Sergey Karjakin (Russia) 2760 Elo
The loser of the 2016 World Championship

Levon Aronian (Armenia) 2805 Elo
& Ding Liren (China) 2777 Elo
Qualified via the 2017 Chess World Cup

Shak Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan) 2799 Elo
& Alexander Grischuk (Russia) 2772 Elo
 Qualified via the FIDE Grand Prix 2017

Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2799 Elo
& Wesley So (USA) 2788 Elo
Qualified via their FIDE rating

Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) 2787 Elo
Organiser’s Wildcard

MEET THE CANDIDATES
BUT WHO WILL EMERGE TO CHALLENGE CARLSEN?

William J. Lombardy - John Henderson pays tribute to an American Great

The Christmas Quiz - Charles Higgie’s entertaining festive challenge

AlphaZero - DeepMind’s baby learns chess and crushes Stockfish
Contents

Editorial .................................................................................................................. 4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments in the game

60 Seconds with...Mikhail Golubev ................................................................. 7
The Ukrainian Grandmaster and journalist has a new book out

Candidate Clarity? ............................................................................................... 8
Steve Giddins watched the final leg of the Grand Prix unfold

How Good is Your Chess? .................................................................................... 12
Daniel King looks at how to counter a critical test of the QGD

The Life and Sad Endgame of Bill Lombardy .............................................. 16
John Henderson pays tribute to an American great

A New Year Resolution ....................................................................................... 21
Sean Marsh has some help for those chess new year resolutions

Unbeatable? ........................................................................................................... 24
Can anyone stop Guildford as they go for a sixth 4NCL title in a row?

Find the Winning Moves ..................................................................................... 26
Some fiendish puzzles to keep you busy over the festive period

Blackmore vs Fedden ......................................................................................... 30
Lorna Doone's author was a keen chess player; Bob Jones explains

The Phoenix Chess Project ................................................................................ 33
After the horrific Grenfell fire, some uplifting news from west London

The Christmas Quiz ............................................................................................ 34
Test your chess knowledge with Charles Higgie's festive offering

Never Mind the Grandmasters ........................................................................ 36
Carl Portman paid £85 to attend the 1993 world championship

Never Crowned .................................................................................................... 40
Milos Pavlovic looks at some of the strongest non-world champions

Forthcoming Events ............................................................................................ 42
Where will be your first chess in 2018?

Full Steam Ahead ............................................................................................... 43
Matthew Lunn reports from the USIC Six Nations railway tournament

Home News ........................................................................................................... 47
The start of the London Chess Classic and a special blitz tournament

Overseas News ................................................................................................. 52
Success for Luke McShane, Nigel Short and, of course, Magnus Carlsen

Solutions .............................................................................................................. 54

New Books and Software ................................................................................... 55
Our reviewers have enjoyed works on Beliavsky and the King's Indian

Saunders on Chess .............................................................................................. 58
John has a plan to deal with the amount of draws at the top level

Photo credits: Lana Afandiyeva (p.9) Agon (p.8), Calle Erlandsson (p.12), Pia Fransson (p.16), Bob Jones (p.47, lower), Lennart Ootes (pp 10, 25, 48–50, 53, 58), Carl Portman (p.51, lower), U.S. Chess Federation (p.17, lower left).
One of the supreme joys of working on the railway is its rich sense of tradition, which gives you a wonderful feeling of comradeship with your colleagues. The USIC Six Nations tournament celebrates this in excellent style, as the dubious talents of Europe’s finest chess-playing rail professionals are put to the test in a convivial all-play-all team event.

As one of a small pool of eligible chess players, I had the fine, but rather misleading honour of representing Great Britain, along with Graham Bolt, Will Taylor, John Bass, Richard Cowan, Tony Lee, Trevor Jones and Mike Broad (our non-playing captain) at this year’s event in Kozanov, a Czech mountain village close to the border with Poland. Along with the Czechs, who boasted two FMs in their ranks, we would face a strong German side and experienced teams from Austria, Belgium and Switzerland.

The event followed the format of the classic Swiss weekender, with a round the first evening and two on each of the remaining days. These first rounds rarely find one in the best of form, and the two-hour drive from Prague offered little room for preparation, aside from Will and the two-hour drive from Prague offered little room for preparation, aside from Will

Round One: Austria vs. Great Britain

Drawn against Austria in Round 1, we got oﬀ to a ﬂier, with Richard’s opponent committing hara-keri in the middlegame, allowing a mate in one. Tony’s game took a strange turn when his opponent, having begun to execute a winning plan, played an alternative that lost a piece.

