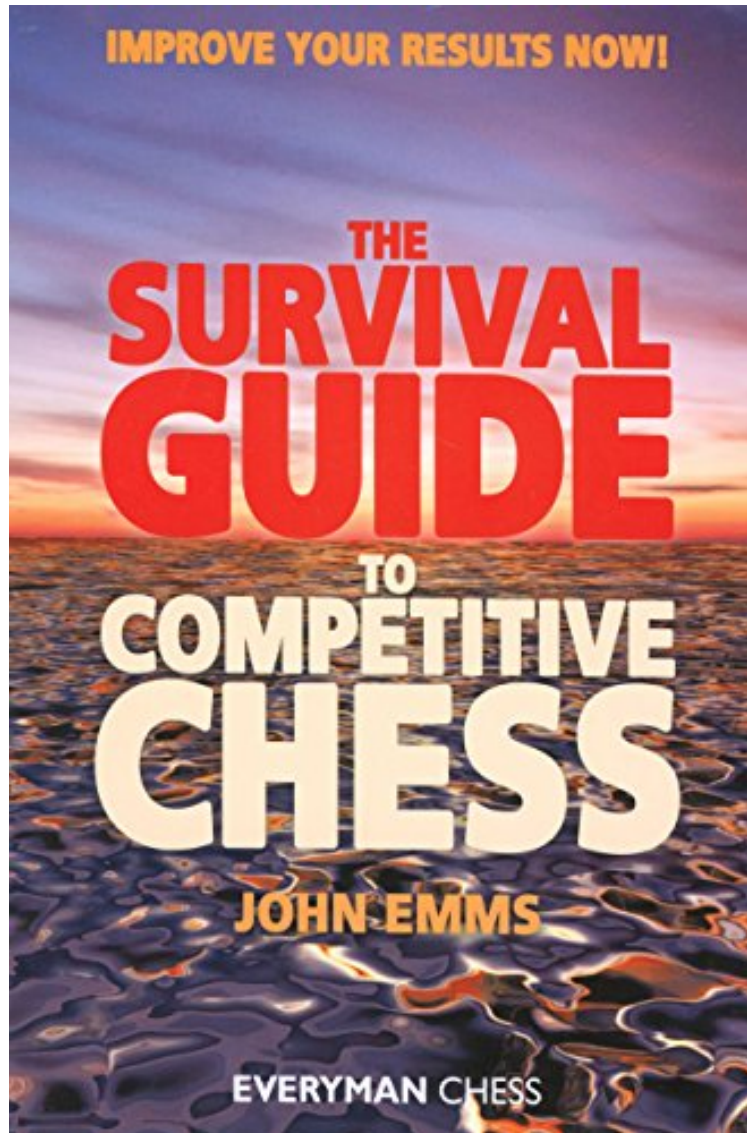


[E-BOOK] The Survival Guide to Competitive Chess : Improve Your Results Now!

The Survival Guide to Competitive Chess : Improve Your Results Now!

John Emms

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John Emms : The Survival Guide to Competitive Chess : Improve Your Results Now! before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Survival Guide to Competitive Chess : Improve Your Results Now!:

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This book has a practical advises, for tournamentBy Norberto Martel GutierrezJohn Emms, share his practical game, and what he is thinking during the game.This is not a book , to

increase your skills, nothing about that, if you expect puzzles or position with this book, find this theme in other books, more closer to development tactical skills. How does the book work? This book gives a lot of games about John Emms, his approach and what he was thinking during the game, and personal focus about what the opponent could be planning. He went along game and commented the ideas, this helps a lot to understand the position and the player. There are several tips, how a draw offer can be used as a tactical weapon, and how to deal with bad position. This book focuses on psycho preparation, if you play many chess tournaments, this book will prepare you, if you are a beginner, his book could help but if you are planning to participate in official games. Intermediate player maybe there are some recommendations, can be helpful. I give four because some games are very extended comments. Just for that, 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Excellent prose and advice, examples somewhat difficult. By Joe This book deals with the practical aspects of tournament play other than actual knowledge of chess theory. Some of the topics include building an opening repertoire, clock management, draw offers, avoiding blunders, and the like. In my view, the only other author to effectively address these issues of "practical matters" is Jeremy Silman in both *The Amateur's Mind* and *The Complete Book of Chess Strategy*, both must reads in my opinion. I picked up *Survival Guide* on a whim to help with the practical aspect of my game, since I'm told I play above my current rating of USCF 1715. A typical tournament for me will be to draw or beat an expert and then lose to a 1450 player, so nerves and other mental errors rather than chess knowledge is a problem for me, but it's getting better. Emms offers some great advice and his written prose is excellent. For example, he says when playing a lower rated player that it's typical for the game to be a long haul and that you may have to wait many moves for him to make a mistake and that patience is crucial, rather than try to smash him out of the opening. The reason I took a star away is that virtually all of the examples are GM games featuring difficult positions that most class and expert players would have a hard time with. For example, Emms states on p. 11 to always check to see what new possibilities are available. Well, that's great, but knowing that you should look for something and having the GM calculating skills to actually see an incredible move are two different things! I would have liked Emms to use simpler, pragmatic positions that typical class players can relate to. In conclusion, the book is a great read with excellent written text, but many of the examples are very advanced. If you are making many errors due to mental mistakes rather than gaps in your chess knowledge, I recommend this book. 22 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and valuable even if the title is hype. By Robert J. Newell John Emms is an excellent chess writer; I have many of his books. He does not tend toward the spectacular or hyperbolic (he's not Eric Schiller, for instance), or even the overly exciting. So I suspect he did not choose this extravagant book title. I would hardly call this a survival guide. Instead, I would call it an improvement guide (making the second part of the title at least mostly correct, although "now" is quite soon). Mr. Emms presents some basic but easily overlooked principles ("check every move" is one) and illustrates them with games and examples, often from his own play. He is up-front about his own losses and how he drew lessons from them, and this is perhaps the best of the book. It's something we can all relate to and begin to do on our own, with much beneficial effect. There's a lot here about staying focused in the heat of the battle and especially about recovering focus and concentration after making an error, something most of us mortals do more than we might like in tournament games. There are further chapters about preparation, but these come into play, I think, when we have first learned the more basic lessons of the earlier chapters. I'm about to play in a 3-day event. Having just read this book, will my results improve "now"? We shall see. But I do intend to take some of those principles ("check every move") as a mantra, and I suspect that will be a good thing. I can certainly recommend this book. It's interesting, engaging, and ultimately, I think, it's useful.

John Emms reveals the secrets of how to maximize potential and improve results in competitive play. Drawing upon years of his own experience, Emms tackles the all-important practical aspects of chess playing: studying one's own strengths and weaknesses, and those of prospective opponents; concentration and manner at the chessboard; handling time trouble; tackling cheats; playing for a win or a draw; saving difficult positions; avoiding silly mistakes; building an opening repertoire; using chess computers and software; choosing the right tournaments and much more besides.

One of the finest instructive opening books I've ever seen. Award-winning author Jeremy Silman reviewing John Emms's *Easy Guide to the Nimzo-Indian*. A beautiful integration of instruction and concrete analysis. Award-winning author Jeremy Silman reviewing John Emms's *Easy Guide to the Nimzo-Indian*.