Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.97

Spring 2007

• Webserver Open - George annotates early games in this event

Grading List
 Asymond provides SCCA and ICCF updates

- Bernard reviews the latest ChessBase DVDs

Games Column
 - Bernard supplies more annotated games

• How to See Ahead in Chess - Part 4 of Geoff Lloyd's instructive text

• International Update - George tabulates our competitive standings





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Editorial and News

Welcome to our first edition of 2007, and we hope those of you who managed to celebrate Easter had a pleasant holiday.

We are going to be busy with anniversaries of one kind or another over the next 12 months, so I've previewed them here in the hope that some of you can contribute ideas and/or material.

After the teething troubles we experienced by changing our structure and introducing mixed-mode play at the start of the year, I'm pleased to report that things seem to have settled down and players are getting on with their games.

George Pyrich chips in by annotating some early play from the Webserver Open where he is acting as TD. Just to show his versatility, he contributes an International update later in the magazine.

Raymond has provided the Grading List as punctually as ever, though I have to apologise for not getting it on to the website as quickly as I might have done. The latest SCCA and ICCF ratings are contained within.

Bernard's Games Column is a little shorter than usual, and he also provides his usual review of the latest ChessBase DVDs and CDs.

This edition features the fourth instalment of Geoff Lloyd's serialised book, and this time he covers the use of the heavy pieces in combinations for us.

Late on in the editing process I received a thoughtful letter from Dr Val Nye, our secretary of yore, and I'm glad to report I managed to squeeze it in. I hope it might provoke some reminiscences or debate, not least to enquire how Val's photograph continues unchanged!

Our website moved location at the beginning of February, and things seemed to go smoothly. The site now carries a revised set of pages to explain our domestic tournaments, rules and methods of play.

The website is also nine years old now, so I must get round to giving it a facelift sometime – if you have the skills to help, please get in touch.



ICCF Amici Webzine Edited by GM Raymond Boger (NOR)

http://amici.iccf.com/



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

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

Recent 100 Club Winners

2007	1st	2nd
March	J Anderson	A P Borwell
February	J M Armstrong	G D Pyrich
January	T Doherty	J Anderson

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Anniversaries and Anecdotes

By Iain Mackintosh

Anniversaries

I seem to remember we were some way into our 25th year before anyone remembered the occasion, so the purpose of this article is to try and be a little more prepared this time!

Over the next 12 months, we have three anniversaries to commemorate, viz:

February 2007 – SCCA was 30 years old (we did remember in advance, we just haven't done anything about it yet!);

January 2008 – we'll be publishing the 100^{th} edition of the magazine;

March 2008 – the website will celebrate its 10th birthday.

You can help to influence proceedings by letting us know what form you think any commemorative events should take, for example:

Domestic and/or international participants?

By invitation or open to all?

Restricted grades, sections banded by grade or open?

Playing mode webserver, email, postal or mixed?

Prize fund (with entry fee) or just for fun?

For the 100th edition of the magazine, I'd like to publish as much material from members as possible. Any subject will do, but here are some possibilities:

If you're nearer 100 than 1, perhaps you could recount some experiences or recall some of the characters playing in SCCA events over the years?

If you're nearer 1 than 100, maybe you could take stock of CC in the computer age?

If you're a member of the 100% Club, perhaps you could annotate a game from your qualifying event(s)?

If you just have a good story to tell, please put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and send it in!

Anecdotes

Geoff Lloyd has suggested that the magazine would benefit from some anecdotes, particularly members' experiences. The subject needn't be chess, as long as you can make a reader (or a chess piece) chuckle.



A famous chess player (I think it was Spassky, but I'm not sure) had the reputation of being a playboy and having been with many women. Asked if he preferred chess or sex, he replied: "It depends on the position".

Continuing with a chess theme, here's a story about the late GM Ratmir Kholmov. It appeared in Suba's "The Hedgehog System" book, and was picked up from a John Watson TWIC book review:

Speaking of Ratmir Kholmov's tendency to get altogether drunk with greatly reduced chess powers, Suba talks about a long list of stories and jokes arising from his habit, relating one passed on to him by Karpov: Kholmov, playing Black, starts 1.e4 Nc6 2.f4 b6 3.Nf3 e5 4.fxe5.

At this point Ratmir plunges into deep thought, while whispering "I've played the Grunfeld all my life and never got into such a bad position!"

Here's one sent in by Geoff Lloyd himself, this time from a domestic viewpoint:

Back in the 1970s when we had 3 small children, I was in the process of fitting a new bathroom suite. The bath, even after screwing the supports to the floor, still gave cause for concern. The kids, always after a bath, stood on the bath side and jumped into mum's arms which held the nice warm towel. In view of this I secured a 3x2 post to the floor and bath and intended to fix this to the solid 4x3 airing cupboard structure using a 6 inch nail. I shouted downstairs to my wife Rita: "look in my toolbox and get me a 6 inch nail." After a short while I got the reply: "I can't find one - will two 3 inch nails do?" Well, I can't express the amount of laughter that followed.

Got a funny story? Send it in, and we'll publish it in a forthcoming issue – maybe the 100^{th} edition.

Webserver Open Update

By George Pyrich



As part of ICCF's programme to popularise its new server, each member federation was granted permission to host a domestic event free of charge.

After some consideration, the SCCA Executive Committee decided to organise an "Open" event over 2 stages, Preliminary and Final, with free entry to members and non-members alike and a prize fund of £200.

The organisers were pleased to welcome a number of newcomers several of whom have now become members as well as a number of "old faces" including life member and former Glenrothes resident Dave Dempster (resident in Western Australia for some 20 years and playing under the Australian flag!) and ICCF GM and former SCCA President David Kilgour making a very welcome return after a break of several years.

Eventually 3 sections of 10 players were formed and play began officially on 28th January. After only 2 months a considerable number of results have already been posted (admittedly with some defaults) as some of the players seemed to enjoy playing quickly – indeed, one game has recently been agreed drawn after 63 moves!

Presently all 3 sections are fairly close and some keen competition is in store as the players determine the 3 qualifiers from each Section.

We shall report on progress in this event in future editions – meantime we present two of the completed games both featuring one of our new members and one of the "old faces" making a welcome return.

Graham,	Stuart	(1800*) -	- Hilton,	Stephen	(1544)
Scottish C	CA We	bserver O	pen – Se	ection B	

	1.d4	Nf6
	2.c4	g6
	3.Nc3	Bg7
	4.e4	d6
	5.Nf3	0-0
	6.Be2	e5
	7.0-0	Nc6
	8.d5	Ne7
	9.b4	a5
[9Nh5 is the m	ain line]	
-	10.Ba3	axb4
	11.Bxb4	Ne8!?
[11Nd7 12.a4	Bh6 13.a5 f5 14.1	Nd2 Nf6 15.c5 Bxd2 was
about equal in	Sergel (USA) v.	van de Wynkel (BEL),
Olympiad XIV F	Prelims.]	• • • • •
	12.c5	f5
	13.Ng5	f4!?
[maybe 13fxe4	14.Ncxe4 Nf5 wa	as playable]
-	14.Ne6	Bxe6
	15.dxe6	



 15...
 Nc6

 16.cxd6
 cxd6

 17.Bc4
 Kh8

 18.Nd5
 f3

 19.g3
 Qg5

 20.Re1
 Rc8

[20...Nxb4 21.e7 Rf7 22.Nxb4 Rxe7 23.Nd5 with Nb6 to follow is very strong for White]

21.Rb1	Qh5
22.Nb6	Rd8
23.Nd7	Rf4

With the idea of Rh4 but it's easily parried.

24.Bf1	Qg4
25.Qd5	Nf6
26.Qxd6	Nxe4
27.Rxe4	Rxe4

The pawn at e6 is a monster and White wins much as he pleases.

28.Bc3	Rc4
29.e7	Rc8
30.Nxe5	Qf5
31.Nxc6	Rxc3
32.Nd8	



32	Re3
33.fxe3	f2+
34.Kg2	Qe4+
35.Kxf2	h6
36.Be2	1-0

Kilgour, David (2490) - McLatchie, Jonathan (1800*)

Scottish CCA Webserver Open – Section C

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.a4	Nc6
7.f4	

[7.Be2 e5	8.Nb3	Be7=	is more	common.]
		7		e5

5
e7
-0
b4!?N



[10...Kh8 is the only previous Black try which resulted in a 50% score – other moves have favoured White.]

