



COLUMNISTS

Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen



Rating Chart

- ♦ – A poor book
- ♦♦ – Not very good
- ♦♦♦ – A useful book
- ♦♦♦♦ – A good book
- ♦♦♦♦♦ – An excellent book



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**Reviewed this month:**

*Starting Out: The Accelerated Dragon*  
by Andrew Greet

*Starting Out: Sicilian Grand Prix Attack*  
by Gawain Jones

*The Easiest Sicilian*  
by Atanas Kolev & Trajko Nedev

*Chess Informant 101*  
by Zdenko Krnic (ed.)

**En Passant**

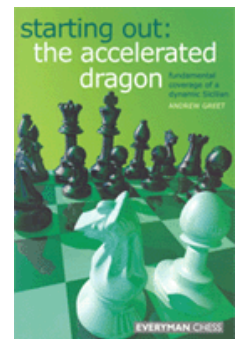
*Chesspublishing.com: Open Sicilians*  
by Richard Palliser

An Opening Oxymoron

It seems to be an oxymoron to call any variation of the Sicilian easy, but this month we will examine a book where the authors make that very claim. Furthermore, we will look at two recent volumes on the Sicilian in the ever expanding *Starting Out* series from Everyman Chess, as well as grab a glimpse at the Open Sicilians page of the chesspublishing.com website. We round off this month's reviews with the latest volume of *Chess Informant*.

*Starting Out: The Accelerated Dragon* by Andrew Greet, Everyman Chess 2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 320pp., \$25.95

English international master Andrew Greet is an Accelerated Dragon enthusiast, who has played the opening for several years. He admits to not playing it as often as he once did, but I guess that comes from broadening his repertoire as he became a stronger player.



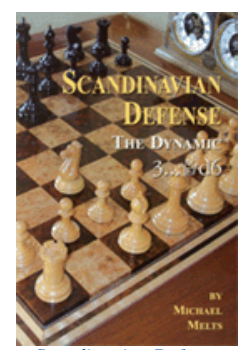
I take a keen interest in everything that is written about this opening, and I am pleased to report that this is a truly excellent book. It provides enough theory to give you a good level of understanding, even if you're rated up to around 2300.

The Accelerated Dragon arises after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6.



It isn't exactly at its peak of popularity at the moment, but it is seen with some frequency in the repertoires of players such as Ivanchuk, Carlsen, Tiviakov, Gashimov and Malakhov. The latter two

Check out these bestselling titles from [USCFSales.com](#):



[Scandinavian Defense: The Dynamic 3...Qd6](#)  
by Michael Melts



[The Fearsome Four Pawns Attack](#)  
by Jerzy Konikowski & Marek Soszynski

Read an excerpt [here](#).



[The Modern Morra Gambit](#)  
by Hannes Langrock



in particular employ the opening quite often.

The material is divided as follow:

- Bibliography (1 page)
- Introduction (4 pages)
- 1 The Hyper-Accelerated Dragon (40 pages)
- 2 5 Nc3 - Classical and Other Lines (23 pages)
- 3 Yugoslav Accelerated Dragon: Introduction and 7...Qa5!? (29 pages)
- 4 Yugoslav Accelerated Dragon: Main Line with 7...0-0 (30 pages)
- 5 Lines with Nxc6 (16 pages)
- 6 Maroczy Bind: Classical Variation (30 pages)
- 7 Maroczy Bind: Gurgendize System (49 pages)
- 8 Maroczy Bind: 7...Ng4 (36 pages)
- 9 Maroczy Bind: Avoiding Exchanges with Nc2 (27 pages)
- 10 Maroczy Bind: Sidelines (28 pages)
- Index of Variations (2 pages)
- Index of Complete Games (2 pages)

There are no surprises with the breakdown of the material, except that the length of the chapter on the Hyper-Accelerated Dragon (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6) is longer than expected. Usually more pages are given to 5 Nc3 and 5 Bc4.

While other authors have a tendency to give flashy games to impress the reader, Greet approaches things much more soberly and offers the games that are most relevant. He examines typical positions that need to be understood, and the better you understand them the more points you will score.

Greet pays plenty of attention to the small details that can have long-term consequences for players on either side of the board. He explains why certain moves are good or bad, what you should pay attention to and what to avoid. He examines the statements of other authors in regards to the piece and pawn distribution, and analyses a fair number of complete games.