Notes by Will Taylor

Round 2: GB vs. Switzerland

Round 2 was not a smooth victory, but it put us in extremely good spirits. The same thing could not be said of the realisation that Round 2 would begin at 08:30, a timetable which speaks of a punctuality that most railways could only dream of. I arrived at my board punch-drunk from little sleep, yet it was my Swiss opponent whose play suffered in the early hours.

Round 2 London System

1 d4 Qf6 2 Qf3 g6 3 Qf4 g7 4 e3 0-0
5 h3 d6 6 Qe2 c5 7 c3 Qc6

Ever since Andrew Green taught me this line in the late noughties, I’ve looked forward to facing the London System. If you’re a King’s Indian player, I highly recommend this set-up, which is great fun to play and easy to learn.

8 dxc5

This felt like an unambiguous move, but it has been essayed by a number of strong players, including Seirawan and Speelman. 8...Qc8! 9 Qxd8 Qxd8 10 Qb2 Qc6
I now realised that I had no idea how to meet $\mathcal{Q}x5$.

11 $\mathcal{Q}e5$?

A reasonable positional move, with a horrible tactical flaw. In the blitz tournament that took place after the fourth round I faced Thomas again, and he wisely opted for 11 $\mathcal{Q}g5$, outplaying me in the middlegame. In fact after the natural 11... $\mathcal{Q}d7$ 12 $\mathcal{Q}c4$ (or 12 $\mathcal{Q}c7$ $\mathcal{Q}d8$ 13 $\mathcal{Q}h2$ $h6$ 14 $\mathcal{Q}gf3$ $\mathcal{Q}d5$ and Black had a comfortable game in Mensinger-Timman, Willemstad 2003) 12...$\mathcal{Q}e8$ 13 0-0 0-0 $\mathcal{Q}d5$ with... $\mathcal{Q}d5$ to follow is very reasonable for Black.

11...$\mathcal{Q}xe5$ 12 $\mathcal{Q}xe5$ $\mathcal{Q}xd2$!

This idea is not the sort one expects to encounter in the opening, and therefore would be quite easy to miss first thing in the morning. Played immediately, and I’m slightly concerned that I didn’t analyse 13...$\mathcal{Q}xb2$, which is even more convincing than the text.

14 $\mathcal{Q}xe2$ $\mathcal{Q}xf6$

However, it is simple enough to convert from here, and I did, eventually.

Richard won quickly against an opponent who essayed an ill-advised 3 $c4$ $\mathcal{Q}f4$ in the Alekhine, whilst Tony’s opponent blundered two pawns early on and things went downhill from there. John and Will were both unable to extract anything from their advantages, though Will went closest, reaching a promising ending, but opting for the wrong plan. Graham’s topsy-turvy game looked to be heading for a draw, before his opponent fell for a well-timed psychological trick.

White has been manoeuvring for the last 30 moves, and Black has held on gamely in spite of his time trouble. Yet Graham has one last roll of the dice:

73 $\mathcal{Q}xe4$?

Banking on his opponent seeing ghosts, and believing that the knight is immune from capture. 73...$\mathcal{Q}e6$+

Allowing White’s king to occupy some valuable squares, making Black’s job a lot harder. After 73...$\mathcal{Q}e6$+

Missing White’s tactical shot. 75 $\mathcal{Q}g7$ is forced, though White can keep pressing with $76\mathcal{Q}f5$.

76 $\mathcal{Q}g8$

Winning the h-pawn, and with it the game (1-0, 90).

We were briefly top of the table, but our celebrations were tempered by the prospect of consecutive matches against the Czechs and the Germans, both of whom would put us at a significant rating disadvantage. With the Czechs having beaten the Germans in Round 1, our third round clash was critical.

Notes by Richard Cowan

The UK Railsport team pictured outside their hotel on the Czech-Poland border. From left to right: Tony Lee, Richard Cowan, Graham Bolt, Michael Broad, Trevor Jones, Matthew Lunn, John Bass and Will Taylor accompanied by the hotel hound.

Round 3: Czech Republic vs. GB

49...$\mathcal{Q}b8$!

