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Tata Steel: After his successful defence of the world title at the end of last year, in January Magnus Carlsen notched up his seventh tournament victory in Wijk aan Zee. Right on his heels was local hero Anish Giri. The Dutch player is, along with Vishy Anand, Vidit, Peter Svidler, and Robert Hübner, one of the star annotators in this issue. In addition, Yannick Pelletier, Erwin l'Ami and Mihail Marin present some games of the "Masters" and the "Challengers" tournaments in video format.

London Chess Classic 2018: this was not decided until the blitz tiebreak went in favour of Hikaru Nakamura. Mihail Krasenkow has compiled for you the chess high points.



OPENING VIDEOS

There are three classic openings which await you in this issue. Against the King's Gambit Daniel King recommends to you, e.g., the early advance d7-d5. After 4.exd5 Nf6 White can choose between various continuations. In half an hour's video running time King shows you all you need to know in order to be able to meet the King's Gambit with confidence!

Daniel King: King's Gambit
1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d5

Yannick Pelletier: King's Indian
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Bg5

Lawrence Trent: Najdorf Variation
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.a4 0-0 10.Nd2 h6 11.Be3 Qc7

OPENINGS (see booklet from page 10)

Postny: Symmetrical English with 8.Qb3

Marin: Queen's Indian turbo 2.c4 b6 (Part I)



Openings expert Mihail Marin: "The most important thing is to keep play going with Black"

Edouard: Dutch 1.d4 f5 2.Bg5

Schandorff: Freestyle 1.e4 Nc6 (Part II)

Krasenkow: Sveshnikov with 7.Nd5



On the up since the WCh: Sveshnikov with 7.Nd5 - but just how good is the new trend?

Hungaski: Accelerated Dragon with 7.f3

Szabo: French Steinitz Variation with 9.h4

Kuzmin: Bishop's Opening with 5.Bb3

Papp: Petroff à la Caruana (Part II)

Knaak: Ponziani Opening with 5...Bc5

Gupta: Accepted Queen's Gambit with 9.Nxd4



New author Abhijeet Gupta investigates an interesting central structure

Ris: Catalan with 4...dxc4 5.Bg2 c5

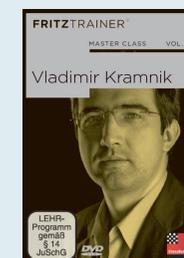
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With a +5 score Magnus Carlsen showed the form of a world champion with his seventh victory at Wijk aan Zee

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Former world champion Vladimir Kramnik announced in Wijk aan Zee that he will end his career as a professional chess player. Let our experts reveal the secrets and subtleties of his play

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DVD COLUMNS

Williams: Move by Move

"One of the best games, if not the best game from 2018" – that is the promise Simon Williams makes to you at the start of his interactive training article on the DVD. Join the English grandmaster on the search for amazing attacking moves in the game Hillarp-Persson against Laurusas (Batumi 2018). Tip: do not shrink away from unusual king moves!

Rogozenco: The classic

In the Classic video federal German trainer Dorian Rogozenco shows us the game Nimzowitsch-Capablanca, St. Petersburg 1914. Let him explain to you how in short order the Cuban brought down his opponent's position by pressure on the semi-open files on the queenside supported by his bishop on g7.

Marin: "Kingside expansion with g4-g5"

Under what conditions is a pawn storm on the opponent's position promising when both monarchs have castled kingside? Mihail Marin explains the strategies based principally on classical games (including introductory video).

Reeh: Tactics – "Time to be brilliant!"

Oliver Reeh's contribution consists of 28 games with numerous training questions and an introductory text with links to all the games. In addition there are three videos in interactive format.

Müller: "Recent rook endings"

Once more Karsten Müller's article is wide-ranging. His analysis of recent rook endings contains an introductory text as well as an introductory video. In addition the endgame expert from Hamburg has recorded two videos on Magnus Carlsen's endgames with bishop+knight against rook from Wijk aan Zee and looks into readers' letters as well as much more.

Knaak: Recent opening traps

In his article Rainer Knaak has put under the microscope eight traps from recent tournament practice (including three Fritztrainer videos).