Having read this book cover to cover, I recommend it to anyone who is eager to learn more about chess in general and the Accelerated Dragon in particular. This book is quite an achievement and it has much to offer to ambitious players. I also recommend it to those who already play the Accelerated Dragon, because it contains plenty of original material, and it is sure to deepen your understanding of the opening. For those playing the Open Sicilian as white, this book should be mandatory reading as well, you will learn how to face this opening, and more importantly what to avoid. This is the best opening book of the year!

**My assessment of this book: ♦♦♦♦♦**

[Order](#) *Starting Out: The Accelerated Dragon*

by Andrew Greet

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*Starting Out: Sicilian Grand Prix Attack* by Gawain Jones, Everyman Chess 2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 174pp., \$24.95

As a nine-year old Gawain Jones became the youngest player ever to beat an international master in competitive play. Nowadays he is one of England's strongest grandmasters and a regular on the English national team.

He has played the Grand Prix on a regular basis,



as can be seen from following game, which shows that the opening can be used with success at any level of competition. The annotations are from the book:



**Jones-Van Wely**

Staunton Memorial, London 2007

**1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bb5 Nd4 6 0-0 a6 7 Bd3 b5**



A rare but aggressive attempt by my high-rated opponent, trying to mix things up as quickly as possible.

**8 Nxd4**

Swapping off Black's best developed piece and forcing Black to make a decision.

**8...Bxd4+**

8...cxd4 again leaves Black with a weak pawn on d4, which can be ganged up on with Ne2, b2-b3 and Bb2; e.g. 9 Ne2 Bb7 10 b3 d6 11 a4 b4 12 Bb2 Nf6 13 Bxd4 0-0 14 a5! Nxe4 15 Bxg7 Kxg7 16 Ra4 Nc5 17 Qa1+ Kg8 18 Rxb4, and White is comfortably on top.

**9 Kh1 Bb7 10 e5!**

Trapping the bishop in on d4, and threatening both Ne2 and Be4.

**10...Ra7?!**

Black continues with his ultra-aggressive plan but he really needed to develop his kingside. In the post-mortem we looked at 10...Bxc3, but came to the conclusion that White still has the advantage. 11 dxc3 c4 (if 11...Nh6 either 12 a4 Qb6 13 Qe2 c4 14 Be4 or just 12 c4 is good for White) 12 Be2 Nh6 13 Bf3!, swapping off Black's strong light-squared bishop.

**11 Be4**

Black's last move prevented 11 Ne2? due to 11...Qa8 when White's king is in trouble.

**11...Bxc3**

11...Bxe4 12 Nxe4 would leave Black's bishop on d4 feeling rather vulnerable.

**12 Bxb7 Bxb2?!**

Again Loek plays far too ambitiously. However, 12..Rxb7 13 dxc3 is also very unpleasant for Black, as 13...Nh6? runs into 14 f5! Nxf5 15 g4! Nh4 16 Bg5 and the knight is trapped.

**13 Bxb2 Rxb7**

Black is a pawn up but his only piece not on its starting square is the rook on b7 - and that is actually worse placed since it is unprotected on b7, so White can gain a tempo for Qf3.

**14 f5**

Thematic trying to open Black's kingside before he has time to develop his pieces.

#### 14...Nh6 15 Qf3 Qb6?

Black's final mistake and a fatal one. 15...Qc7 is forced, with the subtle idea that after 16 e6 f6 17 fxg6 hxg6 18 Bxf6 exf6 19 Qxf6 Qxh2+!! is playable swapping off queens after 20 Kxh2 Ng4+ 21 Kg3 Nxf6 22 Rxf6, though White still retains all the winning chances here. Otherwise White can try 17 exd7+ Qxd7 18 fxg6 hxg6 19 Rae1 or 16 e6 f6 17 d4 with good compensation for the pawn in either case.

#### 16 e6!

Crashing through.

#### 16...f6

16...Rg8 loses to 17 exf7+ Nxf7 18 fxg6, while after 16...0-0, I intended 17 Qh3 Nxf5 18 Rxf5 when White should be winning, though Fritz points out that 17 f6! is even stronger, e.g. 17...exf6 18 Qxf6 or 17...fxe6 18 fxe7! and wins.

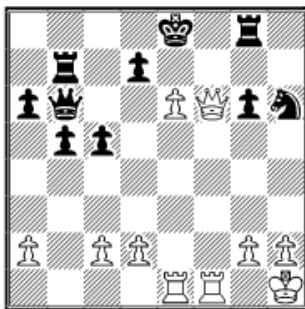
#### 17 fxg6 hxg6 18 Bxf6!