The only move worth playing. Although 49...h3? looks tempting, it is definitely a bad plan. 50 $\mathcal{Q}xd6$ h2 51 $b7$ $h1$ $\mathcal{Q}$ 52 $\mathcal{Q}c5$! (not 52 $b8$ $\mathcal{Q}$ $f1+$ 53 $\mathcal{Q}b7$ $\mathcal{Q}$xf2 54 $\mathcal{Q}$xf5+ exf5 55 $\mathcal{Q}$e5+ and it’s only a draw) 52...$\mathcal{Q}h8$ (or 52...$\mathcal{Q}b1$? 53 $\mathcal{Q}b5+$ $\mathcal{Q}f6$ 54 $b8$ $\mathcal{Q}$ 53 $\mathcal{Q}a7$! and White is winning).

50 $\mathcal{Q}c5+$ $\mathcal{Q}f6$

Definitely the best square, as shown by 50...$\mathcal{Q}f7$ 51 $\mathcal{Q}d6$ h3 52 $\mathcal{Q}xb8$ f4 53 $\mathcal{Q}d6+$ $\mathcal{Q}e7$ 54 $b7$ h2 55 $\mathcal{Q}e4$ h1 $\mathcal{Q}$ 56 $\mathcal{Q}d6$.

51 $\mathcal{Q}d6$ f4??

I miscalculate at a crucial moment. I should
have boldly played 51...\texttt{xd6}! 52 \texttt{xd6} h3 53 b7 h2 54 b8\texttt{h1#}.

Based on this match, we shouldn’t be worried about the age of our railway employees (right).

Now:

a) 55 \texttt{d4} \texttt{g6} 56 \texttt{e8}+ \texttt{g5} 57 \texttt{xe6} \texttt{xf1}+ 58 \texttt{g7} \texttt{xf3} 59 \texttt{d4} \texttt{e2}+ (59... \texttt{e3}+ 60 \texttt{exe3}! \texttt{xe3} is unfortunately just a draw) 60 \texttt{b7} leads to a draw: 60...\texttt{g6} 61 \texttt{g7}+ \texttt{h5} 62 \texttt{xe5} \texttt{xf4} 63 \texttt{e7} \texttt{b2}+ 64 \texttt{a8} \texttt{b6!} and White has nothing better than to take one of the many repetitions on offer.

b) 55 \texttt{b2}+ \texttt{g6} 56 \texttt{e8} \texttt{f7} 57 \texttt{d6}+ \texttt{g8} 58 \texttt{b3} \texttt{d4} 59 \texttt{xf5} \texttt{c1} is unclear, although this position should be easier for Black to play due to his safer king.

c) 55 \texttt{e8}+ \texttt{g6} 56 \texttt{e5} \texttt{f1}+ 57 \texttt{d6} \texttt{f2}+ 58 \texttt{b5} \texttt{xf3} 59 \texttt{e7}+ \texttt{h5} 60 \texttt{xe7}+ \texttt{h4} 61 \texttt{xe6} \texttt{f4} 62 \texttt{d6} \texttt{ad3}+ 63 \texttt{c5} \texttt{e3} 64 \texttt{a4} and this probably peter out to a draw, though it would have been slightly hair-raising to play for both players.

52 \texttt{xb8} h3 53 \texttt{d6} \texttt{e1}

53...h2 54 \texttt{e4}+ \texttt{g5} 55 \texttt{f2}! is the move I had missed, and unfortunately for the GB team it was crucial.

54 \texttt{e4}+ \texttt{f5} 55 \texttt{xf4} \texttt{xf3}

Or 55...\texttt{xf4} 56 b7 h2 and then either 57 b8\texttt{h1#} or 57 \texttt{c2}. The game is now over, although I played on for a few moves simply because my opponent was playing on the increment, and I was annoyed at myself for playing 51...\texttt{f4}.

\textbf{Round 4: Great Britain vs. Germany}

First place was now out of our hands, but we knew a result against the Germans would give us a good chance of second or third, which would represent our best return in the competition. With the demands of early morning weighing heavily upon us, Graham and I quickly allowed ourselves the fight, with him accepting an early draw offer after generating little momentum with White and me allowing my opponent to force a repetition in a Maroczy Bind. Trevor, this time playing in place of Richard Cowan, faced the Germans’ highest-rated player (due to a quirk of their team’s qualification event), but he soon had him on the ropes before mistiming a piece sacrifice and eventually going down.

