is a plethora of information and analysis on the contrast between fixed and

growth mindset. According to Professor Dweck, "The hallmark of successful individuals is that they love learning, they seek challenges, they value effort, and they persist in the face of obstacles." Or, as we tell the children at school: you either win or you learn.

It is extremely interesting to see examples of the two mindsets applied to specific aspects of chess, such as the impact of praise and criticism, choice of openings and the age-old 'problem' of playing against up-and-coming juniors. The effect of a player's mindset is further highlighted by Peter Wells, with his frank admission: "I can state categorically from my own experience that the single greatest guarantee of failure in a game of chess is the point at which I start worrying what other people will think of my moves. Whenever the fear of criticism or the courting of praise rear their ugly heads in my internal dialogue."

The authors continually challenge our established beliefs across a whole range of subjects, going beyond simply scratching the surface. For example, when discussing the impact of failure they are keen to investigate "Why it's needed and how to deal with it" rather than ignore the recurring factor altogether.

The material is designed to offer the reader a challenge – with a strong emphasis on personal growth. The following quote may stand as a perfect encapsulation of the aim of the whole book: "There really is no gain without pain. In her conference presentations, Carol Dweck advises teachers to respond to children's complaints that tough challenges make their brains hurt with the words, 'Yes, and that's the feeling of your brain growing!'"

We are never too old to want our brains to hurt by growing. With its thought-provoking and fresh approach, *Chess Improvement* is a significant addition to chess literature. It successfully splices the worlds of chess and academia to maintain full accessibility to players, tutors and parents.

Sean Marsh



**Magnus Wins with White and  
Magnus Wins with Black**

Zenon Franco, 242 and 222 pages respectively  
Elk & Ruby

RRP (for each book) £17.99 **SUBS' £16.19**

GM Zenon Franco, a highly experienced trainer, has annotated 32 wins by Magnus Carlsen in the first volume, and the same number in the second. The reader is activated effectively through a question and answer format, similar to that used in the *Everyman Move by Move* series – for which the prolific Franco is also a regular author.

The layout is excellent, with questions and diagrams carefully placed to avert

inadvertent glimpses of the answer; smaller diagrams are used for questions within lines of analysis. A summary list of lessons concludes each game.

Whilst Franco begins with a few swashbuckling efforts from Carlsen's early years, the majority of the games are from his reign as world champion, from 2013 onwards. His opponents are therefore almost all elite grandmasters. The stylistic range is considerable, so that as Peter Heine Nielsen comments in his Foreword to the 'white' volume, Franco has created "A book about the middlegame explained via Carlsen's games".

There is little in the way of opening theory in these pages, but plenty of concise and instructive explanation of middlegame challenges that the reader is encouraged to try solving. Franco is a deft and confident guide. The Black volume features relatively fewer attacks and more endgames than the White one. Carlsen's recent penchant for slowly-unfolding Stonewall positions with Black is particularly noticeable.

Franco's books join a relatively crowded market: among previous books on Carlsen, Colin Crouch's *Magnus Force* (2013) and Cyrus Lakdawala's *Carlsen: Move by Move* (2014) both feature questions and answers. Franco's material is mostly more recent, however, as well as significantly different in focus from Tibor Karolyi's *Endgame Virtuoso Magnus Carlsen* (2018). Although I missed a bibliography and would have liked to know the sources from which some of Carlsen's notes are quoted, I recommend the books to readers of almost any level. One example will illustrate both the strength of Franco's method and its inherent limitation.

**M. Carlsen-L. Portisch**  
Gausdal 2007



Exercise: Where must the queen retreat to?

Shocked by an early sacrifice, Portisch placed the queen "too far from the queenside" with **16...♕g4!** and lost quickly.

Franco explains: "It was preferable to play 16...♗d4 to be able to get back to a7 in case of 17 ♔d1 ♗a7 (17...♗xe5? 18 ♔xd5 ♗f6 19 ♘e4 is suicidal) 18 ♙xf8 ♙xf8 19 ♘xd5. White has compensation but no clear advantage after 19...c5 followed by the development of the c8-bishop."

