



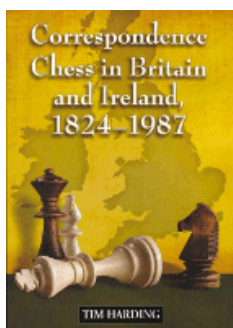
COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding

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Winter Reading Recommendations

Traditionally, I review new chess books coming up to Christmas, but exceptionally this year I have a new book of my own coming out. I shall have something to say about that in a postscript but the "main event" for most readers is probably the second volume by Kasparov about his matches with Karpov. Before discussing that, I briefly mention some other titles that have come my way.

Play the Dutch by British GM Neil McDonald (Everyman Chess, 176 pages paperback, ISBN 978-1-85744-641-8; \$26.95, £15.99) is based on the Leningrad Variation, in which Black fianchettoes his king's bishop. I wrote the first book in English (if not in any language) about this defence in the 1970s but theory has of course moved on considerably in the past three decades.



Apart from the main line, the author also considers sidelines in which White does not play 1 c4 and lines such as the Staunton Gambit, 1 d4 f5 2 e4, in which the defender must play for survival from the start but has the chance of at least an equal game if he survives the opening. The important sidelines 2 Nc3 and 2 Bg5 are also discussed.

This book seems to me to be quite a good introduction to the Dutch Defence and in particular to the Leningrad Variation. Black has great flexibility in his move order. Usually only a small percentage of games, in amateur chess at least, reach the standard position that can arise; for example, via **1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nf3** (White can also develop this knight at h3, heading for f4, in which case McDonald recommends lines for Black based on ...Nc6) **4... Bg7 5 c4 0-0 6 0-0 d6 7 Nc3**.



[FEN "mbq1rk1/ppp1p1bp/3p1np1/5p2/2PP4/2N2NP1/PP2PPBP/R1BQ1RK1 b - - 0 7"]

My book chiefly dealt with 7...c6, which, at that time, was taking over from 7...Nc6 as Black's principal way of handling the variation. (If8 d5, then the black knight can go either to a5 or e5.) Now 7...c6 seems to be the main line again, but shortly after my book, players began trying 7...Qe8. That move has perhaps been refuted as McDonald does not discuss it.

How to Play Against 1 d4 by British IM Richard Palliser (Everyman Chess, 256 pages paperback, ISBN 978-1-85744-616-6; \$26.95, £15.99) has a very misleading title. It is principally a book about a little-



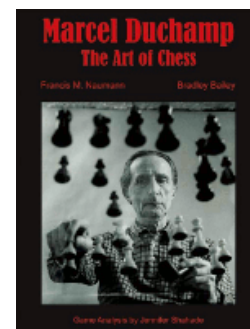
Purchases from our [chess shop](#) help keep [ChessCafe.com](#) freely accessible:



[Chess Masterpieces](#)
by George Dean



[Olympiad United!](#)
by Harold Fietz



[Marcel Duchamp:](#)
[The Art of Chess](#)
by Naumann, Bailey,
& Shahade

known defence, the Czech Benoni: **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e5**. This defence used to be a favourite of William Hartston and nowadays Romanian grandmaster Nisipeanu seems to be its main practitioner.



The blocked-centre positions that arise, with Black seriously in danger of having a bad king's bishop, really only suit a certain type of player: one who likes a slow positional build-up and who is well grounded in the teachings of Nimzowitsch. Black is committed to very slow regrouping manoeuvres in which, after castling, the king's knight usually retreats to e8 in order to "threaten" ...f5 and obtain some scope for the poor bishop on e7. This defence is not to be recommended to novices or people who like open tactical play.

In its favour, for experienced players, is that there is no clear refutation and the defence is likely to take many opponents out of their book knowledge very rapidly and oblige them to think for themselves. Where does White's king's bishop belong, for example: e2, d3 or g2? Should White play for an early f2-f4 or not? On the other hand, Black's best formation and move order are not quite clear either. Here is an example (not in the book) where the former correspondence world champion (and FIDE IM) Umansky scythes through Black's defences.

