

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.100

Winter 2007

- **Websaver Open**
- *George annotates more games*
- **2007 Results**
- *Jim details the year's statistics*
- **Puzzled Thoughts**
- *an old chess player reflects while another puzzles*
- **CD Reviews**
- *Bernard reviews the latest ChessBase DVDs*
- **Games Column**
- *Bernard supplies more annotated games*
- **How to See Ahead in Chess**
- *Part 7 of Geoff Lloyd's instructive text*
- **ICCF Congress and International Reports**
- *George provides detailed coverage*

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Greetings from edition 100 of the magazine, and here's hoping you all have a happy, healthy and successful 2008! No telegram from the Queen yet, but it's early days...

Firstly, let me welcome Gordon Anderson to the post of treasurer. Gordon has completed the handover process from Stuart Mackenzie and is now mandated to operate our bank accounts.

Home base for Gordon is Nottingham, and with our other recent appointee Kevin Paine just having moved to Frome in Somerset, committee meetings will provide some interesting communications challenges this year...

Secondly, to our centenary issue. We didn't receive too much anniversary-specific material, but we do have another packed edition for you to enjoy.

George Pyrich has recently had a busy time with ICCF duties, but has provided a lot of material, including annotations of Webserver Open preliminary round games, a report from the October ICCF Congress in Spain, and some further commented games in his international round-up.

Jim Anderson provides us with a summary of 2007 results, and he is currently busy starting off the 2008 round of domestic events.

Bernard Milligan is still rummaging around his back-up drives after recovering from a computer crash, but he has put together another Games Column and CD review for us.

We include a brief seventh instalment of Geoff Lloyd's serialised book, delving into the rook and knight working in partnership.

Intriguingly, there is a mystery contributor reflecting on the joys and vexations of CC – see if you can identify who it is – plus some puzzles for you to solve.

Finally, we still plan to go ahead with an enlarged friendly match and a norm tournament to celebrate our anniversaries.

The friendly is likely to start in the first half of the year, and the norm event during the second half due to a fixture glut.



Peter Woods of Airdrie writes to inform us that Chess Suppliers is back in action, operating as a mail order business, but also covering the Scottish congress circuit.

Note that the web address is slightly different from the one last used by Sam Collins:

<http://www.chesssuppliers.co.uk/>

SCCA Webserver Open



<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/>

To view tables and games in the SCCA Webserver Open you don't need to register on the ICCF server - go to the website (above), click Tables and Results, then National Federation Events then Scotland Events.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2007	1st	2nd
December	A Maxwell	M E Hardwick
November	J M Armstrong	J S Murray
October	W H Cormack	A Maxwell

SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
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Webserver Open Update

By George Pyrich

As the adjudication date of 25 January 2008 approaches, all 3 sections are almost completed and 8 of the 9 final qualifiers are now confirmed.

In section A, newcomer Stuart Graham won with an impressive score of 8/9 closely followed by the experienced duo of Iain Mackintosh and Alan Borwell with 7 and 6½ respectively. One game remains unfinished in this group although it has no bearing on the qualifying places.

Section B has been very close throughout but newcomer Alan Bell led the field home with an equally impressive 8/9 closely followed by our regular Bulletin contributor Geoff Lloyd on 7. The 3rd qualifying spot is presently held by Alan Brown on 6½ although he can be overtaken on the finishing line by Hugh Calder if he wins his last game against Stuart Graham.

Section C was perhaps the most interesting of the 3 where Grandmaster David Kilgour had to work hard to keep pace with Tom Matheis and share 1st with 8/9. The 3rd qualifying place was taken by promising junior Jonathan McLatchie just ahead on tie-break of the more experienced David Edney when both scored 6½.

It is planned to start the Final of this event in February – given the list of qualifiers, it should be an interesting event!

Games can be viewed live (with 5 move delay) at the ICCF server site www.iccf-webchess.com

Borwell, Alan (2207) – Paine, Dr Kevin Scottish CCA Webserver Open – Section A, 2007

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	Nf6
5.0-0	Be7
6.Re1	b5
7.Bb3	d6
8.c3	0-0
9.h3	Na5
10.Bc2	c5
11.d4	Nd7
12.d5	

12.Nbd2 exd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 is now a popular line for Black.

12...	Nb6
13.Nbd2	f5!?

13...g6 might be better here when Anand v. Carlsen, Linares 2007 continued 14.b4 cxb4 15.cxb4 Nac4 when White eventually won although Black was ok at this stage.

14.exf5	Bxf5
15.Bxf5	Rxf5
16.Ne4	Kh8

16...Qe8 is likely better here – Ponomariov v. Mamedyarov, EU Ch. 2007 went 17.Bg5 Nb7 and was soon drawn.

17.Qc2	Nxd5
--------	------

18.Rd1



18... Qg8

It's difficult to see much wrong with 18...Nf4 19.Bxf4 (19.Nxd6 Nxf3+ 20.Kh2 Rxf3 21.gxf3 Bxd6 22.Kxh3 is difficult to assess!) 19...Rxf4 20.Nxe5 Qe8 21.Ng4 Qg6 and Black looks fine.

19.Nxd6	Rxf3
20.gxf3	Bxd6
21.Qd3	Nxc3
22.Qxc3	Nb7
23.Qd3	

Suddenly White is clearly better.

23...	Qf7
24.Qd5	Qg6+
25.Kh1	Rb8
26.Rg1	Qf5
27.Rg3	Be7
28.Be3	Nd6
29.Bxc5	Rd8
30.Bxd6	Bxd6
31.Rd1	Qf6
32.Qe4	g6
33.f4!	

Faced with the dual threats of Rgd3 and Qc6, Black resigned.

1-0



Bell, Alan – Hilton, Stephen (1544) Scottish CCA Webserver Open – Section B, 2007

This game is an impressive positional performance from the section winner.

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Be2	e5
7.Nb3	Be7

8.Be3 Be6
9.Nd5

A departure from the usual 9.0-0 but it shouldn't achieve much.

9... Nxd5

British Champion Jacob Aagaard had a game recently in an Italian event which went 9...Nbd7 10.Qd3 Bxd5 11.exd5 0-0 12.0-0 Rc8 13.c4 a5 14.Rac1 a4 15.Nd2 Nc5 and Black was ok – Aagaard v. Hunt, Italy 2007.

10.exd5 Bf5

11.0-0

11.Qd2 Nd7 12.Na5 Qc7 13.c4 shouldn't be too troublesome for Black.

11... 0-0

12.c4 Nd7

13.Rc1 Rc8

14.f4 exf4

15.Bxf4 Bg6

16.Bg4 f5

17.Bh3

Black has played natural moves but suddenly his position isn't so easy – there's a gaping hole at e6!

17... Qb6+

17...Bg5 18.Nd4! is very good for White.

18.Qd4 Nc5

19.Qf2! Bh4

20.g3 Bf6

21.Rfe1 Qd8

21...Rfe8 allows 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Be3 when White is very clearly on top.

22.Nxc5 dxc5

23.b3 b6



24.Qd2

White is positionally clearly better and Alan's technique is instructive.

24... Bd4+

25.Kh1 Qd7

26.Re6 Rf6

27.Rce1 Re8

28.Rxe8+ Bxe8

29.Qe2 Bg6

30.Qe7! Qxe7

31.Rxe7 Rf7

32.Re6 Rb7

33.Bg2

Faced with the imminent advance of the d-pawn, Black resigned.

1-0



Brooksbank, Dr Kenneth – Kilgour, David (2490)
Scottish CCA Webserver Open – Section C, 2007

Most of David's wins were long drawn-out technical affairs but he wins quickly in this game with an incisive attack.

1.e4 c5

2.Nf3 Nc6

d4 cxd4

4.Nxd4 e6

5.Nb5 d6

6.Bf4

6.c4 is another story.

6... e5

7.Be3 Nf6

8.Bd3

8.Bg5 Be7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.N1c3 with a Sveshnikov type position is more usual here. After the text Black has no problems.

8... Be7

9.N5c3 Be6

10.0-0 0-0

11.Nd5 Ng4

12.Nxe7+?!

This looks perfectly natural but turns out badly [simply 12.Bd2 was ok for White].

12... Qxe7

13.Bd2 Qh4!

Simply forcing a weakness on the White k-side.

14.h3 Nf6

15.Re1

15.Nc3 was better.

15... d5

16.exd5 Nxd5

17.Nc3 f5

18.Bb5

18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.c4 Be6 doesn't solve White's problems as Black has the k-side pawn majority and an easy attack.

18... Nde7

19.Qe2



19... Rf6!

Simple but effective – Black simply builds up the attack.

20.Qf3 Rg6

21.Be2 Nd4!

22.Qxb7 Rf8

Already White is defenceless.

23.g3 f4

24.Qg2
25.f3
26.Qh1
27.Qh2
28.Bxf3

fxg3
Bxh3
g2
Nxf3+
Rxf3

And, faced with a forced mate, White resigned.

0-1



Positions at 31st December 2007:

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section A					TD Pyrich, George D.											Score	SB	R	Place	
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
1	SCO	620345		Mackintosh, Iain	2450	█	1 ^D	1	½	1	½	½	1	½	█	1	7	25.75	0	2
2	SCO	620638		Blyth, Sam Turner	1800 ^P	0 ^D	█	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	█	0 ^D	0	0	0	10	
3	SCO	620639		Jamieson, Ian M.	1800 ^P	0	1 ^D	█	0	½	½	½	½	█	1	4.5	13.25	0	6	
4	SCO	211664		Graham, Stuart	1800 ^P	½	1 ^D	1	█	1	½	1	1	1	█	1	8	29.25	0	1
5	SCO	620424		Anderson, James	1627	0	1 ^D	½	0	█	½	½	0	0	█	.	2.5	7.25	1	8
6	SCO	620098	IM	Borwell, Alan P.	2207	½	1 ^D	½	½	½	█	1	½	1	█	1	6.5	23.75	0	3
7	ENG	620577		Price, Derek	2082	½	1 ^D	½	0	½	0	█	0	½	█	½	3.5	10.25	0	7
8	SCO	620640		McBride, John	1800 ^P	0	1 ^D	½	0	1	½	1	█	½	█	1	5.5	15.75	0	4
9	SCO	620623		Paine, Dr. Kevin	1800 ^P	½	1 ^D	½	0	1	0	½	½	█	█	½	4.5	13.75	0	5
10	SCO	211319		Neil, Charles	1800 ^P	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	0	0	0	10	
11	AUS	30129		Dempster, Dave	1936	0	1 ^D	0	0	.	0	½	0	½	█	2	4	1	9	