11.Kh1	Bg4
12.Qe1	exf4
13.Bxf4	Rc8
14.Nd4	Nxd3
15.cxd3	d5

Black acts quickly to exchange his weak d-pawn.

dxe4
Nh5
Re8
f6
Bc5



[20... fxe5?! 21.Nfxe7+ Rxe7 22.Qh4 Rf7 23.Qxg4±]

21.Qh4	Bxf5
22.Rxf5	Rxe5
23.Rxe5	fxe5
24.Qxh5	Qd6
25.Qe2	Rf8

26.Rf1	Rxf1+
27.Qxf1	a5
28.g3	Qf8
29.Kg2	Qxf1-
30.Kxf1	Kf7

White has done his best to generate tactical play on the kside, but Black has defended accurately and progressively exchanged pieces. Can he now demonstrate equivalent endgame technique?

940.	
31.Ke2	Kg6
32.h3	h5
33.b3	Kg5
34.Kf3	Kg6
35.Nc3	Bd4
36.Ne2	Kf6
37.Nc1	g6
38.Nd3	Bc3
39.Ke2	b6
40.Kd1	Kg5
41.Kc2	Bd4
42.Ne1	Bf2
43.Nf3+	Kf6
44.g4	Be3
45.Kd3	Bf2
46.Kc4	Ke6
47.Kb5	Kd6
48.Nd2	Kc7
49.Nc4	Bd4
50.95	b4
50.65 51 Nd2	Df
31.1\u2	D12



[The answer appears to be yes! Black holds steady and avoids mistaken lines such as 51... Kd6? 52.Ka6 Kc5 53.Nf3 Bc3 54.Nxc5 Bxg5 55.Nxg6+-]

55.M15 DC5 54.MXC5 DXg5 55.	INAgo+-j
52.Nf3	Bg3
53.b4	axb4
54.Kxb4	Kc6
55.Kc4	Kd6
56.Kb5	Kc7
57.Nd2	Bf2
[57 Bf4? 58.Nc4 Bxg5 59.N:	xe5 and the g-pawn falls.]
58.Nb1	Bd4
59.Na3	Be3
60.Nc4	Bd4
61.Nd2	Bf2
62.Nf1	Bg1
63.Nd2	Bf2

With the pawns immobile and the bishop just able to block the knight threats, it's time to call it quits. Half a point against a GM would satisfy most Black players! $\frac{1}{2}$







Dr Val Nye writes:



The History of the SCCA

As it stands the 18th April 2002 version of the History of the SCCA on the website reads quite well. It does after all highlight the many achievements of the SCCA. There is no doubt that all

said and done the SCCA does have an eminently respectable international standing. Without Alan Borwell's efforts in those early years it is debatable whether the SCCA would have occupied as quickly as it did a position that is higher than could be expected for a country which has a relatively small population.

Now please do not think that I am being overly critical when I say that I would prefer that the contents of the brackets on the fourth line of the first paragraph should for example be: "but this was for five successive games in which the moves were sent by stagecoach!" Such a slight modification (or its equivalent) to the text makes it **patently obvious** that correspondence chess was the name of the game!!! (Which is not really the case with the text as it stands at present).

There are of course two obvious omissions which I am surprised that nobody has apparently noticed during the best part of the last five years.

The History makes no mention of the fact that Bernard (Partridge) had been called upon to serve in the RAF. And that as an ex-serviceman he was enabled to take up a university place. I would also add that he began taking a serious interest in CC when in the RAF.

Had he not been called up I am inclined to the view that his life would have taken a totally different course - one in which correspondence chess may not have figured to any significant extent, let alone him coming up to Scotland. In any event, **without** any mention of him having been called up the automatic presumption is that he went straight to university – which was the norm until recent times when it became a sensible enough decision for some university destined school leavers to have a so called gap year first. He was not a starry-eyed unworldly youth still wet behind the ears who had left home for the first time when he came to the University of Glasgow to study. He was a mature man who would have had a shrewd idea what he wanted to do with his life.

Nor is there any mention of the newsletter/magazine Bernard began producing courtesy of the Glasgow High school. That was to turn into a newsletter which I produced using an old typewriter and a Gestetner. (In hindsight it was a very amateurish affair but at least the members did receive information etc.) Thankfully for the SCCA Alan was soon able to use the resources of his company and put together a very polished magazine. All this is well documented. Unless for example my memory is playing tricks, the first issue of the magazine contained a potted biography of Bernard which I wrote. (In other issues I was to do likewise for other leading figures in the SCCA, one of whom was Richard Beecham...). I cannot remember offhand if I wrote a potted biography of Alan but I am certain that his background had been mentioned in one or other of the magazines.

That observation leads to another criticism. Why is there not even a brief mention of Alan's background in the History? Why is there apparently no mention of members' backgrounds? When I was the secretary/treasurer the membership included a North Sea diver and a couple of residents of HM prisons. These are extreme instances of how members' "non-leisure time" can be passed. But at least the members were more than just names on a list. I must further point out that there is no intimation how the members cited in the History fit their correspondence chess into their daily life.

Although I certainly cannot fault the History when it comes to listing tournament results and who won what and what happened when for example, it tells us nothing about anybody apart from achievements. Quite a few names are mentioned in the History. But it is too clinical for my liking. I am sure that we all abhor the excesses of the **English** press. But we all like to know a little about somebody whose name appears in lights.

There is however a far more serious criticism which I wish to make. The History glosses over the transition from correspondence chess in Scotland being run by one man to it being run by a national organisation. (Strictly speaking I should say two men because Allan Hislop very ably supported Bernard behind the scenes. I know that Allan would rather not have his name mentioned but amongst other things the efficient running of the then Handicap tournament was really down to him.)

There was a great deal more which had to be done besides having a magazine and the not entirely unreasonable expectation of holding of an International CC Congress in Scotland if the SCCA was to have any sort of immediate identity. It was far from being a trivial unimportant exercise. This is the obvious interpretation of what has been written.

Having an unmistakable logo – which Richard soon produced – made for a good start. There was also no real problem ensuring that as previously every tournament had a Controller. Yet there was a need for our own scorecard. Up to when there was the Founding Meeting in Bernard's house Bernard had obtained scorecards from the late Baruch Wood (from Sutton Coldfield down in England) and which were duly sent out to players as appropriate.

(continued on page 21)



2007 Grading List

April 2007 ICCF Notes

A new ICCF grading list has been published. The new grades are based on results up to 31 December 2006, and will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 September this year. An international grade has been obtained for the first time by J McKinstry. A provisional grade is marked by an asterisk.

If your name is shown wrongly, or if you are doubtful whether your grade or the number of results is correct, please let me know by emailing: <u>grader@scottishcca.co.uk</u>. Note that correspondence grades are often substantially higher than OTB grades.

February 2007 SCCA Notes

The grading list follows the same pattern as in recent years. Two grades are shown for those players with provisional ICCF grades (i.e. grades based on less than 30 results). If you meet a player with two grades, the one that is based on the greater number of results will be used in the calculation of your SCCA grade.

The ICCF grades are those that came into force on 1 October 2006. As well as international matches and ICCF tournaments, the following Scottish events were used in the ICCF grading: Championship, Candidates, and Division 1 of the League. 12 results are needed for an ICCF grade to be published.

The SCCA grades shown in this list take account of all results which appeared on the website by early February 2007. The new grades will be used for games starting in 2007. All SCCA events listed in the magazine and the website are included. Friendly internationals are also included if the opponent's grade is known. Grades are calculated for players who have had eight or more results, provided these results were against graded players, or against ungraded players for whom it has been possible to estimate a grade.

Two new members, V Farrell and K Paine, were active in 2006 but have not accumulated the required eight results, and therefore have no grades. A provisional grade (i.e. one based on less than 30 results) is marked with an asterisk. Life members are shown with membership numbers above 500.

