



COLUMNISTS

Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen



Rating Chart

- ♦ – Poor
- ♦♦ – Useful
- ♦♦♦ – Good
- ♦♦♦♦ – Excellent

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Reviewed this month:

A Killer Chess Opening Repertoire
by Aaron Summerscale & Sverre Johnsen

The Moment of Zuke
by David Rudel

Killer Dutch (DVD)
by Simon Williams

The Moscow & Anti-Moscow Variations
by Alexey Dreev

Happy Days for Queen's Pawn Enthusiasts

It seems like we're in the midst of happy days for Queen's Pawn Opening enthusiasts. Over the last couple of years, we have seen many, if not too many, new books on openings such as the Trompowsky, the London, the Torre, the Colle and similarly annoying (from Black's perspective) anti-Indian openings, as well as books on how to meet these openings. Objectively speaking, these openings only suffice to offer equal positions. However, if White plays the particular opening regularly, he at least has the advantage of knowing the finesses of the opening better than his counterpart, who may have to make up a plan from scratch. In this month's column we feature two titles that discuss the Colle opening, along with two rather specialized works: a DVD on the Classical Dutch, and a book by former World Championship Candidate, grandmaster Alexey Dreev.

A Killer Chess Opening Repertoire, New Enlarged Edition by Aaron Summerscale & Sverre Johnsen, Gambit Publications 2010, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 192pp. \$19.95 (ChessCafe Price: \$16.95)

This is a revised and expanded edition of the 1998 book written by grandmaster Aaron Summerscale, who, as a matter of coincidence, wrote the foreword to *The Moment of Zuke* by David Rudel. It almost seems like there is a mini-conspiracy going on to conquer the world with this little unassuming opening.

The material in this volume is divided as follows:

- Symbols (1 page)
- Introduction to the First Edition (1 page)
- Updater's Notes (3 pages)
- Barry Attack (34 pages)
- 150 Attack (25 pages)
- Colle-Zukertort System (24 pages)
- 1 d4 d4 2 Nf3: Beating the Anti-Colle Systems (29 pages)
- Classical Queen's Indian (16 pages)
- Anti-Benoni (30 pages)
- Anti Dutch 2 Bg5 (19 pages)
- Odds and Ends (5 pages)
- Index of Variations (2 pages)



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How to Win at Chess - Quickly!
by Simon Williams



Slav and Semi-Slav Revisited
by Alexei Shirov




Dangerous Weapons: The Dutch (Ebook)
by Palliser, Williams, & Vigus

The update and expansion of Summerscale's book was placed in the capable hands of Norwegian writer and analyst Sverre Johnsen, who we already know from his previous works on the London (another Queen's Pawn Opening, aha!), Ruy Lopez, and the Stonewall Dutch. While not the strongest player around, he has proven that this handicap doesn't prevent him from writing truly excellent books.

The work on this book included adding some new main games, expanding game notes and analysis, as well as checking the original material with a strong analysis engine to eliminate any analytical errors from the first edition. Otherwise, the main recommendations from the original work more or less stand as they did then. While not overly convincing as a complete repertoire, some of the ideas are definitely worthwhile. But the problem with works such as this is that the authors strive to avoid main lines at any cost against other openings and so suggest second-rate ideas in order to cover other lines in as few pages as possible. This is a common ailment, and one from which this book suffers. There are even some bizarre recommendations towards the end of the book, such as how White is to meet 1 d4 d6, where the book recommends 2 e4, which allows Black to take the game to a Pirc or Modern Defense or even the Philidor after 2..Nf6 3 Nc3 e5 4 Nf3. I can't see too many club players, who employ the Colle as white, also going for 2 e4, which changes the entire nature of the game.

However, the meat of the book is on the Colle and Colle-related set-ups, and in those chapters the book really proves its worth. Overall, it is an easily approachable book; the repertoire is by and large not too difficult to follow, even if some of the surprise value has been eliminated by the original book being on the market for more than ten years. In many ways, this present work is a considerable upgrade over the original, and, even by today's high standards for opening books, it is a very good book. It can be enjoyed by players rated up to around 2000.

