



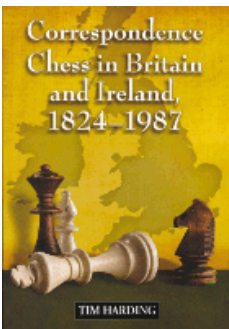
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New In Chess Just Got Newer

There was a revolution in chess publishing in 1984 when the world's first truly international chess magazine was launched. *New In Chess*, entirely in English but with a Dutch editorial team, was introduced with a slim free number, issue zero, to everyone who went to the chess Olympiad in Thessaloniki, Greece that autumn. Many of us were immediately convinced that taking out a subscription was obligatory. We were not disappointed. *New In Chess* has now been going for over twenty-six years, but with a new look for 2011. It is still published, as it then was, in Alkmaar, a coastal town in North Holland.

*New In Chess* evolved from a magazine in the Dutch language called *Schaakbulletin* that first appeared in 1968. The original publisher of both magazines, Willem (or Wim) Andriessen soon recruited to his team the up-and-coming grandmaster Jan Timman and established top players like Jan Hein Donner to produce a quality product. I saw it occasionally but its circulation potential was inevitably restricted by the fact that few players outside the Netherlands and Belgium could read the text articles which were an important part of the package. Switching to English to create *New In Chess* immediately opened up a huge global market. Andriessen retired in 2003, at age sixty-five, although he still does part-time work for them as consultant and book publisher. Now the publisher is Allard Hoogland, and on their own [website](#), there is an article by him giving his view of the company's history and philosophy.

We should not forget the contribution of two other long-term contributors, GM Genna Sosonko and René Olthof, who are principally involved with the *New In Chess Yearbooks*. GM Paul van der Sterren was originally co-editor with Sosonko of that series but he retired in 2003.

The switch to the English language and away from Dutch events, except for major competitions, implied a focus on international events and affairs in the chess world of worldwide interest. Local news and amateur games which form much of the staple content of national magazines necessarily had to be excluded, but this also meant that chess fans with broad enough interests and deep enough pockets might subscribe to both a national magazine (such as *Chess* in Great Britain or *Chess Life* in the United States) as well as *New In Chess*, which inevitably became a strong competitor for all English-language magazines. The coverage of international events in such magazines as *British Chess Magazine* could not match *New In Chess*, except for events where English grandmasters were involved, and *Inside Chess* (which GM Yasser Seirawan used to edit) eventually ceased publication.

An important element in the early success and strategy of *New In Chess* was that they employed a computer database for all the games. This, in the period 1983-5, was truly innovative. It not only ruled out notation errors (which bedevilled all chess publications in the pre-computer typesetting era) but also meant that all games found by the company's researchers were available to all writers and editors.

The Dutch scientific and academic publishing house Elsevier were involved in the early stages but it seems the connection ended after 1985.

*New In Chess* did not get the formula right at first, naturally. Instead of employing the well-known *Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings* classification system, they used a mnemonic system of their own and, with Elsevier, produced two weighty and expensive volumes to introduce the code with example games. It never caught on with any other publisher, or with players

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*New In Chess, 2010/8*

by New In Chess



*New In Chess Yearbook #97*

by New In Chess



*SOS, Volume 12*

by Jeroen Bosch

in general, not least because ChessBase used the ECO system. Their own attempt at marketing a rival system, NiCBase, though it was not technically inferior to early versions of ChessBase, appears to have been a commercial failure too. Their complementary games on diskette service was useful at first but had competitors, and the weekly free game download service from *The Week In Chess* more or less killed it off. By the time that ChessBase moved from DOS to the Windows platform, NiCBase seems to have died. *New In Chess* were also innovative with CD products, which looked a good option for a time but again they seem to have lost out to competitors in this field, not to mention piracy concerns.

The attempt to produce the *New In Chess* magazine monthly, like most national magazines, was abandoned after a year. They switched to eight issues and this is what saved them. Instead of the constant pressure to produce monthly issues and cover everything, they concentrated on quality in an area where they faced no direct competition from ChessBase or Informator. Each issue was so good that the next was eagerly awaited, although one never quite knew when to expect it to arrive through the letter-box. For somebody commuting to work on buses, as I was in the magazine's first decade, the arrival of each new issue meant two or three days at least when there was no question about what reading matter to throw in the briefcase, along with a pocket chess set naturally.