Titled Players						
Title	Number	Players				
Grandmaster (GM)	3	Bryson, D M (1986); Kilgour, D A (1996); Muir, A J (1995).				
Senior International Master (SIM)	4	Craig, T J (2001); Finnie, D S (2002); Giulian, P M (1999); McNab,				
		Dr C A (1999).				
International Master (IM)	9	Beecham, C R (2002); Borwell, A P (1993); Livie, G W G (2003);				
		McAlpine, K B (1990); Pyrich, G D (1995); Sprott, G R (2001);				
		Thomson, T (1999); Watson J (1999); Wickens, T S (1988).				
SCCA Master (SM)	27	Aird, I (2002); Baxter, R W M (1998); Brown, Dr A C (2003); Gillam,				
		S R (1997); Lennox, C J (2001); Mackintosh, I (2004); Milligan, B				
		(2002); Morrison, G (1987); Neil, D (2002); Norris, A J (1986);				
		Stewart, D J (1998).				
		(GM, SIM and IM title holders are also SCCA Masters)				

30 Highest ICCF Grades									
Grade	Name	Grade	Name						
2538	Finnie, D S (SIM)	2494	Beecham, C R (IM)	2490	Kilgour, D A (GM)				
2467	Neil, D (SM)	2452	McNab, Dr C A (SIM)	2426	Giulian, P M (SIM)				
2415	Swan, I	2401	Sprott, G R (IM)	2396	Franks, K				
2394	Craig, T J (SIM)	2377	Mackintosh, I (SM)	2376	Aird, I (SM)				
2363	Gillam, S R (SM)	2354	Matheis, T	2352	Brown, Dr A C (SM)				
2348	Thompson, B	2342	Livie, G W G (IM)	2332	Baxter, R W M (SM)				
2325	Stewart, D J (SM)	2295	Lennox, C J (SM)	2275	Watson, J (IM)				
2271	Reeman, I F	2265	Anderson, G M	2263	May, M A				
2247	Borwell, A P (IM)	2238	Montgomery, R S	2238	Sneddon, I				
2235	Lloyd, G	2232	Jenkins, D M	2212	Findlay, J A				

Member	Name	Results	SCCA	Prov	Results	ICCF	Prov
			Grade			Grade	
004	Aird, I (SM)				58	2376	
317	Almarza-Mato, C				253	2097	
518	Anderson, G M				109	2265	
121	Anderson, J				97	1583	
244	Angus, A R	57	2085				
049	Armstrong, A				87	1890	
313	Armstrong, J M	193	1585		19	1625	*
	Ash, G	11	1985	*			
016	Bailey, E A	70	1995		24	2011	*
015	Baxter, R W M (SM)				59	2332	
155	Beacon, R	403	2085		12	1846	*
511	Beecham, C R (IM)				269	2494	
022	Bird, A G E	178	2050				
520	Bird, Prof G H				47	2078	
509	Borwell, A P (IM)				564	2247	
587	Boyle, C F				115	2197	
427	Brooksbank, Dr K	22	1660	*			
215	Brown, Dr A C (SM)				149	2352	
	Burnett, R	18	1920	*			
424	Burridge, R J	38	1825				
435	Cairney, J S	79	1805				
423	Calder, H	12	2005	*	17	2026	*
096	Campbell A W I		2000		32	1798	
038	Campbell IS				210	1873	
108	Cassidy I	221	1505		210	1075	
585	Collins S	221	1835	*	22	1828	*
173	Cook W M	23	1055		52	1020	
364					313	1748	
247	Coope, D W	37	1805		515	1/40	
527	Croig T L (SIM)	51	1095		305	2304	
327	Crawley, LS	40	1055		303	1012	*
510	Crichton D	49	1933		15	1912	*
319	Cricition, D	140	1840		10	1940	
100	Cullining, D K	0	1510	*	240	1880	
422	Dare, P	8	1510	*	15	2227	*
422	Dawson, Prol A G	10	2250		15	2221	~
291	Dawson, J	38	16/5	*			
430	Donerty, I	18	1560	~			
595	Domnin, M	33	1600		10	2000	
345	Donohoe, S	22	1895	*	12	2099	*
310		193	1//0		26	1//1	Ŷ
3/1	Edney, D		1705	-1-	76	2152	
421	Ellis, K P	14	1705	*	20	0010	
284	Findlay, J A				38	2212	
340	Finnie, D S (SIM)		400-		193	2538	
219	Ford, M P	38	1835				
414	Franks, K				37	2396	
	Gifford, M J	21	1765	*			
086	Gillam, S R (SM)				119	2363	
	Gillespie, D L				18	1761	*
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)				451	2426	
124	Goodwin, B J				65	2185	
399	Grant, J	72	1830				
420	Greene, R J T F	10	1715	*			
425	Hart, W	16	2155	*			
556	Hartford, Mrs E A				166	1917	
063	Harvey, D				62	2038	
114	Hilton, S H				95	1544	

Member	Name	Results	SCCA	Prov	Results	ICCF	Prov
11.6			Grade		22	Grade	
116	Hind, A				32	2205	
510	Hislop, A T				169	1936	
426	Hunter, T	8	1775	*			
515	Jack, J P E	261	1755		16	1868	*
312	James, C R	150	1685				
514	Jenkins, D M				76	2232	
322	Jessing, M	38	2095		17	2194	*
408	Kennedy, G	72	1830				
415	Kerr, A	10	1890	*			
577	Kilgariff, A D	99	1790				
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)				245	2490	
257	Kilgour, J W	94	1660				
260	Knox, A				36	1777	
417	Lawson, J	8	1785	*			
419	Lees, J A				63	2057	
256	Lennox, C J (SM)				139	2295	
503	Livie, G W G (IM)				156	2342	
264	Lloyd, G				131	2235	
337	Loughran, R J				37	1813	
504	Lumsden, J P L				31	1947	
429	McAleenan, C O	8	1575	*	28	1711	*
352	McDonald, G R				67	1949	
433	MacDonald, M	16	1465	*	26	1583	*
367	MacDonald, P H				39	1952	
148	McEwan, N R				33	1923	
584	MacGregor, C A				96	1947	
391	McIntee, C				58	1758	
	MacKellar. L D	8	2110	*	22	2179	*
412	McKinstry, J	40	1545		14	1548	*
532	Mackintosh, I (SM)				332	2377	
216	MacMillen, A N				231	1541	
001	McNab, Dr C A (IM)				144	2452	
502	McRoberts, D G				44	2052	
376	Malcolmson, R	102	1825				
566	Marshall, I H				275	1879	
434	Matheis T				60	2354	
083	Maxwell A				43	2181	
591	May M A				68	2263	
409	Miller S	16	1700	*	00	2203	
178	Milligan, B (SM)	10	1700		154	1933	
590	Milne I R	54	1685		1.57	1755	
578	Mitchell I W S	<u> </u>	1005		65	1801	
401	Moir PI	209	1765		0.5	1001	
/38	Montgomery I	207	1/05	*			
333	Montgomery P S	0	1403		00	2228	
338	Morrow I	74	2075		70	2230	
550	Murroy IS	60	2073		10	1000	*
440	Noil C	00	1425	*	10	1909	
202	Noil D (SM)	0	1455		26	2467	
202	Norria Day A C				200	240/	
223		100	1500		200	1939	
270	Preule, A K	190	1200		176	0100	
319		10	1007	\$	1/0	2108	*
422	Pomeroy, K J	10	1995	* *	22	2157	ث ب
452	Price, D	26	2195	*	22	2110	*
048	Pyrich, G D (IM)		1007		675	2193	
343	Rawlinson, J	31	1805				

Member	Name	Results	SCCA	Prov	Results	ICCF	Prov
			Grade			Grade	
136	Reeman, I F				113	2271	
	Richardson, D	10	1770	*	18	1971	*
437	Roberts, A				109	1845	
407	Ross, D W	39	2080		26	1920	*
	Ross, G J S	19	1835	*			
398	Rough, R E	50	1750				
	Ruston, A W	13	2005	*	12	1814	*
522	Savage, D J				61	1992	
311	Saxton, G				45	1839	
057	Sneddon, I				103	2238	
565	Sprott, G R (IM)				145	2401	
	Stevenson, F C	14	1845	*			
294	Stewart, D J (SM)				118	2325	
546	Stewart, Dr K W C				104	2131	
442	Swan, I				39	2415	
574	Swystun, M A	104	2135		18	2121	*
	Taylor, W	21	2060	*			
365	Thompson, B				325	2348	
168	Thomson, A C	44	1860				
579	Thomson, T (IM)				295	2181	
580	Watson, J (IM)				131	2275	
149	Wright, A	128	1785				
065	Young, S M				43	1904	

SCCA Candidates 2006-07

Tom Matheis writes to correct an error he spotted in edition 96. This is the table as it appeared:

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

This is what should have been published:

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

I haven't received any updates from Jim Anderson since then, so the situation probably looks even more different now!

