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Chess

THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT

The new Netflix limited series makes all the right moves, both on and off the board

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A Krushing Success - Krush & So triumphed as the US Championships went online

Giving Up - Jonathan Levitt reflects on retirement from OTB play and his new book

Christmas Stockings - Your guide for what to request or buy for the festive period

Chess

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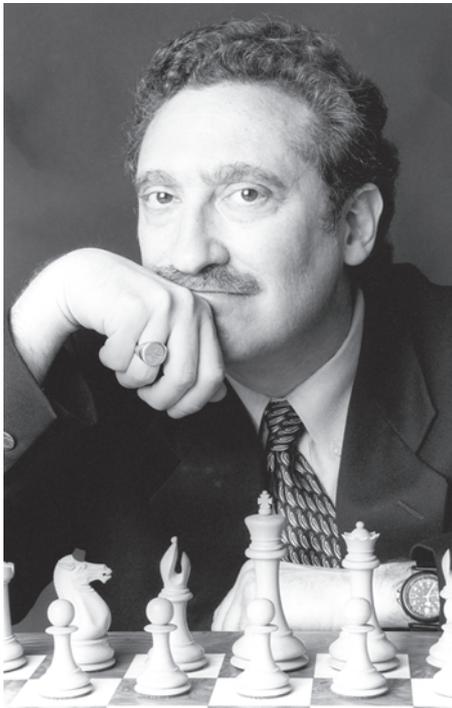
Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game	
60 Seconds with...Bruce Pandolfini	7
We discover all about the famous coach and <i>Queen's Gambit</i> adviser	
A Krushing Success	8
Irina Krush and Wesley So were victorious in the U.S. Championships	
Escapism!	14
Matthew Lunn headed for the Dolomites along with some friends	
Magnusficient	18
Magnus Carlsen has produced the odd instructive effort of late	
How Good is Your Chess?	22
Daniel King looks at a wild and wonderful line of the King's Gambit	
Cryptic Chessword	25
A chess-themed crossword from Avid Old Swan	
Find the Winning Moves	26
The latest puzzles from the 4NCL Online and U.S. Championships	
The Queen's Gambit	30
John Henderson has been enjoying Netflix's biggest recent hit	
Christmas Stocking Fillers	35
Some handy suggestions for Christmas from Sean Marsh	
Giving Up Professional Chess	38
Jonathan Levitt reflects on retirement and his latest book	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	42
Carl on the opening surprise and his encounter with Kevin Winter	
5,012 Days	44
Steve Firth returned to OTB chess where some things never change	
Chess... and my Bucket List!	46
While inputting James Aitken's games, Geoff Chandler was distracted	
Readers' Letters	48
Studies with Stephenson	49
Home News	50
The Caplin British Online Championships begin on December 18th	
Overseas News	51
Rhys Cumming impressed as he made his first IM norm in Portugal	
Solutions	52
Detailed answers to all the positions to solve this month	
This Month's New Releases	54
Works on the 2020 Candidates, Steinitz, and puzzles are reviewed	
Saunders on Chess	58
John on the dangers of transcribing games into Britbase format	

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60 Seconds with... Bruce Pandolfini



After playing it, Evans thought for an hour! He and I became entwined in extreme time pressure. Near the end, we each had to make about 20 moves in one minute. At move 31, I had four winning moves, but with no time to think, I panicked and blundered, forgetting to play the intended 31 ♖xb6. Evans offered me a draw and I took it (I had a perpetual anyway). It cost me a bit of money. I won \$50, and lost it all on the Reno gambling tables in something like five minutes. Thereafter, I gave up serious chess.

B.Pandolfini-L.Evans National Open, Reno 1970



21 ♖d5! ♖h8 22 ♙e4 ♙g8 23 cxd3 ♗e8
24 ♖d2 ♖c4 25 ♙b4 ♗e5 26 ♗c1 b5 27
axb5 axb5 28 b3 ♖b6 29 ♗c6 ♗d8 30
♗g4 ♖h7 31 ♖xh6+? ♖xh6 32 ♖xh6 f5
33 ♗g6 fxe4 34 ♗h7+ ♙f7 35 ♗g6+ ½-½

But less memorable than your worst move?
There were (and are) so many.

And a highly memorable opponent?
Marcel Duchamp and Reuben Fine.

Favourite game of all time? Botvinnik-
Capablanca, AVRO 1938. Fischer-Spassky,
Game 6, 1972.

R.Fischer-B.Spassky 6th matchgame, Reykjavik 1972 *Queen's Gambit Declined*

1 c4 e6 2 ♖f3 d5 3 d4 ♖f6 4 ♖c3 ♙e7
5 ♙g5 0-0 6 e3 h6 7 ♙h4 b6 8 cxd5
♖xd5 9 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 10 ♖xd5 exd5
11 ♗c1 ♙e6 12 ♗a4 c5 13 ♗a3 ♗c8
14 ♙b5 a6 15 dxc5 bxc5 16 0-0 ♗a7
17 ♙e2 ♖d7 18 ♖d4 ♗f8 19 ♖xe6 fxe6
20 e4 d4 21 f4 ♗e7 22 e5 ♗b8 23 ♙c4
♙h8 24 ♗h3 ♖f8 25 b3 a5



26 f5! exf5 27 ♖xf5 ♖h7 28 ♗cf1 ♗d8
29 ♗g3 ♗e7 30 h4 ♗bb7 31 e6 ♗bc7
32 ♗e5 ♗e8 33 a4 ♗d8 34 ♗1f2 ♗e8
35 ♗2f3 ♗d8 36 ♙d3 ♗e8 37 ♗e4 ♖f6
38 ♖xf6 gxf6 39 ♖xf6 ♙g8 40 ♙c4
♙h8 41 ♗f4 1-0

M.Botvinnik-J.Capablanca Rotterdam 1938



30 ♙a3!! ♗xa3 31 ♖h5+! gxh5 32 ♗g5+
♙f8 33 ♗xf6+ ♙g8 34 e7 ♗c1+ 35 ♙f2
♗c2+ 36 ♙g3 ♗d3+ 37 ♙h4 ♗e4+
38 ♖xh5 ♗e2+ 39 ♙h4 ♗e4+ 40 g4
♗e1+ 41 ♙h5 1-0

The best three chess books: Really tough
call. Let's do it this way. For best: *My Best
Games of Chess, Volumes 1 & 2* – Alekhine;
100 Selected Games of Chess – Botvinnik;
My 60 Memorable Games – Fischer. For
favourite: *The Human Side of Chess* –
Reinfeld; *New Ideas in Chess* – Evans;
Modern Ideas in Chess – Reti.

Can chess make one happy? As much as
music and love.

A tip please for the club player: Play as if the
future of humanity depends on your efforts.

Born: September 17th, 1947, New Jersey.

Place of residence: New York City.

Occupation: Chess Teacher.

Enjoyable? Very.

And home life? Now and then.

But sometimes good to escape to: Music.
Great books. Old movies. The reasoning of
Bertrand Russell.

Sports played or followed: Many. Athletic
for a chess player.

A favourite novel? *Ulysses*. I've read it 18
times. *In Search of Lost Time*. I've read it once.

Piece of music? Dozens. Rachmaninoff's
2nd Symphony; Ravel's *Le Tombeau de
Couperin*; Beethoven's 8th Symphony; *Light
My Fire*, the Doors.

Film or TV series? *Vertigo*. *Casablanca*. *The
Apartment*.

What's the best thing about playing chess?
Winning.

And the worst? Winning.

Your best move? I don't know if it's my best
move, but 21 ♙d5! was one I liked finding.

A Krushing Success

The format had changed, but the big names still shone in the U.S. Championships

Irina Krush claimed her eighth U.S. Women's title when the decision was made not to cancel this year's postponed Championships, but play them instead on Lichess in October, with support still coming from the St. Louis Chess Club. Purists may object to the winners of rapid tournaments (25 minutes plus a five-second increment), played over four days, being considered national champions. However, this is 2020 and many fans were just grateful to see the best American players in action on Lichess, as well as to enjoy the accompanying commentary from that long-established, popular team of Jennifer Shahade, Yasser Seirawan and Maurice Ashley.

Having earlier in October triumphed in the U.S. Girls' Championship, rising star 17-year-old Carissa Yip began steadily in the Women's Championship, drawing her first three games. Yip then went on something of a burst, racking up 4½/5 to lead top seed Irina Krush by half a point.

