

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.118

Summer 2012

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Photograph from National Museums Scotland



Welcome to our Summer edition! It has become custom to introduce this column with a weather report, so I must tell you that we have just endured the wettest June on record. If we could put the Scottish climate on Ebay we'd make a fortune as the drought-stricken and bushfire sufferers crazily outbid each other. Some way south of here, they are saying that the introduction of a hosepipe ban has been more effective than a rain dance...

Enough frippery pawn-pushers: this issue is once again packed with features and games. George Pyrich analyses the third ICCF rating list of 2012 and heralds two new Scottish Masters.

Our DVD Reviews include studies by ChessBase, Sam Collins, Adrian Mikhalchishin, Valeri Lilov, and Loek van Wely.

Our Games Column features guest annotator Mike Read and members Charlie Neil, George Pyrich, David Cumming, and Iain Mackintosh.

Morten Lilleøren of Norway contributes our main feature article, a sequel to his Lewis Chess Pieces researches of exactly one year ago. Morten is extremely well researched and his subject is very appropriate to Scottish chess.

George Pyrich analyses a further game from our 2nd Webserver Open final which remains tantalisingly close. George also supplies his usual international update, including a further annotated game.

Alan Borwell reports that ICCF Veterans' World Cups 2-4 are all progressing on schedule. We have now passed the sponsors and organisers baton to the German BdF for VWC 5, which is expected to begin play in September.

We still haven't received any applications for our secretary vacancy, so I've again repeated the notice inside. Although the example of Seamus McSporrán (who worked in 14 jobs for 31 years in the Scottish island of Gigha) is very uplifting, I'd prefer to enlist some help!

If you are interested, please get in touch. It's not too onerous and you should be able to give something back to your Association.

SCCA Membership

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

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

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

SCCA 100 Club

The 100 club has thrived through the work of George Livie. George has decided that he should retire and responsibility in the future will rest with our Treasurer, Gordon Anderson. The Association is extremely grateful to George for the time and commitment he has given to ensuring that members supported the 100 club.

A few members' subscriptions to the 100 club have recently expired and Gordon will be writing encouraging them to renew. Units cost £1 with some members taking one unit while others take as many as 10 units per month. From the Association's perspective paying by Bankers Order is most convenient. If you don't already subscribe to the 100 club please consider if you can help the SCCA by taking out units and make contact with Gordon whose contact details are shown below.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2012	1st	2nd
June	G M Anderson	J Anderson
May	A P Borwell	P M Giulian
April	R Heathwood	W H Cormack

SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine (enquiries), Jim Anderson (domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) pro tem.



ICCF Veterans' World Cup 5



The German Organisation Deutscher Fernschachbund (BdF) is organising the 5th VWC tournament on behalf of ICCF.

The first stage of the 5th ICCF Veteran's World Cup will start on 1st September 2012. As with the 3rd and 4th VWCs, the event will be organised in three stages, which will allow several players from each group stage to advance to the Semi-finals and Final.

It is envisaged that groups at each stage will comprise of 13 players (12 games) played by webserver with a rate of play of 10 moves in 40 days. Playing time in each stage will be 18 months, with a fixed closing date specified at the outset.

ICCF Veteran's World Cups are open to all players who are 60 years old or more at the start date of the tournament.

Registration has been extended to 10th July, so please contact George Pyrich quickly at international@scottishcca.co.uk if you'd like to take part.

ICCF Champions League Cycle 5



The next cycle of the ICCF Champions League is now scheduled to start on 15th October and the official announcement for the event is expected shortly.

Anyone interested in playing for a Scottish team should contact George Pyrich at international@scottishcca.co.uk without delay!

ICCF Services Director

Dr. Michael Millstone, ICCF General Secretary, has confirmed that Austin Lockwood (ENG) is the new Services Director. Austin runs the Scheming Mind chess server and is thus very well qualified to administer the ICCF equivalent. He's no slouch at CC either, having jointly won the 2009-10 BCCA Championship with Julian Cornfield.

SCCA Secretary

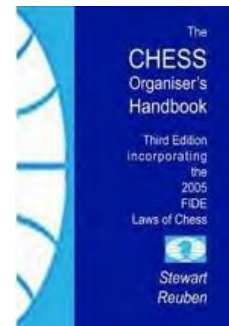
No heroic or certified volunteers have turned up since the last edition, so we are still looking for someone to fill the vacancy. The main parts of the job are:

- Primary contact point for outside bodies, queries, etc.
- Organise & minute committee meetings (3 fairly fixed in Jan/Feb; May/Jun and Aug/Sep, with others as needed)
- Organise domestic events to start in Jan; appoint & liaise with TDs; organise trophies & medals at season-end
- Other admin as needed

The busy period is Dec/Jan which may appeal to candidates looking to avoid shopping trips and visiting relatives. The remainder of the year is fairly light.

It is possible to share some elements of the job across committee, though we do require a designated secretary to be appointed.

If you can help, please get in touch with Iain at president@scottishcca.co.uk.



Scottish Chess Magazine



Peter Woods is the new editor of *Scottish Chess*, having taken over from David Oswald earlier this year.

Peter has introduced some changes to format and layout and the new package is certainly attractively designed.

Peter is keen that the magazine is representative of all kinds of chess in Scotland, and we've agreed start to submitting a regular correspondence column in the near future.

If you'd like to contribute, send directly to peter.woods@chessscotland.com or via alan.borwell@scottishcca.co.uk



2012/3 Grading List

By George Pyrich

The third ICCF grading list of 2012 has been published and the new grades are based on 3 months' results from 1 March 2012 to 31 May 2012. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 July and 30 September 2012.

We have two new Scottish Masters! Gordon Anderson gained his third SM norm with an ICCF rating of 2306 on the 2012/2 list (206 games), having previously recorded grading norms in the 2009/3 and 2010/1 lists. Alan Bell gained his third SM norm with an ICCF rating of 2363 on the 2011/4 list (93 games) having previously recorded grading norms in the 2009/3 and 2010/4 lists.