Mikhail Umansky (2439) – Vladimir G. Kostic (2383)
Bavarian Regional League, 2006
Czech Benoni [A56]

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e5 4 Nc3 d6 5 e4 Be7 6 g3 a6

6...0-0 7 Bg2 Nbd7 8 Nge2 a6 suggested by Palliser on page 125 transposes to the present game after 9 a4. Also, 8...Ne8 is a main line.

The development ...Na6, here or slightly later, is also often seen in practice but the author seems not so keen on that idea.

7 a4 Nbd7 8 Bg2 0-0 9 Nge2



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/lp1nbppp/p2p1n2/2pPp3/P1P1P3/2N3P1/1P2NPBP/R1BQK2R b KQ - 0 9"]

9...Ne8

9...b5!? is a gambit idea that is mentioned; 9...b6 is a more solid possibility.

10 0-0 g6 11 Bh6

11 Qc2?! Ng7 12 Bd2 f5 transposes to Game Eighteen in the book (P. Anderson-A. Ledger, Sheffield 2010).

11...Ng7 12 Qd2

The author admits White has a plus here, but does not quote the present game. He also says 12 f4!? favours White.

12...Nf6 13 h3 Kh8 14 Be3

Since Black was preparing to drive the bishop back anyway.

14...Ng8 15 f4 f6 16 Nc1 Rb8 17 Nd3 Qc7 18 a5



[FEN "1rb2rnk/1pq1b1np/p2p1pp1/P1pPp3/2P1PP2/2NNB1PP/1P1Q2B1/R4RK1 b - - 0 18"]

With a firm grip on the queenside and a space advantage on the kingside.

18...Bd7 19 Na4 f5?

Black cannot afford to open the game like this when he stands worse already.

20 fxe5 fxe4 21 Ndx5!

This wins a pawn.

21...Rxf1+ 22 Rxf1 Be8

Not 22...dxc5 23 d6.

23 Nxe4

23 exd6 Bxd6 24 Bd4 may be even stronger.

23...Bxa4 24 Qb4 Qd7 25 exd6 Bf8 26 Bd4 Bc2 27 Ng5 Bf5 28 c5 Nh6 29 g4 Bd3?

A blunder in a lost position.

30 Rxf8+ Rxf8 31 Ne6

Maybe Black was too short of time to resign?

31...Rf7 32 Nxg7 Kg8 33 c6 Qd8 34 cxb7 Bb5 35 Ne6 Qb8 36 Qe1 Qxd6 37 Be5 1-0

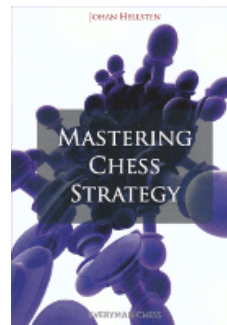
Like several other defences against 1 d4 (the Nimzo-Indian, the Benko Gambit, and the Budapest), Black faces a repertoire issue in that the defence really only arises after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 and White can side-step it by 2 Nf3 (a very common choice among amateur players, I find) or by the Trompowsky, 2 Bg5. These lines are not covered in the book.

Palliser's book also covers White's alternatives at move three, and 1 d4 c5, the Old Benoni, 1 d4 c5, which can transpose into the Czech Benoni. This move order was played by grandmaster Lothar Schmid in his early years until he had some accidents with it.

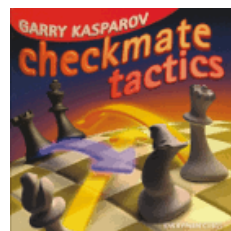
A major drawback of the Old Benoni is that it is only playable by people who employ the Sicilian Defence, because White can simply reply 2 e4. Then after 2...cxd4 3 c3 Black has to defend the Morra Gambit, or White can steer for more normal Sicilian positions with 3 Nf3. Palliser does give some space to these possibilities in his final chapter where he recommends that Black steer for the O'Kelly variation if possible (3 Nf3 a6) but I am totally unconvinced that his book represents a repertoire against 1 d4 and the book's title is

probably in contravention of the UK's Trades Descriptions Act. Maybe the publisher rather than the author is largely to blame.

