

**Michael Adams**



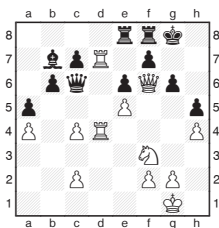
## Grandmasters brought to book and screen

The amiable American Yasser Seirawan is one of the best raconteurs in chess with a great memory for an amusing tale and he shares many of his stories in his new hardback tome *Duels with the World Champions*, covering all Yasser's games with world champions.

Playing against the very best presents a difficult challenge, as the intimidation factor often kicks in and you end up showing excessive respect, leading to below-par play. However, a select few are instead inspired by being centre stage, and Yasser often upped his game against his illustrious opponents creating interesting material for the book. The only downer is the dissection of the failure of FIDE and chess in general to maximise its commercial potential, but here too you get the inside story.

English players have proved to be eager to get in front of the cameras at the Chessbase studios and the strongest yet, Nigel Short, has demonstrated his games for a *Greatest Hits* DVD. After a quick perusal of the index, I headed straight to Nigel's encounter with Cheparinov from Wijk aan Zee, hoping for some choice words on the infamous non-handshake game. However, Nigel is unusually restrained and lets his chess speak for

itself after a summary of the circumstances in which the game was played. Another famous game on disc one is entitled "Daring King March", which summarises what happens next pretty well. You don't see the king strolling up the board to give mate like this very often.



**Short, N - Timman, J**  
Tilburg 1991

**31.Kg1-h2** **Re8-c8**

Jan might as well have challenged the rook with 31...Bb7-c8, although one win Nigel mentions on the DVD is: 32.g2-g4 h5xg4 33.h4-h5 g6xh5 (33...Bc8xd7 34.h5-h6) 34.Qf6-g5+ Kg8-h7 35.Qg5xh5+ Kh7-g7 36.Rd4xg4 mate.

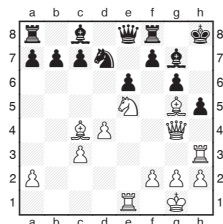
**32.Kh2-g3** **Rc8-e8**  
**33.Kg3-f4** **Bb7-c8**  
**34.Kf4-g5**

Black resigned as 34...Bc8xd7 35.Kg5-h6 will be followed by Qf6-g7 mate next go.

Daniel King is even more prolific and has already produced 13 discs in his *Power Play* series of DVDs, each covering a different aspect of the game. Dan puts a lot of effort into finding the right games to explain his themes, as readers of *Chess* magazine will know from his excellent "How Good is your Chess" series.

I was particularly struck by this example from

volume 10, "Calculation", where an unexpected calm retreat a whole rook down seals the deal.

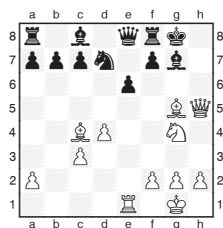


**Halkias, S - Perunovic, M**  
Vrsac 2008

**18.Rh3xh5+** **g6xh5**  
**19.Qg4xh5+** **Kh8-g8**

The rook sacrifice looked natural, but the upcoming deadly quiet move is not so easy to spot.

**20.Ne5-g4**



**20...** **f7-f6**

The point is that the Black defenders cut off the king's retreat after 20...b7-b5 21.Bg5-f6 Nd7xf6 22.Ng4xf6+ Bg7xf6 23.Bc4-d3 when ironically the defenders prevent the king's flight. Hence he decides to allow a little air around his king, but it quickly turns into a hurricane.

**21.Bc4xe6+** **Rf8-f7**  
**22.Bg5-h6** **Qe8-e7**  
**23.Bh6xg7** **Kg8xg7**  
**24.Ng4-h6**

Black resigned as the knight attacks the rook and threatens Nh6-f5+.