

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.91

Autumn 2005

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Welcome to the autumn edition! We cover a wide range of topics this time, so I hope you enjoy it.

New champion Ian Reeman kicks off with some notes about himself plus an annotated game. Co-winners Alan Brown and myself will do likewise in coming issues.

Stuart Mackenzie has now completed the 2004-05 accounts and apologises again for late delivery. We're in the black and have consolidated our savings accounts this year.

Raymond Baxter has analysed the autumn ICCF grading update and brings us the changes affecting Scots players.

As ever, Bernard has supplied a well-annotated Games Column (complete with latest grandchild!), and he also reviews the recent ChessBase CDs and DVDs.

Tim Harding has produced MegaCorr version 4, a database on CD dedicated to CC play, and I've reviewed that.

Jim Anderson and George Pyrich give updates on domestic and international events respectively, and there are some CC quotes and puzzles for you to enjoy.

Lastly, Alan Borwell gives us a report on what lies ahead for the ICCF webserver development group.

Elsewhere, Alan Brown is busy with this year's membership renewals – please help him by returning your form promptly! We're running some free events in 2006, so it's even better value for money than before.

The ICCF XVI Olympiad (postal) has now started, and the XVII (webserver) event kicks off at year-end. Webserver friendlies versus Denmark and Australia are also active.

Both George Pyrich and Alan Borwell will be attending the ICCF Congress in Argentina later this month, where presidential elections are to be held.

On a sad note, I have to report the death of long-serving life member John Walker of Pitlochry. Despite losing his sight, he remained a staunch supporter of the SCCA and will be much missed by all who knew him.


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To have a look at any event, go to the site, and then click Tables and Results. If the event allows public viewing, choose a section, then click a cell in the cross-table to see the moves and position in the game(s) of your choice.

Recent 100 Club Winners

George Livie has suspended monthly draws until we renew our Lottery Licence. The prospect of Guantanamo Bay at this stage of his career was unappealing.

SCCA Officials

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Triple Crown Part 1

By Ian Reeman

[Editor's note: the Championship of 2004-05 resulted in an unusual three-way tie – the first since 1979. This article is the first of a series where the joint winners each give us some background details and annotate a game. First up is Ian Reeman, who got his name on the trophy for the first time.]

About Me

I was taught to play chess when I was eight years old by my father. I had a very undistinguished academic career at secondary school and I remember my school reports always used to say I was rubbish at everything but would then end up, in scarcely veiled disbelief, by saying 'but he is the school chess champion.'

In my teens, I played for a north London club and discovered the joys of king-side gambits. This liking for the wilder shores of gambit play and refusal to enter into a sobering chess maturity has never left me, and has meant some damaging defeats, the most recent of which cost me a share of the championship a couple of years ago when I tried the Schliemann defence against Alistair Maxwell and was basically swept off the board.

In my twenties and thirties, I spent many years in Africa and only played chess rarely, but did have the distinction of beating a visiting Polish grandmaster in Addis Ababa. He was so angry at losing a game to an amateur that I thought he was going to throw the pieces at me!

I came to Scotland in 1972 when I got a job at Stirling University. I took up chess again and played for Stirling for some years, winning the club championship on a couple of occasions. I stopped playing over the board chess on a regular basis when I started to make too many mistakes, usually against ten-year-old boys with large round spectacles and twice as much book knowledge as I could possibly hope to obtain in a lifetime!

For the last two decades, I have played postal chess and enjoyed it very much. I do not have ChessBase for opening variations and I use a Russian book, 'Comprehensive Chess Openings' by Estrin & Panov published in 1980 for guidance about the openings. This book has the advantage of not swamping the reader with too many variations but instead sets out the basic ideas behind the openings.

Iain Mackintosh has asked me to annotate a game for the magazine so here is my final draw against Brian Goodwin – a most skilled and tenacious opponent. My notes are somewhat brief, as, although I spent a lot of time on this game, I seem to have forgotten many of the variations - all part of the ageing process!



Brian Goodwin (2212) - Ian Reeman (2201)
SCCA Championship 04-05
Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation [C69]
[Notes by Ian Reeman]

1.e4 **e5**
2.Nf3 **Nc6**
3.Bb5 **a6**
4.Bxc6 **dxc6**
5.0-0

Fischer's favourite riposte.

5... **f6**
6.d4 **Bg4**
7.c3 **Bd6**
8.h3 **Bh5**
9.Be3 **exd4**

I come to the end of my book knowledge.

10.cxd4 **Ne7**
11.Nbd2 **Bf7**
12.Re1 **0-0**
13.Qc2 **Qd7**
14.e5 **fxe5**
15.dxe5 **Bb4**
16.a3 **Bxd2**
17.Bxd2 **Nd5**
18.Ng5 **Bg6**
19.Qb3 **b6**

Secures a5.

20.e6

This pawn is going to give Black a lot of problems!

20... **Qd6**

[Better than 20...Qe7 which is answered by 21.Rac1]

21.Rad1 **Qc5**
22.Qg3 **Rae8**
23.Rc1 **Qd4**
24.Bc3

Forcing the exchange of my good knight.

24... **Nxc3**
25.Rxc3 **Re7**
26.Rxc6

An interesting decision, giving me two connected passed pawns eventually.

26... **Qxb2**
27.Nf3 **Qxa3**



28.Rxc7 b5
 29.Qe5 Rxc7
 30.Qxc7 Re8
 31.e7 Qb4
 32.Qe5 h6

To stop the knight going to g5.

33.Nd4 Kh8

Black is in a mess.

34.Re3 Kh7
 35.Nb3 a5
 36.Nc5 Qb1+!

This move, more or less forcing the exchange of queens, saves the day for Black.

37.Re1 Qf5
 38.Qxf5 Bxf5
 39.Nb7 Bd7
 40.Nd6 Rb8
 41.Rd1 Bc6
 42.Nf5

[42.Rd2 looks stronger.]

42... b4
 43.Rd8 Rb7
 44.Nd4 Ba4
 45.e8Q Bxe8
 46.Rxe8



Are the two passed pawns worth the piece?

46...a4 47.Re1

[47.Nc2 b3 48.Na3]

47... b3
 48.Rb1 Rb4
 49.Nc6 Rc4

[Was 49...Rb5 better? If 50.Nd4 Rb8]

50.Na5 Rc3
 51.Kf1 Kg6
 52.Ke1 Kf5

53.Kd2 Rc2+

54.Ke3

[54.Kd3? loses the k-side pawns.]

54... Ke5

55.Nxb3

White decides to trade the knight for one of the passed pawns.

55... Rc3+

56.Kd2 Rxb3

57.Re1+!

[57.Rxb3?? axb3 and White loses.]

57... Kd4

58.Kc2 Rb7

Golden rule – get the rook behind a passed pawn!

59.Ra1 Ra7

60.Kb2 a3+

61.Ka2 Rf7

62.Rf1 Kd3

1/2-1/2



Could Black win this endgame?

There is the famous last game in the world championship match between Alekhine and Capablanca in 1927 where the former won a similar endgame (below) with one crucial difference –he was a pawn up, and even then it was a titanic struggle between two great players. So, on balance, I was content with the draw, which seemed a fair result after such an exciting game.

**Alexander Alekhine - Jose Raul Capablanca
 QGD, Anti-Cambridge Springs Variation [D51]
 13th World Championship, Buenos Aires, 1927**

[Notes by ChessBase]

1.d4 d5
 2.c4 e6
 3.Nc3 Nf6
 4.Bg5 Nbd7
 5.e3 c6
 6.a3 Be7
 7.Nf3 0-0

[7...Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Qc2 f5!]

8.Bd3 dxc4
 9.Bxc4 Nd5
 10.Bxe7 Qxe7

[10...Nxc3 11.Bxd8 (11.Qc2 Qxe7 12.Qxc3 c5 13.0-0 b6=) 11...Nxd1 12.Be7 Re8= Alekhine]

11.Ne4 N5f6

[11...N5b6 12.Ba2 (12.Bd3 e5) 12...e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.Nd6 Be6! 16.Bxe6 (16.Nxb7 Qxb2) 16...Qxe6 17.Nxb7 Qe7! 18.Na5 Qg5 19.Nxc6 Qxg2∞ Tartakower] **12.Ng3 c5** [12...e5 13.Nf5 Qe8 14.Nd6 Qe7 15.Nxf7 Rxf7 16.Ng5 Nd5 17.Nxf7 Qxf7 (17...Kxf7 18.e4 N7b6 19.Bb3 exd4 20.Qe2 d3 21.Qe3! d2+ 22.Kf1 Be6 23.exd5+-) 18.e4 N7b6 19.Ba2 Qg6 20.Qf3 Kostitsch; 12...b6 ΔBb7=]

13.0-0 Nb6
[13...b6 ΔBb7 Kostitsch 14.d5! Alekhine]
14.Ba2 cxd4
15.Nxd4 g6!
[15...Bd7 16.e4 Δe5 ×d6 16...e5 17.Ndf5± /+- Alekhine]

16.Rc1
ΔNb5
16... Bd7
[16...e5 17.Nb5]
17.Qe2
[17.Rc7 Qd6! 18.Rxb7? Bc8]

17... Rac8
[17...e5 18.Nf3]
18.e4
Δe5, Ne4
18... e5
19.Nf3 Kg7?!