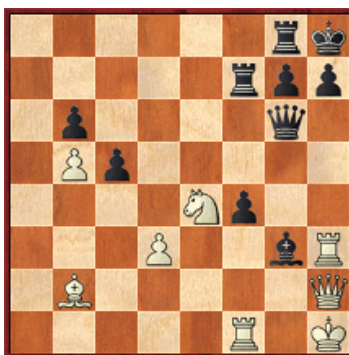
Mastering Chess Strategy by Swedish GM Johan Hellsten (Everyman Chess, 488 pages paperback, ISBN 978-1-85744-648-7; \$29.95, £19.99) is based on the author's work of many years as a chess teacher. While primarily aimed at students, and containing almost 400 exercise positions, it could also be useful to coaches and trainers. It does seem to be one of the better works on the middlegame from a technical point of view, but for stronger players I think the books published in recent years by Aagaard and Rowson are more inspirational and more suited to be Christmas presents than this door-stopper.



Checkmate Tactics by Garry Kasparov (Everyman Chess, 96 landscape-format pages, hardback, ISBN 978-1-85744-626-5; \$16.95, £9.99) is a graphic book with child players apparently in mind, and would make a Christmas present for the appropriate class of reader from about age nine upwards. It looks like a book idea that somebody designed and then commissioned Kasparov (or a ghost writer) to provide the examples and text. Some of the examples and advice are elementary but it is not all for complete beginners. The text throughout is printed in white on background paper of various colours, so legibility varies: the designer was a bit too fond of orange paper. Young eyes probably would not find this a problem.



Here is one of the less elementary positions from the book; **Spraggett-Speelman**, Hastings 1989.



[FEN "6rk/5rpp/1p4q1/1Pp5/4Np2/3P2bR/1B5Q/5R1K w - - 0 38"]

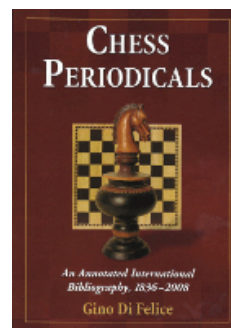
White has a piece for three pawns but, short of time, played 38 Nxg3 and the game ended in a draw, although perhaps Spraggett should still have won. The Canadian grandmaster missed 38 Ng5!!, which forces mate in five moves at most, because it threatens mate by 39 Rxh7+ Qxh7 40 Qxh7. The point that White probably overlooked was that in reply to 38...Bxh2 he can still play 39 Rxh7+ because after 39...Qxh7 40 Nxf7 is mate.

The late Ken Whyld, in the preface to his *Chess Columns: A List* wrote that "it could be the most error-strewn chess book ever published" but that did not mean it was written carelessly. One of the problems he faced was the primitive state of computers and computer database software at the time he began the project. In his collaboration with Chris Ravilious, *Chess Texts in the English Language, printed before 1850*, Whyld quoted D. W. Fiske as saying that "He that has made no blunders in bibliography has never written bibliography." One reason for the inaccuracies to be found in bibliographies,

they say (quoting Fiske again) is that no bibliographer "can see all the books of which he is bound to speak"; he must rely on the authority of others for the remainder. The aspiration of the bibliographer, according to the late Donald Gallup (whom they also quote) is to establish the facts, "clearing away confusion, and creating order." (Both those Whyld bibliographies, by the way, were published by Moravian Chess.)

All this is by way of introduction to my comments on the next two books in this article.

Chess Periodicals: An Annotated International Bibliography, 1836-2008 by Gino Di Felice (McFarland, 349 pages paperback, ISBN 978-0-7864-4643-8; \$49.95) is a work that sets itself a virtually impossible task. It contains 3,163 entries and many cross-references, and covers chess magazines, bulletins, annuals and yearbooks (not columns) worldwide. A spin-off from the Italian author's comprehensive research into his multi-volume series *Chess Results*, for the same publisher, this book will be an invaluable aid to future researchers and chess historians. However, it will also compete with Whyld's *Chess Columns* for being "the most error-strewn chess book ever published" and, as such, a little modest disclaimer from the author along the same lines as his predecessor would have made this reviewer somewhat better disposed towards it.



I did not expect *Chess Periodicals* to be perfect. However, I was immediately very disappointed by a couple of omissions. I did expect that the author would not be able to find some of the obscure Irish periodicals, such as *Irish Chess* (three issues in 1937). It is not to be found either in the Douglas Betts standard work *Chess Bibliography 1850-1968* (which covers English language titles only). Bettes has been reprinted by Moravian Chess but is badly in need of a corrected edition.

