

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.138

Summer 2017

ICCF Grading List 2017/3

George analyses the Q3 statistics

2017 AGM and Accounts

Iain and Gordon provide the details

How to Improve at Chess

Peter looks at ways to learn

The Hawkes Files

John features Romanas Arlauskas

International Update

George looks at the wider world

4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum





Welcome to the second edition of the 2017 magazine set. Our weather continues its caprice. May (when the kids do their exams) was very pleasant indeed; June (when the kids go on holiday) was largely cold and wet. Fortunately, the UK entertainments committee organised some elections to pass the time.

Our Notices page provides an update on all our players who have gained CCE and CCM norms and titles. We now have two CCM title holders! Also featured are the new webserver settings for events organised by SCCA.

George Pyrich has analysed the third ICCF rating list of 2017 for us; a reasonably productive period with yet more games milestones for our active members.

Summer is the season of AGMs and Accounts and once again Gordon Anderson and I bring you the details from the (virtual) smoke-filled committee room furnished by Skype. We remain in good order.

Peter Bennett has written a brief article on how we might improve at CC. It's not as simple as reading games collections by OTB masters...

John Hawkes has compiled a tribute to Romanas Arlauskas whose 100th birthday fell in June. Arlauskas's challenge for the 4th World Championship should resonate particularly with Lithuanian and Australian readers. John also provides the sixth in his series of great CC miniatures, featuring the Australian John Kellner.

We have room for a Games Column in this edition, and it features play from members George Pyrich, Raymond Burrige, Alastair Dawson, Eoin Campbell, Mark Smith and Geoff Lloyd.

George Pyrich once again publishes a comprehensive international report with copious x-tables and a well-annotated game by Peter Bennett. We continue our high level of participation in team events.

Enjoy the read and happy holidays to everybody!

SCCA Membership

Annual: £10/year buys you entry to all SCCA domestic events and friendly international matches, plus 4 quarterly e-magazines.

Life: £100 gets you annual membership for the rest of your days (plus a year's worth of printed magazines to try out).

Patron: £125 (+ any further donation you care to make) gets you life membership and your name on something commemorative.

SCCA 100 Club

The 100 Club is an important revenue-earner for the SCCA and it helps us to keep our fees low and/or unchanged year on year. Responsibility for the 100 Club rests with our Treasurer, Gordon Anderson.

Units cost £1 with some members taking one unit while others take as many as 10 units per month. From the Association's perspective paying by Bankers Order is most convenient.

If you don't already subscribe to the 100 club please consider if you can help the SCCA by taking out units and make contact with Gordon whose contact details are shown below.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2017	1st	2nd
June	G M Anderson	G M Anderson
May	G D Pyrich	I Mackintosh
April	L R McKenzie	S R Mannion

SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
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Games Editor	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	games@scottishcca.co.uk

NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine (enquiries and domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) pro tem.



ICCF Veterans' World Cup 10



ICCF is accepting entries for VWC10 up until August 1st.

You can enter as many preliminary sections as you choose, and the SCCA entry fee is £8.50 per section.

If you are interested in participating, please email George Pyrich on international@scottishcca.co.uk before Friday, July 28th..

ICCF CCE and CCM Titles



The current state of play is:.

CCM Titles

David Cumming and Peter Bennett have been awarded the CCM title – congratulations to both of them!

CCM Norms

Gordon Anderson has obtained his first CCM norm.

CCE Titles

David Cumming and Peter Bennett have both been awarded the CCE title.

CCE Norms

Colin Beveridge, Geoff Lloyd and Gordon Anderson have all obtained their first CCE norms.

Many congratulations to all our players on their successes! A full account of their qualifying events appears on the SCCA News webpage, and you can also search on the ICCF website via the ICCF Ratings menu (search for the individual, then brose their achievements/norms records.

ICCF Champions League 7



The 7th Champions League started in May, with 15 teams in Division A, 52 teams in Division B, and 100 teams in Division C. Due to heavy playing commitments, no SCCA teams entered this cycle.

ICCF 37th WCC Candidates



The Candidates' Tournament of the 37th World Championship will start on September 20, 2017, with entries closing on August 1st. We don't believe any SCCA members are eligible, but contact George Pyrich on international@scottishcca.co.uk if you

think otherwise.

SCCA Playing Rules Changes



The following options will apply to SCCA webserver events from 2017.

- Flag Rule. Set to autoflag, i.e. a win is automatically recorded when a player's clock runs down.
- Viewing Rule. Participants in an event can see other games only when they are finished, and at least 10 games are finished in the event.
- Public Viewing Rule. The public can see the games only when they are finished, and at least 10 games are finished in the event.
- Team Viewing Rule.
 - Other participants can see the games only when they are finished, and at least 10 games are finished.
 - The public can see the games only when they are finished, and at least 10 games are finished.
 - The team mates and captain can see the games live after 0 games are finished in the event. Live transmission is delayed by 0 moves.
- Conditional Moves. SCCA events will not allow conditional moves.
- Tiebreaking Rule. The Baumbach rule (most wins) will apply. If this does not produce a clear result, SCCA officials reserve the right to exercise a further method(s) or to declare a tie.
- Leave Rule. The standard 30 days of leave will apply.
- Tablebase Rule. Wins may be claimed using the 6-pieces tablebase evidence.
- Draw Rule. The ICCF Code of Conduct will apply - i.e. one draw offer per player per game.
- Sofia Rule. This will not apply - i.e. draw offers may be made from move 1 onwards.
- Adjudication Rule. This will be set to manual, i.e. SCCA will appoint an adjudicator and control the timing of the process..

SCCA 100 Club



Treasurer Gordon Anderson writes:

A number of members have actively subscribed to the Association's 100 club for a number of years and these contributions are very much appreciated. Recently, 3 long standing subscribers have retired and decided that they will no longer contribute to the 100 club. We urgently need some new subscribers.

If you have not been a subscriber or have previously subscribed but allowed your subscription to lapse, why not take up a unit or two or indeed three units (always happy to accept subscriptions for more units)?

If you are interested please contact Gordon on treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk for more information. The usual method of subscribing is monthly standing order which spreads the annual cost.

Fernschach 2017 CC Database



Fernschach2017

Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2017 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available since 2000
- Total 1,003,400 games (from 1991)
- Approximately 8,020 annotated
- Games from all main chess servers + post + email
- All tournaments marked correspondence so that CC games can be recognised in a larger database
- Editing improved and refined
- German letters ä, ö, ü and ß are not counted in names

The price is €13 (shipping within Germany) and €15 (shipping elsewhere).

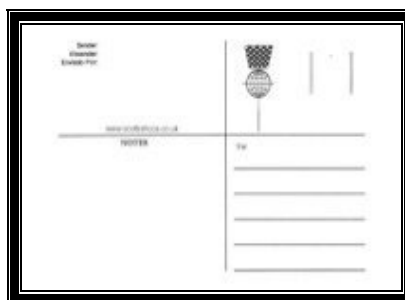
For further details, contact Herbert at:

Herbert Bellmann
On the Brink 11
46399 Bocholt
Germany

Bank details:
Stadtsparkasse Bocholt/Deutschland
Herbert Bellmann
Iban: DE 33 4285 0035 0100 1188 01
BIC: WELADED1BOH
Purpose: FS CD 2017

Email: hebel57@gmx.de

CC Postcards



The SCCA has a stock of cc postcards showing the SCCA logo and website address. They are suitable for domestic and international use (English, German and Spanish used).

Orders in units of 100 please. The cards are supplied at their production cost (£2.50/100) and p&p is also required. In May 2017, Royal Mail charged £2.90 for both a 100-card and 200-card parcel.

Orders and payments to Iain Mackintosh at chess@iainmack.co.uk please.

ICCF Game Archive



The June update to the Archive has now been added, and all files may be downloaded by logging into: <https://www.iccf.com/> then selecting Games Archive from the menu.



2017/3 Grading List

By George Pyrich

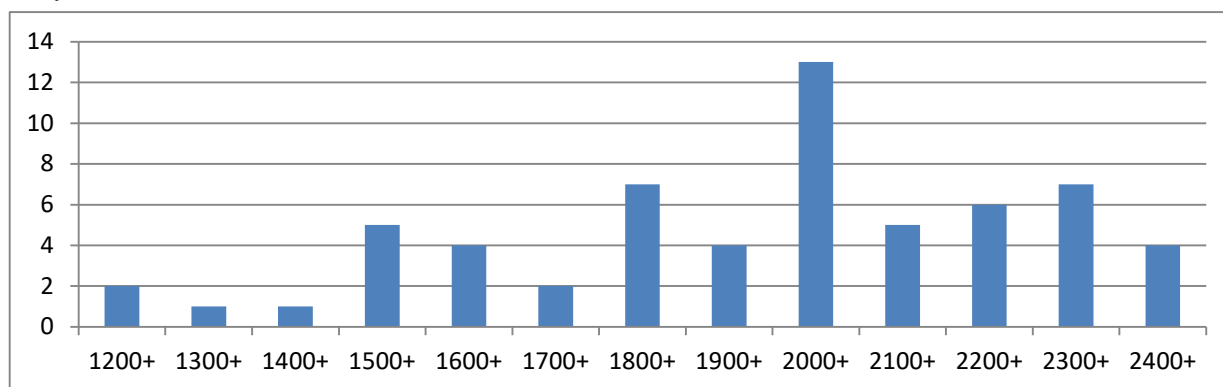
The third ICCF grading list of 2017 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 March and 31 May 2017. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 July and 30 September 2017.

One deletion was recorded in this list – Stuart Graham through inactivity. Alan Bell reached the 2400+ grading band – well done!

Five new games centurions were recorded – Carlos Almarza-Mato passed the 1300 games mark; George Pyrich eclipsed 1000; Martin Hardwick headed past 900; Ian Marshall vaulted 600 and Colin Macgregor reached 400+. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Carlos Almarza-Mato (48), Eoin Campbell (41), David Cumming (31), and Andrew Macmillen (30).