With the publication of this ICCF rating list, Alan Borwell becomes our first member to top 800 rated results (803, up from 795 in the previous list) and just ahead of George Pyrich on 799. However, both are some way behind the UK record holder, former ICCF General Secretary and ICCF delegate for BFCC, Alan Rawlings who has amassed the impressive total of 972 which is nevertheless dwarfed by the astonishing number of 1,779 achieved by the current overall record holder, Theo Schmidt from the Netherlands. After Alan and George, David Cumming and Andrew MacMillen languish some way behind on 539 each. Raymond Burrige has only 169 results to date but, with 59 in the last quarter alone, may catch up before too long!

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

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
318	Almarza Mato, C	619	2105 ↑	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	294	2350 ↑
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	218	2283 ↓	260	Knox, A	89	1630 ↓
121	Anderson, J	220	1770 ↓	1117	Laing, D	20	2100 ↑ *
049	Armstrong, A	145	1903 ↑	419	Lees, J A	83	2055 ↔
313	Armstrong, J McK	177	1551 ↓	256	Lennox, C J (SM)	155	2273 ↔
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	351	2492 ↓	503	Livie, G W G (IM)	194	2337 ↔
599	Bell, A D (SM)	107	2389 ↑	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	521	2312 ↓
501	Bennett, P G	133	2288 ↑	337	Loughran, R	113	1547 ↓
431	Binnie, J	28	1626 ↔ *	584	MacGregor, C A	302	1815 ↓
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	803	2256 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	527	2410 ↑
427	Brooksbank, Dr K	75	1820 ↔	216	MacMillen, A N	539	1815 ↑
424	Burrige, R J	169	1789 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	348	2070 ↓
435	Cairney, J	34	2037 ↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	170	2441 ↓
423	Calder, H	96	2055 ↔	412	McKinstry, J	59	1591 ↓
	Clark, S L	12	1968 ↔ *	401	Moir, P J	132	1675 ↑
173	Cook, W M	69	1926 ↔	598	Montgomery, R S	191	2300 ↑
364	Coope, D W	506	2041 ↓	564	Murray, J S	30	1979 ↔
247	Cormack, W H	64	1924 ↑	440	Neil, C	67	1682 ↑
527	Craig, T J (SM)	340	2356 ↔	453	Newton, A	24	1773 ↔ *
166	Cumming, D R	539	2323 ↑	429	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	90	1936 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G	73	2113 ↔	444	Paine, Dr K A	125	2263 ↑
572	Dempster, D	664	1773 ↓	1012	Paulin, A	40	2008 ↓
030	Dyer, M T	97	2098 ↔	379	Phillips, G H	215	2110 ↔
371	Edney, D	165	1943 ↑	432	Price, D	152	2070 ↓
372	Flockhart, H	27	2133 ↔ *	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	799	2192 ↑
459	Fraser, R A	50	1849 ↓	437	Roberts, A	146	1711 ↔
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	123	2340 ↔	398	Rough, R E	29	1880 ↔ *
124	Goodwin, B J	169	2005 ↑	522	Savage, D J	74	1956 ↔
445	Graham, S (SM)	329	2337 ↑	449	Scott, A	46	1871 ↔
399	Grant, J	29	1770 ↑ *	439	Smith, M J	29	1885 ↔ *
327	Hammersley, C	18	1753 ↔ *	448	Sreeves, C	15	1918 ↔ *
596	Hardwick, M E	159	1385 ↔		Stevenson, F	14	1776 ↔ *
063	Harvey, D	81	2064 ↑	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	141	2112 ↑
515	Jack, J P E	28	1766 ↔ *	1120	Taylor, W	26	2084 ↑ *
447	Jamieson, I M	41	2048 ↑	452	Toye, D T	66	1592 ↓
322	Jessing, M	27	2094 ↔ *	530	Watson, J (IM)	143	2303 ↑
1126	Kelly, J	12	1728 ↔	065	Young, S M	58	1772 ↔

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	74
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Full grades (30+ games)	60
Provisional grades (<30 games)	14
Grading increases (↑)	25
Grading decreases (↓)	20
Grading static (↔)	29

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2492	Lennox, C J (SM)	2273
Matheis, T (IM)	2441	Paine, Dr K A	2263
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2410	Borwell, A P (IM)	2256
Bell, A D (SM)	2389	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2192
Craig, T J (SM)	2356	Dawson, Prof A G	2113
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2350	Stewart, Dr K W C	2112
Gillam, S R (SM)	2340	Phillips, G H	2110
Livie, G W G (IM)	2337	Dyer, M T	2098
Graham, S (SM)	2337	Marshall, I	2070
Cumming, D R	2323	Price, D	2070
Lloyd, G (SM)	2312	Harvey, D	2064
Watson, J (IM)	2303	Calder, H	2055
Montgomery, R S	2300	Lees, J A	2055
Bennett, P G	2288	Coope, D W	2041
Anderson, G M (SM)	2283	Cairney, J	2037

Top 30 Games Played

Borwell, A P (IM)	803	Anderson, J	220
Pyrich, G D (IM)	799	Anderson, G M (SM)	218
Dempster, D	664	Phillips, G H	215
Almarza-Mato, C	619	Livie, G W G (IM)	194
Cumming, D R	539	Montgomery, R S	191
MacMillen, A N	539	Armstrong, J McK	177
Mackintosh, I (IM)	527	Matheis, T (IM)	170
Lloyd, G (SM)	521	Burridge, R J	169
Coope, D W	506	Goodwin, B J	169
Beecham, C R (SIM)	351	Edney, D	165
Marshall, I H	348	Hardwick, M E	159
Craig, T J (SM)	340	Lennox, C J (SM)	155
Graham, S (SM)	329	Price, D	152
MacGregor, C A	302	Roberts, A	146
Kilgour, D A (GM)	294	Armstrong, A	145

Other Notes

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

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

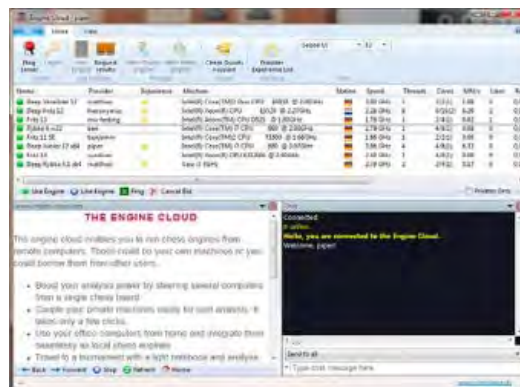
Note that ICCF (Gerhard Binder) has now discontinued support for the Eloquetry program, previously available for download from www.iccf.com

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

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



Deep Fritz 13 By ChessBase



Chess programs have been high-performance utilities for a long time now. The higher your system performance, the greater the value they will be to you. But multi-processor systems only work if you have a “deep” version, because it is only then that the program can make use of multiple processor cores in parallel.

