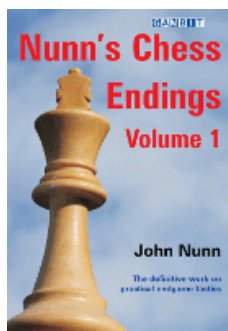




COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



CHESSTHEATRE

Play through and download the games from [ChessCafe.com](#) in the [DGT Game Viewer](#).



Chess Books for Summer

This column is devoted to reviews of a number of books that have come my way in the past six months. All are published by Everyman Chess.

English grandmaster Nigel Davies has put together a simple practical book under the title [The Rules of Winning Chess](#) (Everyman Chess, ISBN 978-1-857445961; \$26.95; £15.99, 190pp. Softcover). Each of its fifty short chapters follows a formula. Firstly the rules: a quotation or two, sometimes from a chess master but often from a work of oriental wisdom such as *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu or from books on martial arts. Then follows elucidating text and finally a lightly-annotated game or two as illustration. Davies's rules are divided into five categories, each of which have ten chapters. The first concerns the Player and mental preparation. The second part concerns practical advice such as getting sleep and having breakfast, and not talking during games as it destroys concentration. The remaining sections deal with opening, middle-game and endgame respectively. This is quite an amusing book at times, with some sound advice, but fundamentally it just a potboiler. The quotation I liked the best, on page sixty-one, comes from *The Book of Five Rings* by Miyamoto Musashi and is applicable to any sport where two play head-to-head; e.g., match-play golf, tennis or pool just as much as fencing or chess:

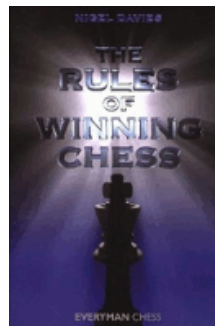
In single combat you must put yourself in the enemy's position. If you think "Here is a master of the Way, who knows the principles of strategy," then you will surely lose.

The title of a new book by grandmaster **Simon Williams** claims to instruct readers in [How to Win at Chess – Quickly!](#). This is the sort of urgent attention-grabbing title that some publishers may love but nowadays always make me suspicious. Again the publisher is Everyman Chess (ISBN 978-1-85744-446319; \$26.95; £15.99, 192pp. Softcover). The book is based around fifty illustrative master games but I have some doubts about the level of advice on offer.

For example, Game One is a win by Nigel Short on the white side of the Rubinstein Four Knights. The game began 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nc6 4 Bb5 Nd4 5 Nxe5 and now Black played 5...Nxb5 instead of 5...Qe7. Williams writes of 5 Nxe5 as if it was "a new move" and a "trick" but the whole point of Rubinstein's 4...Nd4 is that it offers a gambit. True, it may be rare for White to accept but no player has any business offering a gambit if he does not know how to continue when it is accepted. Williams fails to make that point. I think the level of advice offered by Davies in his book is more specific and illuminating than the kind of generic waffle Williams produces, such as "if you are surprised in the opening, keep your cool".

Here is an example from the book of Williams winning quickly against another English grandmaster.

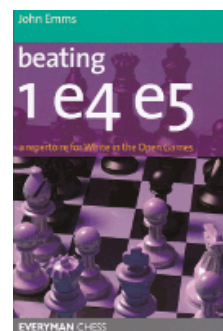
Mark Hebden – Simon Williams
Amersham, 2009
Queen's Gambit [D44]



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[Chess Endgames 5](#)
by Karsten Müller



[Beating 1 e4 e5](#)
by John Emms



[Studying Chess Made Easy](#)
by Andrew Soltis

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d5 3 c4 e6 4 Bg5 dxc4 5 Nc3

5 Qa4+ is safer.

5...c6

Black heads for the complications of the Botvinnik Semi-Slav.

6 e4 b5 7 e5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Nxc3 Nd5!?



[FEN "rnbqkb1r/p4p2/2p1p2p/1p1nP1N1/2pP3B//
2N5/PP3PPP/R2QKB1R w KQkq - 0 10"]

Black chooses a lesser-known move instead of the main line, 9...hxg5 10 Bxg5 Nbd7 11 exf6 Bb7.

