

# The little paper things

"THE ULTIMATE Series of Chess Books," the leaflet proclaimed from my letterbox. At last, I thought, lunging for it. Can it be — grand-mastership after all these years?

I read on: "A chess publisher with no authors! A unique computer program builds up a data base of all openings currently being played and generates a comprehensive and completely up-to-date analysis. Every available tournament game is fed into a data base which is organised into a suite of programs that . . ." Et cetera.

Disillusionment. It is an unfortunate fact that modern books are tending to adopt an encyclopaedic rather than instructional role. But when a publisher proudly advertises that his book has no author and is just a mass of game scores it really is (as they themselves say) the "ultimate"!

In redress, I am this week reviewing only four of a considerable number of new books. They deal with refreshingly diverse aspects of the current scene.

The first, *Grandmaster Preparation* by Lev Polugayevsky (Pergamon), is already being hailed as a remarkable work. An updated translation of the 1977 Russian edition, it provides a unique personalised account of how to deal with such neglected fields as adjourned game analysis and preparation on the eve of a decisive encounter. Its highlight is "Birth of a Variation", chronicling the career of the author's own razor-sharp conception, the Polugayevsky variation of the Sicilian defence, which he has used with devastating effect over the past 20 years.

Somewhat lighter, but extremely well produced, is *Best Games of the Young Grandmasters* by Craig Pritchett and Danny Kopec (Bell & Hyman). With eight of the most exciting young players in the world as subjects (Kasparov, Browne, Hubner, Timman, Andersson, Ljubojevic, Ribli and Miles) it might be hard to go wrong, but the authors have excelled themselves in the biographical introductions. Revealing insights into both styles and personalities are given, along with each player's most characteristic games. I also enjoyed the quotations heading each section, for example, "Andersson's chess style consists of playing chess backwards!" and "I just play the little wooden things" (Miles).

*The English Chess Explosion* by my-

self and Ray Keene (Batsford) deals with an astonishing phenomenon: the avalanche of successes from 1975 to 1981, when England went from no grandmasters to five and carved out a niche near the top of the world rankings. Our six years of research material was provided by the doyen of chess columnists, Leonard Barden.

This week's game is drawn from the fourth book, *200 Modern Brilliances* by Kevin Wicker (Batsford), which features the most incisive games of the past decade.

## ENGLISH OPENING

Hastings 1974/75

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>R. VAGANIAN</b> | <b>A. PLANINC</b> |
| 1. d4              | Nf6               |
| 2. c4              | c5                |
| 3. Nf3             | cxd4              |
| 4. Nxd4            | e6                |
| 5. Nc3             | Bb4!              |
| 6. Nb5             |                   |

*Better tries are 6.Bd2 or 6.g3.*

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| 6 . . .   | 0-0     |
| 7. a3     | Bxc3 ch |
| 8. Nxc3   | d5      |
| 9. Bg5    | h6      |
| 10. Bxf6  | Qxf6    |
| 11. cxd5  | exd5    |
| 12. Qxd5? |         |

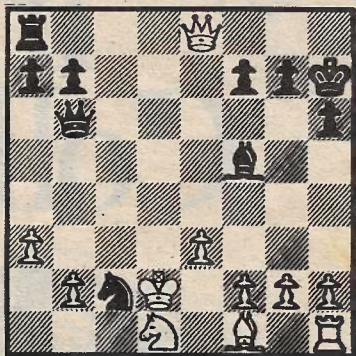
*A very risky pawn grab.*

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|----------|-----|
| 12 . . . | Rd8 |
| 13. Qf3? |     |

*Correct is 13.Qb3. From here on we see why this game is Wicker's favourite from the collection.*

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|------------|---------|
| 13 . . .   | Qb6!    |
| 14. Rd1    | Rxd1 ch |
| 15. Nxd1   | Nc6     |
| 16. Qe3    | Nd4!    |
| 17. Qe8 ch | Kh7     |
| 18. e3     | Nc2 ch  |
| 19. Kd2    | Bf5!!   |

PLANINC



VAGANIAN

- |          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 20. Qxa8 | Qd6 ch |
| 21. Kc1  | Na1!   |

*The decisive blow. Black threatens 22 . . . Nb3 mate.*

- |             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| 22. Qxb7    | Qc7 chl |
| 23. Resigns |         |

MURRAY CHANDLER

### ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.

a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1