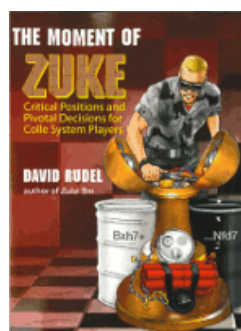
My assessment of this book: 

[Order A Killer Chess Opening Repertoire](#)

by Aaron Summerscale & Sverre Johnsen

The Moment of Zuke by David Rudel, Thinkers' Press Inc. 2009, Figurine Algebraic Notation, 255pp. \$19.95 (ChessCafe Price: \$16.95)

In my [March 2010](#) column, I reviewed [Zuke 'Em – The Colle-Zukertort Revolutionized](#), which rather remarkably was shortlisted for the ChessCafe.com Book of Year award. The present book in many ways accompanies the material discussed in *Zuke 'Em*, but in other ways stands by itself.



The material is divided as follows:

- Introduction (6 pages)
- Move Order Quandaries (12 pages)
- Slaying the b7-Monster (22 pages)
- Putting Down an Errant Knight (24 pages)
- A Kite of Doom – Double-Bareled Fun (32 pages)
- The Game-Changing Retreat (38 pages)
- Charge! (When to Play g4!?) (12 pages)
- Classic Greek Gifts (94 pages)
- Bonus Tract 1: Anti-Colle Lines (4 pages)
- Bonus Tract 2: The Phoenix Attack – A New C-K Line (6 pages)
- About the Author (1 page)
- Colophon (1 page)

Aside from the last two features, which are not chapters but more along the lines of summaries, this book is one long introduction on how to play the Colle Opening, and unlike *Zuke 'Em*, it covers positions from both the

Zukertort (with b3) and the Koltanowski (with c3). The book looks impressively large and thick, but the font and diagrams are quite large. The latter requested on purpose by the author, but the size of the font is the largest I have ever seen for a chess book. However, these issues do not detract from the books intended purpose: to give Colle players a number of key positions and offer solutions with a discussion of alternate ideas, along with some supporting analysis.

While I don't care much for the opening, or for the way its purported strength is being trumpeted to the world, the author has made an excellent effort at making this opening accessible to average strength players, who have a hard time finding opening monographs and repertoire books that meet their needs. Some of the information may seem trivial and irrelevant to stronger players, but nearly everything the intended audience needs is here and that is quite admirable. Thus, the book hits its targets remarkably well. For Colle players rated below 1600, this book is well worth the money spent. For higher rated players, it is not a must-buy, but it still may be a worthwhile investment.

My assessment of this book: ❖❖

Order *The Moment of Zuke*

by David Rudel

Killer Dutch (DVD) by Simon Williams, Chess Cube, Figurine Algebraic Notation, DVD, Running time: approx 6.5 hours, \$29.95 (ChessCafe Price: \$24.95)

The London grandmaster Simon Williams seems to have made a specialty in covering two topics, the Dutch and how to smash your opponent in a hurry. His earlier writings include [Play the Classical Dutch](#) (reviewed in [April 2003](#)), [Dangerous Weapon: The Dutch](#) [reviewed in [March 2010](#)], [How to Crush Your Chess Opponents](#), and the very recent [How to Win at Chess – Quickly!](#). The production standard of the present DVD is amazingly professional and in many ways the best that I have seen in a very long time.



The topic is the Classical Dutch, which arises after **1 d4 f5 2 c4 Nf6 3 g3 e6 4 Bg2 Be7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 0-0 d6**



[FEN "rnbq1rk1/ppp1b1pp/3ppn2/5p2/2PP4/5NP1/PP2PPBP/RNBQ1RK1 w - - 0 7"]

Williams can be described as the world's leading authority on the subject. Not only has Williams written about the opening, he has also played it for about twenty years. Williams's understanding of his topic shines through whenever he is on the screen. The presentation is fluid, as he unhesitatingly talks about the opening and its many nuances and variations. It is as though he is giving the viewer a one-on-one lesson on the opening.

Unlike many presenters on DVDs, he never fills time with mindless chatter.

He is either exceptionally well-prepared for his presentation or just an amazingly natural presenter in this format. He speaks plainly and is always easy to understand both in terms of his accent and his choice of words. This makes the present work easily accessible to a wide range of players, and the six and a half hour running time passes in the blink of an eye.