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section B					TD Pyrich, George D.											Score	SB	R	Place
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
1	SCO	620643		Bell, Alan D.	1800 ^P	█	1	1 ^D	1	½	1	1	1	½	1	8	29.25	0	1
2	SCO	620418		Hilton, Stephen H.	1544	0	█	1 ^D	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2.5	0	8
3	SCO	620642		Blyth, Stuart	1800 ^P	0 ^D	0 ^D	█	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0	0	0	10
4	SCO	211664		Graham, Stuart	1800 ^P	0	1	1 ^D	█	½	.	1	1	½	1	6	17.25	1	4
5	SCO	629031		Lloyd, Geoffrey	2258	½	1	1 ^D	½	█	½	1	1	½	1	7	23.75	0	2
6	SCO	620614		Calder, Hugh	2037	0	1	1 ^D	.	½	█	1	1	½	1	6	17.25	1	4
7	SCO	620641		Scott, Alex	1800 ^P	0	1	1 ^D	0	0	0	█	1	½	½	4	8.5	0	6
8	SCO	211319		Neil, Charles	1800 ^P	0	1	1 ^D	0	0	0	0	█	0	0	2	2	0	9
9	SCO	620498		Brown, Dr. Alan C.	2370	½	1	1 ^D	½	½	½	1	█	1	1	6.5	22	0	3
10	SCO	620445		Rough, R. E.	1800 ^P	0	0	1 ^D	0	0	0	½	1	0	█	2.5	4	0	7

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section C					TD Pyrich, George D.											Score	SB	R	Place
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
1	SCO	629036		Edney, David	2157	█	0	1	1	½	1	1	1	½	½	6.5	21	0	4
2	SCO	620192	GM	Kilgour, David A.	2490	1	█	1	1	1	1	1	1	½	½	8	29.75	0	1
3	SCO	620625		Doherty, Terry	1800 ^P	0	0	█	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	0	8
4	SCO	620393		MacGregor, Colin A.	1941	0	0	0	█	1	0	1	½	½	0	3	9.5	0	7
5	SCO	620644		Sreeves, Clement	1800 ^P	½	0	1	0	█	1	1	1	0 ^D	0	4.5	11.75	0	5
6	SCO	620637		Brooksbank, Kenneth	1800 ^P	0	0	1	1	0	█	1	1	0	0	4	7.5	0	6
7	SCO	211319		Neil, Charles	1800 ^P	0	0	0	0	0	0	█	1	0	0	1	1.5	0	10
8	SCO	620645		MacArainn, Gordon	1800 ^P	0	0	1	½	0	0	0	█	0	0	1.5	3.5	0	9
9	SCO	620646		McLatchie, Jonathan	1800 ^P	½	½	1	½	1 ^D	1	1	1	█	0	6.5	21.75	0	3
10	SCO	620588		Matheis, Thomas	2292	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	█	8	29.75	0	1



2007 Results

By Jim Anderson

Championship

2006/2007		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Beecham, C R	■	1	1	1	1	1	5
2	Dawson, A G	0	■	½	½	1	½	2½
3	Goodwin, B	0	½	■	½	½	0	1½
4	Lloyd, G	0	½	½	■	1	0	2
5	Mackintosh, I	0	0	½	0	■	0	½
6	May, M A	0	½	1	1	1	■	3½

2007/2008		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Beecham, C R	■		1	1	1			1	½	4½
2	Brown, Dr A C		■	½	1	1	½	0	½	½	4
3	Dawson, A G	0	½	■	1	1	0			0	2½
4	Goodwin, B	0	0	0	■	0		0			0
5	Lloyd, G	0	0	0	1	■	0	½	½	0	2
6	Mackintosh, I		½	1		1	■	½		½	3½
7	May, M A		1		1	½	½	■		½	3½
8	Montgomery, R S	0	½			½			■		1
9	Reeman, I F	½	½	1		1	½	½		■	4

The 2006-07 tournament was won by 100% specialist Richard Beecham, with only Mark May getting close. Ian Reeman has ensured it won't be a 100% performance for Richard in 2007-08, where the leaders are bunched after a scatter of draws.

Premier

2007 Section A		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	Cook, W M	■	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
2	Cormack, W H	1	■	½	1	1	1	½	5
3	Cumming, D R	1	½	■	1	1	1	1	5½
4	Graham, S	0	0	0	■	1	0	0	1
5	MacArainn, G	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	0
6	Macmillen, A N	1	0	0	1	1	■	½	3½
7	Moir, P J	1	½	0	1	1	½	■	4

2007 Section B		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts
1	Armstrong, J M	■	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Calder, H	1	■	1	0	1	1	1	1	6
3	Crichton, D	1	0	■	0	1	1	0	0	3
4	Cumming, D R	1	1	1	■	½	1	1	½	6
5	Graham, S	1	0	0	½	■	1	0	1	3½
6	Knox, A	1	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	1
7	Macmillen, A N	1	0	1	0	1	1	■	0	4
8	Venn, T	1	0	1	½	0	1	1	■	4½

David Cumming did well in both sections, narrowly beating Bill Cormack in A, and dead-heating with Hugh Calder in B. He only gets one place in the next Championship however!

Open

2007 Section A		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Armstrong, J M	■	1 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	½ 0	2½
2	Domnin, M	0 0	■	1 1	0 0	0 0	1 ½	3½
3	Grant, J	1 1	0 0	■	0 0	0 0	0 0	2
4	Hughson, D A	1 1	1 1	1 1	■	1 1	1 1	10
5	Macmillen, A N	1 1	1 1	1 1	0 0	■	½ ½	7
6	Moir, P J	½ 1	0 ½	1 1	0 0	½ ½	■	5

2007 Section B		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Burridge,R J	■	--	½ ½	½ ½	½ 0	½ 1	4
2	MacCaellich-Young, J	--	■	--	--	--	--	0
3	Macmillen, A N	½ ½	--	■	½ ½	½ 0	0 0	2½
4	Moir, P J	½ ½	--	½ ½	■	½ ½	0 0	3
5	Paine, Dr K A	½ 1	--	½ 1	½ ½	■	1 ½	5½
6	Price, D	½ 0	--	1 1	1 1	0 ½	■	5

2007 Section C		1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	Armstrong, J M	■	0 0	--	0 0	½ 0	½
2	Brooksbank, Dr K	1 1	■	--	0 ½	1 1	4½
3	MacCaellich-Young, J	--	--	■	--	--	0
4	Rough, R E	1 1	1 ½	--	■	1 ½	5
5	Venn, T	½ 1	0 0	--	0 ½	■	2

Section A was a triumph for Derek Hughson, who enters the 100% Club with a superb 10/10. Kevin Paine won narrowly from Derek Price in section B, while Robert Rough did likewise from Kenneth Brooksbank in section C.

Candidates

2006/2007		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Anderson, J	■	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Cook, W M	1	■	0	0	0	0	1
3	Cumming, D R	1	1	■	1	0	1	4
4	Lees, J	1	1	0	■	0	1	3
5	Matheis, T	1	1	1	1	■	1	5
6	Young, S M	1	1	0	0	0	■	2

The last Candidates event saw Tom Matheis prevail over David Cumming – not by the half point reported last year, but by completing a clean sweep of wins and so entering the 100% Club.

Challenge

Raymond Burridge was the sole medal winner, and Bernard's report on the event can be found at the end of his Games Column on page 15.


Majors, Minors, Openings, Quartets

These events are discontinued following last year's re-structure.

League Division 1

2007		Opponent	Game A	Game B	Points
A	Perth Correspondents				7½
1	Mackintosh, I	E1	0	1	1
2	Brown, Dr A C	D2	1	1	2
3	Borwell, A P	C3	0	1	1
4	Paine, Dr K A	B4	1	1	2
5	Harvey, D J	F5	1	½	1½
B	Civil Service A				1½
1	Hyde, K	D1	½	1	1½
2	Scuffam, D	C2	0	0	½
3	Bicknell, G D	F3	0	0	0
4	O'Hare, A	A4	0	0	½
5	Hubbuck, V	E5	0	1	1½
C	Black Knight				6½
1	Pyrich, G D	F1	1	½	1½
2	Dawson, Prof A G	B2	1	1	2
3	Lennox, C J	A3	1	0	1
4	May, M A	E4	0	½	½
5	Hislop, A T	D5	1	½	1½
D	Knights of the Board A				1
1	Gillam, S R	B1	0	½	½
2	Macgregor, C A	A2	0	0	0
3	Norris, Rev A C	E3	0	0	0
4	Grant, J	F4	0	0	0
5	Burnett, R	C5	0	½	½
E	Social Stars				7½
1	Doye, P	A1	1	0	1
2	MacKellar, L D	F2	1	0	1
3	Sanderson, P	D3	1	1	2
4	Franks, K	C4	1	½	1½
5	Pallett, R F	B5	1	1	2
F	Civil Service B				6
1	Laing, D	C1	0	½	½
2	Ashby, A	E2	0	1	1
3	Duddy, C	B3	1	1	2
4	Bauld, R	D4	1	1	2
5	Ryan, R	A5	0	½	½

In Division 1, Perth Correspondents retained their title, but only on a shared basis as Social Stars matched them point for point.

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NOTES	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

SCCA Postcards

Those of you still using snail mail might be interested to know that I'm getting some cards printed locally and can make them available at cost, which I expect to be £2.50 per 100 cards, plus p&p.

If you're interested, email me at chess@iainmack.co.uk to confirm prices and/or place your order.

League Division 2

2007		White v	Black v	Game A	Game B	Pts.
A	Knights of the Board B					4
1	Dawson, J	B1	D1	0	0	0
2	Cumming, D R	E2	C2	½	1	1½
3	Burridge, R J	D3	B3	0		0
4	Moir, P J	E4	D4	0	1	1
5	Binnie, J	E5	C5	½	1	1½
B	Social Roses					3
1	Dowell, C	C1	A1	0	1	1
2	Ross, G	D2	E2	½	0	½
3	Lund-Yates, C	A3	C3		½	½
4	Gifford, M	D4	C4	1	0	1
5	Richardson, D	D5	E5	0	0	0
C	Civil Service 3					3
1	Maxwell, A	E1	B1	½	1	1½
2	Pomeroy, R J	A2	D2	0	0	0
3	Twitchell, N	B3	E3	½	0	½
4	Coast, P	B4	E4	1	0	1
5	White, R	A5	D5	0	0	0
D	Brutal Realism					3
1	Busfield, ?	A1	E1	1	0	1
2	Murray, J S	C2	B2	1	½	1½
3	Calder, H	E3	A3	0	1	1
4	Thomson, D	A4	B4	0	0	0
5	Taylor, W	C5	B5	1	1	2
E	Social Dragons					8½
1	Sowden, E	D1	C1	1	½	1½
2	Dyson, J	B2	A2	1	½	1½
3	Lloyd, G	C3	D3	1	1	2
4	Price, D	C4	A4	1	1	2
5	Rosser, G	B5	A5	1	½	1½

In Division 2, Social Dragons powered their way to top spot by a wide margin.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Oct 2007	20	Spain	Server	1	1		
Jun 2007	14	Spain	Post	1½	½		
Apr 2007	20	Slovenia	Server	5	24		L
Apr 2007	20	Poland	server	5½	22½		L
Nov 2006	28	Germany	Server/Post	14	25		
Mar 2006	28	Sweden	Server/Post	16½	36½		L
Sep 2005	27	Denmark	Server/Post	16½	34½		L
Jul 2005	21	Australia	Server/Post	24	17		W
Mar 2005	24	Netherlands	Post/Email	16½	25½	2	L
Feb 2005	20	BCCS	Post/Email	18½	5½	16	W

After wins against BCCS and Australia, we've reverted to losing against the strong European countries, but maybe our double header against Spain will see our fortunes improve.



Thoughts of an Old Chess Player

By ???

Great pleasures can be accrued from correspondence chess. The beneficial mental exercise gained nor the satisfaction felt upon reaching a desired objective of winning a tournament can't be over stated. When you reach my age, chess comes naturally: it's been with me from cradle (nearly) to grave (very nearly).