10 Nxf7

Theoretically best but White is now out of his comfort zone. Hebden's mistake in this game was playing to his opponent's strengths instead of his own, a quiet positional game. 10 Nf3 is about equal says Williams.

10...Qxh4 11 Nxh8 Bb4 12 Qd2

'Hebden took a long time over this move, which was a sign that he was out of his preparation and this gave me a good deal of confidence.' 12 Rc1 is the main move, when Williams intended the unusual 12...Kd8!?, seeking escape to the queenside, instead of 12...c5 which is supposedly favourable to White.

12...c5!



[FEN "rnb1k2N/p7/4p2p/1ppnP3/1bpP3q/
2N5/PP1Q1PPP/R3KB1R w KQq - 0 13"]

13 dxc5?

I found this game: 13 0-0-0 Nc6 14 Ng6 Bxc3 (14...Nxc3 15 Nxh4 Nxa2+ 16 Kb1 Bxd2 17 Rxd2 Nab4 18 Nf3) 15 bxc3 Qg5 16 Qxg5 hxg5 17 h4 Kf7 18 h5 Nxc3 19 Rd2 Nxd4 20 h6! Kxg6 21 h7 Ba6 22 h8Q Rxh8 23 Rxh8 Ne4 24 g4! Nxd2 25 Kxd2 c3+ 26 Kc1 c4 27 Bg2 b4 28 Be4+ Kf7 29 Ra8 Nb5 30 Bc6 b3 31 Be8+ Kg7 32 Bxb5 Bxb5 33 Rxa7+ Kg6 34 Ra3! bxa2 35 Rxa2 Bc6 36 Kc2 Bf3 37 Kxc3 Bxg4 38 Kxc4 Kf5 39 Kd4 Kf4 40 Ra8 Bf5 41 Rf8 g4 42 Rf6! 1-0, J. Corfield-A. Stoker, British Corr. Ch. candidates 1990.

13...Nd7 14 Be2

14 0–0–0 Nxc5 15 Qe1 was suggested in a note to the last-mentioned game in *British Chess Magazine*, January 1993.

14...Nxe5 15 0–0?

Williams says 15 g3 Qf6 16 f4 Nd3+ 17 Bxd3 cxd3 18 Qxd3 Qxh8 'would have been roughly equal'.

15...Bb7

Black threatens 16...Nf4 followed by 17...Qh3! when 18 gxh3 Nxh3 is checkmate.



[FEN "r3k2N/pb6/4p2p/1pPnn3/1bp4q/2N5/PP1QBPPP/R4RK1 w q - 0 16"]

16 f4 Bxc5+ 17 Kh1 Ne3 18 Bf3 N3g4 0–1

The author omits the following game from his book, I am not sure whether out of modesty or because it went on too long. (White was rated 2014.) As James Coleman remarked when posting it at the English Chess Forum, it could set some kind of record as "Black made his first twelve moves with pawns only, after which he had a won position."

Labash Tsaboshvili – Simon Williams

Bunratty Open, Ireland, 2009

Basmaniac Defence [A40]

1.d4 h6 2.Nf3 g5 3.e4 a6

Showing grave disrespect for the opponent, which proves to be justified.

4.h4 g4 5.Ne5 h5 6.Bc4

Is this a Kieseritsky Gambit or what?



[FEN "rnbqkbnr/1ppppp2/p7/4N2p/2BPP1pP/8/PPP2PP1/RNBQK2R b KQkq - 0 6"]

6...e6 7.Nc3? b5 8.Bb3

White is in a horrible muddle already.

8...d6 9.Nd3?

Losing a piece.

9...c5 10.dxc5 dxc5 11.a4 c4 12.axb5 cxb3 13.cxb3 Nd7

Time to get the bits out!

14.g3 Nc5 15.Nxc5 Qxd1+ 16.Kxd1 Bxc5

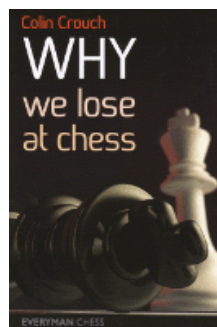


[FEN "r1b1k1nr/5p2/p3p3/1Pb4p/4P1pP/1PN3P1/1P3P2/R1BK3R w kq - 0 17"]

If White had known his opponent was writing a book on winning quickly, he might have had the decency to resign here.