The material is divided as follows:

- Part 1 – DVD Introduction (3 segments)
- Part 2 – The Main Line Classical
- Chapter 1: Ye Old Faithful 7...a5 (8 segments)
- Chapter 2: The Most Popular 7...Qe8 (8 segments)
- Chapter 3: The Modern 7...Ne4 (7 segments)
- Chapter 4: New, Fresh and Slightly Dubious 7...Nc6 (5 segments)
- Chapter 5: White Fianchetto's and Deviates at an Early Stage (6 segments)
- Part 3 – White Avoids Fianchettoing (7 segments)
- Part 4 – Aggressive Set Ups and Early Gambits (6 segments)
- Part 5 – 1 d4 f5 – Early Deviations: 2 Nc3 and 2 Bg5 (6 segments)
- Part 6 – Conclusion

As made clear above, the presentation of the material borders on perfect, making it very easy for the viewer to get engaged in the process, understand what is happening on the board, and how to respond to the various issues at hand. The rules that Williams lays out are very easy to understand, most of the time easy to follow, though a bit a creativity may be needed from Black to make the rules work. That said, it is remarkably easy for Black to equalize out of the opening. By playing standard moves, Black usually equalizes effortlessly, if he does not seize the initiative.

The Classical Dutch can be a rather sharp opening and Black should not be afraid to sacrifice a pawn for the initiative, or for the opportunity to activate the minor pieces. If you are willing to play that brand of chess, and judging from Williams' presentation, you are a bit of sissy if you don't, then you are in for one fantastic and enjoyable ride, and you will like get as much joy out of the opening as Williams.

Here is a game with Williams in action against a top grandmaster. I must admit I have not analyzed the game thoroughly, but the early moves are discussed in detail on the DVD, and Black is definitely fine after the opening. It perfectly illustrates Williams' approach to chess, as well as the qualities of this line that was once considered quite inadequate for Black:

Ivan Sokolov (2689) – Simon Williams (2452)
Reykjavik 2006

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.d5 Nxd2 10.Nxd2 Ne5 11.e3 c6 12.b4 Bf6



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/pp4pp/2pppb2/3Pnp2/1PP5//2N1P1P1/P2N1PBP/R2Q1RK1 w - - 0 13"]

My computer already claims Black to be significantly better at this point.

13.Qc2 Bd7 14.Rad1 a5! 15.b5 cxd5 16.cxd5 Rc8

White's position is already falling apart at the seams.

17.Ndb1 Bxb5 18.dxe6 Bxf1 19.Kxf1 Kh8

19...Qb6!/? looks even better.

20.Bxb7 Rc7 21.Qb3 a4?!

21...Qe7 22 Bd5 Rc5 may be better.

22.Nxa4 Qe8 23.Nbc3?! Qh5 24.Bg2! Nf3 25.Bxf3 Qxf3 26.Qd5

26.Nd5!/?

26...Qh5 27.Qxd6 Rfc8 28.Kg2 h6 29.Nb5?

29.Rd3!/? is better; now Black's attack regains its strength rather rapidly.

29...Rc2 30.Nb6 f4

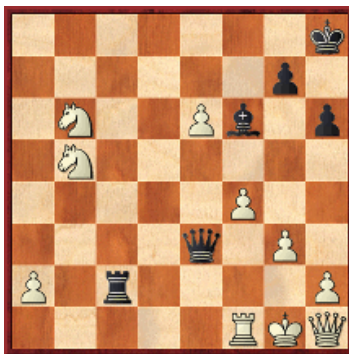
30...Qe2 is best, essentially forcing 31.Qf4 Qxd1 and it is game over.

31.exf4 Qe2

My computer gives preference to 31...Rxf2!, but the text is a better practical choice as it also wins and eliminates any need to calculate the long variations required after 31...Rxf2.


32.Rf1 Qe4+ 33.Kg1 Rxf2! 34.Rxf2 Rc1+ 35.Rf1 Rc2 36.Qd5 Qe2 37.Qh1 Qe3+ 0-1

The final position is quite awesome, so let's have another diagram.



[FEN "7k/6p1/1N2Pb1p/1N6/5P2//
4q1P1/P1r4P/5RKQ w - - 0 38"]

After viewing this DVD from start to finish, I am ready to overcome my reservations about this particular line, and give it a try. If you have any interest in the Dutch from either side, then you should get this DVD. It is an incredibly bargain for the money.