[⊔19...Bg4 20.h3? Bxf3; ⊔19...Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Rc8 21.Rxc8+ Nxc8 22.Ng5 Nd6 Kostitsch]
20.h3 h6?!
[20...Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rc8 22.Rxc8 Bxc8 23.Ng5 h6 24.Nxf7 Be6 25.Bxe6 Qxe6 26.Nd8 Qd7-+ Kostitsch]

21.Qd2!
ΔQa5
21... Be6
[21...Rc5 22.Rxc5! Qxc5 23.Rc1±; 21...Bb5 22.Rfd1 a6 (22...Rfd8 23.Qa5) 23.Qd6±; 21...Bc6 22.Qa5 (22.Nh4!! Bxe4 a)22...Kh7 23.Nhf5; b)22...Rfd8 23.Nhf5+; c)22...Nxe4 23.Nhf5+ gxf5 24.Nxf5+ Kg6 (c)24...Kf6 25.Qxh6+ Kxf5 26.g4#) 25.Qxh6+ Kxf5 26.g4# Alekhine; 23.Qe3+- Kostitsch/Alekhine) 22...Nfd7 (22...Nbd7 23.Rfe1 b6! 24.Qxa7?? Ra8 25.Qc7 Rfc8) 23.Qxa7?? (23.b4 a6) 23...Ra8-+ Wolf; 21...Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Rc8 23.Rxc8 Bxc8 (23...Nxc8 24.Qc3) 24.Qa5 Tartakower; 21...Na4! 22.Rfd1± (22.Qa5 Nxb2=)]

22.Bxe6 Qxe6
23.Qa5 Nc4
[23...Qb3 24.Qxe5 Nc4 25.Qd4]
24.Qxa7 Nxb2
[24...Ra8 25.Qc5! (25.Qxb7? Rfb8 26.Qc7 Rc8=) 25...Nxb2 26.Nxe5 Rfc8 27.Qd4±; 24...b5 25.Rc2 ΔNfd2, Rfc1]

25.Rxc8 Rxc8
26.Qxb7 Nc4
27.Qb4 Ra8
28.Ra1 Qc6!
ΔRa4
29.a4! Nxe4
30.Nxe5!

[30.Nxe4 Qxe4 31.Rc1 Rc8 32.Nd2 (32.Nxe5? Ne3!! 33.Qxe4 Rxc1+ 34.Kh2 Nf1+ 35.Kh1 Ng3+ 36.Kh2 Nxe4-+) 32...Nxd2±]

30... Qd6!
[30...Nxe5 31.Qxe4 Qe8 32.f4]
31.Qxc4 Qxe5
32.Re1 Nd6
33.Qc1!
[33.Rxe5? Nxc4=; 33.Qb4 Rxa4=]

33... Qf6
[33...Qd4 34.Rd1; 33...Qa5 34.Rd1]
34.Ne4 Nxe4
35.Rxe4 Rb8
ΔRb2 [35...Ra5 36.g3 Δh4]
36.Re2!

[36.a5 Qf5!]
36... Ra8
37.Ra2 Ra5
38.Qc7! Qa6
39.Qc3+ Kh7
40.Rd2!

ΔRd8
40... Qb6
adjourned [40...Rxa4 41.Rd8 g5 42.Qh8+ Kg6 43.Rg8+ Kh5 (43...Kf5 44.Qh7+ Ke5 45.Qxf7+-) 44.Qc5+- Kostitsch]

41.Rd7 Qb1+
42.Kh2 Qb8+
43.g3 Rf5
44.Qd4
Δa5
44... Qe8

45.Rd5!
[45.Rd8 Rxf2+ 46.Qxf2 Qxd8 47.Qxf7+ Kh8= Becker]
45... Rf3
46.h4
[46.Kg2 Ra3 47.Rd8 Rxa4 48.Qf6 Ra6 49.Qd4 Ra4= Kostitsch; 46.a5 Qe2 47.Kg2]

46... Qh8
[46...h5 47.a5]
47.Qb6!
[47.Qxh8+ Kxh8 48.Kg2 Ra3= Tartakower]
47... Qa1

[47...Qa8 48.Rd8 Rxf2+ (48...Qxa4 49.Qb2+-) 49.Qxf2 Qxd8 50.Qxf7+ Kh8 51.Qxg6 Qd2+ 52.Kh3 Qd7+ 53.Qg4+- Tartakower]
48.Kg2 Rf6
[48...Ra3 49.h5! (49.Rd7 Kg7 50.Qe6 Qf6 51.Qe4 Ra2=) 49...gxh5 50.Rd6! (50.Rxh5? Qg7 51.a5 Qg6!) 50...Qc1 (50...Qg7? 51.Qb1+) 51.Qd4 Qc3 52.Qf4 Qg7 53.Qe4+- Kostitsch]

49.Qd4! Qxd4
50.Rxd4 Kg7!
[50...Ra6 51.Kf3 ΔKc4-d5]



51.a5 Ra6
52.Rd5 Rf6
53.Rd4 Ra6
54.Ra4 Kf6

55.Kf3 Ke5
 56.Ke3 h5
 57.Kd3 Kd5
 58.Kc3 Kc5
 59.Ra2 Kb5
 60.Kb3 Kc5
 61.Kc3 Kb5
 62.Kd4! Rd6+

[62...Kb4 63.Ra1! Kb3 64.Kc5+-]

63.Ke5 Re6+
 64.Kf4 Ka6
 65.Kg5 Re5+
 66.Kh6 Rf5
 67.f4?!

[67.Kg7 Rf3 68.Kg8 Rf6 69.Kf8 Rf3 (69...Rf5 70.f4) 70.Kg7 Rf5 71.f4+- Alekhine]

67... Rc5
 68.Ra3 Rc7

[68...Rf5 69.Kg7 ΔRe3-e5]

69.Kg7

[69.f5 Rc6! 70.Kg7 gxf5 71.Kxf7 f4! 72.gxf4 Rc4 Tartakower]

69... Rd7
 70.f5

[70.Kf6! Rc7 71.f5 gxf5 (71...Rc6+ 72.Kxf7 gxf5 73.Rf3) 72.Kxf5 Rc5+ 73.Kf6 Rc7 74.Rf3 Kxa5 75.Rf5+- Alekhine]

70... gxf5
 71.Kh6 f4
 72.gxf4 Rd5
 73.Kg7 Rf5
 74.Ra4 Kb5
 75.Re4 Ka6

76.Kh6

[76.Kg8! Rf6 (76...Kb7 77.Re7+ Ka6 78.Rxf7) 77.Kf8 Kxa5 (77...Rf5 78.Kg7 Zugzwang) 78.Kc7!+- Tartakower]

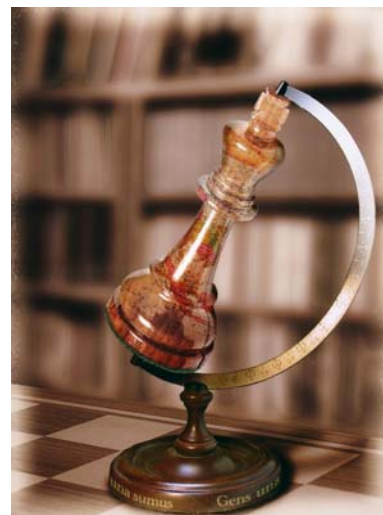
76... Rxa5

[76...Ka7 Kb7 77.Re5 (77.Kg7 Ka6 78.Kg8 Rf6 79.Kf8 Kxa5 (79...Rf5 80.Kg7 Zugzwang) 80.Kc7 Rb6 (80...Rf5 81.Re5+-) 81.Kxf7+- Becker) 77...Rxf4 78.Kg5 (78.Kxh5 Rf1!) 78...Rf1 79.Kxh5 f5 80.Kg5 f4 81.Rf5 f3 82.Kg4+- Alekhine]

77.Re5 Ra1
 78.Kxh5 Rg1
 79.Rg5 Rh1
 80.Rf5 Kb6
 81.Rxf7 Kc6
 82.Re7

adjourned

1-0



A couple more images from our website chess gallery. On the left is 'After the Battle' by Marco Scandella, and on the right is 'Gens una sumus 2' by Marco Berlusconi.



SCCA Accounts 2004-05

By Stuart Mackenzie

2003-04			Profit & Loss	2004-05		
Income	Expenses	Net		Income	Expenses	Net
General						
300.00			Annual Members (53@£5)	265.00		
0.00			Life Members (1@£80)	80.00		
100.00			Patron Members (0@£100)	0.00		
103.00			Donations	133.00		
525.00			Chess Scotland Grant	540.00		
65.49			Bank Interest	84.91		
0.00			Creditor Written Off	6.00		
	99.15		Committee Expenses		4.50	
	30.00		Chess Scotland Affiliation Fee		30.00	
	34.37		ICCF Affiliation Fee		54.69	
	70.00	<u>859.97</u>	Auditor's Fee		70.00	<u>949.72</u>
Domestic Competitions						
240.00			Individual Entry Fees	224.00		
33.00			Team League Fees	41.00		
0.00			Adjudication Fees	0.00		
	96.42		Prizes & Trophies		50.00	
	14.00	<u>162.58</u>	Controllers' Expenses		8.44	<u>206.56</u>
International Competitions						
31.00			International Match Fees	22.00		
	122.00		Prizes & Trophies		0.00	
	0.00	<u>-91.00</u>	Controllers' Expenses		0.00	<u>22.00</u>
ICCF Competitions						
25.00			Individual Entry Fees	276.00		
	0.00	<u>25.00</u>	Individual & Team Fees		187.48	<u>88.52</u>
Magazine						
180.00			New Magazine Email (53@£3)	180.00		
195.00			New Magazine Printed (27@£5)	138.00		
25.00			Magazine Advertising Revenue	0.00		
	344.70	<u>55.30</u>	Printing & Postage		296.24	<u>0.76</u>
Website						
97.44	97.44		ISP Connection Fees (Donation)	93.41	93.41	
6.79	6.79	<u>0.00</u>	Domain Registration (Donation)	6.79	6.79	<u>0.00</u>
100 Club						
821.00			Units Bought	876.00		
	420.00		Prizes		540.00	
	17.50	<u>383.50</u>	Lottery Licence		0.00	<u>336.00</u>
ICCF Books						
29.98			Sale of Books	14.99		
	0.00	<u>29.98</u>	Purchase of Books		0.00	<u>14.99</u>