In recent years they have also been successful with chess books on various subjects, notably Genna Sosonko's *Russian Silhouettes* which recycle the more timeless material from the magazine and are mostly bought by people who are not subscribers to the periodical. There is also the *Secrets of Opening Surprises* series which it styles as a periodical. Some, but not most, of the "SOS" articles first see the light of day in the main *New In Chess* magazine. Opening theory articles used to be a staple of many chess magazines but nowadays that sort of thing is largely left to computers and fringe magazines like *Kaissiber*. Offbeat lines rather than main lines from master praxis are the subject matter of the "SOS" series.

Apart from Timman's contributions, which gave the magazine the status of having a world-class annotator and analyst with personal insight into top chess, another major asset for them is co-editor Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, whose interviews opened the world of the professional player to rank-and-file readers whereas other magazines' interviews traditionally only scratch the surface and deal with current issues. An outstanding writer, he is now rightly recognised internationally as one of the most outstanding journalists who have ever written on the game in the English language. Jan Timman remains editor-in-chief but Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam is undoubtedly his right-hand man and probably takes much of the responsibility for the content of each issue.

Looking at an old issue at random, I picked number eight of 1998 from the shelf; it had ninety-eight pages, starting with 'NIC's Café' (three pages), which is a potpourri of short items, followed by 'Readers' Letters' (two pages). There were many photographs, but all in black-and-white. The issue's principal feature was a report on Anand's win at Tilburg (pages ten through fifty-six) with annotated games by most of the world's top grandmasters who played in that tournament. There followed Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam's interview with Vadim Zviagintsev who had done well at the Elista Olympiad; Alex Yermolinsky's report on the victory by Nick de Firmian in the U.S. Championship; a report on the Women's Olympiad at Elista; Gelfand's report on the Cap d'Agde rapid event won by Karpov; an SOS article by Jeroen Bosch on Svidler's gambit in the Grünfeld (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bg5 Bg7!); an article by Jan Timman replying to some criticism of his friendly match with Kasparov; then finally three pages of 'Chess Notes' by Edward Winter, an itinerant feature which soon migrated to the Internet.

By the end of 2002 the magazine had grown by eight pages and occasional spots of colour were appearing. By the end of 2006 it was very colourful and the more robust 'perfect bound' spine replaced staples.

The first issue of 2011 still begins with 'NIC's Café' followed by a page of 'Your Move', consisting of short letters from readers, and then the publisher's statement about the format change. Then comes Ten Geuzendam's report on

the London Classic in December 2010, won by Magnus Carlsen, and his interview with American grandmaster Ken Rogoff, who has been a professor at Harvard since 1999. (For more on that, see below.)

After that come reports on Reggio Emilia, the Russian Championship, and the Women's World Championship as well as other articles. Jimmy Adams writes a tribute to the late Larry Evans, Loek van Wely describes his "pre-sabbatical" run on the American circuit, and in the SOS series, Jeroen Bosch examines the North Sea Defence (1 e4 g6 2 d4 Nf6 3 e5 Nh5) which, as I showed in a recent article, cost Magnus Carlsen a point against Michael Adams at the last Olympiad. According to Bosch, Black had a good position until he became over-ambitious at moves seventeen and eighteen. My reservation is that Bosch does not mention any of the high-level correspondence games that have been played in this defence.

Evans pulled off the following brilliancy when he was about fifteen. The score is from [NICBase online](#).

### **Robert Warner – Larry Evans**

U.S. Junior Championship 1947

Ruy Lopez [C84]

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0–0 Be7 6 c3 Nxe4 7 Re1 Nc5 8 Nxe5 Nxe5 9 Rxe5 Nxa4 10 Qxa4 0–0 11 d4 d5 12 Qb3 Bd6 13 Re1 Qh4 14 g3 Qh5 15 c4 dxc4 16 Qxc4 Bh3 17 Qb3 Rfe8 18 Rd1**



[FEN "r3r1k1/1pp2ppp/p2b4/7q/3P4/1Q4Pb/PP3P1P/RNBR2K1 b - - 0 18"]

Here Evans played

**18...Re3!!**

When if 19 Qxe3 Qxd1+ or 19 Bxe3 Qf3 quickly mate.