In terms of training, that is a useful, efficient annotation. The line given is as much as any reader could reasonably be expected to see. What if we are curious enough to delve deeper, though? Struggling to find a plan to demonstrate White's optical compensation, I switched on *Stockfish*, which indicates 20 ♘f4 intending ♗d6 and ♗d2 to seize the d-file, evaluating this as winning for White. If that is true, a developing move such as 19...♙e6, sacrificing the c7-pawn, may be preferable to Franco's 19...c5. *Stockfish's* verdict on that is '0.00'. Little the wiser, I would appreciate some grandmasterly guidance here.

My final reflection, however, is that avoiding such analytical rabbit-holes is doubtless one of Carlsen's great strengths. These practical, enjoyable and elegantly-produced books provide a valuable guide to thinking like the world champion.

James Vigus



**Petrosian Year by Year:  
Volume I (1942-1962)**

Tibor Karolyi & Tigran Gyozyalyan, 484 pages  
Elk and Ruby

RRP £33.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £30.55**

Books on certain chess players will always prove to be popular. The names of Fischer, Tal and Kasparov spring to mind, as does that of the current world champion, Magnus Carlsen. Other champions seem to slip through the net, possibly for reasons of playing style. It is therefore always good to see a publisher who is prepared to buck the trend and offer unusual insights into the life and games of such players.

Vasily Smyslov has recently been covered by Elk and Ruby; we enjoyed *Smyslov on the Couch* (Elk and Ruby, 2019), and the forthcoming work by Russell Enterprises looks set to shed more light on the seventh world champion. Of all the 'forgotten' champions, the style of Tigran Petrosian remains the hardest to fathom. Indeed, Levon Aronian, in his thoughtful foreword, calls him "One of the most mystical chess players in the world."

Karolyi and Gyozyalyan have analysed 148 full games (some are game fragments), and provide a running commentary of Petrosian's active years from 1942 all the way up to 1962. The latter year was particularly important as Petrosian won the Candidates tournament in Curacao, setting him up for what prove to be a very successful challenge to Mikhail Botvinnik's title.

The first game in the book shows Petrosian beating Salo Flohr in a simultaneous display. The latter played the Budapest

Gambit. Young Petrosian won the exchange and ground out a win in 47 moves. Seven years later they would playing on equal terms.

The authors summarise each year's results at the end of each chapter, and this is very useful. As the book concludes, Petrosian is on top form. In 1962 he played in an Interzonal, a Candidates tournament, a match against the Netherlands and an Olympiad – and didn't lose a single game. This was the year in which Fischer said, "If Petrosian played more boldly, he would be the strongest player in the world." Of course, his title match with Botvinnik was just a matter of months away.

The authors have clearly worked hard on the analysis of the games and the notes are generally very interesting. However, there are times when it becomes rather over-egged, such as when we find no fewer than 17 pages of analysis of Petrosian's game against Fischer at the 1958 Portoroz Interzonal. Although I can acknowledge the dedication of the authors to seek out the truth of the position, I don't know anyone who plays through such lengthy lines of analysis.

Incidentally, the stereotypical image of Petrosian being a dull player is repeatedly refuted by his games. He was remarkably astute when it came to tactics and he was every bit as capable of finishing of an opponent in sparkling fashion as any other player. Here is a case in point.

### T.Petrosian-L.Pachman

Bled 1961



19 ♖xf6+!!

"A fabulous sacrifice, which leads to checkmate."

19... ♖xf6 20 ♙e5+ ♔g5 21 ♙g7! 1-0

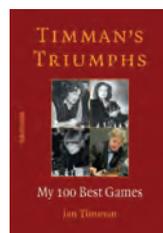
There are two extra sections towards the end of the book. One looks at Petrosian's 'Remarkable Exchanges' and the other presents 25 positions with the simple instruction 'It's Your Move'. The former isn't a full examination of Petrosian's extraordinary use of the exchange sacrifice (there are plenty of examples of those in the games themselves), but rather an appreciation of the talent he had for trading exactly the right pieces at the right time. "But what mostly comes through looking at his games is his unique and exceptional talent; he often

uncovered hidden beauty in the game. He was probably more a natural tactician than a strategist, but he became an artist at positional play."

There are 16 photographs in the centre of the book, which have been "taken from private collections in Georgia and Armenia, many of which have never before been published in the West." They show Petrosian first as a wide-eyed baby, then as a thin young man with spiv-like moustache, and eventually as the mature man which will be more familiar to readers.

It is fascinating to trace Petrosian's chess development, year by year, and to see the genesis of his great rivalries. This is an eye-opening account of the first half of Petrosian's chess career and I am already looking forward to reading the concluding volume.

