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A Long Journey - Michael Adams explains how he won the British



The Best Game - Luke McShane annotates his prize-winning victory



Fantasy and Freedom - Danny Gormally felt inspired at the Scottish

Chess

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Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Editorial | 4 |
| Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game | |
| 60 Seconds with... Andrew Lewis | 7 |
| We catch up with the new British Over-50 Champion | |
| Fantasy and Freedom | 8 |
| Danny Gormally felt inspired as he headed north to the Scottish | |
| A Successful Summer for Nepo | 12 |
| It wasn't Kramnik, but Nepomniachtchi who won in Dortmund | |
| A Roaring Success | 16 |
| More than 700 players descended on Hull for the British | |
| A Long Journey | 18 |
| Michael Adams explains how he battled hard to a sixth British title | |
| Find the Winning Moves | 26 |
| Can you do as well as the players at the British and the Scottish? | |
| The Best Game | 30 |
| Luke McShane analyses his pretty last-round victory in Hull | |
| To Hull and Back | 32 |
| A view from beyond the main event at the British, by Ben Graff | |
| Hull's Hidden Heroes | 34 |
| Bob Jones on the many great 19th Century players from Hull | |
| Never Mind the Grandmasters... | 36 |
| Carl ponders the number of weekend tournaments these days | |
| Forthcoming Events | 39 |
| Where will you be warming up for the new season? | |
| Humans and Chess Software | 40 |
| The emotional side of the story, by Amatzia Avni | |
| How Good is Your Chess? | 42 |
| Inspired by a new book, Daniel King looks at a classic Geller victory | |
| Don't be a Kotov Clone - A Postscript | 46 |
| Steve Giddins discovered more instructive cases of opposite castling | |
| My Favourite Games | 48 |
| Busy chess coach David Levens shares some instructive games | |
| Overseas News | 50 |
| Brits have done well in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Norway & Spain | |
| Home News | 52 |
| 10-year-old Yichen Han defeated Mark Hebden in Telford | |
| Solutions | 54 |
| All the answers to Find the Winning Moves | |
| New Books and Software | 55 |
| Thinkers Publishing have impressed Sean Marsh of late | |
| Saunders on Chess | 58 |
| John enjoyed the British Championship and Shreyas Royal news | |

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Chess Editorial

By Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein

@TelegraphChess

A right Royal result

In 26 years of writing for the magazine I can't recall an issue where I had so much good news to relate at the same time. As UK readers may know, nine-year-old Shreyas Royal, the UK's best junior prospect in a generation, was under the threat of deportation from the UK because his father's Tier 2 five-year work visa had expired.

There is provision under the immigration rules for talented musicians and scientists, as well as sportsmen and women, to be given permission to remain. The ECF, in the form of President Dominic Lawson, Chief Executive Mike Truran and myself as International Director, wrote to the Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP requesting that Shreyas be allowed to stay on account of his extraordinary ability and the fact that he had lived in England since he was three.

During the British Championships we received a reply from Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes MP advising us that under the rules Shreyas was not eligible to be considered, although her letter stated that the precedent we had mentioned, of a musician who was allowed to stay in the UK, was within the rules. I fear the subtext was the same old problem that has bedevilled British chess for decades – chess does not enjoy any status in government. The rules therefore probably did not encompass chess prodigies.

Things looked grim. Ray Keene, in his *Spectator* column of August 11th predicted Shreyas would be deported. At this point the family was faced with having to commit many thousands of pounds to launch an appeal through the courts and with only a very slim chance of success. This, despite the generosity of Simon Harding, an immigration barrister who supported the family pro bono throughout.

It was clear to me that only massive publicity could save the day. The ECF does not have a PR company and so I asked Agency Brazil, who are engaged by Chess in Schools and Communities to promote the London Chess Classic, to devise a PR campaign in support of Shreyas. Again massive thanks are due as they agreed to work pro bono. I also secured the support of Rachel Reeves MP – not difficult, as she is our most steadfast supporter in Parliament. Thanks, indeed, to Rachel and to Shreyas's local MP Matthew Pennycook who weighed in with a joint letter to the Home Secretary.