T.Abrahamyan-C.Yip
Round 6
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♜c6 3 ♟b5 a6 4 ♟a4 ♜f6
5 d3 d6 6 c3 g6 7 0-0 ♟g7 8 ♜bd2 0-0
9 ♚e1 b5 10 ♟c2 ♟b7 11 a4 ♚e8
12 ♜f1

A fairly typical scenario for a Closed Lopez and Black now regroups in Breyer-approved fashion.

12...♜b8 13 ♜g3 c5 14 h3 ♜c6!?

Of course, 14...♜bd7 would complete the manoeuvre patented by Gyula Breyer. Perhaps Yip was concerned by 15 d4, but after 15...cxd4 16 cxd4 Black has sufficient counterplay against e4 after 16...exd4 and might also consider 16...d5!?

15 ♟g5 h6



Having earlier in October won the U.S. Girls' Championship (see this month's Overseas News), Carissa Yip went close in the U.S. Women's Championship, the 17 year old finishing second.

16 ♟e3

With Black's knight having gone back to c6, 16 ♟xf6 ♚xf6 17 ♜f1 came into consideration, but Black should be dynamic enough to maintain a rough balance after 17...♜e7 18 ♜e3 h5! and ...♟h6.

The bold 16 ♟h4! is actually preferred by *Stockfish*, obtaining reasonable compensation for the piece in the event of 16...g5 17 ♜xg5 hxg5 18 ♟xg5 when Black is afloat after 18...♜e7, but would clearly here much prefer this knight to have gone to d7.

16...♚e7 17 ♟b3

The American International begins to eye the kingside.

While 17 ♚d2! would optically also have done so, after 17...♟h7 a way to pose a few problems is 18 b4!, and if 18...cxb4 19 cxb4 d5 20 ♟c5 ♚d7 21 ♚e2 followed by ♟b3 with chances for an edge.

17...♚ad8 18 axb5 axb5 19 ♜h4!?

Right square, wrong piece, although even after 19 h4! h5 20 ♜g5 ♚f8 Black should be solid enough.

19...d5!



The classic central strike, which, as so often, merely serves to underline that it's Black's turn to expand and begin to take over.

20 ♚f3?

Abrahamyan didn't struggle with the online format to anything like the extent that four-time U.S. Women's Champion Anna

Zatonskih did, but this move is far too slow. With 20 exd5 ♖xd5 looking rather comfortable for Black, and even so after 21 ♖g4 ♗h7, now was probably the moment to change the trend of the game with 20 ♖gf5! (or 20 ♖hf5!) 20...gxf5 21 ♖xf5. The engines are quick to display their favourite '0.00'.

You might well think, 'Really?', but after 21...♖f8 22 exd5 ♖xd5 23 ♖g4 White does appear to have enough play. Black can avoid a repetition with 23...♖xe3 24 ♖xe3 ♙c8 25 ♖xh6+ ♗h7 26 ♖f5 ♙xf5 27 ♖xf5+ ♗g8, but even here 28 ♖f3 c4!? (28...♖e7 29 ♖e4 ♖d6 30 ♖a6 leaves White pretty actively placed) 29 dxc4 e4 30 ♖f4 ♖e7 31 ♖h5 ♖g6 32 ♖f5 is likely no more than unclear and about equal.

20...c4!

Ouch. In view of 21 ♙c2 d4, White suddenly finds her centre badly levered open and even 21 dxc4 bxc4 22 ♙a4 d4 23 ♙d2 ♖d7 would have left Black clearly for choice.

21 exd5? e4!

There was nothing wrong with 21...♖xd5, but Yip continues to play with great energy and has spotted something even stronger.

22 ♖xe4

22 dxe4 ♖e5 23 ♖e2 cxb3 24 ♖xb5 does give White three pawns for the piece, but the tactics somewhat favour Black after 24...♖xe4! 25 ♖xe4 ♙xd5, hitting both stricken white knights.

22...♖e5 23 ♖g3 ♖h5

Continuing to strive for the maximum. The game is up for Abrahamyan.

24 d6 ♖xd6 25 ♖xd6!? ♖xg3 26 ♖xe8 ♖xh4 27 ♖xg7



White has managed to obtain two rooks for the queen, but unsurprisingly her kingside is about to be blown to smithereens.

27...♖f3+! 28 gxf3 ♖xh3 29 fxf3 ♖xg3+ 30 ♗f1

30...♖xf3+ 31 ♙f2 ♖h3+ 32 ♙e2 ♖xd3# 0-1

Yip was on the sacrificial trail again in round 9, but her offer of a rook then bishop came up somewhat short against Ashritha Eswaran, which allowed Krush to overtake her by defeating Tatev Abrahamyan. That set up a tense final day, but Krush scarcely blinked. She held her nerve to finish with two wins and so claim her eighth U.S. title with 8½/11, holding off Yu, who also finished with 2/2, by



Irina Krush is four years younger than Jovanka Houska and already has eight U.S. Women's titles to Jovanka's 10 British titles. Will they amass as many as 30 national titles between them?

half a point, with bottom seed Dorsa Derakhshani doing extremely well to finish just a further half-point in arrears. The \$25,000 first prize was a fitting reward for the Brooklyn-based Krush, coming just six months after she was hospitalised ahead of making a full recovery from Covid.

I.Krush-T.Abrahamyan
Round 9
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♙b4 4 ♖c2 d5 5 cxd5 exd5 6 ♙f4

A modern twist, aiming to retain more control than White has in the sharp line 6 ♙g5 h6 7 ♙h4 c5 8 dxc5 g5 9 ♙g3 ♖e4, as some readers will remember from the 1993 world championship match.

6...c5 7 dxc5 0-0 8 e3 ♖c6 9 ♖f3 ♙xc5

This position can also arise from the QGD line 3...d5 4 ♖f3 ♙e7 5 ♙f4 0-0 6 e3 c5 7 dxc5 ♙xc5 8 ♖c2 ♖c6 and then not the standard 9 a3, but 9 cxd5 exd5.

10 ♙e2 d4!?

Liquidating the IQP so must be critical, but Black may still come up just shy of full equality.

11 ♖d1



A fairly effective pin and one which causes Abrahamyan to immediately err. A game from the Magnus Carlsen Invitational back in April had already shown the correct path for Black: 11...♖b6 12 exd4 ♖xd4 (12...♙xd4!? 13 0-0 ♙g4 is probably the critical line) 13 ♖xd4 ♙xd4 14 0-0 ♙d7 (and not 14...♙e6? 15 ♖a4 ♖b4 16 a3 when even 16...♙b3 17 axb4 ♙xc2 18 ♖xd4 ♙xa4 19 b5 leaves Black in some trouble) 15 ♖d2 ♙xc3 16 ♖xc3 ♖ac8 17 ♖a3 when White was slightly for choice with his bishop-pair, but Black managed to hold in Vachier-Lagrave-Ding Liren, Internet (rapid) 2020.

11...♖d5? 12 ♖g5!

Krush is quick to reveal the downside to Black's ambitious last.

12...g6

Black would soon land up losing the d-pawn after 12...♖f6 13 0-0 h6 14 ♖f3.

13 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 14 0-0

Material is level, but the pin remains awkward for Black and White is set to seize the initiative.

14...♙e7 15 ♙c4 ♖a5

The only real way to unpin without dropping the d-pawn.

16 h4!



Krush continues to play with verve and

now even 16...♙f5 17 ♖b3 would have left Black under heavy pressure.

16...dxe3?! 17 ♗xe3?!

Simple chess, but 17 ♗xf7! was on, and if 17...♙f5 (or 17...♖xf7 18 fxe3 when 18...♙f5 doesn't plug the f-file on account of 19 e4 and 18...♖f5 19 ♗xf7+ ♖xf7 is butchered by 20 ♙g5 ♖xa2 21 ♗xe7 ♗xe7 22 ♖d8+) 18 ♖b3 e2 19 ♗g5+ ♙g7 20 ♗xe2 with an extra pawn and ongoing initiative.

17...♗e5 18 ♗b3 ♙f5

Finally completing development, but even here White is very much the side calling the shots.

19 ♖e2 h6?

Black's position was difficult, but she might have fought on with 19...♗g4 20 ♙f4 ♖ae8 21 ♖f3 ♙c5.

20 ♖d5! ♖c7 21 ♖c1 ♗c6



22 ♖xf5!

A lovely blow. White also could have crashed through with 22 ♗xf7! ♖xf7 23 ♖xf5 gxf5 24 ♖h5.

22...hxg5

22...gxf5? 23 ♖h5! cleans Black up in view of 23...hxg5 24 ♖g6+ ♙h8 25 ♙d4+ ♗xd4 26 ♖xc7.

