

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.82

Summer 2003

- **2003 AGM**
- *Jim minutes the Stirling meeting*
- **Biopic**
- *factfile and game from Alan Brown*
- **The Reasons Why**
- *Richard on mental preparation*
- **Kasparov-Kramnik**
- *analysis by Ilias Kourkounakis*
- **ChessBase CD Reviews**
- *Bernard looks at recent CDs*
- **Event Tables**
- *final positions in BPM and Bulletin 21st*
- **Games Column**
- *a bumper 8 pages of annotated games!*
- **MegaCorr 3 Review**
- *Tim Harding's latest CC CD*

4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum





It's been quite a busy period since the last issue of the magazine, and we've just started two friendly internationals (against Canada and Finland) before going to press.

We held our AGM in Stirling this year, and were well looked after by George Clark (though new IM George Livie is still counting the cost of a replacement tyre required en route!). Jim Anderson supplies the minutes here, but unfortunately we can't yet bring you the final accounts. There's nothing sinister to worry about (we made a small surplus last year), but some last-minute changes to the way income is allocated have now been compounded by holidays. We'll publish the signed accounts on the website when ready, and also in the next magazine.

As usual, we have a number of fine articles for you. Richard Beecham has followed up his biopic by giving us a fascinating insight into how he organised his mental preparation prior to embarking on his run of success - definitely worth a close read!

Our new champion, and recently ennobled SM Alan Brown has carried out his threat to supply a biopic, and it comes with a nicely annotated game against Mark May.

Another new contributor is the Greek IM Ilias Kourkounakis who is one of my opponents in the current Olympiad. Ilias writes and teaches a lot, and I've reproduced an insightful column from him covering one of the KvK matches.

After a period when relatively few annotated games were submitted, Bernard has supplied no less than 8 pages this time, with a high standard of commentary (including GM Paul Motwani, happily recovered after his hospital operation). Bernard also looks at recent ChessBase CD releases for us.

The Bernard Partridge Memorial Tournament has finally been decided with Manuel Jaime Summers of Belgium winning the event outright from Raymond Boger of Norway. The final cross-table is supplied here (with the Bulletin 21st Anniversary event) and we hope to bring you a tournament report in the next issue.

I've reviewed Tim Harding's most recent CC games collection, MegaCorr3, and we are also blessed with a lively letters column this time round.

We still have some copies of the ICCF Gold book for sale - it's great value for money, and George Pyrich will be delighted to accept your orders (£14.99 inc p&p)! Contact George directly using one of the methods below.

SCCA Website Domain Name

Please note that we are now concentrating solely on:

www.scottishcca.co.uk

having now dropped the .com and .org variations of the domain name. Please change any old bookmarks on your computer bearing the Globalnet service address to www.scottishcca.co.uk, and you will be automatically redirected to our new site.

SCCA 100 Club



Stuart Mackenzie writes:

The 100 Club is an important means of income for the SCCA, and units can be bought for £1 per month. Bank mandates are the easiest method of subscribing. Two prizes are awarded each month. To join, please get in touch with the SCCA treasurer using one of the methods below.

Recent 100 Club Winners

Here are the most recent high-rollers, all of whom report experiencing less stress than lottery millionaires:

Table with 3 columns: Year, 1st, 2nd. Rows: 2003 July (A P Borwell, B Thompson), June (K B McAlpine, Mrs D M Livie), May (A P Borwell, T A H Taylor), April (P J Moir, G Lloyd)

SCCA Officials

Table with 5 columns: Role, Name, Address, Phone, Email. Rows: President (Iain Mackintosh), VP & International (George Pyrich), Secretary (Jim Anderson), Treasurer (Stuart Mackenzie), Grader (Raymond Baxter), Committee Member (Alan Borwell), Committee Member (George Livie), Games Editor (Bernard Milligan)



2003 AGM

By Jim Anderson

- Venue:** Sunday 15th June, 4pm, 2003 at BB Headquarters, Dalgleish Court, Stirling.
- Present:** Iain Mackintosh (chair), James Anderson, George Pyrich, Alan Borwell, Raymond Baxter, Stuart MacKenzie and George Livie.
- Apologies:** none.

Minutes of Last AGM

Accepted by all present.

President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh said last season was full of anniversaries - our Silver Jubilee was celebrated, with the main events being a dinner organised by Raymond, and the ICCF match put together by George and Richard. The Bulletin 21st Anniversary tournament was won by Richard. The Website celebrated 5 years, and won a Friends of ICCF award.

We had a new Scottish Champion in Alan Brown, and several of our members gained titles - Doug Finnie (SIM), Richard Beecham and George Livie (IM). Alan Borwell received Honorary Member of ICCF, and George Pyrich the Bertl von Massow silver medal - both of these plan to stand down from their ICCF posts this year, and they deserve our thanks for such long and distinguished service.

There were some sad moments - the deaths of Douglas Livie in September, and Stephen Tatlow in April, not long after gaining his IM title in the Bulletin 21st. We have also lost two opponents in our ICCF match - Huttunen of Finland and Hansen of Denmark. All of these will be much missed, and in the case of Douglas, we hope to run an Invitation Memorial event in the coming year.

Our domestic and international programmes all ran well despite lower numbers, and our committee and controllers are to be warmly thanked once again for their efforts in continuing to make the SCCA such a busy and absorbing Association.

Secretary's Report

Jim Anderson said the membership is about the same as last year. We have had a couple of members drop out but at the same time we have had a few new members.

He was pleased to say the championship this year had a good entry and the other tournaments were about the same or slightly down against last year.

He also thanked the controllers who have done a wonderful job, as without them there would be no tournaments.

Treasurer's Report

Stuart Mackenzie said the Auditor still had to sign the accounts, as he needed a breakdown of the members' fees, which Stuart needed to get from the Secretary. The Auditor was otherwise happy with the totals and balances and did not foresee a problem with signing off.

The treasurer said that the accounts have a surplus for this year of £374. There is a loss of £147 pounds so far on the ICCF Gold book, but the Jubilee dinner made a small surplus.

Stuart said that there were two accounts (National Giro and Clydesdale Bank) with a total of £84 that have no documents. He is going to check if he can get an account number for the Clydesdale account from old reports then check again with the bank. It was agreed by all present that the National Giro account could be written off.

International Secretary's Report

George Pyrich stated that his report was very much the same as last year. This had been an active year for the Association at international level, though the individual entries for ICCF tournaments remained low.

The ICCF Gold book, printed in Tayport, Fife, is good quality, but selling very slowly.

George congratulated everybody who had gained master titles or norms.

Election of Office Bearers

The following individuals were elected to office:

Position	Individual	Proposer	Seconder
President	Iain Mackintosh	George Pyrich	Alan Borwell
Vice President	George Pyrich	Iain Mackintosh	George Livie
Secretary	Jim Anderson	George Pyrich	Alan Borwell
Treasurer	Stuart Mackenzie	James Anderson	George Pyrich
International Secretary	George Pyrich	Iain Mackintosh	James Anderson
Grading Officer	Raymond Baxter	Alan Borwell	George Pyrich
Committee Members	Alan Borwell	Raymond Baxter	George Pyrich
	George Livie	George Pyrich	George Pyrich

The positions of Assistant Secretary, Assistant International Secretary and Membership & Publicity Officer were held vacant. The new Committee will co-opt assistants. George Pyrich will also be ICCF Delegate.

Appointment of Auditor

Iain Campbell was appointed auditor. He was proposed by Stuart Mackenzie and seconded by George Livie.

Subscriptions

The treasurer proposed no changes to fees, and this was accepted by all present.

Silver Jubilee

It was agreed by all present that the Silver Jubilee celebrations had gone very well, with those attending the dinner having had a most enjoyable evening. The Scotland versus ICCF match is also going very well.

AOB

Alan Borwell proposed a vote of thanks to Iain Mackintosh for all he has done for the SCCA as president, webmaster and magazine editor. Alan also thanked George A Clarke for his help in allowing us to use the Stirling Chess Club premises and for his hospitality on the day.

Regular readers will have noticed that the usual suspects turned up to form the committee again! It is always good to get some new blood and fresh ideas into circulation, so, if you were unable to attend the AGM, but would like to help in some way, then please get in touch with any of the committee members. You don't have to hold an official position to help - maybe you can do some part-time things like controlling an event, helping with administration or publicity, or backing up somebody who is otherwise very busy!



Biopic

By Alan Brown

When our illustrious editor suggested that I might like to prepare a short biopic for our magazine, I had a double take. Yes, it was indeed a biopic and not a biopsy he required. My immediate relief meant that I was likely to agree to anything, so here goes:-

Personal Profile

Name: Alan Brown.

Age: 60 (almost the age of discretion) and a native of the Isle of Bute.

Married: to Noël - another native of Bute.

Children: Two. Alan is a consultant in computer software applications and Emily is a lawyer. Neither has the slightest interest in chess. Although when Emily was young, I often had difficulty in starting a game at home until I went upstairs to her room and rescued the four knights which were usually tucked up in her bed - "sleeping"!

Education: Glasgow University, BSc Hons. (Pure Science) and a PhD. My studies were concerned with the chemistry and biochemistry of oil production in algae, and I was chuffed when NASA asked for a copy of my thesis, as similar hydrocarbons to those I was researching were discovered by the Apollo astronauts on the moon!

Teaching: Having married a schoolteacher, I decided to do likewise. After all, it was possible (said an official Scottish Office leaflet in the late 60s) to eventually, with promotion, earn up to £2k - enough to turn any young man's head!

Beginning my career at Ayr Academy, I was fortunate to take over the chess team in the year that they were destined to win the Sunday Times National Tournament in London. On the way to the final, some matches against distant English schools were played by telephone, as travel would have been too expensive. A telephone line was booked for most of an evening, and the games were played with "runners" carrying the moves to and from each board. This, I suppose, was an early introduction to correspondence chess. In a coincidence with Richard Beecham's remarks in Magazine 81, we were fortunate at these matches to have the late P.B. Anderson (Scottish OTB champion twice in the 50s, and who lived in Ayrshire) as our referee. At that time, I also played OTB in various congresses in Ayrshire, and have particularly happy memories of those organised in Kilmarnock each year.

A move to Berwickshire as Depute Director of Education then gave me an entry to the developing chess scene in the Borders in the early 70s. Playing for Duns (along with, would you believe it, 5 schoolteachers and no club - we only met to play in the League!), we won the Border League on two occasions, and were runners-up a number of times. I was also the runner-up in the Borders OTB Individual Championship in 1982.