Agency Brazil got busy. It was a whirlwind week or so, as big pieces appeared in many newspapers, most notably *The Guardian*,



The whole UK chess community could rejoice as the news broke that Home Secretary Sajid Javid had intervened to grant mega-talent Shreyas Royal and his family leave to remain in the UK.

Daily Mail and *The Times*, as well as scores of outlets abroad including the *New York Times*. The general tenor of the coverage was support for the family and bewilderment that the government would allow a talented youngster to be forced to leave the country.

Shreyas had already been interviewed on LBC, but the key was getting him on to the highly influential *Today* programme on Radio 4. Once on, he did brilliantly. This, in addition to the tireless work of Dominic Lawson who has excellent contacts, proved crucial. The whole story went viral. I was actually singing Shreyas's praises on a pre-recorded piece on ITN news when his father Jitendra confirmed that they had received confirmation from the Home Office that the family would be able to extend their visa. In due course they can apply for citizenship.

This was a wonderful outcome and shows that if everyone in British chess works together, we can achieve great things. Thanks are due to everyone involved, but particularly Sajid Javid for his intervention which recognises chess prowess as an asset to the UK.

Despite what must have been terrible pressure, Shreyas had a very successful outing at the British Championships where he scored 5½/9 in the Major Open. He really should be invited to the Championship proper in 2019. Shreyas gained enough rating points to advance to the number two spot in the world under-9 rankings behind American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra, who is rated 2166.

S.Royal-J.Nugith Major Open, Hull 2018 King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6
5 ♗ge2 0-0 6 ♗g3 e5 7 d5 c6 8 ♗e2 a6

Black intends to play ...b7-b5 and now a2-a4 would be well met by ...a5!, when Black secures the b4-square for a knight. Shreyas switches plans.

9 dxc6!? bxc6 10 ♗g5 h6 11 ♗e3 ♔c7
12 ♔d2 h5 13 0-0 ♗e6

13...h4 14 ♗h1 h3 15 g3 c5!? was a possibility with ...♗b8-c6-d4 in reserve, but this plan is also fine.

14 ♗ad1 ♗d8 15 f4



15...♗d8?

There was a hidden resource: 15...exf4 16 exf4 $\text{d}4$, and if 17 exd6 $\text{a}7+$ 18 c5 eh6 ! 19 $\text{d}3$ $\text{d}7$!. Now Shreyas takes full advantage of his advantage in development and preponderance on the kingside.

16 f5! xe3 **17 xe3 $\text{c}8$ 18 fxe3**
fxg6 19 $\text{g}5$ $\text{h}7$



It's time to crash through to the black king.
20 exh5 ! $\text{g}xh5$ 21 hx5 $\text{a}7$ 22 xf6 !

Also very good was 22 $\text{d}f6+$ exf6 23 xf6 $\text{g}7$ 24 h5+ $\text{g}8$ 25 $\text{g}6$.

22... wb6+ 23 h1 $\text{e}7$ 24 df1 $\text{c}7$



And now for a lovely finish.
**25 th6+ ! exh6 26 df6+ eh8 27 wxh6+
 h7 28 hxh7 1-0**

White wins after 28... wxh7 29 wf6+ wg7 30 wd8+ . He could also have won with 25 $\text{d}xg7$ $\text{t}xg7$ 26 th6+ $\text{g}8$ 27 wh4 th7 28 txh7 wxh7 29 xd8+ .

Let's party like its 1986 and 1993

Great news too as I can confirm that both Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana have signed their contracts to play the World Chess Championship final in London this November. The venue will be The College in Holborn, central London. It's within easy reach of all London main line stations and so you may well be able to plan a visit as a day out from much of the UK.

Game 1 is on November 9th and the match will be the best of twelve games with speed chess if required. Game 12, if it's needed, will take place on 26th November



The London Chess Classic will be returning to Google HQ thanks to Demis Hassabis, who is pictured at last year's event joking with Carlsen, Caruana and a certain Garry Kasparov.

with tie-breaks and the closing ceremony on November 28th.