Yet things took a happy turn on the other boards. John obtained an unsurprising, but welcome draw against his strong opponent, whilst Will outplayed his opponent in an Italian Game, utilising some previous prep against an early ...g5 and quickly obtaining a comfortable advantage. This left Tony fighting for our honour in a gruesome ending, which he impressively held. This 3-3 draw felt very much like a victory, all but guaranteeing a second place and leaving us with an outside chance of second if we thrashed the Belgians.

\textbf{Round 5: Belgium vs. Great Britain}

We acquitted ourselves well on route to victory in the final match, though tiredness had evidently begun to set in. My opponent sacrificed a pawn in a QGD, and I was soon a very clear pawn ahead – yet a misplayed middlegame, during which both of us missed a tactic which won back the pawn, meant it was a rather incoherent victory.

Graham’s top board clash against fellow Railsport veteran ‘Fast’ Eddy Van Espen led to a fascinating positional encounter, concluding with a bishop sacrifice that did not quite lead to a repetition, and a valuable British win. Tony’s knight sacrifice, though not the best continuation, deserved better than it got, and soon he was material down with no semblance of an attack. Yet he persevered and, not for the first time in the tournament, was duly rewarded, with his opponent dropping first a knight and then the exchange. John could not break down his opponent’s robust defence, whilst Will, as in Round 1, found himself in an excellent position on the black side of a Ruy Lopez.

Notes by Will Taylor

White has played too slowly in the opening, and come under attack on the kingside. He now (after 17...\texttt{g4}) had to grab on \texttt{g4} and hope for the best, but instead tries a tactic: 18 \texttt{dxe5} \texttt{dxe5} 19 \texttt{xe5} \texttt{gxf3}

19...\texttt{xe5} also works. White was no doubt hoping to exploit the pin after 20 \texttt{d3}, but 20...\texttt{d3}+ 21 \texttt{g3} \texttt{g5} retains a strong attack.

20...\texttt{xf4} \texttt{hxg2}! A bit lax. The simple 20...\texttt{xf4} was stronger, and completely winning.

21 \texttt{cd3}?! I had not been impressed by my opponent’s opening play, and assumed he would just take back on \texttt{g2}, when after 21...\texttt{g2} \texttt{xf4} he can resign. This game serves as a painful reminder that just because your opponent has played weak moves earlier in the game, one cannot count on him continuing to do so.

21 \texttt{f3} would have been similar to the game, but without allowing the crushing 21st move which I missed.

21...\texttt{xf1}+?! Taking a rook with a pawn and promoting to a queen is about as natural as they come, so I do not blame myself too much for missing 21...\texttt{xf4} here. Perhaps a strict application of the ‘look at all forcing moves’ maxim would have allowed me to spot it though. Then the only way to prevent a quick mate would have been 22 \texttt{h2}, when 22...\texttt{xf1}+ 23 \texttt{xf1} \texttt{h2} leaves Black up a whole rook and with

www.chess.co.uk

45
a continuing attack (my team mates will recall me whining about being ‘+12’ here).

22...xg1+ 23 fxg1 h3+?!

From around this point on I was playing on increment. Grischuk frequently manages to play 20 moves on increment rather well, but the rest of this game should serve as a cautionary tale of what can happen to ordinary club players when they manage their time poorly.

I am not entirely sure why I didn’t play the stronger 22...0-0-0, but perhaps felt my king was safer on e8. After 23...fxg1 I may have imagined the white queen landing on a8 some day. Would that I had the same imagination for my own attacks as I have for my opponents’...

23 b3 h4 24 f3 h3+?! swapping queens is an understandable impulse when you are short of time, but this is where my real problems begin. My queen was capable of causing problems for White, but without it my other pieces appear was safer on e8. After 23...fxg1 I may have imagined the white queen landing on a8 some day. Would that I had the same imagination for my own attacks as I have for my opponents’...

23 b3 h4 24 f3 h3+?!

Swapping queens is an understandable impulse when you are short of time, but this is where my real problems begin. My queen was capable of causing problems for White, but without it my other pieces appear awkwardly placed. Moreover, 24...fxg1 was winning, as shown by, for example 25...fxd3 e4 g4 26...e3 h3+ 27...g2 e2+ 28...g1 xg2+ 29...xg2 fxd3.