White played

**19 fxe3 Qe2 20 Qxb7**

Protecting g2, but then came

**20...Qxd1+ 21 Kf2 Qf1# 0–1**

The best defence is 19 Qc2! when Evans would have played 19...Re2 (not 19...Qf3?? 20 fxe3) 20 Qb3 Rae8 21 Bd2 R2e3! 22 fxe3 Qf3 "wins, as 23 Qc2 is no longer a defence!" (Adams).

I actually found the interview with Rogoff the most fascinating piece in the whole issue, perhaps because I live in Ireland and I read it during our general election campaign where the financial crisis was the number one issue. Rogoff is one of the world's leading experts on such matters, and predicted the Lehman Brothers crash (without naming them) and not long ago, he was chief economist for the International Monetary Fund.

### **Ken Rogoff – Jan Smejkal**

Biel Interzonal 1976

## King's Indian Defence [E61]

This was one of Rogoff's memorable games. He said in the interview that the Czech master Smejkal 'was outplaying me badly, but he slipped at one point and let me have a counterattack which won.'

**1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 c5 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 e3 0-0 6 Nge2 Nc6 7 0-0 d6 8 d4  
cxd4 9 exd4 Bf5 10 h3 h5 11 Bg5 Qd7 12 Kh2 e5 13 d5 Nd4 14 Nxd4 exd4  
15 Nb5 Rfc8 16 Rc1 Nh7 17 Bf4 g5 18 Bd2 a6 19 Na3 g4 20 hxg4 hxg4 21  
b4**



[FEN "r1r3k1/1p1q1pbn/p2p4/3P1b2/1PPp2p1/  
N5P1/P2B1PBK/2RQ1R2 b -- 0 21"]

**21...Bd3?!**

The assessment begins to change at this point; 21...Nf6 maintains Black's advantage.

**22 Re1 Qf5 23 Kg1 Bf6?!**

Now White can take the initiative.

**24 c5 Ng5?**



[FEN "r1r3k1/1p3p2/p2p1b2/2PP1qn1/1P1p2p1/  
N2b2P1/P2B1PB1/2RQR1K1 w -- 0 25"]

This loses, but Black was already in trouble.

**25 Bxg5! Bxg5 26 Nc4 Rd8 27 Nxd6 Rxd6 28 cxd6 Bxc1 29 Qxc1**



[FEN "r5k1/1p3p2/p2P4/3P1q2/1P1p2p1/

The passed pawn at d6 is going to be decisive now.

**29...Rc8 30 Qd2 Kh7 31 d7 Rd8 32 Re7 Kg6 33 d6 Kf6 34 Qh6+ Qg6 35 Qh4+ Kg7 36 Re8 1-0**

**Ljubomir Ljubojevic – Ken Rogoff**

Malaga, 1971

Sicilian Defence [B50]

This is the loss he mentions in the article. He was then about sixteen and unused to being outcalculated. It was the last round and he needed a win for an IM norm. Ljubojevic, who was three years older, amazed Rogoff by showing him in the post-mortem how much more he had seen at an unspecified critical point.

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 dxe5 5 Nxe5 e6 6 Bb5+ Nbd7 7 d4 a6 8 Bxd7+ Nxd7 9 Qh5 Nxe5 10 dxe5 b6 11 Bg5 Qc7 12 0-0-0 Bb7 13 Rd2 h6 14 Rhd1**



[FEN "r3kb1r/1bq2pp1/pp2p2p/2p1P1BQ/8/2N5/PPPR1PPP/2KR4 b kq - 0 14"]

**14...hgx5 15 Qxh8 Qxe5 16 f3 b5 17 Ne4 Bd5 18 Nxc5 0-0-0 19 Nd3 Qf5**

19...Qc3 can be met by 20 Kb1 or even 20 bxa3 when White stands better after the queens come off.