What I did not expect was that my own magazine *Chess Mail* would not be mentioned at all, although eighty-two issues were published between August 1996 and January 2006! If De Felice had searched for chess in the online British Library integrated catalogue, choosing the subset Serials and periodicals (which currently gives 223 hits), he could not have missed it. Also *Chess Mail* is complete in both the John G. White Collection (Cleveland Public Library, Ohio) and the Royal Dutch Library, whose catalogues were among Di Felice's most important sources.

My suspicion is that perhaps he did his British Library search at an early stage, when the online catalogue was not nearly as good as it is now, and perhaps he even did his principal English-language research before my magazine commenced publication. I also suspect that Di Felice missed it partly because it is a correspondence chess magazine and there are other errors and omissions relating to that form of the game.

Also, *The Four-Leaved Shamrock* (more than fifty issues in the period 1905-14) is not in De Felice's book although it is in the British Library and in some other libraries including Cleveland (albeit incomplete). Betts lists that title also. Di Felice does include the two Irish magazines from the 1880s, *The Irish Chess Chronicle* and *The St. Patrick's Chess Club Pamphlet*.

How could the compiler omit any periodical that is in Betts? They are all grouped together. Betts and the British Library catalogue are listed among Di Felice's sources but evidently they have not been checked systematically. I don't see this as just two missed titles; it looks like two fundamental methodological flaws in English language titles alone. Since the book is in English, surely it was important to include all English-language titles?

Eventually when I have time (maybe over Christmas) I will produce on my [website](#) a page listing complete list of the errors and omissions of which I am aware and invite others to contribute. I have been meaning for some time to do the same for Whyld's *Chess Columns*. The aim in both cases will be to

assist other researchers and hopefully to enable more accurate second editions to be published in future. Of course for that to be possible, readers must first be willing to buy the first edition and I am sure they will find it useful, notwithstanding the small percentage of flaws.

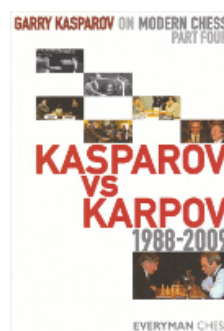
I drew the publisher's attention to the above problems. Apparently a German reader has pointed out that # 1477 *Mein Garten–Meine Welt* "is by no means a chess-related item." It was published by the firm Schacht KG but *Schacht* means "Shaft" in English; it's not Schach!

Di Felice's book, however abstruse it may seem to some readers, is a commercial publishing project, and for a new edition to be possible, the first must at least break even. Going to the opposite extreme, a labour of love aimed at a minority of specialists, is a new bibliography, printed in just 300 copies with the aid of the Ken Whyld Association, the international group of chess collectors and historians. This is *An Overview of Yugoslavian Chess Literature (An Annotated Bibliography)* compiled by Professor Dušan Drajić of Belgrade University. It is a slim hardback, published in Belgrade by Academic Mind; ISBN 978-86-7466-387-5; I am unsure of the purchase price. Dealing with the period 1886-1952 this is the first volume of at least two that are projected. It includes books and magazines but not newspaper columns or other material that may require more research in future. The text is in both English (pages 3-47) and Serbian, in the cyrillic alphabet (pages 49-105), although a foreword explains that there are some differences between the two versions. Geographically, all the nations that comprised the former state of Yugoslavia seem to have been taken into account. As it is annotated bibliography, far more is provided than a mere listing. In general, more information is supplied in the Serbian version.

Several preliminary sections include discussions of the previous chess bibliographies in various languages, the methodology to be employed, and the types of sources available to the editor. The English section of the bibliography proper begins on page thirteen. The earliest work include is the playing rules of the Belgrade Chess Club, dating from 1886; this is the only one prior to the twentieth century. Most of the listed works will be unfamiliar to western readers, except for translations of such works as Capablanca's *Chess Fundamentals* (in 1928, from the third Russian edition). Two of the most prolific early authors were Izidor Gross and J. M. Ovadija (both new names to me) but some Yugoslav authors were internationally known, especially Dr. Milan Vidmar and V. Vuković. All in all, this work will have limited appeal but is a most worthwhile project and a model of its kind for anyone contemplating a similar project to do with chess works in another language that as yet lacks a bibliography.