On moving to Fife as Principal of Lauder College in Dunfermline, and with an active role as Vice Convenor and then Convenor of the Association of Principals of Colleges (Scottish Branch), time for OTB play became more limited. I turned to B.H. Wood's "Chess" postal club.

However, I soon found the SCCA, and have enjoyed not only good company and many new opponents, but also exciting and varied games - as well as some luck! I have played in most of our competitions, and with early retirement in 1996, I have worked my way slowly up to the Championship.

I am also competing in NATT 5 where I need a draw from my one remaining game to achieve an IM norm. Sadly, this does not look likely against my Icelandic opponent! Currently I am enjoying rather stiff opposition in the 2nd NSTT - but it is early days yet.

The following game is, I think, a good example of all the above positive attributes of our Association. Mark and I go back quite a long way - since he had that intriguing address of "The Tornado Simulator, Leuchars"! He has never been an opponent that I have found it easy to get the better of, and we have a pretty even record in previous tussles. However, last time in the 02-03 Championship, it was clear that nothing but a win would do! Easy to say, but not so easy to achieve!

May, Mark (2265) - Brown, Dr Alan (2300) SCCA Championship 02-03 Sicilian Accelerated Dragon [B38]

[Notes by Dr Alan Brown]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	g6

[White has two main tries here - either the quiet 5.Nc3 or the establishment of a Maroczy bind with 5.c4]

5.c4

[Probably the more difficult for Black!]

5...	Bg7
6.Be3	Nf6
7.Nc3	0-0
8.Be2	d6
9.0-0	

[Here, NCO gives 9.f4 e5 as unclear. However, I'm not so sure, as for instance: 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.0-0 Qc7 13.Qe1 Rb8 14.Rb1 seems to leave the advantage with White. (as does 14.b4)]

9... Bd7

[9...a5; 9...a6; 9...Re8; 9...Nd7 are all possibilities here.]

10.Rc1 Nxd4
11.Bxd4 Bh6!?



[Merenyi v Winants 1997 continued in this fashion, which helps to restore Black's fortunes compared with 11...Bc6 12.Qd3]

12.Rc2 e5
13.Be3 Bxe3
14.fxe3 Bc6
15.Qd3

[I had expected 15.Bd3, and now after some thought played 15... Qe7 to allow for the necessary rook play to eventually control the q- file. However, the game did not proceed that way!]

15... Qe7
16.b4 b6

[To inhibit any push to c5.]

17.Bd1 a5
18.a3?!

[Allows the opening of a file as the knight at c3 must be maintained to bolster up the very weak e4 - a task that cannot be left solely to the White queen, who is now caught rather flat- footedly in the centre.]

18... axb4
19.axb4 Ra1
20.Rcf2 Nd7
21.Rd2 Qe6

[The beginning of pressure on c4, while continuing to threaten the g- and h- files.]

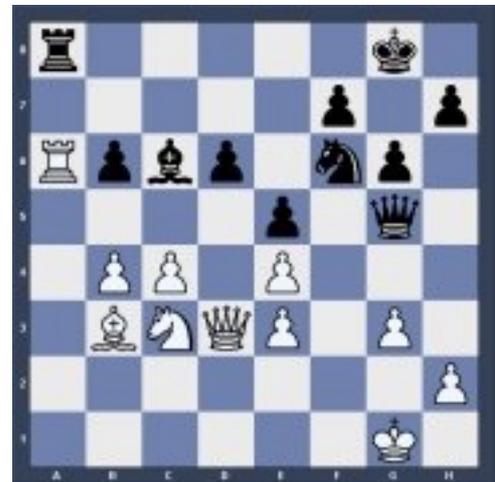
22.Bb3

[The defence of c4, but too little too late.]

22... Rxf1+
23.Kxf1 Qf6+

[The c4 threat evaporates, to be replaced with something more sinister, namely control of the a- file along with a knight at f6.]

24.Kg1 Qh4
25.g3 Qg5
26.Ra2 Nf6
27.Ra6 Ra8!



[When Mark replied to this move, he said that he had expected 27... Rb8. That however would have negated Black's real intentions, and perhaps would have lost the game. Meantime, the proffered b- pawn was really a poisoned pawn!]

28.Rxb6? Ra1+
29.Kg2 Ng4
30.Bd1 Nxe3+
31.Kf2 Nxd1+
32.Nxd1 Qh5

[32...Qh5 33.Qe2 Qxh2+ 34.Kf1 Qh1+ 35.Kf2 Rxd1; 32...Qh5 33.Rxc6 Qxh2+ 34.Ke1 Qh1+ 35.Qf1 Rxd1+ 36.Kxd1 Qxf1+ 37.Kc2 Qf2+ both lead to wins for Black.]

0-1





The Reasons Why

By Richard Beecham

The question I have been asked repeatedly over the last year or so is: "how have you managed to change from an also-ran into an international CC master"?

Analysing the question is quite complex, but I will try to explain it from a personal point of view.

Taking early retirement at 51 years of age allowed me to reassess my life. Most people imagine that those of us who have studied architecture to be somewhat arrogant, self-opinionated, egotistical, work-shy fops who enjoy spending other people's money on lavish buildings. To a certain extent this is true. When those things are gone in your life, a new challenge must fill the void.

Having taken part in the Scottish CC Championships off and on for 30 years, I felt it was time to concentrate my efforts on winning the thing instead of just taking part.

The first objective was to analyse my games and look at my failures (plenty of those in 30 years) to discover where I had made my mistakes. I even looked at the time of year of my mistakes! I went through the same procedure for my wins. This was a great help in that it emphasised my deficiencies and strengths. I also looked at the ratings of the Championship contenders.

Eventually, I came to the conclusion that most SCCA Championships were made up from contenders of near-equal strength. Therefore, what separates the champion from the contenders must be some form of psychological dominance and self-belief. Mohammed Ali once said: "I'm a great golfer - I just haven't played the game yet"!

To achieve that psychological dominance (in my mind), I had to set out some principles as the motivation now existed. They broke down as follows:

- Training and Preparation
- Dedication
- Intensity
- Mental Toughness
- Confidence
- Composure
- Cognition

Training and Preparation

I spent almost 9 months learning new openings and studied the middle games from these openings. To reduce the effort, I decided to play the Trompovsky in my games with White. There is still a lot to find in this opening, and I felt it suited my style of play. With Black, I took up the French and Grünfeld.

I'm also planning ahead. At present I'm playing in a World Semi-Final and, on days when no moves arrive, I'm studying two new openings and gathering a database for the World

Candidates - one step away from the World Championship Final.

Dedication

This is the ability to narrow your attention to specific goals and to be tremendously disciplined. I treated chess like a normal working day:

Get up - breakfast - chess - tea break at 10ish - back to chess - lunch - walk the dog - chess - dinner - and relax in the evening with perhaps some more chess!

Intensity

This comes about by the quality of commitment, eagerness and sheer passion for our game - you have to believe!

Mental Toughness

You have to be stronger, harder and more resistant towards your opponent than they are to you.

Confidence

You must adopt and develop an unshakable self-belief that you cannot lose and that no-one is allowed to beat you. This comes through winning games and building on those wins. You know that none of your competitors is working as hard as you or putting in such long hours as you, and this all builds confidence.

Composure

You must try to remain unruffled regardless of the situation on the board. If it's an unexpected move, take an initial look and leave it for a day - the psychological shock then has a chance to sink in. This helps to dispel these negative thoughts because, once they get into your mind, then a loss is almost certain.

Cognition

This is the faculty for reasoning, perceiving, decision-making and responding to the changes and patterns of play on the board. Making the right move in a game - for example, where you need a win, do you play the best move which you suspect leads to a draw, or do you play an inferior move which leads to a less-stable position where your opponent might go astray? In the last three years, I've gone for the latter option, and it's been successful every time!

From all of the above, you can see that advantages - no matter how small - always exist between perceived equals. By adopting these principles and applying myself to hard work, I have achieved some success at last after 30+ years of being an also-ran!



Kasparov - Kramnik

By Ilias Kourkounakis

[Editor's note: international CC continues to provide a fascinating range of opponents and personalities. I'm currently playing Ilias in the XV Email Olympiad, and discovered early on that he was new to email chess. He soon mastered the notational conventions, and impressed me with his fluent conversational English. Unsurprisingly, he turned out to be an author as well as a strong player and trainer. He is preparing a series of books on world champions up to the present day, and has already won recognition for his commentaries on super-GM matches. This piece is lifted from his home page, which can be found presently at: <http://www.chess.gr/ilias/>. The commentary was written in 2000, before the K-K London match.]



Introduction

Ilias Kourkounakis has been a professional chess trainer since 1985 and has collaborated with many clubs in all of Greece. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto, with a Specialist degree in Psychology. He was Greek Junior Champion in 1978 and Greek co-champion in 1982.

Although he plays rarely nowadays, he remains among the top Greek players, with several international successes and wins against very strong opposition.

Kasparov-Kramnik, Super GM Linares, 2000

Every game between the real World Champion and Kramnik has some extra interest. It may be that in the last few years Anand has established himself as a better potential candidate for the title, but the young Russian has much superior results against "God" (a nickname established by the Ukrainian GM Ivanchuk). If in some later date Kasparov's creativity comes to a halt, it is possible that Kramnik will be his successor.

It is worth noting that Gary himself had noticed the "Volodya" potential when the latter was still only 16 years old and insisted that he played in the Olympiad with the National Team, while later he used him as an official assistant in his title defence against Anand.

In any case, Kasparov recently declared that he will remain Champion at least until 2004.]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nf6
3.Nxe5 d6

4.Nf3 Nxe4
5.d4 d5
6.Bd3 Nc6
7.0-0 Be7
8.c4 Nb4
9.Be2 0-0
10.Nc3 b6



[An interesting novelty, clearly prepared especially for this particular tournament. The idea is to develop the white-squared B on the long diagonal, so that it would influence as much as possible events in the centre. At the same time, Black avoids the pressure that usually arises on the b-file after the exchange ...Ne4xNc3.

Naturally there is an accompanying defect of partial weakening of several white squares on the queenside, but it is not so clear how White may profit from this.]

11.a3

[Kasparov decides to force developments. Another critical alternative is 11.Ne5, because it adds pressure on the sensitive square c6 and frees f3 for the Be2.]

