

# Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

**Magazine No.139**

**Autumn 2017**

**ICCF Grading List 2017/4**

*George analyses the Q4 statistics*

**The Hawkes Files**

*John features great play with knights*

**Games Column**

*Iain profiles the SCCA 2017-18 Championship*

**International Update**

*George embraces the world stage*

**Letters**

*Val Nye and Peter Bennett put fingers to keyboards*

**4 Printed Issues**  
**Price £5 per annum**





Welcome to the third edition of the 2017 magazine set. The weather here has been its usual miscellany, but we are fortunately located to escape the extremes of floods, fires, hurricanes and earthquakes which many of you have had to suffer worldwide in this last quarter. Best wishes to those of you who are directly affected.

Our Notices page provides an update on the results of voting for the various proposals at the recent ICCF Congress in Albena, Bulgaria. We had hoped to bring you a full Congress report, but draft minutes hadn't been issued prior to our print deadline. Hopefully, all will be well by our next edition and we'll publish an article then.

George Pyrich has analysed the fourth ICCF rating list of 2017 for us; another busy period with more games milestones for our active members.

John Hawkes has compiled a selection of great games featuring knights. Deadly elegance might be a good subtitle. Our chess art in this edition is based on the same theme. John also provides the seventh in his series of great CC miniatures; this time a double-header of knight exploits.

We have a Games Column once again, and it highlights play from this year's SCCA Championship, including members David Cumming, George Pyrich, Clive Murden, Mark Smith, Brian Goodwin, Mickey Blake, Raymond Burrige, and Eoin Campbell.

George Pyrich once more publishes a comprehensive international report with updated x-tables plus annotated games by Kevin Paine, David Cumming and George himself. We continue our high level of participation in team and individual events.

Val Nye and Peter Bennett have both been busy at the letter-writing, and their epistles are visible on one of our relatively rare Letters pages.

Our ageing dog almost met his maker back in June, but has made a remarkable recovery from a big operation. We're looking forward to taking him for some leisurely trundles through the autumn leaves...

### 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
September	C M Dowell	K B McAlpine
August	G D Pyrich	G D Pyrich
July	J Anderson	G M Anderson

### SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	<a href="mailto:president@scottishcca.co.uk">president@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine (enquiries and domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) pro tem.



## ICCF World Cup 22



Russell Sherwood, ICCF Non-Title Tournament Commissioner, writes to announce that World Cup 22 will start on 15th December, 2017, with the closing date for entries 10th November.

As with previous World Cups, the event will be organised in three stages: Preliminaries, Semi-finals and Final. The Preliminaries will complete on 30th June 2019; the Semi-finals are expected to start on 1st September 2019 and the Finals are expected to start on 1st September 2021.

Vouchers and chess materials will be available as prizes for the Preliminaries and Semi-finals, with cash prizes available for the Final. Players may enter for an unlimited number of Preliminary groups, but have no more than two places in the Semi-finals and one in the Final. Players who qualified for World Cup 21 and 22 Finals will be entitled to play in the Semi-final stage of World Cup 23 and the winners of WC 21 and 22 Finals will be eligible to participate in World Cup Final 23.

Players may enter through their National Federations (the SCCA entry fee per section is £8.50) or, where eligible, via the ICCF Direct Entry system. For further information and to register, please contact George Pyrich on [international@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk) before before mid-October.

## ICCF States and Regions CC Championship



Austin Lockwood, WCCF Secretary, is organising an international tournament for teams of eight players from any country of the world, representing subdivisions of that country (counties, states, etc.).

As a guide, teams from West Wales, Lancashire and Yorkshire have already entered. The entry fee for each team is £10 GBP and all entries should be sent to the WCCF Secretary by 30th November 2017 (start date is 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018).

For further information and to register, please contact George Pyrich on [international@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk) before mid-November.

## ICCF 2017 Congress Proposals



Herewith the results of voting at the 2017 Congress in Albena, Bulgaria:

1. Approval of 2016 Congress Minutes - **Adopted**
2. New Member Federation Application- Indonesia - **Adopted**
3. Allow Congress to Fix Known Problems - **Adopted**
4. When an Active Player Fails to File an Adjudication Claim - **Adopted**
5. Simplifying Adjudication/Cancellation Procedures - **Adopted**
6. One Team per Team Captain - **Adopted**
7. Delete Unnecessary Sentence from TR 5.1 - **Adopted**
8. Clarifying Player Eligibility - **Adopted**
9. Credit Card Module or Alternative Payment System - **Adopted**
10. Approve Services Committee Budget for 2018 - **Adopted**
11. Games in National Events to Count Towards the IA Title - **Defeated**
12. Regulating Zonal Membership Changes - **Adopted**
13. Establishment of ICCF World Zone - **Adopted**
14. Eliminate 50-Move Rule when a 7-Piece Ending is Present - **Adopted**
15. Clarifying the Status of Isolated Players - **Adopted**
16. Proposal Regarding Live Transmission of Moves - **Adopted**
17. Use of the Online Voting System Should Not be Compulsory - **Adopted**
18. Awarding Medals for CCE/CCM Titles - **Adopted**
19. Combining 8 ICCF Rule Documents into 1 - **Adopted**
20. Allow Member Federations to have 210 Games Each Year -- Free of Charge - **Adopted**
21. Count ICCF Free Matches to TD's Qualification for IA Title - **Adopted**
22. Award SIM Title to ICCF World Cup Winner - **Adopted**
23. Increase ICCF Governance of Member Organisations (Statute 2/3 vote needed) - **Defeated**
24. Claims in Cases of Withdrawal - **Adopted**
25. Title System for Chess 960 to be Integrated into Regular Chess Events - **Defeated**
26. Alleviating the Draw Offer Rule - **Adopted**
27. To Extend Usage of Nalimov TB up to 7-man - **Defeated**
28. Improve the Player Experience for Tournament Registration and Entry - **Adopted**
29. Title Norms - 70th Final of European Individual Championships - Postal - **Adopted**
30. Member Federation - Dismissal - Tunisia - **Adopted**
31. Two Clarifications for the Playing Rules - Server - **Adopted**

## 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](mailto: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).

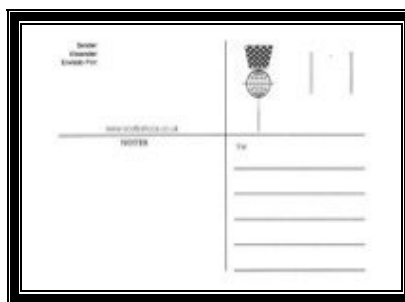
For further details, contact Herbert at:

Herbert Bellmann  
On the Brink 11  
46399 Bocholt  
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BIC: WELADED1BOH  
Purpose: FS CD 2017

Email: [hebel57@gmx.de](mailto: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](mailto:chess@iainmack.co.uk) please.

## ICCF Game Archive



The September 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.



## 2017/4 Grading List

By George Pyrich

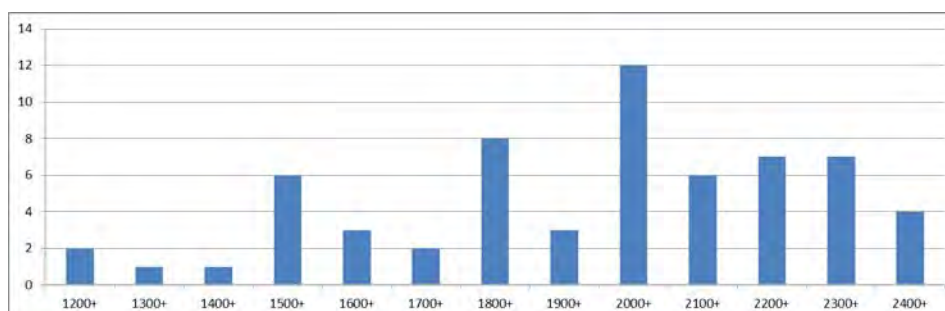
The fourth ICCF grading list of 2017 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 June and 31 August 2017. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 October and 31 December 2017.

One addition was recorded in this list – Mickey Blake – now resident near Castle Douglas. Robert Gilbert reached the 1800+ grading band– well done!

Six new games centurions were recorded – Andrew Macmillen hoisted up 1100+; Derek Coope, Dave Dempster and Geoff Lloyd all passed the 800 mark; Eoin Campbell notched up 600+; Clive Murden headed past 500 and Colin Beveridge reached 300+. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Andrew Macmillen (68); Eoin Campbell (44), Carlos Almarza-Mato (41) and David Cumming (29).

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](mailto:grader@scottishcca.co.uk) if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
318	Almarza Mato, C	1354	2089 ↓	063	Harvey, D	102	2053 ↔
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	299	2329 ↓	1013	Hilton, S H	179	1594 ↔
121	Anderson, J	279	1854 ↑	447	Jamieson, I M	82	1918 ↔
049	Armstrong, A	198	1891 ↑	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	334	2282 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	365	1511 ↓	260	Knox, A	292	1272 ↓
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	423	2469 ↔	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	810	2248 ↓
599	Bell, A D (SM)	219	2400 ↓	471	Macgilchrist, Mrs S	52	2095 ↔
501	Bennett, P G (SM)	376	2353 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	407	1893 ↓
	Beveridge, C	305	2186 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	694	2376 ↑
472	Blake, M J	723	2253 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	1114	1551 ↓
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1043	2248 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	626	2022 ↓
602	Burridge, R J	1170	2132 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	223	2455 ↔
435	Cairney, J	62	2076 ↔	412	McKinstry, J	94	1481 ↔
601	Campbell, E S	640	2119 ↓	401	Moir, P J	189	1608 ↓
038	Campbell, I S	293	1862 ↔	598	Montgomery, R S	280	2270 ↑
	Clark, S L	181	2004 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	502	2435 ↓
364	Coope, D W	809	1777 ↓	564	Murray, J S	60	2010 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	107	1894 ↔	440	Neil, C	274	1327 ↓
527	Craig, T J (SM)	372	2323 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	162	1981 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (SM)	1263	2370 ↑	604	Paine, Dr K A	191	2344 ↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G	119	2139 ↑	315	Petrie, A	105	1511 ↔
572	Dempster, D	803	1763 ↓	432	Price, D	357	2018 ↓
	Dunn, J	265	1554 ↓	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	1025	2143 ↑
	Dyer, M	107	2073 ↔		Ross, D W	38	1886 ↔
371	Edney, D	236	1985 ↓	439	Smith, M J	66	2053 ↑
462	Gilbert, R	142	1810 ↑		Stewart, A G	36	2170 ↔
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	145	2241 ↔	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	177	2099 ↑
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)	473	2398 ↔	1120	Taylor, W	84	2036 ↓
124	Goodwin, B J	339	1829 ↑		Thornton, J	35	1611 ↔
399	Grant, J	57	1695 ↔	452	Toye, D T	77	1582 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	925	1207 ↓	530	Watson, J (IM)	153	2297 ↔