**20 Kb1 b4 21 Qh5 Bd6 22 h4 Be7 23 hxg5 Qxg5 24 Qh2 Bf6 25 f4 Bxa2+ 26 Kxa2 Qa5+ 27 Kb1 Bc3**



[FEN "2kr4/5pp1/p3p3/q7/1p3P2/2bN4/1PPR2PQ/1K1R4 w - - 0 28"]

Chessbase's [Mega Database](#) seems to give an incorrect finish: 28 Nc1?, saying Black resigned. It cannot have been the final move of the game because it blunders material: 28...Rxd2 29 Rxd2 Bxd2 30 Qh8+ Qd8 31 Qxg7 Bxc1 32 Kxc1 f6 and White must play a queen endgame with no obvious winning chances.

**28 g3**

I think this is what was actually played.

I am not completely enamoured of everything *New In Chess* does. It virtually ignores correspondence chess, which still has many adherents, and rarely has historical articles. The "Just Checking" mini-interviews to which two pages in each issue is devoted, is, to my mind, just trivia, obviously a questionnaire which the grandmaster subjects can fill in during five idle minutes waiting to board in some airport lounge. Maybe this is just a generational thing? However, the new layout means that it is an even greater waste of space than before, space filled with fairly meaningless graphics.

Its policy on book reviews is idiosyncratic to say the least. Most books are ignored and no publisher can count on a mention of a new book however worthy. Instead *New In Chess* has lengthy book articles by semi-retired grandmasters (nowadays Jonathan Rowson) who tend to write at length on whatever they fancy. The most recent article is a good example. Rowson writes three pages on a book, [\*Counterplay: An Anthropologist at the Chessboard\*](#) by Robert Desjarlais, that was not yet in print at the time. It is extremely doubtful that this advance publicity was of as much help to the author or publisher in selling the book, interesting though it sounds, as a review of the book would have been in a future issue. For the potential reader it is very frustrating to be advised to wait for a book when they would rather be given advice on picking between books that are actually newly available.

However, subscribers got a big surprise recently when the first issue of 2011 dropped through the letterbox. The number of pages was about the same, but the page format was changed to a larger size, and not to the familiar European A4 format either. Also the paper quality was improved, enabling better colour printing.

There was a time when most European chess magazines were published in the A5 format, as *British Chess Magazine* still is today. That is, a page size of 14.8 x 21 cm (roughly 6 x 8 inches). Convenient for the bookshelf, but restrictive in its design possibilities, A5 is the cheapest printing choice. When I ran my own magazine, *Chess Mail*, I would have preferred the *New In Chess* format but many printers (especially in Britain and Ireland) are not geared to it, and by mailing in the corresponding (C5) envelope size, mailing costs are also kept to a minimum. Layout, however, can only be single or double column and large photographs are impossible.

To avoid having extremely boring layouts, I sometimes typeset page spreads with asymmetric columns (and a light grey tint behind the narrower outer columns) but only certain types of features were suited to this treatment. Most A5 layouts are boring.

When some magazines preferred a larger page, it has tended to be A4 (double the size of A5), which is 21 x 29.7cm. Thus B. H. Wood's old magazine *Chess*, which was in A5 format from the early 1950s onwards (it had originally been larger), was changed to A4 when he retired and it was taken over by Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press and ultimately by its present publishers, Chess and Bridge.

Anybody who looks at the magazine rack in a British or Irish newsagent immediately sees that the A4 format is dominant. A magazine in A5 will not achieve many impulse sales, if indeed the newsagent will display it at all. A5 is for subscription magazines and A4 for point-of-sale marketing. In North America, where the metric A and B page sizes are not used, the standard page is US Letter, slightly wider and squatter than A4.

*New In Chess*, up to the end of 2010, was instead published in the 16.5 x 24cm format which continental printers are perhaps more used to, although for books it is becoming more popular. That page size is still used by the popular Spanish-language magazine *Jaque* for which I write occasionally. (Their co-editor Yago Gallach assures me they have no plans to change.) This wider format means that it is possible to have a three-column layout, and although it means narrow columns, space can be saved with smaller diagrams and neater typesetting of game-scores, facilitating the inclusion of more material without seeming too crowded.