How Kasparov saw off Karpov

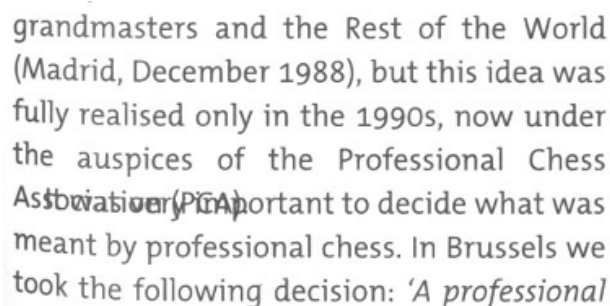
Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess, Part 4: Kasparov vs Karpov 1988-2009 (Everyman Chess, 432 pages hardback, ISBN 978-1-85744-652-4; \$45, £30) is Part Four of the series *Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess*, and the third volume dealing with contests between the two greatest players of the late twentieth century. Following on from the five volumes of the *My Great Predecessors* series, this now means Kasparov has produced nine major volumes since 2003, of varying quality, but all have no doubt been big commercial successes. Certainly at least one more mega-book will follow, to deal with Kasparov's matches with Short, Anand, Kramnik, and perhaps with computers. After that, whether an encore is planned is unclear; "My Not-so-Great Successors" perhaps?



The centrepiece of this book, pages 81-282, deals with the fifth and last world title match between the two Ks. The two previous volumes, having two matches apiece, were therefore more meaty and inevitably this one includes more dross, although at least the story of the rivalry is brought to a conclusion.

The first eighty pages of the book are devoted to contextual background in which Kasparov tells his side of the story on some controversies. The rest of the book consists of the games between him and Karpov between 1988 and 2009. There are sixty in all, so the world title match provides forty percent of the game content; some of the other games are even from blitz events.

Kasparov is well known for putting on a "spin" on his accounts to justify his own sometimes dubious choices. In particular, Chapter One is concerned with two controversial issues. The first is explaining why no play-off match was held for the 55th USSR Championship in 1988. The other is his account of the rise and fall of the GMA (Grandmasters Association), where he seeks to take credit for the rise and evade the blame (often placed on him) for the fall.



grandmasters and the Rest of the World
(Madrid, December 1988), but this idea was
fully realised only in the 1990s, now under
the auspices of the Professional Chess
Association (PCA). It is important to decide what was
meant by professional chess. In Brussels we
took the following decision: 'A professional

This illustration of a misprint in the book comes from page fifty-one, first column, three lines up. It can be seen that something has gone badly wrong with the printing of the paragraph in question. I noticed a similar misprint a few months ago in one of Everyman Chess's openings books. This one is far worse as it is impossible to work out how the text should read. Clearly this is not Kasparov's fault, except in so far as he should have spotted it during proof-reading — perhaps he unwisely delegated that task. Fortunately the fault appears to be a one-off.

This does show that Everyman have become sloppy in their production values, which is particularly unforgivable in view of the gigantic quantity of pounds, dollars, Euros, etc. that this vastly overblown Kasparov series has extracted from the pockets of chess players since the first volume of *My Great Predecessors*. One would think they might have ploughed back some of the profits into decent editing and production.

As for the G.M.A., surely it was Kasparov himself who, in breaking with FIDE and setting up the ill-fated P.C.A., sealed the fate of what was potentially a brilliant idea? Kasparov however will never accept the blame for anything. In his world it is always somebody else's fault – whether the Soviet Chess Federation, Karpov, FIDE, Campomanes or Ilyumzhinov, anyone but him.

As I hinted already, much of the value of this book inevitably consists of Kasparov's 200-page account of what happened in his final match with Karpov, played in 1990.

Readers may recall that the first match in Moscow (1984-5) was left unfinished after forty-eight games. The second match in Moscow, late in 1985, saw Kasparov dramatically seize the world title. He then defended it with a win in the 1986 London-Leningrad contest, and then hung on in 1987 by winning the last game in Seville to retain the title in a 12-12 tie. After that, Karpov had exhausted his rights to return matches and there was no world title match in 1988. Karpov then came through yet another qualification cycle (whose rules were weighted in his favour) to challenge Kasparov once more.