11... Nxc3
12.bxc3 Nc6
13.cxd5

[I find it difficult to comprehend why Kasparov releases the tension in the centre so early. After 13.Re1 Bb7 14.Bd3 Black cannot play as in the game, because of the "contact" between the Re1 and the Be7. As a result, a continuation like 14...dxc4 15.Bxc4 Na5 16.Bd3 Re8 leads to a better position for White (see also Kramnik's 15th move).]

13... Qxd5
14.Re1 Bb7
15.Bd3

[Also here I find 15.c4 practically preferable, in order to force Black to decide about his Q before developing the Ra8. The less information available when taking such a critical decision, the more chances to make a mistake.]

15... Rae8

[The correct R, so that the Q may choose the appropriate retreat square depending on how White will continue, without fearing the blockage of the Ra8. Besides, it is definitely useful to keep extra cover for the f-pawn.]



16.Qc2

[Especially critical at this point is the alternative 16.c4 Qh5 17.d5, when the sacrifice 17...Bd6 looks insufficient: 18.dxc6 Rxe1+ 19.Qxe1 Bxc6 20.Be2 (worse seems 20.Be3 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Re8) 20...Bxf3 21.Bxf3 Qxh2+ 22.Kf1 Qh1+ 23.Ke2 Qh4 24.g4 h5 25.Be3 hxg4 26.Bd5 and in this wide open position the B is worth definitely more than the 3 Ps.

The attempt 16.Bf4 proves less convincing, as long as after 16...Bd6 17.c4 Qh5 18.Bxd6 cxd6 19.d5 Black plays 19...Na5 and not 19...Ne5 20.Nxe5 Qxd1 21.Raxd1 Rxe5 22.Rxe5 dxe5 23.a4 with an annoying White initiative lasting well into the endgame.]

16... h6

[Perhaps here it is preferable to transfer the Q to the kingside with 16...Qh5. If White then replied in the typical fashion 17.Rb1, in order to harass the Q with Rb1-b5, there is the tactical possibility of 17...Nxd4 18.cxd4 (worse is 18.Nxd4 Bd6) 18...Bxf3 19.gxf3 Bd6 20.Rxe8 Qxh2+ 21.Kf1 Rxe8 22.Be3 Bf4 with excellent compensation for the piece.]

17.Bh7+ Kh8
18.Be4 Qd8

[A risky choice, since now the N has rather insufficient support. 18...Qd7 was preferable, or even 18...Qh5 19.Ne5 Bd6 (19...Nxe5 20.Bxb7 Ng4 21.Bf4 Bd6 22.Bxd6 cxd6 23.h3 Nf6 24.Qa4) 20.Bf3 Qh4 (20...Nxd4 21.cxd4 Bxf3 22.gxf3 f6 23.Ng6+) 21.Nxf7+ Kg8 22.Nxh6+ Kh8 when White is obliged to keep on checking.]

19.Bb2



[Kasparov thought for a long time at this point and as a result had to face time trouble. He probably should have chosen 19.Qa4, but it seems he was concerned with the active defence 19...a6 20.Bxc6 b5. Later, however, he said that after 21.Bxb5 axb5 22.Qxb5 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Bd6 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Be3 Re6 26.Qh5 White keeps a clear advantage and therefore he should have chosen this.

After the game, Kramnik mentioned that he had planned the reply 19...Qa8, but then there is the combinational possibility 20.d5 Na5 21.Bxh6 gxh6 (a swift loss results from 21...Bxd5 22.Bxd5 Qxd5 23.Bxg7+ Kxg7 24.Qg4+ Kh7 25.Re5 etc.) 22.Qd4+ Kg8 (or here 22...f6 23.Qe3) 23.Bc2 f5 (obviously not 23...Bxd5 24.Qg4+ and 25.Qf5.) 24.Bxf5, e.g. 24...Bxd5 25.Qg4+ Kh8 26.Qg6 Rxf5 27.Qxh6+ Kg8 28.Qg6+ Kh8 29.Qxf5 with the powerful threats 30.Re5 and 30.Re3 etc. or 24...Rxf5 25.Qg4+ Rg5 26.Nxg5 hxg5 (also losing is 26...Bxg5 27.h4) 27.Re6 Bxd5 28.Rg6+ Kf8 29.Qh5 and Black has no longer any defence.]

19... Bf6
20.c4 Na5
21.Bxb7 Nxb7



[At this point, the two adversaries decided to split the point. After 21...Nxb7 22.Re4 White keeps better control of the centre, but Kasparov probably thought that his relative lack of time (12' until the 40th move) did not allow him to risk in such a complex situation.]

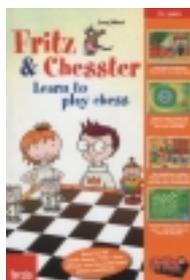
1/2-1/2

Annotations © IM Ilias Kourkounakis.





Fritz and Chester By Joerg Hilbert



As I write this column I instinctively know that someone is going to say that a review for this CD doesn't belong in the SCCA Magazine. True it's aimed at 8 to 13 year olds to help them learn how to play chess. True our readers are all chess players who have mastered the game and are slightly older than the targeted audience. So what can I say in my defence for including a review.

Well quite simply this is one of the best CDs I have ever seen and anything that encourages youngsters to play chess is to the long term advantage of the world of Correspondence Chess. The whole concept of the CD revolves around the fact that you can put it in a PC, leave the youngster to play around with the program and they will learn how to play chess without any help from you.

So how does it work? Basically the program is fun. The youngster takes on the role of Fritz where they have to learn to play chess in order to defeat a challenge from King Black. The youngster travels through a mystical land where they play various games which teach all the fundamentals of how to play chess and its strategies and principles. The games which teach all this are fun and will keep the youngsters amused just like any other computer game. For example a Sumo wrestling arena game teaches the concept of opposition between Kings. Once the kids have played all the various fun games they are ready to take on the Black King in a game of chess. Having learnt to play the game they can then get free access to the Playchess server to play chess against others on the internet. OK our readers might not want the CD but buy it for a young member of your family. **Or better still buy a copy for your local Primary School.**

The Isolated Queen's Pawn By Reinhold Ripperger



The main DataBase on this CD contains 112 games and

texts and is the backbone of the authors work in teaching the reader how to handle isolated Queen's pawn positions. The articles and annotations are easy to follow and most club players should benefit from this CD as it will help them understand the relative strengths and weaknesses of isolated Queen's pawn positions. Since the games in this DataBase are taken from those played by top flight players such as Kasparov, Karpov, Anand and a whole host of others, the CD should also prove useful to Correspondence players.

The CD comes complete with a training DataBase of 70 position to help you test your understanding of what you have read and its own reader so there is no need to own a copy of ChessBase.

Junior 8 Deep Junior 8

By Israelis Amir Ban and Shay Bushinsky



Deep Junior 8 is the program which was pitted against Gary Kasparov earlier this year when the worlds top player was held to a draw. In that match the program was running on a Compaq PC with 8 processors. In game five we saw Junior play a stunning Bishop sacrifice on move 10 which stunned everyone and smashed Kasparov's kingside. Kasparov found the best moves to hold the draw but it was the first time we had seen a computer program play such stunning chess.

G Kasparov (2847) - DEEP JUNIOR [E48] FIDE Man-Machine WC New York USA (5), 05.02.2003

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Nge2 Re8 8.0-0 Bd6 9.a3 c6 10.Qc2 Bxh2+ 11.Kxh2 Ng4+ 12.Kg3 Qg5 13.f4 Qh5 14.Bd2 Qh2+ 15.Kf3 Qh4 16.Bxh7+ Kh8 17.Ng3 Nh2+ 18.Kf2 Ng4+ 19.Kf3 Nh2+ 1/2-1/2

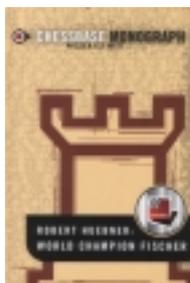
Junior 8 is designed for only one processor so there will be no advantage from it on multi processor machines. Deep Junior 8 will run on a single processor PC but obviously its playing strength is improved if a PC with more than one processor is used.

With Junior 8 you get two chess engines, the original which played Kasparov and the most recently developed one. With Deep Junior 8 you get three engines. As well as the Deep Junior 8 engine you get two experimental engines, Deep Junior 8.0YY and Deep Junior 8.0 ZX. Both programs come with the Fritz interface and a one year subscription to the ChessBase Playchess server

Pentium or compatible PC, 32 MB RAM, Win 98, Me, 2000, XP, CD ROM drive, mouse.

Windows 98,ME,XP,2000, CD ROM drive & mouse.

World Champion Fischer By Robert Huebner



Those of us of a certain age can't deny the influence Robert Fischer has had on our lives. I know for a fact that I probably wouldn't have started to play chess if it wasn't for the coverage of his World Championship match against Boris Spassky. The CD contains tournament reports and nearly a 1000 of Fischer's games with about 460 of them containing excellent analysis. Robert Huebner has done some excellent analysis for this CD. The CD also contains some interesting video clips. The CD comes complete with its own reader so there is no need to own a copy of ChessBase

Tiger 15 by Christoph Theron



This program has to be one of the best attacking chess engines around. Not only does it have a good track record in OTB tournaments against GMs but it is also placed 4th in the SSDP computer rating list behind the Fritz and Shredder playing programs.

Tiger has a very aggressive style of play and is very strong in the tactical department. As a sparring partner I would say it is the ideal program to hone your defensive skills. If you don't keep on top of your game you could very quickly find yourself in all sorts of trouble from unexpected attacks. Whilst you don't need the latest PC to take advantage of this program I would recommend having at least 100 Mb of RAM to get the optimum performance. In order to use the Tiger engine in either ChessBase 8 or 7 you need to do a full installation of the program but this also gives you access to a large DataBase and a tournament tested CTG key.

The program comes with the Fritz interface and a one year subscription to the ChessBase Playchess server so if you have Internet access on you PC you can play games against people from all over the world until your hearts content.

System requirements Pentium PC, 32 MB RAM

Fritz Technique Training By Henrik Schlossner



I found this a very enjoyable CD to play around with. It basically is an exercise CD where you have a given position and are asked to achieve a given goal. Its tempting to have an analysis engine switched on so that you can get some hints but this spoils the fun. Anyway Fritz or its 'friends' would probably solve the problem far quicker than I would. Even if you come up with a satisfactory answer you can go back and find out if you can see a more efficient way of achieving the objective. Even the author says "The solution I have chosen comes from my inadequate brain and is not always the continuation which Fritz would have chosen. But it worked - if not always at the first attempt!".