You need to complete 12 ICCF-eligible games to obtain a provisional rating (* below). Provisional ratings apply until 30 games have been processed. Rating changes are denoted by arrows. Email grader@scottishcca.co.uk if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
318	Almarza Mato, C	1313	2098 ↓	1013	Hilton, S H	179	1594 ↔
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	298	2330 ↑	447	Jamieson, I M	82	1918 ↔
121	Anderson, J	276	1831 ↑	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	331	2286 ↓
049	Armstrong, A	195	1872 ↔	260	Knox, A	289	1282 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	359	1522 ↓	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	796	2262 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	420	2469 ↓	471	Macgilchrist, Mrs S	52	2095 ↔
599	Bell, A D (SM)	208	2405 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	402	1910 ↑
501	Bennett, P G (SM)	365	2352 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	686	2370 ↑
	Beveridge, C	293	2180 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	1046	1688 ↓
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1037	2254 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	607	2046 ↓
602	Burridge, R J	1151	2070 ↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	220	2455 ↓
435	Cairney, J	62	2076 ↔	412	McKinstry, J	94	1481 ↔
601	Campbell, E S	596	2164 ↔	401	Moir, P J	188	1618 ↓
038	Campbell, I S	293	1862 ↔	598	Montgomery, R S	275	2263 ↓
	Clark, S L	175	2040 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	485	2436 ↓
364	Coope, D W	791	1854 ↓	564	Murray, J S	59	2015 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	107	1894 ↔	440	Neil, C	252	1377 ↓
527	Craig, T J (SM)	372	2323 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	162	1981 ↓
166	Cumming, D R (SM)	1234	2325 ↑	604	Paine, Dr K A	187	2329 ↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G	115	2131 ↑	315	Petrie, A	105	1511 ↔
572	Dempster, D	797	1777 ↓	432	Price, D	354	2026 ↑
	Dunn, J	264	1557 ↑	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	1019	2130 ↑
	Dyer, M	107	2073 ↔		Ross, D W	38	1886 ↔
371	Edney, D	229	1994 ↑	439	Smith, M J	63	2048 ↑
462	Gilbert, R	134	1796 ↑		Stewart, A G	36	2170 ↑
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	145	2241 ↔	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	176	2096 ↓
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)	473	2398 ↔	1120	Taylor, W	83	2044 ↓
124	Goodwin, B J	329	1811 ↑		Thornton, J	35	1611 ↔
399	Grant, J	57	1695 ↓	452	Toye, D T	77	1582 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	916	1226 ↓	530	Watson, J (IM)	153	2297 ↔
063	Harvey, D	102	2053 ↔				



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	61
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	1
Full grades (30+ games)	61
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	19
Grading decreases (↓)	23
Grading static (↔)	19

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2469	Borwell, A P (IM)	2254
Matheis, T (IM)	2455	Gillam, S R (SM)	2241
Murden, C (IM)	2436	Beveridge, C	2180
Bell, A D (SM)	2405	Stewart, A G	2170
Giulian, P M (SIM)	2398	Campbell, E S	2164
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2370	Dawson, Prof A G	2131
Bennett, P G (SM)	2352	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2130
Anderson, G M (SM)	2330	Almarza Mato, C	2098
Paine, Dr K A	2329	Stewart, Dr K W C	2096
Cumming, D R (SM)	2325	Macgilchrist, Mrs S	2095
Craig, T J (SM)	2323	Cairney, J	2076
Watson, J (IM)	2297	Dyer, M	2073
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2286	Burridge, R J	2070
Montgomery, R S	2263	Harvey, D	2053
Lloyd, G (SM)	2262	Smith, M J	2048

Top 30 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	1313	MacGregor, C A	402
Cumming, D R (SM)	1234	Craig, T J (SM)	372
Burridge, R J	1151	Bennett, P G (SM)	365
MacMillen, A N	1046	Armstrong, J McK	359
Borwell, A P (IM)	1037	Price, D	354
Pyrich, G D (IM)	1019	Kilgour, D A (GM)	331
Hardwick, M E	916	Goodwin, B J	329
Dempster, D	797	Anderson, G M (SM)	298
Lloyd, G (SM)	796	Beveridge, C	293
Coope, D W	791	Campbell, I S	293
Mackintosh, I (IM)	686	Knox, A	289
Marshall, I H	607	Anderson, J	276
Campbell, E S	596	Montgomery, R S	275
Giulian, P M (SIM)	473	Dunn, J	264
Beecham, C R (SIM)	420	Neil, C	252

Other Notes

This list includes a number of our members who are registered with other countries, and members who have played <12 games and have yet to receive a provisional rating. Players registered as SCO with ICCF, but who are not SCCA members, have been filtered out.

To check your rating online at any time, go to the ICCF webserver site (www.iccf-webchess.com), click on the Rating list link then complete the search boxes.

Note that ICCF (Gerhard Binder) has now discontinued support for the Eloquary program, previously available for download from www.iccf.com

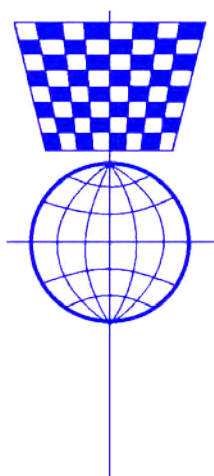
The Eloquary software is now incompatible with 64-bit versions of the Windows operating system.

A number of useful online rating enquiry facilities are available at www.iccf-webchess.com



AGM 2017

By Iain Mackintosh



- Meeting:** The 40th AGM of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association.
- Venue:** Sunday 28th May, 2017, 4pm by Skype.
- Present:** Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Gordon Anderson, Alan Borwell, Kevin Paine, George Pyrich, (all Skype).
- Apologies:** Richard Beecham, Alastair Dawson,.

Minutes of the 39th AGM

On the proposal of Gordon Anderson, seconded by George Pyrich, the minute of the meeting held on 12th June 2016 was accepted as an accurate record and approved.

Matters arising from the 39th AGM

None.

President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh summarised another busy year for the SCCA. All domestic events, except the Postal League, ran on schedule and results are summarised below. Internationally, we continued to participate actively in both team and individual events (refer separate report below).

Our website was regularly updated with new content. Our Facebook page was quieter but has a worldwide following. The online magazine was produced on schedule each quarter; subscribers to the 2017 printed version were down slightly.

Once again, the SCCA has been indebted to its hard-working committee members and tournament directors, all of whom deserve generous thanks for their efforts and commitment.

Secretary's Report

Kevin Paine reported that membership currently stands at 26 Annual (2 new members; 6 lapses); with 1 new Life member. A further 100 Patron and Life members are on our list.

Iain Mackintosh reported that the 2016-17 Championship was won outright by David Cumming. Mickey Blake won the 2016 Premier with a 100% score of 7/7. Andrew Macmillan won the Open with a score of 6½/8. Mickey Blake and Robert Gilbert shared the Challengers with scores of 7½/8 and 7½/12 respectively. The Postal League wasn't contested due to insufficient entries, but the Webserver League again featured 3 divisions: In 1, Hounds of the Scheming Mind B triumphed with 15½/24; in 2, Social A won with 19/24; and in 3, White Rose B finished on top with 24½/28. The 4th Annual Best Game Prize was adjudicated by Tom Matheis and won by Kevin Paine.

Treasurer's Report

Gordon Anderson presented a full set of accounts and once again expressed his thanks to Alan Hind for an efficient audit. We ended the year to 31st March 2017 showing a surplus of £852 (2016: -£420 deficit) and net assets of £11,185 (2016: £10,333).

Income in the 12 month period amounted to £2,131 (2016: £2,135). Increases were recorded in membership income (partly due to late 2016 renewals); one new subscription for life membership; and donation income. These increases were offset by reductions in entry fees for ICCF tournaments, interest income, team league fees, magazine income and 100 club pledges.

Expenditure in the year reduced to £1,279 (2016: £2,556). The main reason was the absence of costs for this year's ICCF Congress in Bremen, plus a modest reduction in ICCF entry fees.

Our overall financial position remains very satisfactory. Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon and Alan Hind which was unanimously agreed. Gordon moved adoption of the audited accounts, seconded by George Pyrich and unanimously agreed.

International Secretary's Report

George Pyrich reported that our team contesting the 21st Olympiad Preliminaries currently sits on top of its section, albeit with more games completed than our nearest challengers. The Semi-Finals of the 11th European Team Championship are scheduled to commence on 1 June with our team being 1. Tom Matheis 2. Richard Beecham 3. Clive Murden 4. Alan Bell 5. Iain Mackintosh 6. Peter Bennett 7. Gordon Anderson 8. Kevin Paine.

The SCCA Selection Committee (George Pyrich, Tom Matheis and Richard Beecham) recently selected teams for the 3rd North Sea Team Tournament (1. David Kilgour 2. David Cumming 3. Robert Montgomery 4. Eoin Campbell 5. Alastair Dawson 6. Derek Price), and the Esko Nuutilainen Memorial Team Tournament (1. David Kilgour 2. Alan Borwell 3. Geoff Lloyd 4. Eoin Campbell 5. Colin Beveridge 6. Alastair Dawson). George Pyrich is Team Captain in both events.

New friendly matches were started against Canada, Indonesia, Italy and Finland during the year. A total of 88 entries were submitted for ICCF Individual events during 2016 and a further 19 to date in 2017. Our team secured first place on tie-break in the 2015/16 BCCA British Team Championship. David Cumming is our representative in the 9th ICCF Interzonal Tournament (Board 5) and Eoin Campbell is presently playing in the 4th Welsh Federation International Tournament.

All VWC3 trophies have now been received by the winners (IM Frits Bleker of Greece, Viktor Ibragimov of Russia and SIM Tor-Arne Klausen of Norway). Likewise, all VWC4 trophies have now been received by the winners (IM Reinhard Sikorsky of Germany, Francesco De Filippis of Italy and SIM Ante Ljubičić, of Croatia). This completes Scotland's sponsorship of VWCs 2-4.

Both David Cumming and Peter Bennett secured the newly-introduced CCE and CCM ICCF titles. Several other players now hold one or more norms towards one or both. The 2017 ICCF Congress will be held in Albena, Bulgaria from 2nd to 8th September, with George attending as delegate.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to George which was unanimously agreed. Alan Borwell moved adoption of George's report, seconded by Gordon Anderson and unanimously agreed.

Election of Office Bearers

The following office-bearers were elected to office for 2017-18. Titled office bearers were proposed en bloc by Alan Borwell and seconded by George Pyrich; ordinary committee members were proposed by Gordon Anderson and seconded by George Pyrich.

Office	Name
President	Iain Mackintosh
Vice President	George Pyrich
International Secretary	George Pyrich
Secretary¹	
Membership Officer	Kevin Paine
Treasurer	Gordon Anderson
Committee Members	Alan Borwell Alastair Dawson

¹ No nomination received. Kevin Paine (enquiries and domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes and trophies) will provide interim cover.

Appointment of Auditor

Alan Hind was proposed by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Kevin Paine, and duly reappointed.

Subscriptions

Gordon Anderson proposed no change to domestic membership and entry fees for 2017-18. This was seconded by Kevin Paine and unanimously agreed.