For most of us chess is a way of life. We find enjoyment as we go along exploring new openings and developing an awareness of new situations on the board. Some of us have a burning curiosity to look around "every corner" and find a supreme joy in coming across a new move after hours of searching.

Correspondence chess is not a game or a sport but a pastime: a simple way of spending leisure hours alone that has it's aim in merely the study of a chess position, just looking for the truth - a harmless pursuit, but very instructive.

Most chess players become aware of the fascination for the truth but the over-riding impulse generally is to reach a pre-determined objective. The objective is usually winning the tournament.

Winning tournaments is very satisfying, attained only after great mental exercise. The satisfaction of first place is in direct proportion to the effort involved: the harder the task the greater the reward, which is how it should be.

Correspondence chess is remote, detached from everyday life. It's a reminder of true values, a place to refresh the soul, to banish worries, to sweep away the cobwebs that so confuse in our hectic lives. In a changing world chess remains unchanged. One always feels better after time at the board.

Correspondence chess is not for the young but middle-aged and the old, indeed, its attractions actually increase as the years go by. Ardent correspondence chess players never give up; they fade away in due course, surrounded by past victories. They die hoping for chess in heaven.

White hair is no deterrent. Retirement from the office is not the end of everything: it is not an end to anything but work. Correspondence chess helps more than doctors to keep a man's brain fit and enthusiastic about life... The satisfaction derived from a successful tournament becomes even keener with the passing years.

Chess is a pastime for life. Physical and other disabilities may develop in later years but rigor mortis is the one great disability to fear, and avoid as long as possible. That is why as well as chess, breathing is a major hobby!

Yes, there's something to be said for being old and a little bit dodderly. I almost feel sorry for the young guns trying to prove their worth, sorry for the cheats who use the computer

program and pretend it's all their own work, sorry for the players in Candidates 07-08, it's obvious to anyone who cares to look who is using a program to fool themselves. Enough of this...

The most wonderful part of playing correspondence chess is making new friends and some I have kept throughout my life. I have great memories of games with the "Old Fox" - he knows who he is, but I will not reveal him here. I'm sure he is smiling and nodding in agreement right now.

The fleeting hour of life of those who love our game is quickly spent, but chess is eternal. Always there will be the lonely nights analysing, always there will be the exhilaration of finding that winning move. These things are for seeking, and those who seek and find while there is yet time will be blessed in mind and body.

I wish you all many happy hours analysing in the years ahead. There will be days of wins and days of losses, but enjoy them all - the winner will be chess.

As for me, my best days are over, my name is not important and will remain hidden except for those who seek it in the following win from a SCCA Championship many years ago.....

White: Him

Black: Me

Opening: Queen's Pawn (A47)

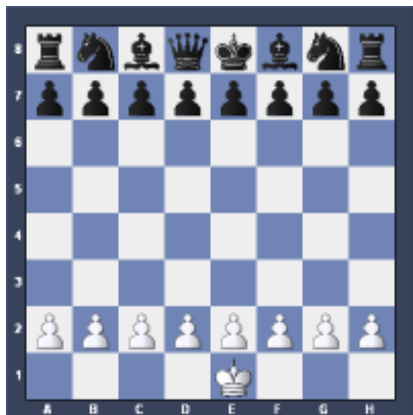
1. d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.e3 Bb7 4. Nbd2 g6 5. Bd3 Bg7 6. 0-0 7.b3 d6 8. Bb2 Nbd7 9.c4 e5 10. Qc2 Re8 11. d5 Nc5 12. Be2 Bc8 13. e4 Nh5 14. b4 Nd7 15. Nb3 Nf4 16.Rfe1 Rf8 17.Rad1 f5 18. exf5 gxf5 19. Bc1 Nxe2 20.Rxe2 f4 21. Rde1 Qe8 22. Ng5 Qh5 23.Ne6 Rf6 24. Nxc7 Rh6 25.h3 Nf8! 26. f3 Bf5 27. Qc3 Qg6! 28.Nxa8 Rxh3 29. Bb2 Qg3 30. Rf2 Bf6 31. Qd2 Bh4 32. Nc1 Ng6 33. Nc7 e4



34. Rxe4 Bxe4 35. Qd4 Ne5 36. Kf1 Rh1 37. Ke2 Bxf3+!
(0-1) White Resigns



Puzzle 1



In this contrivance, White has given Black a 7-piece handicap start in return for making the first 7 moves unopposed. Can White win?

Puzzle 2



Here, White can win by force, but you'll need to follow the combination for 7 moves before finding the quiet move which is the closing key.

Puzzle 3



This position arose after Black played the Berlin Defence to White's Ruy Lopez. How does Black repel White's bishop skewer and go on to win? (Hint: you'll need to find Black's next 2 moves.)

Puzzle 4



Now pretend you've got to the World Championship final, had an aberration or two, dabbled in some international politics, tired of all that then opened with the Queen's Gambit for the first time. What do you do next?

Well, one page left to fill, and it came down to a choice between repeating the chess nuts in an open foyer (non-)joke for the umpteenth time, creating some Christmas tree problem compositions, or providing a few regular puzzles.

No prizes for completing this selection (the answers are on page 23), but I hope you'll get some enjoyment from poring over them with a seasonal glass in your hand. Oh, no need for an open foyer, just use the central heating or wrap up well...





Beating The French

Volumes 1, 2 & 3
By Rustam Kasimdzhanov



System requirements: Pentium-Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 MB RAM, Windows XP or Windows Vista, Windows Media Player 9.0, DVD drive.

Rustam Kasimdzhanov defeated a string of world-class players to win FIDE world chess championship title in 2004. He is a very deep player, who is able to explain chess ideas in an eloquent, lucid style, with a fine touch of humour. All three DVDs take the form of video tutorials using the Fritz8-Chess Media System. All of the lectures are presented in their entirety with video pictures and synchronised chess graphics.

explains, in detail and easy to understand, how White has to proceed to be successful in this position. For players who prefer a dynamic middlegame with queens, he also shows (with games of Kasparov, Shirov and Kramnik, among others) how White can sharpen the fight and go for an attack on the king.

The third DVD covers the Rubenstein Variation arising after the moves, 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 and is just over 3 hrs in length. White has a space advantage in the centre, (pawn d4 versus e6), yet Black strives for equality by piece exchanges and the break c7-c5. Explaining top grandmaster games, Kasimdzhanov shows how White can fight for the advantage. In 11 video lessons he reveals the most important strategies and plans, analysing both sharp attacking performances and patiently won endgames. This way, studying Kasimdzhanov's commentaries will not only help you to master to a particular opening variation, but also vastly improve your chess understanding in general. I not only enjoyed Kasimdzhanov's teaching style but also his use of new and old games such as the classic game Fischer – Pachman, Leipzig 1960 in Vol 3 and the Sultan Khan games of 1931, along with some history on Sultan Khan, in Vol 2. It's well worth buying all three of these DVDs.

My best games in the Spanish Vol. 2

By Alexei Shirov



Shirov's first Ruy Lopez DVD found an enthusiastic reception by the audience. In this second and current volume, Alexei Shirov continues his presentation – with topical games of his own, starting in October 2006. At the high-class tournaments of last year and also during the candidate matches in Elista (versus Adams and Aronian), Shirov was trusting the Spanish Opening both with the white and the black pieces. As Black, he most successfully returned to the system 5. ... b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 (5 games). As White, he had to face the difficult question how to deal best with the popular Marshall Attack (8. ... d5) (3 games). Further topics of discussion are the Berlin Defence as well as so important systems of the Closed Ruy Lopez like the Breyer, the Flohr-Saitzev or the Chigorin. Enjoy six hours of chess with one of the best players of our times.

Mega Database 2008 is now out and contains more than 3.75 millions games from 1560 to 2007 in the highest ChessBase quality standard. 61,000 games contain commentary from top players, with ChessBase opening classification with more than 100,000 key positions, direct access to players, tournaments, middlegame themes, endgames. Buy it, It's the best database going.



The first DVD is nearly 4hrs in length and covers the lines arising from 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5. Winawer lines are rich in positional and tactical play in which the pawn on e5 secures the first player a space advantage in the centre and on the queenside. In 13 video lessons the author shows how White has to use his trumps to get an attack on the king or a better endgame. During 3.5 hours of analysis, featuring mostly topical games of top grandmasters, Kasimdzhanov conveys valuable knowledge of attacking ideas, typical manoeuvres and plans in an easily understandable way.

The second DVD deals with the Steinitz Variation which arises after the moves, 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 and is nearly 3½hrs in length. Very often this leads to a queenless middlegame or endgame with a white knight on d4 versus a bad bishop on c8 which offers White excellent winning prospects. In 12 video lessons Kasimdzhanov



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

It's hard to believe that we have reached the 100th edition of the Magazine. Alan Borwell and Iain Mackintosh have done a great job over the years. We are also grateful to all the people who have sent in items and games over the years. In the few years I have worked on the games column it has been a great pleasure playing over the games you have provided. Keep up the good work.

We kick off this edition with a complex game sent in by Richard Beecham who always manages to play thought provoking lines.

Scotland v Spain, 2007

White: Pedro García Corada

Black: C R Beecham

Sicilian Defence [B33]

[Annotator C R Beecham]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Be3	e6

The move 6...e5 is the most popular answer to the English Attack. I had prepared a database to play Scheveningen lines with 6...e6 for Olympiad 16 so I may as well make use of it.

7.g4!?

White has many alternatives at this point, for example 7.Qf3, 7.f4, 7.Bc4 and 7.Bd3 are all seen now and again. The text move is extremely sharp and leads to some wild play.

7...	e5
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Another good try for Black is 7...h5 8.gxh5 Rxh5 9.Bg2 Bd7 10.Qe2 Nc6 11.0-0-0 Rc8 with unclear play.

8.Nf5	g6
9.g5	

The move 9.Bg2 has been tried a few times. The main lines go either 9...gxf5 10.exf5 h5 11.h3 hxg4 12.hxg4 Rxh1+ 13.Bxh1 unclear; 9.Bg2 or 9...d5 10.Bg5 gxf5 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Nxd5 Qd6 13.exf5 Nc6 and again very unclear from Ponomarev - Gelfand, Biel 2000, which

continued 14.Qe2 h5 15.0-0-0 hxg4 16.Nb6 Nd4 17.Rxd4 Qxd4 18.Nxa8 and ended drawn in 51 moves.

9...	gxf5
10.exf5	

After 10.gxf6 f4!? looks quite good for Black.

10...	d5
11.Qf3	

The major alternative to this is 11.gxf6 d4 12.Bc4



I now give 2 lines to give a taste of the complications which arise from this variation. The first game is Topalov - Van Wely from the Fujitsu Siemens Masters 2000. 12...Qc7 13.Qd3 dxe3 14.0-0-0 exf2 15.Bxf7+ Kxf7 16.Qd5+ Kxf6 17.Ne4+ Ke7 18.Nd6 Bh6+ 19.Kb1 Kf6 20.Rhf1 Rf8 21.Rxf2 Nc6 22.Qc4 Kg7! 23.Rg1+ Kh8 24.Rfg2 Bg7 25.Rxg7 Qxg7 26.Rxg7 Kxg7 27.Qg4+ Kh8 and Black went on to win;

and the second game Shirov - Gelfand Wijk aan Zee 1996 went 12...Qxf6 13.Nd5 Qc6 14.Bxd4 Bb4+ 15.c3 Qxc4 16.Be3 Ba5 17.Nf6+ Ke7 18.Nd5+ Ke8 19.Nf6+ Ke7 (clock) 20.Bg5 Bc7 21.Ne4+ Ke8 22.Qg4 b5 23.Nf6+ Ke7 24.0-0-0 and White won in 42 moves.