Sean Marsh



### Timman's Triumphs: My 100 Best Games

Jan Timman, 352 pages

New in Chess

RRP £30.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.85**

Jan Timman's latest book switches his attention from the games of other players to his own chess battles. His output in recent years has been very impressive. *Timman's Titans* (New in Chess, 2017) won the ECF 2017 Book of the Year contest and *The Longest Game* (New in Chess, 2018) offered a fresh and entertaining look at the rivalry of Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov.

Timman may not be such an active player as in former times, but for a considerable amount of time he was dubbed 'The Best in the West', and even reached the number two spot in the world rankings in the early 1980s. His chess career is a long one and he battled many times with the likes of Karpov, Kasparov, Spassky and Korchnoi. Timman played on board two in the USSR vs Rest of the World match in 1984, was a Candidate for the world championship three times and even played a FIDE title match against Karpov in 1993 (a rival match to the breakaway event featuring Kasparov and Short).

Given Timman's longevity, we have every right to expect a top-class collection of games from the highest levels of chess – and that is exactly what we find in this entertaining and instructive book. Interested readers who are already familiar with *Timman's Selected Games* (Cadogan, 1995; also available as *Chess the Adventurous Way* in the 1994 New in Chess version) will certainly need to add *Timman's Triumphs* to their collections, as only 10 games from the earlier collection have made it into this one.

There are 100 fully annotated games from

1967 all the way up to 2019, with a few more snippets in the introduction. Timman's combative style of play makes him a danger to all opponents. Indeed, he has played so many excellent games that whittling down the choice to a mere hundred examples must have been quite a job. Rapid games are not even included in the final cut, which explains why his win against Kasparov at the Paris Immopar event of 1991 is used only in the introduction.

In addition to the excellent games against the big-name players, I was also pleased to read about a number of lesser-known players, such as the "furious and inventive player" Palacios, a master from Spain. Timman includes a very entertaining game against him, in which Palacios opened with Bird's Opening.

### E.Palacios-J.Timman

Clare Benedict Cup, Madrid 1971



"White still has a diabolical resource up his sleeve."

26 ♖b8!

"I hadn't seen this move. I was immediately reminded of the game Aronson-Tal, Moscow 1957." Readers can look up that famous game for themselves and pay particular attention to Tal's startling 26... ♗b1.

Timman kept his cool and found 26... ♗f4!, when the bishop had to come back with 27 ♗xf4 as 27 ♖xf4? allows 27... ♗h5+, and Black went on to win.

One of the reasons I like to see such games is that they show a particular brand of street-fighting chess which is something most of us can relate to far more than innovations on move 25 in a top-level Sicilian encounter.

Timman's annotations are up to his usual high standard. There is plenty of prose, including anecdotes of his friends and colleagues, and not many longer lines of analysis. It is a celebratory tome, but it is also important to understand that Timman has absolutely no intention of retiring. Indeed, two of the games had not even been played when he started selecting which games were going to make the final cut.

Timman's life and games span several chess generations. This book is definitely a triumph for Jan Timman.

Sean Marsh



### Candidates Tournament 2020 Part 1: Yekaterinburg

Vladimir Tukmakov, 160 pages, paperback  
RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

With its subtitle of 'A Feast of Chess in Time of Plague', Thinkers Publishing's latest work clearly carries a nod to Pushkin's *A Feast in Time of Plague*. Tukmakov himself remembers a major cholera outbreak in his hometown of Odessa in 1970 and tries to draw on that experience while paying tribute to the bravery and creativity of his much younger colleagues at Yekaterinburg. Of course, as readers will be fully aware, the first half of the Candidates' served up a number of fascinating games, which are annotated in some detail by the legendary Ukrainian Grandmaster.



### Chess Informant 145

Sahovski Informator, 334 pages, paperback  
RRP £32.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £29.69**

Appropriately enough, the latest 'Informator' is entitled 'Harvest' and features Ian Rogers reporting from Biel. There are also a number of instructive articles, as well as all the latest novelties, leading games, combinations and endgames. If you'd also like *Informant 145* in CD format, do please just add £7 to your order or you can purchase just the CD for £9.99 (£8.99 for Subscribers) from Chess & Bridge.