You will note I have omitted the 2000 match from the headline above, which, from an organisational point of view, was a complete fiasco in my opinion. Match organisers AGON/Worldchess will need to redeem their reputation after the poor conditions and website at the Berlin Candidates that were a bad joke. Initial signs are more promising; tickets are on sale via Ticketmaster – see chess.co.uk for a link if you have problems finding it. Worldchess.com has plenty of information including the schedule.

I have seen the venue. Location-wise, it's just perfect. It's actually the old St Martin's College (mentioned in Pulp's hit *Common People*), and from what I could see it's not been used for years. It will be a race against time to get it ready. The playing hall will be in what was formerly the Cochrane Theatre.

If you can't get a ticket or even if you can, Chess & Bridge will be running events on most match days and I believe some London Chess Clubs will be running special activities as well. As there are plenty of free days, I am hoping to organise some tournaments and blitz on-site. Watch this space and I look forward to meeting many of our readers in London.

You will have two weeks to recover from the world championship, then it will be...

The 10th London Chess Classic! (December 10th - 17th)

All arrangements are in place and the Classic will be more extensive than ever before, with the main event split between DeepMind HQ at Google in King's Cross and Olympia. We won't know which four players

from the Grand Chess Tour will make it to the GCT Finals until after the end of the Sinquefield Cup. Following the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz the standings and winnings were:

GRAND CHESS TOUR

Current Standings

| | | |
|--------------------|----|------------|
| 1. Nakamura | 33 | (\$90,000) |
| 2. Vachier-Lagrave | 25 | (\$60,000) |
| 3. Karjakin | 24 | (\$57,500) |
| 4. So | 23 | (\$65,000) |
| 5. Aronian | 19 | (\$40,000) |
| 6. Mamedyarov | 15 | (\$35,000) |
| 7. Grischuk | 12 | (\$25,000) |
| 8. Caruana | 11 | (\$30,000) |
| 9. Anand | 9 | (\$25,000) |

The Sinquefield Cup scores higher than the three events so far at Paris, Leuven and St. Louis, as it's Classical Chess. Theoretically, any of the 9 can still qualify or not qualify, but Nakamura has probably bought his ticket, while sadly Anand's chances are very slim indeed.

The London Chess Classic Festival will take place at Olympia and you can enter one of the many events or buy spectator tickets for the GCT Finals via LondonChessClassic.com.

More details next time.

Magnus makes a statement

As I write, the Sinquefield Cup is underway at Saint Louis where both Caruana and Carlsen are playing. Caruana had a decent showing at the GCT Rapid and Blitz Event that immediately preceded the Sinquefield Cup, suggesting that if the match goes to a tie-break, he won't be as much of an underdog as many have suggested. In round two of the Sinquefield Cup Carlsen 'replied' with a signature game.

M. Carlsen-S. Karjakin
St. Louis 2018



Perhaps White is marginally better, but rather than try to play for g4-g5, Magnus sacrificed the exchange and set Karjakin huge problems which he summed up as follows: "After that it should be a draw, but it's awfully unpleasant, of course."

37 fxd5 gxd5 38 fxd5

White has a pawn for the exchange, a solid structure, potentially mobile pawns with e2-e4-e5 or g4-g5 both possible, and, most importantly, two weak black pawns to aim at. Carlsen cleverly provoked the crisis just before the time control and gave Karjakin a huge decision to make with limited time.

Perhaps Black should not have given up a second pawn straight away, but it's easy to see why 38...c8 39 d6 a7 40 e4 cc7 was unattractive. This goes completely passive and it appears White can slowly improve his position, but perhaps Black can try to defend by offering the exchange of rooks whenever possible.

38...g6 39 c5 h8 40 g3 b6 41 xc4

h1 42 c7 c1 43 d7 c6 44 a4!



Now a4-a5 will, of course, be highly beneficial, fixing a6, getting closer to a8 and making b6 something else Black has to worry about.

44...g1+ 45 f2 a1 46 a5 a4 47 g3

ac4 48 a7 e6 49 e4 c8 50 d7

ec6 51 f4! 52 c7

Instead, 51...xc3+ 52 bxc3 xc3+ 53 h4

a3 54 f5+ h6 55 g5+! fxg5+ 56 g4

xa5 57 d6+ h7 58 xg5 a1 59 e5



Photo: Lennart Ootes

Mickey Adams headlined the British Championships in Hull. Adams went clear on 6/7, but ultimately had to battle hard to win a play-off over Luke McShane, as he reveals later in these pages.

g8 60 d8+ g7 61 e6+ e7 62 d7+ f8 63 f7+ g8 64 f4 e1 65 a7 f8

66 xa6, or here 54 e5 fe5 55 f5+ f6

56 d6+ f7 57 xa6 looks very good.

