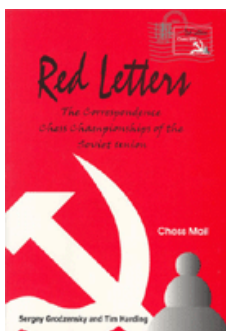




## COLUMNISTS

*The Kibitzer*

Tim Harding



CHESTHEATRE

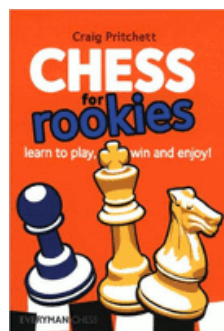
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## Books for the Darker Evenings

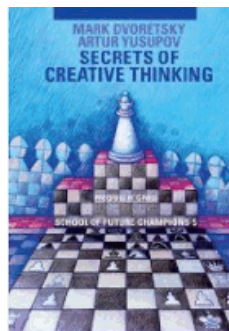
Around this time of the year I usually review books, since this is a popular time for buying them - either as presents or to "lay them up" for Christmas reading. The "biggie" this month is the new Kasparov, which has just won the English Chess Federation's 2009 Book of the Year award. Before dealing with that, I want to draw your attention to a number of other titles that became available in the last few months. When this article was almost complete, another box of books arrived for consideration from Russell Enterprises, including Karsten Mueller's new book of Fischer's games. As it was too late to read it, that will be the subject of next month's column.

*Chess for Rookies* by Scottish IM Craig Pritchett (Everyman Chess, ISBN 978-185744-535-0) is a hefty (352-page) starter book for adults, which the blurb describes as "a fun-to-read, leisurely, yet well-paced guide" while the front cover says "learn to play, win and enjoy!" This book is designed to be attractive at point-of-sale for absolute beginner or those thinking of buying it as a present for them. Its size and use of some long words means it is unsuitable for young children: a reading age of eleven or twelve would probably be the minimum. Nearly every page has a big diagram and some have two, so there is not as much text as the page count might suggest. Some pages have "key notes" in shaded boxes and there are 110 exercises (with solutions in the back) and twenty-five complete illustrative games. There is also a glossary of chess terms (including mini-biographies of some players), and also an index.



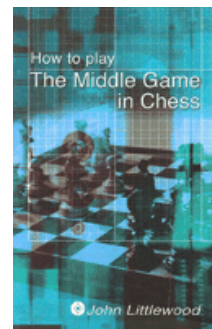
There are a few signs that this may be a recycling of an older book, however, not that this is too serious for beginners because the basic rules and principles of the game do not change. For example, Magnus Carlsen is not one of the players included, and the entry for correspondence chess says it is "chess played by post or increasingly nowadays by email," with no mention of webserver correspondence chess. In fact this whole section is rather strange. There is an entry for "IBCA", the international Braille Chess Federation, but not for some terms in common use like "Gambit" and "Hedgehog". In the "History of Chess" paragraph, it is highly controversial to say that "Chess appears to have been widely known throughout Europe by around 1000"; the only firm evidence at that date is in southern Europe. To conclude, if you are a regular reader of this column, it is safe to say that this book is not for you, but it may be suitable for a teenage relative or adult friend who you think might enjoy chess, or somebody you know who is looking for a "chess for dummies" type of book.

*Secrets of Creative Chess Thinking* is the fifth and last in the "School of Future Champions" series by Russian GMs Mark Dvoretsky and Artur Yusupov. Edited and translated into English by Ken Neat, it is published in Germany by Edition Olms (ISBN 978-3-283-00519-1). They do not say whether it was published before in any other language but I have the impression that unlike some other titles in this series, it does contain material that was not published in the original Batsford edition.



This book would make an excellent present for advanced players (rating 2000+, maybe even 1800-2000) who are looking for some new inspiration and is willing to put in some work to improve their

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by Andrew Martin

middlegame play. Like the other books in the series, it is based on course material that the authors used in advanced training sessions at their chess school in 1990-92 and a wide variety of topics are covered. Unlike the previous volumes, it is not so much about technical instruction in various aspects of the game, but also psychology. "Thinking at the board and the ways of taking decisions in a variety of situations — this, in brief, is its main content," writes Dvoretsky, in the Preface. The examples are complex and not for novices.

In all there are sixteen chapters, or lectures, dealing with various aspects of practical tournament play. Besides the authors, there are also contributions by Mikhail Krasenkow, Benjamin Blumenfeld, Sergey Dolmatov, Vladimir Vulfson, and Igor Belov. Dvoretsky says: "Many players make the serious mistake of devoting all their free time exclusively to the study of opening theory." If you have that tendency, you probably need this book.