*New In Chess* have now switched to 21 x 27cm, which is just fractionally smaller than the US Letter paper size in each dimension. This wider format is still chiefly suitable for three-column layouts but the columns are wider and the pattern can be varied. It will be interesting to see how they develop this in future issues.

My main concern, however, is, how will I fit this on my bookshelves? Will I bother to keep every issue indefinitely, as I have done in the past? Is there not a tendency that in the future an issue will be read and then disposed of because there is nowhere convenient to keep it, except maybe in ugly piles?

Here is a game from a recent tournament, taken from the new issue (but not with the same notes).

**Paco Vallejo – Alexander Onischuk**

Reggio Emilia 2010/11  
Scotch Game [C45]

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 e5 Qe7 7 Qe2 Nd5 8 Nd2**

Vallejo seemed to think this would be a surprise to his opponent, and was disappointed by the quick reply. Many database-driven modern masters just don't seem to know old theory!

**8...Bb7**



[FEN "r3kb1r/pbppqppp/2p5/3nP3/8/8/PPPNQPPP/R1B1KB1R w KQkq - 0 9"]

"Now I was out of book after having been the first to deviate," writes Vallejo, but this position occurred in the eighth and tenth games of the 1916 Mieses-Tarrasch match.

**9 Nf3**

Mieses played 9 Nb3 here but the complications favour Black. White could return to main lines by 9 c4 but Vallejo did not want that.

**9...Qb4+ 10 Qd2 Qe4+! 11 Be2**

A game N. Yaremenko-M. Kravtsov, Minsk 2006, continued instead 11 Qe2 Bb4+ 12 Kd1 Qg6 13 c4 Ba6 14 Qc2 Nb6 15 Bd2 Bc5 16 b4 Be7 17 Qxg6 hxg6 18 Rc1 c5 19 a3 Bb7 20 Bd3 Rh5 21 Re1 Bxf3+ 22 gxf3 0–0–0 23 f4 Rxh2 (½ – ½, 51) but after winning the pawn Black probably should have won.

**11...Ba6 12 Kf1 Bxe2+ 13 Qxe2 Qf5?!**

Vallejo says Black should have played 13...Qxe2+ followed probably by 14...d6.

**14 c4 Nb4 15 Bd2 Bc5**

15...Nxa2 would be met by 16 Nd4 (not 16 Rxa2?? Qb1+) 16...Qg6 17 f4.

15...Be7 "was a reasonable alternative" says Vallejo in his notes, but since White can reply exactly the same way as in the game, it is incomprehensible why he awards "!" to the text.

**16 Bxb4! Bxb4 17 Rd1 0-0 18 Qd3 Qe6 19 Ng5 Qh6 20 h4! Rad8?!**

20...Rae8! was correct, says Vallejo.

**21 Rh3 d5? 22 Qf5 Rde8 23 Rf3**



[FEN "4rrk1/p1p2ppp/2p4q/3pPQN1/1bP4P/5R2/PP3PP1/3R1K2 b - - 0 23"]

23 cxd5 is objectively better according to the winner's notes.

**23...Qxh4?**

Black falls into the trap.

**24 Rh3 Qxc4+ 25 Kg1 g6 26 Qf6 Be7**



[FEN "4rrk1/p1p1bp1p/2p2Qp1/3pP1N1/2q5/7R/PP3PP1/3R2K1 w - - 0 27"]

Do you see what Onischuk overlooked?

**27 Nxb7!!**

Black cannot take the queen because the knight recaptures with check and then 29 Rh7 is mate. This is only the first point, however. The second (not mentioned in the notes in the magazine) is that if Black makes some random move now, White sets up the same mating pattern by 28 Qh8+! Kxh8 29 Nf6 + etc.

**27...Qg4**

Threatening to take the rook on d1 with check as well as meeting the threat just mentioned because there would be ...Qxh3 at the end. White's next move is the third point of the combination.

27...Qe2 is met the same way.

**28 Qxe7!! 1-0**

Black resigned because if 28...Qxh3 (or 28...Rxe7? 29 Nf6+; if 28...Qxd1+ 29 Kh2 Qh5 30 Nf6+ wins Black's queen while saving White's own, and mate soon follows.) 29 Nf6+ and 30 Nxe8; 29 Qxf8+ Rxf8 30 Nf6+ and 31 gxh3 also wins.