52 f5+ g7 53 d8 c8 54 d3 e8 55 d4

c7 56 f4 ce7 57 c4 h6 58 f3 d7

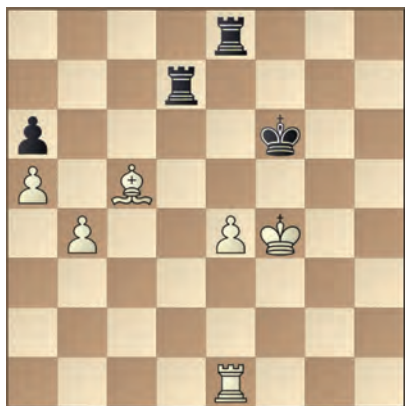
59 d4 h7 60 b4 d6 61 e3 h6

62 c1 h7 63 b6 d7 64 c5 ed8

65 h1+ g8 66 f4 e8 67 e1 g5+!

Otherwise g4-g5 occurs.

68 fxg6 g7 69 g5 xg6 70 gxf6 xf6



In practice, playing only on delay, this is very difficult to defend.

71 h1 f7 72 e3 e6 73 h4 f6 74 h7

f7 75 h5 d7 76 e5 f1 77 e4 c6?

77...e6 78 d5 d1+ 79 d4 g6

80 h7+ d8 81 a7? g4 wins, but 81 e6

g4 82 d7+ e8 83 c5 shows how hard this position is to defend and by now the players were down to the 30-second delay per move each move.

78 h6+ b5 79 b6+ c4 80 e6!

And not 80 xa6? e1+ when Black would have escaped with a draw.

80...e1+ 81 f5 f1+ 82 e5 e1+

83 f6 f1+ 84 g7 a8 85 e7 e1

86 f7 e4 87 d6 h8 88 xa6 1-0

A signature Carlsen victory, taking just under seven hours.

Ice cool Mickey

Mickey Adams had not lost a game at the British Championships in 30 years until Luke McShane tricked him in a lost position during their tie-break battle in Hull. Mickey's record in classical games at the British remains intact.

Mickey first won the British at Plymouth in 1989 and recovered his composure to take his sixth title in Hull. We are delighted he has annotated some games for us – see the full report inside. England's number one took home the £10,000 first prize put up by Capital Developments, Luke took home £5,000, and Jovanka Houska won her eighth Women's title. Such is her dominance that I guess it won't be long before she breaks Rowena Bruce's record of 11 titles won between 1937 and 1969.

Find the Winning Moves

24 puzzles to test your tactical ability, with, as ever, the positions grouped in rough order of difficulty. The games come from various recent events, including the British and Scottish Championships. Don't forget that whilst sometimes the key move will force mate or the win of material, other times it will just win a pawn.

Solutions on page 54.



Warm-up Puzzles



(1) M.Nepveu-D.McCormack
Scottish Championship, Paisley 2018
Black to Play



(2) H.Nakamura-F.Caruana
Paris (rapid) 2018
White to Play



(3) S.Potter-D.Stephenson
Leamington Spa 2018
White to Play



(4) C.Bauer-M.Apicella
Cannes (rapid) 2018
White to Play



(5) W.So-A.Giri
Leuven (rapid) 2018
White to Play



(6) R.Praggnanandhaa-W.So
Leon (rapid) 2018
White to Play

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This Month's New Releases



Improve Your Practical Play in the Middlegame

Alexey Dreev, 204 pages
Thinkers Publishing

RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**

‘Study endings!’ is standard advice from top players, but club players usually prefer to use their preparation time on trying to learn as many opening variations as they can. Yet there is a third area of the game which tends to slip through the net of preparation and this book attempts to inspire renewed attention in that department. “The opening is over and you’re out of preparation – now that you’re on your own, how can you improve your handling of these new positions?”