Last month I mentioned Mike Conroy's *A History of Lancashire Chess from 1871 to 2009*. The book does not have an ISBN number and is only available from the Lancashire Chess Association: email Bill O'Rourke: worchess@ntlworld.com. The price is ten pounds sterling plus postage and voluntary donation. (Postage to anywhere outside the U.K. is liable to be expensive.) This 470-page A4-format book includes many photographs (most of the recent ones being in colour) and is strong on chess in the county in the post-World War II era.

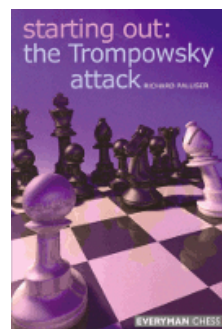
As a history of Lancashire chess from earliest times it is, however, incomplete. The author starts at 1871 and has researched the first inter-county match played against Yorkshire that year and other ones in the nineteenth century. It is the first I am aware of on this subject, although there was also a privately-produced one done by Eric Nowell and Alan Smith on *Chess and Manchester* early in the 1990s. They had done considerable research (and made use of previous research done by others) whereas the Conroy book is weak on the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

He does not appear to have researched chess columns of that period or the resources of the Manchester chess club collection in the central Manchester library. There is, for example, no reference to the huge row in 1882 which prevented the Lancashire-Yorkshire match planned for that year from taking place. There is information about this in the *Burnley Express* (11 March and 8 April, for example) and the *Preston Guardian* (5 April). The author clearly has not read my chapter on the Preston Guardian column and early Lancashire chess which was published in 2007 in a collection entitled *Entertainment, Leisure and Identities*, edited by Roger Spalding and Alyson Brown from Edge Hill University.

Conroy's book will doubtless satisfy Lancastrians and others with a Lancashire connection who are chiefly interested in recent decades. A proper study still needs to be made of nineteenth century chess in the North of England as I am sure there is still more to discover in the archives.

### Books on the openings

Moving to openings books, Everyman Chess have sent me five recent titles catering to three different levels of player. In their *Starting Out* series, geared to club players and juniors, IM Richard Palliser has written on *The Trompowsky Attack* (269 pages, ISBN 978-1-85744-562-6). This opening is characterised by 1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5, threatening to spoil Black's kingside structure by Bxf6 (for example after 2...d5 or 2...g6) and fight on with knights. Against 2...c5, 3 Bxf6 is again possible but 3 Nc3 and 3 d5 are also considered. Black has two ways to avoid the doubling of his pawns: 2...Ne4 or 2...e6. After 2...Ne4 White usually plays 3 Bf4 but the book also covers the older 3 Bh4 and 3 h4!?, which Julian Hodgson used to play.



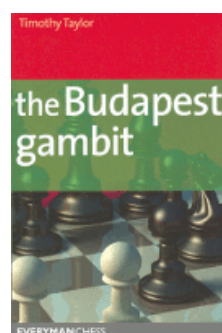
If there is a recent trend in the "Tromp", it is for Black to reply 2...e6, which

is likely to be preferred by Nimzo-indian and French Defense players. Although 3 e3 is now possible, the only challenging reply is 3 e4 when Palliser says 3...h6 is best, although 3...Be7 is also possible and sets the trap 4 Nc3 Nxe4! 5 Bxe7 Nxc3 6 Bxd8 Nxd1 7 Bxc7 Nxb2 8 Bd6 Na4 when, he says, “White has decent compensation for the missing pawn, but no more than that.” Intending purchasers should be warned that apart from a few words in the Introduction, this book contains nothing on the variant 1 d4 d5 2 Bg5, which Palliser says can be met by 2...f6 or 2...h6 3 Bh4 c6.

Openings books aimed at the middle ranks of amateurs — strong club players, tournament players and correspondence players — are generally presented nowadays with the illustrated games treatment. *The New Sicilian Dragon* by GM Simon Williams (224 pages, ISBN 978-1-85744-615-9) deals with what he calls the “Dragadorf” in which Black combines 2...d6 and a kingside fianchetto with an early ...a6. Last month’s column included an example of this, the famous Littlewood-Botvinnik game. Most of the examples in the book, however, date from the twenty-first century.