## Statistical Analysis

Total listed	<b>62</b>
New entrants	<b>1</b>
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	<b>0</b>
Full grades (30+ games)	<b>62</b>
Provisional grades (<30 games)	<b>0</b>
Grading increases (↑)	<b>16</b>
Grading decreases (↓)	<b>24</b>
Grading static (↔)	<b>22</b>

## Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	<b>2469</b>	Borwell, A P (IM)	<b>2248</b>
Matheis, T (IM)	<b>2455</b>	Lloyd, G (SM)	<b>2248</b>
Murden, C (IM)	<b>2435</b>	Gillam, S R (SM)	<b>2241</b>
Bell, A D (SM)	<b>2400</b>	Beveridge, C	<b>2186</b>
Giulian, P M (SIM)	<b>2398</b>	Stewart, A G	<b>2170</b>
Mackintosh, I (IM)	<b>2376</b>	Pyrich, G D (IM)	<b>2143</b>
Cumming, D R (SM)	<b>2370</b>	Dawson, Prof A G	<b>2139</b>
Bennett, P G (SM)	<b>2353</b>	Burridge, R J	<b>2132</b>
Paine, Dr K A	<b>2344</b>	Campbell, E S	<b>2119</b>
Anderson, G M (SM)	<b>2329</b>	Stewart, Dr K W C	<b>2099</b>
Craig, T J (SM)	<b>2323</b>	Macgilchrist, Mrs S	<b>2095</b>
Watson, J (IM)	<b>2297</b>	Almarza Mato, C	<b>2089</b>
Kilgour, D A (GM)	<b>2282</b>	Cairney, J	<b>2076</b>
Montgomery, R S	<b>2270</b>	Dyer, M	<b>2073</b>
Blake, M J	<b>2253</b>	Smith, M J	<b>2053</b>

## Top 30 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	<b>1354</b>	MacGregor, C A	<b>407</b>
Cumming, D R (SM)	<b>1263</b>	Bennett, P G (SM)	<b>376</b>
Burridge, R J	<b>1170</b>	Craig, T J (SM)	<b>372</b>
MacMillen, A N	<b>1114</b>	Armstrong, J McK	<b>365</b>
Borwell, A P (IM)	<b>1043</b>	Price, D	<b>357</b>
Pyrich, G D (IM)	<b>1025</b>	Goodwin, B J	<b>339</b>
Hardwick, M E	<b>925</b>	Kilgour, D A (GM)	<b>334</b>
Lloyd, G (SM)	<b>810</b>	Beveridge, C	<b>305</b>
Coope, D W	<b>809</b>	Anderson, G M (SM)	<b>299</b>
Dempster, D	<b>803</b>	Campbell, I S	<b>293</b>
Mackintosh, I (IM)	<b>694</b>	Knox, A	<b>292</b>
Campbell, E S	<b>640</b>	Montgomery, R S	<b>280</b>
Marshall, I H	<b>626</b>	Anderson, J	<b>279</b>
Giulian, P M (SIM)	<b>473</b>	Neil, C	<b>274</b>
Beecham, C R (SIM)	<b>423</b>	Dunn, J	<b>265</b>

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iccf-webchess.com)



## The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

### Shining Knights

A selection of games featuring elegant knight moves and their deadly conclusions...



This model is from a "Zagreb 59" chess set, patterned after East European sets of the mid-20th Century.



And this beauty was snapped in Portugal (chess set in background).  
SCCA Magazine 139

**White: Secchi, Eduardo**  
**Black: Suboticanec, Drazen**  
Dyckhoff Memorial, Masters Section  
7 1954–56  
Nimzoindian, Rubinstein [E59]  
*[Notes by John E Hawkes]*

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	e6
3.Nc3	Bb4
4.e3	c5
5.Bd3	0-0
6.Nf3	d5
7.0-0	Nc6
8.a3	dxc4
9.Bxc4	Bxc3
10.bxc3	Qc7
11.a4	b6
12.Ba3	e5
13.Qc2	Bb7
14.Be2	e4
15.Nd2	Rfd8

15...Na5 16.dxc5 bxc5 17.c4! was the continuation in the 16th game of the 1953 OTB match between Najdorf and Reshevsky, shortly before this game.

16.dxc5	Ne5
17.cxb6	axb6
18.h3	
18.Rfd1±	
18...	Qc6
19.Bb5	Qe6
20.Rfd1	h5
21.Nb3	



21...	Nf3+!
22.Kh1	

A. 22.gxf3? Qxh3 23.Bf1 Qh4 with a strong attack - Rellstab;  
B. 22.Kf1 Nh4 likewise – Rellstab.

22...	Rd3!
-------	------

23.Nd4	Qc8
24.Bxd3	
24.Ne2 Ng4 25.hxg4 Qxg4 26.Ng1	
Rad8	
24...	exd3
25.Qxd3	Ne1!
26.Nf5!	
Blocking Qxh3+	
26...	Nxd3
27.Ne7+	Kh7
28.Nxc8	Nxf2+
29.Kg1	Nxd1
30.Nd6	Nxe3
31.Bc1	
31.Nxb7 Rxa4 32.Bb2 Rxa1+	
33.Bxa1 Nc4!	
31...	Rd8
32.Nxb7	Rd1+
33.Kf2	Nc2
34.Ke2	
34.Rb1 Ne4+ wins	
34...	Rg1
35.Rb1	Nd5
36.Kd3	Na3!
37.Rb3	Rd1+
38.Bd2	Nb1
39.Rb2	Ndxc3



White is in big trouble, and his next results in his knight being offside.

40.a5	bxa5
41.Nxa5	Nd5
42.g3	Nf6!

Threatening Nxd2 followed by Rg1.

43.Ke2	Rxd2+
44.Rxd2	Nxd2
45.Kxd2	Ne4+
46.Ke3	Nxg3
47.Kf4	

Gets a pawn - but also gets himself mated!

47...	h4!
-------	-----

47...h4 48.Kg5 Ne4+ 49.Kxh4 f5  
50.Kh5 g6+ 51.Kh4 Kh6  
0-1



**White: Yasholet**

**Black: Kumur**

Correspondence, circa 1964

[Game source: Shakhmatny Bulletin  
4/1964]

Closed Sicilian [B24]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 c5  
2.Nc3 Nc6  
3.g3 g6  
4.Bg2 Bg7  
5.d3 e6  
6.Be3 d6  
7.Qd2 Nge7  
8.Nd1!? b5?

8...0-0 9.Bh6 Bxh6 10.Qxh6 f6  
followed by e5 is a sound positional  
recipe here.

9.Bh6 0-0  
10.h4 Ne5?

The above note applies again.

11.Bxg7 Kxg7  
12.h5 Ng8  
13.hxg6 fxg6  
14.Ne3 Bd7?

Black's play makes little sense.

15.f4 Nc6

Why not 15...Nf7 with defensive  
resources?

16.Nf3 Qa5  
17.Rh2 Qxd2+

18.Kxd2 Nge7

19.Ng5 h6?

19...Rh8 20.Bh3 Nd8 21.Rah1 h6

22.Bg4±

20.Rxh6!! Kxh6

21.Rh1+ Kg7

22.Rh7+ Kg8

23.Ng4



23... Rxf4

Black is utterly lost. 23...Nf5 is  
equally inadequate, and we need the  
four knights on the board as there's a  
rare smothered mate coming up!

24.gxf4 Kf8  
25.Nf6 Nd8  
26.Nxd7+ Ke8  
27.Nf6+ Kf8  
28.Rf7+! Nxf7  
29.Nxc6#

1-0



**White: Eisen, David**

**Black: Noria Silvestre, Joaquin**

X Olympiad Prelims.

Ponziani [C44]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5  
2.Nf3 Nc6  
3.c3 Nf6  
4.d4 d5  
5.Bb5 exd4  
6.e5 Ne4  
7.Nxd4 Bd7  
8.0-0 Be5  
9.Nb3 Ne7!?  
10.Bxd7+ Qxd7  
11.N1d2 Nxd2  
12.Nxc5 Qb5  
13.Bxd2 Qxc5  
14.Qg4 g6  
15.Bg5 h5  
16.Qf3 Nf5  
17.Bf6 Rg8  
18.c4 d4  
19.Qxb7 Kd7!  
20.b4 Qc6  
21.Qxc6+ Kxc6  
22.e6?! fxe6  
23.Rfe1 Rge8  
24.Re5 Kd7  
25.Rc5 Reb8  
26.a3 Rb6  
27.Rd1 Rc6  
28.Rxc6 Kxc6  
29.Re1 a5  
30.g4 hxg4  
31.Rxe6+ Kd7  
32.Re4 axb4  
33.axb4 Ra1+  
34.Kg2 d3!  
35.Bg5 c6  
36.Rxg4 Ra4  
37.c5 Ke6  
38.Kf3 Kd5  
39.Be3 Ra1  
40.Bd2 Rd1  
41.Be3 Re1  
42.Bd2 Re2  
43.Be3 Rc2

44.h3 Rc4  
45.Bd2 Rd4  
46.Rxd4+ Nxd4+  
47.Ke3 Kc4



48.f4 Nf5+  
49.Ke4?  
49.Kf2=  
49... Ng3+  
50.Ke5 Nf1  
51.Be1 d2  
52.Bxd2 Nxd2  
53.Kf6 Nf3  
54.Kxg6 Kxb4  
55.f5 Kxc5  
56.f6 Ne5+  
57.Kg7 Kd6  
58.f7 Nd7!  
59.f8Q+ Nxf8  
60.Kxf8 Ke6  
61.Kg7 c5

61...c5 62.h4 c4 63.h5 c3 64.h6 c2  
65.h7 c1Q 66.h8Q Qg5+ 67.Kh7 Kf7  
and Black mates.