Another thematic move. Black's king is stripped of shelter completely and he won't even have a material advantage.

#### 18...exf6

18...Rf8 19 Qg3 Rxf6 20 Rxf6 exf6 21 Qxg6+ is also hopeless for Black.

#### 19 Qxf6 Rg8 20 Rae1!



Using every piece in the attack. White threatens 21 Qf7+! against most moves; e.g. 20...Qd6 21 Qf7+ Kd8 (or 21...Nxf7 22 exf7+ Kf8 23 Re8+) 22 e7+ Kc7 23 Qxg8 Nxg8 24 e8N+! and wins. It's always nice to under-promote.

#### 20...d5

Clearing the rank for the black rook so that if now 21 Qf7+? Rxf7 22 exf7+ Kd7

23 fxg8Q Nxg8 24 Rf7+ Kd6 defends.

#### 21 Qg5!

Black has no way to retain his extra piece. If 21...Rh8 22 Qxg6+ Kd8 23 Qf6+ wins, while 21...Rh7 22 Rf7! Nxf7 23 exf7+ Kxf7 24 Qe7 is mate.

#### 21...Re7 22 Qxh6

White now has an extra pawn (that mammoth one on e6!), a completely safe king and all his pieces on active squares, whereas Black's are uncoordinated and his king is exposed on e8.

#### 22...Qa5

22...Rxe6 23 Qh7 Rf8 24 Qxg6+ is mate in six according to Fritz.

#### 23 Rf6 Qxa2 24 Rxg6 Rf8 25 Qxf8+! 1-0

Black resigned, since 25...Kxf8 26 Rf1+ Ke8 27 Rg8 is checkmate.

The material is divided as follows:

- Bibliography (3 page)
- Introduction (6 page)
- 1 2...Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bc4 (16 pages)
- 2 2...Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bb5 (39 pages)
- 3 2...d6 3 f4 (19 pages)
- 4 2...e6 3 f4 (27 pages)
- 5 Other Second Moves for Black (14 pages)
- 6 2...Nc6 3 Bb5: Introduction (18 pages)
- 7 2...Nc6 3 Bb5 Nd4 (21 pages)
- Index of Variations (6 pages)
- Index of Complete Games (2 pages)

Unlike several of the more recent books in the *Starting Out* series, Jones concentrates on writing introductory prose rather than overloading the book with variations, although these have not been neglected either. I found this book thoroughly enjoyable and instructive. This is the way all books should be written.

Whether you already play the Grand Prix Attack, or if you are thinking about taking up the opening for the first time, or even if you just face it as black, you should definitely buy this book. It will benefit anyone who takes the time to read it, strong players included.

**My assessment of this book:** ♦♦♦♦♦

**Order *Starting Out: Sicilian Grand Prix Attack***

by Gawain Jones

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*The Easiest Sicilian* by Atanas Kolev & Trajko Nedev, Chess Stars 2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 240pp., \$29.95

In this series of books from Chess Stars we have seen the release of *The Sharpest Sicilian*, *The Safest Sicilian*, and now apparently we have reached *The Easiest Sicilian*. One may wonder which line the authors could have picked, because there are not that many “easy” lines for Black in the Sicilian. So imagine my surprise when their choice is ... the Sveshnikov: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5! The authors came upon the title when they “realized how easy it was to include it in one’s repertoire.” However, anyone who takes up this opening will not find it all that easy to get down to business with, trust me.



Kolev is a grandmaster from Bulgaria and Nedev is a grandmaster from Macedonia. They have divided the material as follows:

- Foreword by Atanas Kolev (3 page)
- 1 The Rossolimo Variation 3 Bb5 (36 pages)
- 2 The Positional Variation 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Nd5 Be7 (20 pages)
- 3 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 c3 0-0 (28 pages)
- 4 12 Nc2 Bg5 13 a4 bxa4 14 Rxa4 a5 15 Bc4 Rb8 16 b3 Kh8 17 Nce3 (23 pages)
- 5 Alternatives to the Main Line after 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Bd5 f5 (14 pages)
- 6 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd5 f5 11 exf5 Bxf5 (11 pages)
- 7 The Main Line 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd5 f5 11 Bd3 Be6 (20 pages)
- 8 12 0-0 (18 pages)
- 9 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Nd5 (15 pages)
- 10 Unusual Seventh Moves 6 Ndb5 d6 (8 pages)
- 11 Unusual Sixth Moves (15 pages)


- 12 Rare Lines 3 c3; 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 (7 pages)
- 13 The Novosibirsk Variation 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd5 Bg7 (16 pages)
- Index of Variations (2 pages)

As we can see, the authors are kind enough to spend a solid thirty-six pages on the Rossolimo Variation, as well as a small amount of space on 3 c3 and 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5. They also devote sixteen pages to the recent invention, the Novosibirsk Variation, which the authors call a “back-up line.” However, they write “Black’s game is rather boring and not suitable for playing for win [sic],” and this sort of thing doesn’t really benefit anyone.