(continued)

2003-04			Profit & Loss	2004-05		
Income	Expenses	Net		Income	Expenses	Net
500.00			Other	500.00		
	0.00		Livie Family Donation		18.00	
	18.00		Bounced Cheque		30.00	
	775.00	<u>-293.00</u>	Hire of Hall for AGM		800.00	<u>-348.00</u>
			ICCF Delegate Travel			
			Silver Jubilee			
0.00			Income	0.00		
	423.00	<u>-423.00</u>	Lapel Badges		0.00	<u>0.00</u>
<u>3252.70</u>	<u>2568.37</u>	<u>709.33</u>	Surplus/Deficit	<u>3460.10</u>	<u>2189.55</u>	<u>1270.55</u>

Balance Sheet

Bank Summary	Opening	Payins	Withdrawn	Written Off	Transfers	Closing	2003-04
Clydesdale Deposit	176.15	0.10	0.00	0.00	-176.25	0.00	
BoS Current	1770.91	3236.45	1690.14	0.00	-12.24	3304.98	
Nationwide	4753.16	58.35	0.00	0.00	-4811.51	0.00	
Standard Life	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5000.00	5000.00	
	<u>6700.22</u>	<u>3294.90</u>	<u>1690.14</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8304.98</u>	<u>6700.22</u>
Net Opening/Closing	<u>1604.76</u>						

Liabilities	Creditor	Debtor		
Various Expenses	117.00			
Uncashed 100 Club Prizes	150.00			
Uncashed Cheque (ICCF)	242.17			
Auditor's Fees	70.00			
Accrued Magazine Costs	296.24			
Prepaid 100 Club Units	90.00			
Accrued Prizes 04-05	90.00			
Provision for Prizes 05-06	90.00			
Cheques not yet in Bank Account		18.00		
Subtotals/Net	<u>1145.41</u>	<u>18.00</u>		

Net Assets at March 31, 2005 **7177.57** **5907.02**

Capital Account

Balances b/f	5907.02	5197.69
Surplus/Deficit	1270.55	709.33
Subtotal	<u>7177.57</u>	<u>5907.02</u>
Less Allocation to Development Account	1000.00	0.00
Balances c/f	<u>6177.57</u>	<u>5907.02</u>

Development Account

Allocation from Capital Account **1000.00** **0.00**

Account Totals **7177.57** **5907.02**



2005 Grading Update

By Raymond Baxter

A new ICCF grading list has been published. The new grades are based on results up to 30 June 2005, and will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 October 2005 and 31 March 2006. The following grades have changed. If your name does not appear on this list, then either you do not have an international grade, or it is the same as that previously shown. A provisional grade is marked with an asterisk.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
317	Almarza-Mato, C	231	1902	503	Livie, G W G	144	2364
518	Anderson, G M	87	2241	264	Lloyd, G	87	2266
121	Anderson, J	72	1635	337	Loughran, R J	34	1791
049	Armstrong, A	87	1890	352	McDonald, G R	67	1949
015	Baxter, R W M	58	2331	367	MacDonald, P H	36	1907
511	Beecham, C R	256	2503	584	Macgregor, C A	49	1814
520	Bird, Prof G H	47	2078	391	McIntee, C	58	1758
509	Borwell, A P	513	2223	532	Mackintosh, I	283	2469
215	Brown, Dr A C	121	2399	216	Macmillen, A N	151	1861
096	Campbell, A W I	30	1812	001	McNab, Dr C A	144	2452
173	Cook, W M	39	1995	566	Marshall, I H	246	1784
364	Coope, D W	284	1630	083	Maxwell, A	36	2177
527	Craig, T J	289	2364	591	May, M A	57	2221
166	Cumming, D R	214	1510	333	Montgomery, R S	71	2208
371	Edney, D	56	2181	564	Murray, J S	18	1909 *
551	Giulian, P M	451	2426	225	Norris, Rev A C	175	2010
124	Goodwin, B J	46	2206	379	Phillips, G H	156	2120
063	Harvey, D	60	2049	048	Pyrich, G D	629	2267
510	Hislop, A T	167	1981	136	Reeman, I F	107	2274
260	Knox, A	29	1823 *	522	Savage, D J	60	1965
419	Lees, J A	39	2049	365	Thompson, B	273	1947
256	Lennox, C J	135	2288				

Top 30 Active & Full ICCF Grades

No.	Grade	Name	No.	Grade	Name
1	2548	Finnie, DS (SIM)	16	2290	Watson, Joe (IM)
2	2503	Beecham, C R (IM)	17	2288	Lennox, C J (SM)
3	2489	Kilgour, D A (GM)	18	2274	Reeman, I F
4	2469	Mackintosh, I (SM)	19	2267	Pyrich, G D (IM)
5	2467	Neil, D (SM)	20	2266	Lloyd, G
6	2452	McNab, Dr C A (SIM)	21	2241	Anderson, G M
7	2426	Giulian, P M (SIM)	22	2238	Sneddon, I
8	2401	Sprott, G R (IM)	23	2232	Jenkins, D M
9	2399	Brown, Dr A C (SM)	24	2225	Kilpatrick, R
10	2376	Aird, I (SM)	25	2223	Borwell, A P (IM)
11	2364	Livie, G W G (IM)	26	2221	May, M A
12	2364	Craig, T J (SIM)	27	2221	Findlay, J A
13	2360	Gillam, S R (SM)	28	2208	Montgomery, R S
14	2331	Baxter, R W M (SM)	29	2206	Goodwin, B J
15	2325	Stewart, D J (SM)	30	2181	Edney, D



Classical Nimzo-Indian 4.Qc2 - CD By Knut Neven



As the title says this CD concentrates on the 4.Qc2 variation of the Classical Nimzo-Indian Defence. This variation seems to have grown in popularity recently with the likes of Kasparov, Sokolov and Seirawan playing it.

The CD has a large DataBase of 22,891 games, of which approximately 1000 are annotated, which should prove more than adequate for most correspondence players.

Knut Neven, has produced an easily comprehensible database with 24 texts and 478 selected and mainly annotated games. After an introduction and a history of the system and opening, there comes a specially interesting text about typical motifs which crop up in the Classical System: the advantage of the bishop pair, the placement of the minor pieces, recurring tactical motifs, key pawn structures and pressure against c4 are themes which the author explains and provides with links to sample games. Then there comes the opening theory of the Classical System in 18 chapters. The CD is rounded off with a training database and an extensive opening tree, generated from all the games. All the data on the CD can be accessed with a reader based on ChessBase 9.0.

Squares Strategy Vol 3 Middlegame - CD By Alexander Bangiev



The Bangiev method of thinking is a strategy based on squares. Before every move, it therefore checks the constellation of pieces against quite specific pre-determined criteria. What it encourages is not your memory but your thinking: learn to understand the logic of the game by means of a few rules! It always the same restricted number of questions which you have to ask yourself and to answer at whatever stage of the game. Once you have understood the principle, you can have the pleasure of discovering that, with a little practice, you are always able to find the best move. You can check your progress with grandmaster games, because grandmasters apply

the correct thought processes without even being aware of it! The third CD, which is based on Bangiev's new method of training, is dedicated to the middlegame. There is a 'Learning' database in which the new method of training is presented in 20 introductory texts and 131 annotated game fragments. In a second database there are then 69 game fragments by means of which you can put into practice what you have learned.

The ChessBase Reader based on ChessBase 9 is included.

Test your Chess – CD By Henrik Schløssner



This is one of those CDs which you can enjoy for years. The CD Basically has 555 test positions to help you develop your skills. The problems are not as easy as you might think. The CD is divided into 6 section where you have to decide if and why you can win, and how to win from the given position. You are given a hint in that each position has a multiple choice answer but beware the first answer that pops into you mind might not be the best one and the time pressure can lead to errors but should sharpen up you positional awareness. The 6 sections cover the following themes :-

- Mate (find the first move or perhaps the number of moves till mate)
- Attack (find the best moves for a decisive attack)
- Defence (find the best defensive move)
- Winning material (find the move that will win material)
- Mistakes (avoid a decisive error)
- Stress (you must make up your mind within 30 seconds)
- Positional evaluation (you have to find the right assessment of the position)

All in all an enjoyable training aid.

Due out at the end of October - Fritz 9

Some of the new items include :-

- Position explainer : positional comment about the current position.
- New forms of training for the topics attack, check and defence with high-score rating.
- New handicap-function for practical training of positional play.

I'm looking forward to letting you know how it all looks and feels next time out.



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

The magazine may be slightly late this time out but please don't blame Iain Mackintosh as I was over a week late in submitting material. Between gathering games, a dose of the flu, which seemed to go on forever, and the arrival of my second grandchild when I was due to be sending material to Iain, I seemed to be struggling to get things done in a timely manner.