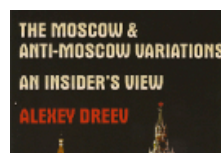
My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) *Killer Dutch*

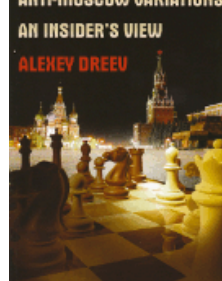
by Simon Williams

The Moscow & Anti-Moscow Variations, An Insider's View by Alexey Dreev,
Chess Stars 2010, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 212pp. \$29.95
(ChessCafe Price: \$23.95)

I hadn't heard about this book before receiving, which is a rare occurrence, especially when we are talking about a release of a major title from a major



author. The author is a former world championship candidate and very strong grandmaster. On the back cover we learn that "he was twice a World junior champion (under 16) in 1983 and 1984, silver medalist under 20 in 1984, European champion under 20 in 1988. Dreev is the winner of many international tournaments. With the Russian team, he was three times Olympic gold medalist and once he got the silver, he also won the World team championship in 1997 and 2005."



The variations covered in this book are topical among all the top grandmasters. The Moscow variation arises after **1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bxf6 Qxf6**.



[FEN "rnb1kb1r/pp3pp1/2p1pq1p/3p4/2PP4/2N2N2/PP2PPPP/R2QKB1R w KQkq - 0 7"]

The Anti-Moscow begins with the following moves: **1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 dxc4 7 e4 g5 8 Bg3 b5**.



[FEN "rnbqkb1r/p4p2/2p1pn1p/1p4p1/2pPP3/2N2NB1/PP3PPP/R2QKB1R w KQkq b6 0 9"]

The former line is very solid and the latter is insanely complicated, though not as bad as its cousin, the Botvinnik System (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 7 e5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Nxc5 hxc5 10 Bxc5), which Dreev tells us is no longer being played as much at top level, because the players feel "the danger of losing straight out of the opening is too great". However, what makes this book truly extraordinary is the fact that Dreev is one of, if not the, leading authorities on these lines. The sad thing is that few by players rated below 2300 play these lines.

The contents are divided as follows:

- Preface (7 pages)
- Moscow Variation – 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bxf6 Qxf6
- 7 e4 dxe4 8 Nxe4 Bb4+ (3 pages)
- 7 a3 (6 pages)
- 7 Qb3 (10 pages)
- 7 Qc2 (8 pages)
- 7 g3 Nd7 8 Bg2 dxc4 (4 pages)
- 7 e3 Nd7 8 a3 (8 pages)
- 7 e3 Nd7 8 Bd3 dxc4 9 Bxc4 Bd6 (19 pages)

- 7 e3 Nd7 8 Bd3 dxc4 9 Bxc4 g6 (26 pages)
- Anti-Moscow Variation – 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 dxc4 7 e4 g5 8 Bg3 b5
- 9 Ne5 (9 pages)
- 9 Be2 Bb4; 9...b4; 9...Nbd7 (12 pages)
- 9 Be2 Bb7 10 e5 (18 pages)
- 9 Be2 Bb7 10 h4 b4 (3 pages)
- 9 Be2 Bb7 10 h4 g4 11 Ne5 h5 (28 pages)
- 9 Be2 Bb7 10 h4 g4 11 Ne5 Rg8; 11...Nbd7 (12 pages)
- 9 Be2 Bb7 10 0-0 Nbd7 11 Ne5 (27 pages)

One could have wished for an index of variations and a bibliography, but regarding the latter, I doubt Dreev made use of too many sources other than his own database. The coverage of the lines is detailed without being overwhelming. The author sticks to the point and doesn't present an endless amount of games and analysis that are only partly relevant to the current theoretical situation. Furthermore, there is a fair amount of original analysis and new ideas, both of which will satisfy the stronger players who will undoubtedly pick up this book.

