



ChessBase Magazine #179 (August/September)

The editor's top ten:

1. The world champion outplayed: **Levon Aronian** analyses his win against Carlsen at Norway Chess.
2. High quality exchange sacrifice: the **winner of the 2nd FIDE Grand Prix** annotates his most spectacular game from Moscow: Ding Liren-Vachier Lagrave
3. „Move by Move“ with **Simon Williams**: deepen your knowledge of the Najdorf move by move with the world class game Ponomarev-Wojtaszek (video)
4. Classy queen trap: enjoy **Aronian's second stroke** from Stavanger in Daniel King's video analysis.
5. “Reti's mate”: in Efstratios Grivas' **FIDE Training course** learn about a rare but tactically highly effective idea.
6. “No clear path to equality”: GM Postny pulls together the **trends in the Queen's Gambit Accepted** and comes to a critical conclusion.
7. What can you do against the **Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation**? Daniel King introduces you to the present state of theory (video).
8. A defensive move with **diabolical hidden depths**: let Rainer Knaak show you how to set the “Leonhardt Trap” in the Philidor Defence. (video)
9. Good in practice: **Nadezhda Kosintseva** arms you with the universal weapon universal weapon 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2 against the French Steinitz Variation.
10. **Hammer blow** 14...Rxf3: Adhiban analyses his brilliancy against Akobian at the World Team Championship.



Twelve opening articles with fresh ideas for your repertoire!

- Postny: Queen's Gambit Accepted - Recently even Fabiano Caruana has played the Queen's Gambit Accepted, Evgeny Postny considers Black under pressure (Openings in focus)
- Papp: Volga Gambit Fianchetto
- Moskalenko: Dutch 2.Nc3
- Kosintseva: French Steinitz 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2 - You may be inspired by Nadezhda Kosintseva's article to follow Leonid Milov who has been successful with 5.Nce2
- Kritz: French Winawer 4.a3
- Kuzmin: Open Ruy Lopez 9.Nbd2
- Sumets: Semi-Slav 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 e5
- Marin: Grünfeld 4.Bf4
- Ris: Grünfeld 5.Qb3 - After 5...dxc4 6.Qxc4 6...Be6!? is a new trend. Li Chao has been successful with it; Robert Ris presents the topic
- Stohl: Nimzo-Indian 4.Nf3 0-0
- Krasenkow: King's Indian 7...Na6 8.Re1

OPENING

A GREAT LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

Nadezhda Kosintseva casts light on a universal variation

French C11: 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘f7 5.♗c2 c5 6.♗c3 ♘c6 7.♗f3



The significance of the position above should not be under-estimated, it can come about via three different ways. In addition to the move order above, there are 3.♗d2 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘f7 5.c3 c5 6.♗d3 ♘c6 7.♗e2 and 3.♗c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘f7 5.♗f3 c5 6.♗e2 ♘c6 (but attention needs to be paid to 6...cxd4) 7.c3. Leonid Milov, who always aims for the position in the diagram against the French and who has extensive experience with it, varies between all three move orders.

Nadezhda Kosintseva has examined the six most played continuations. Of these, 7...f6 is bad on account of 8.♗f4! ♗e7 9.♗d3! and others such as 7...b5 or 7...♗b6 do not completely equalise. It boils down to the two moves which appear to be most convincing.

A) 7...♗a5 was the choice of Fabiano Caruana (vs. Robson, USA Championship 2017). After 8.a3 cxd4 9.b4 ♗c7 10.cxd4 b5 Black did take command of things on the queenside, but the evaluation of the variation nevertheless remains unclear. Perhaps White really has no need to fear ...cxd4 and can well play 8.♗f4.

B) 7...♗e7 is apparently less attractive, but perhaps the plan with castling and thereafter ...f6 is the most solid. The popular 8.a3 (also played by Milov) is simply followed by 8...0-0! (instead



Leonid Milov: extensive experience

which many people believe they have to play 8...a5, which is followed by 9.♗f4! 9.b4 f6



Now either 10.♗x6 ♘xf6 11.bxc5 ♘e4 and then ...e5, or 10.♗f4 ♘dx6 11.dxc5 fxe5 12.♗b5 e4 with nice compensation for the piece.

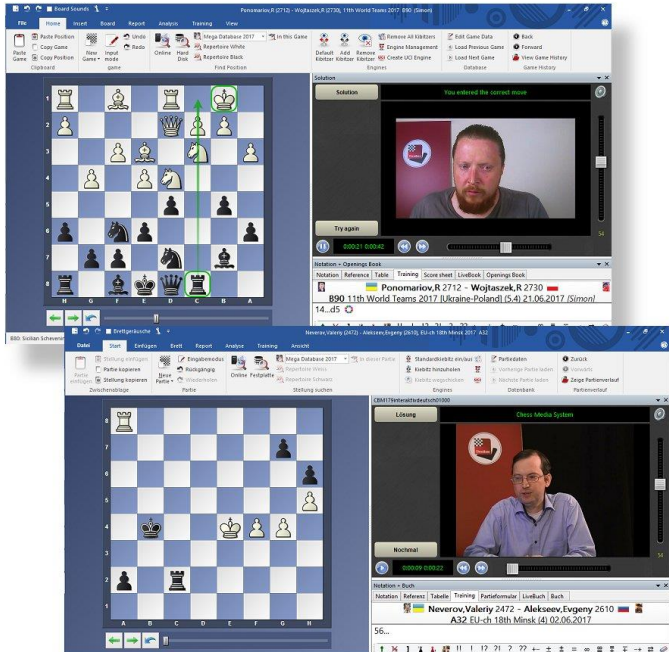
The immediate 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 ♗b6 is seen Black with an advantage.

Conclusion: as Kosintseva's extensive investigations on the DVD prove, White cannot achieve a safe advantage with the setup which is presented. However, there is a great lack of knowledge as to the best plan for Black and a well-prepared player with White can therefore reckon on having some chances.

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Interactive training with Simon Williams, Karsten Müller, Mihail Marin, and Oliver Reeh

- “Move by Move”: This time **Simon Williams** has put the Sicilian game Ponomariov-Wojtaszek (Team WCh 2017) on the training plan.
- “Differences between positions with two bishops against bishop and knight and those with bishop versus knights” **Mihail Marin** principally uses classical games and studs his article with numerous training questions and a video introduction.
- “Pattern Recognition”: **Oliver Reeh**'s article consists of 29 games with many training questions and an introductory text with links to all the games. In addition, there are three videos in interactive format.
- “Endings with same coloured bishops” A column by **Karsten Müller** with two introductory texts, 23 annotated endgames, many training questions and five classic videos. In addition, there are two clips in interactive format.



The image shows two screenshots of the ChessBase software interface. The top screenshot displays a chessboard with a Sicilian Defense position (Ponomariov-Wojtaszek) and a video player showing a chess instructor. The bottom screenshot shows another chessboard position and a video player with a different instructor. The software interface includes various menus and toolbars for chess analysis and training.