My daughter Anna gave birth, after a 42 hour labour (I'm glad men don't have to go through that.) to blue-eyed Dylan Brian Milligan who weighted in at 6 lbs 13 oz.



Hopefully another budding grandmaster.

The mailbox was slightly better off this time out with 4 games sent in by David Cumming and 3 sent in by George Pyrich.

We kick off this issue with a game annotated by George but played between Bert Norris and F Kline with Bert proving more successful than the Scotland football team. Still there's always the next world cup. Anyway I hope you enjoy the games.

Scotland v Netherlands, board 13, 05.03.2005

White :- B Norris
Black :- F Krine
 Sicilian Defence [B30]
 [Annotator George Pyrich]

1.e4 **c5**
2.Nf3 **Nc6**
3.Nc3

Doubtless played to avoid the hugely analysed Svesnikov.

3... Nf6

Other ideas are 3...e5 when 4.Bc4 has

been played successfully by the likes of Kasparov (although, curiously, he did lose with this line against Topalov in what is claimed to be last ever game); whilst 3...d6 was played in Pyrich v. Peschardt, SCCA v. ICCF, 2003 continuing 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Nb3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Bc4 1/2-1/2.

4.Bb5 **Nd4**
5.e5 **Nxb5**
6.Nxb5 **Nd5**
7.0-0

7.Ng5!? was tried in Brusila v Larsson, Reg Gillman Memorial, 2001 7...f6 8.Qf3 fxg5 9.Qxd5 1-0.

7... a6
8.Na3

Maybe 8.c4 is an idea.

8... b5?!

Sowing the seeds of his downfall - instead 8...e6 is more sensible.

9.c4 **bxc4**
10.Nxc4



Now we see the drawback to Black's 8th - White has a fine outpost for the N at c4 - Black does have the half-open b-file but that's not a factor at this time.

10... Bb7?!

Better surely was 10...e6.

11.d4 **cxd4**
12.Bg5!

With the nasty threat of Nd6+

12... Qc7
13.Qxd4 **f6?!**

Better 13...e6 when after 14.Rac1 Bc6 Black might just yet survive.

14.Bd2 **fxe5**
15.Nfxe5 **e6**
16.Rac1

White's position plays itself.

16... Bc5
17.Qg4 **g6**
18.Ba5 **Qb8**



19.Nxd7!

Nice one! White now wins by force.

19... Kxd7
20.Rfe1 **Qe8**
21.Ne5+ **Ke7**
22.Rxc5 **Kf8**
23.Rxd5!

Eliminating Black's last key defender.

23... Bxd5
24.Qf4+ **Ke7**
25.Bb4+ **Kd8**
26.Rc1 **Ra7**
27.Qf6+ **Re7**
28.Ba5 **1-0**

Well played, Bert!



SCCA League 2005 ICCF, 2005
White :- G Pyrich
Black :- S Murray
 Sicilian Najdorf [B98]
 [Annotator George Pyrich]

1.e4 **c5**

2.Nf3 d6
 3.d4 cxd4
 4.Nxd4 Nf6
 5.Nc3 a6
 6.Bg5

The most principled reply to the Najdorf - I've tried 6.g3 several times but without much success.

6... e6
 7.f4 Be7
 8.Qf3 Qa5

A lively alternative to the more usual 8...Qc7.

9.0-0-0 Bd7



10.g4

10.Bxf6 was played in the high level Radjabov v. Dominguez, Tripoli World Ch., 2004 continuing 10...Bxf6 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Bg5+ 13.Kb1 Nc6 14.Ne4 when White was a rather unconvincing winner on move 27; whilst 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxe5 (11.Qxb7 exd4 12.Qxa8 0-0 is very good for Black) 11...Nc6 12.Nf5 exf5 13.exf6 gxf6 14.Bf4 0-0-0 is the unclear line given in Nunn's Chess Openings.

10... Nc6
 11.Nb3 Qc7
 12.Bh4

Threatening g5 when the N is short of squares. Instead 12.h4 b5 13.Bxf6 gxf6 seemed unclear (13...Bxf6?! 14.g5 Be7 15.Re1 with Nd5 in the air looks grim for Black).

12... h6
 13.Bg3

13.g5? hxg5 14.Bxg5 0-0-0 is perfectly ok for Black.

13... Rc8!?

Black has 2 plausible (possibly better)

alternatives here :-

a) 13...0-0-0 14.h4 g6 15.Bg2 h5 when White is slightly better; and
 b) 13...g5!? 14.fxg5 (14.h4 gxf4 15.Bxf4 0-0-0 16.g5 is unclear) 14...hxg5 15.h4 gxh4 16.g5 when Black might be ok.

14.h4 Nb4

Maybe 14...h5 is playable - after 15.g5 Ng4 isn't so clear; however 14...b5? is simply bad after 15.g5.

15.Rh2

Black threatened Na2+!

15... d5?!

The point of his last few moves - however White has a fairly obvious counter. Again 15...h5 should be considered - after say 16.g5 Ng4 17.Rhd2 Qb6 18.Bh3 Ne3 19.Re1 Nc4 Black is not without chances.

16.exd5 Nfxd5
 17.Nxd5 Nxd5



17...exd5?! 18.f5 Qc6 19.Kb1 with Nd4 to follow is pretty grim for Black.

18.f5! Qb6

18...Bd6 19.fxe6 is also unappealing.

19.fxe6

Simply opening lines.

19... fxe6
 20.Re2

Preventing Bf6

20... Bb5
 21.Ree1! Bxf1

21...Nb4 is no good after 22.Bxb5+ axb5 23.Nd4.

22.Qxf1 Nb4

Grabbing the exchange with 22...Ne3 is no good after 23.Qd3 Nxd1 24.Qg6+ when White has lots of fun after the likes of 24...Kf8 25.Be5 Rg8 26.Rf1+ Nf2 27.Bd4 Qb4 28.Rxf2+ Bf6 29.Rxf6+ gxf6 30.Qxf6+ Ke8 31.Qxe6+ Qe7 32.Qxg8+ Kd7 33.Qd5+.

23.Rd2

The Black K isn't going anywhere so White can take his time.

23... Rc6

Black is likely lost anyway

a) 23...Qb5 24.Qxb5+ axb5 25.Rxe6 Rf8 26.Rxe7+ Kxe7 27.Bd6+ Ke8 28.Re2+ Kd7 29.Bxb4 Rf4 30.Nc5+ Kc6 31.Nd3+-;
 b) 23...Nxa2+ 24.Kb1 Nb4 25.Bd6! Rf8 26.Qe2+-; and c) 23...Bf6 24.Bd6 Be7 25.Rxe6+-

24.Kb1 Nd5

Both 24...Bf6 25.c3 0-0 26.cxb4; and 24...Rf8 25.Qe2 Qb5 26.Qxb5 axb5 27.Nd4 Rb6 28.Nxe6 Rf7 29.Nc7+ are hopeless for Black.

25.c4 Nf6

If 25...Ne3 simply 26.Qd3 when White lands a big check at g6.

26.g5 Nh5
 27.c5



27... Nxc3
 28.Qd3 1-0

With simultaneous threats to d7 and g6 - so, Black resigned.



Stephen Tatlow
 Memorial, 22.06.2004

White :- G Pyrich
 Black :- R Jacquin (ARG)
 Ruy Lopez [C99]
 [Annotator George Pyrich]

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 a6
- 4.Ba4 Nf6
- 5.0-0 Be7
- 6.Re1 b5
- 7.Bb3 d6
- 8.c3 0-0
- 9.h3 Na5
- 10.Bc2 c5
- 11.d4 Qc7
- 12.Nbd2 cxd4
- 13.cxd4 Bb7
- 14.d5 Rac8

The old main line of the Spanish or Ruy Lopez - I used to play this sort of stuff as Black years ago but came to the conclusion that it doesn't offer much.

- 15.Bb1 Nh5!?
- 16.Nf1



- 16... Nf4!?

I expected 16...g6 as in the game Norellyke - Salzmann, Olympiad XV Prelims. when Black takes his time before trying f5.

- 17.Kh2

With hindsight, maybe ignoring the N with 17.Ng3 is better.

- 17... Nc4

If 17...f5 then 18.Ne3 (although I found a weird computer game between Gambit Tiger and Gandalf 4 which went 18.Ng3 fxe4 19.Bxe4 Bf6 20.Ne2 which "White" eventually won) ; but I wasn't at all sure about 17...Qd7!?. 18.Ng1 Nc4 19.g3 Ng6 20.b3 Nb6 21.Ne3 as in van Riemsdijk - Matsuura, Brazil, 1992.

- 18.g3 Qc5!?

Unexpected! Instead both 18...Nh5 19.Ne3; and 18...Ng6 19.b3 Nb6 20.Ne3 h6 21.h4 Bf6 22.Bd2 leave White with a small but durable edge.

- 19.Ne3

I was tempted to go for 19.gxf4 but didn't trust the likes of 19...Qxf2+ 20.Kh1 Nxb2 21.Qb3 Na4 22.Qe3 (22.Bd2? Rc3!) 22...Qxe3 23.Bxe3 exf4 24.Bxf4 Bf6 25.e5 dxe5 when Black is very active.

- 19... Nh5

- 20.a4

20.b3 just seemed to be weakening - after 20...Nxe3 21.Bxe3 Qa3 22.Qd2 (if 22.Bd3 then 22...f5) 22...f5 23.exf5 Bd8! Black seems to be doing well.

- 20... f5?!