The CD has over 100 winnable game positions. Almost all the positions are taken from real games so there is nothing phoney about the positions. It's a very instructive CD and I feel you always learn more if you are enjoying the process.

Here's one of the test positions: -



HINT :- With his major pieces and Ne5 Black has already lined up a good attacking force, and Nd7 is ready to follow its brother on e5. Only the Bishop is in an unfortunate position. For the moment the White King is sufficiently protected. By 2 minor pieces. Your job is to do away with the protection and storm the royal bastion.

Also included is a full multimedia report of the Man v Machine report from Bahrain. You will need to have either a ChessBase program or one of the playing programs such as Fritz to be able to use the CD.



International Tournament Tables

By George Pyrich

Bernard Partridge Memorial Final

IM Norm 7½					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts
	1	E C Sowden	2361	ENG		0	½	0	½	1	0	½	½	1	1	1	½	6½
	2	G Voss	2296	GER	1		½	0	1	0	½	0	½	0	½	0	½	4½
	3	J M Poulsen	2370	DEN	½	½		0	0	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	0	3½
	4	M J Summers	2408	BEL	1	1	1		1	1	0	1	½	½	1	1	½	9½
	5	Dr S M Williams	2297	ENG	½	0	1	0		1	½	1	0	½	½	1	0	6
	6	T Lang	2463	GER	0	1	½	0	0		0	½	½	0	½	½	½	4
	7	R Boger	2477	NOR	1	½	1	1	½	1		1	1	½	½	½	½	9
	8	Dr G Grothe	2345	GER	½	1	½	0	0	½	0		0	½	0	½	½	4
	9	L van Damme	2444	BEL	½	½	½	½	1	½	0	1		½	0	1	½	6½
	10	H Kunz	2403	GER	0	1	1	½	½	1	½	½	½		1	½	½	7½
	11	T Hartogh	2392	GER	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	1	1	0		0	0	4½
	12	R Woelk	2311	GER	0	1	½	0	0	½	½	½	0	½	1		0	4½
	13	H Starke	2355	GER	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	1	1		8

Bulletin 21st Anniversary Invitation

IM Norm 10, SIM Norm 11					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Pts
	1	A J C Rawlings	2372	ENG		1	½	1	1	0	½	½	0	1	½	0	0	½	½	7
	2	C J Lennox	2393	SCO	0		1	1	1	0	½	1	½	1	0	0	½	0	½	7
	3	C M Fordham-Hall	2299	ENG	½	0		½	1	0	½	1	½	1	1	1	0	1	½	8½
	4	R P Marconi	2200	CAN	0	0	½		1	0	½	0	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	3
	5	B Milligan	2435	SCO	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	0	0	1
	6	C R Beecham	2246	SCO	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	12½
	7	D Blair	2326	NIR	½	½	½	½	1	0		1	½	½	0	½	½	½	0	6½
	8	N Gurtovoi	2213	LAT	½	0	0	1	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	½	½	0	3½
	9	S Tatlow	2342	ENG	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	1		½	½	1	1	½	½	10
	10	J J Mackie	2228	AUS	0	0	0	1	½	½	½	1	½		0	½	1	0	½	6
	11	G D Pyrich	2397	SCO	½	1	0	½	1	½	1	1	½	1		½	1	½	½	9½
	12	I Mackintosh	2272	SCO	1	1	0	1	1	0	½	1	0	½	½		½	½	0	7½
	13	J F Campbell	2204	USA	1	½	1	½	½	0	½	½	0	0	0	½		½	½	6
	14	G R Sprott	2379	SCO	½	1	0	1	1	0	½	½	½	1	½	½	½		½	8
	15	T J Greiner	2271	USA	½	½	½	1	1	0	1	1	½	½	½	1	½	½		9



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

Another magazine and I am pleased to say I received a few more games for the games column this time round.

Jonathon Lenox make a welcome return as a contributor so I will kick off this issue with a fine win of his in the European circuit. Besides I always loved the Najdorf even if I seldom get a win with it nowadays.

EUFSM64, 2003

White: A Castellano

Black: C J Lennox

Sicilian Najdorf [B96]

(Annotator C J Lennox)

Shall we play Fisherandom Chess? Not if we have any interest in the history of the game.

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Bg5	e6
7.f4	Nbd7
8.Qf3	Qc7
9.0-0-0	b5
10.Bd3	Bb7
11.Rhe1	Be7



This cunning move order allows Black to reach one of the standard positions of the main line 7...Be7, having avoided the critical alternative 10.g4.

12.Qg3 **b4**

In one of the many dramatic games in the 1972 World Championship match, Fischer played 12...0-0-0. Spassky had the advantage after 13.Bxf6 Nxf6, 14.Qxg7 but the inevitable subsequent intense scrutiny revealed that 13.Bxb5

would have been even stronger.

13.Nd5 **exd5**
14.exd5

In his book on the 1972 match, Alexander dismissed this variation as crushing, but 30 years later theory in fact prefers 14.e5, even though a draw is the best White can hope for.

14...	Kd8
15.Qe3	Re8
16.Nf5	Nxd5
17.Qe2	N7b6



Now theory suggests 18.Qh5, but White is struggling to justify his sacrifice.

18.Nxg7	Rg8
19.Qg4	Bc8
20.Bxe7+	Qxe7

Black would retain his extra piece with 20...Nxe7, but would face serious problems after 21.Qg5. By returning material, on the other hand, Black soon reaches a comfortable position.

21.Ne6+	Bxe6
22.Qxg8+	Kc7

In view of the strength of Black's next move, I now expected either 23.Qg7 or 23.Qg5.

23.Qxh7	Qf6
24.g3	Na4

Did White forget that Black can attack too? The result is no longer in doubt, e.g. 25.f5 Rh8 would be embarrassing for White, but I was really hoping for; 25.c3 bxc3 26.bxc3 Qxc3+ 27.Bc2 Rb8 (inviting everyone to the party, to quote Seirawan) 28.Rxe6 Rb1+

25.Rxe6	Qxe6
26.Qh5	Qe3+
27.Rd2	



If now 27.Kb1 Nac3+ 28.bxc3 Nxc3+ 29.Kb2 Nxd1+ 30.Qxd1 material is almost level after all the sacrifices and counter-sacrifices, but White has fatal dark square weaknesses.

27... **Nac3**
0-1

This move is again decisive, there being no good defence to the threat of 28...Qe1+. 28.Qxf7+ Kb6 wouldn't help, nor would 28.Be2 Nxa2+, so White resigned.



Geoff Lloyd has provided some entertaining games over the years and this one is no exception. Geoff is one of the growing band of contributors who use ChessBase software to annotate their games. It certainly helps me when compiling the games column and I am sure they also benefit from the tools it provides both in recording their thoughts and accessing reference material.

SCCA Candidates 2002/03

White: G Lloyd

Black: R Henderson

Barry Attack [A48]

[Annotator G Lloyd]

1.d4	Nf6
2.Nf3	g6
3.Nc3	Bg7
4.Bf4	

In Aaron Summerscales book "A Killer chess opening repertoire", he wrote "Welcome to the wonderful world of the Barry Attack".

4... c5



5.dxc5

5.d5 d6 6.e4 a6 7.a4 Nh5 8.Bg5 h6 9. Be3 0-0 10.Qd2 Kh7 When Black went on to win an easy endgame position in the game Fronczak v Verbandsliga, Nord Baden, 1993.

5... Qa5
6.Qd2 Qxc5
7.e4 d6

I think that 7...Nh5 is better here.

8.0-0-0



8... Ng4

8...0-0 9.Be3 Qa5 10.a3 Nc6 11.Bh6 Bg4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 Again Black went on to win an easy endgame in the Hungarian Championship played between, Rathy v Honfi, Budapest, 1961.

9.Nd5 Be6
10.Re1 Na6

10...Bxd5 11.exd5 Nd7 12.h3 Ngf6

11.b4 Qc8
12.Bb5+ Bd7
13.Bxa6 bxa6
14.e5 dxe5
15.Nxe5



Well welcome indeed. I like this position very much.

15... Nxe5
16.Bxe5 Bxe5
17.Qg5 f6
18.Nxf6+ Kf7



18...exf6 19.Qxf6 Qc3 20.Rxe5+ Qxe5 21.Qxe5+ Kf8 22.Qxh8+ Kf7 1 - 0 23. Qxa8; 18...Kd8 19.Rxe5 Qc3 20.Nxd7 Qa1+ 21.Kd2 Qd4+ Black will eventually run out of Checks. 22.Ke2 Qc4+ (22...Qxd7 23.Qxe7+; 22...Kc7 23.Rc5+ Kb7 This losses to 24.Rd1) 23.Kf3 Qc3+ 24.Re3 Qc6+ 25.Kg3 Qd6+ 26.f4 h6 27.Qe5 g5 28.Qxh8+ Kxd7 29.Qe5 gxf4+ 30.Kxf4 White is winning in all variations.

19.Nxd7



19... Qxd7

19...Bb2+ 20.Kxb2 Qxd7 21.Re4 Rae8 22.Rhe1 Rhf8 23.Qh4 Rh8 24.Qg5 This

delays the result, much longer than in the actual game, however I feel that in this case White would win the endgame.

20.Rxe5 Rhe8
21.Rd1 Qa4

21...Qc7 is better.

22.Qf4+ Kg7
23.Qd4

Threatening a dreaded discovered check and at the same time attacking the beleaguered Queen.

23... Kf7
24.Qc4+

At the same time covering the c6 square preventing the Queens only escape route!

24... Kg7
25.Ra5 1-0



The following game was sent in by regular contributor Richard Beecham. Richard is rapidly moving up the scale of top CC players, so when he says some of the variations in this game are more interesting than the actual game moves I will take his word for it. Perhaps this is one of those games where you should make sure you have two boards set up (on for the main moves and one for the variations) as you play through it.

World CC Ch26 Semi-final 2
White: C R Beecham
Black: L Zier
French Defence [C07]
[Annotator C R Beecham]

According to the superb book "ICCF Gold" (available from our International Secretary George Pyrich and which I can whole-heartily recommend to every SCCA member, not only for the games and National Federation articles but for the comprehensive history of our game.) I noted my opponent obtained his I.M. title in 2001 and took part in the European Final EU/FSM/50.