23 hxg5 gxf5?

Accelerating the end. It would but have been a slightly slower death after 23...♖d7 24 ♖d5 ♖e6 25 ♖f3 or 23...♖ad8 24 ♖f3 ♖e5 25 ♖h3.

24 ♖h5

Black is a rook ahead, but quite powerless against the threat of g6 and mate on h7.



24...♖e5 25 g6 ♖g7

Even after 25...♖h8 26 ♙h6 ♖f6 the attack is too strong, with the most aesthetic way to win, 27 ♖xc6 bxc6 28 ♙f4 ♖g7 (or 28...♖h4 29 gxf7+ ♙g7 30 ♙e5+) 29 ♙e5.

26 ♙h6 ♖f6 27 ♙d2

Or just 27 ♖xc6! bxc6 28 ♙f4, as above.

27...♖g7

This time 27...♖h4 would have failed to 28 ♙xf7+ ♖xf7 29 gxf7+ ♙g7 30 ♙h6+ ♙h7 31 ♖xh4 ♙xh4 32 f8 ♖xh4 33 ♙xf8 with an extra exchange in the endgame.

28 ♙c3 1-0

In the subsequent U.S. Championship, a prize fund of \$150,000 and top prize of \$40,000 wasn't sufficient to tempt Fabiano Caruana, who might be an improved speed player, but may not enjoy such formats of the game as much as the likes of Hikaru Nakamura and Wesley So. The former, the top seed, defending champion and pre-tournament favourite, found himself under pressure on 3/5, as second seed So quite simply burst from the gates. So won five on the bounce, albeit initially not without some fortune, requiring a major blunder in a drawn endgame from Aleks Lenderman and after finding himself a pawn down against Awonder Liang. On the second day, however, he was quite dominant, his best effort the following brilliancy.

S.Shankland-W.So
Round 4
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗c3 ♙b4 4 f3 d5

Play quickly enters arguably the main line of the 4 f3 variation. A decent alternative for Black is 4...c5 5 d5 b5!?, after which 6 e4 d6 7 ♙d2 ♙xc3 8 ♙xc3 b4 9 ♙d2 0-0 10 ♗e2 ♗h5 11 ♙e3 f5 was typically murky and appeared to supply enough counterplay in Caruana-Aronian, Stavanger 2020.

5 a3 ♙xc3+ 6 bxc3 c5 7 cxd5 ♗xd5 8 dxc5 ♖a5 9 e4 ♗e7 10 ♙e3 0-0

The aforementioned main line. Instead, 10...♖xc3+?! 11 ♙f2 0-0 12 ♗e2 would merely accelerate White's development.

11 ♖b3 ♖c7 12 ♙b5



White's most popular choice (12 a4 and 12 ♗h3 are alternatives), aimed against 12...♗d7.

12...e5

12...♗ec6 13 ♗e2 ♗a5 is another way of playing when in Smirnov-Abdusattorov, Wijk aan Zee 2020, White showcased a typical idea for the line: 14 ♖b4 e5 15 ♗d4!? (15...exd4 16 cxd4 would leave White with a mobile and powerful centre).

13 ♗e2 ♙e6 14 c4!?

An ambitious new try, angling for ♗c3-d5. Previously, 14 ♖b2 ♗d7 15 ♙xd7 ♖xd7 16 0-0 ♖fd8 had seemed fine for Black in Soffer-Bar, Israeli League 2011, with White's extra pawn not all that useful and ...♗c6-a5 on the way.

14...♗bc6 15 ♗c3?!

Consistent, but White might do better with 15 ♙xc6 ♗xc6 16 ♗c3!, returning the pawn for a fairly harmonious set-up with 16...♗a5 17 ♖b4 ♗xc4 18 ♙f2.

15...♗a5 16 ♖b4 ♗ec6 17 ♖a4?

Shankland had not seen what was coming or he would have tried to grovel with 17 ♖b2

2020 US Women's Chess Championship, held on lichess.org, 21-24 October																
Player	Title	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts	TPR
1	Irina Krush	GM	2429	*	½	½	1	1	1	½	½	1	1	½	8½	2524
2	Carissa Yip	IM	2421	½	*	½	½	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	8	2489
3	Dorsa Derakhshani	IM	2270	½	½	*	1	½	1	0	½	1	½	1	7½	2460
4	Jennifer Yu	FM	2315	0	½	0	*	1	0	½	1	1	½	1	6	2359
5	Ashritha Eswaran	WIM	2244	0	1	½	0	*	1	0	1	0	0	1	5½	2330
6	Tatev Abrahamyan	WGM	2358	0	0	0	1	0	*	0	1	1	1	½	5½	2319
7	Emily Nguyen	WIM	2280	0	0	1	½	1	1	*	0	0	1	0	5	2290
8	Martha Samadashvili	WFM	2215	½	½	½	0	0	0	1	*	1	0	½	4½	2267
9	Annie Wang	IM	2384	½	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	*	1	0	4	2215
10	Thalia Cervantes Landeiro	FM	2311	0	0	½	½	1	0	0	1	0	*	½	4	2222
11	Sabina-Francesca Foisor	WGM	2228	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	½	1	½	*	4	2229
12	Anna Zatonskih	IM	2420	½	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	0	*	3½	2181

(17 ♖xc6? bxc6! favours Black even after 18 ♘d5!? cxd5 19 cxd5 ♖ab8 20 ♖c3 ♖b3 21 ♖c1 ♖c8) 17...♗d4 18 ♗d5 ♖xc5 19 ♗d1. **17...a6! 18 ♖xc6**



18...♗xc4!!

A bolt from the blue. White had no doubt been busy analysing 18...bxc6 19 ♗d5! cxd5 20 cxd5 ♗d7 21 c6, which should fizzle out to equality after 21...♗xc6 22 dxc6 ♖xc6.

19 ♖xb7?

Critical, but flawed. After 19 ♖f2 bxc6 20 ♖c2 ♖fd8 21 0-0 ♗d2 22 ♖c1 or 19 ♗d1 bxc6 20 0-0 White would have been somewhat worse, but fighting.

19...♗xe3! 20 ♖xa8 ♖xc5



So continues to spurn pieces. He is now a whole rook down, but White's coordination is shot and he can't castle.

21 ♗d5!

The best try. 21 ♖c1 ♗xg2+ 22 ♗d1 ♖f2



Wesley So had plenty to smile about too during the U.S. Championship on Lichess, not least when playing a lovely rook sacrifice en route to crushing Sam Shankland as he reached 5/5.

would just be curtains, as would 21 ♗e2 ♗xg2+ 22 ♗f1 ♗h4.

21...♗xg2+?

This might have thrown it all away. It was high time to recoup some material, beginning with 21...♗c2+ 22 ♗d2 (22 ♗e2? ♗xd5 23 ♗xd5 ♖e3+ 24 ♗d1 ♖d3+ 25 ♗c1 ♗xa1 26 ♗b2 ♖b8+! wins) 22...♗xa1 23 ♖xa1 (or 23 ♖b7 ♗xd5 24 ♗xd5 ♖c8 followed by extricating the knight with an ongoing, crushing initiative) 23...♖f2+ 24 ♗d3 ♖xa8 when White surely wouldn't have survived.

22 ♗f1 ♗f4 23 ♖c6!

A shock for So who had clearly only reckoned on 23 ♗xf4? exf4 when the arrival of the black queen on c3 or e3 is remarkably hard for White to meet, as we can see from 24 ♗d5 ♗h3+ 25 ♗e2 ♖e3+ 26 ♗d1 ♖xf3+ 27 ♗c2 ♖c8+, and if 28 ♗b2 ♖g2+ 29 ♗b3 ♖c2+ 30 ♗b4 ♖c3#.

23...♖a5!?

Clearly Black can't exchange queens and White would surely have been OK after 23...♖d4 24 ♖c3 ♖xc3 (24...♗h3+ 25 ♗e1 ♗g2+ 26 ♗e2 ♗f4+ would repeat moves) 25 ♗xc3 ♖xa8, sufficient though Black's compensation for the exchange likely is.

24 ♗d1?

Badly underestimating the danger. After 24 ♗xf4 exf4 25 ♖c1 ♖d2 (25...♗h3+ 26 ♗e2 ♖xa3 27 ♖c3 keeps the king guarded) 26 h4! Black wouldn't have had anything better than the repetition with 26...♖d3+ 27 ♗g1 ♖e3+ 28 ♗g2 ♖e2+ 29 ♗g1 ♖e3+, and the engines' impressively calm 24 ♖a2! would actually have called Black's last move into question, White emerging with the upper hand after 24...♗d8 25 ♖c2 ♖xa3 26 ♗f2 ♖d3 27 ♖e1 ♗xd5 28 exd5 ♗xd5 29 ♖c3 ♖xc3 30 ♖xc3 ♖xa8 31 ♖xe5.