0-1



**White: Dr Hübener, Joachim  
Ulrich**

**Black: Heilemann, Paul**

BdF Championship 1955-58

QGD [D59]

[John E Hawkes after Dünhaupt]

1.d4 d5  
2.c4 e6  
3.Nc3 Nf6  
4.Bg5 Be7  
5.e3 h6  
6.Bh4 0-0  
7.Rc1 b6  
8.cxd5 Nxd5  
9.Nxd5 exd5  
10.Bxe7 Qxe7  
11.Nf3 Be6  
12.Bd3 c5  
13.0-0 Nd7  
14.Bb1 Rfc8



15.Qd3 Nf6  
16.Ne5



16... c4?  
17.Qe2 Rc7  
18.f4 Rac8  
19.g4! c3  
20.Rxc3 Rxc3  
21.bxc3 Rxc3  
22.g5 hxg5  
23.fxg5 Ne4  
24.Bxe4 dxe4  
25.Qh5! Rxe3  
26.g6 f6



26...Rh3 27.gxf7+ but now Black can get to the h-file with his rook.

27.Ng4!!

This, and the next, had to be seen by White when playing 19.g4!

27... Rf3

28.Rc1!!

Threatens mate after Rc8+!

28... Qd8

29.d5! e3

29...Qxd5 30.Rc8+ Bxc8 31.Qxd5+ Kf8 32.Qd8#; 29...Bxd5 30.Qxd5+ Qxd5 31.Rc8+ Qd8 32.Rxd8#; whilst 29...Bxg4 30.Qxg4 f5 31.Qh4!! leads to mate in 7 at most; 29...Rd3 and the heroic knight continues his offerings with 30.Ne3!! Bd7 31.d6 Be6

32.Nf5!

30.dxe6 e2

31.Nh6+ gxh6

32.Qxf3

1-0



White: Yordanov, Nikolay  
Black: Minkov, Ivan  
Bulgarian 50th Jubilee Masters  
Tournament  
Caro-Kann Defence [B17]  
[John E Hawkes after Minkov]

1.e4 c6  
2.d4 d5  
3.Nc3 dxe4  
4.Nxe4 Nd7  
5.Bc4 Ngf6  
6.Ng5 e6  
7.Qe2 Nb6  
8.Bd3 h6  
9.N5f3 c5  
10.dxc5 Bxc5  
11.Bd2 Nbd5  
12.0-0-0 a6  
13.Ne5 b5  
14.f4 Qb6  
15.Ngf3 Be3  
16.g3 Bxd2+  
17.Rxd2 0-0  
18.c3 Bb7  
19.Qf2 Qa5!  
20.Kb1  
20.Bb1 or 20.a3 and White is destroyed by 20...Nxc3!  
20... b4  
21.c4



21... Ne4!!  
22.Bxe4 Ne3+  
23.bxc3 Bxe4+  
24.Ka1 bxc3  
25.Re2  
25.Rd4 c2 26.Qe3 Rab8+  
25... Rfb8  
26.Rc1 f6!?  
26...Qa3  
27.Nd7 Qa3  
28.Rf1  
28.Rd1 would have allowed the fantastic 28...Qd6!! 29.Qe1 Qa3

(29...Qb4 30.a3! saves White.)  
30.Qf2 (30.Nxb8 Rxb8) 30...Bxf3  
31.Nxb8 Rxb8 32.Qxf3 Rb2+  
28... Rb4!  
29.Nh4 Rd8  
30.Nc5  
30.Nb6 c2  
30... Rdb8  
And mate in 6 moves e.g. 31.Nxe4 Rb2 32.Nxc3 Rxe2! etc.

0-1



White: Hawkes, John E  
Black: Diderholm, Erik  
[E10]  
6/7 ICCF Cup 1990/91  
Benko Gambit [E10]  
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6  
2.c4 c5  
3.d5 b5  
4.Nf3 Bb7  
5.a4 bxc4  
6.Nc3 e6  
7.e4 Qa5  
8.Bd2 Qc7  
9.Bxc4 Nxe4  
10.Nb5 Qd8  
11.Bf4 Qa5+  
12.Kf1 Na6  
13.Ne5 Qd8  
14.Qd3 Nf6  
15.dxe6 fxe6



15...dxe6 16.Qxd8+ Rxd8 17.Nxa7±  
16.Ng6! Be4  
17.Qd6! hxg6  
On 17...Nb4 there's 18.Qxf8+! Rxf8  
19.Nd6# - the prettiest moves are always in the notes.  
18.Qxa6 Kf7  
19.Nc7  
Not really interested in the rook.  
19... g5□  
19...Rc8 20.Bxe6+ dxe6 21.Qxe6#  
20.Bg3 Nd5



44... Nxb3!  
45.Qg2 Nf2

0-1



**White: Dünhaupt, Heinz-Wilhelm**  
**Black: de Carbonnel, Heinz**  
III DFM Final 1953–54  
Spanish, Chigorin Defence [C97]  
[John E Hawkes after Dünhaupt]

1.e4 e5  
2.Nf3 Nc6  
3.Bb5 a6  
4.Ba4 d6  
5.c3 Nf6  
6.Qe2 Be7  
7.0-0 0-0  
8.d4 Bd7  
9.d5 Nb8  
10.Bxd7 Nbx d7  
11.c4 Nh5  
12.Nc3 Kh8  
13.Ne1 g6  
14.Nd3 Bg5!=  
15.g3 Bxc1  
16.Raxc1 Qg5  
17.Qe3! Qe7  
18.f4 exf4  
19.gxf4 f6  
20.Rce1 g5!?

To procure e5.  
21.fxg5 Rg8  
21...fxg5 22.Rxf8+ Rxf8 23.e5!  
22.Rf5 Ng7  
22...Rg7 23.Kh1 Rag8 24.e5 fxe5  
25.Ne4!  
23.Rf2 Ne5  
24.Nxe5 Qxe5  
25.Rg2 fxg5  
26.Rf1 Rae8  
27.Rf7 Re7

28.Rxe7 Qxe7  
29.Qxg5 Qxg5  
30.Rxg5 Nh5  
31.Rxg8+ Kxg8  
32.Kf2 Nf4  
33.Ke3 Ng6  
34.b3 Kf7  
35.Ne2 Ne5  
36.h3 Kf6  
37.Nd4 Kg6  
38.Nf3 Nd7  
39.Kd4 Kf6  
40.b4 b6  
41.h4 h5  
42.a3 a5  
43.bxa5! bxa5  
44.Ne1 Ne5  
45.c5 Ng6  
46.Nf3 dxc5+  
47.Kxc5 Ne5!  
48.Nd2 Ng6  
49.Kc6 Nxb4  
50.Kxc7 Ke5  
51.d6 Ng6  
52.d7 Nf8



53.Nf3+! Kf4  
54.e5  
Black resigned: I'll let you work it through...  
1-0



Finally, the power of the knight features in a study by P.V.Kivi, composed in 1936. White to play and draw.



1.h7 Kf7  
1...a2 2.Kg8 a1Q 3.Ne7+! (3.h8Q Qa2+ 4.Kf8 Qf7#)  
2.Nd6+! Kf8  
3.Nxb5 a2  
4.Nd4  
4.Nc3? a1R! wins  
4... a1R  
5.Ne6+ Kf7  
6.Nd8+ Kg6  
7.Kg8 Ra8  
8.h8N+!  
½-½



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## Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 7

By John E. Hawkes

**White: Stefansson, A (ISL)**  
**Black: Kiprof, Alexander (BUL)**  
III European Team Championship  
Prelims 1986–89  
Nimzoindian, Hübner Variation  
[E41]  
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6  
SCCA Magazine 139

2.c4 e6  
3.Nc3 Bb4  
4.e3 c5  
5.Bd3 Nc6  
6.Nf3 Bxc3+  
7.bxc3 d6  
8.e4 e5  
9.h3 h6  
10.Qe2 0-0

11.dxc5 dxc5  
12.Nh2  
Setting off for d5.  
12... Ne7  
13.Nf1 Ng6  
14.g3 Ne8  
15.Ne3 Nd6  
16.Nd5 f5!  
17.f3

My Bulgarian source shows the two options White rejected:

- A. 17.exf5 e4! 18.Bc2 Ne5;  
 B. 17.Qh5 fxe4 18.Qxg6 Bf5+  
 17... Ne7  
 18.Be3 Nxd5  
 19.cxd5



- 19... c4!  
 20.Bc2  
 20.Bxc4 Qc7

- 20... Qa5  
 21.Kd2?  
 ◻21.Qd2  
 21... fxe4 Bf5!  
 22.fxe4 Nb5!  
 23.Bg1 Bg6  
 24...Bg6 25.Rh2 Nd4 26.Rf2 Rxf2+  
 27.Bxf2 Rf8 28.Bd1 Bxe4!  
 0-1



White: Wikström, Birger  
 Black: Omelchenko, Lev Evgenyevich

VIII Olympiad Finals Bd 6/6, 1977  
 Nimzoindian, Hübner Variation  
 [E41]  
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

- 1.d4 Nf6  
 2.c4 e6  
 3.Nc3 Bb4  
 4.e3 c5  
 5.Bd3 Ne6  
 6.Nf3 Bxc3+  
 7.bxc3 d6  
 8.0-0 e5  
 9.Qc2 0-0  
 10.Rd1 cxd4  
 11.exd4 Bg4  
 12.Ba3 Re8  
 13.dxe5 Nxe5  
 14.Be2 Bxf3  
 15.gxf3 Nh5  
 16.Rd4 Qg5+  
 17.Kh1 Nf4  
 18.Rg1