17.Ke2 Bb7 18.Rd1 Nf6 19.Ra4 axb5 20.Nxb5 0-0 21.Be3 Nxe4 22.Rxe4 Bxe4 23.Bxc5 Bf3+ 24.Ke1 Rfc8 25.Rc1 Ra5 26.b4 Rxb5 27.Kd2 Ra8 0-1

I once wrote a book called [Why You Lose At Chess](#). I was surprised nobody had used the title before, as S. J. Simon's *Why You Lose at Bridge* was a classic. In his new book, English IM **Colin Crouch** has varied it slightly and his is called [Why We Lose at Chess](#) (Everyman Chess, ISBN 978-1-857446364; \$26.95; £15.99, 187pp. Softcover). His book is actually quite different from mine, being arranged around his own games and a series of tests. This book seems to be a voyage of rediscovery for Colin, an old opponent of mine from our youth, who frankly admits that he had a stroke a few years ago and playing chess again, leading to writing this book, was part of his road to health. I wish him a full recovery in time.



The new book by English grandmaster **Danny Gormally** is called [Play Chess Like the PROs](#) (Everyman Chess, ISBN 978-1-857446272; \$26.95; £15.99, 208pp. Softcover). I am a bit puzzled by the capitalisation of the final word in the title; he doesn't want to say "professionals" (which is what he means) and is his publisher worried some readers might think, if the word is in lower-case, that he is advising them to play like prostitutes? As the abbreviated word is all in capitals, my initial reaction was to wonder why he was telling me to play like a Public Relations Officer!



Disarmingly, the author admits in the very first paragraph a young Dutch player said to him "you are pretty weak for a professional aren't you?" Time was that a young GM would no sooner get the title than he would be hired by some City or Wall Street finance firm at a ridiculous salary and bonus level beyond the wildest dreams of Anand and Topalov, but the fall of Lehman Brothers changed all that. So the pursuit of small prizes and book royalties remains Gormally's lot.

The book is actually written in a good-humoured self-deprecating sort of way

which rather endears the reader to the author's self-inflicted miseries and occasional joys, though I do wish he had proof-read better. For example, on page 128 the text says that his Scottish colleague Rowson has "practised mediation in the past" but clearly there is a letter missing and what Rowson really tries to achieve a settled frame of mind must be meditation.

Chapter One consists of some of Gormally's own games in local competitions, and then in Chapter Two he goes on to compare Paul Morphy with the player rated number one in the world today, Magnus Carlsen. The first game in this chapter is billed as Morphy v Barnes, first match game, but the two men never played a formal match. Löwenthal's book on Morphy called it a "casual game" and other sources concur. Morphy only played formal matches with Löwenthal, Harrwitz (of which the fifth game is in Gormally's book), Anderssen and Mongredien. A small point, but I am more troubled by his statement on page forty-three that if Carlsen keeps up his rate of improvement (which he has), then the Anand-Topalov match (now recent, but in the future when Gormally was writing) "is likely to have about as much relevance to finding the world's best chess player as is a contest between Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton to find the world's greatest intellect". That sentence seems deeply insulting to both women but even more so to the grandmasters.

It has never been the case that world champions were required to have the highest rating and if Anand and Carlsen were to play a set match, I would expect Anand to win and gain Elo points while applying a useful corrective to Carlsen's own rating. In another couple of years, that might not be the case, of course. At this point I thought: this is another superficial book. Actually I was wrong; I just had not tuned into the author's sense of humour yet.

Here is an interesting position from one of the annotated games in the book, **Anand-Aronian, Linares 2009**, which illustrates the theme of 'Major mistakes in calculation'. White is a piece for a handful of pawns ahead and, at move thirty-three, is looking for a safe simplifying continuation. The fact that Anand had not beaten Aronian since 2007 and had lost to him in the 2008 Linares (and in one of the Melody Amber games that same year) may have been a psychological factor here, which the author does not mention.