11...	d4
12.0-0-0	Nbd7
13.Bd2	

At the FIDE World Championship in San Luis Sept. 2005 Judit Polgar v Rustam Kasimdzhanov went 13.Bxd4! exd4 14.Rxd4 Bg7 (14...Bc5 looks a better try 15.Rd2 Qc7 16.gxf6 Nxf6 17.Nd5 Nxd5) 15.Rg1 Kf8 16.Qe3 Qe7 17.Qd2 h6 18.gxf6 Nxf6 19.Rd8+ Ne8 20.Bb5! axb5

21.Re1 wins.; Another very interesting and short game from Timman - Smeets Dutch Ch.2006 went 13.Bc4 Qc7 14.Bxd4 exd4 15.Rhe1+ Ne5 16.gxf6 Bd6 17.Rxd4 Bd7 18.Bxf7+ Kd8 19.Qd5 Nxf7 20.Qxf7 Kc8 21.Nd5 Qa5 22.b4 (1-0)

13...	dx3
14.Bxc3	



14...	Ng8!!
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My opponent felt that this move is the refutation to this particular line (of which there are approx 50 games in my database) and I tend to agree with him after spending many full days analysing the position. It's one of those moves that you find by accident. Black is two pieces up, with only one piece developed and that is pinned by the White Rook! With 14...Ng8 Black is saying prove it.

15.Rg1

Protecting the g pawn, but the two alternatives look slightly better, viz. 15.Qh5 Qc7 16.f4 Ne7 17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.Qe2 N7c6 19.Bg2 Bd6 20.Bxc6+ etc.; or even better 15.f6 Qc7 16.Bh3!? Nc5 17.Bxe5! Qc6 18.Qxc6+ bxc6 19.Bxc8 Rxc8 20.Rhe1 Ne6 21.Bc3 Bc5 22.Rd2 h6 23.g6 Nxf6 24.Bxf6

15...	Qc7
16.Qh5	Bc5
17.Kb1	

A very clever move, removing the King from annoying checks, the alternatives 17.g6 Ngf6 18.gxf7+ (18.Qh4 Qb6 19.gxf7+ Kxf7 20.Bc4+ Ke8 21.Rd2 Rf8 22.Re1 Bd6 23.f3 a5 24.Be6 Be7 25.Qh6 Qc6 26.Bxe5 Nxe5 27.Rxe5 Bxe6 28.Rxe6 Qc5 29.Rde2 with pressure.) 18...Ke7 19.f8Q+ Rxf8 20.Rg7+ Kd8 21.Qh6 Bd6

22.f4 Qc5 23.fxe5 Bxe5 24.Bxe5 Qxe5
 25.Rgxd7+ Nxd7 26.Qxf8+ this may be
 White's best line.; 17.Rd2 b5 18.Qe2
 (18.g6!?!; or 18.Bg2!?) 18...Ne7 19.Bg2
 Nc6 20.Bxc6 Qxc6 21.Rxd7! Kxd7
 22.Rd1+ Kc7 23.Qxe5+ Kb7 24.Qxh8
 Bxf5 which is inadequate.

17... b5!?



My original intention was to play
 17...Bxf2 but that move runs into 18.Rg2
 Qc5 (18...Bb6!?) 19.Rxf2! Qxf2 20.Bc4
 Qxf5 21.Rf1 Qxf1+ 22.Bxf1 Ne7 23.Bc4
 Ng6 24.Qf3 Rf8 25.Bb4 f5 26.Qh3! when
 White has good compensation. The idea
 of playing 17...b5! was to force White to
 simplify the position, I had pages of
 analysis and the game was not getting any
 easier with many bloodthirsty lines. The
 simplification is also advantageous to
 Black!

18.Bg2

Weaker were 18.Be2 Ngf6! 19.gxf6 Bb7
 20.Qh4 0-0-0 21.Rg7 Nb6 22.Rxd8+
 Rxd8 23.Ba5 Bd5; and 18.g6 Ngf6
 19.Qh6 fxe6 20.fxe6 b4 21.Be1 Bb7
 22.g7 Rg8

18... Bb7



19.Rxd7 Qxd7
 20.Bxb7 Qxb7
 21.Bxe5 0-0-0
 22.Bxh8 Qd5
 23.Qg4



23... Nh6!
 24.gxh6 Bxf2
 25.Rf1 Rxh8
 26.f6+ Kb7
 27.Qg7 Re8

Equally good was 27...Rd8 28.a3 Be3
 29.Qxh7 Kb6 30.Re1 Qd2 31.Rxe3 Qxe3
 32.Qxf7 Qe2 33.Qb3 Rd7 34.h4 Qf1+
 35.Ka2 Qc4

28.Qxh7 Re2
 29.a3

White can turn out the lights with 29.Qd3
 Qxd3 30.cxd3 Bd4 31.h3 Rxb2+ 32.Kc1
 Re2

29... Be3
 30.h4 Kb6
 31.h5 Ka5
 32.Ka1 Bg5

White Resigns. I was elated at winning
 but disappointed at not being allowed to
 win with 33.c3



33...Qg2! 34.Rb1 Bc1!! 35.Rxc1 Rxb2
 36.Qxf7 Ka4 37.Qe6 a5! When White
 must give up his Queen. This game was
 probably the most complicated I've ever
 played but - the harder the conflict the
 sweeter the victory. 0-1



Next we have the second of Iain
 Mackintosh's games against Peter Doyle
 from this years League matches. A nice
 win for Peter but Iain put up a good fight.

So honours even with both players
 winning with the Black pieces.

SCCA League 2007

White: I Mackintosh (2450)
 Black: P Doye (2310)
 French Defence [C08]
 [Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

This is my second game against Peter
 Doye, and Black once again comes out on
 top. White builds up a useful position, but
 Black finds an active defence and does
 better in the ensuing complications.

1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5
 3.Nd2

Karpov's favourite Tarrasch Variation.

3... a6

A fairly unusual move here, but we
 transpose back into main line stuff by
 move 7.

4.Ngf3 c5
 5.exd5 exd5
 6.Be2 c4
 7.0-0 Bd6
 8.b3



8.Re1 Ne7 9.Nf1 Nbc6 10.Bg5 0-0 11.c3
 f6 12.Bd2 b5= was Gipslis-Korchnoi,
 Tallinn, 1967, 1-0.

8... b5

8...cxb3 9.axb3 Ne7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Ba3
 worked out well for White in Korneev-
 Paredes Galan, Ponferrada, 1997, 1-0.]

9.c3

9.a4 c3 10.axb5 cxd2 11.Bxd2 Bb7 12.c4
 dxc4 13.bxc4 axb5 14.c5 Bc7 and Black
 equalised in Brynell-Gdanski,
 Gothenburg, 1997, drawn.

9... Nf6
 10.a4 Bb7
 11.Ne5 0-0
 12.f4 Nc6N

Following the novelty, White decides to disturb the Black pawn wedge then improve the positions of his pieces.
 12...Qc7 13.bxc4 dxc4 14.Qc2 Nc6
 15.Rb1 Na7 was Onischuk-Nikolic, Wijk aan See, 1997, drawn.

13.bxc4 bxc4
 14.Bf3 Qc7
 15.Ba3 Bxa3
 16.Rxa3 Ne7
 17.Re1 Nf5
 18.Ra1 Nh4
 19.Rb1 Rae8

The knight chooses not to end its manoeuvre with the obvious capture on f3, and White decides the bishop is worth keeping after all. Perverse, this chess...

20.Be2 Re7
 21.g3 Nf5
 22.Bf3 Nd6
 23.Qc1 Bc8
 24.Qa3 Rfe8
 25.Rb2



I looked at 25.Qc5 Qxc5 26.dxc5 Nb7 27.c6 Nc5 28.a5 but couldn't figure out a way to support the advanced c-pawn.

25... h5
 26.Nf1

Eyeing d5.

26... Bf5
 27.Ne3 Be4
 28.Bg2

A perverse precedent had been established... 28.Bxe4 Ndx4 29.Nf5 Re6 30.Reb1± looked quite a useful alternative.

28... Bxg2
 29.Kxg2 Re6
 30.Qb4 Nde4
 31.Rc1 Qd8

Round about here, I thought all the patient shuffling was starting to pay off with White controlling the open spaces.

32.Qb7 Rf8
 33.Qa7 Qe8
 34.Rb7 Nd6
 35.Rb4 Nde4

Black uses the vulnerable White c-pawn to slow down the b-file threats, so White decides to switch wings.

36.h3 h4
 37.g4 g5!



Black plays the boldest defence.

38.fxg5

Retrospectively, 38.f5? Rxe5 39.dxe5 Qxe5 and the White c-pawn falls.

38... Rxe5!
 Missed that! I'd expected 38...Nxg5 39.Nf5 Nfe4 with good prospects for White.

39.gxf6

39.dxe5 Qxe5 40.Nf5 Nxg4! 41.hxg4 Qf4 42.Ne7+ Kh8 43.Qd4+ Kh7 44.Rc2 h3+ 45.Kh1 Qf3+ and White just scrapes out with a repetition.

39... Re6
 40.Rcb1 Nxf6

40...Nxc3? 41.Rb8 Nxb1 42.Rxe8 Rfxe8 43.Nxd5 and White regains the advantage.

41.Rb8 Qxa4
 42.Rxf8+ Kxf8
 43.Rb8+ Kg7
 44.Nf5+ Kg6

44...Kh7?? would have been more charitable!

45.Nxh4+ Kh6
 46.Rb2

White can't play the obvious capture on f7 or the check on h8, as the Black pieces are poised to wreak havoc. 46.Nf5+ Kg5 47.Rb2 Qa1 48.Rf2 Re1 49.Ng3 Rg1+ 50.Kh2 Rxc3 51.Kxc3 Qg1+ 52.Kf3 Ne4 53.Qe7+ Kg6 54.Qh4 Qxf2+ doesn't work

out too well either.

46... Qe8
 47.Rf2 Re2
 48.Nf5+



48.Qxa6 Qe4+ 49.Nf3 Kg7 50.g5 Rxf2+ 51.Kxf2 Qc2+ 52.Kg3 Ne4+ 53.Kf4 Qc1+ 54.Kg4 Qe3 55.Qh6+ Kg8 56.Qb6 Nxc3 and the c-pawn finally goes, but White may be able to stagger on for a while in this line.

48... Kg6
 49.Nd6

Still hoping to generate attacking chances.

49... Qe6
 50.Qb8 Qe3
 51.Rxe2??

Ugh! This just loses. In post-match analysis we agreed that this line was far better: 51.Qb1+ Ne4 52.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 53.Qxe4+ Rxe4 with a draw the most likely outcome.

51... Qxe2+
 52.Kg3 Qe3+
 53.Kg2 Qd2+
 54.Kg1 Qxc3
 55.Qb1+

Too late!