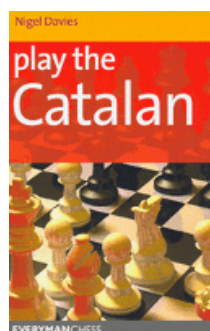


IM Timothy Taylor writes on *The Budapest Gambit* (Everyman Chess, 238 pages, ISBN 978-1-85744-592-3), 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5!? and after 3 dxe5 he deals almost exclusively with 3...Ng4. Since that line is not really a gambit, the title of the book is a misnomer. The Fajarowicz Variation, 3...Ne4!?, is a true gambit which he roundly condemns in a brief chapter, where he says 4 Nd2 is the refutation. I have played several games in both colours with the Budapest and consider that little in it is simple. See Kibitzer 54 about the thematic tournament in which I played in Budapest nine years ago.



The author admits it is quite difficult to play because you cannot go by “feel”, but need knowledge of concrete ideas and variations. He devotes five chapters to 4 e4 which he considers to be the critical line. Apparently he does not consider 4 Bf4 too dangerous while his recommendation against 4 Nf3 is 4...Nc6 because he argues that the black bishop is misplaced after the usual 4...Bc5. I note that after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 Nf3 Nc6 he barely mentions 5 Nc3 which can be quite tricky for Black. After 5...Ngxe5 White need not play 6 Nxe5 (the only move he considers) 6...Nxe5 7 e4 or 7 Qc2 but can calmly go 6 e3 when it is important for Black to fianchetto his king’s bishop and not play 6...Be7? as in the game Harding-Biro from Kibitzer 54 where I bear a Romanian IM. Also that article shows that the line recommended by Taylor against 3 Nf3!? (the only awkward alternative to 3 dxe5) is perhaps not the one to prefer. My feeling about this book is that while it is useful, people intending to play the Budapest should not rely on it alone but also consult other works. I also note that whereas Williams made use of my Ultracorr2 database from 2008 (which until recently was the most up-to-date version), Taylor has only consulted a considerably older version. The other authors have, it seems, not consulted any correspondence game databases.

*Play the Catalan* is an offering from GM Nigel Davies (Everyman Chess, 192 pages, ISBN 978-1-85744-591-6) dealing with 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3, a very flexible form of this opening that often leads to positions that also arise via other move-orders. It is a deceptively “positional” opening which in fact can lead to very sharp tactical clashes and contains many subtle nuances. I have found the Catalan to be effective both in the Dublin league and in high-level correspondence play, and it is a particular favourite of former CC world champion Mikhail Umansky. On one occasion when I desperately wanted to know why Black could not grab pawns in a critical line, I played it with Black against Umansky



(figuring that as I would probably lose anyway, it might as well be interesting and informative) and sure enough he showed me the improvement on previous theory. In the same tournament, Davies managed to draw with Umansky after a hard fight and the game is in this book with more detailed notes than here.

### Mikhail Umansky – Nigel Davies

Chessfriend.com championship 2003-4

Catalan Opening [E08]

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 d5 4 Bg2**



**4...Be7**

Here I played **4...dxc4 5 Nf3 a6 6 0–0 Nc6 7 Nc3 Rb8 8 e4 Be7** (8...b5 is the alternative, e.g. Umansky-Weber, game 55 in the Davies book.) **9 Qe2** (Ribli had said this was risky and he was not yet convinced that White gets sufficient compensation.) **9...Nxd4** (This move was not in the books in 2003 but I knew Umansky had met it before.) **10 Nxd4 Qxd4 11 Rd1 Qc5 12 e5** (Davies remarks that personally he would not like to face White's initiative after either this or 12 Be3 when I intended 12...Qb4 — not mentioned by Davies — 13 Bf4 e5!? 14 Bxe5 Bg4 as in the drawn game Burger-Franzen from the Hans-Werner von Massow Memorial super-GM correspondence tournament.) **12...Nd7?! ( 12...Nd5** seems to be correct: see game 56 in the book. That had not been tried in 2003.) **13 Ne4!** (13 Bf4 0–0 had occurred in an earlier game Umansky-Franzen.) **13...Qxe5 14 Bf4 Qa5 15 Qxc4 e5 16 Bg5!** (As expected, Umansky improved upon 16 Bd2 Qb6 from the stem game J.Klinger-U.Bönsch, Lugano 1989.) **16...b5!? 17 Qd3!** and I didn't find a good defence in Umansky-Harding, chessfriend.com championship 2003.

After that digression, we return to Umansky-Davies, in which the safer 4...Be7 was played.

**5 Nf3 0–0 6 0–0**

This is all standard stuff and various move orders can arrive at this position, including ones from 1 d4 d5, from 1 c4 and 1 Nf3, once Black decides not to take the pawn on c4.