Friendly International Teams

There's a certain similarity in selection for our recent matches against Poland and Slovenia! Note that both countries have insisted on webserver play only – so those of you with a preference for postal play will have to wait a little longer until we find a country with a similar demand.

Bd	v Poland	v Slovenia
1	I Mackintosh	A P Borwell
2	B Thompson	G D Pyrich
3	G Lloyd	I Mackintosh
4	A P Borwell	Dr A C Brown
5	G D Pyrich	B Thompson
6	R S Montgomery	G Lloyd
7	D Edney	R S Montgomery
8	Dr K W C Stewart	D Edney
9	D Price	Dr K W C Stewart
10	H Calder	D Price
11	S Graham	S Graham
12	C A Macgregor	H Calder
13	A Armstrong	C A Macgregor
14	D W Coope	A Armstrong
15	J M Armstrong	D W Coope
16	J Anderson	J M Armstrong
17	A N MAcmillen	J Anderson
18	A Scott	A N MAcmillen
19	T Doherty	A Scott
20	W H Cormack	T Doherty



ChessBase CD Reviews

by Bernard Milligan

My Best Games in the Nimzo-Indian Defence & My Best Games in the King's Indian By Alexei Shirov



Following on from My Best games in the Philidor, Alexei Shirov produces another two fascinating DVDs. Shirov has a very relaxed style when presenting over 4 hours of video on the Nimzo Indian Defence and over 5 hours of video on the King's Indian. Both DVDs offer a great opportunity to gain great insights their respective openings from a top player who is not afraid to share his secrets.

The author covers the King's Indian using 11 of his best games and uses 8 games to cover the Nimzo Indian.

In the Nimzo Indian, Shirov concentrates on the Classical Nimzo-Indian with 4.Qc2, but also covers games where White plays 3.Nf3, which then leads to games with 3.b6 (Queen's Indian) or 3.d5 4.g3 (Catalan). The opponents that Shirov faced on this DVD include Peter Leko and VeselinTopalov. His opponents in the King's Indian DVD include Vladimir Kramnik and one of my favourite players and authors John Nunn.

Both DVDs are well worth buying and watching several times. Both DVDs are in the now standard Chessbase format with video tutorials using the Fritz8-Chess Media System. All of the lectures are presented in their entirety with video pictures and synchronised chess graphics.



The Sveshnikov Variation of the Sicilian & The Botvinnik and Moscow Variation By Loek Van Wely



The Botvinnik and Mosow Variation DVD covers two of the sharpest lines of the Queen's Gambit. The Botvinnik is (1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c6 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e4 b5) and Moscow is the (5...h6) variation of the Semi-Slav. The DVD runs for about five and a half hours and is highly instructive, not only in the variations but in the insights the author gives to other aspects of the game of chess including match fixing. If your into games with dynamic positions then the Botvinnik and Mosow Variation DVD is definitely for you.

In The Sveshnikov Variation of the Sicilian DVD nearly all games are from the period 2003-2006. As one would expect in the Sveshnikov, the games abound with combinatorial ideas and sacrifices; a feast for all fans of tactics. Van Wely focuses on the main variations 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 and 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4. This DVD runs for about three and three quarter hours.

Fritz Powerbook 2007 By Chessbase



The current openings theory with 1 million games The Fritz Powerbook 2007 contains 18 million opening positions, derived from 1 million high class tournament games. Together with each position all relevant information is stored: all moves that were played in the position, by players of what average rating, with what success and performance results. The games from which the Fritz Powerbook 2007 were derived are also included on the DVD. This means that in any position of the openings tree you can load and replay the games in which the position occurred. The Fritz Powerbook 2007 represents the state of the art of current openings theory. Discover exciting and tricky new lines and practice them against Fritz. In addition the DVD has a small but very exclusive book with the strongest GM games from the past 100 years (900,000 positions).

Chess Endgames 3 Major Piece Endgames By Karsten Mueller



Author: Since 1988 grandmaster Dr. Karsten Mueller from Hamburg has played for the Hamburger Schachklub in the Bundesliga and in 1996 and 1997 he finished third in the German Championship.

As an internationally renowned endgame expert he is the author of the endgame column in the ChessBase magazine and the author of the Endgame Corner column on ChessCafe.com. His book "Fundamental Chess Endings", which he co-authored with Frank Lamprecht and which was published in 2001 by Gambit is already considered to be a modern classic.

The third part of the endgame series tackles queen endings, rook against minor pieces, queen against rook and queen against two rooks. Queen endings are not nearly as mysterious as they appear at first sight. Knowing a few rules of thumb and principles will make things very much easier for you. In the case of rook versus knight or bishop, you should not only know how to draw a pawnless endgame, but also when a fortress can be set up and when not.

Something similar is the case for queen against rook, except of course that when there are no pawns the queen wins against the rook. In the duel against two rooks, further aspects come into play such as the coordination of the rooks. Those who have always found studying endgames with chess textbooks too dry and tedious will enjoy this DVD with its comfortable training system and benefit enormously – in brilliant endgames at the actual board. Complete video running time: 7 hours.

The Path to Tactical Strength By Rustam Kasimdzhanov



Rustam Kasimdzhanov was born in 1979. The grandmaster from Uzbekistan has for many years been known as a very strong and imaginative player. However in 2004 Rustam Kasimdzhanov (pronounced "Kah-zeem-jha-nov") shocked the chess world by winning the FIDE world chess championship title, beating a string of world-class players like Ivanchuk, Grischuk, Topalov and Adams in the process. Kasimdzhanov is a very deep player, who is able to explain chess ideas in an eloquent, lucid style, with a fine touch of humour. His lessons are both entertaining and instructive – perfect for students who seek to avoid "dry" theory.

Despite the fact that many books have been written on tactics in chess, many players still find it extremely difficult to recognize tactical patterns and calculate ensuing lines. With this disk the author not only gives a large number of examples of the most different kind, trying to cover as many ideas as possible, but also suggests a method which will greatly help you to see various tactical motives and systemize your calculation. Video running time: 4 h 15 min.

How to play the Queen's Indian By Dmitri Oleinikov



With his previous publications (ChessBase-CDs: Budapest Gambit, Bird's Opening, Colle System) the author has already demonstrated, that he is particularly interested in passing on ideas, typical structures and plans. His new work is no exception. But how can that work with such an enormous opening as the Queen's Indian? This is how he goes about things:

- a database which provides an overview and contains 16 texts and 368 carefully chosen sample games, over 100 of which he has annotated himself
- a chapter which explains the basic strategy
- 2 texts with appropriate introduction for 12 brilliant games by Black and by White
- a chapter on typical tactics including opening traps
- 2 chapters on "typical pawn structures" and on "piece behaviour"
- a further database "Strategy" with 33 game extracts and 54 training questions
- another database "Tactics and traps" with 33 game extracts and 55 training questions
- classic Queen's Indian games with lots of explanations
- theory in the usual sense, i.e. variations and subvariations, is kept to a minimum

The work is supplied with a large database of over 78,000 games.



with delivering games for the magazine however I didn't like the look of 11.Be3 yet. In fact I had to ask for games at the when Black seems to stand well after last minute again. Please try to annotate a 11...Nbd7 12.Bf3 Bb7 couple of your Correspondence Chess games from last season.

We kick off with another excellent 12 game sent in by George Pyrich. George 13 always provides interesting games and I 14 am envious of his depth of knowledge. 15

Scotland vs Sweden ICCF, 01.03.2006 White: George Pyrich (2267) Kenneth Josefsson (2292) Black: Sicilian Defence [B80] [Annotator G Pyrich]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	e6
6.f4	

Played in preference to my usual [6.g3]

6...Nc6 and; 6...Be7 are both ok for Black.

a6

7.Be2	Be7
8.0-0	0–0



Either here or on the next move 8...Qc7 goes into what's now the main line having been championed by Kasparov some 20 years ago when a typical variation is 9.a4 Nc6 10.Kh1 0-0 11.Be3 Re8 12.Bd3 e5 with equal chances.