55... Qd3
 56.Qxd3+ cxd3
 57.Kf1 0-1



David Cumming has been a fantastic contributor of games for this column over the years, so it is only fitting that I end this 100th edition of the games column with another game sent in by him.

SCCA Premiers Section B, 2007

White: H Calder
Black: D R Cumming
 Sicilian Defence [B20]
 [Annotator D R Cumming]

- 1.e4 c5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 g6
- 4.c3 Nf6
- 5.e5 Nd5
- 6.0-0 Nc7
- 7.Ba4 Bg7
- 8.d4 cxd4
- 9.cxd4 0-0
- 10.Nc3 d6
- 11.h3



11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.h3 Rb8 13.Re1 Be6
 14.b3 Nd5 15.Ne4 Qc7 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bh4
 Qd7 18.Qe2 Nf4 19.Qe3 Nd5 20.Qe2 Nf4
 21.Qe3 Nd5 22.Qe2 Nf4 1/2-1/2
 Haeusier,W-Friedman,D/Chessfriend.com
 2003/UltraCorr.; 11.Be3 a6 12.Rc1 Bf5
 13.Qd2 dxe5 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Nxe5 Bxe5
 16.dxe5 Qxd2 17.Bxd2 Ne6 18.Be3 Rab8
 19.Na4 Rfd8 20.Rxc6 Bd3 21.Re1 Bb5
 22.Rxe6 fxe6 23.Nc5 a5 24.h4 Rd5 25.f4
 Kf7 Akmeida,R-Ferndes,E/CXEB 2005/
 UltraCorr/1/2-1/2

- 11... dxe5
- 12.dxe5 Qxd1

12...Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.Bg5 b5
 15.Nxb5 Nxb5 16.Bxb5 Bxb2 17.Qxd8
 Rxd8 18.Bxe7 Bxa1 19.Bxd8 Be6
 20.Rxa1 Rxd8 21.a4 1/2-1/2 Volchok,A-
 Binham,T/corr ICCF 1992/UltraCorr

- 13.Rxd1 Nxe5
- 14.Nxe5 Bxe5
- 15.Bg5 b5!



15...Bf6 16.Bxf6 exf6 17.Rac1 Na6
 18.Ne4 f5 19.Nd6 Be6 20.a3 b6 21.b4
 Rad8 22.Bb5 Nb8 23.Rc7 a6 24.Be2 Kg7
 25.Rb7 b5 26.Rb6 Rd7 27.Nb7 Rxd1+
 28.Bxd1 Bd5 29.Nc5 Rd8 30.Bf3

Nezhmetdinov,R-Polugaevsky,L/Tbilisi
 1959/URS-ch/1/2-1/2; 15...Bxc3 16.bxc3 b5
 17.Bc2 Bb7 18.Bxe7 Rfe8 19.Rd7 Nd5
 20.Rxb7 Rxe7 21.Rxe7 Nxe7 22.Rd1 Kf8
 23.Rd7 a6 24.Rd6 Ke8 25.Bb3 Ra7
 26.Rb6 Nc8 27.Rf6 Kf8 28.Rc6 Ne7
 29.Rb6 Kg7 30.Kf1 Ardeleanu,A-
 Dumitrache,D/Herculane 1996/CBM 056
 ext/1/2-1/2

16.Bc2?!

Shredder 10 16.Nxb5 Nxb5 17.Bxb5
 Bxb2 18.Bxe7 Bxa1 19.Bxf8 Kxf8
 20.Rxa1 Be6 21.a4 Rc8 22.Rb1 a5 23.Ba6
 Rc6 24.Bd3 Ke7 25.Be4 Rc4 -0.17/18

- 16... b4
- 17.Ne4 f5
- 18.Nc5 Bxb2
- 19.Rab1 Bf6
- 20.Bxf6 Rxf6
- 21.Rxb4 Rd6



Black has now established the full
 advantage, with him being a full prawn up
 in this middlegame, fast moving towards
 a winning endgame.

- 22.Bb3+ Kf8
- 23.Re1 a5
- 24.Rh4 h5
- 25.Rc4 Ne6
- 26.Rc3 Nxc5
- 27.Rxc5 Bd7
- 28.Bd5 Raa6
- 29.g3 a4
- 30.f4 e6
- 31.Bf3 Rd2

Looking to exchange a pair of Rooks.

- 32.Re2 Rxe2
- 33.Bxe2 Rd6
- 34.Rc2 h4!-+

Looking to weakening White's kingside
 prawn formation and to win the White f-
 prawn, thus freeing the advancing
 potential of Black's own e-prawn.

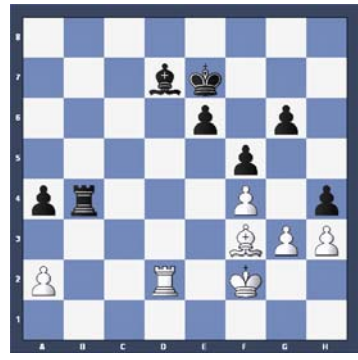
- 35.Kf2 Rd4
- 36.Bf3 Rb4

Planning ...a3 followed by ...Rb2.

37.Rd2

Note if 37.a3? hxg3+! 38.Kxg3 Rb3 wins
 material, and the game with it! This
 should at the very least clear a path for
 Black's a-prawn to advance.

- 37... Ke7



38.Bd1 a3 39.Bb3 e5 40.fxe5 Be6
 Shredder 10 41.gxh4 Bxb3 42.axb3 Rxb3
 43.Rd6 a2 44.Ra6 Rxb3 45.Kg2 Rxb4
 46.Rxa2 g5 47.Ra6 Re4 48.Rg6 g4
 49.Kg3 Rxe5 -2.74/20 0-1



Challenge Tournament

2007, with only six entrants, saw a
 rather quieter tournament than we have
 been used to in previous years. On top of
 that Stuart Graham had to withdraw mid
 season due to a serious health problem.
 Fortunately Stuart now seems to be on the
 mend so I am sure you will join with me
 in wishing him all the best for 2008 and
 beyond. Hopefully we will see Stuart back
 playing chess very soon.

Congratulations to Raymond
 Burrige on winning the only Challenge
 Tournament available this season.

A happy new year to all. Hopefully
 I will see you all playing in the Challenge
 next season along with a few others. Jim
 Anderson will get the entrants to the 2008
 Challenge to me shortly so I hope to be
 able to send out the pairings as soon as
 possible.



How to See Ahead in Chess Part 7

By Geoff Lloyd

The Author

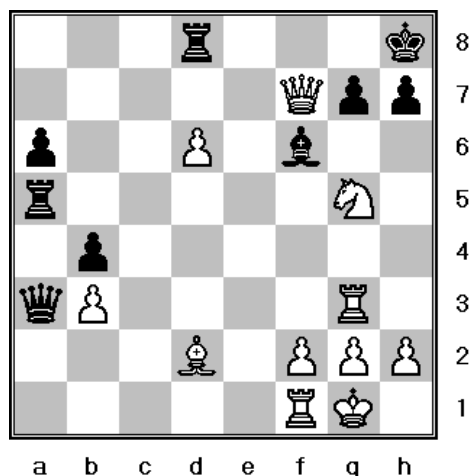
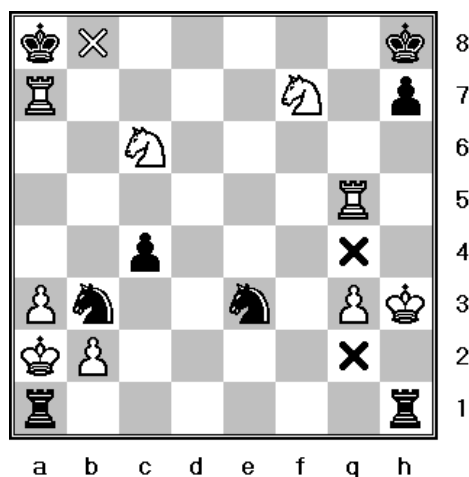
Geoff Lloyd has an ICCF rating of 2235; two SCCA Master norms, 30 years of playing competitive chess, and seventeen years combined teaching and coaching experience.

Chapter 1, serialised in 3 parts, covered the basic tactical elements, while Chapter 2 (1 part) looked at heavy pieces in combination. This issue covers part 3 of Chapter 3.

Chapter 3 – Pieces Working in Partnership

17. The Knight and the Rook

Here we have a composed position illustrating four patterns belonging to the knight and rook partnership. I have inserted a couple of crosses as an additional visual aid; these depict the knight's odd ability to exercise diagonal control almost as if it were a bishop. It is this link from the previous patterns I wish to impress upon you: try to memorise the positions, and here's a little tip: make up diagrams and glue them to strong cardboard, about the size of a playing card. I have a whole pack made up - you can carry them with you and maybe on a train or in the doctor's waiting room, you can memorise the patterns.



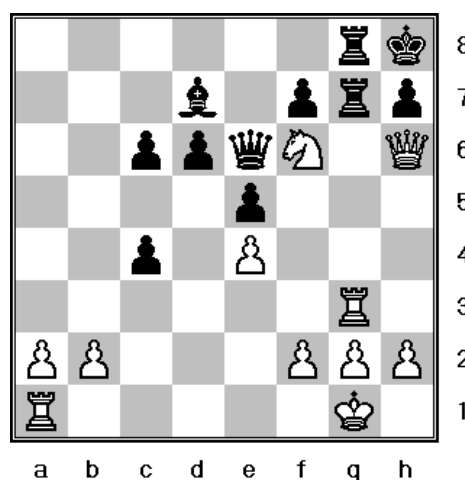
Now we consider ways of bringing these patterns about in actual play along with a pattern we considered some time ago. In the preceding diagram, it is White to play.

1.Qxf6 gxf6

If 1... Qab3, 2.Qxd8+ Qg8 3.Nf7# - our old friend smothered mate.