As with the other books in this series, each chapter begins with a “quick repertoire,” where one learns the bare bones, need-to-know material that must be committed to memory. Next comes a “step by step” section, where they get down to the nitty-gritty of the variation in question. Finally, they provide some complete games to deepen your understanding of the variation in question. Think of it this way: when you want to learn an opening well, you need the theory – the step-by-step part – and the complete games to understand how to implement the typical plans. But when you are at a tournament, you may not have time to go over everything, so you refer to the quick repertoire section to refresh your memory before battle.

There appears to be a good deal of original analysis. The authors often suggest improvements or alternatives to existing theory, and the book is excellent from this perspective. However, there are many typos and grammatical errors. For example, one chapter heading shows a diagram and the starting moves 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nb5 d6 6 c4, which clearly belongs to the book, *The Safest Sicilian*.

For players that are considering taking up this opening, this a good place to start. It is easy to read and provides what you need to learn the opening with a good degree of confidence. As Kolev writes in the introduction, the book will mostly benefit players rated above 1900. I recommend it to anyone with an interest in the Sveshnikov.

**My assessment of this book: **

**[Order](#) *The Easiest Sicilian***

by Atanas Kolev & Trajko Nedev

*Chess Informant, Vol. 101* by Zdenko Krnic (ed.), Interchess BV 2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 365pp., \$28.95

*Chess Informant* is a yearbook that is released three times each year; each volume contains the best and most important games from the previous four-month period. The games are by and large played by grandmasters, international masters or other strong players. In most cases the games are annotated by the players themselves. The annotations are languageless, which means many of the variations end with the now standard *Informant* analysis symbols.



The material is divided as follows:

- Contributors (2 pages)
- The Best Game of the Previous Volume (2 pages)
- The Most Important Novelty of the Previous Volume (4 pages)
- System of Signs (3 pages)



- Opening Classifications (6 pages)
- Games Sections A-E (273 pages)
- Index of Players (10 pages)
- Index of Commentators (2 pages)
- Combinations (4 pages)
- Endings (6 pages)
- Studies (3 pages)
- Tournament Results (16 pages)
- Chess Informant Information – Robert James Fischer 1943-2008 (2 pages)
- The Best of Chess Informant – Artur Yusupov (27 pages)

The contributors are listed by country and then in alphabetical order. Here are some of the more familiar names (by country): Ki. Georgiev, Dominguez Perez, Yusupov, Adams, Anand, Gelfand, Sutovsky, Leko, I. Sokolov, Timman, van Wely, Marin, Bareev, Grischuk, Kramnik, Ivanchuk, Motylev, Rublevsky, Salov, Svidler, Milov, Beliavsky, Morozevich, Karjakin, Volokitin, Kasimdzhanov, Becerra Rivero, Benjamin, Christiansen, and Onischuk. An impressive list, although names such as Topalov, Carlsen, and Shirov, just to mention a few obvious ones, are missing. Ten years ago nearly everyone in the top twenty would have been represented.

The game Nielsen-Ivanchuk, La Habana 2007 won the vote for the best game from the previous volume. Trailing just one point behind was the game Sandipan-Tiviakov. The panel of Beliavsky, Christiansen, M. Gurevich, Matanovic, Mikhailchishin, Ribli, Speelman and Xie Jun chose between thirty nominated games, each judge awarding ten games from the list with one to ten points.

The most important theoretical novelty of the previous volume went to the game Eljanov-Karjakin, Foros 2007. After the moves, **1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 a6 5 Nc3 b5 6 c5 Nbd7 7 a3 a5 8 Bd3 e5 9 dxe5 Ng4 10 e6 fxe6 11 Nd4 Nxc5 12 Be2**



Karjakin played the incredible **12... Nxf2!!** (previously only 12...Ne5 had been played) and won an amazing game in just twenty-eight moves. The panel of judges in this case consisted of Anand, Benjamin, Yusupov, Lutz, Mikhailchishin, Salov, I.Sokolov, and Timman.