9.Kh1	Qc7
10.a4	b6

10...Nc6 11.Be3 is the note above

11.e5

Games Column

My postman still isn't overtaxed Entering what's now the old main line -

l	dxe5
2.fxe5	Nfd7
3.Bf3	Bb7
4.Bxb7	Qxb7
5.Bf4	Bc5

16.Nf3

15...Nc6 is the main line when after 16.Qf3 Rac8 17.Rad1 White is maybe a little better. The text stops any quick Qf3g3 idea for White but the B goes back to e7 anyway!

Nc6

1
8
\$

I'd expected 17...Rad8 when I anticipated something like 18.Qe2 (18.Nd6!? is nothing after 18...Qa8) 18...Nd4 19.Nxd4 Bxd4 20.Bg5 Ra8 (20...Rc8?? 21.Nd6) 21.Nd6 Qc7 with a difficult position for both sides!

18.Qe2	b5
19.axb5	

With hindsight 19.Nd6 straight away looks better.

19	axb5
20.Nd6	

White has to go for this sometime and hope that the d6 pawn holds!

20	Bxd6
21.exd6	Ra4

Seizing the a-file seems natural but 21...e5 was better when 22.Bg3 is only a little better for White.

by Bernard Milligan

22.Bg3

This seemed better than exchanging with 22.Rxa4 when after say 22...bxa4 23.Qc4 Ra8 24.Ng5 White doesn't seem to have much 24...Qa6

h6?! 22...

Presumably to stop the N coming to g5 but creating another weakness 22...Rfa8?! seems to just lose after 23.Rad1 Ra2 24.Ng5!; but 22...Nd4 forces the exchange 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 when White is a bit better but not winning.

23.Od2! Rfa8

23...Rxa1 24.Rxa1 Ra8 comes to much the same as the game - White goes Bf4 and sacs on h6! - for example 25.Re1 Ra2 26.h3 Rxb2 27.Bf4 Qa6 28.Bxh6 gxh6 29.Qxh6 Qa7 30.Qg5+ Kf8 31.Qh4 Kg8 32.Qg3+ Kf8 33.Ng5 and wins!

24.Rae1	Ra2
25.Bf4	Kh7

25...Rxb2 loses quickly after 26.Bxh6 gxh6 27.Qxh6 Nf8 28.Ng5 f5 29.Nxe6

26.Qd3+	Kg8
27.Nd2!	

27.Nh4 Nf8 28.Qg3 Kh7 29.Bd2 is also good!



There doesn't seem to be any defence for Black

(a) 27...e5 28.Bxh6! gxh6 (28...Nf8 29.Qg3 Ng6 30.h4+-) 29.Qg3+ Kf8 30.Qg6 is crushing; and (b) 27...Rxb2 28.Bxh6 gxh6 29.Rxf7! mates quickly.

28.Ne4	Rxb2
29.Bxh6	Raa2
30.Bxg7!	Kxg7
31.Qc3+	e5
32.Qf3	Ng6

32...Nh7 is no better after 33.Qg4+ Kh8 (33...Kf8 34.Nc5 Qa7 35.Ne6+ Ke8 36.Nc7+) 34.Nf6+-

33.Qf6+	Kg8
34.Nc5	Qa7
35.Ne6	1-0

David Cumming provides our next game which features a very interesting Trompowsky attack. David keeps up his high standard in Correspondence Chess and is also having some success at OTB up in the Inverness area.

MCO 11/535

White: D R Cumming Black: Leo Kralj-King Trompowsky Attack [A45] [Annotator D R Cumming]

1.d4	Nf6
2.Bg5	Ne4
3.Bf4	g6

This move took me out of theory known Shredder 10:1 19.Qh6 Re8 20.Bb5 Bxb5 to myself at the time.

4.f3	Nf6
5.e4	Bg7

5...d6 6.Nc3 c6 7.Qd2 b5 8.Bd3 Bg7 Bxf5 26.exf5 2.71/16 9.Nge2 0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.a4 b4 12.Nd1 e5 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Be3 Qe7 15.Nf2 Rd8 19 16.Rad1 Nf8 17.c3 c5 18.b3 Ne6 19.cxb4 20 cxb4 20.Qb2 Wicklund-Hansen, G-Ould 21 Ahmed, S/IECG 2005/UltraCorr/0-1. 22

6.Nc3	0–0
7.Od2	d6

Now we have a sort of a Pirc Defence. [7...c5 8.d5 d6 9.Bh6 Nbd7 10.h4 b5 11.Bxb5 Rb8 12.Bxd7 Bxd7 13.b3 a5 14.h5 a4 15.Nge2 Qa5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Nxa4 Qxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Bxa4 20.bxa4 Rb4 21.Rhb1 Rxa4 22.Rb7 Gerstner-W-Majer, D/Germany 1993/GER/1-0.

8.Nge2

8.0-0-0 c6 9.Bh6 b5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.g4 b4 12.Nce2 Qb6 13.g5 Nh5 14.Ng3 Nxg3 25... 15.hxg3 Na6 16.Qh2 Rh8 17.Qh6+ Kg8

1999?ultraCorr/1_0

1))):uluaColl/1=0.	•
8	Nh5
9.Bh6	Re8
10.Bxg7	Nxg7
11.Qh6	e5
12.0-0-0	Nd7
13.h4	Nb6
14.g4	Bd7
15.d5	c5
16.h5	g5!?



An interesting prawn sacrifice, designed 32.Rxg1 from the rest of her army, only time Rc7 would tell if it was sound!

17.Qxd6	Rc8
18.Ng3	Re7
19.Qh6	

21.Nxb5 Nc4 22.Nf5 Nxf5 23.gxf5 f6 annotating a couple of his games for the 24.d6 Rf8 25.b3 Ne3 26.d7 Ra8 27.Rd3 Magazine at the last minute. We get Qb6 28.c4 Nxc4 3.20/16; Shredder 10: 2 another interesting Sicilian and A Ruy 19.Qf6 Re8 20.Qh6 a6 21.Nf5 Nxf5 Lopez which used to be my favourite 22.gxf5 f6 23.d6 Rc6 24.Rg1 Kh8 25.Rg2 opening about 20 years ago.

19	Re8
20.Bb5	f6
21.Bxd7	Nxd7
22.Rdg1	Qb6
23.Nf5	Nxf5
24.gxf5	c4
25.d6!!	



Qe3+

Uceda, V-Tjiptadi, K/UECC Email protection of the prawn at f6, and opens up a great square for the White Knight on d5! 26.Rxg5+ fxg5 27.Qxd6

Oxf3

Oe3

Nxf6 Rc6

1 - 0

26.Kb1	
27.Nd5!	
28.Nxf6+	
29.Qxf6	
30.h6	



Shredder gives mate in 4 with 2 principal variations. 30...Rc7 31.dxc7 Qxg1+ Re7 33.cgQ+Re8 to trap the White Queen, cutting her off 34.Qxe8+mate! And 30...Qe1+ 31.Rxe1 32.dxc7 Re7 33.c8Q+ Re8 34.Qxe8+mate! This game won me the section outright with a total of 8 wins, 1 draw, and no losses.

保保保保保

I press ganged Iain Mackintosh to

OLY/16/P03-2, 2006 White: Iain Mackintosh (2450) Black: Bengt Hammar (2514) Sicilian Defence [B54]

[Annotator I Mackintosh]

This event was a postal Olympiad, where I played on board 2.

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.f3	

I doubt if this is a better move than the normal 5.Nc3, but it certainly avoids a lot of heavily analysed lines.

5	e5
6.Nb3	d5
7.Bg5	Be6

18.Ne2 b3 19.axb3 Nb4 20.Nc3 Rb8 25...Qxd6?? illustrates the point of 25/d6!! 7...d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 and White stands a 21.Na4 Qb7 22.Rd2 Be6 Martinez which cuts off the Black Queen's little better.

8.Bxf6	gxf6
8Qxf6 9.exd5 ±	
9.exd5	Qxd5
10.Qxd5 11.Nc3	Bxd5 Be6
12.0-0-0	Nd7

13.Nb5

14.Na5!?



Kd8

Rb8

14...b6 15.Nb7+ Ke7 16.Bd3 a6 17.N5d6± and the White knights synchronise.