24...♗xd5! 25 exd5 ♖xa3



2020 US Chess Championship, held on lichess.org, 26-29 October

Player	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts	TPR
1 Wesley So	2770	*	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	9	2918
2 Jeffery Xiong	2709	0	*	1	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	8½	2873
3 Ray Robson	2673	½	0	*	½	1	1	1	1	0	1	½	1	7½	2798
4 Leinier Dominguez Perez	2758	½	0	½	*	½	½	0	½	1	1	1	½	6	2693
5 Sam Shankland	2691	0	½	0	½	*	1	½	0	1	½	1	½	5½	2663
6 Awonder Liang	2592	0	0	0	½	0	*	½	1	½	1	1	1	5½	2672
7 Sam Sevian	2660	½	½	0	1	½	½	*	½	½	½	0	½	5	2630
8 Hikaru Nakamura	2736	½	0	0	½	1	0	½	*	½	½	1	½	5	2623
9 Aleksandr Lenderman	2634	0	½	1	0	0	½	½	½	*	0	½	1	4½	2604
10 Dariusz Swiercz	2649	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	1	*	½	½	3½	2534
11 Alejandro Ramirez	2567	0	0	½	0	0	0	1	0	½	½	*	½	3	2500
12 Elshan Moradiabadi	2555	0	0	0	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	*	3	2501

Threatening mate via f3. White can easily parry that, but not also neutralise the famed attacking duo of queen and knight.

26 d6 ♖b2

Threatening mate on e2 or g2 and leaving White with nothing better than to return a rook.

27 ♖e4 ♖g2+ 28 ♖e1 ♖xh1+ 29 ♖d2 ♖xh2+ 30 ♖c3 ♖e2+! 31 ♖c4 ♖d4

The knight continues to prove far too much for White to cope with.

32 d7

Even 32 ♖xd4 exd4 33 d7 doesn't come close to saving the day as the pawn will fall after 33...♖a2+ 34 ♖d3 ♖b3+.

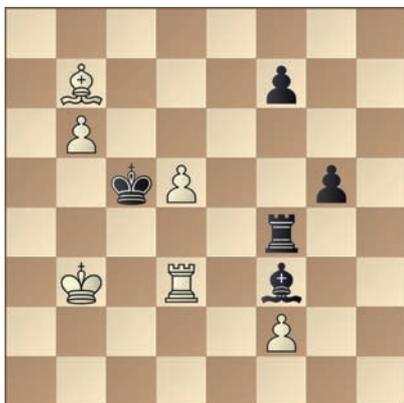
32...♖a2+ 33 ♖c5 ♖a3+ 34 ♖b6 ♖b3+ 0-1

Black is actually mating, not picking up the loose rook on d1 for free: 35 ♖c5 (or 35 ♖a7 ♖b8+, etc) 35...♖e6+ 36 ♖d6 ♖b8+ 37 ♖e7 ♖d8+ 38 ♖d6 ♖c7+ 39 ♖e7 ♖e8+! 40 ♖xe8 ♖d8#.

Nakamura really needed to defeat Liang in the sixth round, but his decision to go all in merely allowed the 17-year-old to defend coolly, take his chances and pull off a major upset. Things didn't get any better for the chess king of Twitch, who is normally deadly at rapid, but possibly he failed to fully readjust to the 25+5 time control, in contrast to the Carlsen Tour which preferred a brisker 15+10. In contrast, both Jeffery Xiong and Ray Robson had tournaments to remember, chasing home So, who commented that "this title is really prestigious", while defeating Nakamura en route.

Xiong is now 20 and if he can translate the progress he has made online in recent months into over-the-board success next year, he must have every chance of becoming America's fourth member of the chess elite. Indeed, Xiong might even have claimed the title had he not missed a trick in an endgame just when his ninth round encounter with So looked set to be drawn, when they were both on an astonishing '+6'.

W.So-J.Xiong Round 9



Clearly 43...♖xb6 44 d6 ♖g4 45 d7 ♖xd7 46 ♖xd7 ♖xf2 should be a draw, but perhaps White might press if he can somehow win Black's remaining pawns. Instead, the silicon likes 43...♖e4, and if 44

♖d2 ♖f5 45 d6 ♖d7, ahead of picking off the b-pawn, but what about chasing that pawn down with the black rook?

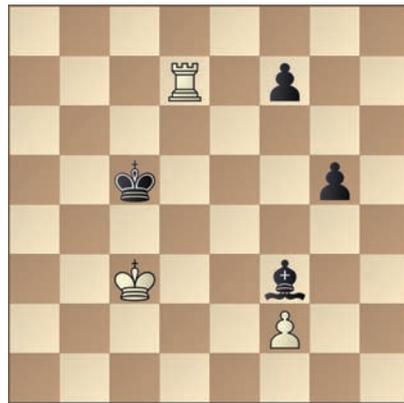
43...♖b4+ 44 ♖c3 ♖xb6?

Falling into a trap. Once again, a better move was 44...♖e4 when after 45 ♖d2 ♖c4+ 46 ♖b3 ♖b4+ 47 ♖a3 Black can go 47...♖xb6! as White's king finds itself too far away to prevent the liquidation of his final pawn after 48 d6 ♖xd6 49 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 50 ♖xe4 ♖e5.

45 d6! ♖xb7

Ouch. Suddenly Black must lose material in view of 45...♖xb7? 46 d7.

46 d7 ♖xd7 47 ♖xd7



47...f5?

The decisive mistake. Of course, it's not easy with the king cut off, but 47...♖d5 48 ♖d3 ♖e6 would have retained definite drawing chances, as shown by 49 ♖d8 ♖f5+ 50 ♖e3 ♖e6 51 ♖e4 ♖c4 52 ♖e5 g4 53 ♖f6 ♖c3 when White isn't quite in time to arrange a decisive return of the exchange on f7 or g5.

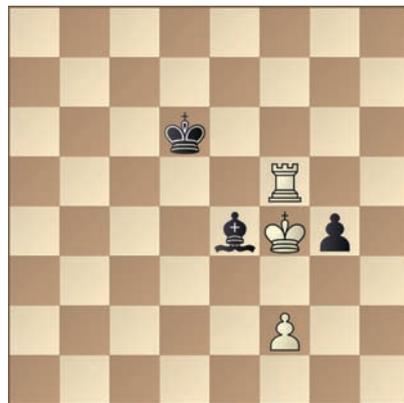
48 ♖d3 ♖e4+ 49 ♖e3 g4

Sub-optimal, but even after 49...♖c4 50 ♖g7 ♖d5!? 51 ♖xg5 ♖e5 52 f4+ White should be winning.

50 ♖f4 ♖c6?

Making it easy, but even after 50...♖c4 51 ♖e3! (and not 51 ♖f7? ♖d3 52 ♖xf5 ♖xf5 53 ♖xf5 ♖e2) 51...♖c5 (51...♖c3 52 ♖c7+ drives the king further away) 52 ♖d8 ♖c4 53 ♖f8 ♖d5 54 ♖e8! White would have been winning after ♖f4, ♖e5(+) and ♖xf5.

51 ♖f7 ♖d6 52 ♖xf5! 1-0



The opposition is White's after 52...♖xf5 53 ♖xf5 ♖e7 54 ♖xg4 ♖f6 55 ♖f4!.



A little bird just told me

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

Stephen King - @StephenKing

I've watched a lot of TV during this cursed year - I know I'm not alone - and the best of the best is *The Queen's Gambit*, on Netflix. Utterly thrilling. I thought nothing would beat *The Trial of the Chicago Seven*, but this does.

Chess news - @chessnews

The Queen's Gambit receives worldwide praise as it hits no. 1 in 27 countries.

Jennifer Shahade - @JenShahade

#TheQueensGambit is so brilliant but using some women's games would have been awesome. Many viewers google Beth Harmon and are disappointed to find she is totally fictional. Imagine the consolatory wink in redirection to Polgar or Menchik or Rudenko stories/games. #Playlikeagirl

Leon Watson - @LeonWatson

I thought *The Queen's Gambit* was OK. Solid 6.5/10. That the chess was accurate is nice (and unusual), but doesn't in itself make it a great show. Think there's more than a bit of confirmation bias going on in the chess community that is fuelling some of its wild response.