1.d4 e6
2.e4 d5
3.Nd2 c5
4.exd5 Qxd5
5.Ngf3 cxd4

6.Bc4 **Qd6**
7.0-0 **Nc6**

The most common move in this variation is 7...Nf6, which normally transposes after 8.Nb3 Nc6 to the main line, but I had a different idea in mind. In the European final EU/FSM/60 my opponent playing Black against the very strong C.C. player Dr. Warner Stern, (who played in the 9th C.C. World-Ch Final) played the more usual 7...Nf6 and the game continued

8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.Bb3 Qc7 12.Re1 Bd6 13.Nf5 Bxh2+ 14.Kh1 0-0 15.Nxg7 Rd8 16.Qf3 Kxg7 17.Bh6+ Kg6 18.c3 Nh5 19.Be3 f5 20.g4 Nf6 21.gxf5+ exf5 22.Qg2+ Ng4 23.f3 b5 24.Bc2 (24.Bd4 Kg5 was I Mackintosh - C.R. Beecham SCCA Ch 2001-02) 24...Kf6 25.Bd4+ Be5 26.Rxe5 Nxe5 27.Qh2 Rxd4 28.cxd4 Bb7 29.dxe5+ Qxe5 30.Qh6+ Ke7 31.Qxh7+ Kd6 Draw.

8.Ne4!



8... **Qb4**
9.b3 **Qb6**

Other moves are less good. viz... 9...Be7 10.Nxd4 Nf6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qf3 Nxe4 13.Qxe4 0-0 14.a3 (14.Qxc6 Bb7=) 14...Qb6 15.Bb2 White is well on top.;

Or 9...e5 10.Re1 (10.Nfg5? Nh6 11.Qh5 Qe7 looks good for White but Black's position holds with the extra pawn.) 10...Qa5 11.c3 dxc3 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Nd6+ Bxd6 14.Qxd6 Be6 15.Rxe5 Wins.;

Or 9...Bc5 10.Bb2 Nf6 11.c3 Qb6 12.Nxf6+ gxf6 13.cxd4 Be7 14.d5 with an attack.

10.Bb2 **Nf6**
11.Nxf6+ **gxf6**
12.Nxd4 **Rg8**

I was hoping for 12...Bd7



which would set up a winning attack with 13.Nxe6!! Bxe6 (13...fxe6 14.Qh5+ Ke7 15.Rad1 Ne5 16.Bxe5 fxe5 17.Qg5+ Ke8 18.Be2! Be7 19.Qh5+ Kd8 20.Qxe5 Rf8 21.Bb5 Bf6 22.Rxd7+) 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Qh5+ Ke7 16.Ba3+ Nice.

13.Ne2

Going for the h-pawn with 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.Qxh7 Rg7 15.Qe4 0-0-0 16.Rad1 Bc5 17.Ne2 e5 18.Ng3 Rg4 would not be good as Black has adequate compensation with the open g/h files and mobile e/f pawns.

13... **Ne5**

On 13...f5 I had planned 14.Nf4 Rg4 (14...Qc7 15.Nh5 Be7 16.Ng7+ Kf8 17.Nxf5! exf5 18.Qh5) 15.Nh5 Rxc4 16.Nf6+ Ke7 17.Nxh7 Rg4 18.Ba3+ with a winning attack.

14.Bxe5 **fxe5**
15.Ng3 **Bd7**
16.Qh5 **Rg6**
17.Rad1 **Qc7**
18.Rfe1

The h-pawn is still not worth much 18.Qxh7 Rh6 19.Qd3 a6 20.a4 0-0-0 and with the Bishop pair and potential mobile pawns on e5, e6 and f7 Black may be better.

18... **0-0-0**

Not 18...f5?! as 19.Rxd7 Qxd7 20.Rd1 Bd6 21.Bb5! looks very good.

19.Qxh7

I spent a week on this move - should I take the e-pawn with the Q or the R? Lets see.

19.Rxe5 Bd6 20.Re3 Bc6 21.c3 Bf4 22.Red3 Rdg8 looked good for Black,; as does 19.Qxe5 Qxe5 20.Rxe5 Bg7 21.Re3 b5 so I went for the third option, taking the h-pawn.

19...Bc6

The most interesting line and the one I spent most time on was 19...Bg7!? 20.Bd3 Rh8 21.Bxg6 Rxh7 22.Bxh7 f5 23.c4 e4 24.Re2 Bh6 25.Bg6 Qd8



26.Nxf5!! exf5 27.Bxf5 Bxf5 28.Rxd8+ and Whites R and pawns win against the two Bishops.

20.Rxd8+ **Kxd8**
21.Rd1+ **Ke8**

No better was 21...Kc8 22.Qh8 Qe7 23.Qxe5 a6 24.Bd3 f5 25.Bc4 b5 26.Bd3 Bg7

22.Qh5 **e4**
23.Bb5



Black Resigns as there is nothing left in the position for him. After 23...Rh6 24.Qg5 f6 25.Bxc6+ bxc6 etc. White has no weaknesses, a passed h-pawn plus a pawn majority on the Q-side. **1-0**



And now two very interesting games from our Editor. Iain makes good use of books and databases in his opening preparation which helps him get into some nice positions.

CCO/15/S1, 2003

White: - I Mackintosh (2240)
Black: - L Stankevicius (2425)
 Caro-Kann Defence [A00]

[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

This was the second of my Olympiad games to finish. My opponent was a pensioner living in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. Our 59 moves were completed in 67 calendar days!

1.e4 c6

At this level of competition, opening preparation is important. I don't play the Caro-Kann as Black, nor have I met it much as White (just 5 times in 200 international games). On the shelf I had the 1991 edition of "Play the Caro-Kann" by Varnusz, and in the machine, ChessBase Mega-2002.

**2.d4 d5
3.Nd2 dxe4
4.Nxe4 Nd7**

This heralds the Nimzowitsch (Smyslov) Variation, which is very solid for Black. The main idea for Black is to play Ngf6 without disrupting his pawn structure.

5.Bc4

The second most popular line according to CB, and with a 57% success rate for White. This continuation was also well analysed in my Varnusz book. 5.Nf3 is the most popular variation, but rates at just 52% for White in CB.; 5.Ng5 is a more recent try, with an encouraging 60% score for White, but I had less by way of thematic notes from Varnusz.

**5... Ngf6
6.Ng5 e6**



Black is happy to compromise the c8 bishop meantime. 6...Nd5 is an alternative which was tried in the 60s and 70s.

7.Qe2 Nb6

7...Be7? 8.Nxf7!

8.Bd3

8.Bb3 is the main alternative, with little difference in popularity or results over the line tried.

8... h6

8...Qxd4 9.N1f3 Qd5 10.0-0+-

9.N5f3 c5

The only move considered by Varnusz. Black needs to find counterplay quickly, else White castles q-side and throws k-side pawns into the attack.

10.dxc5

10.Be3 is a less-trying but useful developing move.

**10... Bxc5
11.Ne5**

Boleslavsky notes that the b1-Knight's progress is a wonder to behold in this variation!

**11... Nbd7
12.Ngf3 Qc7**



12...Nxe5!? 13.Nxe5 0-0 14.Bd2 Qd5 15.0-0-0!? Qxa2 16.c3 b5!? 17.Bb1 Qa4 18.Qf3!? Nd5 19.Qg3 Kh8 20.Rhe1 Bb7 21.Qd3 Nf6 22.g4 Rad8 23.Qh3 leads to a double-edged tactical struggle.

13.0-0

13.Bd2? Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxf2+! 15.Qxf2 Qxe5+μ Suetin-Kholmov 1976.; 13. Bf4?! Bb4+! 14.Kf1 Bd6 15.Bg3 0-0 16.Rd1 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Rd8! 18.Nc4 Bxg3 19.hxg3 b5!?!³ Timman-Karpov 1988

**13... 0-0
14.c4?!**

This move was a dubious experiment, but other lines seemed to head for

equality. 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Nxd7 Bxd7 16. Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Ne5 Rfd8 18.Rad1 Qb6 19.c3 Be8 20.Rd2 Rd5= Adorjan-Navarovsky 1977, was the main continuation given by Varnusz.

14... Bd6

Sticking with the main theme.

15.Re1 Rd8

After this, we are out of contact with published analysis.

**16.Nxd7 Bxd7
17.Ne5 Be8**

17...Bxe5 18.Qxe5 Qxe5 19.Rxe5 Bc6 20.Be2 Nd7 21.Re3 Rac8=

**18.Bf4 Nd7
19.Rad1 Nc5
20.Bc2 f6!**

The main line exchanges have been avoided and Black stirs up the tactics.

21.b4!?

21.Rxd6 Rxd6 22.b4 Na6 23.Qe4 f5 24. Qe2 Nxb4 25.Nf3 Rc8³

**21... Na6
22.Qd3 g6**

22...Bxe5 23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.Qh8+ Kf7 25.Qh7=

23.Nf7!



Not the most obvious move, but good alternatives are in short supply! Black threatens the e5 knight, a discovered attack down the d-file, plus the White b- and c-pawns, so drastic measures are called for. The move played exploits the exposed g6 pawn.

23... Qxf7

The Knight must be taken, but not with

King or Bishop.

24.Bxd6	Nxb4
25.Qxg6+	Qxg6
26.Bxg6	Bxg6
27.Bxb4	

And after the dust settles, White has managed to scramble to material equality, though that c4 pawn remains weak.

27...	Kf7
28.c5	Bd3

28...Rxd1 29.Rxd1 Be4 30.Rd7+ Kg6 31.f3 Bc6 32.Rd6 Bd5 33.a3 Rc8 34. Kf2=

29.f3	Rd5!
30.Kf2	e5
31.Re2!	



The first of several manoeuvres to get the rooks off and move to an opposite-coloured Bishop ending.

31...	Rad8
32.Red2	Ke6
33.a3	f5
34.Ke3	e4
35.Rb2	

The White position is fairly solid, but there aren't many available moves. This is slightly better than Rc1, Re1 or h3.

35...	R8d7
36.fxe4	fxe4
37.Rdd2	

The intention being to double up, occupy black squares and keep a weather eye on the k-side pawns.

37...	Re5
38.g3	Rd8
39.a4	h5
40.a5	Rd7
41.Rf2	Bb5
42.Rbd2	

To exchange Rooks, I have to allow the slightly alarming passed pawn on d3, but analysis convinced me it wasn't getting any further.

