

Tarrasch Defence: Move by Move (Everyman Chess Series)

Sam Collins

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#1302193 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2014-02-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.47 x .55 x 6.72l, 1.06 #File Name: 1781941424256 pagesAuthor: Sam CollinsPages: 256Publication Years: 2014 | File size: 47.Mb

Sam Collins : Tarrasch Defence: Move by Move (Everyman Chess Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tarrasch Defence: Move by Move (Everyman Chess Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sam Collins does a great job giving a complete over-view of the Tarrasch defenseBy Miles BowlinSam Collins does a great job giving a complete over-view of the Tarrasch defense. It hits many sidelines and covers both 9. ... c4 and 9. Cxd4.Compared to Aagard's book, Collins gives more choice in lines and let's the reader decide on multiple paths rather than recommending one move.This is a great book to help someone create their own repertoire rather than having one, rigid one plopped in your lap.0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Five StarsBy Douglas McMickleVery good book!!!7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Isolate Queen Pawn Expert Writes a Great BookBy M. AraratThis review will cover the book The Tarrash Defense move by move by IM Sam Collins. Collins is a regular author of Chessbase videos including a series of DVDs on different pawn structures. I was interested on how Collins will use his expertise on pawn structures (and as a presenter) to educate and convince the reader about the playability of the Tarrasch defense at club level. The Tarrasch defense (Tarrash) is not a very popular opening at the club level for several reasons. First, the Tarrash is not part of the repertoire of a world champion player since the 80s when Kasparov used it. Second, only until recently a few books on the Tarrash were available to ambitious class players (Meeting d4 by Aagaard and Lund 2002, followed by The Tarrash defense by Aagaard and Ntrilis 2011). Finally, at the chess club level most of us overestimate pawn structure over chess dynamic elements. In other words, class players like me consider the isolated d pawn a burden instead of an asset. Any book on the Tarrash aimed to class players needs to show the potential of the isolated d pawn (isolani) and educate the reader on typical middlegame and endgames motifs. Is Collins up to this task? Collins starts the book with a convincing argument in favor of the Tarrash. The introduction explains why the Tarrash defense offers space in addition to active piece play. Collins's arguments that the Isolani gives black a space advantage because after white trades his c4 pawn for black d5 pawn the recapture e6xd5 grants black the only central pawn. Collins also advocates the mastering of six thematic pawn structures derived from the Tarrash as a key step to increase the level of play of any player interested in the Tarrash. After the introduction the core of the book are eight chapters developed around twenty five master games. The theoretical chapters starts with the main line 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7. Bg2 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 cxd4 and ends with the Reti set ups. I was not sure if starting the book with the main line was better than starting with the sidelines (going from simple to complex). Fortunately, after I read Wojos Weapons 1 by Hilton and Ippolito it was clear to me the benefits of Collins way to present the material in the Tarrash Move by Move. Turn out that most class players fail to play the Tarrasch successfully because they exit theory too early. and/or do not have the knowledge/experience to handle the complications in the early Tarrasch middle games At club level Tarrash players are unlikely to know the precise sequence to create this wild tactical play, and will exit know theory quickly. White then need to know the ideas and themes necessary to grind black down in a positional struggle greatly favoring him. In plain English to play the Tarrasch Defense competitively, a player needs the theory and the right examples to time the actions in the early middle game. In addition to variations the author explains key concepts such as the ideal piece placement for Black (typical squares for the Black Queen, light square bishop). For example, if White develops his Queen actively on the Queenside (Qa4) black operations are aimed to force the white queen to retreat. A different course of action like starting active operations on the Kingside will spell disaster for Black. Collins also explains several positional themes associated with the Tarrash defense (pawn majorities, bishop versus knight and weak squares) and how Black needs to be flexible and play according to whites piece deployment. If white play for a complex middle game then black needs to be on his toes searching for tactical opportunities (game 4). In contrast if white goes for a level game black needs to keep an active mindset to avoid disaster (game 12 Baburin Collins). If white gets a better endgame, Collins shows you how to proceed (game 6 illustrates black defending a slightly worse endgame of Bishop and knight vs. bishop pair). I recommend this book because the author provides the right material in the best order and cover all the suggestions against the Tarrasch from the latest publications. Trendy lines like the Krasenkow 6.dxc5 suggested by Kornev in a Practical White Repertoire (2013) and Avrushs 9.dxc5 are covered in game 20 and chapter 4 respectively. If you are wondering if Collins recommendations overlap with Aagaard and Ntrilss Grandmaster repertoire book 10 the answer is not. Disclaimer: 1. This review was published in the Florida Chess Association Magazine (Summer 2015) and it is reproduced here with the Editor's permission. 2. The publisher provided a sample copy of this book. 3. My chess skill level is around 1850 USCF and I hold a FIDE National Instructor certification.

About the Author Sam Collins is an International Master with two Grandmaster norms, and a former Irish and Japanese Champion. He has represented Ireland at six Olympiads, winning an individual gold medal at Bled 2002.