The tournaments featured in this volume include Mexico City (the world championship tournament), Karlovy Vary, Kemer, Hoogeveen, Barcelona, HERNISSOS, Vitoria-Gastelz, Moscow (Tal Memorial), Khanty-Mansiysk (World Cup), Russian Championship, Pamplona, Reggio Emilia along with several others. The tournament results section is an overview of some of the most important events from the period.

The sections on combinations and endings draw from the same pool of tournaments, whereas the studies are from the studies competition in connection with the Corus tournament from January this year. The studies section is edited by Afek, who was also the judge at the Corus competition.

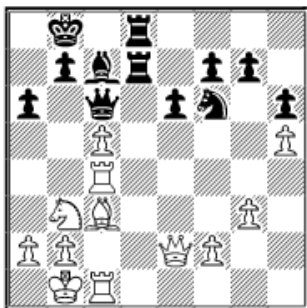
Finally the “Best of Chess Informant” section features former World Championship Candidate finalist Artur Yusupov, or Jussupow as is the German spelling. The section contains some of his best games, most important novelties, best combinations and endgames, and some career statistics.

I always enjoy browsing *Chess Informant*, be it for fascinating games, well-played endgames, stunning novelties, or the latest developments in

my favorite openings. I also find it interesting to see how many moves are played before a novelty appears. Here are the five deepest preparations from this volume:

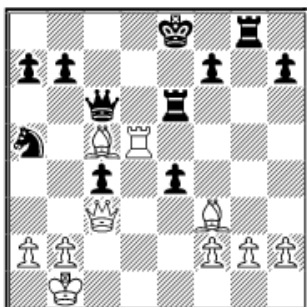
*Kotronias-Jobava, Moscow 2007*

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 e6 11 Bf4 Qa5+ 12 Bd2 Qc7 13 O-O-O O-O-O 14 Ne4 Ngf6 15 g3 Nxe4 16 Qxe4 Nf6 17 Qe2 Bd6 18 c4 c5 19 Bc3 cxd4 20 Nxd4 a6 21 Kb1 Rd7 22 Rc1 Kb8 23 Nb3 Qc6 24 Rh4 Rhd8 25 c5 Bc7 26 Rc4N



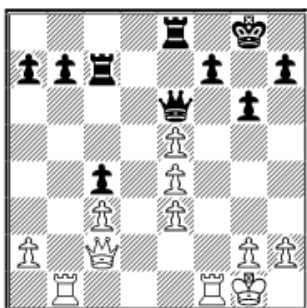
*Kamsky-Van Wely, Kemer 2007*

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d5 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 dxc4 5 e4 Bb4 6 Bg5 c5 7 e5 cxd4 8 Qa4+ Nc6 9 0-0-0 Bd7 10 Ne4 Be7 11 exf6 gxf6 12 Bh4 Rc8 13 Kb1 Na5 14 Qc2 e5 15 Nxd4 exd4 16 Rxd4 Qb6 17 Rxd7 Kxd7 18 Be2 Ke8 19 Qc3 Rc6 20 Rd1 Rg8 21 Bf3 Re6 22 Rd5 f5 23 Bxe7 fxe4 24 Bc5 Qc6N



*Beliaevsky-Mamedyarov, Hersonissos 2007*

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d5 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 Bb4 5 cxd5 exd5 6 Bg5 Nbd7 7 e3 c5 8 Bd3 Qa5 9 Qc2 c4 10 Bf5 O-O 11 O-O Re8 12 Nd2 g6 13 Bh3 Kg7 14 Rael Ne4 15 Ndx4 dxe4 16 Bh4 Nb6 17 Bxc8 Raxc8 18 f3 Bxc3 19 bxc3 Qd5 20 Bf6 + Kg8 21 Be5 Nd7 22 fxe4 Qe6 23 Rb1 Nxe5 24 dxe5 Rc7N



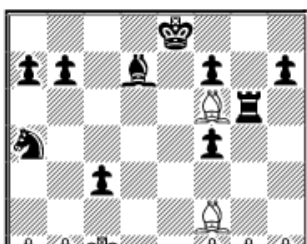
*Berescu-Pantsulaia, Hersonissos 2007*

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 e6 11 Bf4 Qa5+ 12 Bd2 Qc7 13 O-O-O O-O-O 14 Ne4 Ngf6 15 g3 Nxe4 16 Qxe4 Nf6 17 Qe2 Bd6 18 c4 c5 19 Bc3 cxd4 20 Nxd4 a6 21 Kb1 Rd7 22 Rc1 Kb8 23 f4 Rhd8N