42...	Rd3+
43.Rxd3	exd3+
44.Kd4	Rg5
45.Rf4	Rd5+
46.Ke3	Re5+
47.Re4	



And finally I've managed to secure the second exchange.

47...	Kd5
48.Rxe5+	Kxe5
49.h3	Kd5
50.g4	

Somewhere round about here, I offered the draw which was declined. My opponent still had designs on my c-pawn!

50...	hxc4
51.hxc4	Kc4
52.Be1	a6
53.g5	Be8
54.Kd2	Bg6
55.Bg3	Kxc5
56.Bf2+	Kd5
57.Bb6	

The extra pawn doesn't matter. The White bishop controls a5, b6 and g5 from d8, and the d3 pawn is blocked.

57...	Ke4
58.Bc7	Kd4
59.Bh2	Ke4

And now Lionginas offered the draw, which I gladly accepted! 1/2-1/2



CCO/15/S1, 2003
White: - P Bastos (2475)
Black: - I Mackintosh (2240)
Two Knights [A00]
[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

This was another Olympiad game, with a sizeable gap in grades. Paulo was a 46 year-old Brazilian doctor living in Copacabana - presumably it's safe now that Barry Manilow has left...

1.e4	e5
-------------	-----------

I used to play the French, but it's invariably e5 in response to 1.e4 these days.

2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bc4	

And again I'm denied the use of the "Total Marshall" CD!

3...	Nf6
4.d3	

4.Ng5; and 4.d4 are the sharp variations, leading to the Max Lange attack and other slugfests.

4...	Be7
5.0-0	0-0
6.Re1	h6



This move is relatively unusual, but often adopted by Macedonian GM Nikola Mitkov who, at 2500, ought to know what he's doing. 6...d6 7.c3 Na5 8. Bb5 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bc2 c5 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.Nf1 is the main line, with some advantage to White - CB gives a 57% success rate from here.

7.c3	Re8
8.b4	

With this move, Paulo left charted territory and signalled his intention to start bombarding the Black position.

8...	Bf8
-------------	------------

8...d6; and 8...a6 are alternatives, but I wanted the option of Qe7 as soon as possible.

9.Qb3	Qe7
--------------	------------

10.Nbd2 d6
 11.d4 a6
 12.a4 Qd7

12...Bg4 13.a5 exd4 14.cxd4 Rab8 15.d5 Ne5 16.Nd4²

13.a5 exd4
 14.Bb2!?



Sacrificing the pawn for open lines. Round about here, the plumbing was being loosened on the kitchen sink...

14... dxc3
 15.Bxc3 Nh5

15...Ne5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.b5 Bc5 18. bxa6 bxa6 19.Rad1 Bd6 20.Nf3=

16.g3

16.e5 Nf4 17.exd6 Rxe1+ 18.Rxe1 Bxd6 19.g3 Ng6=

16... Nf6
 17.Rad1

17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Nh4 Nxb4 19.Qxb4 (19.Ng6 Nc6 20.Nxf8 Kxf8=) 19...d5³

17... Ng4
 18.Nh4 Nce5
 19.Be2

A momentary release of pressure on f7.

19... Qd8
 20.f4 Nc6
 21.f5

Black's shuffles just encourage more advances by White.

21... Nge5
 22.Ndf3 Qf6
 23.Ng6! b5

23...Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3 Ne5 25.Bxe5 dxe5 also looked playable, but didn't do much to end the captivity of the c8 Bishop.

24.Nf4 Bb7
 25.Nd5 Qd8
 26.Nh4 Be7
 27.Ng6!

By this stage, a rule was emerging - if a White knight appears on g6, leave it be!

27... Bg5?!



27...Bf6 immediately might have prevented h4, which has some relevance in the ensuing endgame.

28.h4 Bf6
 29.Nxf6+ Qxf6
 30.Nf4 Qd8

30...Qe7 31.Nd5 Qd7 32.f6 Qh3 33.Bb2 Qe6 34.fxf7 Kxg7 35.Rf1 wasn't very attractive.

31.Kh2!?

31.Nd5; or 31.Bh5 were what I'd expected.

31... Nd7
 32.Bh5 Nce5
 33.Ne6!?

Yet another knight offering, but this time I worked out I could afford to capture it.

33... fxe6
 34.fxe6 Kh7
 35.exd7 Qxd7
 36.Rf1 Qe6?!



36...Re7 37.Bxe5 Rxe5 38.Rf7 Re7 39. Qf3 Rae8 40.Rxe7 Rxe7 41.Qf5+ Qxf5 42.exf5 might have been better, rather than the immediate exchange of Queens. Still, when you've been knocked round the ring for so long, it's tempting to eliminate the biggest puncher first.

37.Qxe6 Rxe6
 38.Rf4 Re7
 39.Rdf1 Rd8

39...Rc8 was the main alternative.

40.Be2 c5

At last, some counterplay!

41.bxc5 dxc5
 42.Rf5!



This begins a forcing sequence of moves which results in the doubling of Black's k-side pawns - enough to negate the newly-won q-side pawn breakthrough.

42... Rde8
 43.Bh5 g6
 44.Rxe5 Rxe5
 45.Bxe5 Rxe5
 46.Rf7+ Kg8
 47.Rxb7 gxh5
 48.Rb6 Rxe4
 49.Rxa6 Re2+
 50.Kh3 Ra2
 51.Rc6 c4
 52.a6 Kf7

At this stage I thought I was winning: the q-side pawns should force White to give up his rook. However, I hadn't calculated the strength of White's k-side (and the effect of earlier h4 and Kh2 moves starts to become apparent).

53.Rb6 Ra5
 54.Rb7+ Ke6

Still going full pelt for pawn-promotion rather than defence.

55.a7 Kd6

56.Rxb5 Rxa7
 57.Rb6+ Kc5
 58.Rxh6 c3
 59.Rxh5+ Kd4
 60.Rf5 c2
 61.Rf1 Rc7
 62.Rc1 Kd3



And only now, post-euphoria, do I settle down to calculate how to finish off the issue. Oh dear, it can't be finished! I tried endless variations to force a win and couldn't find it. Despondently, I offered the draw, and bizarrely, Paulo declined it!

63.Kg4 Kd2
 64.Rxc2+ Rxc2
 65.Kf4 Rc4+
 66.Kf5 Rc5+
 67.Kf6 Ke3
 68.h5!



The neatest way to force the conclusion. The g-pawn advances with tempo.

68... Rxh5
 69.g4 Rh6+
 70.Kf5 Rh1
 71.g5 Rg1
 72.g6 Rxc6
 73.Kxc6 1/2-1/2

The safest alternative! Our 73 moves took 5 months, but Paulo consumed only 19 thinking days compared to my 53!



The following game was sent in to me by John Walker. The game was annotated by Paul Motwani and his high standard of annotation matches the quality of the game. The Sokolsky is one of those openings where you instinctively feel that Black should be winning. Practice often shows otherwise and I don't think I have ever managed a win against it.

White: J Walker
Black: H Sikes
 Sokolsky [A00]
 [Annotator GM Paul Motwani]

1.b4 e5

One might also expect to meet 1...d5 as happened in the game M Vokac - P Bazant, Czech Championship 1996. The continuation there was 2.Bb2 Nd7 (Another move that prepares to play ...e5 is 2...Qd6!?, after which the clash A Sokolsky - V Krupsky, Belorussian Championship 1960 went 2...Qd6 3.a3 e5 4.Nf3 Nd7 5.e3 Be7 6.c4 c6 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Nc3 Bf6?? 9.Nb5 Qb8 (9...Qb6 10.Rc1 Rb8 11.Nc7+ Kd8 12.Nxd5 is also hopeless for Black) 10.Rc1 Bd8 11.Rxc8! 1-0 on account of 11...Qxc8 12.Nd6+) 3.Nf3 Ngf6 4.e3 g6 5.c4 dxc4 (Or 5...c6 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Nc3 threatening 8.Nxd5.) 6.Bxc4 (With a threat...) 6...Bg7?? (... which Black misses!) 7.Bxf7+ 1-0 Black resigned in view of 7...Kxf7 8.Ng5+ followed by 9.Ne6(+) or 9.Qb3+, depending on which move is played from 8...Ke8/8...Kf8/8...Kg8.

2.Bb2 f6

If 2...Bxb4 then White is not necessarily obliged to immediately capture Black's e5-pawn, Instead, 3.f4!? occurred in a game Grosch - Grabenhorst, Halberstadt 1987. The continuation was 3...exf4 4.Bxg7 Qh4+ 5.g3 fxc3 (Primarily threatening 6...g2#.) 6.Bg2! gxh2+ 7.Kf1 hxg1Q+ 8.Kxg1 Qf4 9.Bxh8 f6? A misguided attempt to trap White's Bishop at the h8-corner. 10.e3 Qf5 11.Qh5+ Qxh5 12.Rxh5 1-0 Black resigned in view of 12...h6 13.Bd5 Ne7 14.Bb3, which leaves the black pawns at f8 & h6 in double trouble.

3.e4!?

A known gambit, but still a very interesting one!

3... Bxb4

Black grabs the bait, but it's not without risk. A safer alternative would be 3...d5.

4.Bc4 Ne7
 5.Qh5+ Ng6

5...g6 6.Qh4 has also occurred previously in practice.

6.c3



This move surprises me, as it interrupts the power of White's fianchettoed Bishop on the a1-h8 diagonal. Still, let's also consider [6.f4!? which brought White swift success in Katalymov - Ilivitsky, France 1979. That game continued 6...exf4? 7.a3 d5 Black plays this freeing move rather than blocking his d-pawn with 7...Bd6, and no doubt he didn't fancy 7...Be7 either, since 8.Ne2 would threaten 9.Nxf4. 8.Bxd5 c6 9.Bb3 Qa5 Basically saying to White; "Would you care for an exchange of Queens", 10.e5! And the answer is "No chance", 10...Be7?? (He had to try 10...Bc5 hoping for 11.exf6?? Bf2+ 12.Kxf2 Qxh5) 11.Bf7+ 1-0 Black resigned on account of 11...Kf8 12.Bxc6 or 11...Kxf7 12.e6 followed by 13.Qxa5.]

6... Ba5
 7.Ne2 Na6
 8.f4

I'm delighted to see that John is also a fan of my favourite motto: "f for forward".

8... f5
 9.h4

White prevents Black from exchanging Queens via 9...Qh4+.