15.Bc4	Bc5N
13.DC 4	DUSIN

I hadn't come across this move in my database, so it goes down as a TN to my opponent. [Previously tried was 15...Bb4 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Nc4 Ke7 18.Nxa7 Ra8 Deciding, probably unwisely, to avoid the 19.Nb5 Rxa2 20.c3 Rc8 21.Ncd6 Bxd6 Marshall. 22.Nxd6 Rc6 23.Kb1 Ra8= Vokarev-Paramonov, Alushta, 2004, drawn after 60 moves.

16.Bxe6	fxe6
17.Rd3	Ke7
18.Rhd1	Nf8?



This disconnects the Black rooks and is the losing move. 18...Rhd8 19.Nd6 Bxd6 I couldn't find this move anywhere, so I 24.Nxf7! 20.Rxd6± looked a better line for Black.

19.Rc3+-	Bb6
20.Nc4	

The White knights combine well together in this position.

20	Rc8
21.Nbd6	Rc6

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22.Nxb6	Rxc3	14	Nc6
23.Nbc8+	Rxc8		
24.Nxc8+	Ke8	Forced.	
25.Nxa7	Nd7		
26.Nc8	b6	15.Nb3	exd4
27.Rd6		16.Bd2	

White gets 3 connected passed pawns, Better than the exchanges on d4. so... 1–0

保保保保保

BCCA-100 GM, 2007 White: Daniel Fleetwood (2565) Black: Iain Mackintosh (2521) Ruy Lopez [C84] [Annotator I Mackintosh]

This event is part of the BCCA Centenary, where I was the only untitled player in the GM Invitational. This game is fairly typical of what's been happening when stronger opponents spot a weakness!

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	Re8
10.d4	Bb7
11.Nbd2	Bf8
12.a4	Na5
13.Bc2	b4
14.cxb4N	



think it's a TN by my opponent. Round about here, we had some banter about From suicide to euthanasia... christening this the 'Fleetwood Mac' variation, and it turned out that Dan was 25.0h5+ quite a fan of the band. As it turned out, the banter was the best part of the game 25...Kf8 26.Bxh6 Nxe5 27.Rxe5 Rxe5 Qc7 was Grischuk-Morozevich, Amber isn't any better. Rapid, 2006, 0-1 after 76 moves.

16	d5
17.e5	Ne4

I thought the knight was much better here than h5 or d7.

18.Nc5 Bxc5



18...Nxc5 19.bxc5 Bxc5 20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Qc2+±

19.bxc5	Rb8
20.Bf4	Nxc5?

This looked plausible, but only if White played the prosaic 21.Nxd4. Better are 20... g6 or Qe7.

21.Ng5!

Now White lines up his firepower against Black's undefended k-side.

21	d3
22.Bxd3	h6?

Not the most efficient. With hindsight, better was 22...g6 23.Rc1 Qe7

23.Bh7+ Kf8

23...Kh8?? is suicidal.

Kxf7

Ke7

for me... 14.d5 bxc3 15.bxc3 c6 16.c4 28.Qxe5 Qe7 29.Qxe7+ Kxe7 30.Bxg7

26.e6



Now White finishes efficiently. I could have resigned on move 20, but the banter kept things going along...

26	Rf8
27.Be3	Qd6
28.Rac1	Nb3
29.Bg5+	hxg5
30.Qxg5+	Rf6
31.Qxg7+	Kd8
32.Qxf6+	Qe7
33.Qh8+	Qe8
34.e7+	Nxe7
35.Qxe8+	Kxe8
36.Rxc7	1–0

88888

Ian Marshall sent in this game, without any annotations, with the Scandinavian Defence. I remember experimenting with this opening for a few years but never seemed to quite master it from the Black side of the board.

WT/H/1060, 2007

White:Ian Marshall (1784)Black:Crawford Daniels (1933)Scandinavian Defence [B01]

1.e4	d5
2.exd5	Qxd5
3.Nc3	Qa5
4.d4	Nf6
5.Nf3	Bf5
6.Bd2	c6
7.Bc4	e6
8.Ne4	Qc7
9.Nxf6+	gxf6



10.Nh4	Bg6
11.Nxg6	hxg6
12.h3	Nd7
13.Qf3	0-0-0
14.Bb3	Rh4
15.c3	Bd6
16.g3	Rh7



19.Kb1	Rf5
20.Qe2	Rfh5
21.Rhe1	f5
22.f4	Re8
23.c4	Rhh8
24.c5	Be7
25.Qc4	Nf6
26.Qa4	Kb8
27.Re3	Bd8
28.Bc4	Ka8



29.Ra3	Qb8
30.Bf1	Nd5
31.Bg2	Re7
32.Be1	Rhe8
33.Rdd3	Rd7
34.Qc4	Bc7
35.Rdb3	Qc8
36.Rxa7+	Kxa7
37.Qa4+	Kb8
38.Ra3	Bb6
39.cxb6	Nxb6
40.Qa7+	Kc7
41.Qxb6+	Kxb6
42.Ba5+	Ka6
43.Bc7+	Kb5
44.Bf1+	Kb4
45.Ba5#	1–0



The Spirit of Chess

Following publication of the Russian Roulette picture in edition 93, whisky lovers will be happy to note that the vodka swillers are not having things entirely their own way!







How to See Ahead in Chess Part 4

The Author

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

Chapter 1, serialised in 3 parts, covered the basic tactical elements – mating patterns, multiple attacks, decoys, pinning, deflection, forks, skewers, overload and discovered check. This part covers Chapter 2.

Chapter 2 – The Heavy Pieces in Combinations

10. The Rook

The Rook has the capability to attack several pieces at the same time if they stand on the same rank or file. We begin here with a basic example.

White to play wins a bishop:



and wins.

We observed in Chapter 1 [diagrams 1 and 6] the rook's mating power when the king stands on the edge of the board.

Many combinations can be engineered based on this idea, especially when his own pawns or pieces hem in the enemy king.

The next example illustrates this type of combination. Looking at the diagram we can see that the Black king is obstructed by the rook on f8 and the pawn on g6, while the h7 square is under the control of the bishop standing on b1, all this giving rise to the following, taken from the game Wolf v Spielman, Mahrich, Austria 1923:



We need to assess the position a little further; the Black bishop on d7 denies both rooks access to the eighth rank. Since the bishop guards both c8 and d8 he is overloaded. White now cleverly forces the pieces away from their defensive posts.

1.h3		(Qxh3			
	2.0	Qxf3]	Rxf	3
• •	~ .					

If 2... Nf4, 3.Qxf4 and White is winning for Black would have to give up material in order to prevent mate.

3.Rc8+	Bxc8
4.Re8+	Rf8
5.Rxf8#	

Observe during this combination the blending of ideas and co-operation between the pieces.

The next position is from the game Bernstein v Capablanca, St Petersburg, 1914.



White's king is hemmed in behind his pawns. Capablanca uses two deflecting moves to achieve mate on the last rank. Playing first, White tried:

Nxc3
Rxc3
Qb2!



Black attacks both queen and rook. 4.Qc2

If 4.Qxb2 then Rd1#, or if 4.Qf1 Qxc3 5.h3 loses material in order to prevent mate.

4... Qxc2 5.Rxc2 Rd1#

When calculating lines, if you discover that mate can be avoided but only at the cost of material then the combination is sound. Before continuing with the rook studies, here is a little exercise for you to solve:

Exercise 21

From a study by Samma: White to play and win.



Solution

1.Rg1+ Kf8 If 1... Kh8 2.Rh2# or if 1... Kh7 2.Rh2# **2.Nd7**+

This obstructs the king's flight. Remember the key to eighth rank mates are the three squares in front of the king.

2... Rxd7 3. Re8+ Kxe8 4.Rg8#

The following position illustrates a piece sacrificing itself in order to obstruct a flight square and thus enable a rook to execute mate on the last rank. The idea of closing or blocking a line is a new one to you, however it is well worth remembering, for it is a common idea to encounter.



Taken from another study by Stamma, White began with:1.Rg1+Kf8

if 1	Kh8	2.Rh2#				
		2	.Nd7+	Rxd7		
		3	.Re8+	Kxe8		
		4	.Rg8#			
11	17		I I I I	6.1	1	

The d7 square is unavailable because of the knight sacrifice! Remember the idea well.

Exercise 22

Now a little exercise from a study by Del Rio, 1750. White to play and win. Using the knowledge you have gained so far, ignore the threatened mate by Black.