[FEN "4r1k1/1b1n1pp1/p1p3rp/1p3N2//3p2PQ/P2R4/1PB1KBq1/R7 w - - 0 33"]

Gormally was following this game on the Internet, where most kibitzers were expecting 33 Rg3. He was running Fritz 11 on his computer, which insisted that 33 Rxd4 was correct and winning for White, and when he input 33 Rg3 the computer immediately rebuked him for making a blunder. So he posted "33 Rg3 is a mistake" and then Anand played it. Can you see what is wrong with the move? Even when you know there is a flaw, it is not immediately obvious.

33 Rg3?? Rxd4 34 Qxd4 Rxe4+!

Now Black obtains a fifth pawn for the piece, undermining the previously strong knight, for if 35 Bxe4 Qxe4+ and 36... Qxf5. After a further mistake, White soon lost.

[*Starting Out: Open Games*](#) (Everyman Chess, ISBN 978-1-85744-6302, \$27.95, £16.99, 318pp. Softcover) is the latest in the 'Starting Out' series from



Everyman. It is a heavyweight book by GM **Glenn Flear** which I fear might appear rather too big for those just 'starting out' – but of course there is a lot of ground to cover. However, grandmaster Flear has provided a sound and up-to-date guide; for players with the time to work through it, this could be a useful book. Unlike "repertoire" type books, the author gives a balanced presentation with recommendations for both colours.



His book deals with all 1 e4 e5 openings except the Spanish (Ruy Lopez). It begins with 'the quiet Italian', 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 lines with an early d3 instead of d4 before examining sharper variations in later chapters.

In the Two Knights Defence, where Flear begins with 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5, it is noteworthy that he mentions 5...Nxd5 as being possibly playable. This is because the traditional 'refutation', the Fegatello Attack, is far from clear: 6 Nxf7!? Kxf7 7 Qf3+ ke6 8 Nc3 Nb4 and if 9 Qe4 c6. On the only occasion when I had to meet 5...Nxd5 in correspondence play, I chose 6 d4 which Leonard Barden recommended long ago. My opponent replied 6...exd4 (death wish) and after 7 0-0 Be6 8 Re1 Qd7 9 Nxf7! (very old theory, going back to Steinitz or earlier) I won quite easily. The book move is 6...Bb4+ but that should also favour White. The new try for Black is 6...Be6 7 Nxe6 fxe6 8 dxe5 Bc5!, which Flear credits to Martin de Zeeuw, saying 9 Qg4 is critical. I can offer one game from my database in this line.

Heikki Arppi – Kari Eloranta

Finland Email ch-5 (WS) ICCF server, 20.11.2005

Two Knights Defence [C57]

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Nxd5 6 d4 Be6!



[FEN "r2qkb1r/ppp2ppp/2n1b3/3np1N1/2BP4/8/PPPP2PPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 0 7"]

7 Nxe6

Flear thinks White should forget about winning a pawn and play for a positional advantage by 7 0-0 Nxd4 8 Nxe6 fxe6 9 Qh5+ g6 10 Qxe5 Qf6 11 Qxf6 Nxf6 12 Bd3, as suggested by Karsten Müller.

7...fxe6 8 dxe5 Bc5 9 Qg4



[FEN "r2qk2r/ppp3pp/2n1p3/2bnP3/2B3Q1/
8/PPP2PPP/RNB1K2R b KQkq - 0 9"]

9...Qd7

9...Qe7 10 0-0 Nxe5 11 Qh5+ Nf7 and there is still a lot of play left in either case. Now White has a choice:

a) Restoring the material advantage by 12 Bxd5 exd5 13 Qxd5; e.g., 13...c6 14 Qb3 0-0-0 15 Qh3+ Kb8 16 Bf4+ Bd6 17 Bxd6+ Nxd6 18 Nc3, or

b) 12 Bd2 0-0-0 13 Nc3 Nf6 14 Qe2 Rhe8 15 Rad1 with some positional advantage to White: bishop-pair and a target in the isolated pawn at e6 although it is sufficiently defended for now.

10 Nc3 0-0 11 f4

Evidently not liking the king in the centre after 11 Bxd5 Bxf2+ 12 Kf1 Bb6+ 13 Bf3.