9... b5
 10.Bd5 c6
 11.Ba3

An astonishing idea, but it works out

well! There is also definite logic behind White's move, as he stops ...Nc5-d3+. Furthermore, both White's Bishops currently prevent Black from castling, and he is also denied the important defensive resource of ...Qe7.

11... cxd5



If 11...b4 12.cxb4 Nxb4 13.Bxb4 Bxb4 14.Bb3, then Black is still faced with the terrible threat of exf3.

12.exf5 Kf7
13.fxe5!

Black would have been happy after 13.fxc6 hxg6 14.Qxe5 Bb7 threatening ...Re8 or ...Rhx4.

13... b4 (?)



This whole game is an extremely complicated battle, in which both players fight hard and calculate much. I am therefore reluctant to criticise any moves too readily or severely. Also, it's not at all easy to reach a definite clear final assessment in every variation. However, that's where one's intuition and experience can perform a vital role in helping to "feel" the right moves amongst all the complications. In this particular instance, I "feel" that 13...b4 is not right for Black, as it's playing on the Queenside when the board is in flames on the other wing where his King is located. Personally, I might have tried 13...Kg8 14.fxc6 hxg6, when 15.Qxc6

Rhx4 is answered by 16.Rf1, but instead Black could obtain some active play with 15...Rh6. He is then only one pawn down, but still very much alive and kicking.

14.fxc6 hxg6
15.Qf3+ Ke8
16.Qxd5 bxa3



Black decides to let his Rook in the a8-corner be captured by White's Queen, hoping that the lady will be out of play there, and if so, then there could be time to generate a counterattack against the uncastled White monarch.

17.Qxa8 Nc5
18.d4 Nb7

Now 18...Nd3+ would not trouble White's King, as it has a fresh flight-square at d2.

19.g3 Qc7

If 19...Bb6 then 20.Rf1 preventing Black from castling 20...Qc7 21.Nxa3 followed by Nb5 should win easily for White.

20.Qxa7 Qc6
21.Rf1 g5

Trying desperately to generate some active counterplay.

22.hxg5 Rh2
23.Nd2 Qb5



23...Qg2 may be answered simply by 24.Qa6, whereas 24.0-0-0 Qc6! is much less clear for White than 24...Qxe2 25.Qb8; Another line is 23...Bxc3 24.Qxa3 putting Black in double trouble at c3 and f8.

24.Rf2 Rxf2
25.Kxf2 Qb2
26.Rh1!

The White Rook abandons protecting units around the Queenside, and switches into attack-mode on the opposite wing.

26... Qxa2
27.Qb8 Qxd2



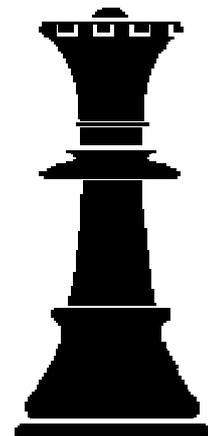
Or 27...Kd8 28.Rh8+

28.Qxc8+ Nd8
29.Rh8+ Kf7

29...Ke7 30.Qc5+ is also "curtains" for Black.

30.g4 1-0

One of those seemingly "quiet" moves, but the threat is fatal: 31.Qxd7+ Kg6 32.Qf5#. So...Black resigned. What a titanic tussle that was!





Introduction

Tim Harding has now released the third version of his MegaCorr CC database on CD, and it's been available to subscribers from mid-May. The previous versions were released in 1999 and 2001.

MegaCorr3 Contents

The database section of the CD contains 521,000+ games, representing an increase of about 45% by volume over MegaCorr2 (357,000) and it also claims to be 30% bigger than the 2002 ChessBase correspondence CD (400,000).

Some 20,000+ games are annotated (4%), and a further 6,000 game fragments are included amongst the analysis.

The games database is provided in two formats, ChessBase and PGN, and is thus compatible with all the main chess software products on the market. The PGN database is handily sectioned to support ChessBase Light.

There is an extensive "extras" section on the CD, which contains the following archive material:

- 58 back issues of Chess Mail (1996-2002) in Acrobat PDF format;
- 79 editions of Tim's Kibitzer column, originally published on the Chess Cafe website, and supplied in browser format;
- A Player Gallery containing profiles of all CC world champions, profiles of some GMs, obits of some notables, pictures of numerous players, plus some buttons for future additions;
- Cross-tables of World Championships (1-15), Olympiads (1-12), European Championships (1-62), IFSB Individual and Team Championships (1928-39), a selection of Invitational events; plus a button to link to the forthcoming USSR Championships CD;
- A miscellaneous collection of articles, a bibliography, web links, order forms and other index information.

The CD has been created for Windows computers, but the files can be ported on to Apple, Unix and Linux machines.

As previously, the CD is retailed only as a data disk - it will not fire into life and auto-run when you load it, you won't have to install any programs, and you won't need access to the internet (though some links are supplied).

To get started, you need to point ChessBase or your PGN reader at one of the database files, or double click on the click_me.htm file of the root directory to launch your browser and inspect the extras section.

MegaCorr3 Highlights

The major plus in the database section is the inclusion of all the postal games of current world champion Gert Jan Timmerman. This represents something of a coup, and apparently they were specially provided by the man himself - around 250 games in total, with about 25% of them annotated (albeit lightly in many cases, and not always by Timmerman).

Tim has also managed to pepper the collection with CC games which are not easy to find in conventional internet searches or boxed collections. Some 4,500 games included here were played prior to 1950, and a further 25,000 or so date from 1950-1974. More recent, but otherwise unpublished material is also included.

The established centres of organised CC are well represented on the CD (including ICCF, WCCF, IECC, UECC, zonal and national associations and invitational tournaments), and generally these sources provide the necessary ballast of good quality games. Where annotations have been provided, they are generally very informative, and feature a wide selection of titled players. Here's a brief example from a recently titled player:

Livie, G W G - Luers, J C [B78]

Reg Gillman Memorial E corr BFCC, 1999

[Scottish CC #71 p19]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0 Ne5 11.Bb3 Rc8 12.h4 h5 13.Bg5 Rc5 14.Kb1 b5 15.g4 a5 16.gxh5 Nxh5 17.Nd5 Re8 18.a3 Nc4 19.Qg2 a4 [19...Be6 20.Ne3!? Kir. Georgiev (20.c3 Bxd5 21.exd5 Qc8 22.Nc6 Nxa3+! N.Short-Kir.Georgiev, Novi Sad 1990)] 20.Ba2 Kf8 21.Nf5 Bxf5 22.exf5 Nxb2 23.fxc6 fxc6 24.Bh6! Bxh6 25.Qxg6 Bg7 26.Qf5+ Nf6 27.Nf4 e6 28.Bxe6 Bh8 29.Qg6 1-0

I thought that the extras section represented great value, particularly if you are not already a Chess Mail subscriber. There's a huge amount of well-organised reference information in here, and a lot of valuable archive and index material for the CC community to pore over.

Clearly Tim has it in mind to expand this section in subsequent releases, and the web-based medium he has chosen is well suited to maintaining an index of hyperlinks operated by simple click-on buttons. Expect to see a number of Chess Mail offerings cross-indexed by this means in future.

MegaCorr3 Lowlights

Since 1975, there has been an explosion in published chess games, with databases and e-books now necessary to handle the volume of material and the dynamic changes in opening novelties.

On this CD, around 339,000 games are dated 1975-99, and a further 148,000 from 2000-present. The most recent sources include the upcoming web server sites like itsyourturn, chessfriends and playchess.

If you haven't yet tried web server, it's basically chess played via the internet, and it will no doubt eventually form a good part of the future for CC.

However, it looks very much to me as though the web servers contribute more volume than virtue at this stage of their development. There are some strong players active on these sites (often using pseudonyms), but there are too many games included played by unrated or low-rated players, and their coffee-house style is knockabout OTB rather than the more studied chess which CC players tend to prefer.

Running through the games list, I found examples of 3-move (and 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11-move) epics, characterised by novice blunders, withdrawals and single or double forfeits - hardly study material. Here's a 12-move example unlikely to christen a new opening variation:

Stolin-Mathioudakis, 2000
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bb4 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Qd4 c5 9.Qe5 Bb7 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 d6 12.Bxf6 dxe5 0-1

I think Tim has an editing issue to resolve here, and my suggestion would be to concentrate on the quality rather than bump up the quantity for marketing reasons.

MegaCorr3 Conclusions

Overall, this is a good, dedicated CC production and worth buying, but first check your reasons for doing so!

On the database side, if you're not an internet user, or just can't be bothered visiting all the CC websites to download games, then this is convenience shopping with added value. If you already have most of the recognised downloads, then your decision might be more marginal and perhaps decided by your valuation of the uncommon games, the annotations, or the Timmerman set.

The CD is worth buying for the extra material alone - unless of course, you have already paid for some of it through a subscription! If not, then I think the extras represent excellent value, and are likely to form the basis of a CC reference library in future.

MegaCorr3 sells at £29.50, including VAT, or £23.00 if upgrading from MegaCorr2. You can find out more at <http://www.chessmail.com/> or write to Chess Mail at 26 Coolamber Park, Dublin 16, Ireland.

Copyright of Chess Games

While delving into the contents of the MegaCorr3 CD, I thought I'd do a little research for general interest into the copyright laws that apply to chess games and collections of games. My sources were internet news groups rather than qualified lawyers!

The first point of interest is that the uncommented moves of a chess game are not considered to be under copyright because they are considered to fall into the category of 'facts' and not 'creation'. This may seem odd to the players, whose creative imagination may have led to a unique combination of moves, but neither is entitled to claim copyright, and their game is freely available in the public domain.

If however, the game is then annotated by either player or a third party, then that game score cannot be published without the consent of the annotator, whose comments fall under copyright law since they are deemed to be a product of creative imagination (notwithstanding that the creativity involved may have been rather less than that required to play the game!).

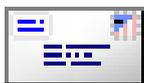
For games collections, copyright applies where some form of creativity has been applied to the selection process. As I understand it, an unannotated collection of games by a single player or from a single event would **not** fall under copyright, as no creative effort is involved in selection.

However, if some selection criteria are utilised, for example, 'best games of ...', particular themes, modes of play, obscure sources, etc, then copyright **can** apply. Again, the creative effort involved need not be particularly high as long as it is demonstrable.

