Long ago Ignatz Kolisch, world No3 in chess, gave up the game for a career as an eminent banker allied to the Rothschilds. His counterpart today is Ken Rogoff, who in his youth crossed pawns with Anatoly Karpov, became chief economist of the IMF, and is now a globally known Harvard professor.

The latest issue of New in Chess has a fascinating Rogoff interview where he reflects on his chess career in the 1970s and the links between his two interests. He became a grandmaster and his CV includes second in the US championship, competing in the world title interzonal and draws with the greats Tigran Petrosian and Bent Larsen.

Rogoff says that chess has helped him to stay calm in difficult situations, to analyse the thinking of others, and to adapt game theory to management of financial crises. He visited the recent London Classic at Olympia and one NiC photo shows him talking there to chancellor George Osborne and world champion Vishy Anand.

Rogoff also praises NiC, which many reckon the best chess magazine in the world. Its latest issue also has a full account of the London Classic, a Garry Kasparov questionnaire, and a witty Nigel Short column on computers. For details of an introductory subscription, go to www.newinchess.com.

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K Rogoff v A Adorjan, Graz 1972. How should White (to play) counter Black's Nxe1 and Bxf2+?

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