11...Ncb4



[FEN "r4rk1/pppq2pp/4p3/2bnP3/1nB2PQ1/
2N5/PPP3PP/R1B1K2R w KQ - 0 12"]

12 Bb3!

Again White plays conservatively, avoiding the complications of 12 Nxd5 Nxc2+ 13 Ke2 Kh8 (13...Nxa1?? 14 Nf6+ Rxf6 15 exf6) 14 Rd1 Nxa1 15 Nc3 Qe7 when Black is the exchange up at present, although his situation is precarious.

12...Kh8

12...Rae8 may be slightly better but the reply would be the same.

13 a3 Nxc3 14 axb4 Bxb4 15 0-0 Bc5+ 16 Kh1 Qb5

If the knight retreats, Black has clearly an inferior position.



[FEN "r4r1k/ppp3pp/4p3/1qb1P3/5PQ1/
1Bn5/1PP3PP/R1B2R1K w - - 0 17"]

17 Be3!?

An ambitious reply; White counts on the attacking propensity of opposite coloured bishops in the middle-game. He will sacrifice the queenside and build up against the black king with pieces and pawns.

17 Qf3 is simpler and preserves an edge, but in correspondence play, White can calculate the tactics.

17...Bxe3 18 bxc3 Rad8 19 h4 Qc6 20 Rf3 Bd2

If 20...Qxc3 21 Raf1 Qd2 then 22 Qxe6 (or maybe 22 Bxe6) and White retains winning chances.

21 Rd1

21 Bxe6!?

21...Qe4 22 Rdf1 a5 23 Bxe6 Qxc2 24 h5



[FEN "3r1r1k/1pp3pp/4B3/p3P2P/5PQ1/2P2R2/2qb2P1/5R1K b - - 0 24"]

24...Bxc3?

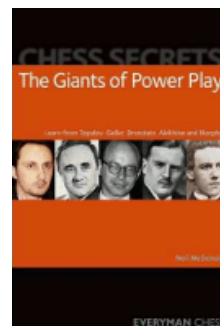
24...Rd3 would probably be met by 25 Bf7! Rxf3 26 gxf3! (threatening h5-h6) 26...h6 27 e6 Qb3 28 Qf5 (Renews the threat of e6-e7) 28...Qa3 29 Qe4 Qe7 30 Rd1 Bxc3 31 Kg2. This is played so that ...Qh4+ is no longer check, and White's next move Rd7 will be very strong.

25 Kh2 Qe2?

Now Black is definitely lost. 25...Rde8 26 h6 gxh6 might save him in an over-the-board game but perhaps not in correspondence play.

26 h6! Bxe5 27 Bc4! Qxc4 28 fxe5 Qg8 29 e6 Rfe8 30 Rg3 Re7 31 Qf5 1-0

Neil McDonald's, *Chess Secrets: The Giants of Power Play* (Everyman Chess, published in 2009; ISBN 978-1-85744-5978, \$24.95, £14.99, 239pp. Softcover) is subtitled 'Learn from Topalov, Geller, Bronstein, Alekhine and Morphy'. I should say at once that McDonald is not using the term 'Power Play' as it is generally understood in North America; he is not talking ice hockey. Back in the early days of The Kibitzer, I also got into trouble with some American readers because of this misunderstanding when I used the phrase in one of my articles to mean playing for a big advantage with White from the start. McDonald is using it in a similar sense, dividing top players between strategists and what he calls 'power players'.



Here is a game in which McDonald compares the winner's use of his queen to Paul Morphy.

Veselin Topalov – Arkadij Naiditsch

Dortmund Super GM 2005

Queen's Gambit [D39]

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 d4 dxc4 5 e4 Bb4 6 Bg5 c5 7 e5 cxd4 8 Nxd4
Bxc3+ 9 bxc3 Qa5 10 exf6 Qxg5 11 fxg7 Qxg7 12 Qd2 0-0 13 Bxc4 a6 14
0-0



[FEN "rnb2rk1/1p3pqp/p3p3/8/2BN4/
2P5/P2Q1PPP/R4RK1 b - - 0 14"]

14...Rd8?

14...b5 was correct.

15 Qf4! b5 16 Qc7!

This prevents 16...Bb7, when Black would develop by ...Nc6 and equalise.