Things are no different with the new Deep Fritz 13: on a dual-core computer the engine is already approx. 60% faster than the regular Fritz 13.

Deep Fritz 13 introduces the innovative “ChessBase Engine Cloud” and revolutionises the way we work with system resources. This new function makes it possible, for the very first time, to run deep position analysis, blunder searches, engine matches, etc. using engines located on remote computers, instead of overloading your own system. To you it looks like you are working on your own computer – it does not matter whether the engines are running on a separate machine next to you in your study, on the office computer or in a computer centre in Australia.

If you own a number of computers you can run all your engines on all of them and harness the full processing power on a single PC. Or you can rent your machines to other users via the “Cloud”. This is an especially exciting development for owners of high-performance computers or clusters. But the key point is: you can rent processing power from third parties and turn your little notebook or your “old faithful” into a tactical giant and strategic monster at the click of a button!

Join the community! “Let’s Check” is a revolutionary new feature of ChessBase that will change the chess world. With it Fritz users can join a world-wide community that is putting together a giant knowledge base for chess. Using Let’s Check while watching top games live on the Playchess server becomes an experience in itself. Not only do you have the very latest openings and statistics at your disposal, you can also see the results of the most powerful computers and engines that are logged into the server – total information on any computer, at the blink of an eye.

Deep Fritz 13 includes:

- Premium membership of playchess.com for 12 months
- ChessBase Engine Cloud
- ChessBase Let’s Check function
- Improved version of the Fritz13 engine for computers with multiple processor cores
- Special book by Alex Kure (over 4 million positions)
- Database with over 1.5 million games
- Improved and enhanced database management
- Improved user interface in Windows
- Access to “Let’s Check” database till 31.12.2015

System requirements: minimum: Pentium III 1 GHz, 1 GB RAM, Windows Vista, XP (Service Pack 3), DirectX9 graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, Windows Media Player 9 and Internet access to activate the program, playchess.com, Let’s Check, Engine Cloud and updates. Recommended: PC Intel Core 2 Duo, 2.4 GHz, 3 GB RAM, Windows 7, DirectX10 graphics card (or compatible) with 512 MB RAM or more, 100% DirectX10 compatible sound card, Windows Media Player 11, DVD ROM drive and Internet access to activate the program, playchess.com, Let’s Check, Engine Cloud and updates.

The Queen’s Gambit Accepted: A Repertoire for Black By Sam Collins



In this DVD Sam Collins presents a repertoire for Black based on the Queen’s Gambit Accepted, 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4.

Rather than get involved in the heavy theory of the Classical Main Line, the lynchpin of the repertoire is the active development of the queen's bishop, after 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3, with 4...Bg4, a system used regularly by several GMs including Miles and Kogan.

The resulting positions have close similarities to the Nimzo Indian and Slav Defences, and Collins explains the way for Black to approach the middlegame with confidence based on a blockade and light square strategy. The popular 3...e5 is met with 3...e5 followed by active development. The most ambitious main option at White's disposal, 3.e4, is met by 3...Nc6, a long-time favourite of GMs Baburin and Stevic and one which gives Black rich tactical possibilities of breaking down the white centre.

Finally, gambit lines with Nc3 and the positional approach with an early Qa4+ are also covered. The resulting repertoire is solid, reliable, and suitable as either a main weapon or an occasional surprise choice. Video running time: 3 hours 30 min.



System requirements: Pentium-Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 MB RAM, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, DVD drive, mouse, soundcard.

1.e4 e5 - An Active Repertoire for Black By Adrian Mikhalchishin



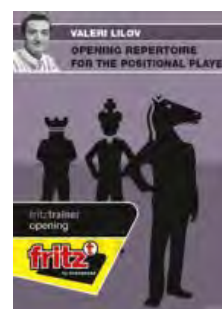
For young and developing players a very important piece of advice is to study open positions and to understand the value of coordination of the pieces plus the role of the centre. These goals can be achieved just by answering 1.e4 with 1...e5. Some players claim that these positions are not sharp and interesting enough, and they believe that different Sicilians should be one's choice, but that is not completely correct.

The idea of this DVD is to show that 1.e4 e5 can be extremely entertaining and that Black can obtain interesting counterplay in every opening. There are two lines proposed in the Spanish systems plus the most active alternatives against other white choices. Video running time: 6 h 48 min.



System requirements: Pentium-Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 MB RAM, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, DVD drive, mouse, soundcard.

Opening Repertoire for the Positional Player By Valeri Lilov



Do you like positional chess? Have you ever dreamed of playing the most stable openings that leave your tactical opponent with nothing but a cramped position?

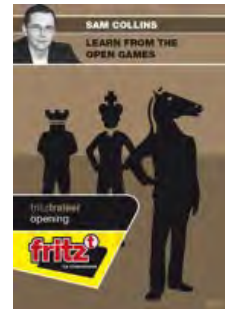
In this DVD, FM Valeri Lilov will present you with a complete opening repertoire for both White and Black, consisting of various solid opening systems leading to stable and flexible positions and providing many opportunities for intricate manoeuvring and creative planning!