I suppose that this is consistent with his earlier play but it's very compromising - now e6 is always a nice square for White

- 21.axb5 axb5
- 22.b3 fxe4
- 23.Bxe4 Nf6

23...Nxe3 24.Bxe3 Qb4 leaves White with a small edge but no clear plan 25.Bd2 Qc5 26.Qe2 Nf6 (26...Bxd5? 27.Rac1!+-) 27.Rec1 Qb6 when White is slightly better.

- 24.Bf5

24.Bxh7+ is nothing for White after 24...Nxb7 25.bxc4 bxc4 26.Ba3 Qc7 27.Rc1 c3

- 24... Nb6



- 25.b4!?

Taking the exchange with either 25.Bxc8 Qxc8 26.Qc2 Nfxd5 27.Qxc8 Nxc8; or 25.Bd2 Nfxd5 26.Rc1 Nxe3 27.Bxe3 Qb4 28.Bxc8 Nxc8 29.Nd2 d5 doesn't give much.

- 25... Qxb4?!

25...Qc3? loses after 26.Ra7 Bxd5

27.Bxc8 Rxc8 (27...Qxc8 28.Rxe7 Bxf3 29.Qxd6) 28.Bd2 Qc6 29.Nxe5 dxe5 30.Rxe7+-; but 25...Qc7 is difficult to assess after say 26.Bb2 (26.Bxc8? Qxc8 27.Ra7 Nfxd5 28.Nxd5 Bxd5 is what Black wants!) 26...Na4 27.Be6+ Kh8 28.Qe2 - White is better but not much.

- 26.Ra7!

Suddenly everything falls into place for White.

- 26... Rb8

After 26...Rc7 27.Ng5 Black's Q is suddenly short of squares after 27...Ra8 28.Ba3 Qd4 29.Qb1 e4 30.Rd1 Qe5 31.Rxb7 Rxb7 32.Bb2 Qxf5 33.Nxf5+-; and 26...Rxc1 27.Qxc1 Bxd5 28.Qc7! is crushing for White; finally, 26...Bxd5 fares no better after 27.Bd2 Qb2 28.Rxe7 Bxf3 29.Qxf3 Qxd2 30.Re2 Qd4 (30...Qa5 31.Qb7 g6 32.Ng4 also wins) 31.Bxc8 Nxc8 32.Nf5+-

- 27.Ba3 Qc3
- 28.Qb1 Qc7

28...Na4 is no better after 29.Qxb5 Qxa3 30.Rxb7 Nc3 31.Qc6+-; and 28...Nc8 simply loses the Q to 29.Rc1.

- 29.Ng5
- DIAGRAM #

- 29...Ng4+

Else simply Ne6

- 30.Nxg4 Bxg5
- 31.Bxh7+ Kh8
- 32.Qg6! Nc4

If 32...Qc3 33.Re2 Qf3 34.Qxg5 Qxe2 35.Bf5 and White is winning easily.

- 33.Qh5 Bh6
- 34.Be4 Qf7
- 35.Qh4 Nxa3

Else White has Bc1 after say 35...Ra8 36.Rxa8 Bxa8 37.Bc1 with a forced win 37...Bxd5 38.Bxd5 Qxd5 39.Bxh6 gxh6 40.Qxh6+ Kg8 41.Qg6+ Kh8 42.Nf6 Qf7 43.Qh6+ and mate next move.

- 36.Rxa3 Bxd5
- 37.Rf3 1-0

Faced with mate or huge material losses, Black resigned



Now we have some game from David Cumming facing both human and silicon opposition. An interesting selection which will prove enjoyable to play through.

SCCA League Division 2, 2005

White :- D R Cumming
Black :- C Dowell
 Trompowsky Attack [D00]
 [Annotator D R Cumming]

1.d4 **Nf6**
2.Bg5 **d5**

A line with a very solid reputation despite allowing White to double Black's pawns on the f-file.

3.Bxf6 **gxf6!?**

"Double-edged, ambitious and it's relative neglect (compared to 3...e7xf6) does not really seem to be founded on any sound theoretical basis. It is also a pretty good practical weapon especially at lower levels" - Peter Wells.

4.c4 **dx4**
5.e4!? **f5**
6.Bxc4 **fx4**
7.Nc3!? **Nc6!?**



7...Bg7 8.Qh5 0-0 9.Nge2 "when White doesn't get to force ...e6, but has better chances of holding the d-prawn" - Wells.
 7...Nc6?! (Taking me out of book), merely presents itself as a target & encourages the following.

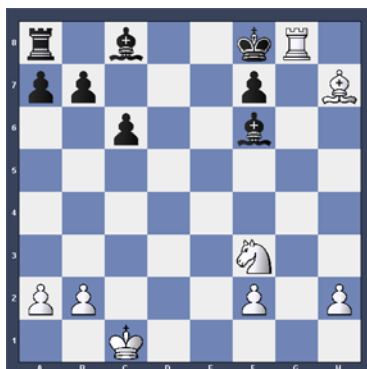
8.Qh5 **e6**
9.d5! **Nd4**
10.0-0-0 **Qf6!**
11.dxe6 **Nxe6**
12.Nxe4 **Qf4+!**
13.Nd2 **Bg7**
14.Ngf3 **Qf6**
15.Qb5+ **c6**
16.Qb4 **Bf8**
17.Qa5 **Rg8**
18.Rhg1 **Bg7**
19.Qa3 **Qg6**

20.g4!



To consider a subsequent ...Qf6?! with g5!

20... **Bf8**
21.Qd3! **Qxd3**
22.Bxd3 **Nf4**
23.Bxh7 **Rxg4**
24.Rde1+ **Be7**
25.Rg3 **Nd5**
26.Ne4! **Kf8**
27.Reg1!! **Rxg3**
28.Rxg3 **Nf6**
29.Nxf6 **Bxf6**
30.Rg8+!



30... **Ke7**
31.Bf5 **Bxf5**
32.Rxa8± **Bg4**
33.Ne1 **Bg5+**
34.Kc2 **a6**
35.Nd3 **Bf5**
36.Ra7! **Bc8**
37.Nc5 **Bh4**
38.Nxb7 **Bxf2**
39.Nc5+! **Kd8**
40.b4 **f5**
41.Kd3 **f4**
42.Ke4! **Bg1**
43.h4!! **Bh2**
44.h5! **1-0**

And as the beautiful young Russian chess playing actress said on "Eurotrash" the other day, "..... in the endgame the King is best placed in the centre of the board". What an illustration of that point this game is! The h-prawn cannot be stopped.



SCCA Challenge Tournament, 2005

White :- J P Jack
Black :- D R Cumming
 French Defence Advanced Variation [C02]
 [Annotator D R Cumming]

1.e4 **e6**
2.d4 **d5**
3.e5 **c5**
4.c3 **Nc6**
5.Nf3 **Qb6**
6.Be2 **cx4**
7.cxd4 **Nh6!?**
8.Nc3



8.Bd3 is awkward to play against in practice!

8... **Nf5**
9.Na4 **Qa5+**
10.Bd2 **Bb4**
11.Bc3 **b5**
12.a3 **Bxc3+**
13.Nxc3 **b4**
14.axb4 **Qxb4**
15.Bb5 **Bd7**
16.Bxc6 **Bxc6**
17.Qd2 **0-0**
18.0-0 **Rfb8**
19.Rab1 **a5!?**



20.g4 **Ne7**

"With about equal chances" - Lev Psakis.

21.h4 **Bb7**
22.Rfc1 **Ba6**
23.h5 **h6**
24.Kh2

Making way for his Rooks to pressurise and take control of g-file.

24... Rb6
25.g5 hgx5
26.Qxg5 Bd3!
27.Rg1 Nf5
28.Nh4 Qe7!



Forcing the exchange of Queens and nullifying White's threat of 29.Nxf4?? Qxg5 30.Rxg5 Bxb1!

29.Qxe7 Nxe7
30.Rbd1 Bc4
31.Rd2 Rab8
32.Nd1 Kf8
33.Kg3?! Rb3+!±
34.f3? Nc6!
35.Rdg2 Rd3!
36.Kh3 Rxd4
37.Rxg7?? Rxd1!!±±
0-1



Friendly postal match, 2005

White :- D R Cumming

Black :- Fritz 5.32

French Defence Tarrasch Variation [C07]

[Annotator D R Cumming]

This game was played against Siegrin Macgilchrist's Fritz 5.32 chess program in a friendly postal match.

1.e4!?

I haven't generally played 1.e4 as White in years, these days, I prefer 1.d4, but Siegrun wanted to explore both sides of the French Tarrasch, so I agreed to play it as White, and play the French vs Fritz's Tarrasch variation as Black, a game still being played....

1... e6
2.d4 d5
3.Nd2 c5
4.exd5 Qxd5
5.Ngf3 cxd4
6.Bc4 Qd6

7.0-0 Nf6
8.Nb3 Nc6
9.Nbxd4 Nxd4
10.Nxd4 Bd7
11.c3 a6
12.Re1 Qc7
13.Bb3 Bd6
14.Nf5? Bxh2+
15.Kh1 0-0?



15...0-0-0. 14.Nf5? was an error committed in the absence of a certain Batsford book which I have since acquired stating the refutation 15...0-0? simply transposes to main lines (10.Nxd4 a6 11.Re1 Qc7 12.Bb3 Bd6 13.Nf5 Bxh2+ 14.Kh1 0-0 with the moves c3.....Bd7 thrown in as follows:-

16.Nxg7! Kxg7??
17.Qd4!!±± Rad8



Siegrun told me that her Fritz assessed this position as "=" and only after my reply did her silicon monster realise that it was about to be mated!