25...xh3 xh3+ 26...e2 d7?!

Trying to cover c6 before playing f6, but it’s a bit slow. 26...f6 27...e6 g4+ 28...e2 d7 was still much better for Black.

27...h1

This was accompanied by a draw offer, which I rejected immediately, as the team needed to win 6–0 to have any hope of beating the Germans on board count.

27...h5?

Trying to keep everything, but kings are more important than pawns, and 27...f6 made more sense.

28...g5 c8 29...f4 c6?

Objectively this is the losing move, but I had already got myself into a horrible tangle. Instead, 29...e6 30...h5...h5 31...h5 3 is a draw: for example, after 31...f8 32...f5 33...f6+...f7 34...e5+...f8.

30...xh5

Black is still an exchange up, but despite there being no queens on the board, the king is in danger, and there is no escape without losing lots of material.

30...xh5 31...xh5 d5 32...h8+...f8

And I limped on for another seven moves before accepting the inevitable.

With the Czechs completing a clean sweep with a final round victory over the Switzerland, and the Germans playing imperiously against local rivals Austria, we finished the tournament in third – an excellent platform to build on when we host next year’s event!

**CHESS Magazine Provides Good Reading – Literally!**

After reading an article in the October 2017 edition of CHESS, which featured the 3Cs chess club in Oldham and mentioned their extensive library of chess books which their junior members could borrow without charge to assist with their development, Maurice Richards from Cornwall offered to donate some of his own books to the club for the benefit of the young players. Despite his distance from 3Cs, Maurice has a personal connection with the Oldham area in that his wife Julie’s parents, Carol and Frank Bolger, live less than a mile from the chess club’s headquarters.

Maurice’s in-laws picked up the books on a recent visit to Cornwall and then delivered them to their local club. Well in excess of 50 books were donated by Maurice to 3Cs including many classic publications which will certainly be well researched by the next batch of up-and-coming talent for which the club are well known.

3Cs have also made a further addition to their impressive trophy room with a specially commissioned honours board listing all their members who have won British Championships at various levels, as well as club members who have been President of the Manchester Chess Federation. The new board is similar to one already on view at the club showing the many players who came through the 3Cs’ ranks to eventually gain international honours and was again crafted by CSG Sign Makers of Welshpool, who actually donated their recent production of a new chess board to the club in Oldham and mentioned their extensive library of chess books which their junior members could borrow without charge to assist with their development, Maurice has a personal connection with the club in Oldham and mentioned their extensive library of chess books which their junior members could borrow without charge to assist with their development, Maurice has a personal connection with.

The Chillingham, Newcastle upon Tyne.

9-round FIDE-rated Swiss with title norm opportunities

Prizes: £1,200, £600, £400, £300, £200, £150, plus grading and junior prizes.

Confirmed Grandmasters include:

Oleg Korneev (ESP),

Vojtech Plat (CZE),

Daniel Gormally (ENG),

Keith Arkell (ENG)

Generously sponsored by
had the desired effect, as some of Beliavsky's
more than from the endgame manuals."

"I belong to such as his reply to whether or not he did any
special training for queen endings. "I am a very high-flying player back in the 1980s.
Indeed, but for the misfortune of being paired with Garry Kasparov in the first round of the 1983 Candidates' matches, he may have made more of an impression in the ultimate title race.
Beliavsky did go on to produce a very commanding performance on board one at the 1984 Thessaloniki Olympiad, in the absence of Karpov and Kasparov (whose titanic maiden title match kept them otherwise engaged), and was also the top scorer in the famous USSR versus Rest of the World match of 1984 (three wins and a draw). I was pleased to see two new volumes about this unfairly overlooked player.

"The premise of the series is to merge an interview with the subject with a detailed analysis of their games. The first volume takes the story to 1981 and the second includes games all the way up to 2017."

The author admits to having interviewed Beliavsky on one occasion, back in 2009, but he did talk more recently to the star player's trainer, Viktor Kart, via Skype. This effectively lowers the volume of Beliavsky's voice across the two books, especially as many of his answers are too short to reveal very much at all.

Indeed, it is always going to be difficult making the interview material stretch across two volumes when the answers tend to be considerably shorter than the questions.

"Q: Did you feel unlucky to face Kasparov right at the first match?"
A: "Not at all."