International Chess Federation - @FIDE_chess

The lack of rated events due to the pandemic could have led, under the existing regulations, to many players being considered as 'inactive'. The Qualification Commission has recommended extending (temporarily) the period required to be considered "inactive" from 12 to 24 months.

Saulė - @sankuperis

Lithuanian politics is female. The new Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonyte. Chairwoman of Liberal Movement, also chess grandmaster, Viktorija Cmilyte Nielsen. Chairwoman of Freedom Party Aušrinė Armonaitė. These three women led their lists and will now be forming a coalition.

CoChess - @CoChessOfficial

Did you see our newest creation - Last Chess Week Tonight - an entertaining show on the most important chess events of the chess week? It's hosted by @fionchetta and she has some guests to come - stay tuned and be the first to know this week's guests.

32 ♖f7+ ♘d6 33 ♖e7+ ♘d5 34 ♘c7+ ♘c4
 35 ♖e4+ ♖d4 36 ♖e6+ ♘b4 37 c3+
 ♖xc3 38 ♘d5+ wins the queen.

c) 29...♘d7 30 ♖d1 ♖xd1 31 ♖f7+ ♘d6
 32 ♘e7+ ♘d7 33 ♘d8+♘d6 34 ♖c7+ ♘d5
 35 c4+ ♘d4 36 ♖d6+ also wins the queen.

Black's best defence comes in this last variation. After 30 ♖d1 ♘d5, White 'only' gets a winning endgame: 31 ♘xh5 ♖f8 32 ♖xd6+ ♘xd6 33 c4. Once the bishop is captured, White has three pawns for the exchange and the kingside pawns roll forward.

Phew. That was detailed and difficult – but spectacular. The game turned into an old-fashioned king hunt and, in such cases where material has been sacrificed, there is no substitute for calculation. You just have to throw everything into attacking. Although many of these variations were long, they were forcing – mainly checks – making it much easier to follow in your mind. If you struggle with this kind of game, a course of visualisation exercises should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity!

Now add up your points:

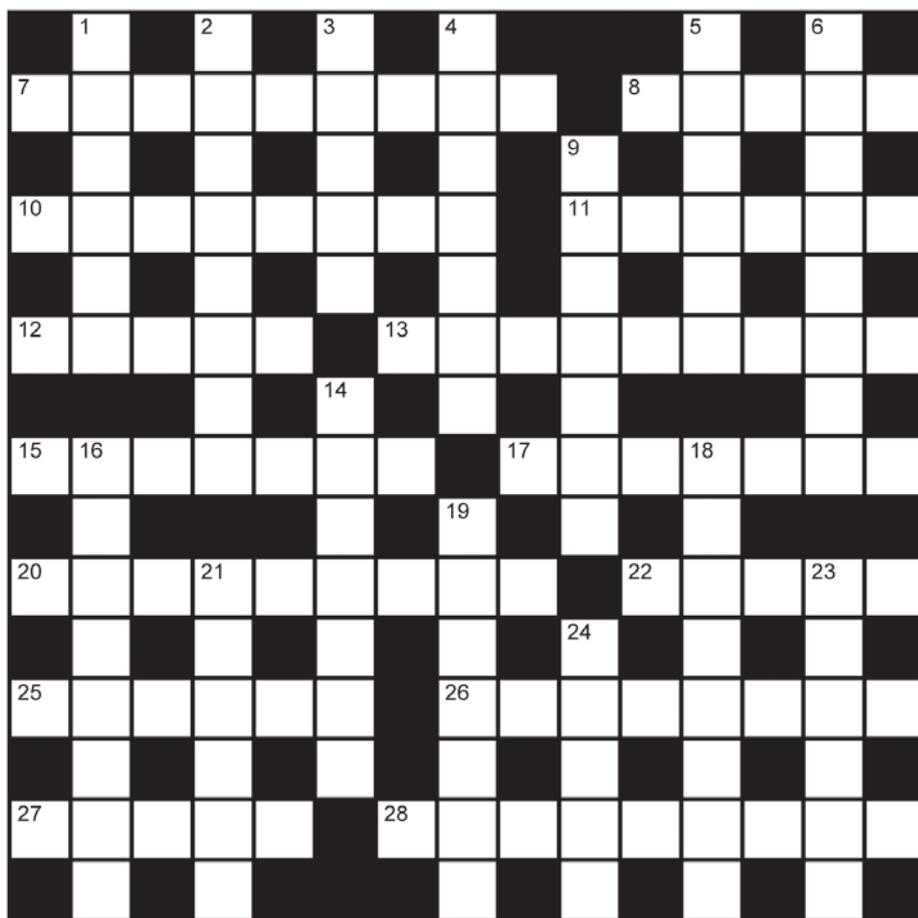
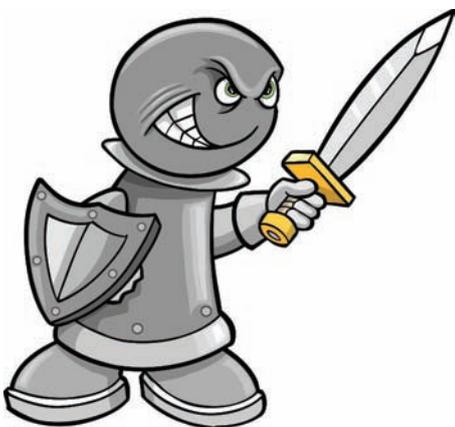
0-19	Unlucky
20-39	Average Club Player
40-49	Strong Club Player
50-55	FIDE Master
56-64	International Master
65-78	Grandmaster

Ed. – If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact Daniel directly through his website www.danielking.biz.

Cryptic Chessword

As the days draw in, if you fancy a change from online blitz, solving chess puzzles or watching *The Queen's Gambit*, but you love staring at black and white squares, why not have a go at this chess-themed crossword kindly compiled by Avid Old Swan.

Solution on page 49.



Across

- 7 Arranges anti-demos and rules over (9)
- 8 Deposits in exchange for lowly actors (5)
- 10 Possibly give monk change of royal location (4,4)
- 11 Take aggressive action in great tackle (6)
- 12 Ray is enthu-sisatic - or so I hear (5)
- 13 Relating to planning strict age arrangement (9)
- 15 Use plan cunningly to find Louis (7)
- 17 Contrive to be any sharp-pronged attack (7)
- 20 Replot map angles to provide strategies for success (4,5)
- 22 Not permanent and no second element of time (5)
- 25 Mark bend he negotiated (6)
- 26 Fell lone pine to create pawnless file (4,4)
- 27 Wear down relentlessly with a smile and depart (5)
- 28 Made changes; voted in an original way (9)

Down

- 1 Able to roam around in mob I lead (6)
- 2 Realign aid along slope (8)
- 3 Dad refuses five for master Vasily (5)
- 4 Sad feet suffer losses (7)
- 5 Choose role for the French and tuck the king away (6)
- 6 Anti-vice organisation is inoperative (8)
- 9 Scan aluminium article to get opening system (7)
- 14 Reject offer to analyse part of speech (7)
- 16 Unpaid enthusiasts possibly use a tram (8)
- 18 Put excessive pressure on a lover badly taken in by overdose (8)
- 19 Ill-founded united nations making noise (7)
- 21 Concluding with loud racket in broken English (6)
- 23 Temporarily fixed - ready to be stitched up ! (6)
- 24 Elude coyote capturing lure (5)



Studies with Stephenson

This issue I am delighted to present two prize-winning studies from just over a century apart, each from the leading figures of their day. Our first study demonstrates what can transpire when a grandmaster solver – several times world solving champion Piotr Murdzia of Poland – joins forces with a newly-minted grandmaster composer – Martin Minski of Germany. It features the popular theme of the struggle of a passed pawn.

Piotr Murdzia & Martin Minski

1st Prize, Polish Chess Federation, 2019



White to play and win

Clearly White must use his passed pawn to

create threats, but the first move is not quite the time – 1 c6? ♖d8 2 c7 ♖c8 3 ♗b8 ♙e6 and Black's position is fully secure.

1 ♗b8+! ♖h7

1...♙g7? leaves the black king open to attack by the bishop, leading to the following win on material or quick mate: 2 c6 ♙e6 (2...♖c7? 3 ♙c3+ d4 4 ♙xd4+ ♖h7 5 ♖xh8#) 3 cxd7.

2 c6!

Now the pawn. If 2 ♙c3? Black can shore up his defences with 2...d4 3 c6 ♖d6.

2...♖c7 If 2...♗a7? then White wins with 3 ♙c3 ♙e8 4 ♖b7+.