The opening question in the introduction to the book, is answered simply by saying: "more often than not during practical play 3,4 or 5 moves ahead is enough."

The next position is from Morphy v Mongrdien, Paris, 1859. The Black king is already in the desired position.



The problem here is how to get a rook on the back rank, when no fewer than three pieces are in attendance: queen, rook and knight. You know what the end is, let's see Morphy finding a means to that end. He began with:

1.Nxf6	Qxf6
2.Rhf1	Qd8
3.Rxf8+	Qxf8
4.Ob4	

Deflecting the Black queen, which is not really defending the bishop as she is overloaded.

4	Qc8
If 4 Qxb4 5.Re8+ Qf8 6.Rxf8#	
5.Qxb7	Qd8
If Qxb7, 6 Re8#	-
6.Oxa8	
and White wine	

and White wins.

You should now without any conscious effort begin to notice the pieces working together, and ideas blending together.

Remember the condition stated earlier that the three squares in front of the King have to be denied to him. The following example illustrates that this also applies to mating on a file. White to play:



If 1... Qd8 2.Ra8+ Kxa8 3.bxc7 Qxf8 4.Ra1#, or if 3...Ka7 4.cxd8=Q and mates.

2.Rxf8+	Nc8
3.Ra8+	Kxa8
4.Rxc8#	

A familiar idea to you by now.

The final position covering our survey on the Rook is well worth remembering. Place a rook on the fourth rank and an enemy rook on the fifth rank and to all intents the King is often stuck, in a very difficult situation. The dangers that lurk on the eighth rank can, with a little imagination, be exploited just the same.



Taken from the game Rubinstein v Grunfield 1928, play went as follows:

1.Bxe4	Rdxe4
2.Rxe4	Rxe4
3.Rxa6 +	Kh5
4.f 3	Rxh4+
er move allows g4+ for	example, 4 R

Any other move allows g4+ for example, 4... Re7 5.g4# or 4... Rd4 5.g4+ Rxg4 6.fxg4# 5.gxh4

and White wins.

11.The Queen

The queen is without doubt far more powerful than the rook because of her ability to mate single-handed in many positions. The following example illustrates this well.



Both queens on the move could deliver mate with either 1.Qd8# for White or 1... Qg3# for Black.

In either case, a rook substituting for the queen could only give check on d8 or g3 - a huge difference.



Following a Queen check on the a2/g8 diagonal the king has been forced into the desired position. The idea now is to deflect the enemy queen and the g-pawn. White to play: 1 Rd8+ Qxd8

If 1... Kh7 2.Rxh6+ gxh6 3.Qe7+ Kg6 4.h5#

U	· ·	υ
2.Qe6+		Kh7

3.Rxh6+	
4.Qf7#	

Yet again I repeat that calculation at the board needs only to be 3, 4 or 5 moves ahead, providing it is accurate and you calculate the variations.

gxh6

We now find a similar combination in the next position; once more the g-pawn is the problem and is removed by direct assault. This example is taken from a game played by Paul Morphy.



You can clearly see a resemblance to the previous example here and justifies a little my presentation throughout the book - the method of learning from the known to the unknown now becomes apparent and also the importance of the impressing of patterns upon the long-term memory. Play continued:

1.Rxg7+	Kxg7
2.Qe7+	Kg8
3.Qf8+	Kh7
4.Of7#	

So simple when the idea is known!

We now find a similar mate taken from a blindfold game played by the great Alekhine against Freeman in New York 1924.



The blending of ideas and accurate calculation leads to the following line:

1.Re8+	Nf8
2.Nh6+	Qxh6
If 2 Kh8 3.Rxf8#	
3.Rxf8 +	Kxf8
4.Qd8 #	

In the next diagram it is Black to play and as you can see the White king is the desired position, while Black's queen stands on the d1/h5 diagonal and is in the correct place to give check on the last rank.

However White would simply interpose his rook and being supported by his queen, Black must prepare the check, by first deflecting White's queen away from the e-file. This is taken from the game between Whayte v Williams, London 1851, with Black to play:



By now the picture should have become clear to you; a mating attack is conducted in such a fashion, that if mate can be avoided then the attack only takes place if the mate is prevented at material loss. Accurate calculation 3, 4 or 5 moves ahead should be an ongoing practice.

The power of the queen combining the moves of bishop and rook is well depicted in the following diagram, taken from the game G H Phillips v G Lloyd, 1995. It is White to play:



Sacrificing a rook requires accurate calculation and gives us this position:



The queen's powers are there to be used: just look at the potential threats after she captures on c6.

2.Qxc6	Nab8
3.Rxd7	Nxd7
4.Qxa8+	

And it's all over: 4... Kc7 allows 5.Nd5# while 4... Nb8 then 5.Qxb8+ Kd7 6.Qxa7 when mate is only avoidable at considerable material loss.

We now conclude our survey of the Queen with three exercises. The exercises presented throughout the book are included for several reasons.

In the first instance they are designed as a yardstick to enable the reader to measure his or her progress as they move along the learning curve. To this end the reader would be well advised to indulge in a little revision, if a high percentage of the results are inaccurate.

Secondly, they are designed specifically to reinforce ideas and patterns on the long-term memory.

Finally, they are included to encourage the practise of calculation on an ongoing basis, using the method suggested in the introduction.

Further to this I see nothing wrong with writing down your analysis or calculations. There are many ways of doing this - I use a graphical method for example – but the main thing is to stick to the same method once you have chosen it.

Exercise 23

Taken from a game by Andersen in 1870, it is Black to play and mate in four moves.



From here it is worth remembering the queen's power to attack as if were a rook and a bishop simultaneously. This strength should always be employed to the fullest.

Qh3#

Exercise 24

Composed position, it is White to play.

4 hxg3



Solution

1.Bxg6+ 2.Qxg6#

hxg6

Exercise 25

Taken from the game between Alekhine v Kussman, New York, 1924, this position requires you to see a little further ahead. It is White to play and win in five moves.



Solution

	1.Qb5+	Nd7
If 1 Qxb5 th	en 2.Nf6#	
-	2.Rfe1	Bb4
	3.Nf6+	Kf8
	4.Nxd7+	Rxd7
	5.Qe5	

And mate cannot be prevented.



In the next instalment, we begin Chapter 3 – looking at how all the different pieces work in combination to bring about mate or a decisive win of material.



Letters to the Editor (continued)



In the first instance it seemed reasonable to me to have Saltire blue scorecards. As for the layout, I suspected that a minor change of the English design would lead to a useful increase in the number of moves which could be recorded. As Richard very ably showed, that proved to be the case and that was us having our own home grown scorecards.

We also needed playing rules. The ones which were used at the time were those of the then British Chess Federation which had been drawn up in 1968. The BCF playing rules were adequate in that they contained everything that was required. But a typical rule more often than not contained explanations and definitions which should have been collected up in appendices for instance to make it easier to read. As they stood, far more than a ten minutes perusal would be required if clarification was wanted for any awkward query which a Controller might be called upon to resolve. Happily, my redraft of the BCF playing rules – a time-consuming, self-imposed task - was approved by the committee and that was the SCCA having its first set of playing rules.

It went without saying that there was a need for a formal grading system. The system obviously had to satisfy one very basic criterion. It had to reflect reasonably accurately a player's strength. This of course could only be assessed by the results of a minimum number of games played over a period of time. A related question was to occur to me. In hindsight I suspect that it almost certainly would have occurred to George (Livie) even though he apparently seemed to think it had occurred only to me when I discussed it with him! If a player was of a sufficient strength should that player not be awarded the title of Scottish Master? Moreover such a title would have to be meaningful and have credibility in the international arena. Anyway, George undoubtedly came up trumps.

Finally, financial matters had to be out on a formal basis, the bottom line of which was the need for an auditor. Fortunately the services of the late Alan Shaw proved invaluable in the early days.

Now for my last observation. Somewhere along the line decisions were made concerning the use of computers for the transmission of moves. Yet unless my eyes have deceived me the only mention of anything which has a bearing upon computers is in the sentence "In the first ICCF Email Team Tournament......" (NB <u>WHEN</u>???)