AOB

A vote of thanks to the chair was proposed by Alan Borwell and unanimously agreed.



SCCA Accounts 2016-17

By Gordon Anderson

2015-16			Profit & Loss	2016-17		
Income	Expenses	Net		Income	Expenses	Net
189.00			General	224.00		
0.00			Annual Members (@£7)	100.00		
0.00			Life Members (@£100)	0.00		
164.18			Patron Members (@£125)	247.00		
	0.00		Donations		0.00	
108.85			Chess Scotland Grant/Donation			
	16.55		Bank Interest	83.90		
	45.00		Committee Expenses		0.00	
	57.96		Chess Scotland Affiliation Fee		45.00	
	70.00	<u>272.52</u>	ICCF Affiliation Fee		63.38	
			Auditor's Fee		70.00	<u>476.52</u>
			Domestic Competitions			
33.00			Individual Entry Fees	38.00		
128.00			Team League Fees	114.00		
	127.90		ICCF Webserver Fees		120.41	
	144.00		Prizes & Trophies		56.96	
	0.00	<u>-110.90</u>	Controllers' Expenses		0.00	<u>-25.37</u>
			International Competitions			
0.00		<u>0.00</u>	International Match Fees	0.00		<u>0.00</u>
			ICCF Competitions			
511.50	395.30		Individual & Team Fees	313.50	180.95	
	0.00	<u>116.20</u>	Bank Transfer Fees		0.00	<u>132.65</u>
			Magazine			
81.00			New Magazine Email (@£3)	96.00		
65.00			New Magazine Printed (@£5)	40.00		
	140.84	<u>5.16</u>	Printing & Postage		137.40	<u>-1.40</u>
			Website			
0.00	0.00		ISP Connection Fees (Donation)	0.00	0.00	
0.00	0.00	<u>0.00</u>	Domain Registration (Donation)	16.78	16.78	<u>0.00</u>
			100 Club			
855.00			Units Bought	839.00		
	540.00		Prizes		540.00	
	0.00	<u>315.00</u>	Repayment of Units		0.00	<u>299.00</u>
			Other			
0.00	53.50		Miscellaneous	35.90	65.00	
	965.06	<u>-1018.56</u>	ICCF Delegate Travel		0.00	<u>-29.10</u>
<u>2135.53</u>	<u>2556.11</u>	<u>-420.58</u>	Surplus/Deficit	<u>2148.08</u>	<u>1295.88</u>	<u>852.20</u>

Balance Sheet 2016-17

Bank Summary	Opening	Payins	Withdrawn	Written Off	Transfers	Closing	2015-16
BoS Current	1222.27	1947.40	1894.10	0.00	0.00	1275.57	
Barclays	9940.17	83.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	10024.07	
	<u>11162.44</u>	<u>2031.30</u>	<u>1894.10</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11299.64</u>	<u>11162.44</u>

Net Opening/Closing **137.30**

Liabilities	Creditor	Debtor		
100 Club Prizes Unpresented	30.00			
100 Club Received For 2017-18	9.00			
Cheque 10573 Unpresented	60.00			
Cheque 10564 Unpresented	15.00			
Subtotals/Net	<u>114.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>-114.00</u> <u>-829.00</u>

Net Assets at March 31, 2017 **11185.64** **10333.44**

Capital Account

Balances b/f		9333.44	9754.02
Surplus/Deficit		852.20	-420.58
Subtotal		<u>10185.64</u>	<u>9333.44</u>
Less Allocation to Development Account		0.00	0.00
Balances c/f		<u>10185.64</u>	<u>9333.44</u>

Development Account

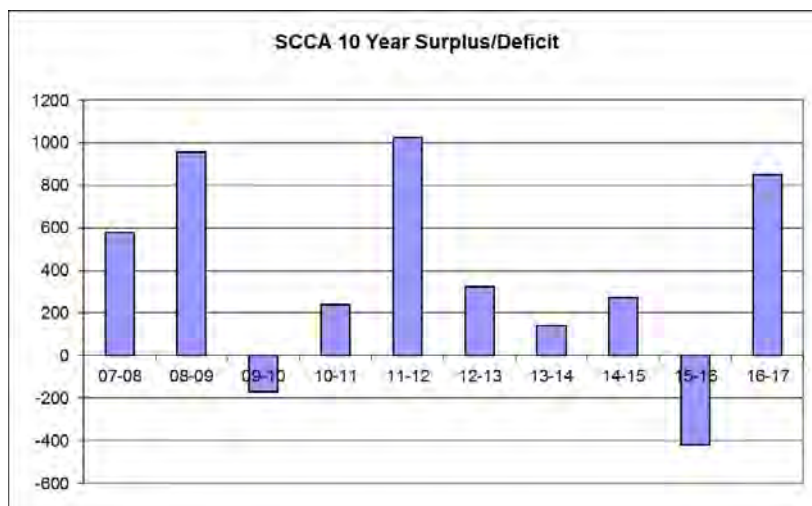
Balance b/f		1000.00	1000.00
Allocation from Capital Account		0.00	0.00
		<u>1000.00</u>	<u>1000.00</u>

Account Totals **11185.64** **10333.44**

Auditor's Report

I have examined the foregoing accounts and have obtained such explanations as I considered necessary. In my opinion these accounts have been properly prepared from the accounting records of the Association and are in agreement therewith.

Alan Hind, CA, May 2017.



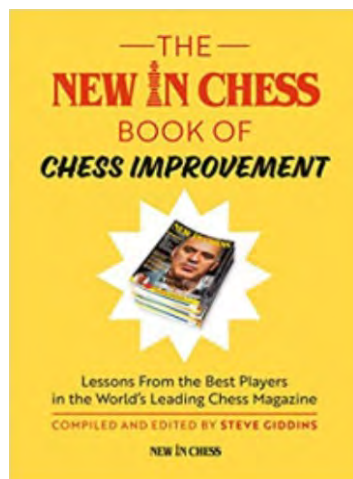


How to Improve at Chess: A Brief Reflection

By Peter Bennett

“...Studying well-annotated master games is the best way to learn the skills that really matter...” Discuss!

An interesting essay topic? Maybe we could award a prize for the best submission in not more than 1200 words?



The quote is taken from a New in Chess advertisement for one of its latest publications - the implication, if their claim about learning is true, being that we will all go straight out and buy the book. That is one reason to be suspicious of the claim; but I politely disagree with it, anyway. I say “politely” because I have had two articles published in the New in Chess yearbook; and I mustn’t bite the hand that feeds me, so to speak.

Personally, I would prefer the variant wording “...Studying games well-annotated by masters is the best way to learn the skills that really matter...” The difference, of course, is that the games themselves need not be “master” games – in which case it might be quite unnecessary to buy this particular book, which happens to be full of master games – not the outcome the publisher seeks.

In times past, especially in the 1960s and 1970s all the world’s leading players produced their own games collections. I spent years systematically playing through these collections, hoping that some of the expertise would somehow rub off on me. My advice to fellow chess enthusiasts today is that you may not learn as much as you would hope to from playing through the best games of Petrosian and, later, Karpov. The ideas which fuelled their success are largely beyond the grasp of ordinary players. I learned much more from playing through the refreshingly simple collection by David Bronstein, “200 Open Games”, even though the games themselves have surprisingly few annotations.

To learn from the masters, most of us would do better to go back to the original writings of Capablanca and Nimzowitch, if we haven’t studied them already. Similarly Max Euwe’s “Judgment and Planning in Chess” is a far

more useful text for ordinary mortals than is any ambitious attempt to immerse ourselves in Kasparovian complications.

One invariant characteristic of masters in every generation is their understanding of the endgame. This allows them to play both the openings and middle game positions in a qualitatively different way to club players. Let me give a simple illustration. Playing for a win with Black a master might sacrifice a pawn for an ambitious attack knowing (for example) that if the attack fails the worst that can happen is that he finds himself in a rook ending, a pawn down.

Masters know exactly how to draw such endings. Most of the rest of us don’t, at least not OTB. So masters can take more risks than club players might be advised to. In other words, mimicking master play is fraught with danger, whereas strengthening our understanding about basic chess principles is the far better pathway to learning.

It is exactly the same in other sports. A master golfer can take a driver off the tee down a narrow fairway, while a club player is better advised to take an iron from the tee and pull up short, as otherwise their ball is highly likely to end up in the trees. So also in chess.

It has never ceased to amaze me that chess columns in newspapers almost invariably concentrate on the latest exploits of the world’s top 20 OTB players. Why so? “Because that is where the best chess is played” said an OBT chess club friend. “Not at all,” I replied, “the best chess is played in the CC code, but CC games never appear in newspapers”, a comment which brought a look of horror to my friend’s face.

So I told him the story of how I once attended an OTB master tournament as a spectator. The event was very strong: Peter Leko, then ranked 5th in the world, could only manage second place. I wrote an article about the event for a CC magazine. The editor, a CC-IM, accepted my script but added a lot of comments of his own, the most galling of which was: “as usual in OTB tournaments, most of the wins arose from absolute blunders by the defender!” which he then proceeded to illustrate (gleefully) with comments on specific games which he had downloaded from the internet.

So why do newspaper columns persist in reporting on “top” OTB tournaments, almost exclusively? I think the main reason is that newspapers are essentially a means of publicising the game and maintaining the celebrity status of top players. Furthermore, even an ageing GM who no longer plays, but instead writes a column, can find flaws in any OTB game with the benefit of hindsight and an engine.

How would such a columnist, even an OTB GM, know how to annotate a game between Dronov and Ljubicic? To be honest, I think they would be struggling.



June 11th 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Lithuanian/Australian chessmaster

Romanas Arlauskas



[Photo Source: margiris.vpprojektai.lt/arlauskas/ Including a detailed biography in Lithuanian]

Born 11th June 1917 in Kaunas, Arlauskas played on sixth board for Lithuania (+4 -7 =7) in the unofficial 1936 Chess Olympiad in Munich. At the end of World War II, along with many other Baltic-state players, he slipped away to Germany before the Soviet forces arrived.

He next emigrated to Australia arriving in Fremantle on board the General Stewart on the 12th February 1948. The following year won the South Australian championship and then the Australian Correspondence Championship. Due to professional and family commitments, he declined a place in the 2nd World Correspondence Championship Final won by Ragosin, and in which another Baltic émigré representing

Australia, Lucius Endzelins, was runner-up a mere half-point behind the winner.

Arlauskas would play in the 4th Final (1962-1965) finishing 3rd behind Zagorovsky and USSR champion Borisenko and thus attaining the CC Grandmaster title.