Some of these great openings include certain lines in the English Opening and the Queen's Gambit, as well as whole opening systems like the Torre Attack for White. On the other hand, the Classical Variation and the Bronstein-Larsen Variation in the Caro-Kann are two of the many great lines FM Lilov has selected for Black.

Let one of the best coaches on the internet guide you through the maze of positional chess where none of your tactical opponents' tricks will work! Learn how to take advantage of your positional style of play with the help of the Tiger. Video running time: 4 h 00 min.



Learn from the Open Games By Sam Collins



System requirements: Pentium-Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 MB RAM, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, DVD drive, mouse, soundcard.

In this DVD Sam Collins explains the games from which he has learned the most, arising out of 1.e4 e5.

An Anti-Sicilian Repertoire By Loek van Wely



Topics covered include: exchanges, attacking strategy, gambits and sacrificial play, opening selection, play with opposite coloured bishops, restriction of the opponent's pieces, play in queenless middlegames and endgame technique.

The themes are of critical importance for an understanding of how to play the middlegame. However, Collins also gives a full explanation of the themes from the opening and early middlegame, making this an invaluable collection for players who play the open games with either colour, or who simply want to learn more about this central touchstone of chess development.

Video running time: 4 hours.

Tired of spending hours and hours on the boring theory of your favourite opening? Then here is your solution, play an Anti-Sicilian with 3.Bb5 against 2...d6 or 2...Nc6, and 3.d3 against 2...e6. In 60 minutes you will get a crash course in how to avoid mainstream theory and in understanding the ideas of this Anti-Sicilian setup.



After these 60 minutes you should be able to survive the Sicilian for a long time, without being bothered by new developments found by engine x supported by an x-core machine. Now that it finally comes down to understanding, let's play chess!



System requirements: Pentium-Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 MB RAM, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, DVD drive, mouse, soundcard.



System requirements: Pentium-Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 MB RAM, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, mouse, soundcard .



Games Column

By Bernard Milligan

[Ed – ghosting once again...]

Our first game is provided by SIM Mike Read of Norwich. Mike was a regular in the England CC team of the 1990s, with a peak grade of 2571 before ill-health forced him to retire in 2000. Nowadays he edits the Norfolk chess magazine *En Passant* and has also annotated a collection of his games which you can find on <http://mikereadsim.weebly.com/>



Mike received a copy of issue 105 of this magazine from SCCA member Charlie Neil, once of Blantyre, but now living in Norwich. That edition featured Charlie's win in WT/O/98, and Mike has now kindly provided a further stylishly annotated game from the same event.

ICCF WT/O/98, 2008

White: Neil, Charlie (SCO) (1672)

Black: Delahaye, Marc (FRA) (1800)

Closed Ruy Lopez [C99]

[Notes by Mike Read]

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Bb5 | a6 |
| 4.Ba4 | Nf6 |
| 5.0-0 | Be7 |

The Closed Ruy Lopez. The game will follow one of the main lines of this variation until move 13.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 6.Re1 | b5 |
| 7.Bb3 | d6 |
| 8.c3 | 0-0 |
| 9.h3 | Na5 |
| 10.Bc2 | c5 |
| 11.d4 | Qc7 |
| 12.Nbd2 | cxd4 |
| 13.cxd4 | exd4N |

[Ed - Mike reckons this is a new move, though ChessBase Online

reports 25 instances of it from 1846 to 2012.] One of the most common lines in this position is 13...Bb7 whereupon White has the option of closing the bishop's diagonal with 14.d5 Black wishes to play Bb7 whilst avoiding this possibility and therefore he exchanges off White's d-pawn first.

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| 14.Nxd4 | Bb7 |
| 15.N2f3! | |

It is prudent to continue developing his pieces. If White attempts to combine control of the f5 square with Standard Ruy Lopez manoeuvring, Black obtains active piece play in lines such as 15.Nf5 Rfe8 16.Nf1 Rac8 17.Bd3 d5 18.e5 Ne4

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 15... | Rfe8 |
| 16.Bf4 | Nc4 |
| 17.Qc1?! | |

In the notes he sent to me, Charlie called this move wimpish. The tactics that it tries to set up will not quite work. Therefore 17.b3 Ne5 (17...Na3 18.Bd3 leaves Black's knight offside.) 18.Rc1 was to be preferred with an initiative for White.

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 17... | Bf8 |
| 18.e5 | Nd5 |

White's idea was 18...dxe5 19.Bxe5 Nxe5?? 20.Bxh7+ winning Black's queen. Black's move sidesteps this and counterattacks in the centre.

- | | |
|--------|----|
| 19.Bg3 | g6 |
|--------|----|



Turning down the opportunity to take a pawn by 19...Nxe5!? in view of potential White compensation in lines such as 20.Be4! Qxc1 21.Raxc1 Nxf3+ 22.Bxf3 Rac8 23.Rxe8 Rxe8 24.Rd1 with an awkward pin on the h1-a8 diagonal.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 20.exd6 | Bxd6 |
| 21.Bxd6 | Qxd6 |

It was the postcard bearing this move that changed the course of the game. The move itself was expected and unexceptional, but an accompanying note declared that Black felt the Scotland rugby union team was "rubbish".

22.Qh6!

Stung by criticism, the Scottish backs seize the initiative after the scrum at d6 and launch a lightning raid in the direction of the French back line.

- | | |
|-------|------|
| 22... | Qf4? |
|-------|------|

If France are tempted by 22...Nxb2 the Scottish pack will continue their drive with 23.Ng5 Nf6 24.Nf5! and if 24...gxf5? 25.Bxf5 and the French forwards will be too far away to prevent a decisive play on the h7 square. The text move however, removes a key player from the French defensive line and allows the Scots the chance of a decisive outflanking manoeuvre.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 23.Ng5 | Nf6 |
|--------|-----|

24.Nde6?!