3 ♙c3 d4!

Black sets a little stalemate trap, and not 3...♙g8? 4 ♖b7.

4 ♙xd4 ♙g8 5 ♖b7 ♖f7



6 ♗b3!

This threat of mate on the h-file forces a position where White can later threaten ♖xc7 without it being stalemate. The immediate 6 ♖xc7?? would be stalemate.

6...♖xg5 7 ♗b7 ♖e6 8 ♙e5!

Not 8 g5? ♙f7 9 ♙e5 ♖xc6 10 ♖xf7+ ♖g8 and there is no win.

8...♖f7

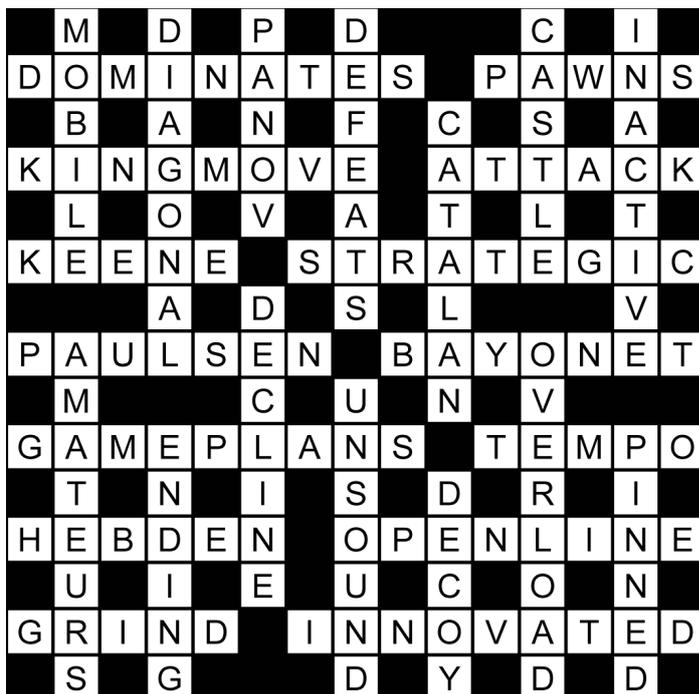


9 g5! Black is now completely tied up and something must give. **9...♖xg5 10 c7**

And White's passed pawn is victorious.

Our study for you to solve this issue is a classic queen-hunt from the highly-prolific Henri Rinck.

Answers to Cryptic Crossword (from page 25)



Henri Rinck

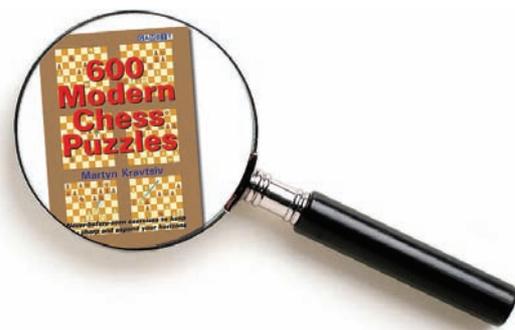
1st Prize, *L'Eco degli Scacchi*, 1917



White to play and win

To enter email editor@chess.co.uk or send your name and address, with the main variations, to Chess & Bridge, 44 Baker Street, London W1U 7RT, postmarked no later than 4th January. £30 of products from Chess & Bridge are available for the first correct entry drawn.

This Month's New Releases



600 Modern Chess Puzzles

Martyn Kravtsiv, 192 pages
Gambit Publications

RRP £17.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.75**

This puzzle collection by a Ukrainian Grandmaster offers a satisfyingly diverse range of exercises. Almost all the positions are from games played in the last few years, and the vast majority feature relatively obscure players. Readers are therefore unlikely to have seen any of the games before. Martyn Kravtsiv must have diligently sorted through a great deal of dross in order to strike gold. He has also designed the solutions very carefully, giving concise verbal explanations and showing why tempting false paths are incorrect.

The book is split into two parts: the first provides a prompt or question with each position, whereas in the second we simply seek the best continuation. After the thematic puzzles in the 'Warm-Up' and 'Checkmate' chapters, Kravtsiv approaches his task from various angles. Chapter themes include choices between two moves, tactical endgames, and ascending grades of difficulty. In the latter respect, *600 Modern Chess Puzzles* is an extremely ambitious book. It contains approximately five difficulty levels – though we don't always know which level we are confronted with.

The easiest puzzles took me just a second or two to solve, whilst the hardest ('Nightmare!') would probably stretch grandmasters. I find it hard to imagine a reader who has any difficulty at the start ever being able to reach the end of the book. That said, this sharp gradation does reflect the reality of practical chess. There is no harm in maintaining one's reflexes with basic tactics, nor with attempting calculation practice using 'tough nuts'. Kravtsiv's approach also ensures that there is something for everyone.

Here's an elegant example, a variation from the game Hawkins-Lalic, Hastings 2018/19.



"Black has a beautiful path to victory. Can you find it?" Having calculated 28...♗d2 29 ♖xd2 ♗xf4+ 30 ♖h3 ♕e5 31 ♗e1 I made no further progress. The solution can be found below.

Not every puzzle has a spectacular solution. Rather this is a highly practical collection designed to do exactly what is announced on the cover: 'Keep you sharp and expand your horizons'.

From personal experience I can confidently endorse Kravtsiv's optimistic view that solving puzzles like these will improve the reader's play. My progress to FM level as a junior owed a great deal to working through classics like Yakov Neishtadt's *Test Your Tactical Ability*, and I then hit a plateau partly due to losing this habit.

Perhaps Kravtsiv's book does not provide the warm glow that a reader of, say, Neishtadt feels at following in the footsteps of great players. Nevertheless, it seems to me exactly what a puzzle book should be in 2020. It will be an excellent investment for players of a wide range of levels who are willing to put in some work.

James Vigus



Candidates Tournament 2020 – Part 1: Yekaterinburg

Vladimir Tukmakov, 160 pages
Thinkers Publishing

RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Round one of the Candidates tournament began on March 17th 2020, bang on schedule. Yet here we are, several months later, and it still shows no sign of ending.

The various methods of qualification had produced eight top players, all of whom were ready to fight for the chance to play Magnus Carlsen in the next title match. Caruana, the challenger from 2018, was in the mix, of course. He was joined by Ding Liren, Wang Hao, Grischuk, Nepomniachtchi, Giri, Alekseenko and Vachier-Lagrave. The latter was brought in at short notice to replace Radjabov, who had withdrawn from the event. This little piece of detail prepares the way for the rest of the story, for Radjabov had withdrawn due to concerns over the

Covid outbreak.

It seems strange now, but even in March there was the feeling that any emergency would not last long and would be dealt with fairly easily, comparatively speaking. Nothing could have been further from the truth. Naivety, together with the lack of experience in having to deal with any sort of real emergency, led to the situation becoming much more serious than most of us would have been able to imagine.

I am sure that for numerous chess players, the situation only became 'real' when it interfered with their chess activities. I am not being flippant; it usually takes some sort of personal impact to bring a message home. For chess fans on a global scale, the postponement of the Candidates tournament, at the halfway point, would have been a powerful indication that everything had to change.

Thus we now have a tournament book, subtitled 'A Feast of Chess in Time of Plague', covering just one half of an elite event. I am strongly reminded of Tony Hancock discovering, towards the end of one of his famous half-hours, that the last page had been torn out of his library's copy of *Lady, Don't Fall Backwards* (there's one for the teenagers). We don't mind a touch of ambiguity, but a story without an ending is pushing things a little too far. Nevertheless, Tukmakov is a very experienced grandmaster and a good writer too. He brings his expert attention to bear on each and every game, furnishing them with fine and instructive annotations.

Matters are brought to a halt by FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich, with his message stating that "FIDE cannot continue the tournament without guarantees for the players' and officials' safe and timely return home" and that "the FIDE President decided to stop the tournament." The future of the event remains uncertain. Resuming in September may have seemed like a sensible target at the time, but that plan was scrapped too and now it is mooted for 'Spring 2021'.

There are clearly difficulties with any plan. As Tukmakov puts it: "Even if the second half of the tournament is eventually contested, it would essentially be a completely different tournament." Indeed, it is very hard to imagine playing the second half of a tournament one year after the first.

It is interesting that Thinkers Publishers decided to still publish the book, regardless of the circumstances. Not since the first Karpov-Kasparov match have we seen

anything approaching a similar occurrence. There is still plenty of instructive chess in the book, which serves as a reminder that despite their fears and doubts, the players were fully committed to the chess struggle.