The first half of the 1990 match (twelve games) was played in New York; the second half in Lyon, France. Kasparov explains how his usual lengthy and calm preparations for matches were impossible on this occasion because of the political situation in Azerbaijan on the even of the break-up of the Soviet Union. The Armenian minority were in danger: on page seventy-seven Kasparov refers to "pogroms". He managed to arrange for a plane to come to

Baku from Moscow to bring his family and friends to safety.

Kasparov decided on a "blitzkrieg" approach for New York, intending to play 1 e4 with white and hoping to take a decisive lead early in the match. When, after a draw with black in the opener, he won the second game, it seemed his plan would work but several factors intervened. Firstly, he had not taken into account the late addition of grandmaster Lajos Portisch to Karpov's team of seconds, which apparently led to some significant changes in Karpov's opening repertoire. The former champion (who now preferred 1 d4 with white) changed his approach to both the King's Indian and Grünfeld from what Kasparov had expected. Moreover, all the work Kasparov did on the Caro-Kann Defence with his seconds (chiefly Mikhail Gurevich and Sergey Dolmatov) was wasted because Karpov avoided his favourite defence throughout the match, and the Petroff Defence (which they expected to encounter also) only arose once.

As back-up for the Ruy Lopez, Kasparov prepared the Scotch, which did prove useful here and later. Despite the flaws, there were some games of extraordinarily high quality in the 1990 match. This was especially the case with Game Fourteen where both players fought to win and no serious errors were made.

Garry Kasparov – Anatoly Karpov

Game Fourteen, 1990

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 c4 Ba6 9 b3 0–0–0 10 g3 Re8 11 Bb2 f6 12 Bg2

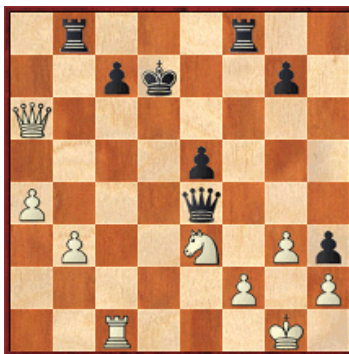
A novelty but now Kasparov prefers 12 Qd2.

12...fxe5 13 0–0 h5 14 Qd2 Nf6 15 Qa5 Bb7 16 Ba3 Qe6 17 Bxf8 Rhxf8 18 Qxa7



[FEN "2k1rr2/Qbpp2p1/2p1qn2/4p2p/2P5/1P4P1/P4PBP/RN3RK1 b - - 0 18"]

18...Qg4! 19 Na3 h4! 20 Nc2 h3 21 Bh1 Ne4! 22 a4! Nc3 23 Rae1 Ne2+ 24 Rxe2 Qxe2 25 Nb4! d5!? 26 cxd5 cxd5 27 Bxd5 Bxd5 28 Nxd5 Qc2 29 Qa6 + Kd7 30 Ne3 Qe4! 31 Rc1 Rb8!



[FEN "1r3r2/2pk2p1/Q7/4p3/P3q3/1P2N1Pp/5P1P/2R3K1 w - - 0 32"]

Karpov, with three minutes left on his clock to reach move forty, continued to

play for a win.

32 Qf1!

To be safe, White must eliminate the h-pawn.

32...Rxb3 33 Qxh3+ Kd8 34 Qh5 Kc8 35 Qd1 Rxe3!

In view of the time trouble, Black finally decides to force a draw. Not 35...Rb2? 36 Qd6 but both 35...Rd3 36 Qc2 and 35...Rb6 36 a5 would be unclear.