The right player sacrifices himself for the good of the team, but on the wrong square! 24.Nf5!! will leave the French unable to defend their try line after 24...gxf5 25.Qxf6 Qc7 (25...Nd6 26.Bb3! Rf8 27.Qh6) 26.Bxf5

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 24... | fxe6?! |
|-------|--------|



Notwithstanding the fumble on Scotland's last move, the French have nothing better here than 24...Rxe6! 25.Rxe6 fxe6 when the forcing play 26.Bxg6! Qc7! 27.Bf7+ Qxf7 28.Nxf7 Kxf7 would leave Scotland with the better chances from the resulting lineout.

- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| 25.Bxg6!! | Re7 |
|-----------|-----|

Another speedy Scottish back goes crashing into the remnants of the French defensive line. The French cannot take him down due to mate in two, while 25...Qc7 26.Bxe8 (better than 26.Bf7+ in this position) 26...Nxe8 27.Qxe6+ Kf8 28.Rad1! would stretch French defences to breaking point, e.g. 28...Ncd6 29.Rxd6! and Scotland will touch down under the posts as 29...Nxd6 is met by 30.Qf6+ winning the queen after 30...Kg8 (30...Nf7 31.Ne6+) 31.Re7

26.Rxe6!

A fine attacking thrust which should be the prelude to the decisive movement.

26... Rg7

27.Rae1?

Just as the try line is looming ahead, Scotland drop the ball! After this move, France simply need to move the ball to safety before winning with their extra men. 27.Rxf6! finishes the move off after 27...Qxf6 28.Bxh7+ Rxh7 and either 29.Qxf6 (or 29.Qxh7+ Kf8 30.Qxb7)

27...Rxc6!

The correct play. 27...hxc6 allows 28.Re7! Rxe7 29.Rxe7 when the Scottish threats force 29...Qc1+ 30.Kh2 Qf4+ with a draw by perpetual check.

28.Re8+ Rxe8

29.Rxe8+ Nxe8

30.Qxh7+ Kf8

31.Qxg6 Qf6??

A dreadful defensive pass which will be intercepted! This move balances Scotland's mishandling at move 27 and allows the playing conditions that existed before that error to be restored. 31...Qc1+ 32.Kh2 Qf4+ with an immediate draw is unnecessary as; 31...Bd5! co-ordinates the French defence perfectly and neither 32.Nh7+ (nor 32.Qh6+ Ke7 33.Qh7+ Kd8) 32...Ke7 offer Scotland even a glimmer of hope.

32.Nh7+

The knight touches down for a Scottish try... which the queen will convert after 32.Nh7+ Ke7 33.Nxf6 Nxf6 34.Qg7+

1-0

Before this annotation provokes an unfortunate diplomatic incident, I should point out that Charlie assures me that pleasant notes were passed backwards and forwards between himself and Monsieur Delahaye after

the game, and so the entente cordiale was re-established! (MR)



Now, three games from the 2012 SCCA Webserver League 1. This format has proved very popular since its inception, with teams from all across the UK participating.



First, George Pyrich provides an excellent and insightful commentary.

White: Ewan, Rod (2202)

Black: Pyrich, George D (2192)

Pirc Defence, Austrian Attack [B09]

SCCA Webserver League 1, 2012

[Notes by George Pyrich]

- 1.e4 d6**
- 2.d4 Nf6**
- 3.Nc3 g6**
- 4.f4 Bg7**
- 5.Nf3 0-0**
- 6.Bd3 Na6**

Returning to an old line I used to play in otb games almost 30 years ago! Indeed, I had 3 epic encounters with Douglas Bryson over a 3 year period.

7.0-0

The 1st Bryson encounter at the 1983 Glasgow Congress went 7.e5!? Nd7 8.h4 c5 9.h5 cxd4 10.hxc6 hxc6 (10...dxc3?! was played in Bryson v. Bisby, Newcastle 1996 when Dougie scored an elegant win 11.Ng5 Nxe5 12.Qh5 h6 13.fxe5 Be6 14.gxf7+ Bxf7 15.Bh7+ Kh8 16.Nxf7+ Rxf7 17.Qxf7 cxb2 18.Bd3 bxc1Q+ 19.Rxc1 Qg8 20.Qg6 1-0) 11.f5 (11.Ng5 dxe5 12.f5 Nf6 13.fxc6 Bg4 14.gxf7+ Rxf7 15.Ne2 Qd5 16.Bg6 Rff8 17.Qd3 e4 18.Qxd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 Rad8 20.Be3 Nb4 and Black won easily in Borkowski v. Nunn, 1974) 11...dxe5 (following the Borkowski v. Nunn plan but nowadays the machine insists that 11...dxc3 12.fxc6 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qa5 is simply winning for Black) 12.fxc6 Nf6 13.gxf7+ Rxf7 14.Ne4

(14.Nxe5! dxc3? 15.Bh7+!) 14...Nc5? (14...Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Nc5 and Black should be ok) 15.Nxc5 Qa5+ 16.Qd2 Qxc5 17.Qg5 Be6?!

- A)** the machine says that 17...Qb4+ is fine but at the time 18.Bd2 Qxb2 19.0-0 (19.Ke2? e4) 19...e4 looked scary;
- B)** 18.Qxe5 Qxe5+ 19.Nxe5 Rff8 20.Bh6 Rfc8 21.0-0-0 Bxa2 22.Rde1 e6 23.g4 Bd5 24.Rh4 Bc6 25.g5 Nd5 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Rh7+ Kg8 28.Reh1 Kf8 29.Rf7+ Kg8 30.Bh7+ 1-0