The author “Believes that through careful reading and study of his book, any player regardless of level will significantly improve their skills.” Dreev certainly has impressive credentials – trainer of world champions Ponomarev and Kramnik, Olympiad gold medallist, respected writer – and his long-term experience at the highest levels of chess make him an ideal candidate to pen an instructional book.

There are six chapters, with the first five offering mini-lessons on specific themes and with the final one combining motifs. The chapter titles tell the reader exactly what to expect, namely: Moves back, The Defence, The Comparison, Pawn sacrifice, Danger and initiative, and A mixture of subjects. Each chapter follows the trusty formula of annotated illustrative games (or partial games) followed by exercises and then annotated solutions.

All of the chapters offer very interesting material and thought-provoking ideas. In The Comparison, Dreev highlights the art of spotting the (often subtle) differences between similar-looking moves. This is precisely where numerous club players could improve their own game so it is a good chapter to study.

As Dreev explains, “If you compare chess and life, you’ll be familiar with the feeling of uncertainty when faced with the choice between two options that seem similar.” Furthermore, “It’s a skill you can train, as with all chess skills. First, you should be attentive to the little things; from them you can judge

the more important ones.”

“Chess players of a high level understand that it is not necessary to make only the strongest moves. Sometimes it’s more important to give your opponent the problem of choice; even if he doesn’t make a mistake, he will probably invest a lot of time, strength and energy in choosing, which may affect the future course of the game. We are not talking about bluffing when our move can be refuted, even in a complicated way. I do not recommend bluffing in equal positions. A bluff is justified, in my opinion only in bad positions.”

It is an interesting subject and most of the examples are quite deep and difficult. The following is the easiest to understand.

D.Nguyen-A.Dreev Jakarta 2013



“It is obvious that Black needs to put a rook on the open file, but which one? Playing intuitively can lead to a mistake.” Understanding that White is limbering up for the plan of improving the position of the knight with ♘c3-a4-c5, Dreev played **11...♗ac8**, noting that the similar 11...♗fc8 would have been a mistake. This is because after the game move, 12 ♘a4?! can be met by 12...♗xd4!, which exploits the overloaded white queen, which needs to defend both a4 and c1. If the other black rook had gone to c8 then White would have been able to meet 12...♗xd4 with 13 ♗xc8+, with the check making all the difference. Black now achieved easy equality after **12 ♗d2 ♗fd8 13 ♗fd1 ♗e8 14 h3 a6** and eventually went on to win.

I like this book, especially as it is an attempt to offer something different to the norm. This is typical of the publisher, whose recent prolific output has produced plenty of interesting books. The editing aspect has been tightened up considerably too.

Club players will need to work hard to

derive maximum benefit from the material on offer, but in the long run such efforts prove much more beneficial than cramming the latest Najdorf theory into the short-term memory.

Sean Marsh

The Full English Opening

Carsten Hansen, 464 pages
New in Chess

RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

Citing Viktor Korchnoi – “A fighter. This appealed to me, and he played 1 c4” – as his inspiration for taking up the English Opening, Hansen presents a book he hopes will dive “Into the concepts that are fundamental for playing the English Opening well” and states quite clearly that “This is not a book on opening theory” and “Is not to serve you, dear reader, with a pre-determined, narrow repertoire”, but rather “I would like you to close this book with the feeling that you actually understand what ideas lie behind the individual variations, why certain moves are being played, and what the players are aiming for.”

Subtitled ‘Mastering the Fundamentals’, the book is split into three parts: 1 c4 e5; Symmetrical English; and Indian, Slav, Dutch. Most chapters conclude with a small number of test positions. Throughout Hansen takes a very broad-stroke approach. For instance, in the English Four Knights (1 c4 e5 2 ♖c3 ♗f6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6), he offers a little coverage of White’s lesser-played options (4 a3, 4 d3 and others) before turning his attention to the main line Reversed Dragon (4 g3 d5 – a popular choice at all levels).

Here is one of the exercises from the Reversed Dragon section.

T.Markowski-M.Mozny Odorheiu Secuiesc 1995



“Black has just played 12...♗d5. How

should White continue?"