Note by Bernard:-

Chess engines appear to give different results depending on the length of time that a computer is allowed to analyse a position and the speed of the computer processor which is running the engine. I don't know the speed of Siegrun's PC or its general specs. I have a P4 3GHz machine and switched Fritz 5.32 on from within ChessBase to analyse this position. The move 17...Rad8 was never ranked within the top 4 candidate moves on my machine which instantly settled on 17...e5 as being the best move to play, a move

which it assessed as "=". I only left it analysing for a few minutes but given the speed of my processor I doubt if 17...Rad8 would ever come into the equation.

18.Bh6+ Kg8
19.Qxf6 1-0

19.Qxf6 The likely end was 19...Qe5 20.Rxe5 Bxe5 21.Qxe5 f6 22.Qg3+ Kf7 23.Qg7+ Ke8 24.Qxf8#; 19.Qxf6 or 19...Be5 20.Rxe5 Qxe5 21.Qxe5 f6 22.Qg3+ Kf7 23.Qg7+ Ke8 24.Qxf8#



SCCA Premiers, 2005

White :- J McKenzie Armstrong

Black :- D R Cumming

King's Fianchetto Opening [A00]

[Annotator D R Cumming]

1.g3 Nf6
2.Bg2 d5
3.d4 g6
4.c3 Bg7
5.Nf3 0-0
6.0-0 c5
7.Na3 Nc6
8.dxc5!?



This move was a real pain in the ass to meet.

8... Qa5!?
9.b4 Nxb4!?
10.cxb4 Qxb4
11.Qc2!

Protecting the c-prawn & preparing 12.Rb1.

11... Ne4
12.Rb1

Forcing the exchange of Queens.

12... Qxc5
13.Qxc5 Nxc5
14.Bb2!

I didn't want to exchange off my fianchettoed Bishop so...

14... Bh6
15.Bd4 b6
16.Bxc5?



A strategic error. White should have kept his strong dark-squared Bishop on the board, now he's given me the chance to get connected passed pawns.

16... bxc5
17.Nb5 Bf5!

Developing the light squared Bishop and connecting my Rooks with gain of tempo because White's Rb1 was under threat.

18.Rbd1 e6
19.e3 Bg7! ♜/♞

Because of the 2 Bishops & the d & c pawns.

20.Nd6 Bg4
21.Nb7 c4

22.Rc1 Rfb8
23.Nc5 Rb5!
24.Nd7?? Bxf3!
25.Bxf3 Rd8
26.Rb1 Rxb1
27.Rxb1 Rxd7
28.Bd1?



White should have preferred 28.Rb8+ Bf8 29.Rc8 getting my dark-squared Bishop off the important g7-a1 diagonal, putting his Rook behind the c-pawn, thus hindering its advance, & disrupting the natural development of my King.

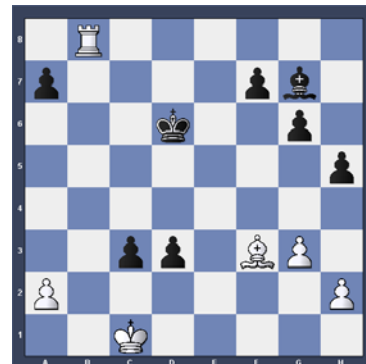
28... Kf8!
29.Ba4?! Rc7
30.Kf1 c3
31.Ke2 Ke7
32.Kd3 Kd6
33.Rb4 h5
34.Bb3 e5!
35.f3?!

I thought 35.f4 would've been marginally better.

35... d4!
36.exd4 exd4

Giving Black 2 connected, supported & advanced passed pawns.

37.Rb8 Re7!
38.Bd1 Re3+
39.Kc2 d3+
40.Kc1 Rxf3
41.Bxf3??



Now mate is inevitable.

41... Bh6+
42.Kd1 c2+
43.Ke1 c1Q+
44.Kf2 Qd2+
45.Kg1 Be3+
46.Kh1 Qf2
47.Rd8+ Kc7
48.Rd7+ Kxd7
49.Bc6+ Kxc6
50.h4 Qg1#
0-1



Solutions to Puzzles

Puzzle 1

1... Qf3+! 2.gxf3 Bh3#
Cardiff-Bristol (CC, 1884)

Puzzle 2

1... Kd8?? 2.Nb7+ 1-0
Kelner-Zagarovsky (CC, 1963)

Puzzle 3

1.Nxe6! Qxe6
1... fxe6 does not work because of 2.Qg6+ Ke7 3.Rhe1 and 1... hgx4 is met by 2.Nc7+ Ke7 3.N3d5+ winning the queen back in favourable circumstances.
2.Qd4! Nc6 3.Qd7+ 1-0
After 3... Qxd7 4.Bxd7+ Ke7 5.Bxc6 Bxc6 6.Rhe1+ Black is mated.
Kogan-Kotenko, (CC, 1972)

Puzzle 4

1... e3!
Black would like to play exf2. If 2.f3 Nf2 (threat Nh3) and if 3.Qd7 Re6
2.fxe3 Qg3! 3.Kg1 Qxe3+ 4.Kh1 Nf2+ 5.Kg1 Nh3++ 6.Kh1 Qg1+! 7.Rxg1 Nf2+ 8.Kh2 Be5#
A lovely combination!
Gersey-Tsivits (CC, 1970-72)



Introduction

Tim Harding has now released the fourth version of his MegaCorr CC database on CD, and it's been available to subscribers from September. The previous versions were released in 1999, 2001 and 2003.

MegaCorr4 Contents

The database section of the CD contains 700,000+ games, representing an increase of about 34% by volume over MegaCorr3 (521,000)

Some 30,000+ games are annotated (4%), and a further 25,000 game fragments and 'non-games' are included amongst the analysis.

The games database is provided in three formats, Chess Assistant, ChessBase (v6 or higher) and PGN (zip format), and is thus compatible with all the main chess software products on the market. As before, the PGN database is handily sectioned to support ChessBase Light.

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

- All back issues of Chess Mail (1996-2005) in Acrobat PDF format;
- A 30-minute audio interview with Hanon Russell of Chess Cafe in celebration of Tim's 100th column for this internet institution in 2004;
- A number of interviews and articles with CC players and organisers (some reprinted from Chess Mail) in Acrobat PDF format;
- A complete copy of Tim's 1996 Batsford book 'Winning at Correspondence Chess' also in Acrobat PDF format;
- A miscellaneous collection of games articles, order forms and other 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
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have to buy any programs – if you don't have a Chess Assistant or ChessBase licence, you can use ChessBase Light (or any of several free PGN readers), and/or the free download of Acrobat Reader to access the material.

To get started, you need to point Chess Assistant or ChessBase at one of the database files. If you are accessing the PGN files, you will have to unzip them first (a free version of WinZip or equivalent will do this for you), and then use the PGN reader of your choice.

MegaCorr4 Highlights

Tim has done another good editing job of pulling together a wide variety of CC games collections, both from the public domain and from more obscure sources.

The established centres of organised CC are well represented on the CD (including ICCF, WCCF, IECC, UECC, CIF, DESC and national associations) and these sources provide the majority of quality games.

The depth of annotations varies from copious to minimal. Tim has added some notes in selected games, but the serious player would be well advised to put time aside to study the unannotated material – the better players tend not to advertise their ideas, so it's a case of 'seek and ye shall find'. Database owners will find it easy to look up the opening preferences and playing styles of new opponents.

Once again, the extras section represents very good value, particularly if you are not already a Chess Mail subscriber. This time there is an entire e-book to browse as well as the complete Chess Mail archive.

MegaCorr4 Lowlights

On this CD, around half the games are dated 1999-present, so the internet explosion of games continues. However, as with MegaCorr3, there are still too many unrated or low-rated contests for comfort, often very brief.

I appreciate that editing is always a battle against the clock, but maybe some further filtering of material would help.

Some of the additional material provided in MegaCorr3 doesn't make an appearance this time round, which is slightly odd, as it looked as though some of the indexing and links were designed to establish a framework for future editions.



Sample Game

While browsing the CD, I came across a nicely annotated game from Phil Giuliani, who has been having a bit of a break from CC in recent months. Here's a reminder of his play, on this occasion from a World Championship Semi.

**Kampfhenkel, U – Giulian, P [C16]
Wch20 sf07 corr ICCF, 1993**

1.e4 e6
2.d4 d5
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.e5 b6?!
5.Qg4 Bf8
6.Nh3 Ba6
7.Nb5!

I have come to the conclusion that 4. Qd7 is more accurate so that 5.Qg4 can be met by f5

What's this? I don't usually play this opening and was blindly following a game Kovalev–Vaganian, which went 7.Bxa6 Nxa6 8.Nf4 Nb4 9.Qe2 Ne7=. A hurried look at the opening books showed that after 7.Nb5, Black played 7... Qd7 8.a4 Ne7 9.Nf4 Ng6 10.Nh5 Rg8 11.Bh6 +- Tal–Karner, USSR, 1979.

7... Qd7
8.a4 Bb7
9.Bf4?!

This can't be correct, taking away the f4 square from the N. Better 9.Be3

9... a6
10.Nc3 Nc6
11.0-0-0 Nge7
12.Be3 h5
13.Qf3 Nf5
14.Nf4 g6
15.g3?!

Better to occupy the g5 square perhaps by 15.Nh3 then Ng5, or support the d4 square and then play Bg5.