"Q: One feels a player with your extremely high level should have made it to the Candidates matches more than once. Looking back what would you do differently to achieve this more often?"
A: "Working harder."

There are still some interesting comments, such as his reply to whether or not he did any special training for queen endings. "I belong to a generation that spent a lot of sleepless nights analysing adjourned games. During those nights I learned about endgames much more than from the endgame manuals."

Those sleepless nights certainly must have had the desired effect, as some of Beliavsky's endgame play seen in these books is fabulous.

This endgame intrigued me. It must be a tough one to navigate over the board and Black appears to have made real progress to reach this imposing position. However, Beliavsky's rook came to the rescue with 1...\texttt{f2}! "This is a magical, study-like move; White has to keep the king away from the f3-square." Beliavsky then proved the rook was just agile and accurate enough to prevent absolute domination by the bishops: 1...\texttt{e4} 2 \texttt{f1} \texttt{d2} 3 \texttt{a1} \texttt{d5} 4 \texttt{b1} \texttt{f3} 5 \texttt{b3}+ \texttt{e2} 6 \texttt{b2} \texttt{e4} 7 \texttt{a2} \texttt{d5} and the draw was agreed here.

We are still in need of a serious, in-depth interview with Beliavsky, so unfortunately that aspect of the books falls somewhat short. The games, however, are a different matter. It is now some time since Beliavsky's own book, \textit{Uncompromising Chess} (Everyman Chess, 1998) was published and it is very good to be able to enjoy the games from across all of the years of his serious chess career.

Sean Marsh

The King's Indian Defence: Move by Move
Sam Collins, 240 pages
Everyman Chess
RRP £17.99 SUBSCRIBERS £16.19

I have always been a King's Indian (KID) player and it has often struck me just how badly the opening is played at amateur level.

The reason for this seems to me to be that old weakness of players spending too much time memorising critical lines of theory and not enough time laying the solid foundations of a repertoire.

In fairness, most KID books I have come across have been weighty theoretical tomes; and it wasn't until Joe Gallagher's excellent 2002 \textit{Starting Out} work that I thought there was a suitable introductory guide with which someone looking to take up the opening could learn both the fundamental principles of the KID and formulate a sound repertoire without wading knee deep in variations.

Since then, theory has continued to develop in leaps and bounds, and lines that were considered relatively minor are now cutting edge. Therefore I was highly intrigued to see how Sam Collins would cover the last 15 years of developments and the answer struck me fairly quickly – practically and aggressively.

The book begins with a short introduction consisting of reasons for playing the KID and a look at some typical pawn structures. Here Collins only covers the main structures and ideas for both sides that arise in the proposed repertoire. This is suitable for an introductory guide such as this, but I would recommend experienced KID practitioners to look elsewhere for a more in-depth analysis.

I was then very happy to read a list of 'model players', because in any opening it is always a useful learning device to know strong players whose games one can follow in order to further develop knowledge and understanding beyond the book. The introduction then finishes with a couple of useful notes about the complexity of the KID and the value of each move being higher than in most other openings. This is a suitable warning of what those who are looking to take up the opening will be letting themselves in for.

The repertoire is presented around 29 annotated games and, in keeping with the author's practical approach, the majority of the book covers those lines that are most likely to occur in practice. The selection of main games is excellent because they repeatedly highlight many typical King's Indian themes for both sides, as well as providing the reader with good examples of typical middlegames and endgames. Furthermore, the games provide plenty of inspiration for the prospective black player, which I have no doubt will help them to develop the spirit required to handle such an aggressive repertoire.

And what is this aggressive repertoire? Against the Fianchetto, Collins recommends the
trendy 6...c6 and 7...e5, 7...c6 mainlines are his choice against the Classical, the Sämisch is countered with the evergreen 6...c5 gambit, and an early ...h6 is the order of the day against the h3 systems. What impressed me most about this part of the book was how Collins was able to present coverage of critical main lines without drowning the reader in theory.

The last five annotated games cover dxe2 non-Classical lines and everything else. I was suitably happy with the former, whereas the latter contains my one concern, namely that I thought the coverage of the Four Pawns Attack was too light. After 1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 g6 3 c3 ♘g7 4 e4 d6 5 f4 0-0 6 ♘e2...