The instructive answer involves un-stereotypical thinking from White. "12 ...d5 looks like a natural move for Black, but in this and similar positions it runs into a remarkable refutation that is surprisingly often missed." That is **13 ♘xd5! ♙xd5 14 e3 ♙e6 15 exd4 ♗xd4 16 ♖de4 ♗ad8 17 ♙e3 ♗xd3 18 ♗xd3 ♗xd3** "And now the simplest continuation would have been 19 ♗fd1 ♗fd8 20 ♙c5 with a large advantage for White." True enough, but in the actual game White continued inaccurately with **19 ♗fc1!** allowing Black to seize control of c5 with **19...b6** and the game was drawn after 48 moves.

There is some sound advice along the way, which in some cases flies refreshingly in the face of modern convention. For example, Chapter 11 is a short one, but it deals with the question "Why 2 g3?". This has relevance because several English repertoire sources prefer this approach to the traditional 2 ♖c3. Hansen opines the main reason is to prevent 2 ...b4, but at the cost of robbing White of some of the more pointed lines against other variations, concluding that "2 g3 is the kind of move that White should really only play if he feels or knows that Black will likely play 2...b4 and the first player is uncomfortable playing this variation."

The approach of remaining within the realms of the English Opening rather than switching to a mainline 1 d4 opening at convenient moments is consistent throughout the book, which means players with the black pieces may find it more difficult to navigate their way through what essentially will be side lines against their pet defences. Grünfeld practitioners, for example, cannot rattle off 20 moves of theory if the game starts 1 c4 ♖f6 2 ♖c3 g6 3 ♖f3 d5 4 cxd5 ♖xd5 5 ♗a4+ ♙d7 6 ♗h4.

Similarly, after 1 c4 e6 White has the option of steering clear of transpositions to the Queen's Gambit by opting for the Reti-like 2 ♖f3 d5 3 g3. One is not going to set the world alight with this approach and there is no doubt that 1 c4 e6 2 ♖c3 d5 3 d4 offers a well-prepared player more opportunities to gain an opening advantage, but any player building up a wealth of experience with such less critical lines will develop a real feel for the relevant strategies involved. In any case, anyone unhappy with the quiet Reti approach will have more fun with the more aggressive Flohr-Mikenas Attack (1 c4 ♖f6 2 ♖c3 e6 3 e4), which also receives coverage.

The author's own experiences inform the material on offer and he freely admits to earlier prejudices, based on the fear of certain lines, such as the Dutch. "When I started out playing the English Opening, I was deadly afraid of set-ups where Black played ...f7-f5 right away, and especially if they played it immediately. To me, this indicated a level of fearlessness that I was unsure I would be able to handle, and I literally pictured myself going down in a mating attack."

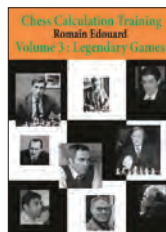
Times changed and Hansen changed his

way of thinking, inspired by Petrosian, who was always more than happy to play against an early ...f5 and found some antidotes. Here, we see the familiar "Ramming of the Stonewall" where White plays d2-d3 and an early e2-e4 among a selection of other Dutch-dodging ideas, one of which the author originally thought he had pioneered. It starts 1 c4 f5 2 ♖c3 e6 3 e4 fxe4 4 ♖xe4 ♖f6 and now 5 ♙d3 "Which I thought was my own invention when I played it more than 30 years ago in a local club tournament, but it turns out that Staunton had played it some 130 years before me."

The desire to offer some information on virtually every line of the English represents a bold attempt and has resulted in a chunky book. The illustrative games are not presented whole, but an assessment is giving when the moves tail off. The addition of a small number of complete, model games at the start of the book would have been very useful, enabling the reader to fully appreciate the flow of the games and to see how the various strategies and advantages pan out.

Nevertheless, there is a lot of very informative material in this book to make good its claim that "*The Full English Opening* teaches the fundamentals and is the first one-volume book that covers all major variations." It makes an excellent and highly accessible starting point for club and tournament players wanting to add this flexible and effective opening to their repertoires.