16...Qf8

A concession, because now an eventual ...Bb7 will not threaten mate on g2.

17 Bd3 Rd7 18 Qf4 Bb7

At last, but McDonald explains how White's preliminary queen sortie has disrupted Black's co-ordination. The e6-pawn is no longer guarded by the bishop while the rook has been lured off the back rank.

19 Rae1 Qg7 20 Be4 Kh8 21 Re3 Bxe4 22 Qxe4 Rd5



[FEN "m5k/5pqp/p3p3/1p1r4/3NQ3/
2P1R3/P4PPP/5RK1 w - - 0 23"]

Now it is time for the final Morphy-like assault.

23 Nxe6! fxe6 24 Qxe6 Rd7 25 Rg3 Qf8 26 Re1 Raa7

This piece only moves when it's too late.

27 Qf6+! 1-0



[FEN "1n3q1k/r2r3p/p4Q2/1p6/8/2P3R1/P4PPP/4R1K1 b - - 0 27"]

Timothy Taylor advocates 1...Nf6 in his [*Alekhine Alert! A Repertoire for Black against 1 e4*](#)

(Everyman Chess, ISBN 978-1-85744-6234, \$27.95, £16.99, 285pp. Softcover). For each variation that White may adopt, the author (an American IM) recommends following a "hero". He also starts his consideration of each variation by dismissing lines he doesn't like; e.g., in the Modern Variation **1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3** (the line Taylor respects the most) he rejects 4...Bg4, 4...g6 and 4...dxe5 5 Nxe5 Nd7. He recommends that Black play **4...dxe5** and after **5 Nxe5** (if 5 dxe5 Bg4, not worrying about losing castling rights by 6 c4 Nb4 7 Qxd8+) either **5...g6** or **5...c6** is playable.



If White plays the Four Pawns Attack, 1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6 5 f4, then Taylor recommends 5...g6 without exchanging pawns. He thinks the Exchange Variation 5 exd6 (instead of 5 f4) is drawish when met precisely by 5...exd6 6 Nc3 Nc6 7 Be3 Be7 8 Be2 0-0 9 Nf3 Bg4, and most other lines for White he considers to be inferior. One noteworthy point is that if White plays 2 Nc3 instead of 2 e5, then Taylor does not like 2...d5 and prefers to transpose to the Vienna by 2...e5. He does give some examples, but his coverage of that (or of the Four Knights Game when White plays 3 Nf3) is by no means comprehensive and must be supplemented from other books.

On the whole, however, this book is an excellent guide to the Alekhine for anyone looking for a new defence to 1 e4.

Here is one of the author's illustrative games, with additional notes by me. The winner is Ireland's top player, and only grandmaster, who came from Russia to live here in the 1980s.

Pavel Blatny – Alex Baburin

North American Open, Las Vegas, 2003

Alekhine's Defence [B04]

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 dxe5 5 Nxe5 c6 6 c4?!

Taylor says that White's best chance for an advantage is 6 Be2, as played by Kasparov and Anand.

6...Nb4!



[FEN "mbqkb1r/pp2pppp/2p5/4N3/1nPP4/8/PP3PPP/RNBQKB1R w KQkq - 0 7"]

7 Be3

Black wins at least a pawn after 7 a3? Qxd4!, although there is one correspondence game in my database where Black managed to mess up after 8 Qxd4 Nc2+ 9 Kd1 Nxd4 and lose in the end. If 8 axb4 Qxe5+, Black just wins a pawn, while if 8 Nxf7 Taylor gives 9...Qe4+ 9 Be2 (9 Qe2 Nd3+) 9... Qxg2 10 Bf3 Nc2+! 11 Ke2 Bg4.

7...Bf5 8 Nd3

8 Na3 Nd7.

8...e5 9 Nxb4 Bxb4+ 10 Nc3 Qa5



[FEN "m2k2r/pp3ppp/2p5/q3pb2/1bPP4/2N1B3/PP3PPP/R2QKB1R w KQkq - 0 11"]

11 Qb3

Not 11 Rc1? Qxa2.