- 18... Qxg1+!  
 19.Kxg1 Nxf3+  
 20.Kh1 Rxe2  
 21.Qc1 Nxd4  
 22.cxd4

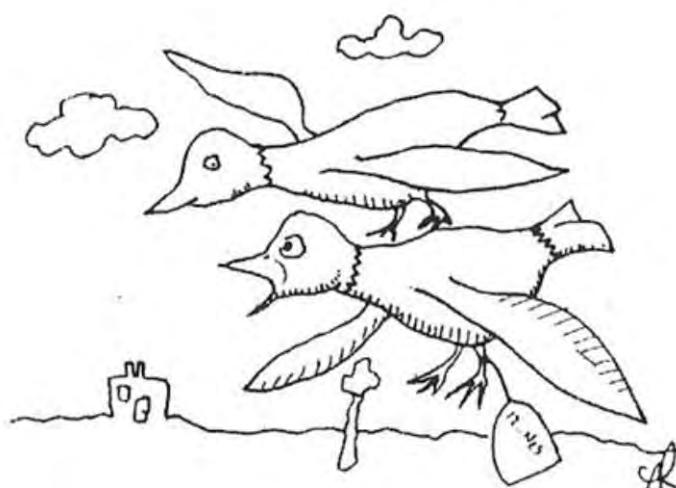
- 22.Qxf4 Re1+ 23.Kg2 Rg1+! 24.Kh3  
 Ne6+  
 22... g5  
 Or 22...Nd3 23.Qc3 Nxf2+ 24.Kg1  
 Nd1+  
 23.Bb4  
 23.Bxd6 Rae8 24.Bxf4 Re1+ 25.Kg2  
 Rxc1 26.Bxc1 Re4 and an easy  
 endgame win.  
 23... Rae8  
 24.Qg1 Nh3  
 24...Nh3 25.Qg3 Re1+ 26.Bxe1  
 Rxe1+ 27.Kg2 Rg1+ 28.Kxh3  
 Rxc3+  
 0-1



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Knight takes rook by Elke Rehder.  
[www.schach-chess.com/chess-art.htm](http://www.schach-chess.com/chess-art.htm)



*"It's not the 400 miles  
 flight that I mind,  
 it's the way he  
 plays the Benko"*

*Alan O'Brien, reproduced  
 courtesy of "Chess Post"*



Chess on the Island by Jacek Yerka



Chess on the Reef by Jacek Yerka  
[www.yerkaland.com/who-is-jacek-yerka](http://www.yerkaland.com/who-is-jacek-yerka)



## Games Column

By Bernard Milligan

This year's SCCA Championship boasts the largest and strongest entry for many years. Here is a selection of games where (mainly) full points were scored.

First, defending champion David Cumming takes on international secretary George Pyrich. The Berlin Defence to the Ruy Lopez normally gives Black good drawing chances, but this affair sparkles!

**White: Cumming, David R (2306)**  
**Black: Pyrich, George D (2104)**  
SCO/C2017  
Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defence [C65]  
*[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]*

1.e4 e5  
2.Nf3 Nc6  
3.Bb5 Nf6  
4.Bxc6 dxc6  
5.0-0 Nxe4  
6.d4N

New on the ICCF games database.6.Re1 is more usual.

6... Be7  
7.Re1 Bf5  
8.g4!?  
Playing aggressively. 8.Nxe5 equalises.

8... Bg6  
9.Nxe5 Nxf2!?  
Meeting fire with fire.  
10.Qf3 Qxd4



11.c3□

This, and the next few moves, are pretty much forced for both players.

11... Qb6  
12.Be3 Qxb2  
13.Nd2 Nd3  
14.Nxd3 Bxd3?!

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14...Qxc3 looked less risky.

**15.Bg5!**

No waiting moves in this game!

15... 0-0-0□

15...f6? 16.Qxd3

**16.Bxe7 Rd5?!**

16...Rd7 or 16...Qxd2 both offered better chances.



17. Nb3!

Seizing the opportunity to limit the scope of the Black queen.

17... f6

**18.Bc5 h5?!**

Aiming at h7. Maybe 18...Rhd8 offered more chances.

19.Bf2+-

Strongest.

19... hxg4

**20.Qf4**

20.Qxg4+ Kb8 21.Bg3 Rg5 22.Qh4 Rc8 (22...Rxh4 23.Re8#) 23.Nd4 Qb6 24.Qf4±

20... b6

**21.Bg3 Rd7**

**22.Rad1 Qc2**

22...Qxc3 23.Rc1 Bc2 24.Qf2 is lethal.

**23.Qe3 Be4**

**24.Rd2**

24.Rd2 Rxd2 25.Nxd2 Bf3 26.Qf4 Kb7□ 27.Qxc7+ Ka6 28.Qd7 Bd5 29.Re7 is overwhelming.

1-0



Clive Murden is the highest graded player in the tournament, and here he takes on newcomer Mark Smith whose accurate play has already made a good showing this year.

**White: Murden, Clive (2437)**

**Black: Smith, Mark J (2034)**

SCO/C2017

Fianchetto Grünfeld [D79]

*[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]*

1.Nf3 c5  
2.g3 Nc6  
3.Bg2 g6  
4.c3 Bg7  
5.d4 cxd4  
6.cxd4 d5  
7.Nc3 Nf6  
8.0-0

8.Ne5 was Mackintosh-Dawson, SCCA Championship 2016-17, drawn after 48 moves.

8... 0-0  
9.Qb3 Ne4  
10.Bf4 Nxc3  
11.bxc3 Na5  
12.Qb5 e6

13.Nd2N

New to the ICCF games database.

13... b6

14.e4 Bb7

14...Bd7 puts the question to the White queen more directly.

15.e5 Qc8

16.Rfc1 Ba6

17.Qb1 Qc6

18.h4 Rfc8

19.h5!? Qb7

20.Bf1 Rc7

21.Nb3

21.hxg6 fxg6 22.Bxa6 Qxa6 23.Nf3 looked playable also.

21... Nc4

22.a4 Bf8

23.Qd3 Qc8

24.Qf3



24... Na3?!

Trying to get some play in a cramped position.

25.Nd2 b5  
26.Kg2 bxa4  
27.Bxa6 Qxa6  
28.Nf1±

Despite Black's passed a-pawn, White stands stronger after the q-side exchanges.

28... Rb8  
29.Ne3 Rb2  
30.c4! Nxc4



31.Ng4+-

White has established a winning position, and his pieces suddenly spring into action with deadly effect.

31... Qb6  
32.Nf6+ Kh8  
33.hxg6 fxg6  
34.Qd3 Rg7  
34...Qb3 35.Qxg6! hxg6 36.Rh1+ Bh6 (36...Kg7 37.Rh7#) 37.Rxh6+ Kg7 38.Rh7+ Kf8 39.Bh6+ Rg7 40.Rxg7 Ne3+ 41.Kh3 Nf5 42.Rc1 Rc2 43.Rxc2 Qxc2 44.Rc7+  
35.Bh6 Nxe5  
36.Qa3 Qb8  
36...Bxa3 37.Rc8+ Qd8 38.Rxd8+ Bf8 39.Rxf8+ Rg8 40.Rxg8#  
37.Qe3 Nc4  
38.Qxe6 Rb6  
39.Bxg7+ Bxg7  
40.Qxd5 Rxf6  
41.Rxc4 Rf5  
42.Qe6 Qb7+  
43.Kg1

And Black has had enough.

1-0



Mickey Blake is playing steadily in his first Championship, accumulating points mainly through draws. Here he profits from some inaccuracies by Brian Goodwin, a regular finalist in this event.

White: Goodwin, Brian J (1829)

Black: Blake, Michael J (2233)

SCO/C2017

Caro Kann, Panov-Botvinnik Attack [B14]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 c6  
2.d4 d5  
3.exd5 exd5  
4.c4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 Nc6  
6.Bg5 e6  
7.Nf3 Be7  
8.c5 0-0  
9.Bb5 Ne4  
10.Bxe7 Nxe7  
11.Rc1 b6  
12.c6 Qd6  
13.0-0 a6  
14.Bd3 Nxc6  
15.Nxe4 dxe4  
16.Bxe4 Bb7  
17.Ne5 Rac8  
18.Qd3 Rfd8  
19.Bxc6 Bxc6  
20.Qxa6 Qd5



21.Rxc6N

All established theory so far, but this is new to the ICCF games database.

21... Rxc6□  
22.Qb7?  
22.Nxc6 Qxc6 23.Qd3=  
22... Rcc8  
23.Qxf7+ Kh8  
24.a4?!  
24.Qa7 is maybe better.  
24... Rf8  
25.Qd7  
25.Qh5 threatening Ng6+ (while keeping the queens on) was preferable.  
25... Qxd7  
26.Nxd7 Rfd8  
27.Nxb6 Rc2  
28.a5 Rxb2  
29.Ra1 Rxd4  
30.h3 Rdd2  
31.Nc4 Ra2

32.Rb1 Rd8

33.Rb6 h6

34.Nd6 Ra8

35.Nc4 Rc8

The White a- and f-pawns will soon fall, so...

0-1



Another game from Mark Smith now, and this time he's in the ascendant as Raymond Burrige departs from established theory in too much of a hurry.

White: Smith, Mark J (2034)

Black: Burrige, Raymond John (2142)

SCO/C2017

Sicilian Najdorf [B90]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 c5  
2.Nf3 d6  
3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 a6  
6.Be3 e5  
7.Nb3 Be6  
8.f3 h5  
9.Nd5 Bxd5  
10.exd5 Nbd7  
11.Qd2 g6  
12.Na5 Qc7  
13.c4 Bg7  
14.Be2 e4  
15.0-0 exf3  
16.gxf3 0-0  
17.b4 Rfe8  
18.Rad1 b6  
19.Nc6 Ne5  
20.Nxe5 Rxe5  
21.Bd3 Ree8?!N  
21...b5 22.Bd4 bxc4 23.Bxe5 dxe5  
24.Bc2 c3 25.d6 Qb6+ 26.Qf2 Qxb4  
27.Qg3 Qc5+ 28.Kh1 Rb8 29.Qg5  
Rb2 30.Bb3 c2 31.Rc1 Qxd6 32.Qg2  
Nd7 33.Rxc2 Rxc2 34.Qxc2 Nc5  
35.Rd1 Qb6 36.Bd5 Bf8 37.Rg1 Kg7  
½-½ was Müller, Martin (2258)-  
Jenkins, Richard (2196), ICCF  
WS/M/574, 2016.  
22.Kh1 a5?!  
23.b5!  
Best.  
23... Rac8  
24.Rg1 Nd7  
25.f4 Qb7?!  
26.Rg2!  
Mark unerringly picks the best move again.  
26... h4



### 27.Qf2

Raymond decides to end the suffering before White begins his onslaught. One plausible line is: 27.Qf2 Nf6 28.f5 h3 29.Rg3 Ne4 30.Bxe4 Rxe4 31.fxg6 fxg6 32.Rxg6 Rexc4 33.Bh6 and it's curtains for Black.