It was of course inevitable that sooner or later that correspondence chess would reach a crisis point if only because postal charges kept rising and rising. I even had a quiet word at one point (pre 1990!?) with Allan about the possible need for playing rules based on the use of the telephone. Because of technological developments it was to become possible to use a computer for inexpensive instantaneous sending and receiving of moves. So why is there no mention of who did what so that the SCCA has a strong presence viz-viz the use of computers in CC?

Editor's Reply:

Many thanks to Val for his observations and criticisms. I'm more than happy to update the History webpage with any details which help to colour in the otherwise factual account of the development of the SCCA.

Elsewhere in the magazine, I've invited members to send in their reminiscences and anecdotes about the life and times of the SCCA – ideally in time for the 100^{th} edition. I hope that Val's letter will stimulate many of you to dust down your memories and share them with us.



International Update

John Jordan Memorial

	Categ	ory 9, GM 10; SIM	8, IM 7	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Pts
ţ	1	Haugen, A	2558	NOR		1	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
8	2	Vel. Velasco, F	2448	ESP	0		1	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1	1	1⁄2	1	1	1	1	1	101/2
	3	Makovsky, I P	2483	CZE	1	0		1⁄2	1	1	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1	1⁄2	9
	4	Serradimigni, R	2423	FRA	1⁄2	1	1⁄2		1⁄2	1	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1^{D}	9
	5	Soderberg, P	2498	SWE	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	1⁄2		1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1⁄2	1	1⁄2	1	1	1	9
+	6	Kitson, K	2533	ENG	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	0	1⁄2		1	1⁄2	1	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1	1^{D}	8½
Û	7	Moreira, J A P	2430	POR	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	0		1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1^{D}	6½
t	8	Donnelly, Dr M	2453	ENG	0	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2		1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	6½
	9	Lemieux, Y	2410	FRA	0	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	0	1⁄2	1⁄2		1⁄2	1	0	1	1	1 ^D	6½
	10	Staroske, U	2437	GER	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2		0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	6
	11	Berggreen, A	2445	DEN	0	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	1		1	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	6
Х	12	Beecham, C R	2506	SCO	0	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1⁄2	0		1⁄2	0	1⁄2	51/2
+	13	Smith, R	2356	ENG	0	0	0	1⁄2	0	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1/2		1/2	1 ^D	41⁄2
+	14	Anderson, J	2486	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1⁄2		1	41⁄2
	15	Pedersen, N E	2416	USA	0	0	1⁄2	0^{D}	0	0^{D}	0^{D}	0	0^{D}	1/2	1/2	1/2	0^{D}	0		2

Richard Beecham found the going tough in the postal section of the John Jordan Memorial, organised by the BCCA. Arild Haugen of Norway notched up an impressive +9 - 1 = 4 to win outright. Robert Serradimigni, who has written for our magazine, finished 3=.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Apr 2007	20	Slovenia	Server				
Apr 2007	20	Poland	Server				
Nov 2006	28	Germany	Server/Post	0	3		
Mar 2006	28	Sweden	Server/Post	91⁄2	301/2		L
Sep 2005	27	Denmark	Server/Post	15	33		L
Jul 2005	21	Australia	Server/Post	23	17		W
Mar 2005	24	Netherlands	Post/Email	15	23	2	
Feb 2005	20	BCCS	Post/Email	181/2	51/2	12	W
Jan 2004	20	Romania	Email	11	27		L

We managed to beat Australia on the back of our win against BCCS, but have lost to Denmark and Sweden and are trailing the Dutch team. Matches have recently started against Poland and Slovenia, with both countries insisting on webserver play only - we'll try to get a fixture organised for those of you who prefer to play postal.

ICCF World Championship Nominations

Marco Caressa, the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner, has written to remind us of our member federation nomination (MFN) entitlements. This year, the SCCA has two MFNs for the individual world championship preliminaries or semi-finals.

Players graded below 2400 will be placed in the preliminiaries, while those rated 2400+ qualify for the semi-finals. If you'd like to put your name forward, please contact me at international@scottishcca.co.uk.

ICCF 16th Olympiad

	Postal Section 3	X Australia	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Germany	Latvia	slovakia	Sweden	USA	Points	Percentage
1	Beecham, C R	1⁄2				1⁄2	1⁄2		0		11/2	37.5
2	Mackintosh, I		1			1⁄2			1		21/2	83.3
3	Brown, Dr A C	1⁄2	1	1⁄2	1	0	0		0	0	3	37.5
4	Borwell, A P	1⁄2	1	1	0	1⁄2	1⁄2			1⁄2	4	57.1
Tea	um Total	11/2	3	11/2	1	11/2	1		1	1/2	11	50.0

The team is performing well in a tough section, standing in fourth position at this stage. Favourites Germany have 19 points in first position, followed by Sweden and Latvia equal second on 12.

ICCF 17th Olympiad

						J							
Webserver Section 2		Canada	Croatia	Finland	Germany	Guatemala	Hungary	Mexico	Peru	Romania	Turkey	oints	ercentage
		÷	*	+				ک			<+ -	d	Р
1	Mackintosh, I	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	0	0	0	1⁄2	0	0		11/2	16.7
2	Borwell, A P	0	0	0	0		0		1⁄2			1⁄2	8.3
3	Craig, T J	1⁄2	1⁄2						1⁄2	1⁄2		2	50.0
4	Lloyd, G	1⁄2	0	0			1⁄2	1		0	0	2	28.6
5	Anderson, G M	1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1⁄2			1	1⁄2		1⁄2	41⁄2	64.3
6	Matheis, T	1	1	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2		1⁄2		1⁄2	5	62.5
Te	am Total	3	21/2	11/2	1	1/2	1	21/2	2	1/2	1	15½	37.8

Tough going on the top boards in this event, but strong performances from Gordon Anderson and Tom Matheis on boards 5 and 6. The team is standing in ninth position at this stage. Favourites Germany have 30 points in first position, followed by Croatia (25½) and Hungary (24).

ICCF 7 th	European	Team (Champ	ionshi	D
	Luiopeun	I cum v	mamp	lonsin	P

	Webserver Semi-Final 1	Bulgaria	* Israel	* Malta	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Slovenia	Spain	🕆 Turkey	Ukraine	Points	Percentage
1	Mackintosh, I	0	0		0	0	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	11/2	16.7
2	Brown, Dr A C	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	1	0	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	4	40.0
3	Pyrich, G D	0	1⁄2	1	1⁄2	0	0	1⁄2	0	1		31/2	38.9
4	Lloyd, G	1⁄2	0	1	0	1⁄2		1⁄2	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	31/2	38.9
5	Matheis, T		1⁄2	1	1⁄2	1	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	51/2	61.1
6	Montgomery, R S	1⁄2	1⁄2	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	1	0		0	0	3	33.3
7	Roberts, A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
8	Cook, W M	0	1⁄2	1	0	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	0	0		21/2	27.8
Te	am Total	11/2	21/2	5	1	31/2	2	21/2	2	21/2	1	231/2	31.8

Tough going all round in this event, but another strong performance from Tom Matheis on board 5 – the only player to score >50%. The team is standing in tenth position at this stage, with Malta denying us the wooden spoon. Slovenia and Netherlands are tied for top spot with 48 points.





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

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

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

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

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

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

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2007

Theme 3/07: Ponziani, C44 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 Entries by 1 May; play starts 1 June

Theme 4/07: King's Indian Fianchetto variation, E60 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 Entries by 1 August; play starts 1 September

Email Events 2007

Theme 3/07: Benko Gambit, Vulture variation, A56 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.b6 Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

Theme 4/07: QGA, Wiacek variation, D20

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 exd4 5.Bc4 Bb4+ 6.Kf1 Entries by 1 June; play starts 15 June

Theme 5/07: Centre Game, C22

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe3 Entries by 1 September; play starts 15 September

Webserver Events 2007

Theme 3/07: Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, D00 1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 Entries by 15 May; play starts 1 June

Theme 4/07: Ruy Lopez, 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 15 September; play starts 1 October

News

- □ The 12th World Cup (Email) has been won by Reinhard Moll (GER) with an uncatchable 9½/12.
- AJEC, the French CC Association is holding a 70th Anniversary tournament, with Dr Alan Brown representing Scotland.
- The results of a poll to establish players' preferences for webserver time controls were: 10 moves/60 days (31.1%); 10/30 (30.6%); 10/40 (27.3%); 10/50 (10.5%); No opinion (0.6%).

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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