Sean Marsh



Chess Calculation Training Volume 3: Legendary Games

Romain Edouard, 270 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

The French Grandmaster continues his quest to improve readers' calculation skills by supplying them with a large number of test positions. Across 15 chapters and some 480 positions Edouard looks at such topics as attack and defence, as well as less common ones like hidden moves. The material is chiefly drawn from before the year 2000, but aided by computer assistance Edouard has found some instructive new ideas in even a few famous games. Fans of the classics will recognise some positions while still finding plenty of new ones too, even in the four chapters devoted to Fischer, Karpov, Kasparov and Kramnik.

Chess Miniatures in the Ruy Lopez Main Lines

Carsten Hansen, 302 pages, paperback
RRP £12.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £11.69**

As well as producing detailed works on the English for New in Chess, the Danish FM

continues to turn out titles in his *Chess Miniatures* series. Here the aim is to entertain and inspire the reader with a collection of well-analysed short games, all of which begin with 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♖f6 5 0-0. The theoretical coverage is by no means comprehensive in places, rather Hansen hopes that the interested reader will go away and research further, while picking up some new ideas along the way.

Also new in this series produced by Russell Enterprises is *Chess Miniatures in the Sicilian Najdorf*, which runs to 300 pages and also retails at £12.99 (Subscribers – £11.69). Notably this work has impressed Magnus Carlsen's second, Peter Heine Nielsen, who comments: "An opening book based only on miniatures? Perhaps it sounds odd at first, but it works well in the sharp Najdorf." There's also *Chess Miniatures in the Queen's Indian 4.g3*, which runs to 318 pages and is available too for £12.99 or £11.69 for Subscribers.

Please note too that if you really like your miniatures, all three of these new books in the *Chess Miniatures* series are available together from Chess & Bridge for the special price of £36 or just £32.40 for Subscribers.



ChessBase Magazine 185

ChessBase PC-DVD

RRP £17.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.15**

The latest issue of *CBM* is for 'August/September 2018' and presents coverage of Norway, Poikovsky and the opening events of the 2018 Grand Chess Tour. Highlights include Peter Heine Nielsen explaining the fine strategic performance of his boss in Carlsen-Aronian – is the fabled Berlin Wall beginning to crumble? There are also 11 theoretical surveys, including Igor Stohl's promotion for White of the Exchange variation against the Caro-Kann.



Gambit Killer

Ivan Salgado Lopez, 208 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £23.35**

Just like Alexey Dreev's *Improve Your Practical Play in the Middlegame*, as reviewed above, this is another original and refreshing work from Thinkers Publishing. The Spanish Grandmaster aims to help the 1 d4 player slay the most common gambits they encounter and there is unsurprisingly some overlap with

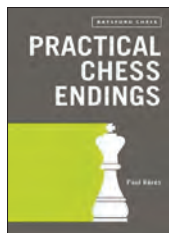
Andrew Martin's latest DVD – see below. Salgado Lopez looks at the likes of the Blumenfeld, Budapest, Albin and Von Hennig-Schara, while aiming to present everything in as user-friendly a format as possible. As such, in each chapter he begins with the basics, looks at some instructive games and supplies a quick outline of his recommended approach ahead of tackling the theory head on.



Meeting the Gambits Vol. 1 & Vol.2

Andrew Martin, PC-DVD
SPECIAL PRICE £52.00

Last month we previewed Andrew Martin's latest ChessBase DVD, *Meeting the Gambits Vol 2*, and that is now available from Chess & Bridge along with *Meeting the Gambits Vol 1* for the special price of £52 or just £46.80 for Subscribers. Volume 1 demonstrates how Black should meet White's more common gambits after 1 e4, while Volume 2 takes a look at how the 1 d4 and 2 c4 player should meet Black's various gambit responses.



Practical Chess Endings

Paul Keres, 352 pages, paperback
 RRP £16.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £15.29**

Kudos to Batsford for releasing an algebraic version of this classic endgame work. The legendary Estonian Grandmaster was always very good at explaining the key points and throughout keeps the practical player very much in mind. There is coverage of all the major endings, but it is rarely overly theoretical, even when Keres discusses certain positions which one really must simply know, such as the third-rank defence.