1-0



Our final game features Clive Murden once more, this time pitted against Eoin Campbell, some 300 points adrift in grading terms. This is a terrific struggle, with White trying to press home his advantage and Black manning the barricades in the most spirited fashion.

**White: Murden, Clive (2437)**

**Black: Campbell, Eoin S (2121)**

SCO/C2017

King's Indian Panno Variation [E63]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

- |        |     |
|--------|-----|
| 1.Nf3  | Nf6 |
| 2.g3   | g6  |
| 3.Bg2  | Bg7 |
| 4.0-0  | 0-0 |
| 5.c4   | d6  |
| 6.Nc3  | Nc6 |
| 7.d4   | a6  |
| 8.Qd3  | e5  |
| 9.d5   | Nb4 |
| 10.Qd1 | a5  |
| 11.e4  | Na6 |
| 12.Bg5 | Qe8 |

12...c6 has been the most tried move here, including Dr Fred Kunzelmann v Sergei Vladimirovic Nefedov, Russian Gold Event, 2012, drawn after 44 moves.

- |        |     |
|--------|-----|
| 13.b3  | Nd7 |
| 14.a3  | f5  |
| 15.Bd2 | Qe7 |

15...f4 and; 15...Nac5 also merited consideration.

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 16.exf5 | gxf5 |
| 17.Ng5  | Nac5 |
| 18.Ne6  | Nxe6 |
| 19.dxe6 | Nf6  |



Obviously not 19...Qxe6?? 20.Bd5

20.Nd5

For the next 20 moves or so, White holds the edge, but is met at every turn by brave and resourceful defence.

20... Nxd5

21.cxd5 e4

22.Rc1 c6

23.dxc6 d5!?

Black avoids the obvious.

24.b4 Qxe6

25.b5 d4

26.a4 bxc6

27.Rxc6 Qa2

28.Rc7 Rf7

29.Rxf7 Qxf7

30.Qe2 Bb7

31.Rc1 Bf8

31...d3 also looks playable here.

32.b6 Bd6

Best.

33.Qb5 h5



Both 33...Qa2 and; 33...Re8 were plausible alternatives, though Black would understandably have concerns about his 7th rank and a-pawn.

34.h4

34.Rc4 is maybe better try for White.

34... Qd5

35.Qd7 Rf8

36.Bf1

36.Bxa5 f4 37.gxf4 Kh8 seems to hold for Black.

36... d3

This, and Black's next 5 moves, are all forced.

37.Bc3 Rf7

38.Qd8+ Bf8

39.Qxd5 Bxd5

40.Bxa5 f4

41.Rc8 fxg3

42.fxg3 Bb7

43.Rd8 Kh7

44.Bg2 Bc5+

45.Kh1 Bf2

46.Kh2 Be3

47.Bb4 Bxb6

48.Rb8 Kg7

49.Bc3+ Kh6

50.a5 Bc5

51.Rh8+ Rh7

52.Rd8 Re7

53.a6 Bxa6

54.Rd5 Ba3



55.Ra5

And White wins a piece - but is it enough?

55... Bc8

56.Rxa3 e3

57.Bb4 d2

58.Rd3 Rd7

59.Rxd7 Bxd7

60.Bf3 Bg4

60...Bg4 61.Bc5 Bxf3 (61...e2

62.Bxe2 Bxe2 63.Be3+ Kg6 64.Bxd2)

62.Bxe3+ Kg6 63.Bxd2 and a draw it is!

1/2-1/2







## 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	Ukraine	2434	█	2	3	3	3	2.5	3	4	3.5	2.5	26.5	58	8	8	45	9	1
2	Lithuania	2511	3	█	3	2.5	3	2	2	3.5	3	4	26	56	6	8	46	8	2
3	Scotland	2393	3	3	█	3	2	2.5	2.5	2	3.5	4	25.5	53	3	7	48	6	3
4	Wales	2348	2	2.5	3	█	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.5	24.5	51	1	5	48	6	4
5	Brazil	2376	2	3	2	2.5	█	3	3	2	3.5	3	24	48	-1	6	49	5	5
6	Argentina	2458	2.5	2	2.5	3.5	3	█	1.5	1.5	3	2.5	22	53	3	4	41	13	6
7	Romania	2445	2	2	2.5	2.5	3	1.5	█	2.5	3	3	22	51	1	3	43	11	7
8	Norway	2380	1	2.5	2	2.5	2	1.5	2.5	█	3	3.5	20.5	48	-1	3	42	12	8
9	Hong Kong	2301	1.5	1	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2	2	█	4	20	41	-8	2	48	6	9
10	South Africa	2245	1.5	2	2	1.5	3	1.5	2	1.5	2	█	17	36	-12	1	46	8	10

The team has thus far scored 25½ points from 48 completed games (3 wins and 45 draws!) and currently shares third place. Presently the team stands on +3 with 6 games unfinished and may yet overhaul the second placed Lithuanian team (+6 with 9 unfinished) to qualify to the final for the first time since 1993! (Rather like Scotland in the FIFA World Cup!)

### 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	4.5	4	5	4	3.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.5	6	49.5	58	14	16	85	3	1
2	Portugal	2356	4.5	█	4.5	4.5	3	4.5	3.5	5	3.5	4.5	5.5	4	47	56	11	15	83	5	2
3	France	2359	3.5	3.5	█	4	4	4.5	4	4	4	5	4	4.5	45	52	4	12	86	2	3
4	U.S.A.-II	2386	3	3.5	4	█	4	3.5	4.5	4	4.5	4.5	5.5	4	45	55	9	12	81	7	4
5	U.S.A.	2398	3	5	4	4	█	3.5	3.5	5.5	3.5	3	5	5	45	52	4	10	86	2	5
6	Norway	2390	4	3.5	3.5	2.5	4.5	█	2.5	4.5	4.5	3	4	5	41.5	49	-1	10	84	4	6
7	England	2396	3.5	3.5	4	2.5	4.5	4.5	█	3.5	4	2.5	5	4	41.5	52	4	9	79	9	7
8	España-Fortuna	2360	3.5	3	4	3	2.5	3.5	3.5	█	3	4.5	5.5	4	40	47	-4	6	84	4	8
9	Canada	2320	3.5	3.5	4	2.5	3.5	3.5	4	3	█	4	5	3.5	40	50	0	5	80	8	9
10	España - Desafio	2348	3.5	2.5	3	3.5	5	5	3.5	3.5	3	█	3	4	39.5	48	-3	5	82	6	10
11	Scotland	2184	1.5	2.5	3	2.5	2	4	3	2.5	3	3	█	4.5	31.5	38	-19	3	82	6	11
12	Iceland	2330	2	2	2.5	3	3	2	2	4	2.5	4	2.5	█	29.5	37	-19	2	78	10	12

Unfortunately little has changed since last time – presently the team has 31½ points from 82 completed games and is rooted firmly at the foot of the table contesting the wooden spoon position with Iceland. As mentioned earlier the team is by far the weakest in the competition in term of average rating. Having said this, our Welsh friends fielding the second weakest team look likely to win the event!

### General

A full list of available individual events and entry fees is available at our web site [www.scottishcca.co.uk](http://www.scottishcca.co.uk)

## Current Friendly Internationals

### GB/TriNat/2016, British Tri-Nations 2016

		TD Ylönen, Olli										
		1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	Wales	2010	█	11	13.5	24.5	61	9	4	40	0	1
2	England	2061	9	█	12	21	52	2	2	40	0	2
3	Scotland	1991	6.5	8	█	14.5	36	-11	0	40	0	3

### GB/TriNat/2017, British Tri-Nations 2017

		TD Sitorus, Yosua										
		1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	England	2034	█	7.5	12	19.5	67	10	1	29	19	1
2	Wales	1957	5.5	█	9.5	15	48	-1	0	31	17	2
3	Scotland	1973	4	8.5	█	12.5	36	-9	0	34	14	3

Unfortunately the team has failed to recover from its slow start and presently is rooted firmly at the foot of the table. Optimists may however note that with 16 games yet to finish an amazing turnaround may still be possible!

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Jul 2017	21	Australia	Server	6	3		
Apr 2017	21	Finland	Server	7½	13½		
Dec 2016	24	Italy	Server	9½	31½		loss
Dec 2016	8	Indonesia	Server	9	5		win
Nov 2016	26	Canada	Server	24½	24½		
Oct 2015	25	Australia	Server	27½	22½		win

Our suffering continues in the match against Italy where we now trail 9.5 – 31.5 With 8 games yet unfinished the team should still reach double figures. On a more positive note, the team has recovered from an 8 point deficit to achieve an astonishing turnaround in the match against Canada Currently the score stands at 24.5 – 24.5 with 3 games unfinished! Things have progressed quickly in our match against Finland where we now currently trail 13.5 – 7.5 Our most recent match against Australia started on 9 July and already we enjoy a promising 6 – 3 lead. We hope to be able to announce at least one new match in the near future.

## 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	3.5	2.5	2.5	3	3	3.5	3.5	4	3	32	54	5	13	59	1	1
2	France	2302	2.5	█	2	3.5	3.5	3	2.5	3.5	4	2.5	3.5	30.5	55	6	11	55	5	2
3	Netherlands A	2278	2.5	3	█	2.5	2	3	2	3.5	3	4.5	3	29	54	5	8	53	7	3
4	England	2346	3.5	2.5	3.5	█	2.5	3	2.5	3.5	2	2.5	3	28.5	54	5	8	52	8	4
5	Denmark	2371	3.5	2.5	3	2.5	█	2.5	2.5	3.5	3	2.5	1.5	27	54	4	6	50	10	5
6	Germany	2288	3	3	3	3	3.5	█	1.5	3.5	2	1	2	25.5	56	6	8	45	15	6
7	Sweden	2274	3	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	1.5	█	2.5	1.5	3.5	4	25.5	54	4	5	47	13	7
8	Belgium	2210	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	█	3.5	2.5	2.5	23	44	-6	2	52	8	8
9	Scotland	2164	1.5	2	2	2	1	1	1.5	2.5	█	1.5	3	18	40	-8	1	44	16	9
10	Norway	2236	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	1.5	1.5	2.5	█	3.5	17	40	-8	2	42	18	10
11	Iceland	2338	3	1.5	2	2	1.5	1	2	1.5	1	0.5	█	16	35	-13	1	45	15	11

Unfortunately the team's fortunes have scarcely improved since last time as it continues to languish near the foot of the table. Hope springs eternal however and things may yet improve!