His quest for the world title is the theme of our games selection. His score was marred by a sole defeat, to Lim Hong Gie; but against the very strong USSR postal exponents – Borisenko, Dubinin, and Tolush – there were important draws – all with black. In the “two-pointer” game against the fourth Soviet and eventual winner Zagorovsky the Lithuanian played very well and possibly had a winning game, but settled for a draw when failing to convert the queen-ending. That’s how close he came to a higher spot on the podium.

Arlauskas was employed as an architect for the Australian government. He passed away in October 2009 at 92 years-of-age.

4th CC World Championship

Observations on the pairings and results:

“Romanas, the dice were loaded from the start.”

The USSR had no fewer than 4 top-class postal players admitted to this Final.

Zagorovsky had the White pieces against all three fellow USSR representatives and without dominating any of the three games, netted 2 points. The full point against Tolush made possible by a very serious positional blunder (24... Nf4?) by his compatriot, who had played particularly well up to that juncture.

Arlauskas had Black against the same three and had draws with all three, particularly brief ones conceded by Borisenko and Tolush, and almost got a win against Dubinin (see our last game).

White: Arlauskas, Romanas
Black: Zagorovsky, Vladimir

4th CC World Championship

1962-65

Slav Defence [D16]

[Original notes by John E Hawkes]

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 c6
- 3.Nf3 d5
- 4.Nc3 dxc4
- 5.a4 Na6

The Smyslov Variation: "In the Spring of 1961 grandmaster Stahlberg told me that the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet wanted me to play a game with him by telegraph. When we drew for colours, it was my opponent who obtained the white pieces. The game lasted two and a half months." - Smyslov 1...d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Na6 6.Ne5 Ng4 7.Nxc4 e5 8.e3 Nb4 9.h3 exd4 10.hxg4 dxc3 11.bxc3 Qxd1+ 12.Kxd1 Nd5 13.Kc2 Bxg4 14.f3 Be6 15.Rb1 Nb6 16.Nxb6 axb6 17.Rxb6 Bc8 18. Bd3 Rxa4 19.Rb1 h6 20.Bb2 Bc5 21.Ra1 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 Ke7 23.Ba3 Bxa3 24.Rxa3 Kd6 25.Kd2 Be6 26.e4 g5 27.Ke3 Kc5 28.Ra7 b5 29.e5 h5 30.f4 gxf4+ 31.Kxf4 h4 32. Be4 h3 33.gxh3 Rh4+ 34.Ke3 Rxh3+ 35.Kd2 Kb6 0-1 Gideon Stahlberg - Vasily Smyslov, Corres.1961

I found this example of Smyslov's artistry on the Chessgames.com site: Zagorovsky and Arlauskas might possibly have known it prior to their encounter.

- 6.e4 Bg4
- 7.Bxc4 e6
- 8.Be3 Be7
- 9.0-0 Nb4



Just prior to our game starting Vladimirov - Bagirov in the USSR Championship, Baku 1961, had continued: 10.Qe2 0-0 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nc2 13. Rad1 Nxe3 14.fxe3 Qa5 15.Qe2 Rad8 16.Ba2 e5 and White tried to punish Bagirov's breakout by 17.Rf5 0-1 (58 moves)

10.a5 0-0
 10...Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nc2 12.e5 Nxa1
 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Rxa1+-
11.Qb3 Bxf3
12.gxf3 Qc7
13.Ra4 Na6
14.Rc1 e5?
 14...Nh5!?
15.Bxa6 bxa6



16.Nd5! Nxd5
17.Qxd5
 17.exd5 Rab8 18.Qc3 exd4 19.Bxd4 Qf4 20.dxc6 Rb3! and with Bd6 threatened White would be advised to accept the perpetual on his king.
 21.Qxb3 Qxc1+ 22.Kg2 Qg5+ etc.
17... exd4
 17...cxd5 18.Rxc7 when a possible line of play was ... 18...Bf6 19.exd5 Rfd8 20.Rac4 exd4 21.Bxd4 Rxd5 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.b4±
18.Rxc6 Qb7
19.Bxd4 Rad8
20.Qe5 Rxd4
21.Rxd4 Qxc6
22.Qxe7+- h6
23.Rd5

23.b4 Qc3!
 23... **Rc8**
24.Rd8+ Rxd8
25.Qxd8+ Kh7
 26.Qd2
 Or 26.Qd5
 26... **Qg6+**
27.Kh1 Qf6



28.Qc3
 28.f4!? Qc6 29.f3 (with Kg2 to follow) 29...f5 30.Qc3 Qb5!
28... Qg5
29.b3 Qh5
30.b4 Qb5
31.Kg2 Qg5+
32.Kf1 Qh5
33.Qd3
 33.Qb3
33... g6



A very important moment for the result of the Final.
34.Ke2
 34.h4! Qxh4 (simplification into a pawn ending must be won for White; 34...Qb5? 35.Qxb5 axb5 36.Ke2+-)
 35.Qxa6 is a crucial line. Let's not forget the game was played between 1962 and 1965 BCAC (before computer assisted chess) . I don't have today's technology so will not attempt an analysis of the diagram position and 34.h4
34... Qxh2
35.Qd7 Qf4

36.Qxa7 Qf6
37.Qe3 Qb2+
38.Qd2 Qb1
39.Qf4 Kg7
40.Qe5+ Kg8
41.Qe8+ Kg7
42.Qe7 Qb3
43.e5 (?)

Here again there seems to be an improvement for Arlauskas, and computer analysis could very well confirm it. 43.Qe5+ Kg8 44.Qc5 Kg7 45.Kd2! Qb2+ (45...Qxf3? 46.Qc3+ and White wins.) 46.Ke3 Qb3+ 47.Kf4 g5+ 48.Kg3 Qd3 49.Kg2+- e.g. 49...Qe2 50.b5!+-
43... Qc4+
44.Ke3 Qc3+
45.Ke2 Qc4+
46.Ke3
 1/2-1/2



White: Dalko, Nandor (HUN)
Black: Arlauskas, Romanas
 4th CC World Championship
 1962-65
 Slav Defence, Exchange Variation
 [D14]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 d5
2.c4 c6
3.Nf3 Nf6
4.cxd5 cxd5
5.Nc3 Nc6
6.Bf4 Bf5
7.e3 e6
8.Bb5 Nd7



9.0-0
 Mazij - Obolonkov, Ukrainian CC 1990-91, is the inescapable reference here: 9.Qa4 Rc8 10.Bxc6 Rxc6 11.Qxa7 Qc8 12.Qa5 Rb6 13.Nb5 Qc4 14.Nc7+ Ke7 15.Qa3+! Kf6?? and Black is dead! (15...Kd8 16.Qa8+ Ke7 17.Qe8+ Kf6 18.Qd8+
 Summer 2017

Be7 19.Be5+ Nxe5 20.dxe5+ Kg6
21.Qxe7+-) 16.Ne8+ Kg6 17.Qxf8!!
Rxf8 18.Nh4+ Kh5 19.Nxg7+ Kxh4
20.h3 and mate is inevitable.

9... Be7
10.Rc1 Rc8
10...0-0 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Rc8
13.h3 Nb6 14.Qe2 Nc4 15.b3 Nd6=
Ruderfer - Belyavsky, Moscow 1979
11.Bd3 Bxd3
12.Qxd3 0-0
13.Bg3

White's play doesn't impress.

13... a6
14.Nd2 Qb6
15.Rb1 Na5
16.b4?

Ought to be avoided somehow or other.

16... Nc4
17.Na4 Qc6
18.Nc5 Nxd2
19.Qxd2 Nb6
20.Rb3 Nc4
21.Qc3? b6
22.Nd3 Qa4
23.Rc1
23.a3? Nd2+-
23... Qxa2
24.Ra1 Qd2!
25.Qxd2 Nxd2
26.Rb2 Nc4
27.Rba2 a5
28.bxa5 bxa5
29.Kf1



Like the first phase, the rest is played impeccably by Black.

29... h5!
30.h3 Rc6
31.Ke2 h4
32.Bh2 Ra8
33.f3 Rca6
34.e4 a4
35.Nc5 Bxc5
36.dxc5 a3
37.Rc1 Rc8
38.Bg1 Rb8
39.Rcc2 f6
40.Bd4 Kf7
41.exd5 exd5

SCCA Magazine 138

42.Kd3 Ke6
43.Bf2 Rb3+
44.Rc3 Nb2+
45.Kc2 Rxc3+
46.Kxc3 Nd1+
47.Kb3 Nxf2
48.Rxf2 a2
49.Rxa2 Rxa2
50.Kxa2 Kd7
51.Kb3 Kc6
52.Kb4 g5

0-1



White: Arlauskas, Romanas
Black: Lundqvist, Åke (SWE)

4th CC World Championship
1962-65

Sicilian Defence [B47]

[Notes by John E Hawkes after
Arlauskas in Adelaide Sunday Mail]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 e6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nc6
5.Nc3 Qc7
6.g3 a6
7.Bg2 Nf6
8.Nb3 Be7
9.0-0 0-0
10.Bf4 d6
11.Qe2 Rd8
12.Rad1 Rb8
13.a4 Ne5



14.Bc1!

Defending the b-pawn in advance
and at the same time planning a k-
side attack.

14... Bd7
15.f4 Nc4
16.g4! b5
17.axb5 axb5
18.g5 Ne8
19.Qf2 b4
19...g6 20.f5! exf5? 21.Nd5+-
20.Ne2 Bf8

13

21.Nbd4 Bc8
22.b3 Na5
23.Be3 g6
24.f5 e5



25.Ne6!

A bold sacrifice which required
precise calculations.

25... fxex6
25...Bxe6 26.fxe6 Rb7 27.e7! Qxe7
28.Bb6 Ra8 29.Ra1 and wins.
26.fxg6 Ng7?



Relatively best was 26...Bg7
27.gxh7+ Kh8! 28.h4 Nc6 29.h5 Ne7
30.g6+-

27.Qxf8+!! Rxf8
28.Rxf8+ Kxf8
29.gxh7 Ne8
30.h8Q+ Ke7
31.g6

1-0

“My best-played game” – Arlauskas.