**6...Nbd7 7 Qc2 c6 8 Rd1 b6 9 Nc3 Ba6 10 Ne5! Rc8 11 Qa4 Nb8 12 b3! Ne8 13 Ba3 b5 14 Bxe7 Qxe7 15 Nxb5!?**







Beginning with a chapter on Black's sixth move alternatives to 6...e5, then progressing through White's seventh move options, it finally reaches the main line **6...e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7** on page 193; i.e., almost exactly half way through the book. The authors then deal in turn with the old move 9 Ne1, then 9 Nd2 which came into fashion in the 1960s, then the 9 b4 lines. If I remember rightly, one of the earliest openings books I possessed, Ludek Pachman's *Indian Systems* (which came out around 1964 in English) spoke highly of this move. It was then rare but it has since become the critical line, probably best met by 9...Nh5. This is apparently a very up-to-date book but I am no expert on the King's Indian and cannot pronounce upon it.

I did find the introduction somewhat misleading with its claims for the historical antiquity of the King's Indian which somehow failed to mention the input of Bronstein and Boleslavsky. They are right to say that Louis Paulsen employed the King's Indian, as we would understand it, in his 1879 match against Adolph Schwarz in Leipzig. Chigorin's association with the defence is more tenuous, although the term "Chigorin Indian" was sometimes used for patriotic reasons in the Soviet Union. Also in some languages the term for King's Indian is Old Indian (Alt-indisch in German) which tends to confuse the 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 line that was played in the old days, and did not necessarily involve a kingside fianchetto, with the modern interpretation. Thus after 3 Nf3 Nbd7 4 Bf4 Chigorin did play 4...g6 against Marshall at the 1906 German congress, but against Tarrasch in the same event, and in later games with Salwe, Marshall and Cohn the old Russian did not fianchetto.

### Kasparov on the warpath again

Moving now to *Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess, Part Three*, the award-winning Kasparov vs Karpov, 1986-1987 (Everyman Chess, 432 pages hardback, ISBN 978-1-85744-625-8), the first thing to say is that this book contains the record of two world championship matches, one fascinating, the other rather dull, although with a sensational climax. These were the third and fourth matches between the two Ks, the first played when Kasparov was world champion. (They also played a match in 1990 which will be dealt with in the next book of the series, presumably.)



The 1986 contest was the return match under FIDE President's Campomanes's new rules for the 1985 Moscow match (dealt with in Kasparov's previous book). Karpov, as defending champion, was deemed entitled to a replay as compensation for the first match being stopped when he was in the lead (as described in Kasparov's previous book).

The first half of match in 1986 was played in London, and I was present at a couple of the sessions; but then the match moved to Leningrad, Karpov's home town, for its climax. Kasparov was finding in both cities that Karpov kept anticipating his secrets, but who was the spy? Strangely, at the critical moment when Kasparov had squandered his three-game lead, Karpov seemed to lose his "inside information" and played weaker at the crucial phase of the match.

Karpov, after losing that match, was given a bye through to the final stage of

the next qualifying cycle, beat the winner of that (A. Sokolov) and so got another match with Kasparov, who keeps moaning about the necessity to prove himself again and how hard it was to be “up for it”. This time they played on neutral ground, in Seville (Spain) and Kasparov found himself needing to win the last game to force a tied match and retain his title. To see how this happened, read the book.

This is Ken Neat’s translation of what is essentially an old Russian book by Kasparov, *Dva Matcha*, brought up to date with the latest computer analysis. As usual with his work, the result is clear and fluent English, although I wonder at his using the strange word “totalizer” (for which the *Oxford English Dictionary* has just one reference from 1887) rather than “totalizer” which is in normal use.

Kasparov spares neither himself nor his opponent in his criticisms of moves once thought good that are now shown to be dubious or downright bad, and other moves once thought weak (either in actual play or more often in analysis) are frequently proved by the computer to be best after all. How many people, however, really have the time or energy to play through all these games in detail, I am doubtful, but it is certainly good to have a corrected record of these important contests. Any old books you may dealing with these matches may as well be thrown in the bin as the annotations cannot be trusted.

On the other hand, this new book is grossly over-written with pages and pages of variations that just slow down the narrative. It is justified for a major game like the 16th in the 1986 match, to which no fewer than twenty-five pages are devoted, but the space given to minor possibilities in the duller games seems a waste of paper. To give a flavour of how Kasparov modifies his previous annotations, here is the 16th game indicating some of the main amendments.

#### Garry Kasparov – Anatoly Karpov

World Championship match, game 16, Leningrad 15 September 1986

Ruy Lopez, Zaitsev Variation [C92]

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 h3 Bb7 10 d4 Re8 11 Nbd2 Bf8 12 a4 h6 13 Bc2 exd4 14 cxd4 Nb4 15 Bb1 c5 16 d5 Nd7 17 Ra3 c4 18 Nd4**

Replacing 18 axb5 which Kasparov had played in game fourteen.