Anyone wanting to learn how to not only keep an advantage, but also make it grow could do a lot worse than study the games of Ian Nepomniachtchi.

I.Nepomniachtchi-Wang Hao Yekaterinburg 2020



White has been tickling the h-pawn at various moments, but the decisive action comes elsewhere.

38 ♖d8!

With threats of both 39 ♖xd4 and 39 ♖d6 mate. Now 38...♗b5 39 a4 doesn't help the situation, so Black tries defending with his queen.

38...♗d7

However, there is a deflection tactic available.

39 f5+! gxf5 40 gxf5 ♖xf5

Unfortunately, the knight has to be sacrificed, otherwise the queen will be lost. First of all, White seizes the opportunity to exchange the queens before capturing the knight.

41 ♖xd7+ ♗xd7 42 ♖xf5 ♗e6 43 ♖e3 1-0

Will this remain a story without an ending, or can we expect to see a sequel next year?

Sean Marsh



Steinitz in London

Tim Harding, 416 pages
McFarland & Co.

RRP £64.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £58.49**

It has been a while since we last saw a McFarland book. Unusually, they had nothing in the ECF Book of the Year contest this year, but I suspect this is because of the ongoing global emergency and its impact on publishers' schedules.

They have certainly returned to action in style, with this long-awaited hardback tome covering the years Wilhelm Steinitz, the first official World Champion, spent in London.

"The book is titled *Steinitz in London* because he lived in the English capital from May 1862 to October 1882; it is both a biography and game collection covering that period." Indeed, "The primary motivation for embarking on the research for this book was to present a chronological account of Steinitz's two decades as an English resident, covering both the development of his chess career and significant life events."

There is a chapter covering Steinitz's early, pre-London days, complete with some rediscovered games from an earlier period (1858-1862), and there is also coverage of the English tournaments in which Steinitz played in 1883, 1895 and 1899, after he had moved to America. However, the bulk of the work is all about his time as a London resident.

The subtitle promises 'A chess biography with 623 games' and according to Harding this "includes more than 50 games the author has found from Steinitz's British period that are not in the standard collections, and 12 others from his Vienna period that have remained in obscurity for over 150 years."

Steinitz arrived in London in May, 1862. Six weeks later he was playing in the London Congress, which was the belated follow-up to the more famous international tournament of 1851. Adolf Anderssen repeated his great success of 11 years prior to this event. Steinitz finished sixth, but four years later he defeated Anderssen in a forerunner to later, official title matches.

The match was close and very exciting. The scores were level at 6-6 after the first 12 games, but Steinitz finished with two consecutive wins to force victory. There were no draws in the match. The result, which surprised many people (not least, Howard Staunton) gave Steinitz a perfect platform from which to launch his future successes. That is not to say it was all plain sailing; Steinitz's life never fell into that category. Indeed, the period 1868-1871 is dubbed Steinitz's 'Difficult Years' in the book. There were no major events, "so he had to earn his living playing amateurs at places like Simpson's Divan and Pursells."

It is a pity that Anderssen never sought a rematch. I didn't realise until reading this book that he never returned to England after 1866. Yet Anderssen was still a very strong player; he went on to record great successes in his fifties, even finishing ahead of Steinitz as he took first place at Baden-Baden in 1870 and beating him twice along the way.

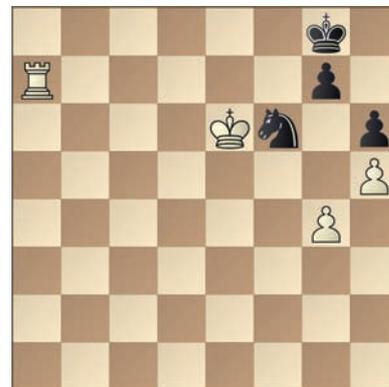
Steinitz was a controversial character and it is hard to find any of his contemporaries offering a neutral observation of either him or his standard of play. He was, of course, more than capable of giving as good as he got, as evidenced by the famous 'ink war' with Zukertort and Hoffer

I enjoyed learning so many new details about the life and games of Steinitz and this

book does a very good job of bringing the times and characters back to life. There is also a lot of great chess too and, despite the antiquity of the games, we can still learn a lot from these pioneering encounters.

W.Steinitz-A.Anderssen

14th matchgame, London 1866



In amongst the swashbuckling play more typical of the era, there are still some instructive endings to be enjoyed. Steinitz played **68 ♖f5?!** and Harding comments: "This does win by force, but slowly. There was a quick kill by the surprising 68 g5!!, e.g. 68...hxg5 (68...♖xh5 69 g6 ♖f4+ 70 ♖f5 forces mate soon) 69 h6 (undermining) 69...♖h5 70 hxg7 ♖xg7+ 71 ♖f6, as tablebases show." Steinitz eventually won on move 85 to seal the match victory.

Now, more than ever, we are in need of escapism. Late-1880s London may not have been such a nice time and place to live, but it is perfect for a visit. Thank you, Mr. Harding.

Sean Marsh

Attacking 101 Volume #005

Joel Johnson, 480 pages, paperback
RRP £39.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £35.95**

The American coach and author continues to examine a number of club player encounters with the aim of helping readers to improve all aspects of their game, not least their attacking play. Johnson tackles some of his own games, as well as others from students and readers, all the while aiming to highlight some key strategies which might help you to score more victories next time you can enter a weekend.



Chess Tales Issue 1

Tobias Hirneise, 72 pages, paperback
RRP £6.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £6.29**

This is a translation of *Rochade Kids*, a German series of child-friendly chess workbooks, which have sold an impressive

25,000 copies. All that is assumed is knowledge of how the pieces move, with this first issue recapping some important basics as the cartoon chess pieces set off on an educational adventure. Fun exercises help to reinforce the key ideas and this might well make a good Christmas present for any young nieces or nephews who have expressed an interest in our favourite game.

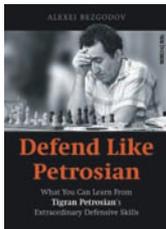


ChessBase Magazine 198

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Garry Kasparov makes a return to the cover of the latest *CBM*, as the German chess giant takes a look at his career in the first half of the 1980s. As such, you can study a classic Beliavsky-Kasparov encounter in the company of Simon Williams, while Dorian Rogozenko analyses Kasparov-Gheorghiu, Moscow 1982. Elsewhere Anish Giri contributes and there are all the normal opening features, including Viktor Moskalenko on Richard Rapport's highly aggressive interpretation of the Stonewall Dutch.

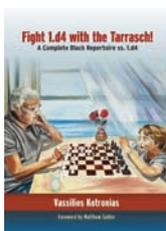


Defend Like Petrosian

Alexey Bezgodov, 272 pages, paperback

RRP £22.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.69**

Works on Petrosian are clearly topical. Just last month Sean Marsh reviewed *Petrosian Year by Year: Volume 1* and now from New in Chess we have a work aimed squarely at the club player which attempts to tackle an often overlooked topic: improving your defence. Of course, Petrosian was a great defender and so Bezgodov is able to use the ninth world champion's games to tackle not just direct defence, but how to hone that ability to snuff out danger in advance and so prophylactically disrupt your opponent's attacking intentions.



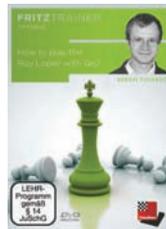
Fight 1.d4 with the Tarrasch!*

Vassilios Kotronias, 384 pages, paperback

RRP £27.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £25.19**

One tends to associate the Greek

Grandmaster and leading theoretician with the King's Indian Defence, but Kotronias has widened his opening repertoire in recent years and here presents a typically detailed look at the Tarrasch Defence, 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3/♗f3 c5. In the main line, 4 cxd5 exd5 5 ♗f3/♗c3 ♗f6 6 g3 ♗c6 7 ♕g2 ♕e7 8 0-0 0-0, it's notable that Kotronias meets 9 ♕g5 with 9...c4, while against 9 dxc5 both 9...♕xc5 and 9...d4 are covered, as, it should be pointed out, are all White's d-pawn system alternatives to an early c4.



How to play the Ruy Lopez with ♖e2

Sergei Tiviakov, PC-DVD;

running time: 6 hours, 30 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Sergei Tiviakov has been meeting 1 e4 e5 with 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♕b5 a6 4 ♕a4 ♗f6 5 0-0 ♕e7 6 ♖e2 nearly all his life. Drawing heavily on the hundreds of games he has played with the Worrall, Tiviakov explains all the key strategic aims and nuances, while mapping out a fairly detailed repertoire for White, and one which should not be too difficult to take up.