White: Dubinin, Peter V
Black: Arlauskas, Romanas

4th CC World Championship
1962-65

Sicilian Nimzowitsch [B29]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 c5

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- | | |
|----------|------|
| 2.Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 3.e5 | Nd5 |
| 4.d4 | cxd4 |
| 5.Qxd4 | e6 |
| 6.Bc4 | Nc6 |
| 7.Qe4 | d6 |
| 8.exd6 | Nf6 |
| 9.Qh4 | Bxd6 |
| 10.Bg5 | a6 |
| 11.Nbd2 | b5 |
| 12.0-0-0 | Be7 |
| 13.Ne4 | Bd7 |
| 14.Bd3 | h6 |
| 15.Rhe1 | |



- | | |
|----------|------|
| 15... | Nxe4 |
| 15...Nb4 | |
| 16.Bxe7 | Qxe7 |
| 17.Qxe4 | Rc8 |
| 18.a3 | Rc7 |

A sophisticated re-arrangement of Black's pieces. Castling can wait a while.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 19.Kb1 | Bc8 |
| 20.Nh4 | g6 |
| 21.g3 | 0-0 |
| 22.Qe3 | |

22.Nxg6 fxc6 23.Qxg6+ Qg7±

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 22... | Kg7 |
| 23.f4 | Rd8 |
| 24.Nf3 | Rcd7 |
| 25.h4 | h5 |
| 26.Rd2 | Bb7 |
| 27.Red1 | Qf6! |
| 28.Qb6 | |



28... e5!?



29.Be4

29.Bxg6 was a crucial calculation;
29...Rxd2 30.Rxd2 Rxd2 31.Nxd2
Qxg6 32.Qxb7 exf4 33.gxf4 Nd4
34.Qc7 Qg1+ 35.Ka2 Qe3 36.Qe5+
Qxe5 37.fxe5 Kg6 38.c3 Nc6±

29... Rxd2

30.Rxd2 exf4

31.gxf4

31.Qxb7 Na5! was the point.

31... Rxd2

32.Nxd2 Nd8

33.Qf2 Bc8

34.Bd5



34... Ne6

Dubinín must concede the draw.

½-½



Away from the World Championship, Arlauskas also turned out for Poland in a match against Hungary. This game is an interesting, if imperfect, example of his play with White.

White: Arlauskas, Romanas
Black: Brilla-Banfalvi, Sandor (HUN)

POL v HUN 1973

Nimzoindian Defence [E33]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 1.d4 | Nf6 |
| 2.c4 | e6 |
| 3.Nc3 | Bb4 |
| 4.Qc2 | Nc6 |
| 5.Nf3 | d5 |
| 6.e3 | 0-0 |
| 7.a3 | Bxc3+ |
| 8.Qxc3 | Bd7 |
| 9.Bd3 | a5 |

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 10.b3 | a4 |
| 11.b4 | dx4 |
| 12.Bxc4 | Na7 |
| Interesting play by the Hungarian master. | |
| 13.Ne5 | Bb5 |



- | | |
|----------|------|
| 14.Ba2! | b6 |
| 15.Bb2 | Nd5 |
| 16.Qd2 | f5 |
| 17.g3 | Nc8 |
| 18.0-0-0 | Nd6 |
| 19.Kb1 | Rc8 |
| 20.f3 | Qe7 |
| 21.Rc1 | c6 |
| 22.Rhg1 | Rc7 |
| 23.Rc2 | Kh8 |
| 24.h4 | Nf6 |
| 25.Ka1 | Nd7 |
| 26.Nxd7 | Rxd7 |
| 27.h5 | h6 |
| 28.Qd1 | Nf7 |
| 29.f4 | Nd6 |
| 30.g4 | fxg4 |
| 31.Rxg4 | e5 |



Black's bid for freedom gets a surprise.

32.fxe5!

Keeping the pair of bishops! 32.dxe5
Nc4 33.Qc1 Nxb2 34.Rxb2±

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 32... | Rf1 |
| 33.Qxf1 | Bxf1 |
| 34.exd6 | Qxe3 |
| 35.Rxc6 | Ba6 |
| 36.d5 | Bd3 |

36...Kg8 37.Bb1+
37.Rc8+
 37.Bb1! Bxb1 38.Rc8+ Kh7
 39.Rc7+--
37... Kh7
38.Rc3
 Again, the sure win was with
 38.Bb1! Qe2 (38...Bxb1 39.Rc7! Qb3
 40.Rxg7+ Rxg7 41.Rxg7+ Kh8
 42.Rg3+) 39.Rg2! Qf1 40.Rc1+--
38... Qe2
39.Rd4 Ba6
40.Bb1+ Kg8
41.Bg6
 41.Rc7+--
41... Rxd6
42.Rc1 Rd8
43.Re4 Qd2
44.Re7 Qxd5
45.Rxg7+ Kf8
 Arlauskas' play now loses its cutting
 edge.
46.Rh7

Black avoids mate. 46.Ra7! before
 going to h7 is stronger.

46... Qf3!
47.Rxh6 Rd1
48.Rh8+ Ke7
49.Re8+ Kd7



Equality?

50.Re1 Rd2?
 Black's turn to play inaccurately:
 better moves were 50...Rxe1 51.Rxe1
 Bd3 (or 51...Qh3) ; and 50...Rxc1+
 51.Rxc1 Bd3 but now Romanas
 finishes immaculately.
51.Be8+! Kd6
52.Rc6+ Qxc6
53.Be5+ Kd5
54.Bf7+! Qe6
 and resigns. If 54...Qe6 55.Bxe6+
 Kxe6 56.b5 Bxb5 57.h6 Rd7
 58.Bc3+ Kf5 59.Re5+ Kg6 60.Rxb5
 Kxh6 61.Rxb6+ and a simple win.
1-0



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http://live.margiris.vpprojektai.lt/butnorius70/dgt_chesstheatre.htm
 has a very fine extensive collection of Arlauskas games



Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 6

By John E. Hawkes

White: Kellner, John V
Black: Trajkovic, Mihailo (YU)
 6th World Championship Prelims
 King's Gambit Accepted [C33]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

Not an absolute masterpiece, but I
 have a soft spot for this one by John
 Vincent Kellner played in the 6th
 World Championship Prelims.

1.e4 e5
2.f4 exf4
3.Be2

The Petrov Gambit - although it has
 other names.

3... d5
 3...f5 [Zukertort] 4.exf5 Qh4+ 5.Kf1
 d5 6.Nc3 c6 7.d4 Bd6 was how
 Crawl - Purdy continued in the 1946
 Australian CC Championship.

4.exd5 Nf6
5.Nf3 Nxd5

Black plays the theoretical best:
 5...Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.c4 is favourable
 to White; 5...Bd6 6.c4 c6 7.d4 cxd5
 8.c5 Bc7 9.b4± in Ignatiev - Freidin,
 Moscow 1972.

6.0-0
 Glazkov & Estrin in their Kings
 Gambit (1988) quoted a 1967
 Australian CC game between Hay
 and Fell; 6.c4 Nf6 (They also cited a
 line proposed by Fell going 6...Ne7
 7.d4 Ng6 8.Nc3 Bd6 9.h4 h5 10.Ne4
 Bf5 11.Nfg5 Bxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxh4
 13.Nxd6+ cxd6 14.0-0 Qg5 15.Rf2
 Ng6) 7.d4 Bd6 8.c5 Be7 9.Nc3 0-0
 10.Bxf4 Be6=

6... Bc5+?!
7.d4 Be7
8.Nc3 Nxc3

9.bxc3 g5
 10.Rb1 Nd7
 11.c4 Nf8



12.h4 h6
 13.c3 Ne6
 14.d5 Nc5
 15.Qd4 Rg8
 16.Ne5 Bf5?

Black plays a natural developing move with tempo, but better was 16...Bf6 - now Kellner launches his attack.

17.Bh5! Rf8
 17...Bxb1 18.Nxf7±
 18.Rb5
 18.Nxf7 Rxf7 19.Qg7 and Black defends by 19...Kd7 20.Qxf7 Qf8
 18... Ne4
 19.Re1 a6



Samuel Bak (born 12 August 1933) is another Lithuanian émigré. He was born in Vilnius, then part of Poland.

Samuel is a Polish-Jewish painter and writer who survived the Holocaust and moved to Israel in 1948. Since 1993, he has lived in the United States.

This painting is 'Opponents' from 1998. Hard to spot if these are loaded dice ...

20.Ra5?
 The rook move is the flaw in White's play. 20.Nxf7 Rxf7 21.Rxb7+–

20... b6??
 Black had more than a defence in 20...c5! then 21.dxc6 Qxa5 22.cxb7 Rd8 23.Nc6! Rxd4 24.Nxa5 (24.b8Q+ Rd8 25.Nxd8 Bxd8! 26.Bf3 Qxc3–+) 24...Kd7 25.cxd4 Bb4±
 21.Nc6 Qd7
 22.Rxe4!

Also very strong was 22.Bg4 then if 22...Bxg4 (22...Ng3 23.Qf6) 23.Qxe4 bxa5 24.Qxe7+ Qxe7 25.Rxe7# Arabian mate in mid-board!

22... Bxe4
 23.Qxe4 bxa5
 24.Ba3



I like the rooks being sacrificed for the bishops to decide the game from the wings.

1-0

[Ed: John had previously published a tribute to JVK in Kingpin Magazine. Here's a summary of it:]

"John Kellner (1931-88) was a stylist, some would say eccentric. He was born on the 12th of December 1931 in Blayney NSW, Australia. He married Narelle Jorgensen (born

18.10.34) who was also a very good chessplayer.

John had failed to qualify for the 5th World Championship but won his next preliminary section with eleven wins from 14 games. He finished in joint fifth place in the 6th World Championship, rumour having it that he gave up work to devote all his time and energy to the title chase.

He beat the higher-finishing Estrin with a King's Gambit, bamboozled Theile with 1 e4 e6 2 b3!?, his Reti-inspired favourite against the French, drew comfortably against the formidable Zagorovsky and narrowly failed to upset the tournament winner Rittner using his speciality 3...Be7 in the French, a line of play he pioneered before Romanishin rolled it out in the mid-70s.

However, with the White side of the Sicilian his closed system fell flat and the world title was to rest a dream for a player who could put together some of the most original, profound and complex games to be found in the world of postal chess.

[...] He had been suspended from driving his taxi after an accident in which two young people had been killed. He was suffering from an incurable illness and awaiting trial. Narelle took his life, and a few days later her own."



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Welcome to the summer games collection! Chess manages to avoid close seasons and transfer windows, so there's always a tournament to sustain the interest and generate a game worthy of commentary!

First up is George Pyrich who annotates a nice win in Division 2 of our popular Webserver League. George does a lot of annotations of other players' games, so it's nice to see him look back at one of his own.