### Decision Making in Major Piece Endings

Boris Gelfand, 320 pages, hardback  
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

The chess world is fortunate that, again in collaboration with Jacob Aagaard, Boris Gelfand keeps revealing his general chess tips in print, while presenting a wealth of instructional material in most digestible fashion. Here the former world championship

challenger discusses how he makes important decisions in the final stages of the game. Chapters include Do Not Hurry, Two Defensive Methods in Rook Endings, and Conversion in the 4th phase, while Gelfand pays tribute to the rook and queen endgame skills of Alexander Grischuk and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov by devoting a chapter to each.



### Grandmaster Repertoire: 1.e4 vs Minor Defences

Parimarjan Negi, 432 pages, paperback  
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

The Indian Grandmaster completes his detailed 1 e4-based repertoire for Quality Chess by looking at Black's remaining defences in the fifth volume of the series. In typical fashion, Negi's coverage is aggressive, thorough and cutting-edge, as he shows how best to combat the likes of the Pirc, against which he likes the 150 Attack, and the Scandinavian, not to mention the Modern, Owen's and 1...c6. Do note too that if you'd prefer to complete your set of Negi's repertoire with a hardback version, that too is available from Chess & Bridge for an extra £4.00.



### Magical Chess Endgames

Claus-Dieter Meyer & Karsten Müller,  
PC-DVD; running time: 4 hours  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The recently deceased FM Claus-Dieter Meyer was one of Germany's leading chess trainers and collaborated a number of times over the years with Karsten Müller. Here the latter looks at a number of instructive positions put together by Meyer, ranging from the basics to some fairly advanced topics for the club player. Along the way the viewer gets to appreciate the importance of stalemate as a defensive method, witnesses a number of instructive zugzwangs, and is given a thorough grounding in the basics of rook endgames.



### Master Class Volume 13 - Tigran Petrosian

Yannick Pelletier, Mihail Marin, Karsten Müller & Oliver Reeh, PC-DVD;  
running time: 6 hours  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The latest in ChessBase's *Master Class* series isn't quite as long as some of its predecessors, but still contains a wealth of material. On top of the video contributions, there's a short biography of the ninth world champion, all his known games, 285 positions to solve taken from Petrosian's games, and his opening repertoire presented in tree format.



### New in Chess Yearbook 136

Peter Boel, René Olthof, Jan Timman (eds.),  
256 pages, paperback  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Correspondence chess, perhaps unsurprisingly, features a fair amount in the latest *Yearbook*. Erwin L'Ami was fascinated by a King's Gambit, while another OTB GM and correspondence player, Krishnan Sasikiran, examines an important new idea for Black in that sharp line of the English readers may recall from Seville, 1987 (1 c4 e5 2 d3 c3 d3 f6 3 d3 f3 d3 c6 4 g3 b4 5 d3 g2 0-0 6 0-0 e4 7 d3 g5 d3 xc3 8 bxc3 e8 9 f3 e3!). Elsewhere Gawain Jones takes a detailed look at combating 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 d3 d2 h6 and the ever-popular King's Indian Defence is covered via four opening surveys.



### Sherlock's Method: The Working Tool for the Club Player

Elshan Moradiabadi & Sabina Foisor,  
448 pages, paperback  
RRP £30.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £27.85**

A leading couple in the American chess scene have jointly written what they perceive as being a "holistic" work for Thinkers

Publishing. It is. Indeed, the coverage is quite general, but undoubtedly of interest for the club player looking to improve, or even to prepare for their next tournament. This interesting work is split into three sections: Simple Ideas, the Endgame, and the Adventure of Complex Positions.

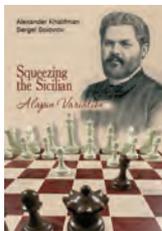


### Squeezing the King's Indian Defence

Semko Semkov & Yuriy Krikun,  
248 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Everyone is familiar with the famous main line of the King's Indian, 1 d4  $\text{Nf6}$  2 c4 g6 3  $\text{Nc3}$   $\text{Ng7}$  4 e4 d6 5  $\text{Nf3}$  0-0 6  $\text{e2}$  e5, but here White most certainly doesn't have to go 7 0-0. There's also Petrosian's favourite 7 d5, as well as Gligoric's 7  $\text{e3}$ , as advocated in Chess Stars's latest repertoire work, which maps out coverage via the well-known format: each chapter comprising the main ideas, step by step coverage and then a couple of complete games. Semkov and Krikun demonstrate why 7... $\text{c6}$ ?! 8 d5  $\text{Nc7}$  9  $\text{Nbd2}$  is not what Black should be doing, with the bulk of their detailed coverage devoted to 7... $\text{a6}$ , 7...c6, 7...exd4 and especially 7... $\text{g4}$ .