By the way, since I mentioned Rogoff, I saw from the business pages in the 28 February issue of *The Times* of London that another retired grandmaster and former stockbroker, is making a come-back, although not to chess. David Norwood is returning to the financial world as chairman of a company called Retroscreen Virology, after two years. Norwood had given up his previous career in 2008 to spend two years as a writer on a remote island in the Bahamas. Talk about getting away from it all! The paper has an amusing photo of Norwood in T-shirt, Bermuda shorts and a baseball cap, dangling two huge fishes from either hand. Maybe you can find it on the Internet.

### David Norwood – Sofia Polgar

Bermuda 1995

Réti Opening [A06]

**1 Nf3 d5 2 b3 Nf6 3 Bb2 Bf5 4 g3 e6 5 d3 Be7 6 Nbd2 0–0 7 Nh4 Bg4 8 h3 Bh5 9 g4 Nfd7 10 Ng2 Bg6 11 e3 e5 12 Qf3 c6 13 h4 h6?**

13...f6! is a much better way of providing a retreat for the bishop, shoring up the e-pawn at the same time.

**14 Qg3 Re8 15 Be2 Bb4**



[FEN "m1qr1k1/pp1n1pp1/2p3bp/3pp3/1b4PP/1P1PP1Q1/PBPNBPN1/R3K2R w KQ - 0 16"]

This prepares an exchange that seems to help White. Polgar perhaps expected the reply 16 0–0–0.

**16 a3!**

16 0–0–0 Qe7 17 e4 a5 with counterplay; the white king paradoxically turns out to be safer in the centre.

**16...Bxd2+ 17 Kxd2 c5 18 f4 exf4**

18...f6 would induce the breakthrough 19 g5.

**19 Nxf4 Nf8 20 g5**

Now a kingside file must open.

**20...hxg5 21 hxg5 d4 22 exd4 cxd4 23 Qh2 Bh7**



[FEN "rn1qmk1/pp3ppb/8/6P1/3p1N2/PP1P4/1BPKB2Q/R6R w - - 0 24"]

The only way to prevent mate but now the bishop will be hemmed in.

**24 g6! fxc6 25 Bf3 Re5**

She could have resigned. There is no time for 25...Nc6 because of the pretty finish 26 Bd5+ Kh8 27 Qxh7+! Nxh7 28 Nxg6#.

**26 Bxb7 Nc6 27 Bxc6 Rc8 28 Qg2 g5 29 Bd5+ 1-0**

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### Postscript

English reader John Townsend thanks me for my interesting article on C. F. Smith but points out that it's possible he was not the Smith who was deprived of an opportunity to play Morphy at Birmingham in 1858. I cannot now recall why, several years ago, I jumped to the conclusion it was the same person but certainly others have done so as well. The ChessBase [Mega Database](#) also has C. F. Smith scoring a walkover against Morphy and then conceding one to R. B. Brien.

As Townsend points out, Staunton wrote in the *Illustrated London News* on 4 September 1858 that "Messrs Ingleby and Smith, two members of the Birmingham Club, only joined the tournament in order to complete the number, there being no chance of there maintaining a struggle against such powerful opponents." Then with respect to round two, he wrote: "Mr Smith resigned the game without playing, his name having been inserted only to fill up the number." Townsend rightly says that C. F. Smith, at least at the strength he displayed around 1849-50, would have been able to give Brien a decent game. While it is possible he was living in Birmingham in 1858, and that Staunton might not have remembered him, it is more likely than not that the 1858 Smith was not C. F.

Incidentally, I was able in the British Library last week to look again at the *Chess Player's Chronicle* for 1850 where I found three more games between C. F. Smith and Bird from that year which were not included in my statistics last month. Bird won two and Smith won the other. There was also one more game from early 1851 (possibly played late in 1850) which Bird won. Also Rod Edwards points out that his rating calculations were recently updated, but he thinks (and I agree) that it is unwise to include results from published games, which are not from set matches or tournaments, because they may well be unrepresentative of the full set of games played between a pair of opponents.

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