White: Pyrich, George D (2104)
Black: Beckett, Phillip J (2028)
SCCA Webserver League 2017
English, Four Knights [A28]
[Notes by George Pyrich]

- 1.c4 e5
- 2.Nc3 Nf6
- 3.Nf3 Nc6
- 4.e4

I've been trying this line in OTB games recently with not bad results. It looks a bit stuffy but it's no worse than the alternatives 4.g3; and 4.e3
4... Bb4
4...Bc5 is the tricky line going 5.Nxe5 Nxe5 6.d4 Bb4 7.dxe5 Nxe4 and then either 8.Qf3 or (8.Qc2) ; 4...d6 is another option when my game against Cecilio Dominguez Marquez in the 2017 Andalucia Veterans Ch. went 5.d4 (I went 5.g3 in another game in this event but had nothing after 5...Bg4 6.Bg2 Qd7) 5...Bg4 6.d5 Nd4 7.Be3 Nxf3+ 8.gxf3 Bh5 9.Be2 and 1-0 in 32 after a few adventures on the way. (9.Bh3 and; 9.Rg1 are interesting.)

- 5.d3 d6
- 6.a3 Bxc3+
- 7.bxc3 h6
- 8.g3 Be6
- 9.Bg2 0-0

Maybe 9...Qd7 preserving his options.

- 10.0-0 Qd7
- 11.Rb1 b6
- 12.Nh4 Rad8
- 13.f4 Bh3
- 14.f5 Bxg2
- 15.Kxg2 Na5
- 16.g4 Qe7



If 16...Nh7 17.f6!; 16...Qc6 17.Qf3 Nd7 18.f6 Nxf6 19.Nf5 and; 16...c6 17.g5 hxc6 were other possibilities. Already White has good attacking prospects. 18.Bxg5

- 17.g5 hxc6
- 18.Bxg5 Rfe8

Another line was 18...c6 going 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Qg4 d5 21.Ng6 Rfe8 (21...fxg6 22.fxg6 Rd6 23.Rxf6 Rfxf6 24.Kh1) 22.Qh5+- Of course there were lots of other possibilities here but White seems to have good prospects, especially if he can get rooks to the g-file.

- 19.Rg1 Kh7
- 19...c6 doesn't help after 20.Kh1 d5 (20...Kf8 21.Nf3 with maybe Qe1 and Qh4) 21.Bh6 Kh7 22.Rxg7+ is great fun. 22...Kxh6 23.Qg1! Nh5
- 24.Rg6+ Kh7 25.f6!

- 20.Kh1 Rh8
- 21.Qd2 Nb7
- 22.Qg2

and wins after

- 22... Nc5
- 22...Kg8 loses after 23.Bh6 Nh5
- 24.Bxg7 Qxh4 25.Bf6+ Ng3+
- 26.Qxg3+ Qxg3 27.Rxg3+ Kf8
- 28.Bxh8+-

- 23.Rbf1 Nxd3
- 24.Rf3

1-0



Raymond Burrige is a regular contributor, often covering the postal scene which survives despite the domination of webserver chess. Here, Raymond covers a game in this year's BCCA Postal Gold Medal event.

White: Burrige, Raymond (2142)
Black: Phillips, Peter (2029)
BCCA Postal Gold Medal 2017
Pirc Defence, Austrian Attack [B09]
[Notes by Raymond Burrige]

- 1.e4 d6
- 2.d4 Nf6
- 3.Nc3 g6
- 4.f4 Bg7
- 5.Nf3 0-0
- 6.Bd3 Bg4

More common is 6... Nc6, even 6... Na6 (a feasible alternative which I first came across from an article by John Nunn in Chess magazine [August 1978 issue!]

- 7.h3 Bxf3
- 8.Qxf3 Nc6
- 9.Be3

Now I have the choice of castling either side.

- 9... Nb4
- 10.0-0 Nxd3+
- 11.Rxd3



I am happy with my position obtained from the opening; an attack on the kingside is ready to be launched.

- 11... c6
- 12.e5 Nd7
- 13.h4 Qa5
- 14.h5 Rfd8
- 15.hxc6 hxc6
- 16.Kb1 Nf8
- 17.g4 f5

Other alternatives aren't too attractive e.g. 17...Rd7 18.Rd2 or; 17...Qc7 18.Qh3

- 18.gxf5 gxf5
- 19.Qh5 e6

20.Bf2 Rd7
21.Rg3



21.Rg3 dxe5 22.Qh8+ Kf7 23.Rxg7+ Ke8 24.Rhg1 or; 21.Rg3 Qc7 22.Qh8+ Kf7 23.Rxg7+ Ke8 24.Qh5+ Rf7 25.exd6
1-0



Alastair Dawson is a previous SCCA champion (2008-09) and returned to action last year after a lengthy break. Here he is in action in this year's Championship.

White: Dawson, Alastair (2113)
Black: Burridge, Raymond (2142)
SCO/C2017 (SCO)
King's Indian Classical [E92]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.Nf3 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.d4 Bg7
4.Nc3 0-0
5.e4 d6
6.Be2 e5
7.d5 a5
8.h3 Na6
9.Bg5

9.g4 also scores well for White.

9... h6
9...Nc5 also looks worth a try.

10.Be3 Nh5
11.Nd2±

This looks the strongest option.

11... Nf4
And this is the only riposte on the ICCF database.

12.Bf1
Anything else gives Black an edge.

12... f5
12...Nb4 is a serious contender here, scoring better on the ICCF database.

13.g3



13... Nd3+?!

Black sacs a pawn to clear lines.

14.Bxd3 f4

15.Qe2 fxe3

16.Qxe3 Qf6?!

16...Bd7 17.Be2 a4 18.a3 Qf6
19.Rh2 Nc5 20.0-0-0 Rad8 21.Kb1
Rb8 22.h4 Ra8 23.h5 g5 24.f3 Ra6
25.Nb5 c6 26.Nc3 Rb8 27.Nf1 Ra5
28.g4 Nb3 29.Ng3 Nd4 30.Nf5 Bxf5
31.gxf5 Qf7 32.Rc1 Nb3 33.Re1
Nd4 34.Rg1 Bf6 35.Rhg2 Kf8
36.Rf1 Rba8 37.Qd3 Rc5 38.Rfg1 b5
39.cxb5 cxb5 40.Rf1 Rb8 41.Na2
Rbc8 42.Nb4 Bd8 43.Rgg1 Bb6
44.Rh1 Kg7 45.Rd1 Ba5 46.f4 Bxb4
47.fxg5 hxg5 48.axb4 Rc2 49.h6+
Kh7 50.Bh5 Qc7 51.Bg6+ Kh8 52.f6
a3 53.Qxa3 g4 54.f7 Qc4 55.Rhg1 g3
56.f8Q+ ½-½ was Lifanov, Vasily
(2425) v Cumming, David (2319)
Ukraine v Scotland 2012.;

16...Nb4 looks a better try also.

17.Be2± a4

18.h4 h5

19.Rh2 Nb4

Not as good here as previously.

19...Nc5 is maybe better.



20.0-0-0

Definitely best.

20... a3

21.b3 Bd7

22.Kb1 c5

23.Rg1!+- Kf7

24.Nf3 Ke7

25.Ng5 Bh6

26.Rgg2 Be8

27.f3

And Black called a halt. No fireworks in this game, but a very controlled performance by White.

1-0



Mark Smith made his debut in this year's Championship, and here he takes on Eoin Campbell, a player who has an eye for tactical opportunities.

White: Campbell, Eoin (2121)

Black: Smith, Mark (2034)

SCO/C2017 (SCO)

French Defence [C18]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 e6

2.e4 d5

3.Nc3 Bb4

4.e5 c5

5.a3 Ba5

6.b4 cxd4

7.Qg4 Kf8

The most practical choice.

8.Nb5 Bb6

9.Nf3 Ne7



10.Nbxd4N

Apparently a first for CC.

10... Nd7

11.Bb2 Qc7

12.Qf4 Kg8

13.c4 Ng6

14.Qd2 a6

15.c5 Ba7

16.Be2 Ndx5

17.Nxe5 Nxe5

18.0-0 h5

19.f4 Ng4

20.Rae1 Rh6=

After 20 moves, it looks an even game. Black has an extra pawn but White controls more of the board.

21.a4 Bd7
 22.Qc3 Nf6
 23.a5 Rf8
 24.Bd1
 24.Nf3 eyeing e5 is a good alternative.
 24... Re8
 Not a bad move, but loses a tempo after his 23rd.
 25.Bc2 h4
 26.Nf3 Bb5
 27.Rf2 Bb8
 28.Nd4 Bc6
 29.Nxc6 bxc6
 30.Qf3 Qd7
 31.Bd3 Qb7
 32.Bc3 Nh5
 33.Bd2 Nf6
 34.Bc3 Bc7
 35.Ree2 Kf8
 36.g3 hxg3
 37.hxg3 Ke7
 38.Rh2 Rhh8
 39.Rh1 Rxh1+
 40.Qxh1 Kd7
 After 40 moves, it's still cagey stuff. No significant advantage to either party, and accuracy more noticeable than risk-taking.
 41.Rb2 Kc8
 42.Qh4 Bd8
 43.Qg5 Kb8
 44.Bd4
 Avoiding 44.Qxg7 Rg8 45.Qh6 Rxg3+ 46.Rg2 Rxd3 47.Bxf6 Rd1+ 48.Kh2=
 44... Ka8
 45.Qe5 Rh8
 46.Qe2 Qd7
 47.Rb1?
 47.Qf3 maintains equality.
 47... Bc7!
 48.Rf1 Qd8
 49.Kg2
 49.Bxa6 Ne4 50.Rf3 e5 51.fxe5 Qd7 and Black's attack looks promising.
 49... Qb8
 50.Be5 Rh6
 51.Bxc7 Qxc7
 52.Qe5



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52... Rh2+!
 53.Kg1
 53.Kxh2? Ng4+
 53... Qc8
 54.Re1
 54.f5 Ra2 55.fxe6 Qxe6 56.Re1 Qxe5 57.Rxe5 doesn't look too bad for White.
 54... Ra2
 55.Bf1?
 55.Ra1 Rxa1+ 56.Qxa1 offers White some prospects.
 55... Ra3!
 and Black will mop up the White pawns.

0-1



Geoff Lloyd has performed well in the VWC9 Preliminaries, finishing 2nd and qualifying for the semi-finals. Here he plays a Belgian opponent who finished 3rd.

White: Lloyd, Geoffrey (2251)
Black: Vuillemin, Gaston (2151)
 VWC9 /pr 34 ICCF, 2016
 Colle System [D05]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 d5
 2.Nf3 Nf6
 3.e3 e6
 4.Bd3 c5
 5.c3 Nc6
 6.Nbd2 Bd6
 7.dxc5
 Black scores well against 7.0-0
 7... Bxc5
 8.0-0 0-0
 9.b4

Geoff had previously drawn with 9.e4 against Stoyan Petkov, Scotland v Bulgaria, 2014.