36 fxe3 Qxe3+ 37 Kh1 Qe4+ 38 Kg1 Qe3+ 39 Kh1 Qe4+ 40 Kg1 Rd8 ½-½

The third game of the match saw Kasparov get into early difficulties from which he extricated himself with a queen sacrifice that Karpov should have declined. Further mistakes on both sides followed, with Kasparov spoiling good winning chances, and the game ultimately was drawn. This set a pattern for the New York half of the contest, with Kasparov brinkmanship being balanced by Karpov errors and in the end ten of the twelve games played in the United States were drawn. The other exception was the seventh game, where Kasparov made a terrible blunder at move twenty-seven and lost his lead. This was symptomatic of his state of mind throughout that phase of the match but in the eighth game, Kasparov showed he could still fight. He adjourned in an apparently lost position but on the resumption he played very well, backed by excellent overnight analysis, and held the draw. Contrary to his view at the time, he now thinks that Karpov perhaps did not miss a clear win.

The match was now reduced to twelve games in Lyon, with Karpov needing six and a half points to regain the title, and while six points would be sufficient for Kasparov, he naturally did not want a second successive tied match. Play resumed after a sixteen-day break which, together with the change of scene, enabled Kasparov to find his footing again, as well as do new preparatory work on the unexpected changes to Karpov's repertoire.

Kasparov eventually took the lead by winning the sixteenth game in 101 moves, the only game in his match series with Karpov to be adjourned twice. However, he lost the very next game. Yet from that point to the end, he mostly outplayed Karpov, except in the anticlimactic Game Twenty-three. Having reached the 12-10 score that guaranteed retention of the title, he inevitably found it hard to fight, but in Game Twenty-four, with a valuable prize at stake, Kasparov decided to play safe and opened 1 Nf3. Despite some inaccuracies, he managed to keep the draw in hand. Karpov was forced to take risks and in the final position when a draw was agreed, Kasparov had a winning position. In fact this was not the only time in the match when he offered a draw when objectively he was winning. Curiously, no game was won with the black pieces, although Kasparov should have won Game Nineteen.

Overall, the standard of play by both the Ks in this match was below their best, and Karpov probably made a serious mistake in his match strategy when he decided to meet 1 e4 by 1...e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 in most cases. As Kasparov says, it was not that Karpov was outplayed in the opening (he succeeded in introducing some important innovations) but when the dynamic struggle began, he was often unable to match Kasparov's intuition for the correct continuation.

This was to be the last time the two Ks met in a title match, because in the 1992 Candidates match cycle, Karpov was sensationally defeated by Nigel Short in the semi-final. On page 326 and pages 333-5, Kasparov discusses the consequence of Short winning through to be his new challenger, but only briefly. We shall possibly see a detailed discussion of his breach with FIDE in the next book.

The latter part of the present book deals with the games between Kasparov and Karpov in subsequent years, beginning with the first Linares super-GM tournament in 1991. He describes this series of tournaments as the "chess Wimbledon". The two Ks in the later 1990s met only at Linares and in the

Palma de Mallorca 1996 tournament. The final chapter also deals to some extent with chess politics up to 1996 but by this stage the fire has gone out. Prospective purchasers will probably decide to buy this book if they want to complete their set of Kasparov's final word on his Karpov matches. If not, then their money is better spent elsewhere.

Garry Kasparov – Anatoly Karpov

Game Twenty, 1990

Ruy Lopez [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 f5 18 Rae3 Nf6 19 Nh2!



[FEN "r2qrbk1/1b4p1/p2p1n1p/1ppP1p2/Pn2P3/4R2P/1P1N1PPN/1BBQR1K1 b - - 0 19"]

A novelty in this game.

19...Kh8

Six months later Karpov preferred 19...Qd7 in another game to be found in the book.

20 b3! bxa4 21 bxa4 c4?

Kasparov indicates that 21...fxe4 22 Nxe4 Bxd5 23 Nxf6 Rxe3 24 Rxe3 Qxf6 was critical.

22 Bb2! fxe4 23 Nxe4 Nfxd5 24 Rg3 Re6!



[FEN "r2q1b1k/1b4p1/p2pr2p/3n4/Pnp1N3/6RP/1B3PPN/1B1QR1K1 w - - 0 25"]

25 Ng4?

This move could have cost Kasparov his advantage. As with the previous books in the series, he has re-examined the critical situations in all the games and written new annotations in which he is sometimes very critical of the choices made by both players and previous annotations, including his own, which he often quotes at length.