**18...Qf6!**



Karpov's novelty, which pre-empted Kasparov's preparation.

**19 N2f3 Nc5**

If 19...Nd3!? 20 Bxd3 b4!, then instead of 21 Bxc4 recommended in the *ChessBase MegaBase* notes, Kasparov reveals that he discovered the exchange sacrifice 21 Rb3! cxb3 22 Qxb3 before the 1987 match.

**20 axb5 axb5 21 Nxb5 Rxa3 22 Nxa3 Ba6 23 Re3**



**23...Rb8!**

23...Nbd3 has been criticized, but Kasparov now thinks it would lead to roughly equal play after 24 Bxd3 cxd3 25 b4 Nxe4 26 b5 Bb7 27 Rxd3! Rc8! (instead of 27...Nc3? as given in previous annotations).

**24 e5! dxe5 25 Nxe5**



**25...Nbd3?**

This was a serious error that he nearly failed to exploit. 25...Ncd3! was necessary, and then Kasparov planned 26 Ng4! Qd4! 27 Nc2! Nxc2 28 Bxc2. Here, he says, Black should play either 28...Bd6!? or 28...h5!, whereas the move previously given as unclear, 28...Bc5?, is refuted in the new book by 29 Qf3! Rd8 30 Re4 Qxd5 31 Nxh6+! gxh6 32 Rg4+ Kh7 33 Qf6 Bf8 34 Qxa6 and White wins.

**26 Ng4?**

Kasparov has not changed his mind about this, except for details later. He should have played 26 Qc2! Rb4 27 Nc6 and Black faces serious problems. After 27...Rb7 (Better 27...Rb6!) 28 Re8, the reply 28...g6 used to be recommended, but Kasparov or his computer has now found a win for White by 29 Bxh6 Rxb2 30 Bxf8 Kh7 31 Be7 Qf4 32 g3.

**26...Qb6?**

This used to get an exclamation mark but 26...Qf5! was much stronger, setting White serious problems.

**27 Rg3 g6**

This used to get a “!” too, but Kasparov analyses the alternative 27...Kh8 28 Nxh6! Ne4! over three pages without coming to a definite conclusion except that it may draw.

**28 Bxh6 Qxb2 29 Qf3! Nd7**

Alternatives are analysed over several pages. Black should probably have kept the second knight in contact with d3.

**30 Bxf8 Kxf8 31 Kh2! Rb3! 32 Bxd3 cxd3?!**



32...Rxa3 used to be given as equalising, but after 33 Qf4 Rxd3 34 Qd6+ Kasparov shows that the best Black can do is a rook ending a pawn down, which would also have happened after 32...Rxd3.

### 33 Qf4



### 33...Qxa3?

In time trouble, Karpov plays the losing move. The only continuation consistent with his previous move was to try to queen the d-pawn: 33...d2 34 Nh6 Nf6! when Black holds on by a thread in detailed variations given in the book.

**34 Nh6 Qe7 35 Rxg6 Qe5 36 Rg8+ Ke7 37 d6+! Ke6 38 Re8+ Kd5 39 Rxe5 + Nxe5 40 d7 Rb8 41 Nxf7 1-0**

Karpov resigned and "left the stage without the traditional handshake."

A less appealing aspect of the book is Kasparov's authorial voice, constantly whingeing about this and that, as if we did not all know by now how devious Campomanes was, and how manipulative and unjust the Soviet system was, and how deeply embedded in its privileges was his opponent Karpov. The exposure of the chess espionage by which the Karpov team learned many of Kasparov's analytical secrets is fascinating — and yet Karpov, even when he knew what variation would be played next day, still could not win!

Least to my liking is the way the English Chess Federation judges keep awarding Kasparov their prize, which would be better used to stimulate new and original writing on the game, and to reward a greater variety of authors and publishers. It is true (as mentioned in the citation) that Everyman have produced a physically impressive book but that should not be any part of the criteria by which such an award is judged. Of course they can spend money on it, they know it will sell well (even without winning awards) and so need not stint on the production values. For them and for Kasparov, this series (and its "great predecessor") have just been an enormous cash cow, encouraging the over-writing and sub-division into multiple volumes of what would have been much more readable as a compact project of, say, three or four volumes covering all the previous world champions and Kasparov's own matches. I suppose when he has finally got past the Nigel Short match, we shall then be treated to multiple volumes on "my less than great successors"?

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