7... c5

8.d5 Bg4

9.Bc4

The 2nd encounter in the SCA Centenary Ch., Troon 1984 went 9.Kh1 Rb8 10.Qe2

- A)** A year later at the Scottish Ch., St Andrews, Dougie played immediately 10.Qe1 Nb4 11.a3 Nxd3 12.cxd3 b5 13.Qh4 a5 14.f5 gxf5 15.Bh6 Bxh6 16.Qxh6 Bxf3 17.Rxf3 Ng4 18.Qg5+ Kh8 19.Qxf5 Rg8 20.Qh5 Ne5 21.Rh3 Rg7 22.Ne2 c4 23.Nf4 Qb6 24.Qh4 Qd4 25.Qxe7 Ng4? (25...Nxd3 26.Nxd3 cxd3 won immediately) 26.Rf3 Nf2+ 27.Rxf2 Qxf2 28.Qf6 Qd2 29.Rg1 cxd3 30.Nh5 Qg5 31.Qxg7+ Qxg7 32.Nxg7 Kxg7 33.Rd1 Kf6 34.Rxd3 Ke5 when Black was at least equal but contrived to lose at move 82;
- B)** 10.Qe2 Nc7 11.a4 b6 12.Qe1 Qd7 13.Qh4 Bxf3 14.Rxf3 Rfc8? 15.f5! a6 16.Bh6 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rh3 c4 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.e5 (20.Be2 wins) 20...dxe5 21.Qh6+ Kh8 22.Ne4 Ncxd5 23.Ng5
- B1)** the machine provides 23...Ra8! 24.Nxf7+ (24.Rf1 cxd3 25.Nxh7 Ng4 and Black wins) 24...Kg8 25.Rf1 cxd3 26.fxc6 Qf5 27.Qxh7+ Nxh7 28.Nh6+ Kf8 29.Nxf5 Nhf6 30.cxd3 Nf4 when Black is winning;
- B2)** e6?



24.fxe6? (24.Nxh7! wins for White) 24...fxe6 25.Bxg6 Qg7 26.Nxe6 Qxh6 27.Rxh6 Ra8 28.Rxa8? Rxa8 29.g4 Ne3 30.h3 Ra1+ 0-1

9... Rb8
10.h3 Bxf3
11.Qxf3 Nd7
12.Bd2

Not in my Database but looks perfectly good.

12... Nc7
13.a4 a6
14.Qd3 Qc8
15.Qe2

Black is ok after both 15.e5 dxe5 16.f5 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Nxb5 e4; and 15.a5 b5 16.axb6 Nxb6 17.Bxa6 Nxa6 18.Qxa6 Qxa6 19.Rxa6 Nc4 20.Bc1 Nxb2

15... b6
16.Kh2

I guess that the king has to move sometime and maybe like me he saw worked out something like 16.Kh1 Qb7 17.Ra3 b5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Nxb5 (19.Rb3 Bxc3! and Qa6 to follow is very good for Black) 19...Nxb5 20.Rb3 Nd4 21.Rxb7 Nxe2 22.Rxd7 Ng3+! winning.

16... Qb7
17.Rf3

I'd expected 17.Ra3 when I wasn't sure I could play 17...b5 in view of (maybe just 17...Nf6 instead) 18.axb5 axb5 19.Nxb5! (19.Rb3 Bxc3! 20.Bxc3 Qa6 as before) 19...Nxb5 20.Rb3 and White is well on top; 17.f5 is also interesting with something like 17...b5 18.Ba2 c4

17... Bd4

A sort of "waiting" move as 17...b5 is the same as for the previous move (the Rf3 can come to b3!) 18.axb5 Nxb5 better than (18...axb5 19.Nxb5 Nxb5 20.Rb3 Nd4 21.Rxb7 Nxe2 22.Rxd7 Nd4 23.Bc3 and White is winning) 19.Nxb5 axb5 20.Rb3 b4 21.c3 when White is surely much better; and I wasn't at all sure of 17...e6 (although I played it next move!)

18.g4

18.Re1 e6 is the same as the game after (18...Nf6? 19.Nd1) 19.g4; whilst 18.Nd1 b5 19.axb5 axb5 20.Rb3 e6; and 18.f5 Ne5 (18...b5 19.axb5 axb5 20.Nxb5 Nxb5 21.Rb3 Be5+) 19.Rff1 gxf5 (19...b5) 20.Rxf5 Kh8 21.Bg5 f6 22.Bh6 Rg8 are both unclear but likely ok for Black.

18... e6



Black will hardly exchange on d5 but will do so on f5 (after White's f5) to gain the e-file. Meantime Black's play on the q-side will always be slower than White's on the k-side. White will eventually exchange on e6 to give scope to the B but that will give Black play in the centre and on the h1-a8 diagonal.

19.Re1

I'd expected 19.Raf1 when I'd likely have played 19...Nf6 instead:

a) 19...Rfe8 is unclear after 20.dxe6 fxe6 21.Ba2 b5 22.f5 Ne5 23.Rg3 c4 24.Bf4;

b) whilst 19...Rbe8 is also difficult to assess 20.Qd3! Re7 21.g5 Rfe8 22.dxe6 fxe6 23.Re1 Rf8 (23...d5? 24.exd5 exd5 25.Rxe7 Rxe7 26.Nxd5 Nxd5 27.Qb3 and White is winning);

c) 19...Bxc3! is the machine's suggestion 20.Bxc3 exd5 21.exd5 b5 (21...Nxd5 comes unstuck after 22.Bxd5 Qxd5 23.Rd3 Qc6 24.Qd2 Rbe8 25.Rxd6 Re2+ 26.Qxe2 Qxd6 27.Qxa6) 22.Ba2 Rfe8 23.Qd1 c4 when it assesses Black as being fine but I find it hard to believe after 24.f5; 20.dxe6 fxe6 21.f5 d5 22.exd5 exd5 23.Ba2 Rbe8 24.Qd1 is difficult to assess; if 19.dxe6 then 19...fxe6 20.f5 Ne5 21.Rff1 Nxc4 22.Qxc4 b5 when Black looks better]

19... Nf6

20.dxe6 fxe6

21.Ba2

21.f5 was expected when Black had to choose between 21...b5 and (21...d5 - both look ok)

21... b5

21...Kh8 22.f5 exf5 23.exf5 b5 24.axb5 axb5; and 21...d5 22.exd5 exd5 23.f5 both look to be acceptable alternatives.