Bishop Endings: An Innovative Course
Efstratios Grivas, 180 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 SUBSCRIBERS £20.65

This work marks the start of the ‘TP Endgame Academy’ from Thinkers Publishing, which looks like it will be quite a detailed and ambitious project based on the efforts of the Greek GM and leading FIDE trainer. Grivas aims to improve the reader’s general grasp of bishop endgames, while also acquainting them with the most important theoretical positions to remember.

Dismantling the Sicilian
Jesus de la Villa & Max Illingworth, 368 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 SUBSCRIBERS £23.35

When New in Chess first released Dismantling the Sicilian in 2009 it was quickly in huge demand as 1 e4 players flocked to find the way to put all those tricky Sicilian players back in their place. Now, some 8 years on, young Australian Grandmaster Max Illingworth, whom ChessPublishing.com subscribers will know for his work ethic and theoretical expertise, has fully updated de la Villa’s original repertoire to make this essentially a completely new work. Indeed, the repertoire has been more than overhauled. Gone is the English Attack-based approach; in its place against, for instance, the Najdorf not one, but two lines, 6 h3 and 6...e2.

Carlsen vs. Karjakin
Lev Alburt, Jon Crumiller & Vladimir Kramnik, 336 pages, paperback
RRP £24.95 SUBSCRIBERS £22.45

Did you think that the days of books on world championship matches had gone? Well, they haven’t and this was certainly no book rushed straight off to print at the end of the 2016 world championship match in New York. To the surprise of many, the match was both close and pretty gripping. Lev Alburt and Jon Crumiller, the leading New York-based collector of chess sets and who annotated a game in these pages in October last year, describe the action, and they’ve also done extremely well to get none other than Vladimir Kramnik to annotate some of the key battles.

Fundamental Chess Tactics
Antonio Gude, 336 pages, paperback
RRP £22.50 SUBSCRIBERS £20.25

Gude’s earlier work for Gambit, Fundamental Checkmates, was shortlisted for the English Chess Federation Book of the Year Award and he now returns with another book which is tactics-based and should help both those new to the game and the average club player. The Spanish author has aimed to present a systematic course in explaining the key tactical ideas and showing how to get the best out of each of your pieces, knowledge which will be sharpened by solving the hundreds of exercises.

Mega Database 2018
ChessBase PC-DVD
RRP £144.95 SUBSCRIBERS £130.45

The latest version of ChessBase’s deluxe database now contains a whopping 7.1 million games, with the most recent being from October 2017. However, users are able to keep their Mega Database up to date thanks to the regular update service, which will add a couple of thousand new games every week. As for annotations, 72,000 games now come with notes, including a few from the world’s very best players.

If you have the Mega Database 2017 and would like to upgrade, you can do so for £59.95 (Subscribers – £53.95), and by returning that DVD or providing its serial number when ordering. Users of older copies of the Mega Database may meanwhile upgrade to the 2018 version for £99.95 (Subscribers – £89.95). Please note too that if you’d like the latest database from ChessBase, but not the annotated version, Big Database 2018 is still going strong and available too from Chess & Bridge for £64.99 (Subscribers – £58.49).
Realizing an Advantage
Sergei Tiviakov, PC-DVD;
running time: 4 hours, 52 minutes
RRP £26.99 SUBSCRIBERS £24.29
The strong Dutch Grandmaster and seasoned tournament campaigner makes a welcome return to the ChessBase studio to tackle an issue most struggle with: how to turn your pleasant position or small material advantage into a full point? Tiviakov is fully aware that the issue is as much psychological as technical and tailors his advice accordingly. Topics covered include creating a second weakness, activating the king in the endgame, and deciding when to simplify, with the illustrative games drawn largely from the games of the world champions and the presenter himself.

The Art of the Tarrasch Defence
Alexey Bezgodov, 320 pages, paperback
RRP £25.99 SUBSCRIBERS £23.39
A young Garry Kasparov liked to meet 1 d4 with 1...d5 2 c4 e6 3 f3 c5, but the Tarrasch Defence hasn’t been overly popular in recent years Bezgodov, a Russian Grandmaster known for his often original take on the openings, hopes that things are about to change. He certainly understands the Tarrasch well, having played it for the best part of 30 years, and is fully aware of which lines have been wrongly condemned by theory. The result: a lively repertoire for Black, which should suit both those who like trying to overturn existing theoretical verdicts and all who enjoy active and easy piece play.