The books one major flaw is the rather sub-standard English, even for books from Chess Stars. No other publisher of English-language chess books would allow books to be released with the prose in such a pathetic condition. Rather than presenting some material from the book, I will give an example of Dreev's use of the lines he covers, and there are plenty of games to choose from, including games against Kasparov, Topalov, Anand and countless other top grandmasters:

Alexander Grischuk (2720) – Alexey Dreev (2698)
Mainz (rapid) 2005

1.c4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5 9. Be2 Bb7 10.h4 g4 11.Ne5 Nbd7 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.Be5 Qe7 14.0-0 h5?!

This is dubious, but White fails to find the right way to meet it. Instead Black should have opted for 14...Rg8, which was played in the amazing Grischuk-Aronian, Ohrid 2009, which if you don't know it, needs to be looked up mainly on account of Black's stunning twenty-sixth move.

15.Qc2?!

Dreev points out that White has the strong 15 b3!, which essentially refutes Black's previous move; e.g., 15...cxb3 16 Nxb5 cxb5 17 Bxb5+ Kd8 18 Qe1 a5 19 axb3, and White is winning.

15...Bh6 16.b3 cxb3 17.axb3 0-0 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.e5 Qxh4 20.Ne4 Bg7 21. g3 Qd8 22.Nd6 Qb6

In the book, Dreev concludes his coverage of this sideline with the evaluation "Black has a good game." The continuation confirms this assessment.

23.b4 Rfd8 24.Rad1 a5 25.bxa5 Rxa5 26.Qe4 Ra4 27.Qf4 Qc7 28.Qg5



[FEN "3r2k1/1bq2pb1/2pNp3/1p2P1Qp/r2P2p1/6P1/4BP2/3R1RK1 b - - 0 28"]

28...Rxd6! 29.exd6 Qxd6

Black is winning.

30.Qxh5 Qd5 31.Bxg4

31.Qxd5 exd5 32.Bxg4 Bxd4 33.Rfe1 Bc3 is also quite ugly and rather hopeless for White.

31...c5 32.Qh3 Rxd4 33.Rfe1 Rxd1 34.Rxd1 Bd4 35.Be2 b4 36.Bd3 Qf3 37.Rd2 Kf8 38.Bf1 b3 39.Qh4 Qe4 40.Qd8+ Kg7 41.Qg5+ Qg6 42.Qe7? Qxg3 + 0-1

The next game, in the Moscow Variation, is more mundane, but highlights the problems for White, if he doesn't manage to develop an initiative, and if Black manages to open the position:

Robert Ruck (2534) – Alexey Dreev (2633)

Dresden 2007

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 g6 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.cxd5 exd5 11.b4 Bg4

Dreev also mentions 11..Qd6!? as an option for Black, further giving 12 b5 Be6 as equal.

12.Be2 Nd7 13.b5 Qd6 14.Rc1 Rfc8 15.bxc6 bxc6 16.h3 Be6 17.Qd2 Rab8 18.Rfd1 Qa3 19.Rc2 Qa5 20.Rdc1 Bf8 21.Bd3 Ba3



[FEN "1rr3k1/p2n1p2/2p1b1pp/q2p4/3P4/b1NBPN1P/P1RQ1PP1/2R3K1 w - - 0 22"]

At this point, Dreev evaluates the position as slightly better for Black; this seems like a fair assessment.

22.Rd1 Bb4 23.Qc1 c5 24.dxc5 Nxc5 25.Nd4 Bd7

25...Nxd3 26 Rxd3 Bd7 is more accurate, retaining a better games for Black.

26.Bb5 Bxc3?!


26...Ba3!?

27.Rxc3?

Now White gets himself in serious trouble. Instead 27 Bxd7 Nxd7 28 Ne2 would have left the game more or less balanced.

27...Ne4 28.Rxc8+ Rxc8 29.Qb2 Nc3 30.Rc1 Bxb5 31.Nxb5 Ne2+ 32.Qxe2 Rxc1+ 33.Kh2 Ra1 34.a3 Rb1 35.a4 Rb4 36.Qc2 Rc4 37.Qd3 a6 0-1

If you play these lines as black or 5 Bg5 as white, you must get this book. Even if you don't play these lines with either color, you can undoubtedly learn a lot from studying a book by a strong player such as Dreev. However, you will probably benefit more from reading his [best games](#) collection. This was released back in 2007 and can also be highly recommended.

My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) *The Moscow & Anti-Moscow Variations*

by Alexey Dreev

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