22.f5 c4

23.Bh6 Rfc8

Suddenly Black has to tread very carefully. Instead 23...Be5+ may have been better as the White K's position is significant 24.Kg1 (24.Kg2 Rf7 25.g5? Nh5! and Black is fine) 24...Rfd8 (24...exf5 just seems to lose

after 25.Bxf8 Qb6+ 26.Kh1 fxe4 27.Nxe4) 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.Qf2 (or 26.Ref1 Bd4+ 27.Kg2 (27.Kh2 Be5+ 28.Kg1 draw?) 27...Bxc3 28.bxc3 Nxe4 (Black is also ok after 28...Qxe4 29.Qd2 Nd7 30.Kg1 Ne5) 26...Nce8 27.g5 Nh7 and with d5 to follow, Black may be ok; and 23...Rf7 looks no better after 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.Ref1 Be5+ 26.Kg2 b4 27.Nd1 Nxe4 28.Rxf7 Nf6+ 29.Rf3 Kxf7 30.g5 Bf4 31.Qxc4 Ncd5 32.Kg1 Rc8 33.Qd4 and White is winning.

24.Kh1

The direct 24.fxg6 doesn't seem to work after 24...hxg6 25.Ref1 Be5+ 26.Kg2 Bxc3 27.Rxf6 (27.bxc3?! Nxe4 28.Rf7?? Ng5+) 27...Bxf6 28.Rxf6 Ne8 29.Rf8+ (29.Rxg6+ Kh7 30.Rxe6 Qf7 wins) 29...Kh7 30.Qf2 Qxe4+ 31.Kg1 Ng7 when Black survives! (31...Nc7?? 32.Rf7+ Kg8 33.Rg7+ Kh8 34.Re7 Qe5 35.Be3! wins)

24... exf5!?

Another difficult call and maybe not the best choice [firstly 24...Nd7 when 25.Qd2 Qb6 26.fxg6 hxg6 27.Ref1 Ne5 28.Rf6 Bxc3 (28...b4 29.Qg5) 29.Qxc3 looks overwhelming; the next try 24...d5 fails abjectly after 25.Qd2 Be5 26.fxg6 hxg6 27.Qg5; whilst 24...Bxc3 is simply unclear 25.bxc3 Nd7 26.fxg6 hxg6 27.Qd2?! (27.Qf2! looks better when 27...Ne5 28.Rf6 Qb6 29.Rxg6+! is winning) 27...Ne5 28.Rf6 (28.Qg5 allows 28...Nd5!) 28...Ne8 (28...Rd8? 29.Qg5 wins) 29.Rf8+ Kh7 30.Qf2 Qe7 when the machine assesses that Black is ok; however 24...Qc6 may have been best when after 25.Qd2 Be5 26.fxg6 hxg6 27.Qg5 Kf7 28.Ref1 Nce8 29.Qh4 Kg8 30.Bg5 (30.Rxf6! Nxf6 31.Rxf6 Bxc3! 32.bxc3 (32.Rxg6+ Kf7!) 32...Qxe4+ draws) 30...Nh7 31.Bh6 Ng7 and Black survives (31...Bg7? loses after 32.Bxg7 Nxg7 33.Qh6)]

25.gxf5



25.Bxc4+ looks strong but after 25...Kh8 26.axb5 axb5 27.Bf7 b4 Black is fine.

25... Bxc3

More or less forced now as after the alternative 25...Nce8 a long line follows 26.Qg2 Qf7 27.axb5 axb5 28.Nd5 Kh8 29.c3 Be5 30.fxg6 Qxg6 31.Bg5 Nxd5 32.exd5 Ng7 33.Bb1 Qh5 34.Rxe5 dxe5 35.Bf6 when with the white-squared B active and the d-pawn ready to roll, Black is busted; also 25...Re8 allows the deadly 26.Bxc4+!

26.bxc3 Re8

27.Qg2 Rxe4

27...Nxe4? simply loses after 28.Kh2 (28.fxg6 Ng3+ 29.Kh2 Rxe1 30.Rf8+ Rxf8 31.Qxb7 isn't bad either) 28...d5 29.fxg6 Ne6 30.Rf7 Re7 31.Ref1 Qc7+ 32.Kg1! (32.Kh1 Ng3+)

28.Rg1

This looks strong but maybe White misses his chance here with 28.Ref1 Ncd5 29.fxg6 Rbe8 30.Rg1 R4e7 when maybe Black survives - I wouldn't give much his chances in an otb game.

28...Nce8

28...Ncd5?! allows another long line of almost forced moves 29.fxg6 Kh8 30.gxh7 Re7 31.Rg3 Nb6 32.Bg7+ Rxg7 33.Rxg7 Qxg2+ 34.R1xg2 with a winning end-game for White.

29.fxg6

29.Rg3? Re2 30.Qxb7 Rxb7 31.fxg6 Ne4 is just what Black wants, an end-game with the B locked in at a2.

29... Re6

30.Kh2

Removing the K from the diagonal - the direct 30.gxh7+ doesn't work for White after 30...Kxh7 31.Be3 (31.Qg6+ Kh8 is nothing for White) 31...Qe4 32.axb5 axb5 33.Bf2 Rb7 34.Re1 Qxe1+ (better 34...Qd5 with Rg7 to follow) 35.Bxe1 Rxe1+ and the machine says White is better but I don't believe it.

30...Qe4

Forced as 30...Rc8?? loses immediately to 31.gxh7+ Kxh7 32.Qg6+

31.Bd2

Instead 31.gxh7+ Kxh7 32.Bf8 Rb7 33.Qg3 Qe5 34.Rf4 Kh8 and Black should be ok.

31...Kh8

Certainly not 31...Qe2 32.Rf2 Qe4 33.Qg3 Kh8 34.gxh7 (34.Re1 Qd5) 34...Qxh7 35.Bg5 Rb7 36.Rf4 and White is winning.