15... 0-0-0
16.Bh3??



16... Nxe5!!
17.dxe5 d4
18.Qe2 Bb4!!

Black has to be careful! If 18... Bxh1?? then 19.Rxh1 dxc3 20. Qxa6+ Kb8 21.Bg2 c6 22.Qxb6 +-.

19.Nfd5!?

I felt that White had a number of other possibilities: [19.Rhe1 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Qxa4 21.cxd4 (21.Bxd4 Nxd4 transposes although Black can also try 21... c5; 21.Bxf5?? allows 21...dxc3-+) 21...Nxd4 22.Rxd4 Qa1+ 23.Kd2 Rxd4+ 24.Bxd4 Qxd4+ with attacking chances as well as 2 pawns for the piece; 19.Bxf5 Bxc3 20.Bh3 Qxa4! and Black has too many threats; 19.Na2 Qxa4 20.Nxb4 dxc3 21.c3 Bxh1-+]

19... Bxc3
20.Nxc3 Nxe3
21.fxe3 Bxh1
22.Qxa6+

[22.Rxh1 dxc3 23.Qxa6+ Kb8 24.Bg2 Qd2+ 25.Kb1 Qxg2-+]

22... Bb7
23.Qa7 dxc3
24.Rxd7 Rxd7



Better than [24...cxb2+ 25.Kxb2 Rxd7 when White may still have some chances with 26.Bf1/Ba6 and a5]

25.bxc3 Rhd8
26.a5 Rd1+
27.Kb2 R8d5!
28.axb6 Rb5+
29.Ka2 Bd5+

In view of 30.Ka3 Ra1#, White resigned
0-1

MegaCorr4 Conclusions

This is another good addition to the MegaCorr series, with sufficiently good editing to justify the label of a dedicated CC production. The scattering of less than ordinary games is no reason to eschew purchase.

The majority of material can be accumulated from the internet, but the time you will spend doing this will far outweigh the purchase price, and you will still be short of the specialist material that Tim contributes.

The extra material is a substantial bonus unless of course, you already have it on your bookshelf!

MegaCorr4 sells at €40 if you order directly from Chess Mail, or €45 via Paypal or from your local stockist. I seem to remember that earlier versions of MegaCorr had an upgrade price for previous subscribers, but I couldn't see that offer this time round.

You can find out more at <http://www.chessmail.com/> or write to Chess Mail at 26 Coolamber Park, Dublin 16, Ireland.





Domestic Update

By Jim Anderson

SCCA 100% Club			
Player	Score	Year	Event
C R Beecham	10/10	2001-02	Championships
C R Beecham	9/9	2000-01	Championships
Dr F Teunisse	6/6	1997-98	Candidates
D Ross	3/3	2003	Premiers
R Beacon	5/5	2001	Premiers
J Morrow	6/6	2004	Majors
J Morrow	8/8	2000	Majors
G A A Murphy	6/6	1999	Majors
W Hart	10/10	2004	Minors
G Kennedy	6/6	2003	Minors
J Crawley	6/6	2004	Openings
J Anderson	6/6	2002	Openings
S M Young	8/8	1998	Openings
I Sneddon	6/6	2000	Postal Knight
I Sneddon	6/6	1999	Quartets

Following a suggestion from John Crawley, we decided to publish a list on the website of players who have scored 100% in a domestic event. The list is compiled from website tables only, so there may well be events prior to 1998 where this feat has been achieved also – please let us know if this is the case, and we'll update the table.

Championship 2005/2006		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	Dawson, A G	■							
2	Goodwin, B		■			½			½
3	Lloyd, G			■	½	0		½	1
4	Mackintosh, I			½	■				½
5	May, M A		½	1		■	½		2
6	Norris, Rev A C					½	■		½
7	Reeman, I F			½				■	½

Premiers 2005		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■		0	0	1	1	0	2
2	Cook, W M		■	1	½	1	1	1	4½
3	Crichton, D	1	0	■	0	1	1	½	3½
4	Cumming, D R	1	½	1	■	1	½	1	5
5	Knox, A	0	0	0	0	■	0		0
6	McAinsh, T F	0	0	0	½	1	■	1	2½
7	Wright, A	1	0	½	0		0	■	1½

Early days yet in the 2005-06 Championship, but Mark May has made a good start. In the Premiers, David Cumming has his nose in front, but could still be caught by Bill Cook.

League Division 1 2005		P	W	D	L	Pts
A	Black Knight	6	2	2	2	3
B	Perth Correspondents	4	4	0	0	4
C	Social Stars	4	2	1	1	2½
D	Dreadnoughts A	2	0	0	2	0
E	Brutal Realism	4	0	1	3	½
F	Dreadnoughts B	4	2	0	2	2

League Division 2 2005		P	W	D	L	Pts
A	Dreadnoughts C					
B	Knights of the Board B	5	1	1	3	1½
C	Knights of the Board A	2	1	1	0	1½
D	Social Dragons	2	1	0	1	1
E	Social Roses	1	1	0	0	1

In Division 1, Perth Correspondents are off to a flier, while in Division 2, it's too early to make predictions.



International Update

By George Pyrich

Douglas Livie Memorial

Category III, SIM Norm 9½, IM Norm 8½				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts
	1	Maxwell, A	2081	SCO		1	0	½	½	1	0	½		0	½	0	4
	2	Pyrich, G D	2373	SCO	0		½	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	0	4½
	3	Mackintosh, I	2328	SCO	1	½		1	0	1	½	1		½	0	1	6½
	4	Borwell, A P	2229	SCO	½	½	0		½	1	0	½		0		½	3½
	5	Brown, Dr A C	2393	SCO	½	½	1	½			1	1	0	0	½	½	5½
	6	Berthelsen, R	2180	NOR	0	½	0	0			0	0	½	½		½	2
	7	Halme, O	2240	FIN	1	1	½	1	0	1		½		0		0	5
	8	Rawlings, A J C	2254	ENG	½	½	0	½	0	1	½		½	1	0	½	6
	9	Craig, T J	2403	SCO		½			1	½		½		½		0	3
	10	Starke, H	2401	GER		1	½	1	1	½		0			½	½	5
	11	Geider, F	2412	FRA	1	½	1		½		1	1	½	½		½	7
	12	Lambert, G R	2386	AUS	½	1	0	1	½	½		½		½	½		5
	13	Martin Molinero, R	2356	ESP	1	0	1	½	1	1	1	0	1		½		7

Frank Geider (FRA) and Raul Martin Molinero (ESP) share the lead in mid-October with over 80% of results recorded. These two, plus Heiko Starke (GER) and Tom Craig (SCO) can all make 9 points. Olavi Halme (FIN) and Grant Lambert (AUS) are tucked in just behind.

Champions League Group D3 The Lewis Chessmen		Chess Owls	Sirius	Kielce	Samarachess	Satranc Okulu	Yetman Brothers	ADA Mostoles	CK & Gambit	Great CC Danes	Gli Svitosi	Total Points	Percentage
		1	Iain Mackintosh	½	½	1	0		1	1	½	1	1
2	George Livie				½	½	1	½	1			3½	70.0
3	George Pyrich	1	½		½	½	½	½	0		½	4	50.0
4	Alan Borwell	½	½	½	½		1	1	½		1	5½	68.8
Team Total		2	1½	1½	1½	1	3½	3	2	1	2½	19½	65.0

The team is putting in a strong performance, and are lying 2nd in their group at mid-October, with good prospects of promotion.

Current Friendly Internationals						
Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void
Sep 2005	27	Denmark	Server/Post			
Jul 2005	21	Australia	Server/Post	2	0	
Mar 2005	24	Netherlands	Post/Email	3	7	
Feb 2005	20	BCCS	Post/Email	8	0	6
Jan 2004	20	Romania	Email	10½	26½	
Jul 2003	23	Finland	Post/Email	14½	29½	2
Jun 2003	24	Canada	Post/Email	13½	29½	2
Dec 2002	129	ICCF	Post/Email	98	147	10
Jun 2002	20	Catalonia	Post/Email	10½	26½	2

The webserver format is proving popular with a good turnout in recent matches. We are less good at winning friendlies these days, but have reasonable prospects in the match against BCCS.