The Beasty Botvinnik Variation in the Semi-Slav!
Erwin L’Ami, PC-DVD;
running time: 6 hours, 27 minutes
RRP £26.99 SUBSCRIBERS £24.29
The exclamation mark may be rather unnecessary in the title, but those who like their theory sharp and critical cannot complain about this latest ChessBase DVD from the Dutch international and second of Anish Giri. L’Ami has plenty of experience on both sides of the crazy variation 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 f3 d5 4 e4 e6 5 g5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 and is certainly well on top of his material. Explaining how to handle the arising, often irrational positions is not easy, but L’Ami gives it a good stab while mapping out a repertoire for Black and revealing the odd novelty or two along the way.

The Chameleon Variation
Carsten Hansen, 160 pages, paperback
RRP £19.95 SUBSCRIBERS £17.95
It was back in 1982 that Chess Digest published a small monograph by Andrew Soltis entitled ‘Beating the Sicilian, The Chameleon Variation’. Fast forward some 35 years and Soltis now supplies a foreword, as the experienced Danish FM and author, Carsten Hansen, takes over the mantle of promoting 1 e4 c5 2 d4 3 dxc5 and 3 dxe2. White feints at an Open Sicilian, but may well just follow up with 4 g3. If you like to be tricky as White, this repertoire could well be the answer against the Sicilian.

The Scotch Gambit
Alex Fishbein, 128 pages, paperback
RRP £18.95 SUBSCRIBERS £17.05
There’s likely someone in the local chess scene who wheels out the Scotch Gambit on a regular basis, but this venerable opening hasn’t been especially popular of late. In this new work for Russell Enterprises, the American GM aims to show that the direct 1 e4 2 f4 to the repertoire. Once Black’s theoretically-approved responses head on, while presenting both good general coverage and a number of new ideas for White.

The Sniper (winning with ...g6, ...f5 and ...c5!)
Charlie Storey, PC-DVD;
running time: 7 hours, 53 minutes
RRP £26.99 SUBSCRIBERS £24.29
It was back in 2011 that Everyman Chess published The Sniper by Charlie Storey and the Geordie FM’s infection for his favourite opening remains as strong as ever. This is a bumper ChessBase DVD in which Storey places a strong emphasis on the typical pawn structures and middlegame plans arising after the advance of the black c-pawn. Throughout the presentation is lively, with football analogies and pet names to the fore – did you know that White’s d- and e-pawns are known as Robin and Batman respectively? Storey may be from Newcastle, but he is an Arsenal fan, so 1 e4 g6 2 d4 f5 is referred to as the ‘Arsenal variation’, since it is apparently White’s best line. Here it’s notable too that 3...d6 is preferred to 3...c5, which otherwise is very much the third move of choice throughout the vast majority of the given repertoire.

The Thinkers
David Llada, 208 pages, hardcover
RRP £34.99 SUBSCRIBERS £31.49
This isn’t your usual Quality Chess fare, rather a lavish, glossy collection of shots from one of the world’s leading chess photographers. Llada travels all over the world to capture his images with subjects ranging from the world’s best in elite tournaments to much less expected photographs from Mombasa and Sao Paulo. The quality of the photography is pretty impressive indeed and this coffee table book should remind even those currently out of love with the game just why we all really love the rich game that is chess.

Winning Chess Middlegames
Ivan Sokolov, 288 pages, paperback
RRP £25.95 SUBSCRIBERS £23.35
Whereas Dismantling the Sicilian is an entirely new work from New in Chess, this ‘Essential Guide to Pawn Structures’ is just a reprint of Sokolov’s 2009 work, if a reprint well worth it, since the coverage of some very important pawn structures remains just as important today as then. This modern classic mainly looks at doubled, isolated and hanging pawns, with plenty of well-chosen and clearly explained examples of what one should and should not do in each of those common structures.

Winning with the Modern London System – Part 2
Nikola Sedlak, 216 pages, paperback
RRP £22.95 SUBSCRIBERS £20.65
Chess Evolution haven’t been especially prolific of late, but it’s still most welcome to see the Serbian Grandmaster expanding his earlier work for White on 1 d4 d5 2 c4 to add 1 d4 f6 2 c4 to the repertoire. Once again, Sedlak draws largely on both his own games and recent grandmaster praxis, and, of course, the London is just pretty trendy these days. The resulting repertoire is both logical and fairly easy to adopt, but is most certainly not without bite either.

www.chess.co.uk