Mega Database 2021

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £174.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £157.45**

It's that time of year when ChessBase release the latest versions of their best-selling databases. 'Megabase' now contains some 8.4 million games, of which 85,000 are annotated, and also comes with an update service, meaning a top-up of the latest games each week.

If you'd like to upgrade to *Mega Database 2021* from *Mega Database 2020*, do please just return the disc or quote the existing program key. Such an upgrade costs £64.95 (Subscribers – £58.45), and you can also upgrade from an earlier version of the *Mega Database* for £99.95 (Subscribers – £89.95).

And if annotations aren't for you, it's possible to have all the 8,400,000 games with no annotations in *Big Database 2021*, which is available too from Chess & Bridge for £64.99 or just £58.49 for Subscribers.



Mikhail Botvinnik

Isak & Vladimir Linder,

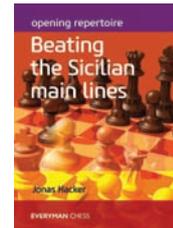
288 pages, paperback

RRP £24.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.49**

Father and son team the Linders continue

to produce high-quality historical works for Russell Enterprises, here tackling the sixth world champion. They shine plenty of light on Botvinnik's life, as well as his scientific approach to chess, while examining too the many ways in which he helped to revolutionise our understanding of the game. There are also 150 of Botvinnik's best games and endings, all annotated by that ever impressive German analyst, Karsten Müller.

Russell Enterprises have also recently released a fifth edition of that modern-day classic *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, revised by Karsten Müller and Alex Fishbein. It now runs to 440 pages and is available from Chess & Bridge for £33.95 (Subscribers – £30.55).



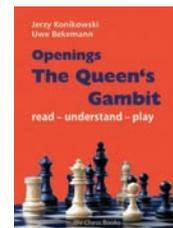
Opening Repertoire:

Beating the Sicilian Main Lines

Jonas Hacker, 384 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

Ever since *Beating the Sicilian* appeared in 1984, repertoires against the Sicilian Defence have proved popular and this work from a well-named German FM may well be no exception. As the cover makes clear, Hacker's focus is the Open Sicilian, although it should be said that after 1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 he goes not for 5 ♗c3, but his pet line, 5 f3. 2...♗c6 is however, countered with 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3, while against the Taimanov, 4...e6, the order of the day is 5 ♗b5 d6 6 c4, setting up a Maroczy Bind.



Openings: The Queen's Gambit

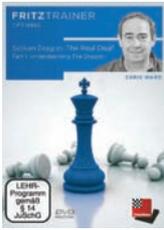
Jerzy Konikowski & Uwe Bekemann,

260 pages, paperback

RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

This is part of a series entitled 'Read – Learn – Play' and is eminently suitable for those fairly new to the game. The German authors presume no real prior knowledge as they explain the key ideas behind each line of the Queen's Gambit with the aim of getting the reader up and running against 1 d4.

Also new from Joachim Beyer Verlag is *Magical Endgames* by Claus Dieter Meyer and Karsten Müller (172 pages, RRP £21.99; Subscribers – £19.79), which takes readers on a fascinating endgame journey into the world of stalemate and zugzwang, presenting a large number of truly astonishing as well as instructive positions.



Sicilian Dragon: The Real Deal! Part 1

Chris Ward, PC-DVD;

running time: 5 hours, 20 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Chris Ward will be forever associated with the Sicilian Dragon and here visits the ChessBase studio to map out a repertoire for Black with his pet opening. In typically lively fashion, Ward devotes this first of two DVDs to explaining all the key ideas which the Dragon aficionado really should be aware of. As such there are plenty of examples of ...♗xc3 and other sacrifices, but more subtle nuances do not go uncovered, be they knowing when to devote a tempo to ...♗e8 or how best to make good use of the black e-pawn.

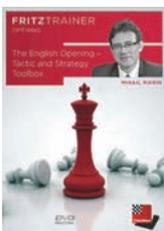


Spurious Games

David Jenkins, 320 pages, paperback

RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

Subtitled 'A Satirical Schachnovelle', this is much more than a simple whodunnit from Troubador, as Jenkins touches on an number of topics with a definite strain of satire running throughout the novel. Will you manage to identify the murderer of a local chessplayer faster than Detective Inspector John Logos of Cornwall's St Borstal Constabulary, who finds himself up against 'The Turk'. Those not from Cornwall or who don't work in the academic field of social programs may not recognise the name of the author, but he did represent Fiji in the 1994 Olympiad and is clearly a keen chessplayer.



The English Opening: Tactic and Strategy Toolbox

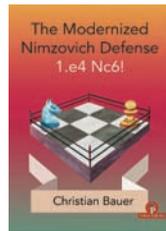
Mihail Marin, PC-DVD;

running time: 5 hours, 30 minutes

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Marin follows up his earlier repertoire for ChessBase with his favourite 1 c4 by explaining some of the key motifs for both sides. Coverage is decidedly interactive, so this DVD will help you master the key points

of the English and will also serve as a good refresher course for fans of *Marin's English Love* series.

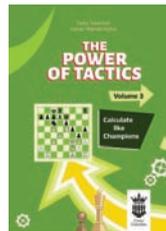


The Modernized Nimzovich Defense 1.e4 Nc6!

Christian Bauer, 264 pages, paperback

RRP £28.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.05**

French Grandmaster Christian Bauer continues to demonstrate why avoiding the main lines can work, not just in his books, but also very much in his own games. Bauer retains a very healthy 2600+ rating while regularly deploying such openings as Tony Miles's old favourite 1 e4 Nc6. Here he maps out a repertoire with the Nimzowitsch which may well resonate with the club player. It is centred around meeting 2 d4 f3 with 2...d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 g6, while against 2 d4 both 2...d5 and 2...e5 are covered.



The Power of Tactics Volume 3

Tadej Sakelsek & Adrian Mikhalchishin,

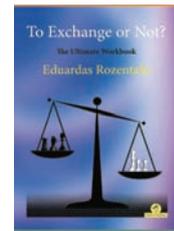
376 pages, paperback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

The subtitle 'Calculate like Champions' reveals much which one needs to know about the final volume in Sakelsek and Mikhalchishin's trilogy. The first two examined every nature of tactical play through the eyes of the seventh world champion, Vassily Smyslov, and his games also feature heavily here. The authors begin by revealing their key tips for calculation before building up from setting some fairly simple positions to solve to tackling a range of quite challenging unexpected opportunities.

If you'd like to purchase this work along with the earlier volumes, 'Tactics according to Smyslov' and 'Become a Tactical Wizard', all three works can be purchased together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £65.00 (Subscribers – £58.50).

In other news from Chess Evolution, *Grivas Opening Laboratory Volume 3* has been released, in which Efstratios Grivas continues to present a 1 d4 and 2 c4 repertoire for White, here tackling the Bogo and Queen's Indians, as well as the Budapest

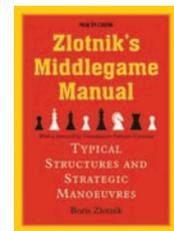


To Exchange or Not?

Eduardas Rozentalis, 192 pages, paperback

RRP £23.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.55**

How much time each evening league game do you spend on weighing up exchanges? A fair amount for sure, but are you always confident you've picked the right pieces to trade and the right ones to retain? Help is at hand from a vastly experienced grandmaster in this 'Ultimate Workbook' on the subject, in which Rozentalis presents a large number of positions, ranging from relatively easy to pretty tough, where you have to decide on the best exchange or the right plan.



Zlotnik's Middlegame Manual

Boris Zlotnik, 400 pages, paperback

RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.25**

Boris Zlotnik might not be a household name in the sense that Mark Dvoretsky became, but it was for his services that Fabiano Caruana's parents relocated from New York to Madrid so that their highly talented 12 year old could learn from one of the greats of the Soviet training empire. Zlotnik relocated to Spain in 1993 having previously served as director of the Chess Department of the INEF College in Moscow. He is a firm believer in understanding a number of key pawn structures and of having a large memory bank of typical middlegame motifs, the most important of which he presents in this expanded, first English edition of his classic Russian training manual.

Kravtsov Solution

28...♗e2!! 29 ♗ae1 ♗d2! ("Now that the white rook has occupied e1, White lacks the defence against mate that we saw in the 28...♗d2? line") 30 ♗xd2 ♗xf4+ 31 ♖h3 ♗e5 and mate is forced.

* – Stock of this item may be limited, so you are advised to contact Chess & Bridge (020 7486 7015 or info@chess.co.uk) prior to making an order.