A better defence is 11 Qc1!, not mentioned in Taylor's book. Of course the fact that White, at move eleven, has to seek a way to draw is hardly a good advertisement for 6 c4.

a) 11...0-0 enables White to recover: 12 a3 Be7 13 d5 with about equal chances, although in B. Baroin-H. Buczinski, ICCF server correspondence 2006, White won in sixty-three moves.

b) 11...exd4 12 Bxd4 0-0 13 a3 Re8+ 14 Be2 Bxc3+ 15 Qxc3 Qxc3+ 16 bxc3 (Forced; if 16 Bxc3 Bd3, White can cover the e-file but has damaged pawns.) 16...Bd3 (16...Nd7 may be better.) 17 Be3 Bxe2 18 Kxe2 c5 (18...Nd7!?) 19 a4 Nc6 (19...f5!?) 20 a5 f5 21 g3 b6 22 axb6 axb6 23 Rxa8 Rxa8 24 Rb1 ½-½, H. Klapp-H. Packroff, Germany email 2003. Black still has a small edge and might have played on by 24...Ra2+ 25 Kd1 Ra6 26 Kc2 though White can probably hold.

11...0-0

11...exd4 12 Bxd4 0-0 was also good in a later Baburin game.

12 Be2 exd4 13 Bxd4 Na6 14 0–0 Bc5 15 Be5

15 Bxc5 Nxc5 and Black went on to win in Sam Collins-Baburin, Bunratty 2004.

15...Rae8 16 Bg3 Bb4 17 Qd1 Rd8

White can only grovel while Black has the initiative with no weaknesses.

18 Qc1 Rfe8 19 Re1 Nc5



[FEN "3rr1k1/pp3ppp/2p5/q1n2b2/1bP5/2N3B1/PP2BPPP/R1Q1R1K1 w - - 0 20"]

20 Bh4

20 a3 Bxc3 21 Qxc3 Qxc3 22 bxc3 Ne4 23 Rac1 Nxc3 24 Rxc3 Rxe2! and wins (Baburin).

20...f6 21 Bh5 Rxe1+ 22 Qxe1 Nd3 23 Qe2 Nxb2! 24 Re1 Nd3 25 Rd1

If 25 Qe8+ Rxe8 26 Rxe8+ Bf8.

25...Bxc3 26 Qe7 Rf8 27 g4 Nf4! 28 Bf7+

Or 28 gxf5 Nxh5.

28...Rxf7! 29 Rd8+ Qxd8 30 Qxd8+ Rf8 31 Qc7 Be5



[FEN "5rk1/ppQ3pp/2p2p2/4bb2/2P2nPB/8/P4P1P/6K1 w - - 0 32"]

32 Qxb7?

32 Qe7 also loses in the end after 32...Bxg4.

32...Rb8 0–1

White resigns in view of 33 Qxc6 Rb1 mate.

[*Chess Duels: My Games with the World Champions*](#) by **Yasser Seirawan** (Everyman Chess, ISBN 978-1-857445879, \$35 or £20, 426 pages) came hardback and shrink-wrapped. The former means a premium



price and implies a book to keep. The latter usually means booksellers don't want people thumbing through it and not buying, and the converse of that is: this is a special book and you'll have to take that on trust. My first thought when it arrived was something like this: 'Doubtless this is a premium book in America but I would not expect much interest in it from European readers.'



Yet again, first impressions were wrong. This is an excellent book, and although it is likely that Americans will be the main buyers, it is of much wider interest. Yasser Seirawan was born on 24 March 1960 in Damascus. His father was a Syrian scientist who met his English mother while studying at Nottingham university. The couple returned to Syria but after a few years 'escaped' back to England, just before his fourth birthday. When Yasser was seven the family moved to America, when his father got a job with Boeing. Within a year his parents had broken up and his mother married again (twice). Yasser was about twelve before he really got into chess, which was around the time Fischer became world champion. He tells many stories about Fischer in an early chapter.

The young Seirawan made swift progress in his teenage years, and in 1979 he won the World Junior Championship which led to him receiving invitations to Hastings 1979-80 and then Wijk aan Zee 1980 which followed immediately afterwards. There he had an important meeting with Viktor Korchnoi, whom he beat in round two. Seirawan describes how the post-mortem to that game led to a great friendship with Korchnoi inviting him to work with him in preparing for his Candidates semi-final against Petrosian. Because all the games in this book are against world champions, he does not include the Korchnoi game so here it is to fill that gap.