An indication of how the notes in this book are superior to those available elsewhere comes at this point. [ChessBase's MegaBase](#) has notes by Harry

Schussler which claim that 25 Nf3 (the move that Kasparov says he should have chosen) would be met by 25...Qe8 Schussler; however 26 Nxd6! (Kasparov) wins. If instead 25...Qe7 (not mentioned in the book) then Deep Rybka 3 finds 26 Nfg5!

25...Qe8

Black had to try 25...Nd3!? (Kasparov). Schussler's notes claim that White would continue 26 Bxd3 cxd3 27 Nxh6? Rxh6 28 Ng5 Qd7 29 Re6!+- (Gutman/Treppner) but then comes 29...Nf6! 30 Qxd3 Re8 with Black probably winning (Kasparov). So 27 Nxg6 is unsound, but after 27 Qd2 the position is unclear following 27...Qe7.

26 Nxh6! c3 27 Nf5 cxb2 28 Qg4!+/- Bc8?! 29 Qh4+ Rh6

If 29...Kg8 30 Kh2! – Kasparov's favourite prophylactic move in this variation.

30 Nxh6 gxh6 31 Kh2! Qe5 32 Ng5 Qf6 33 Re8! Bf5



[FEN "r3Rb1k/8/p2p1q1p/3n1bN1/Pn5Q/6RP/1p3PPK/1B6 w - - 0 34"]

34 Qxh6+!?

34 Nf7+! mates but Kasparov preferred the elegant queen sacrifice.

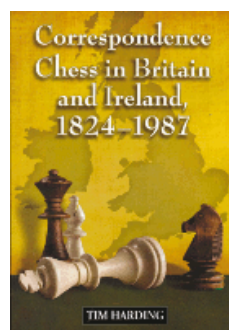
34...Qxh6 35 Nf7+ Kh7 36 Bxf5+ Qg6 37 Bxg6+

A slight flaw: 37 Rxg6! Ne7 38 Rxe7! is quicker.

37...Kg7 38 Rxa8 Be7 39 Rb8 a5 40 Be4+ Kxf7 41 Bxd5+ 1-0

Postscript

I hope readers will forgive me for concluding by saying a little about my own new book, the first I have written in several years. Published in the United States by McFarland & Co., it is entitled *Correspondence Chess in Britain and Ireland, 1824-1987* (ISBN 978-0-7864-4553-0). I chose them to be my publisher because of their excellent reputation for producing quality works in chess history and biography and, despite my reservations about the Di Felice book discussed above, I have not been disappointed.



There is further information about the contents at my own website on the pages [Table of Contents](#) and some [photographs](#). I shall probably add some supplementary pages when I get time over the Christmas holidays.

This is a deeply-researched history book, of which the first half is based on parts of my doctoral thesis (which ended at the First World War) and the later chapters on subsequent research and on the information about correspondence

chess history that I learned while editing the magazine *Chess Mail* between 1996 and 2005.

While the book has several sections which are largely text, it also includes about 200 games (mostly annotated to varying degrees) and fifty-three pictorial illustrations.

The opening chapter deals with the first important correspondence chess match, London v. Edinburgh (1824-8), and the subsequent arguments about it.

The book then covers more than a century and a half, essentially the postal chess era. Some of the early chapters cover the early development of play by telegraph and telephone, the first correspondence tournaments, the first international matches by post. The book divides roughly equally in length between the pre- and post-First World War periods.

Developments in the twentieth century are covered up to the point where the Great Britain team won the correspondence Olympiad in the 1980s and computers were about to change the nature of the game.

The text includes numerous discoveries from original research and many corrections to accounts previously published elsewhere. For the first time, a definitive list of British Correspondence Champions is provided and the book also indicates some inaccuracies and omissions in the official history of the British Correspondence Chess Association.

The book is paperback with just over 400 pages including appendices and reference notes, indexes, and bibliography. The most pertinent notes are given as footnotes on the actual pages. Games are indexed by opponent names, ECO code, and opening name. The main index has about 2,700 entries as it includes, apart from entries on topics, just about everyone) who appears in the text or in the numerous crosstables and match lists.

While the book is primarily about correspondence chess in the United Kingdom, it also includes quite a lot on early developments in other countries and international developments – especially the relaunch of international organisation in the period 1946-51.

The official publication date is February 2011, but copies are now becoming available and if you move quickly you could still have one in your hands for Christmas.

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