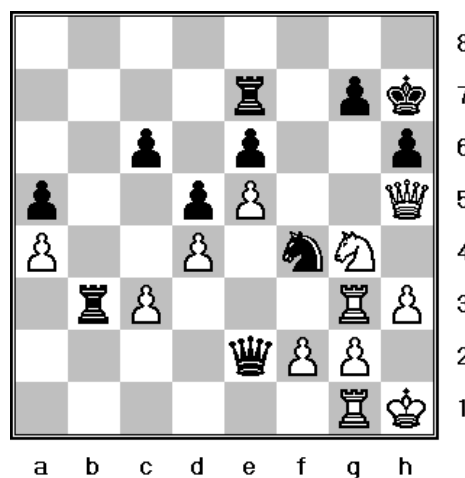
2.Nf7#

Here we have another easy position taken from the game Post v Flambert, Mannheim, 1914, with White to play again:



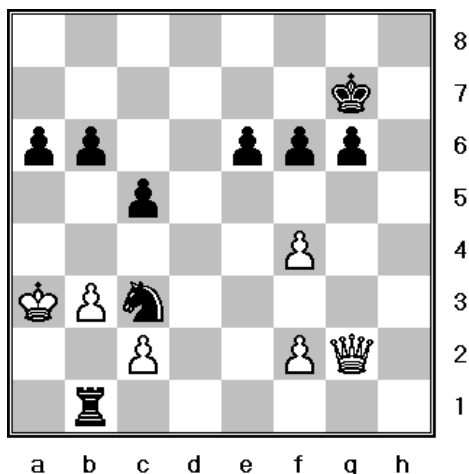
1.Qxh7+ Rxh7
2.Rxg8#

Now a position reached in the game Nimzowitsch v Giese, with White to play:



1.Qxh6+ gxh6
2.Nf6+ Kh8
3.Rg8#

The following example requires a little more imagination and is well worth remembering white can only avoid mate by losing his Queen. Taken from the game, Thornley v Alapin, London, 1903, it is White to play:



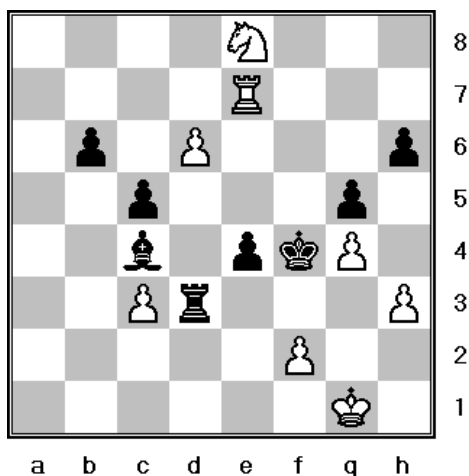
1.Qb7+ Kh6
2.Qxb6 Na4
3.Ka2

If 3.Qc6 no matter where the Queen moves it is either captured or Ra1#

3... Nxb6
4.Kxb1 Nd5

And Black wins.

Now a more complicated position so devote more time to it. This is taken from the game Mieses v Rubinstein, Vienna 1906, with White to play:



1.Nf6 Rd1+
2.Kg2 Bf1+
3.Kh2 Rxd6
4.Nxe4 Rd1
5.Ng3 b5
6.Re3 Bxh3

Preventing mate on h5 by the knight.

7.Kxh3

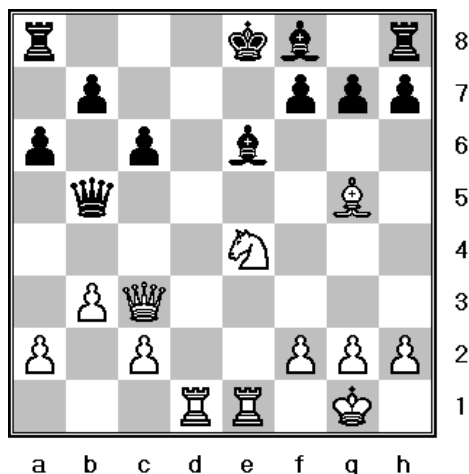
Renewing the threat of mate.

7... Rh1+
8.Nxh1

And Black resigned in view of 8... h5 9.Ng3 hxg4+ 10.Kg2 b4 (10...c4, 11 Re4#) 11.Re4#

Exercise 35

Taken from the game Nimzowitsch v Alapin, St Petersburg, 1913. It is White to play:



Solution

1.Qf6 gxf6

If 1... Qb6 2.Rd6 Bxd6 3.Nxd6+ winning.

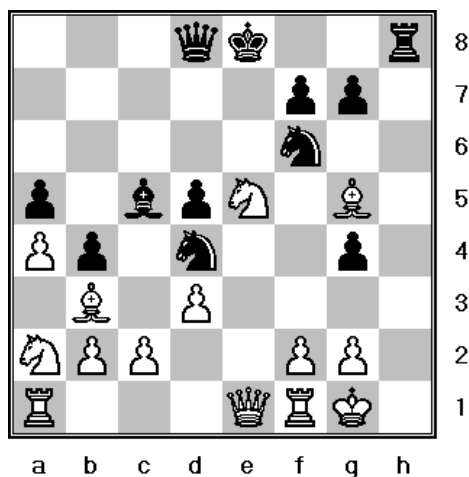
2.Nxf6+ Ke7

3.Rd7#

All other attempts by Black fail.

Exercise 36

Taken from the game Kolisch v Urosov, St Petersburg, 1862. It is Black to play:



Solution

1... Ne4

2.Bxd8

If 2.Nxf7 Qb8 3.Qxe4+ dxe4 4.Nxh8 Nf3+ and White falls into a mating net with queen and pawn.

2... Ng3

3.Ng6+ Nde2+

4.Qxe2+ Nxe2#

Wonderful!

In the next instalment, we continue Chapter 3 – looking next at how the rooks work in combination.



ICCF Congress - Benalmádena, Spain

By George Pyrich

The 2007 ICCF Congress, in conjunction with meetings of the ICCF Executive Board, took place in the Hotel Alay, Benalmádena, Spain from 20th to 26th October 2007. The Scottish CCA delegation of George Pyrich and Alan Borwell joined some 100 other delegates, officials and family members who attended the first ICCF Congress to be held in Spain.



On-street parking in Benalmádena

The Congress was arranged and hosted by the Spanish Federation, ASOCIACION ESPAÑOLA DE AJEDREZ POR CORRESPONDENCIA (AEAC) as part of its 5th Anniversary celebrations and held in the coastal resort of Benalmádena on the Costa del Sol, a popular tourist area not far from the port city of Malaga. Whilst Spain has been a member of ICCF for many years, its national federation was re-formed 5 years ago and, as well as hosting the ICCF Congress as part of its 5th Anniversary celebrations, it is also hosting several top level GM events which are currently being played on the ICCF server. GM David Kilgour is representing the SCCA in one of these events.

Opening the Congress, the ICCF President Med Samraoui responded to the warm welcome of AEAC President, Josep Mercadal Benejam and Mr. Cirilo Gutiérrez, President of the Malaga Chess Federation, and he expressed pleasure that an ICCF Congress was being held in Spain for the first time in ICCF's history. He referred to the famous Andalusia tourist area on the Costa del Sol (the sunny coast) and said he had an affinity with the area, as he was currently preparing a publication for the Cordoba Foundation, which was promoting peace and tolerance between religions.

He provided an interesting summary of the social, cultural, intellectual and spiritual history of Andalucía and that the region had been a pioneer in the renaissance of the modern Europe. He also noted that many famous sporting teams and celebrities had come from Spain and he mentioned in particular that characters as diverse as Pablo Picasso and Antonio Banderas had been natives of the nearby city of Malaga. Delegates were reminded that chess in Andalucía had a great reputation and cities like Sevilla and Linares had hosted world championships and many prestigious tournaments with the participation of the world's strongest players.

Med then acknowledged the work of the late Carlos Ros Miró, who had been ICCF delegate and President of the CC Commission with the Spanish Chess Federation for over 35 years and reported that AEAC had been created in 2002 by Carlos Flores Gutiérrez and Cecilio Hernández and that correspondence chess in Spain had progressed with great success with players achieving many new titles, including Spain's first three Grandmasters! Finally, Med then made special reference to the outstanding work on behalf of ICCF and AEAC of Carlos Flores Gutiérrez as ICCF Treasurer from 1995 until 2003 and also as the inspiration in bringing an ICCF Congress to Spain for the first time. Carlos was warmly congratulated and thanked for his initiative by all the delegates.

Prior to proceeding with the normal business of the Congress, delegates observed 2 minutes silence in the memory of those who had sadly passed away during the last year, in particular GM Ernst Eichhorn (SUI), André DeVriendt (CAN) and William Roach (CAN).

The ICCF President then declared the ICCF 2007 Congress, Benalmádena, Spain duly opened and asked all to stand whilst the ICCF Anthem was played. Thereafter it was down to business and the Minutes of the 2006 Congress were formally approved. The federations of Ivory Coast and Togo were welcomed as 68th and 69th members of the ICCF family. ICCF Honorary Membership was granted with considerable acclaim to ICCF European Zone Director Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) in recognition of his 30 years of service to ICCF. Bertl von Massow Gold awards in recognition of 15 years meritorious service to ICCF were presented to Sergey Grodzensky (RUS), George Pyrich (SCO), Hendrik Sarink (NED) and Lembit Vaheasaar (EST)



George receives his gold medal from Med Samraoui

whilst Silver awards for 10 years meritorious work were presented to Sultan Mohammed Al-Kuwari (QAT), Dario Biella-Bianchi (PER), Ian Brooks (ENG), Marco Caressa (ITA), Duncan Chambers (ENG), Ruth Ann Fay (USA), Frank Geider (FRA), Gerard van den Haak (NED), Antonio J. Macchia (URU), Søren Peschardt (DEN) and Jo Wharrier (ENG). Additionally, a certificate and medal was presented to the Netherlands delegate, Nol van 't Riet, on behalf of the new 21st ICCF World Champion J.J. van Oosterom (NED).

Next on the Agenda was ICCF financial affairs – The ICCF President introduced ICCF Finance Director, Hans-Jürgen Isigkeit (GER), but then asked Carlos Flores to present the Accounts to 31/12/2006, which he had kindly prepared earlier in 2007. Carlos reported to Congress that he had been able to construct the 2006 member federation accounts using information provided by Ruth Ann Fay (USA) and also very useful tournament entry statistics from the system created by Søren Peschardt (DEN). He then reported on the ICCF Accounts for the period to 31/12/2006 and said that he had been able to complete these as accurately as possible, from all the documents provided. Whilst there had been a deficit arising from previous years of CHF 2,869, there was an operating surplus for the year to 31/12/2006 of CHF 11,839 and a profit had been realised from the sale of ICCF investments amounting to CHF 14,227. Therefore there had been an overall surplus at 31/12/2006 of CHF 23,197. The ICCF President expressed his gratitude to Carlos Flores for his invaluable assistance to ICCF.

The next item on the agenda was the election of the ICCF Executive Board for the period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2011. Introducing the Election process, the ICCF President provided an explanation of the revised structure of the ICCF Executive Board, in particular the decision to create two new posts to fulfil the important functions of Marketing and Membership Services. The ICCF President also provided an explanation of the reasons for the previously long established concept of ICCF General Secretary being restored to achieve better delivery in the areas of prompt and efficient communications including with external organisations, efficient and accurate preparation of Congress and other Minutes, provision of accurate and up to date ICCF Address Lists for use by all ICCF officials and maintenance of ICCF records and archives.

Thereafter, following completion of the voting procedure, the following were declared elected:
 President: Med Samraoui (GER), General Secretary: Pedro Hegoburu (ARG), Finance Director: Hans-Jürgen Isigkeit (GER), Marketing Director: Michael Blake (ENG), World Tournaments Director: Frank Geider (FRA), Services Director: Gino Figlio (PER). Congress also noted that elections of the new ICCF Zonal Directors would be held by email amongst delegates in each Zone towards the end of the year.



Next the ICCF Direct Entry Administrator, Michael Millstone reported the continued success of the ICCF Direct Entry system with a substantial increase in entries during the previous year. Michael reported that a disproportionate amount of his time had been used in handling direct entries from those countries which had opted for “standard Direct Entry” and proposed that it would be better if participation in ICCF Direct Entry continued to be optional for member countries but that ICCF should have one “Direct Entry

Programme”, rather than having the current arrangement with two definitions. Following discussion, Congress unanimously agreed to this proposal and supported the Direct Entry Administrator’s ideas for improving marketing, Direct Entry facilities and wider system usage and evolving player/organisation performance standards. Michael was congratulated on his outstanding work in this most important ICCF development area.