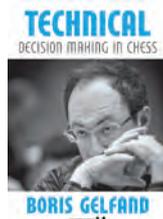


### Squeezing the Sicilian: Alapin Variation

Alexander Khalifman & Sergei Soloviov,  
456 pages, paperback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

You may not recognise Semyon Alapin on the cover, but the partial board there too does rather give the game away: this is a repertoire for White based on 1 e4 c5 2 c3. The c3 Sicilian can be played quite aggressively, but is also a fairly sensible choice should White prefer to be more conservative. The leading authors advocate a combination of both types of play, while presenting a number of new ideas and rather detailed coverage, as they aim to show that 2 c3 shouldn't be considered dull or drawish.



### Technical Decision Making in Chess

Boris Gelfand, 320 pages, hardback  
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Once again ably supported by Jacob Aagaard, Gelfand discusses those tricky decisions in the late middlegame and endgame when one side is aiming to convert a material or positional advantage. A look at Gelfand's hero Akiba Rubinstein kicks things off before readers are given some helpful advice on how to pick between active and passive defence in a given endgame. Interestingly Gelfand believes that a bad plan is better than no plan, while the modern-day tournament player will welcome the chapter devoted to playing the final stages of the game solely on increment. Once again, Gelfand's immense knowledge of chess shines through for Quality Chess and at *CHESS* we wouldn't be surprised if the Gelfand series of books becomes as well known as the Dvoretsky and Yusupov series.



### The R ti: Move by Move

Sam Collins, 288 pages, paperback  
RRP £18.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.09**

The popular Irish IM returns to the Everyman stable to map out a repertoire for the club player with 1  $\text{Nf3}$  d5 2 c4. Collins makes good use of the series' question and answer format to explain the key ideas for both sides, whilst making typically astute choice of instructive recent games to feature. As such, if you'd like to broaden your understanding of, for instance, the famous Reti line 1  $\text{Nf3}$  d5 2 c4 e6 3 g3  $\text{Nf6}$  4  $\text{Ng2}$   $\text{e7}$  5 0-0 0-0 6 b3 c5 7  $\text{Bb2}$ , this new work should really help.



### Understanding Middlegame Strategies Vol. 1: Dynamic Pawns

Ivan Sokolov, PC-DVD; running time: 4 hours, 50 minutes  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

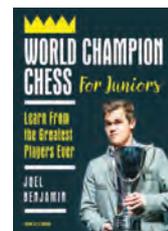
In recent years the well-known Bosnian-Dutch Grandmaster has been busy working with some of Iran and the UAE's leading talents, but now makes a welcome return to the ChessBase studio. Sokolov's focus is based around better understanding of the pawns and will be especially of use to the average and stronger club player. Unsurprisingly he discusses pawn islands, but his coverage is most certainly not devoted to just the static: viewers get to see sacrifices, rolling pawns, and a special section on how to imitate the modern-day GM and use your g- and h-pawns in a dynamic manner.



### Understanding Middlegame Strategies Vol. 2: Practical Play

Ivan Sokolov, PC-DVD;  
running time: 5 hours, 30 minutes  
RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

This companion DVD should also help to improve your middlegame understanding. This time Sokolov's coverage is based around model games, with four main topics discussed: deciding which pieces to exchange; how a black king can be quite safe on f8; exploiting control of an open file; and creating a crisis at just the right point. Like volume one, this DVD also contains a database of extra material, as well as a number of interactive training positions to solve.



### World Champion Chess for Juniors

Joel Benjamin, 256 pages, paperback  
RRP £21.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £19.79**

The famous American Grandmaster takes a look at the games of all 17 world chess champions, as well as the play of the legendary Paul Morphy. Benjamin's aim is not to present any groundbreaking new analysis, although he does uncover a few important things along the way, but to help the aspiring player learn from these legends. As such, his eye is always on how they liked to develop, attack or even defend, as well as conduct the endgame. Benjamin's guide to the greats of chess is most readable, contains a wealth of handy tips, and also explains the impact that each of the champions had on his own play.