## British CC Team Championship 2016/17

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

		TD Akrill, Richard																Total	FG	RG	Wins		
		Bd 1	Bd 2	Bd 3	Bd 4	Bd 5	Bd 6	Bd 7	Bd 8	Bd 1	Bd 2	Bd 3	Bd 4	Bd 5	Bd 6	Bd 7	Bd 8						
1	Square Bashers	½	½	1	1	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	10.5	15	1	7		
2	BCCA Capablanca	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	10.5	15	1	6		
3	BCCA Alekhine	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	½	1	9.5	16	0	4
4	Y Dreigiau Cymreig	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	0	½	8.5	16	0	3
5	Scottish CCA	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	0	½	8	16	0	2
6	CS Administrators	½	½	½	½	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	½	½	0	0	7	16	0	4		
7	Trophy Hunters	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	0	6	16	0	0		
8	HSBC	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.5	16	0	2		
8	White Rose	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	0	1	1	5.5	16	0	2		

Play in this event officially concluded on 30 September with our team finishing mid-table having achieved a mediocre 50% score, rather disappointing following the previous year's success.

## 11<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship

EU/TC11/sf1, 11th European Team Championship - Semifinal 1

			TD Glaser, Karel (IA)											Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
1	Estonia	2372	■	2.5	1.5	1.5	2	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	13	50	0	0	26	54	1
2	Denmark	2346	2.5	■	1.5	1.5	1	1	1.5	1	1	1.5	0.5	13	51	1	0	25	55	2
3	Iceland	2411	1.5	1.5	■	1	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	1	0	0.5	11	50	0	0	22	58	3
4	Norway	2229	1.5	1.5	1	■	1.5	1	1.5	1	0.5	1	0	10.5	50	0	0	21	59	4
5	Bulgaria	2423	2	1	1.5	1.5	■	1.5	1	1	1	0	0	10.5	50	0	0	21	59	5
6	Switzerland	2440	1	1	1	1	1.5	■	0.5	2	0.5	1	0.5	10	50	0	0	20	60	6
7	Croatia	2349	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1	0.5	■	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	8.5	50	0	0	17	63	7
8	Lithuania	2498	0.5	1	1.5	1	1	2	0.5	■	0	0	0.5	8	50	0	0	16	64	8
9	Scotland	2390	1	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	■	1	0.5	7	50	0	0	14	66	9
10	Finland	2364	1	0.5	0	1	0	1	0.5	0	1	■	0	5	45	-1	0	11	69	10
11	Turkey	2400	1	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0	■	3.5	50	0	0	7	73	11

It's still very much early days in this event where currently the team stands on 50% along with 8 others in the 11 team section!

## Esko Nuutilainen Memorial Team Tournament

MT-Esko/SF1, Esko Nuutilainen Memorial Team Tournament SF1

			TD Panitevsky, Ivan Anatolevich											Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
1	Poland 1	2250	■	3	1.5	2	0.5	1	1.5	1	2	0.5	0	13	54	2	1	24	36	1
2	Switzerland	2167	2	■	2	2	0.5	1	2	0.5	1	0	0	11	52	1	0	21	39	2
3	Panama 1	2197	1.5	1	■	2	1	1.5	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	0	10.5	55	2	0	19	41	3
4	Denmark	2100	1	1	1	■	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	0	0	8	42	-3	0	19	41	4
5	Slovakia	2224	0.5	1.5	1	1.5	■	1	1.5	0.5	0	0	0	7.5	57	2	0	13	47	5
6	Scotland	2209	1	1	0.5	1	1	■	0	1	0.5	1	0	7	50	0	0	14	46	6
7	Indonesia	2131	1.5	1	0.5	1.5	0.5	0	■	1	0	0.5	0	6.5	46	-1	0	14	46	7
8	Australia	2239	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	■	0	0	0	5.5	50	0	0	11	49	8
9	United States 1	2257	2	1	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	■	0	0	4.5	44	-1	0	10	50	9
10	Portugal 2	1978	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	■	0	1.5	30	-2	0	5	55	10
11	Germany	2133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	60	11

After barely 3 months play the team has scored 7 points from 14 completed games and currently sits mid-table in the 11 team section. As play seems in general to be progressing quickly in this event (already more than 25% of games have concluded) we may be able to report a significant change in the team's fortunes next time!

**White: Paine, Kevin (2308)**  
**Black: Batchelor, Paul A (2271)**  
 GB/TC2016/  
 King's Indian Panno Variation [E62]  
*[Notes by George Pyrich]*

Our team had a rather disappointing final score in this recently concluded event. One of the few bright spots was Kevin Paine's nice win.

1.c4 g6  
 2.Nf3 Bg7  
 3.d4 Nf6  
 4.g3 0-0  
 5.Bg2 d6  
 6.0-0 Nc6  
 7.Nc3 Bf5  
 8.Ne1

Preventing Black's Ne4 idea. Also popular is 8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 c5 10.e4 Bd7 11.Qc2 with space advantage and a rather useless Na5 as in Tienhoven v. Pyrich, World Cup 18, 2011.

8... Na5  
 8...Qd7 looks playable after 9.e4 Bh3 10.Nc2 Bxg2 11.Kxg2 as in Eoin Campbell v. Lukasiewicz, Webserver Open 2014.

9.e4 Bg4  
 10.f3 Bd7  
 11.Qd3 c5  
 12.dxc5 dxc5

Maybe 12...Be6 is an idea 13.b3 Rc8 14.Be3 (14.cxd6 Nxc4 15.bxc4 Bxc4 16.Qe3 Bxf1 17.Bxf1 Nxe4!) 14...Nd7 15.Rc1 Nxc5 Maack v. Bos, World Ch. 36 Prelims.

13.e5 Ne8  
 14.f4 Bc6  
 15.Qe2 Bxg2  
 16.Nxg2



16... f6  
 And here maybe 16...Nc6 when 17.Be3 b6 18.Rad1 Qc7 doesn't look too bad.

17.Be3 fxe5

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18.fxe5 Rxf1+  
 19.Rxf1 Qb8?  
 Better surely 19...Bxe5 20.Bxc5 Nc6 21.Nd5 Nd6 when at least the N's are developed.  
 20.Bf4 g5  
 21.Nd5 Ne6  
 22.Bxg5!  
 Winning a pawn by force and with it the game.  
 22... Qxe5  
 23.Qxe5 Bxe5  
 24.Bxe7 Bd4+  
 25.Kh1 Ng7  
 26.b3 Re8  
 27.Bd6 Rd8  
 28.Bf4 Ne6  
 29.Bh6 Bg7  
 30.Bxg7 Kxg7  
 31.Nge3 Ncd4  
 32.Nf5+ Nxf5  
 33.Rxf5 Nd4  
 34.Rg5+ Kf7  
 35.Rh5



Black is never able to activate his R and White wins without too much difficulty.

35... Kg7  
 36.Kg2 h6  
 37.h4 b6  
 38.Re5 Kf8  
 39.g4 Rd6  
 40.h5 Nc6  
 41.Re4 Nd4  
 42.Kf2 Nc6  
 43.Kg3 Nd4  
 44.Kf4 a5  
 45.g5 hxg5+  
 46.Kxg5 Ne6+  
 47.Kf5

Maybe a slightly generous resignation but faced with the likes of Rg4-g6 Black threw in the towel.



**White: Pyrich, George D (2120)**  
**Black: Prystenski, Arthur (2212)**  
 CAN-SCO 2016  
 French Defence [C00]  
*[Notes by George Pyrich]*

My own game against Arthur Prystenski in the friendly match against Canada was quite interesting.

1.Nf3 d5  
 2.g3 Nf6  
 3.Bg2 e6  
 4.0-0 Be7  
 5.d3 0-0  
 6.Nbd2 c5  
 7.e4 Nc6  
 8.Re1 b5  
 9.e5  
 9.exd5; and 9.a4 are useful alternatives.  
 9... Nd7  
 10.Nf1



10... Bb7  
 10...b4 is by far most common here where after 11.h4 a5 12.Bf4 (12.h5 is another idea 12...Ba6 13.h6 g6 14.Bf4 a4 15.a3 bxa3 16.bxa3 Qc7 17.Qe2) 12...a4 13.a3! Preventing Black from playing ...a4-a3 is usually a good idea in this line. 13...Ba6! (The all time classic game in this line, Fischer-Myagmasuren, Sousse 1967 went 13...bxa3 14.bxa3 Na5? (better 14...Ba6) 15.Ne3 Ba6 16.Bh3 d4 17.Nf1! (17.Ng4 blocks the Q's route to h5) 17...Nb6 18.Ng5 Nd5 19.Bd2 Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Qd7 21.Qh5 Rfc8 22.Nd2 Nc3 23.Bf6! Qe8 24.Ne4 g6 25.Qg5 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 c4 27.h5! cxd3 28.Rh4! Ra7 (28...dxc2 29.hxg6 fxg6 30.Rxh7! mates after 30...Kxh7 31.Qh4+ Kg8 32.Qh8+ Kf7 33.Qg7#) 29.Bg2!! dxc2 30.Qh6+ Qf8 31.Qxh7+! 1-0) 14.N1h2 c4!? 15.d4! c3! 16.bxc3 bxc3 17.Ng5 Nb6? (17...h6!) 18.Qh5! Bxg5 (It's too late for

18...h6 as now White can ignore the threat: 19.Ng4! hxc5 20.hxc5 g6 (or 20...Nxd4 21.Nf6+! gxf6 22.gxf6 Bxf6 23.exf6 Qxf6 24.Be5+- and White wins) 21.Qh6 Nxd4 22.Nf6+ Bxf6 23.gxf6 Nf5 24.Qh3 Nd7 25.g4 Nd6 26.Qh6! Ne8 27.Re3! Nxf6 28.Rh3 .) 19.Bxg5 Qe8 20.Bf6! Nxd4? (better 20...gxf6) 21.Ng4 Threatening 22.Qg5 Nf5 23.Nh6+!. 21...Nf5 22.Qg5! Kh8 23.Bxg7+! Nxg7 24.Nf6 Qd8 25.Qh6 Qxf6 26.Qxf6 Rae8 27.g4 Nd7 28.Qf4 Bc4 29.h5 Rc8 30.Rab1 f5 31.exf6 1-0, Kaidanov-Nijboer, Elista Olympiad 1998.