Conference delegates pose outside the hotel

The ICCF Honorary President, Alan Borwell, then reviewed the ICCF Financial Plan for the period 2003-2007 comparing actual figures with estimates and referred to the main fluctuations, although overall results had been remarkably close to the targets, with a healthy overall 4 year achievement. Alan referred to the structure of the 2003-2007 plan and indicated that the next Financial Plan would need to combine income and expenditure for the different transmission methods as it would not be meaningful to continue with financial breakdowns for postal, email and webserver tournaments. Also, when tournament plans had been formulated for the 2008-11 period, a new Financial Plan would be prepared by the Finance Committee, discussed with the Executive Board and then submitted to the 2008 Congress.

Alan then continued in his capacity as chairman of the Webserver Development Committee moving to the activities of the Webserver Development Committee and reported that most of the tasks identified in the Phase 4 Plan, for completion before the Congress, had been achieved and he hoped delegates and players appreciated the numerous enhancements which had been made to the system. The ICCF Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder was the project leader for all rating and related webserver development tasks and was congratulated and thanked by the WDSC Chairman for progress achieved and that the time was approaching when quarterly ratings lists entirely produced on the web server would be a reality! Additionally a Webserver Development Budget of CHF 10,000 was agreed for 2008, although it was hoped it would not need to be fully used.

Qualifications Commissioner Eric Ruch (FRA) presented his customary excellent report which was warmly acclaimed by the Congress. Eric confirmed awards to 21 new Grandmasters, 68 Senior International Masters, 42 International Masters and 1 Lady International Master. Unfortunately, once again, there were no new Scots titleholders this year.

ICCF Games Archivist George Pyrich reported that good progress was being made with the creation of a permanent ICCF games archive, using the webserver system, and that there would soon be many more completed games added to the games downloading facilities via the main ICCF

website. Care had to be taken that ICCF fulfilled obligations in providing game databases to publishers, such as ChessBase Magazine, and other sponsors. Some webserver system refinements may be necessary but agreement of a user specification, identifying changes required, would be finalised shortly.



George and Catherine relax in the hotel

Next the new ICCF Marketing Commissioner, Michael Blake (ENG) provided Congress with a comprehensive report on his work since his appointment at the beginning of 2007. Michael reported that both ICCF Amici and ICCF Telechess articles in ChessBase Magazine had been re-activated, the new ICCF online Forum was already a tremendous success and also plans are well advanced for the upgrading of the ICCF main website and achieving a better co-ordination with other sites. Congress noted that contributions are required for ICCF Telechess, with interesting articles and annotated games from players and officials and that the Marketing Commissioner would be delighted to hear from any potential contributor(s). It was also noted that an ICCF Press Office is becoming established. Congress unanimously approved a Marketing budget of CHF 5,000 for 2008 and warmly congratulated the Marketing Commissioner (soon to be Director) on his tremendous initiatives and excellent work in the first nine months of his appointment.

The ICCF President had referred in his opening speech about the possibility of ICCF publishing an ICCF Diamond Jubilee (60 years) book in 2011 and had asked Alan Borwell if he would manage such a project. There was some discussion about the idea of a book and/or DVD and Alan indicated that he was willing to produce a possible project outline and distribute it to all federations, to see whether it would be viable.

The Congress noted that Ivan Bottlik (HUN) had been working with a Historic Research Committee on a Correspondence Chess Bibliography and good quality printed versions of this publication were now available for 5€ plus postage. The next goal of the Committee is to collect details of all individual CC round robin tournaments played in the 19th Century and early 20th Century (pre First World War).

Thereafter, Congress gave consideration to various proposals with regard to World Tournaments, approving a 3rd Webchess Open Tournament scheduled to start in March 2008 and inviting member federations to submit offers to organise World Cup 17 which is hoped will start early in 2009. The Congress expressed appreciation of the excellent efforts of the organisers of the recently started 3rd cycle of the ICCF Champions League, Valer-Eugen Demian (CAN), SCCA Magazine 100

Michael Millstone (USA) and Gino Figlio (PER) and approved the setting up of a Working Group chaired by Valer-Eugen to analyse and decide on the future structure of the Champions League.

Next the Congress gave consideration to the Report of the Title Tournaments Director Marco Caressa (ITA) which focussed largely upon arrangements for the holding of World Championship Finals. Following lengthy discussion, Congress agreed that plans approved at last year's Congress whereby the excessively large waiting list of qualifiers for a World Championship Final be reduced by the holding of an event with almost 40 players and conducted using a hybrid of the Silli pairing system be abandoned and instead that 2 new finals each comprising 17 players and conducted on the normal all-play-all method would start simultaneously at the end of 2007 and that another 17 player all-play-all final would commence mid-2008. Additionally the Congress allocated the ICCF Rules Commission the task of drafting a new set of Rules which would outline a method whereby postal players could participate in World Championship Finals held on the ICCF server by means of having others serving as "nodes" entering moves on their behalf to the server thereby allowing postal and server players to compete in the same event. Under this same Report, the Congress also gave reluctantly approved a proposal that the Postal Grandmaster Norm events be discontinued owing to there being an insufficient number of new entries (the last such event had started in 2004).



Alan Borwell (acting as proxy) receives Australian awards from George

After some discussion, Congress approved the launch of the new ICCF Money Prize Tournaments following presentation of a Working Group report – these new events started within days of the end of the Congress and are open to all players. Other new events approved were the ICCF Veterans World Cup (for players aged 60 and over) (the first such event to be organised on behalf of ICCF by the Czech CCA and scheduled to start in April 2008) and the ICCF Juniors World Cup (for players under the age of 20) (the first such event to start mid-2008 and to be organised by the English Federation). Congress also noted the recent starting of the Schools Prototype Tournaments, team events with 28 schools from countries in the Northern Hemisphere playing in seven player groups with two groups for Primary Schools (under 12) and two for Senior Schools (under 17) organised by Alan Borwell and played on the ICCF server.

Perhaps the most enjoyable event of any ICCF Congress is the Awards Ceremony when the presentation of awards and titles are made and this year was no exception. One nice feature this year was that a considerable number of players had travelled some very considerable distances in order to receive their awards in person. Many pictures of the Awards Ceremony are now available at a number of web sites including www.iccf.com

Thereafter the 4 Zonal Directors reported an events and activities in their respective zones during the past year. Congress was pleased to note news of new developments and progress in all Zones.

The new ICCF Rules Commissioner, Per Söderberg (SWE), introduced consideration of Rules matters by expressing his appreciation of the dedicated and successful work of Gerhard Radosztics (AUT) who had recently retired.

(Shortly following the congress, news was received of the sudden and untimely death of Gerhard Radosztics who was a devoted servant of ICCF for many years and who will be greatly missed by his family and many friends – tributes to Gerhard are presently posted at the ICCF Forum.)

Per advised that the next comprehensive review of all ICCF Rules was due to be conducted at the 2008 ICCF Congress and therefore any changes decided in Benalmadena should really be limited to minor issues or a tidying up of ambiguous wordings etc. A discussion group had earlier considered some major issues, such as time limits and slow play but it was decided that proposals should not be made to the 2007 Congress on these issues, but held over to 2008. However a minor change was agreed to web server Playing Rule 3b, where the spelling of “maybe” was changed to “may be” (in reference to situations where players fail to play a move for 40 days or more).

Congress also considered changes to Playing Rule 6, including the doubling of reflection days where a player had not moved say for 14 days and arrangements for server reminders, limiting of carryover days etc. but decided these ideas (and others) should be further considered by the Playing Rules Commission prior to the next Congress. However it was agreed by Congress that, in team events when substitutions occur, the leave already used up by an outgoing player should be carried forward to the replacing player, although the Tournament Director may grant extra leave if considered necessary.



Gibraltar, within easy reach of the Congress venue

There was a discussion about “rapid play or blitz” tournaments on the web server but Congress was reminded of the importance to ICCF’s identity enshrined in Statute 1.2

that “playing time is normally counted in days per move”. Following further discussion it was agreed that the Executive Board should form a Working Group to “consider all aspects of CC play at faster time limits and report, with proposals, to the 2008 ICCF Congress.

Finally, after consideration of the implications of faster time limits (e.g. for money prize tournaments and national federation postal events), it was decided by Congress that the minimum rate acceptable for ICCF rating of games should be set at 10 moves in 20 days for postal events and 10 moves in 30 days for electronic transmission events

After 4 busy days of meetings, the Congress wound down with a brief presentation by the Bulgarian Delegate Peter Marinov on arrangements for the 2008 Congress scheduled to be held in Pleven, Bulgaria.

As usual, there were a number of social events and the Congress delegates enjoyed a day’s excursion following the end of the Congress to the nearby city of Granada which included a visit to the Alhambra, a military fortress first built in the 7th century and which is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



The Alhambra

The traditional blitz tournament was won by Spanish based Argentinean ICCF Senior International Master Oswaldo Buraschi ahead of a strong field and a 16 board match was held against members of the local Malaga chess club (resulting in a convincing win for the ICCF team).



George in play against the Malaga club

[Editor’s note: thanks to Norwegian GM Raymond Boger who sent a DVD containing his photographs and videos, plus the pictures of Per Söderberg (SWE) and Luz Marina Tinjaca (ITA).]



Harro Otte Memorial

Play is progressing quite quickly in the Harro Otte Memorial Team Tournament and after only just over 6 months of play approximately 50% of games have been completed.

Presently the Czech Republic team are ahead of Poland with the other teams a little off the pace. After a promising early start the Scots team have slipped a little and currently share 4th place with Austria in the 8 team group. However, 3rd placed Poland are only just ahead of both teams and the Scots can remain optimistic of a good finish and a place in the Final.

On top board Stuart Graham is unbeaten on 3½ from 6 games against some strong opposition whilst Hugh Calder on board 2 has an excellent 3½ from 4. Play has been rather slower on board 3 and Jim Anderson has only one result (loss) to date. Alan Armstrong has a creditable 2 from 6 on board 4 whilst on board 5 Andrew Macmillen will hope to recover from a difficult start of 0 from 3. Finally on board 6 Alex Scott has done well on his debut to reach 3½ from 6.