Multiple Choice Chess 1 & 2

Graeme Buckley, 330 pages, paperback
 RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Everyman continue to package up some of their old best-selling works. Here *Multiple Choice Chess* and *Multiple Choice Chess Volume Two* are supplied under the same cover. In both the English IM and experienced teacher takes

readers through some well-chosen games, challenging them to pick from a short-list of four options on most turns. In a similar way to our very popular *How Good is Your Chess?* feature, readers can then add up their scores and see which category they fall into.

Also new from Everyman Chess are *Great Games by Chess Legends Volume 3*, which packages up Craig Pritchett's *Giants of Innovation* and *Great Chess Romantics* and runs to 608 pages, while retailing at £19.99 or £17.99 for Subscribers. There's also *Mastering the Opening and Middlegame*, which features popular works by Byron Jacobs and Angus Dunnington, while running to 320 pages and retailing at £17.99 or £16.19 for Subscribers.



Smash the Sicilian with the Smith-Morra Gambit

Michael Rahal, PC-DVD,
 running time: 4 hours, 5 minutes
 RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

The Morra Gambit, 1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3, remains a dangerous enough weapon at club level and the Spanish IM presents lively coverage in his first DVD for ChessBase. All of Black's main defences are examined with, for example, 3...dxc3 4 dxc3 5 dxf3 d6 6 dxc4 a6 7 0-0 dxf6 met by 8 dxf4. It should be very easy to pick up White's main ideas and lines from the coverage, although there is a slight lack of references featuring Rahal's own games, as well as material on how White should respond when Black declines the Morra.



The Tarrasch Defence

Erwin L'Ami, PC-DVD, running time: 7 hours
 RRP £26.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.25**

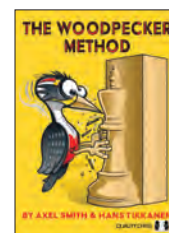
The strong Dutch Grandmaster certainly hasn't skimped on his coverage of the dynamic 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 dxc3/df3 c5. The Tarrasch isn't overly popular these days, but as L'Ami shows Black's active piece play could easily score well at all levels. He begins by presenting the key ideas for both sides while discussing such important issues as appreciating when it's best to retain the tension. The theoretical coverage is pretty impressive for a DVD, L'Ami revealing several new ideas, while electing to meet the main line 4 cxd5 exd5 5 df3/dc3 dc6 6 g3 df6 7 dg2 de7 8 0-0 0-0 9 dg5 with 9...c4.



The Exchange Queen's Gambit for Black

Tibor Károlyi, 280 pages, paperback
 RRP £22.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.65**

One of White's easiest-to-play and most popular lines after 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 is the Exchange variation, 3 dxc3 df6 4 cxd5 exd5. The Hungarian IM had earlier looked at 4...dxd5 in his recent *Play the Semi-Tarrasch – Part 1*, but here his focus is firmly on the classical and common recapture, 4...exd5. Coverage is certainly comprehensive, with both White's lesser tries and the main line, 5 dg5 c6 6 e3, receiving plenty of coverage. There Károlyi opts for 6...dxf5, and if 7 fxf3 dg6 8 dxf6 gxf6 9 fxf6 gxf6, which is both solid and also gives chances to outplay White in the resulting unbalanced middlegame. This line had been under a slight cloud since Kramnik was dispatched by Carlsen when trying it, but Károlyi found improvements and then, since he finished his work, when Kramnik switched sides Black held easily enough in Kramnik-Nisipeanu at Dortmund.



The Woodpecker Method

Axel Smith & Hans Tikkanen,
 392 pages, hardback
 £26.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £24.29**

This new work from Quality Chess was certainly popular at the recently held British Championships, possibly due to its title. What is the Woodpecker Method? It turns out that it is the name given by Axel Smith to a training system developed by his compatriot and co-author Hans Tikkanen. We learn too that, most impressively, "After training with his method in 2010, Tikkanen achieved three GM norms within a seven-week period." The basic ethos is to solve a large number of puzzles, then go through them all again, and then once again. Unsurprisingly various key motifs become logged in the subconscious and one may also begin to calculate faster. Clearly hard work is required, but for those willing to put it in, the Swedish Grandmasters have supplied 1,100 positions and solutions – to be solved over and over again.