Yasser Seirawan – Victor Korchnoi

Wijk aan Zee 1980

English Opening [A18]

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6 3 e4 d5 4 e5 d4 5 exf6 dxc3 6 bxc3 Qxf6 7 d4 c5 8 Nf3 h6 9 Bd3 cxd4 10 cxd4 Bb4+ 11 Kf1



[FEN "rnb1k2r/pp3pp1/4pq1p/8/1bPP4/3B1N2/P4PPP/R1BQ1K1R b kq - 0 11"]

This is probably the move Seirawan means when he wrote that Victor 'had walked into one of my best opening surprises.' White retains his bishop to participate in a later kingside attack and the black bishop has no clear role. The downside is that the white rook is out of play for a while unless the h-file is opened.

11 Bd2 was theory (e.g., Ree-Radulov, Wijk aan Zee 1974).

11...Nc6

11...0-0 was mostly played in later games but White seems to have the initiative.

12 Bb2 Bc5

12...0-0 may be somewhat better; it scored 1-1 in two later games to be found in ChessBase's [MegaBase](#).

13 Bc2 0-0 14 Qd3 Rd8 15 Rd1!

Seirawan is not distracted by a check: 15 Qh7+ Kf8 16 Rd1 Nxd4!.

15...Kf8 16 Qe4 Bd6 17 h4! Qf5 18 Qe2 Qa5 19 Bb3 Ne7 20 h5 b6 21 Qe4 Ba6 22 d5!



[FEN "r2r1k2/p3npp1/bp1bp2p/q2P3P/2P1Q3/1B3N2/PB3PP1/3R1K1R b - - 0 22"]

The attack gets under way, although computers may not be convinced.

22...exd5 23 Qh7 f6 24 Kg1 Bxc4

We shall probably have to wait for Seirawan's next book to discover whether he thinks he was winning after 24...dxc4 25 Bc2 (25 Bxf6 is probably unsound.) 25...Bb4 or 25...Bc5. If instead 25...c3 26 Bb3! or 25...Kf7? 26 Bg6 + Nxc6 27 hxc6+ Ke8 28 Qxc7 White wins.

25 Rh4 Bxb3 26 axb3 Kf7 27 Rg4 Rg8 28 Re1 d4 29 Rxd4 Be5 30 Rd7 Qxe1+ 31 Nxe1 Bxb2 32 Nd3 Ba3 33 Nf4 Rgd8 34 Qg6+ Kg8 35 Qd3 Rxd7 36 Qxd7 Rc8



[FEN "2r3k1/p2Qn1p1/1p3p1p/7P/5N2/bP6/5PP1/6K1 w - - 0 37"]

37 Kh2 Kf7 38 Ng6 Ra8?

Black collapses in time trouble, but was probably losing anyway.

39 Nxe7 1-0

Seirawan had an active career of about twenty-one years in top chess, and was briefly in the world top ten, although during much of his internationally playing career he was also editing the well-respected magazine *Inside Chess*, which was published fortnightly. In 2001 he sold the business to Hanon W. Russell, and he in turn to James & Mark Donlan in 2009, but Seirawan's [column](#) of that title continues to run on the [ChessCafe.com](#) website. I think he can be well proud of his achievements, and of this book.

I have left one book for coverage next time. That is Dave Taylor and Keith

Hayward's *Play the Ponziani* (Everyman Chess, ISBN 978-1-85744-620-3; \$27.95, £16.99, 300pp. Softcover). If any readers have interesting games or analysis in this opening, they are welcome to submit them before the end of July, via the [ChessCafe.com Contact Page](#), for possible inclusion in my review.

Postscript

I have decided to retire from the business side of my chess work and to concentrate on research and writing. The intention is to continue my [website](#) as a private website only, dealing with chess history and correspondence chess. It may be some time before it is redesigned.

Now is the final opportunity to order copies of my UltraCorr3a database CD or any other Chess Mail products. After Sunday 18 July, the last day on which readers will be able to place orders through Chess Mail's PayPal shopping cart, all sales pages will be taken down and orders through the post will not be accepted either.

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