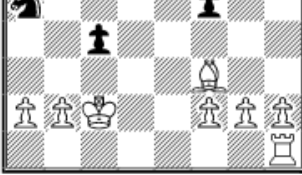
*Buhmann-Ribli, Austria 2007*

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d5 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 dxc4 5 e4 Bb4 6 Bg5 c5 7 e5 cxd4 8 Qa4+ Nc6 9 O-O-O Bd7 10 Ne4 Be7 11 exf6 gxf6 12 Bh4 Rc8 13 Kb1 Na5 14 Qc2 e5 15 Nxd4 exd4 16 Rxd4 Qb6 17 Rd6 Rc6 18 Rxc6 Qxc6 19 Be2 f5 20 Bxe7 Qxe4 21 Bf6 Rg8 22 Bf3 Qxc2+ 23 Kxc2 Rg6N



While the best novelty of this volume will be difficult to determine at this stage, a clear candidate for the worst novelty can be found in the following game:





Macieja-Laznicka, Khanty-Mansiysk  
2007

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nd7  
5 Nf3 Ngf6 6 Nxf6+ Nxf6 7 Bg5 h6 8

Bh4 c5 9 Bb5+ Bd7 10 Bxd7+ Qxd7 11 Qe2 cxd4 12 0-0 Bc5 13 Qe5  
Be7 14 Nxd4 Qa4 15 Qc7 Rd8??N




Macieja suggests Black should have played 15...Nd5! 16 Qxb7 0-0 17 Bxe7 Rab8 18 Qc6 Qxa2 19 Ba3 Rfc8 20 Qa6 Rc4 21 Qd6 Rbc8 22 Qe5 Nb6 23 Kd2 Rxc2+ 24 Ke1 Rc1 25 Ke2 R8c3 26 Rd3 Rxd3 27 Rxc1 Rxa3 28 Nxe6 fxe6 29 Rc7 Nd7 30 Rc8+ Kf7 31 Qf4+ Kg6 32 Qg4+ Kf7 33 Qf4+ with a draw by repetition. I have skipped some of the sidelines in this long piece of analysis.

16 Nf5 Rd7

Or 16...exf5 17 Rxd8+ Bxd8 18 Re1+, and it is over.

17 Qc8+ Rd8 18 Nxc7+ 1-0

I honestly believe that all ambitious chess players should read *Chess Informant*, as there is an endless amount of material for studying and training.

My assessment of this book: 

[Order Chess Informant, Vol. 101](#)

by Zdenko Krnic (ed.)

*Chesspublishing.com: Open Sicilians* by Richard Palliser, Chess Publishing.com 2008, Subscription \$19.50-\$99.00 per year.

The Open Sicilian page at Chesspublishing.com is currently edited by English international master Richard Palliser. He is a well-respected author as well as an editor for Everyman Chess.



Each update consists of 8-10 recent games in the Open Sicilian, excluding the Dragon variations, which have a page on their own. Palliser examines the games in detail and adds plenty of original analysis, along with excellent explanatory prose. The quality of the material is very high and the level of analysis equally so. I'm sure that even grandmasters could benefit from Palliser's work on this site.


One of the bonuses to subscribing to these pages is that you also gain access to all the material that has been previously published dating back to October 1999. That is almost ten years of opening theory. Needless to say, this is a massive amount of material.

Palliser took over this page in April 2007. Prior to that grandmaster Tony Kosten (January 2005-March 2007) and grandmaster John Fedorowicz (October 1999-December 2004) were in charge. I wasn't all too pleased with the early efforts of Fedorowicz (see [here](#) and [here](#)), but the quality has increased dramatically over the years.

In addition, subscribers also have access to eBooks in PDF and ChessBase formats. Currently there are books on the Sveshnikov & Kalashnikov, the Paulsen & Taimanov, the Classical Two Knights, the

Richter-Rauzer, the Scheveningen, and, of course, the Najdorf.

All in all, if you play the Open Sicilian from either side of the board, this page will keep you on top of all the major developments. And if you feel that your pet variation has been ignored, you can ask for an opinion on it.

**My assessment of this site:** 

*Chesspublishing.com: Open Sicilians*  
by Richard Palliser

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