A copyright on a collection does not imply copyright on an individual game within that collection, any more than copyright on a story implies copyright on the individual words making up the story. This means that anyone is able to select individual, unannotated games from that collection and distribute them without interference. Of course, they are unable to distribute the entire collection as a single entity, and piracy legislation will apply if commercial interests are threatened.

Assuming that all this distilled wisdom holds good under international law, then there's absolutely no doubt that MegaCorr3 is a perfectly legitimate games collection, and worthy of copyright for the effort involved in selecting, editing and annotating the games (as well as all the original work done by Tim in assembling the extras section).

Amusingly, Tim (correctly) claims copyright for his own annotations, then happily uses (and acknowledges) others' notes without their express consent, something Bernard picked up when reviewing MegaCorr2. As far as I can see, no other publisher of games collections acts any differently, doubtless due to the impracticalities of contacting a host of players, but, ah, the vagaries of commerce!



Letters to the Editor



Following the mention of email spam in edition 81, Michael Domin writes:

I read in the latest magazine about readers complaining of "junk mail" invading their email. I am no different, and I receive tons of junk. A friend of mine found a protector from email. This programme is very interesting because it will deal with your emails without them being downloaded to your computer, AND -another very interesting feature - it will "bounce" with a false address any junk, so the originator will not detect your email address if you send them an "unsubscribe".

It leaves you with the possibilities of marking sites as friendly or spam. The name of the programme is "MailWasher". I don't know how much it costs, as I received the programme from my friend. But I found this a very useful addition if you want to get read of junk almost permanently.

On BTopenworld, there is a programme in the email reader which operates almost the same function. But then you must be with BTopenworld to use this function.

Hope this is of some use,
Yours sincerely,
Michael Domin.

And the editor replies:

Michael's absolutely right - MailWasher is a free program you can download from <http://www.mailwasher.net/>. The authors claim to have downloaded over 2m free copies to subscribers.

However, one continuing problem is that spam senders are constantly changing their email addresses, so be prepared to update your blacklist of addresses frequently.

I receive about 5 emails a day from the scam operators in Africa (originally Nigeria, but now just about everywhere else), who believe I'm the only person in the world who can help them move millions of dollars into some bank or other. So far, I've resisted sending them my credit card details, but I almost relented when, after hundreds of emails "soliciting my assistance", I got one which "craved my assistant"!! If only he knew.....

On a related theme, you can also download free software to stop these irritating pop-up advertisements that plague your life when browsing the internet. The one I use comes from Panicware at <http://www.panicware.com/popupstopper.html>



Many readers will fondly remember the series of articles on Bobby Fischer contributed by Carlos Almarza-Mato in editions 65-67 (1999). Carlos gave his consent to the articles being used in a book entitled "Bobby Fischer - From Chess Genius to Legend" by Eduard Gufeld, now published by Thinkers Press in the US. I received a review of the book by James Schroeder, who is based in Vancouver, Washington State. James publishes his own chess newsheet (Confidential Chess Lessons), and is an acerbic critic - here are some extracts from his review:

"This (book) is a mass of mis-information."

"Supposedly in 1978 Fischer was in a restaurant by himself, and next to him two men were playing chess. After the game ended, Fischer pointed out the loser's error. NEVER HAPPENED! That false anecdote was first published in the Yugoslavian newspaper *Politika*. Gufeld is incredibly stupid for reprinting it."

"Gufeld's moronic comment: As a child, Bobby was fond of cartoons such as 'The Adventures of Fu Manchu'. Perhaps some elements of Fischer's behaviour can be explained by the influence of these cartoons."

"Mistake: Mike Morris said that Fischer's fee for a simultaneous exhibition in 1964 was \$500. It was NOT. There were exhibitions in Cleveland, Toledo and Columbus and his fee was \$250 for fifty boards."

"Although published in 2002, Gufeld doesn't mention the 1992 World Championship Match between Fischer and Spassky."

"In trying to describe Fischer's style, Gufeld makes the mistake of analysing simultaneous and exhibition games. Ridiculous! Fischer often deliberately played inferior openings in simultaneous games."

"The book is almost worthless except for an article by Carlos Almarza-Mato (1999 editions of the SCCA Magazine)."

[Editor] At this point, only Carlos stands between Gufeld and James' box of matches....

"[CA-M] *One of the most important factors of a top player is the prevention of the opponent's counterplay. It implies the realisation that his plans and ideas are as important as one's own, and discovering his plans is as relevant as finding the best moves and plans for one's own pieces. The difference between Fischer and the others is that this is only part of his approach to chess - not a goal. He starts the game, realises the strategic aim of the opening and ensuing positions, and only in certain cases, with no clear attacks or combinative operations, does he proceed to preventative thinking, and even in those cases with the intention of provoking the conditions for a direct attack. Always tactically fending, always provoking his rival into making decisions. Always trying to set the tempo of the game.*"

"[JS] Perhaps better: Always trying to upset the tempo of the game."

"[CA-M] *He does not seek the application of this method or play by principle: he prefers open positions, or positions where he can use his tactical ability. In these positions, the most important factor is not the 'prevention of threats', but the creation of them to drive the opponent onto the defensive without allowing him to reach a position too levelled or too cramped.*"

"[JS] (Something wrong. Obviously Fischer DID want his opponent's position to be cramped.) This is exactly the style of Emanuel Lasker! Many years ago I said that Fischer played like Lasker. They both wanted the open game because they each thought they could outplay anyone in the world. Thus, they both played very poorly against the

French Defence, because in White's best variations he plays e5, blocking the position. Persons who try to describe Fischer's style without mentioning the game Fischer-Shocron (*Mar del Plata 1959*) are ignorant and incompetent. I have not found a similar combination anywhere."

"[CA-M] *Fischer does not play against an opponent like Tal or Lasker might.*"

"[JS] Mato makes a mistake. Tal doesn't belong here, but Fischer played subjectively and changed his openings depending on his opponent's style. Fischer was successful against Americans because he studied their games the most. He was less successful against mediocre players from other countries because their games were not familiar to him. Same as Lasker, who lost many games to players he met for the first time. But not many of them could win again. Fischer easily won from Taimanov, Larsen and Petrosian in Candidates Matches, but had to change his style to win from Spassky. Against Spassky, he did NOT try to play in the manner described by Almarza-Mato, but was more cautious and never tried to force a win."

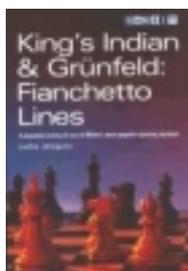
[Editor] *And by way of a benediction.....*

"[JS] Gufeld makes the egregious mistake of quoting books by Frank Brady and Brad Darrach - two notorious liars. His analysis of Fischer's style is superficial and wrong. He makes so many errors you can't believe anything he says."

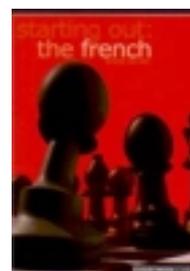
[Editor] *I think James really quite liked Carlos' contribution....*



Chess Suppliers
15 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6AQ
www.chess-suppliers.co.uk



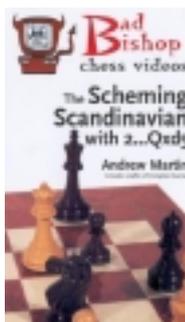
King's Indian and Grünfeld Fianchetto Lines £15.99



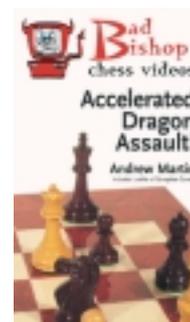
Starting Out: The French £12.99



Fritz 8 £39.95



Bad Bishop Videos £19.99



Bad Bishop Videos £19.99



General Information

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

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

Master Norm tournaments with 11-player sections are available for strong players, using airmail or email. Entry level is fixed ICCF rating of 2300+, (2000 ladies); non-fixed ICCF 2350+ (2050 ladies); or FIDE 2350+ (2050 ladies); while medal winners (outright winners ladies) in national championships are also eligible. A player can enter only one postal section and one email section per year. Section winners who do not achieve norms receive entry to a World Championship Semi-Final.

International numeric notation is the standard for postal events, while PGN is recommended for email play. Playing rules and time limits are provided for each event, and the usual postal limit is 30 days per 10 moves, with up to 30 days leave per calendar year. To speed progress, air mail stickers should be used to Europe as well as international destinations, as the postal rates are not increased as a result. Please be aware that some patience is required, as games may take up to 3 years against opponents in countries with poor mail services. Silent withdrawal is bad etiquette! International CC postcards are recommended, and can be obtained from Chess Suppliers (Scotland). The introduction of email has speeded up many events, and made it cheaper to play. Generally, you should play less email games simultaneously than postal because of the faster play.

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

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

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2003

Theme 8 - Evans Gambit, C51-2

1.e4,e5 2.Nf3,Nc6 3.Bc4,Bc5 4.b4

Entries by 15 August; play starts 1 October

Theme 9 - Queen's Indian, E18-9

1.d4,Nf6 2.c4,e6 3.Nf3,b6 4.g3,Bb7 5.Bg2,Be7 6.0-0,0-0 7.Nc3,Nxe4

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 November

Email Events 2003

Theme 9 - Nimzowitch Defence, B00

1.e4,Nc6

Entries by 1 August; play starts 1 September

Theme 10 - Pirc Defence - Austrian Attack, B09

1.e4,d6 2.d4,Nf6 3.Nc3,g6 2.f4

Entries by 1 September; play starts 1 October

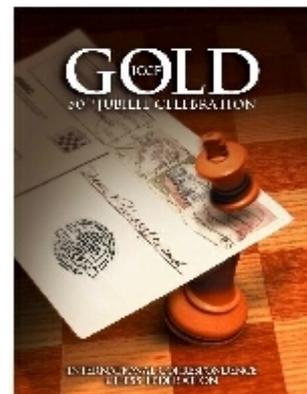
Theme 11 - Marshall Attack, C89

1.e4,e5 2.Nf3,Nc6 3.Bb5,a6 4.Ba4,Nf6 5.0-0,Be7 6.Re1,b5 7.Bb3,0-0 8.c3,d5

Entries by 1 October; play starts 1 November

ICCF Gold

ICCF GOLD is the definitive reference book for all CC players. The 376-page book is a celebration of the first 50 years of ICCF and looks forward to a very interesting future. The UK price of ICCF Gold is £14.99, which includes p&p, and a full review of the book is included in Magazine 80.



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