9... Bd6
 10.Bb2 e5
 11.e4 dxe4
 12.Nxe4 Nxe4
 13.Bxe4 Be6
 14.Qd3N

14.Re1 was the only previous try.

14... h6
 15.Rfd1 Bc7
 16.Qe2 Qe7
 17.a3 Bb3
 18.Rdc1!

Aiming to ask questions of the Black Bb3.

18... f5
 19.Bxc6 bxc6
 20.c4 e4

21.a4 Rab8
 21...Qxb4 22.Ba3
 22.Nd4 Rxb4?!
 22...Qxb4 looked a better try]
 23.Ba3 Qe5
 24.g3 Qxd4
 25.Bxb4 c5
 26.Bc3 Qd3
 27.Qxd3 exd3



28.Rcb1 Rb8
 28...Bxc4 29.Rb7 Rf7 30.Rxa7+-
 29.Rb2+-

White is clearly winning now.

29... Bxc4
 30.Rxb8+ Bxb8
 31.Rb1 Bd6
 32.Rb7 a5
 33.Rxg7+ Kf8
 34.Rb7 f4
 35.Bxa5 Ke8
 36.Bd2 Bd5
 37.Rb6 Kd7
 38.gxf4 c4
 39.Kf1 h5
 40.Ke1 Kc7
 41.a5 Bc5
 42.Rb2 Bb7
 43.Bc3 Bd6
 44.Be5

A commanding performance from Geoff, both tactically and positionally.

1-0





International Update

By George Pyrich

ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries

CCO21/S4, ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries - Section 04

TD Millstone, Michael (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Scotland	2393	█	3	2	2.5	3	3	2	3	2.5	2	23	52	2	4	44	10	1
2	Wales	2348	3	█	3.5	2	2	2	1.5	2.5	2	2	20.5	51	1	3	40	14	2
3	Brazil	2376	2	2.5	█	3	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	3	0.5	20.5	50	0	2	41	13	3
4	Romania	2445	2.5	2	3	█	1.5	2	1	3	2.5	2.5	20	54	3	2	37	17	4
5	Lithuania	2511	3	2	2.5	1.5	█	2	1.5	3	1.5	2.5	19.5	55	4	2	35	19	5
6	Ukraine	2434	3	2	2	2	2	█	1.5	2	0.5	3	18	54	3	2	33	21	6
7	Argentina	2458	2	2.5	2.5	1	1.5	1.5	█	1.5	3	1	16.5	53	2	1	31	23	7
8	South Africa	2245	2	1.5	2.5	2	1	1	1.5	█	2	1.5	15	39	-8	0	38	16	8
9	Hong Kong	2301	1.5	2	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	2	3	█	1.5	14.5	42	-5	1	34	20	9
10	Norway	2380	2	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	1	1	2.5	2.5	█	14.5	46	-2	0	31	23	10

The team continues to do well in this event thus far scoring 23 points from 44 completed games (2 wins and 42 draws!). With 10 games remaining unfinished the team could make a serious challenge for 1 of the 2 qualifying places.

NATT 7

NATT/7, North Atlantic Team Tournament VII

TD Martello, Juan Alberto (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Wales	2296	█	3.5	5	3.5	4.5	4	3.5	4	3.5	4.5	4.5	5	45.5	56	11	12	80	8	1
2	Portugal	2356	4.5	█	3	3	4.5	3	4.5	4.5	2.5	3.5	5.5	3.5	42	56	10	10	74	14	2
3	U.S.A.	2398	3	4	█	3.5	4	4	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	5	4	41	50	1	6	81	7	3
4	England	2396	3.5	3	4.5	█	3.5	2.5	4.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	4	38.5	55	7	7	70	18	4
5	France	2359	3.5	2.5	4	2.5	█	3	3	5	3.5	3	4	4.5	38.5	50	1	6	76	12	5
6	U.S.A.-II	2386	3	3	4	2.5	3	█	3	4	1.5	4.5	5.5	3	37	53	5	6	69	19	6
7	Norway	2390	3.5	3.5	4.5	2.5	3	2	█	2.5	2.5	4.5	4	4	36.5	48	-2	6	75	13	7
8	España - Desafío	2348	3	2.5	5	2.5	3	3	4.5	█	3	2.5	3	4	36	47	-4	5	76	12	8
9	España-Fortuna	2360	3.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	4	█	3	5.5	3	36	53	5	3	67	21	9
10	Canada	2320	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3	2.5	3.5	3.5	3	█	3.5	2	35	49	-1	0	71	17	10
11	Scotland	2184	1.5	2.5	2	2.5	3	2.5	4	3	2.5	1.5	█	4.5	29.5	38	-18	3	77	11	11
12	Iceland	2330	2	1.5	2	2	2.5	3	2	4	3	2	2.5	█	26.5	38	-15	1	68	20	12

The team's woes in this event have continued since last time – presently the team has 29.5 points from 77 completed games and is second-bottom of the table contesting the wooden spoon position with Iceland.

Current Friendly Internationals

GB/TriNat/2016, British Tri-Nations 2016

TD Ylonen, Olli

			1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Wales	2029	█	11	12.5	23.5	63	10	4	37	3	1
2	England	2061	9	█	12	21	52	2	2	40	0	2
3	Scotland	1991	4.5	8	█	12.5	33	-12	0	37	3	3

A few games still remain unfinished in this event where the team's last place was confirmed some months ago.

GB/TriNat/2017, British Tri-Nations 2017

TD Sitorus, Yosua

			1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	England	2034	■	5	1.5	6.5	72	4	0	9	39	1
2	Scotland	1973	1	■	2.5	3.5	34	-3	0	10	38	2
3	Wales	2003	1.5	1.5	■	3	42	-1	0	7	41	3

The 2017 edition of this event started on 1st May with the same 12 players as in 2016 in Team Scotland. The team unfortunately has made a rather slow start with 3.5 points from 10 completed. There remains a long way to go however with plenty of time for the team to catch up.

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Apr 2017	21	Finland	Server	2½	3½		
Dec 2016	24	Italy	Server	8	27		loss
Dec 2016	8	Indonesia	Server	9	5		win
Nov 2016	26	Canada	Server	17	24		
Oct 2015	25	Australia	Server	26½	22½		win

Our match against Italy is pretty much a no contest we presently trail 8–27. We also trail although not quite so badly against Canada 12–20 A new match against Finland over 21 boards started on 28 April where we currently trail 2½–3½. On happier notes we have secured victory in the 8 board match against Indonesia and we have extended our winning score against Australia to 26½–22½. Our antipodean friends however are thirsting for revenge and a return fixture will be starting soon.

NSTT 3

North-Sea/TT3, North Sea Team Tournament 3

TD Doorn, Jos P. M. van

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Netherlands B	2264	■	3.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	3	4	31	54	5	11	57	3	1
2	France	2302	2.5	■	3.5	2.5	2	3	3	2	2.5	3.5	2	26.5	55	5	6	48	12	2
3	England	2346	3.5	2.5	■	2	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	1	23	56	5	4	41	19	3
4	Sweden	2274	2.5	2.5	2	■	1.5	2	2	1	1.5	4	3	22	57	6	3	38	22	4
5	Netherlands A	2280	2.5	3	2.5	1.5	■	1.5	2.5	1.5	3	3	1	22	50	0	3	44	16	5
6	Denmark	2371	3.5	2	2.5	1	2.5	■	1	0.5	3	1.5	0	17.5	53	2	3	33	27	6
7	Belgium	2210	2.5	2	0.5	2	1.5	1	■	1	2.5	2	2	17	45	-3	0	37	23	7
8	Germany	2288	2.5	2	1.5	1	2.5	1.5	2	■	1	2	0	16	57	4	0	28	32	8
9	Scotland	2164	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	2	1	1.5	1	■	2	1.5	14	40	-7	0	35	25	9
10	Iceland	2338	3	1.5	1.5	2	2	0.5	1	1	1	■	0	13.5	34	-12	1	39	21	10
11	Norway	2236	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1.5	2	■	9.5	39	-5	0	24	36	11

Unfortunately the team has been unable to turn things round since our last report and continues to struggle near the foot of the table. Almost half its games remain unfinished however and things might just improve in the second half!

British CC Team Championship 2016/17

GB/TC2016/7, British CC Team Championship 2016/7

TD Akrill, Richard

			Bd 1	Bd 2	Bd 3	Bd 4	Bd 5	Bd 6	Bd 7	Bd 8	Total	FG	RG	Wins								
1	Square Bashers		½	.	.	1	1	½	½	½	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	8	10	6	6
2	BCCA Alekhine		½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	.	.	.	.	1	½	½	1	8	12	4	4
3	BCCA Capablanca		½	½	.	.	.	½	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	½	1	½	5.5	8	8	3
4	CS Administrators		½	½	½	½	0	0	1	1	.	.	1	.	½	.	0	0	5.5	12	4	3
5	Scottish CCA		½	½	.	.	½	0	½	½	½	½	.	.	1	½	.	½	5.5	11	5	1
6	Trophy Hunters		½	½	½	½	.	½	½	½	½	½	.	0	½	0	½	0	5.5	14	2	0
7	White Rose		½	½	0	.	½	½	0	0	½	.	0	0	½	0	1	1	5	14	2	2
8	Y Dreigiau Cymreig		.	½	½	½	½	.	.	.	.	½	.	1	½	.	0	½	4.5	9	7	1
9	HSBC		½	½	½	½	½	.	½	½	.	.	0	.	0	0	0	0	3.5	12	4	0

This event has progressed quite quickly but unfortunately it now looks unlikely that the team will repeat its success of last year. With to date 5½ points from 11 with 5 games remaining things may yet improve considerably down the home straight.

11th European Team Championship

Things finally got underway in this event on 1st June with the following carrying the colours: 1. Tom Matheis 2. Richard Beecham 3. Clive Murden 4. Alan Bell 5. Iain Mackintosh 6. Peter Bennett 7. Gordon Anderson 8. Kevin Paine.

Esko Nuutilanen Memorial Team Tournament

Our team comprising 1. David Kilgour 2. Alan Borwell 3. Geoff Lloyd 4. Eoin Campbell 5. Colin Beveridge and 6. Alastair Dawson started on 15th June in Section 1 against teams from Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Portugal, Poland, USA, Panama, Indonesia and Slovakia.