Correspondence Chess Quotes

From Chessville

Correspondence chess is the perfect form of the game. – Ward

OTB chess is the favourite of mortals; correspondence chess is the favourite of the gods. – Eduard Dyckhoff

For a correspondence chess player, life is literally an uninterrupted game of chess. – Eduard Dyckhoff

The winner of a correspondence chess tournament is the one who gets the least amount of sleep. – Source Unknown

In correspondence play the personality of one's opponent counts for little or nothing. – Graham Mitchell

The technique of good correspondence chess lies in playing good moves. – Graham Mitchell

Checkmates don't work if there's no one answering the door. – Source Unknown (on correspondence chess)

You'll know there is a problem with computers and correspondence chess when everyone is rated 2450. – John C. Knudsen

In correspondence chess you can smoke during the game. – John C. Knudsen

Such people are immoral, unethical, and I hope they do it! – Stephan Gerzadowicz (on players who use a computer to generate moves in CC games)

All strong correspondence players agree that computer programs can be of some help, but by far not as much as people often think. The longer the thinking time, the better a human will do against a computer, and in correspondence chess a computer not steered by human strategy would be a below-average player. – Hans Ree

I don't see how anyone has the time for postal chess. – David Levy

Correspondence chess and over-the-board chess complement each other. – Alexander Alekhine

Postal chess is an excellent way to test new moves or ideas. – William Howell

Only in correspondence chess can an amateur chess player, earning his living in another profession, even attain master class level of play. – Walter Muir

The advantage of the first move is increased rather than diminished in correspondence chess. – Adrian Hollis

In correspondence play the personality of ones opponent counts for little or nothing. – Graham Mitchell

It is not unusual in a game played by mail to have a player resign because he sees a pretty combination coming to life - in the mind of his opponent. – Irving Chernev

Correspondence chess should be played for its own sake. – C. J. S. Purdy

Chess is as much a mystery as women – C. J. S. Purdy

Methodical thinking is of more use in chess than inspiration. – C. J. S. Purdy

Correspondence chess has one great advantage on over-the-board play, in that, normally, you can choose the time and place to work on it. – Allen Sheldon

The bane of correspondence chess is the clerical error. – Walter Muir

Eagle eyed correspondence chess players take nothing for granted. – Irving Chernev

Postal chess players depend less on intuition than on genuine analytical ability. – Irving Chernev

Correspondence chess is not only a school for technique or an academy for virtuosity; it is a discipline of deep thought, of research, of tenacity. There is no place for the easy and convenient draw by agreement, but there is always the torment of the search for the best. – Mario Napolitano

Correspondence play is the highest quality chess, for the most part superior to OTB play in every aspect of the game. Furthermore, good postal players make the best annotators, since in analysing each move deeply before sending it they are in effect annotating the game as they play it. – Taylor Kingston

Correspondence chess is the great "laboratory" of the game. Correspondence players are often talented researchers and tend to be willing to try unusual lines of play that don't often appear in over-the-board games. And their analytical abilities are excellent -- while an over-the-board player has (at best) just a few minutes to decide on a move, a correspondence player can takes *days* if he so chooses. – Steve Lopez

It is my firm belief that the easiest way for 95% of correspondence players to improve their play is to *slow down and take more time*. If you read the articles in Tim Harding's excellent magazine *Chess Mail* and interviews with top correspondence GM's the thing which crops up time and time again is they *take their time and use their full allocation of time*. Very few of us use our full allocation and I cannot think of a time I have ever suffered from moving too slowly but many a time I would have avoided errors by having another look. – John Pugh



Correspondence Chess Puzzles

By Iain Mackintosh

1.



Black to play and win

3.



White to play and win

2.



Black to play and lose

4.



Black to play and win

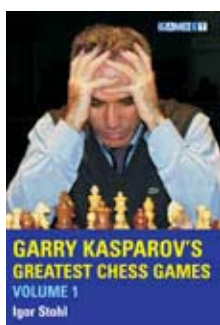
The puzzle pages on the website now contain 150+ teasers for you to try. Here are 4 from CC play - answers on page 15.



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Garry Kasparov has dominated the chess world for more than 20 years. His dynamism and preparation have set an example that is followed by most ambitious players. Igor Stohl has selected 74 of Kasparov's best and most instructive games from 1973-93, and annotated them in detail. The emphasis is on explaining the thought behind Kasparov's decisions, and the principles and concepts embodied by his moves. Stohl provides a wealth of fresh insights into these landmark games, together with many new analytical points. This makes the book outstanding study material for all chess enthusiasts.

320pp, hardback, 248x172mm, £22.50



ICCF Webserver Update

By Alan Borwell

It was decided by the 2004 ICCF Congress in Mumbai, that a new Webserver Development Steering Committee (WDSC) should be established to take forward the development of the ICCF Webserver System.

The Mumbai Congress also decided to allocate CHF 15'000 towards the cost of funding the Phase 2 development work of the ICCF Webserver during 2005, under the auspices of the WDSC, which was empowered to decide priorities and resource needs.

The WDSC superseded the previous Steering Committee, which had been formed to take forward the project for creation of a dedicated ICCF Webserver System, originally under my chairmanship as ICCF President, with Iain Mackintosh as Project Manager, and subsequently chaired by Josef Mrkvička from the Ostrava Congress and then by Grayling Hill, until it was discontinued as from 31st December 2004. The Final Report of that Committee was produced and distributed on 28th February 2005.

The WDSC began its work early in March 2005 and exchanged views about priorities for Phase 2, based on the original system specification, with possible enhancements subsequently identified.

Bearing in mind development budget constraints in 2005 and the need to move ahead quickly, the WDSC considered it would be beneficial to arrange a face-to-face meeting between WDSC members and technical system designer Martin Bennedik and it was held in Jülich, Germany in early May.

The meeting was attended by Gerhard Binder, Dr. Ambar Chatterjee (who was in Germany on business), Med Samraoui (representing EB), Martin Bennedik and myself, as Chairman. The other WDSC members, Nol van't Riet, Clive Murden (Project Manager) and Iain Mackintosh (Adviser), participated in the preparatory work for the meeting, particularly in specifying of tasks to be included in Phase 2.

The one day meeting in Jülich was very useful, productive and relatively inexpensive, and a plan was agreed for Phase 2 development tasks to be achieved during 2005, prior to the ICCF Congress.



There were two main areas identified as the highest priority for Phase 2 development:

1. Significant progress towards the use of the ICCF Webserver for the administration and results processing for all kinds of tournaments (i.e. embracing those played by post, Email and Webserver). This will include pairing and colour allocation and more versatile player registration (optional).
2. Significant progress towards early total production of CC ratings etc. by the Webserver. Preparatory steps include flexible player ID assignment, result evaluation and edit facilities.

Other tasks which were identified as priority, including flexible tournament tables e.g. for adding players/teams after event has started, multiple pairings, thematic tournaments, player database enhancements, facilities to enable multi language pages and improved screen/table layouts etc.

Several other issues were discussed by the WDSC but it was considered that these should first be reviewed by established ICCF Commissions.

They included possible changes to playing rules (eg varying rate of play, accumulated time, conditionals) and to tournament rules (eg World CCCs, Olympiads, Champions League).

Some tasks were operational (not developmental), including customisation requirements e.g. adding tournaments, wordings of multiple language help screens etc., which should be arranged by the Webserver Operations Committee with the Webserver Commissioner or the Help Desk Administrator. Early appointments to these important positions were considered to be an urgent requirement for the Executive Board - job specifications are already available.

All additions or modifications, requiring further technical programming of the webserver system, should be referred to the WDSC for consideration and prioritisation eg for Phase 3 development tasks and appropriate resourcing (within budgets, as to be defined by a future ICCF Congress/es). They should NOT be sent directly to the technical system designer before evaluation/decision by the WDSC.

Another important issue discussed by the WDSC was to move significantly towards a situation where ICCF could be largely self-sufficient in the continuing enhancement of its webserver system i.e. the system belongs to member federations, as "shareholders" constituting the ICCF organisation.

However, it was envisaged there would be a need to involve a technical system designer (i.e. Martin Bennedik) on a programming consultancy basis for some years.

For Phase 2, Dr. Ambar Chatterjee has kindly agreed to help with the programming work and his first assignment will be to produce the "engine" for the calculation of ratings, within the webserver system, from the model designed by Gerhard Binder (Ratings Commissioner), which currently works so successfully.

For Project Management for Phase 2, Clive Murden would link with the WDSC and with Martin, Ambar and Gerhard, to ensure delivery of the agreed development tasks, within timescales and budget.

Martin Bennedik is already making very good progress with the Phase 2 programming tasks.

It was emphasised that co-ordination and co-operation between WDSC and EB/MC members is essential to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and control costs, both developmental and operational and that fully up to date reports of work done, and costs, should be provided to each Congress.

There is no doubt that ICCF already possesses a wonderful system for playing CC into the future and it is hoped it will be strongly supported by players, all member federations

and officials. The ICCF Webserver belongs to the member federations and it is "their" system, as owners of ICCF. Webserver usage so far has been reasonable, but it should be greatly increased in the next year.

Furthermore, when the system has been enhanced to embrace rating calculations and facilities and the integration of all types of CC tournament administration and services, it will become an even more marketable product, for everyone's use. With good communications and creative thinking, the possibilities for use of the ICCF Webserver are "infinite", under direct control and with good management and co-operation between ICCF, constituent member federations and sponsors/patrons.

This progress report is provided for ICCF delegates and for the information of players and officials on behalf of members of the Webserver Development Steering Committee (WDSC).

Alan P. Borwell,

WDSC Chairman and
Honorary President
31st July 2005



General Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2005

Theme 10/05: English Symmetrical Rubinstein, A34

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nc7

Entries by 15 October; play starts 1 December

Postal Events 2006

Theme 1/06: French Winawer Poisoned Pawn, C18

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3 6.bxc3 Ne7

7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8

Entries by 15 December; play starts 1 February

Email Events 2005

Theme 11/05: Russian Defence, C43

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5

Entries by 1 October; play starts 1 November

Theme 12/05: Dutch Defence Korchnoi Variation, A80

1.d4 f5 2.h3 Nf6 3.g4 fxg4 4.hxg4 Nxg4 5.e4

Entries by 1 November; play starts 1 December

Email Events 2006

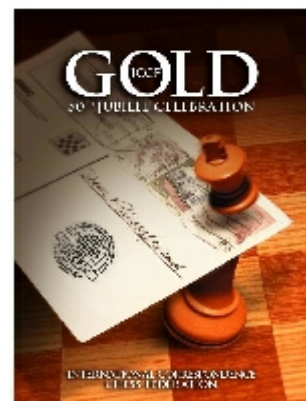
Theme 1/06: Cozio Defence, C40

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5

Entries by 1 December; play starts 1 January

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

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