**11.h4 a5**

**12.N1h2**

12.Bf4 is another fork in the road 12...a4 13.a3 Qb6! 14.N1h2 Rfc8 15.h5 h6 16.Ng4 Qd8 17.c4 bxc4 18.dxc4 Nb6 19.cxd5 Nxd5 20.Bd2 Nd4 21.Nxd4 cxd4 22.Qb1 Qb6 23.Bxh6 Qb3! 24.Bd2 Rc2 25.Qd1 Rxb2 26.Bc1 Nc3 27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.Qg4 Be7 29.Bxb2 Qxb2 30.Bxb7 Qxb7 31.h6 g6 32.Qxd4 Rc8 0-1 Kalinin - Coleman, RUS v ENG 2007; 12.Bg5 a4 13.N1h2 a3 14.b3 b4 is another try.

**12... a4**

**13.h5 h6**

**14.Ng4 Re8**

**15.Bf4**

Deciding to go for it. Instead the almost thematic 15.a3 was played in one high level ICCF game 15...Bf8 16.Bf4 b4 17.c4 bxc3 18.bxc3 Na5 19.Nd2 Qc7 20.c4 dxc4 21.Bxb7 Qxb7 22.Rb1 Qc7 23.dxc4 Nc6 24.Qf3 Rab8 25.Qe4 Nd4 26.Kg2 Qc6 27.Qxc6 Nxc6 28.Red1 Red8 29.Rb5 Rxb5 30.cxb5 Nd4 31.Be3 Be7 32.Ne4 Nb6 33.Rc1 Nd5 34.Nxc5 Nxe3+ ½-½ Peschke-Straka, Hans Berliner Memorial, 2013.

**15... a3**

**16.b3 b4**

16...Qa5 and; 16...Qb6 were other ideas.

**17.Qd2 Nd4**

**18.Nxd4 cxd4**



Now the battle lines are drawn - Black has the c-file and if he can ever plant his N on c3 I'm in big trouble - so, go for it!

**19.Nh2 Rc8**

**20.g4 Nb8**

20...Rc3 is the sort of thing White's looking for after 21.Nf3 Qb6 22.g5 Rec8 23.Rac1 hxc5 24.Bxg5 Bf8 25.Bh4 Qc7 26.Qf4 Rxc2 27.Rxc2 Qxc2 28.Ng5; but 20...Qc7 21.Rac1 Qc3 22.Qxc3 dxc3 23.Nf3 seems to spoil all the fun.

**21.Nf3 Nc6**

**22.g5 hxg5**

**23.Bxg5**

23.Nxg5 was tempting but after say 23...Qc7 24.h6 gxh6 25.Nf3 Kh7 26.Kh2 Rg8 27.Rh1 Rg6 28.Kg1 Kg8! White can't take on h6 and the Q-side weaknesses remain.

**23... Bxg5**

**24.Nxg5**

The B exchange has given White a little more room and I now felt a bit more optimistic.

**24... Rc7**

Instead 24...Na7 allows the astonishing engine line with 25.h6 gxh6 26.Ne4 dxe4 27.Qxh6 Re7 28.Rxe4; whilst 24...Qe7 is more solid.

**25.f4**

There were at least 3 alternatives here but felt this was best - the e5 pawn is secured and it's easier to move the heavy pieces to the g and h files.

**25... Qe7**

**26.Bh3 Bc8**

I expected 26...Rec8 when after 27.Rac1 Na7 28.Qg2 I might get some attacking chances.

**27.Qg2 Kh8**

I'd expected 27...Na7 immediately with a continuation something like 28.h6 g6 29.Bg4 Nb5 30.Re2 Nc3 31.Rf2 Kh8 32.Qg3 Rf8 33.Rg2 Bd7 and it's about equal.

**28.Kh1 Na7**

**29.f5**



I felt I had to go with this at some point.

**29... Rxc2!**

The only move as the likes of 29...Nc6 30.f6 gxf6 31.exf6 Qxf6 32.Rf1 Qg7 33.h6 Qxh6 34.Rxf7 Rce7 35.Rg1 Rg8 36.Rxe7 Nxe7 37.Nf7+ Kh7 38.Qxg8+ Nxg8 39.Nxh6 Nxh6; and 29...exf5 30.e6 Bxe6 31.Bxf5 Rxc2 32.Qg3 Rc6 (32...Qf6 33.Bxe6 Rxe6 34.Rf1 Re3 35.Qh4) 33.Bxe6 fxe6 34.Rf1 Rf8 35.h6 gxh6 36.Qe5+ Kg8 37.Rxf8+ Qxf8 38.Rg1 hxc5 39.Qxg5+ Kf7 40.Rf1+ Ke8 41.Qg6+ Ke7 42.Qh7+ Ke8 43.Rxf8+ Kxf8 44.Qxa7 Rc2 45.Qxd4 Rxa2 46.Qf6+ Ke8 47.Qxe6+ Kf8 48.Qd6+ Ke8 49.Qxb4 are great fun for White!

**30.Qxc2 Qxg5**

**31.Re2 exf5**

**32.Qc7 Qh4!**

Gaining an important tempo.

32...Qe7 immediately allows an endgame where after 33.Qxe7 Rxe7 34.Rc1 Be6 35.Rc5 Black has no counterplay and White can simply improve his position.

**33.Rh2 Qe7**

**34.Qxe7 Rxe7**

**35.Rc1**



**35...**

**Kh7**

This suffices but 35...Bb7 seemed stronger 36.Bxf5 (maybe 36.Re1 instead) 36...Rxe5 37.Rc7 Rxf5 38.Rxb7 Nc6 39.h6 Kh7 40.hxg7+ Kxg7 41.Kg1 and due to his weak pawns White will have great difficulty winning.

### 36.Rxc8

The other try was 36.Rf2 but after say 36...Kh6 37.Bxf5 Bxf5 38.Rxf5 Nb5 39.Rc6+ Kh7 40.Rb6 Nc3 41.Rf2 Rxe5 42.Rxb4 Kh6 the weak pawns make the win almost impossible.

36... Nxc8

### 37.Bxf5+

Now it peters out to a draw.

37... Kh6

38.Bxc8 Rxe5

39.Kg2 Re3

40.Ba6 Re2+

41.Kg3 Rb2

42.Bb7 f5

43.Bxd5

43.Rf2 comes to the same thing.

43... Rxh2

44.Kxh2 Kxh5

45.Kg3 g5

46.Be6

After Kg6 the White K has no entry squares and so...

1/2-1/2



**White: Cumming, David R (2306)**

**Black: Beckett, Phillip J (2055)**

GB/TC2016

Closed Ruy Lopez [C84]

[Notes by George Pyrich]

David Cumming chalked up a nice win in the recently concluded British Team Ch.

1.e4 e5

2.Nf3 Nc6

3.Bb5 a6

4.Ba4 Nf6

5.0-0 Be7

6.d3

One way to avoid the Marshall Gambit: 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5!

6... b5

7.Bb3 d6

8.a4 Bd7

9.Nc3

9.c3 was my preference against David in our game in the 2016 Scottish Ch. 9...Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qb8 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 and drawn at move 39.

9... Na5

10.Ba2



10...0-0

The alternative is 10...b4 11.Ne2 c5 12.Ng3 0-0 where David has no fewer than 4 games in the ICCF Server Database! Against Iain Mackintosh in the 2016 SCCA Ch. he chose 13.h3 (13.Nh4 was his preference in the others.) 13...Rb8 14.Be3 Be6 15.Nd2 Qc7 and 1-0 at move 74.

11.d4

2 games in the database, both played by David!

11... exd4

12.Nxd4 b4

13.Nd5 Nxd5

14.Bxd5 c6

15.Ba2 Nb7

15...Bf6 was preferred by Rene Schulz in World Cup 16.Nf3 Qc7 17.c3 bxc3 18.bxc3 Bg4 and drawn at move 50.

16.c3 bxc3

17.bxc3 Nc5

18.Qc2 Bf6

19.Ba3 Re8?!

In view of what happens both 19...Qa5; and 19...Qb6 look better.

20.Bxc5! dxc5

21.Nb3



21...

Qe7

...and the result is already clear!

White has a mobile 4-3 kingside pawn majority and can calmly build up his position almost unhindered - Black is unable to achieve anything on the queenside.

22.Nd2 Rad8

22...Qe5 23.Rac1 Be6 was a better try.

23.f4 Bf5?!

24.Rae1 Bg6

25.Bc4 Qd7

26.Nb3 Re7

27.Re3 Rde8

28.Nd2 h6

29.Bd3

A horrible position to try to defend.

29... Rd8

30.Nc4 Bh7

31.a5 Ree8

32.g3 Qg4

33.f5 Bg5

34.Ree1 h5

35.e5! h4

36.Nd6 Rf8

36...hxg3 is a futile attempt to

confuse the issue failing after

37.Nxe8 Rxe8 38.e6 gxh2+ 39.Kh1 fxe6 40.f6!

37.Re4 Qh5

38.g4 Qh6

39.Bxa6 Be7



40.Nxf7! Rxf7

41.Bc4 Rd5

42.Qa2 Kh8

43.Bxd5 cxd5

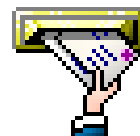
44.Qxd5

1-0





## Letters to the Editor



Dr Val Nye (aka Dorian Gray) writes from Reading:



### Some Further Reflections on “How to Improve at Chess” in Edition 138

My first reaction on reading Peter Bennett’s interesting article in the previous issue was one of utter puzzlement. Why on earth did he not make any reference to Alekhine? His books, My Best Games of Chess 1908-1923 and 1924-1937, were once upon a time obligatory reading if one were serious about chess. And still should be. The second book contains a “Memoir” which was written by du Mont and which is a very revealing biography.