Scott, A – Paulik, V Harro Otte Memorial Board 6 ICCF, 2007

In our first game Alex wins nicely. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 f5 9... b5** is the main line here. **10.Bc4 Ra7?! So as not to be troubled by Bd5 after b5 and it also indirectly defends f7! 11.Bd5 Qg5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nc4 Nd4 14.Ne3 Be6**



15.h4! The silicon beast wants to play 15.0-0?! but the text must be correct. **15... Qg7 16.Qd3 b5 17.0-0-0 Rc7 18.Kb1 b4?! 19.Ne4 Be7 20.Qxa6 0-0 21.Qb6** Now the fun starts although it's hard to see much wrong with 21.Ng5. **21... Rxc2 22.Qb7! Re5 23.Nxc5 dxc5 24.Qxe7 Bxd5 25.Rxd4 Bxa2+ 26.Kxa2 exd4 27.Nc4 27.Rh3** looks immediately decisive here. **27... Ra8+ 28.Kb3 Qxg2 29.Qg5+ Qxg5 30.hxg5** The endgame is winning for White although accuracy is required. **30... Re8 31.Rh6 Rd8 32.Rd6 Rxd6 33.Nxd6 f6 34.Ne4 fxg5 35.Nxg5 Kg7 36.Ne6+ Kf6**

37.Nxc5 Kf5 38.Kxb4 h5 39.Kc4 h4 40.Kxd4 Kf4 41.Ne4 Kf3 42.b4! Now h3 is met with Ng5+ so Black resigned. **1-0**

Findiur, I - Calder, H (2026) Harro Otte Memorial board 2 ICCF, 2007

Next Hugh has a nice win against an Israeli opponent. **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.a3 4.g3** is usual here. The text leads to kind of reversed Sicilian Scheveningen position with chances for both sides. **4... d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Qc2 Be7 7.d3 0-0 8.e3 Be6 9.Be2 f5 10.0-0 a5 11.Bd2 11.b3?** is met with 11... Nxc3 12.Qxc3 Bf6; but maybe 11.Nxd5 is playable with the likes of 11...Qxd5 12.e4 Qd6 13.exf5 Rxf5 14.Be3 to follow. **11...Nb6 12.Nb5 a4**



13.d4!? Bb3 14.Qc3 e4 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 c5! Denying White the d4 square and ensuring a clear advantage. **17.f4 Qd7 18.Kh1 Rad8 19.Be1 Qe6 20.Rg1 Nd5 21.Qc1 Kh8 22.g4?! Seeking exchanges with 22.Nc3** was likely better. **22... fxg4 23.Rxg4 g5!** The open g-file will benefit Black more than White! **24.fxg5**



24...Bd1! 25.Nc7 25.Bxd1 is crushing for Black after **25...Rf1+ 26.Rg1 Rxg1+ 27.Kxg1 Bxg5 28.Bf2 Qh3 25...Nxc7 26.Bxd1 Rf1+ 27.Rg1 Rxg1+ 28.Kxg1 Bxg5 29.Bg3 Nd5** White could easily just resign here but continues needlessly for about 20 more moves.

30.Qc4 Bxe3+ 31.Kh1 Rg8 32.Qxe4 Rxc3 33.Bf3 Qh3
 34.Bg2 Rxc2 35.Qxc2 Qxc2+ 36.Kxc2 Bd4 37.Rb1 Kg7
 38.Kf3 Kf7 39.Ke4 Ke6 40.Rd1 Ne3 41.Rg1 Nc4
 42.Rg7Bxe5 43.Rxh7 Nd6+ 44.Kd3 Bxb2 45.h4 Bxa3
 46.Kc2 b5 47.h5 b4 0-1

Champions League

It's very much still early days in the 3rd cycle of the ICCF Champions League with only a few results to date. In Division C6, the Lewis Chessmen (Iain Mackintosh, George Livie, George Pyrich & Alan Borwell) collectively have 5 draws to date whilst the Scottish Claymores (Gordon Anderson, Alan Bell, Stuart Graham & Kevin Paine) in Division D6 have a win, a loss and 4 draws.

On board 1, Gordon Anderson has rather "pulled the short straw" – his Brazilian opponent was granted an "Accepted Withdrawal" after only 9 moves and, under ICCF Rules, the game was restarted with Gordon's new opponent being the 2600 rated FIDE GM Rafael Leitao!

In Division D2 the Caledonian Kings (Arthur Knox, Jim Anderson, Andrew Macmillen & Stephen Hilton) already have 1 win and 4 losses. Finally, in Division D3, the Caledonian Knights (David Edney (with 2 wins from 2), Derek Price, Colin MacGregor & Robert Rough) have had a mixed start with, to date, 3 wins, 3 draws and 12 losses.

Ciucurel R. Sorin, M (2393) – Mackintosh, I (2377) Champions League 2007 C Group 6 ICCF, 2007

Iain had a curious little brevity against a Romanian opponent. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.h3 Currently the fashionable way of avoiding the Marshall Gambit. 8... h6 8...Bb7 is usual here with the likes of 9.d3 d6 10.a3 Na5 11.Ba2 c5 and a sound position for Black. 9.c3 Bb7 10.d4 d6 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.a4!? 12.Nf1 Bf8 13.Ng3 reaches one of the main positions of the Smyslov system. 12... exd4 13.cxd4 Nb4 14.Qe2 Bf8



15.axb5 15.e5!? was played in Game 44 (!) of the 1st Kasparov v. Karpov match way back in 1985 continuing 15...Bc6 16.axb5 Bxb5 17.Qd1 Nfd5 18.Ne4. The game was eventually drawn and the match eventually ended in some controversy. 15...Nxe4! 16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.bxa6 Bxf3 18.Qxe8 Now almost everything comes off after 18... Qxe8 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20. gxf3 Nxa6! 21.Rxa6 Re1+ so agreed drawn! ½-½

Bell, A – Archambault, S Champions League 2007 D Group 6 ICCF, 2007

Alan Bell has also had an interesting short draw against a Canadian opponent. 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nd7!? 4.Bd3 It would be interesting to know what Black had in mind after 4.e5. 4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.N1f3 h6?! 7...Bd6 reaches the main line. The text invites White's sacrifice and is considered very dubious. However, it's never been directly refuted! 8.Nxe6 fxe6 8...Qe7 is also not for the faint-hearted after the likes of 9.0-0 fxe6 10.Bg6+ Kd8 11.Bf4. 9.Bg6+ White has only a pawn for the piece but the Black K will be stuck in the centre for a long time. 9...Ke7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.c4 11.Re1 also looks playable with the likes of 11...Kd8 12.c4 Bb4 13.Re2 to follow. 11...Kd8 12.Ne5!? 12.Re1 Bb4 13.Re2 transposes to the earlier note. 12...Nxe5 13.dxe5+ Nd7 14.Bf4 Qb6



15.Bf7 15.Qg4!? 15... g5 16.Bg3 h5 17.h3 Kc7 18.Bxe6 Nc5 19.Bxc8 Kxc8 20.Qf3 Qd8 21.Rad1 Qe8 22.e6 Maybe 22.Qf6!? 22...Nxe6 23.Rfe1 Bb4 23...Rh6 looks good but 24.h4! g4 25.Qf4 is winning for White! 24.Qf6 Else Black plays Qg6. 24...Bxe1 And White is now obliged to take the draw with: 25.Rxe1 Kd7 26.Rd1+ Kc8 27.Re1 ½-½

[All notes by George Pyrich]

Centenary Puzzle Solutions

1 Yes. 1.e4 2.g4 3.e5 4.g5 5.e6 6.g6 7.gxf7#
 Thanks to David Evans, Rooty Hill CC in Australia.

2 1.Qxf8+! Kxf8 2.Rxf7+ Kg8 3.Ne7+ Kh8 4.Rf8+ Kg7 5.R1f7+ Kh6 6.Ng8+ Kg5 7.Kh2! (7... Nf6 8.h4+ Kf5 9.Nh6+ Ke6 10.Bh3+ and White wins easily) Study courtesy of Susan Polgar's blog site.

3 1... Rh3+!! 2.Kxh3 Nxc4! [2 ...Bxc4+? 3.Kh4 Bxd1 4.Bxe5 Bxc2 5.Ne3 Bb3 6.Kg5 b5=] 3.Kh4 Nxf6 and Black wins the endgame. From Cupulanu-Breder, Computer Assisted Freestyle Event, 2006.

4 1.Qe4! (threat 2.Rf8+ Nxf8 3.Rxf8+ Qxf8 4.Qh7#) 1... Nf6 2.Rxf6! gxf6 3.Rxf6 Kg8 4.Bc4 Kh8 (the threat was Rf7) 5.Qf4 1-0 Fischer-Spassky, Game 6, Reykjavik, 1972.



General Information

Members of the Scottish CCA are eligible to play in ICCF postal, email and webserver tournaments, which cover European and World, Open (O - under 1900), Higher (H - 1900-2100) and Master (M - over 2100) classes. Entries to H or M class events for the first time require evidence of grading strength, or promotion from a lower class. O and H classes have 7 players/section, with M class having 11. It is usually possible to interchange between playing modes when promotion from a class has been obtained.

New World Cup tournaments start every 2-3 years, with 11-player sections of all grading strengths, and promotion to 1/2 finals and final. Winners proceed to the Semi-Finals, and winners of these qualify for a World Cup Final. The entry fee covers all stages, and multiple entries are allowed, though Semi-Finals are restricted to 2 places per individual.

Master and GM Norm tournaments with 13-player sections are available for strong players. Master entry level is fixed ICCF rating of 2300+, (2000 ladies); non-fixed ICCF 2350+ (2050 ladies); or FIDE 2350+ (2050 ladies); while medal winners (outright winners ladies) in national championships are also eligible. GM entry levels are 150 rating points higher. A player can enter only one section per playing mode per year. Section winners who do not achieve norms receive entry to a World Championship Semi-Final.

International numeric notation is the standard for postal events, while PGN is normal for email and webserver play. Playing rules and time limits are provided for each event, and the usual postal limit is 30 days per 10 moves, with 60 days for 10 moves in email and webserver. Players may take up to 30 days leave per calendar year.

Use air mail stickers to all destinations to speed postal play, and be aware that some patience is required, as games may take up to 3 years against opponents in countries with poor mail services. Silent withdrawal is bad etiquette! International CC postcards are recommended, and can be obtained from Chess Suppliers (Scotland). Email and webserver have speeded up many events, and made it cheaper to play. Generally, you play less email/webserver games simultaneously than postal because of the faster play.

A prerequisite for entry via the SCCA is that the player remains a full member of the SCCA for the duration of the tournament. We wish you great enjoyment from your overseas games, and from making new chess friendships!

Current tournament fees are shown on the ICCF Index page of the SCCA website, and all Scottish players competing in ICCF events have bookmarks from the SCCA site to the relevant ICCF cross-table for easy checking of results. The SCCA international secretary can advise on all aspects of play, how to enter, current entry fees, etc.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2007-08

Theme 2/08: Queen's Indian, E17

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7
6.0-0 0-0 7.d5

Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 March

Theme 3/08: French Defence, Tarrasch Main Line, C06

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.c3 c5 6.Bd3 Nc6
7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6

Entries by 1 April; play starts 15 April

Webserver Events 2007-08

Theme 1/08: Budapest Gambit, Schara Variation, A52

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.e4 Nxe5 5.f4 Ng6 6.Be3
Bb4+ 7.Kf2 Qf6 8.Ne2 Qxb2

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 February

Theme 2/08: Italian Game, C53

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3

Entries by 1 March; play starts 15 March

Theme 3/08: Barcza/Reti Gambit, A11

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 dxc4

Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

Note there are no Email Events in 2008.

News

- ❑ Results from the Zonal Director elections were:
 1. (Europe) Gian-Maria Tani (ITA)
 2. (Latin America) Carlos Cranbourne (ARG)
 3. (North Atlantic/Pacific) Corky Schakel (USA)
 4. (Asia/Africa) Ole Jacobsen (GHA)The directors will join the ICCF Executive.
- ❑ Michael Blake, the ICCF Marketing Commissioner, is looking for applicants to join his team – the work includes the website, forum, wiki, Amici magazine and liaison with ChessBase and NIC. In 2008, they aim to strengthen links with Zones and national federations. If you're interested, email: press-office@iccf.com

Further details of all ICCF activities and events; entries to events, and orders for ICCF publications may be obtained via George Pyrich at: international@scottishcca.co.uk

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