Veterans' World Cups

VWC9 /pr 48, ICCF Veterans World Cup 9 pr 48

					TD Jansen, Joop (IA)											Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
1	SVK	950121		Klochán, Peter	2335		½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1 ^E	1	1	8	6	28.25	0	1
2	SUI	100421		Ziegler, Pio	2277	½		½	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	7.5	5	26.5	0	2	
3	SCO	211558		Bennett, Peter G.	2350	½	½		½	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	7	4	26.25	0	3
4	GER	82119		Pawlowski, Willi	2192	½	½	½		0	½	.	1	1	1	6	4	20.5	1	4	
5	POL	421093	IM	Nowak, Ireneusz	2259	½	½	½	1		.	.	½	.	1	1	5	3	20.5	3	5
6	RUS	142277		Eliseev, Vladimir Yakovlevich	2209	0	0	0	½	.		1	1	.	1	1	4.5	4	12	2	6
7	LTU	920079		Kraujūnas, Vladas	1977	0	½	0	.	.	0		½	1 ^E	1	1	4	3	9	2	7
8	GER	86578		Dreisch, Jürgen	2106	0	0	½	0	½	0	½		.	1	1	3.5	2	9.5	1	8
9	ROU	440567		Uifelean, Andrei	2139	0 ^E	0	0	0	.	.	0 ^E	.		1	1	2	2	1.5	3	9
10	CZE	131285		Šindelář, František	1932	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	1.5	1	3.5	0	10
11	USA	516072		Tarrant, Johnny L.	1800 ^P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	11

VWC9 /pr 34, ICCF Veterans World Cup 9 pr 34

					TD Relyea, Alexander											Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
1	ENG	210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2368		½	1	½	1	1 ^A	1	½	½	1	1	8	6	34.75	0	1
2	SCO	629031		Lloyd, Geoffrey	2251	½		1	½	1	½	1	½	1	1	8	6	34.25	0	2	
3	BEL	180280		Vuillemin, Gaston	2151	0	0		½	1	½ ^A	1	1	1	1	7	6	25.25	0	3	
4	GER	83095		Eschert, Uwe	2323	½	½	½		½	½	½	1	½	1	6.5	3	26.75	0	4	
5	GER	88285		Scharf, Norbert	2218	0	0	0	½		½	½	1	½	1	5	3	16	0	5	
6	USA	516161		Abbey, William	2102	0 ^A	½	½ ^A	½	½		½	½	1	½ ^A	½	5	1	22.5	0	6
7	RUS	141971		Dushkin, Dmitry Alekseevich	2285	0	0	0	½	½	½		½	1	1	4.5	2	14.25	0	7	
8	ESP	160843		Juárez de Vena, Antonio	2146	½	½	0	0	0	½	½		½	½	1	4	1	16.25	0	8
9	ITA	241226		Cosentino, Aldo	1999	½	0	0	½	½	0	½	½		1	½	4	1	15.5	0	9
10	FRA	180894		Carlier, Pierre	1539	0	0	0	0	½ ^A	0	½	0			1	0	4.5	1	10	
11	RSA	550101		Dewald, Hans	1891	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	.		1	0	4.5	1	10	

Peter Bennett continues to be our most successful entrant in these events. He has just started his VWC8 semi-final (section 06) and is currently 3rd in preliminary section 48 of VWC9 (the first two places qualify automatically for the semi-finals, but the 11 best placed 3rd spots will also progress). Geoff Lloyd will qualify from section 34 of the same cycle.

General

A full list of available individual events and entry fees is available at our web site www.scottishcca.co.uk

Here is a game taken from VWC9, which Peter Bennett has subtitled: "Back to Chess Basics".

White: Bennett, Peter (2350)
Black: Uifelean, Andrei (2139)
 VWC9 Pr48, 2017
 Ruy Lopez, Bird's Defence [C61]
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

Before the days of chess engines, the following game might have been considered instructive, since it illustrates some of the most basic issues of chess strategy. If, however, the reader has time at least to play the game through, then its instructive value can be resurrected using the simple expedient of NOT turning on an engine, maybe even imagining it to have been played OTB.

From the writings of Capablanca and Euwe the basics were always clear. First complete your development, then shore up any positional weaknesses, then attack. If your opponent attacks first, you need to defend before you consider a counter-attack on the opposite wing. Fairly simple! So why do we sometimes ignore these timeless principles?]

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Bb5 | Nd4 |
| 4.Nxd4 | exd4 |
| 5.0-0 | c6 |
| 6.Bc4 | Nf6 |
| 7.Re1 | d6 |
| 8.c3 | Ng4 |
| 9.h3 | Ne5 |
| 10.d3 | Qb6 |
| 11.a4 | dx3 |
| 12.Nxc3 | Nxc4 |
| 13.dxc4 | Be7 |
| 14.a5 | |



Black has secured the two bishops; but White has an advantage in both space and development.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 14... | Qd8 |
| 15.Bf4 | 0-0 |
| 16.Qb3 | Bg5 |
| 17.Bh2 | Be6 |
| 18.Qxb7 | Bd2 |
| 19.Red1 | Qg5 |

Black ignores White's queenside attack and goes directly for a counterattack on the kingside. This would be fine if Black had seen this strategy through (which he hasn't) to a decisive attack against the White king's field (which it isn't); hence Black has broken a basic rule.

- | | |
|--|------|
| 20.h4 | Qh6 |
| The only move. The queen cannot abandon the defence of the bishop. | |
| 21.Qxc6 | Rfc8 |
| 22.Qb7 | Rcb8 |
| 23.a6 | Bg4 |
| 24.Rdb1 | Be6 |
| 25.Bxd6 | Re8 |
| 26.c5 | Qxh4 |
| 27.Nb5 | Rad8 |
| 28.Nc7 | Rf8 |
| 29.Qxa7! | |



White finally cleans up Black's queenside pawns completely. A curious advantage of modern correspondence play is that White has already calculated that his king could escape all the way from g1 to a2, pursued by Black's queen and bishop pair. White had even studied the position reached after 43.Ka2 before playing his 29th move. If this were an OTB game, such a calculation would have been virtually impossible; but, without it, 29.Qxa7 would have been too risky.

29... Rxd6
 An unfortunate necessity for Black since the bishop, d6, is too strong. Now, the exchange down, it is imperative that Black finds a kingside mating attack.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 30.cxd6 | Bf4 |
| 31.Qd4 | Qh2+ |
| Picture this game being played at an OTB congress. Now a crowd would have gathered round the table to view Black's imminent, spectacular coup de grace! | |
| 32.Kf1 | Be5 |
| 33.Qd3 | Qh1+ |
| 34.Ke2 | Bg4+ |
| 35.Kd2 | Qh4 |
| 36.g3 | Qf6 |
| 37.f4 | Bxd6 |
| 38.Nd5 | Bb4+ |
| 39.Nxb4 | Qb6 |
| 40.Nd5 | Qf2+ |
| 41.Kc3 | Rc8+ |
| 42.Kb3 | Rb8+ |
| 43.Ka2 | Be2 |



Ouch! Black has run out of checks, the White king has escaped, and Black is left with a losing material deficit. This is the only game I have ever played in which I felt proud of the latent power of my queen's rook, even though it hasn't moved at all in the whole game so far! The final moves were:

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 44.Qc2 | Qd4 |
| 45.Ne7+ | Kf8 |
| 46.Nc6 | Qc4+ |
| 47.Qxc4 | Bxc4+ |
| 48.b3 | Ra8 |
| 49.bxc4 | Rxa6+ |
| 50.Na5 | g5 |
| 51.Rb8+ | Kg7 |
| 52.Kb3 | |

1-0





General Information

ICCF is the International Correspondence Chess Federation. ICCF was founded in 1951 as a reincarnation of the ICCA (International Correspondence Chess Association), itself founded in 1945 as successor to the IFSB (Internationaler Fernschachbund), founded in 1928.

ICCF organises a huge variety of tournaments for individual and team play; operates a worldwide rating system and awards GM, SIM and IM titles to male and female players to recognise strength and performance. Most play is based now on the ICCF webserver, with a residue of postal and email events. Principal tournaments are:

World Individual (www.iccf-webchess.com)

- World Championship. Annual cycles progress through preliminary, semi-final, candidate and final stages.
- World Cups. These include Adult, Junior and the highly popular Veterans events.
- Norm Tournaments. For aspiring IM, SIM and GM players, categorised by rating strength.
- Promotion Tournaments. For middle-strong players, spanning Open, Higher and Master classes.
- Aspirer Tournaments. For beginners and lower-graded players.
- Thematic Tournaments. Organised by opening variations (see opposite).

World Team (www.iccf-webchess.com)

- Olympiads. National team event, 6-player teams, played to a very high standard.
- Champions League. National, cross-national and scratch 4-player teams, several divisions.

European Zone (www.iccf-europa.com)

- European Individual Championship.
- European National Team Championship.

Other

- Friendly Internationals. ICCF member organisations play team events, usually 2 games per player.
- Invitation/Memorial Events. To commemorate anniversaries and deceased officials and players.
- Chess 960. New events featuring Fischer/Random chess opening positions.

SCCA members are eligible to enter all ICCF events, though Scottish nationality is required for national representation.

Current tournament fees are shown on the Fees 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.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2017

Theme 3/17: Sicilian Paulsen, B41-3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

Theme 4/17: Queen's Gambit Accepted, D20

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bxc4 Nb6

Entries by 15 November; play starts 1 December

Webserver Events 2017

Theme 5/17 – Traxler Attack, C57

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5

Entries by 1 September; play starts 15 September

Theme 6/17 – Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, D00

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3

Entries by 15 October; play starts 1 November

Note there are no Email Events in 2017.

News

- ❑ The Esko Nuutilainen Memorial Team Tournament has started, involving 32 teams with an average rating of 2177. Three semi-final groups of 11, 11 and 10 will contest the first phase. The top four from each group, plus the best-scoring 5th place will compete in the 13-team final.
- ❑ Probably the oldest titled chess player ever, IM Zoltan Sarosy of Canada, has died aged 110. Born in Budapest and educated in Vienna, he gained the Hungarian Master title in 1943. He moved to Canada in 1950, settling in Toronto, and took up CC. He was thrice Canadian CC Champion (1967, 1972, 1981), and was awarded the IM title in 1988. In 2006 he was inducted into the Canadian Chess Hall of Fame.
- ❑ ICCF has a new Free Match organiser - SIM Ivan Panitevsky (RUS) who took up the role in June.
- ❑ The ICCF Games Archive is now available up to June 2017 and can be downloaded from: <https://www.iccf.com/> Note that you need to login first.

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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