*[There was a third (official ) book on Alekhine’s games which covers the last years of his life, after regaining the World Championship in 1937 up to his death during world war 2. I don’t have a copy on my shelves but I have a vague recollection of having read it long before my hair ceased to be “dark”. It may not be worth a read because he probably did not write it. I cannot really express an opinion.]*

I could equally argue that Fischer’s My 60 Memorable Games is definitely worth a very serious browse. En passant he was one of that rare breed whose writings do not exclude games which one did NOT win! Also, Bronstein’s The Chess Struggle in Practice, the English Edition of which contains an Introduction by Euwe, merits serious browsing. (This is the book of the Candidates Tournament Zurich 1953.).

*[I had wondered about mentioning the fruits of the collaboration of du Mont and Tartakower, the 500 Master Games of Chess. Ditto Korchnoi’s 400 Best Games. From one point of view the insights into his life, and in particular why he eventually defected from the USSR make for interesting reading. But the annotations are tantalisingly brief. On the other hand one could argue that this book is for “an advanced course for the improvement of one’s chess”?!]*

Peter is right of course in that playing through annotated games should help one to improve one’s chess. The annotations can help one’s thought processes in any number of ways. One’s thought processes can also be helped by browsing through the likes of the didactic book by Nimzowich. I personally, though, found it very heavy going when I was in my teens and had discovered it on the local library shelves. The Art of the Middle Game by Keres and Kotov contains very lucid explanations and analysis. In “old money” it cost five shillings brand new. Yet even allowing for inflation whenever it was I discovered a copy in a charity shop it was very good value for money!?

Although the analysis is not so profound Neishadt’s Catastrophe in the Opening is hard to put down once one has started browsing through it. It is well worth a browse even if only to learn how to negotiate one’s way safely through the

opening. Although this is not a critical factor in CC because one can browse through one’s books and/or chess bases for OTB it can be headache inducing if one is not familiar with the latest wrinkles in a specific opening and all the while the clock is ticking! Unless as black, for instance, one did not want to play against the Staunton Gambit OTB if one liked to play the Dutch Defence one would play 1... e6 against 1. d4. But then one would have to be prepared to play the French, for instance, if white’s next move was 2. e4.

Concerning the basic question of how to improve at chess one should at the outset adopt some good habits. Like before making a move, for instance., making sure that that one’s opponent has not blundered when a pawn is ripe for the taking. Has a crafty trap been set, for example? Will there be problems, especially in the opening, developing one’s pieces? Also, one should wonder how it affects one’s own plans. Similarly, one should also wonder WHY a particular move was played. Especially if it was unexpected.

While before actually deciding on a move, one should spend a moment or two reassuring oneself that there is not a better move. In OTB symbolically sitting on one’s hands so as to avoid actually touching a piece is better than touching it and moving it and suddenly realising that it is too late to say “j’adoube”... In CC it should be easier in principle to avoid making a blunder, for example. Yet Neishadt cites some instances of games in which a CC player has overlooked the fact that an opponent’s apparent blundering away a piece leads one into a forced loss.....

It would be no bad thing if one were also to go back to the symbolic “square one”. This should really be labelled “core knowledge”, these words being modern “jargonese”... At the outset one learns how execute the elementary mates. Q+K v k, R+K v k, 2Bs+K v k and that 2Ns+K v k CANNOT lead to mate. Which is one very good reason, when one is materially down, to try to hopefully ensure that after all the exchanges etc. the opponent only has two knights left!?! Yet, curiously, if you had the misfortune to have one pawn left, you can be mated. Assuming, that is, your opponent has read and thoroughly digested the “Supplement on the theory of the end game on two knights against pawns” in Troitski’s Collection of Chess Studies! En Passant this book is well worth a browse.

It can be argued that studies are artificial. Yet they can help sharpen one’s thinking by looking that bit further into a complicated position. One can thereby hopefully discover a hidden resource which, for instance, enables one to retrieve a draw in an apparently hopeless position. Similarly, despite being materially down, there may be a far from obvious winning manoeuvre.

A chess column in a newspaper can make for interesting reading if only to keep a weather eye of sorts on what is happening in the (mainly OTB) chess world. will be drawn. Curiously, in one column I recently came across an ending from an OTB game which was Q+N v q. In general this will be drawn.

But because of the relative positions of the pieces black was in zugzwang after two moves. Besides there being a recent game (or two) to play through, the inclusion of a “question” such as “what has been overlooked?” and easily resolving it is one good way of starting off the day!?

Yet I think Peter is being a bit too scathing about newspaper’s chess columns. If nothing else, like bridge columns they help to keep the game in the public view. A better target for him - and the UK chess community to aim at - is to get chess recognized officially (OTB at least) as a sport. What activity officially recognized as sport and receives official funding requires one to be mentally alert for a significant period of time?

A footnote: Tartakower once said “The mistakes are all there, waiting to be made.”



*Peter Bennett replies from Edinburgh:*

It is refreshing to see that Val Nye has taken the trouble to respond to my brief article on the subject of “improving at chess”. In fact, many of the points which he makes go far beyond the remit

I originally set myself and would certainly merit an article by Val in his own right. I hope our editor will encourage him to write one?

My own article was written quickly and, being brief, did not in any sense set out to provide a comprehensive guide to the most instructive manuals in the history of chess publishing. All I did was to give two (more or less arbitrary) examples of early chess writers who were aiming their instruction at inexperienced players – Capablanca and Nimzowitch – while discouraging basic learners from starting with the works of Petrosian and Karpov, whose writings are more relevant to advanced learners.

Val fairly criticises my inclusion of Nimzowitch, arguing that he found his books a difficult read. His suggestion that I might have substituted Keres and Kotov’s seminal work on the middle game is a sound one. I, too, have that book and learned a lot from it. The reason I originally mentioned Nimzowitch was, quite simply, that he revolutionised our understanding of the art of defence in chess, hence also our understanding of opening strategy with the Black pieces.

I don’t however believe that my comments on chess columns in newspapers amounted to “scathing” criticism. I often read and enjoy such columns and frequently solve the problem positions, when travelling on planes and trains. I was simply questioning the assumption that the best OTB games are the best chess games. OTB games are played under conditions in which basic inaccuracies are unavoidably frequent. Top CC games are much more accurate; and are, therefore, a much better guide to (for example) current developments in opening theory.

Val’s rhetorical question. “why on earth did (I) not make any reference to Alekhine?” is difficult to answer. My article makes no mention of Alekhine (or Fischer, for that matter). I can only really write material about authors whose contributions to the chess world I have understood reasonably well; and Alekhine is not one of them.

Furthermore, I would never suggest that any particular author is “obligatory” to read – that kind of assertion smacks of the worst kind of undergraduate curriculum-centred teaching – a subject into which I would prefer not to stray on these pages....

I have played OTB chess for 65 years. CC for 52 years. I have spent most of my chess career trying to reconcile the two codes (a theme to which my article certainly does allude). Along the way, we learn from all sorts of players. My own chess heroes include Morphy, Schlechter, Capablanca, Rubinstein, Bronstein, Keres, Kotov, Tal, Spassky, Larsen, Nunn and Anand. These writers can tell me everything I need to know about chess. They happen not to include Lasker, Alekhine, Fischer and Kasparov, whose reputations have, in my view and for different reasons, been overblown by the accidents rather than defining moments of chess history. On that contentious statement, however, I need to conclude these comments, at least for the time being!



*Peter Bennett writes from Edinburgh:*

### **Webserver Messaging**

Previous correspondents have challenged their CC colleagues to come up with some communicative “curiosities” with their opponents through the webserver messaging system. Here is one of mine!

In the last year, for whatever reason, I have had a lot of opponents from the USA. Having exchanged the usual pleasantries in the first couple of moves, I ventured to ask my most recent American opponent: in which State do you live?

Back came his reply within a few hours: “I live in the State of Confusion!”

My playful self wanted to say, “Aha, this is a State I haven’t visited, at least not in America. Is it shortened to CF, to distinguish it from Colorado and Connecticut? And what are the names of the Senators which represent you in Congress? To which I imagined he might reply: “Senator Hopwell Knight and Senator Sack McQueen”; and so on....

But this was not the way the exchanges continued. My opponent had a much more mundane reason for feeling confused. He actually lives in the far North-West corner of Indiana which, in all but name, is part of (or a suburb of) Chicago; but most of Chicago is in Illinois; and Illinois and Indiana are not in the same time zone. The result is that my new opponent gets his time from Chicago but pays his taxes to Indianapolis, which is not even in the same time zone. Hence the state of confusion.

I mean, can you imagine Edinburgh being an hour behind London? Well, we shouldn’t laugh too readily. The current state of Brexit and Independence negotiations could create even greater confusion on this side of the pond.....

*[Ed: Thanks to Val and Peter for their contributions. They are both welcome to submit copy at any time!]*





## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 2017-18

#### 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

#### Theme 1/18: Trompowski, A45

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 February

### Webserver Events 2017-18

#### Theme 7/17 – Sicilian Dragon, B70-9

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

Entries by 1 December; play starts 15 December

#### Theme 1/18 – King's Indian, Sämisch, E81

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0

Entries by 1 January; play starts 15 January

Note there are no Email Events in 2017.

## News

- ❑ Long-serving Direct Entry Commissioner Ian Pheby (ENG) has resigned, and his deputy Tom Biedermann (USA) has been appointed DEC by the ICCF Executive.
- ❑ The top places in the Final of VWC5 have been announced. The decision rested on a very narrow tiebreak - all three medallists ended up with 6/10 and the same Baumbach score. A difference of 0.25/05 SB points decided the final standings:
  1. Ralf Neubauer (GER)
  2. Dieter Kraft (GER)
  3. Yury Avraamovich Muzyka (RUS)
- ❑ The 9<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship has been decided and the winners are:
  1. Russia (55 points)
  2. Slovenia (54)
  3. Italy (52½)
- ❑ The ICCF Games Archive is now available up to September 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](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk)

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