32.gxh7 Qxh7

33.axb5



The last critical point in the game - there were 3 alternatives for White:

A) Firstly 33.Rf4 Rb7 34.axb5 axb5 35.Qf2 Rf7! 36.Be3 (not 36.Rh4?? Ng4+!) 36...Re4! 37.Bd4 (if 37.Rf1 again 37...Ng4+) 37...Rxf4 38.Qxf4 Rg7 39.Bxf6 Qxc2+ 40.Kh1 Nxf6 41.Qxf6 Qe4+ 42.Kh2 Qe2+ draws!;

B) Instead 33.Be3 produces a long line 33...Rb7 34.Qf2 Rg7 35.Rxg7 Qxg7 36.axb5 axb5 37.Bd4 Qe7 38.Qh4+ Qh7 39.Qg5 Re2+ 40.Kg1 Qg7 41.h4 Kg8 42.Bxf6 Nxf6 43.Rxf6 Qxg5+ 44.hxg5 when Black draws after 44...Rxc2 45.Bb1 Rc1+ 46.Rf1 Rxc3 47.Kf2 Rh3 48.Be4 b4 49.Bd5+ Kg7 50.Bxc4 Rc3 51.Bd5 Rc5 52.Rd1 b3!;

C) Finally 33.Bg5 looks strong but after 33...Rb7 34.Qf2 Rg7 (similar to the actual game continuation) 35.Rf4 Kg8 36.Rh4 Qg6 Black is ok.

33... axb5

34.Bg5 Rb7

Now the game peters out to a draw - Black is ok and just has to avoid obvious tactics such as 34...Qe7? 35.Rf4

35.Qf2

The alternatives are easily parried 35.Rf4 Rg7 36.Qf2 (36.Rh4?? Qxh4!; 36.Qf3 Qg6) 36...Kg8

35... Rg7

36.h4 Qe4

37.Bxc4 bxc4

38.Rxf6 Nxf6

39.Bxf6 Rxf6

40.Qxf6 Qe2+

41.Kh1 Qe4+

With a draw by repetition - an interesting and enjoyable game where both sides missed opportunities although marred somewhat by my opponent's annoying habit of constantly urging me to play quicker - indeed, I received email reminders whenever I

took more than a few days over 1 move!

½-½



For our second SCCA Webserver League game, David Cumming



provides the annotations, while George provides the opposition.

White: Pyrich, George. D

Black: Cumming, David. R

Dutch Defence, 2.g3 [A81]

SCCA Webserver League 1, 2012

[Notes by David Cumming]

1.d4 f5

George said in a recent Scottish CCA magazine article that the Dutch Defence was his Achilles Heel of chess openings which he has to face from the White perspective. A long time ago, when dinosaurs roamed the Earth, and pre my ChessBase/Fritz era, I played the Dutch against George and managed to get a draw. I did annotate it for an old SCCA magazine, and George added the comment in print that he thought that I could have played on for a win in that game (or words to that effect). These days, normally I don't play the Dutch against 1.d4, reserving this option for when White plays 1.Nf3 or 1.c4 against me, but George is well versed in lines of the Grünfeld which I would probably play against any other opponent. At the time of the opening phase of this game I did not possess Aagaard's book on the Tarrasch Defence, and I had decided to give the QGD Chigorin a rest. So, in light of George's perspective on the Dutch, I thought, why not?

2.g3 Nf6

3.Bg2 g6

4.Nh3 Bg7

5.Nf4 Nc6

6.c4

A) 6. Nc3 e5 7. dxe5 Nxe5 8. Nd3 Nf7 9. Be3 ({RR} 9. O-O d5 10.

Nb5 c6 11. Nd4 O-O 12. c3 Qe7 13. Bf4 c5 14. Nb5 g5 15. Be3 b6 16. a4 Bb7 17. a5 Rfe8 18. Na3 Ne4 19. Nc2 h6 20. Re1 Nfd6 21. f3 Nxc3 22. bxc3 Bxc3 23. a6 Bc6 { Tinjaca Ramirez,L (2327)-Sikorsky,R (2319)/ICCF 2010/OM Corr/½-½ (31)} 9... Ng4 10. Bd2 c6 11. e3 Nf6 12. O-O O-O 13. Ne2 Ne4 14. Bb4 d6 15. a4 Qe8 16. c4 Bd7 17. Qc2 a5 18. Be1 Ne5 19. Rd1 Nxd3 20. Rxd3 Qe5 {Petukhov,V (2215) -Pirs,M (2540)/ICCF 2010/OM Corr/½-½ (33)}

B) 6. c3 e5 7. dxe5 Nxe5 8. Nd2 B1) 8... Qb3 c6 9. c4 d6 10. O-O O-O 11. Qc2 Qe7 12. Nd2 Bd7 13. Rb1 Rae8 14. b4 g5 15. Nd3 f4 16. Nxe5 Qxe5 17. Nf3 Qxe2 18. Qxe2 Rxe2 19. Nxc5 fxc3 20. fxc3 Rxa2 21. Bf4 h6 22. Ne4 Rxc2+ {Dragomirescu,A (2181)-Caspi,I (2438)/Eforie Nord ROU 2010/OM 2.04/0-1}

B2) 8... c6 9. Nf3 Nxf3+ 10. exf3 O-O 11. O-O d5 12. Re1 Re8 13. Be3 b6 14. Qa4 Bb7 15. Rad1 Nd7 16. Nd3 a5 17. Bd4 Bf8 18. Rxe8 Qxe8 19. Re1 Qc8 20. Qd1 c5 {Karkuth,S (2573)-Wunderlich,H (2618)/ICCF 2007/OM Corr/0-1 (61)} or 21. Be3 Qc6 22. Bf4 d4 23. Ne5 Nxe5 24. Bxe5 Qd5 25. cxd4 Rd8 26. Bc7 Rd7 27. Bxb6 cxd4 28. Qd3 Rd6 29. Bc7 Rc6 30. Bb8 Ba6 31. Qd1 Rc8 32. f4 Qd7 33. Qb3+ Bc4 34. Qb6 Bb4 35. Rd1 Be2 {Karkuth,S (2573)-Wunderlich,H (2618)/ICCF 2007/OM 2.04/0-1 (61)}

C) 6. d5 Ne5 7. Nc3 O-O 8. O-O c6 9. Nd3 Nc4 10. Rb1 Nb6 11. Nf4 e5 12. dxe6 d5 13. a4 Re8 14. a5 Nc4 15. a6 b6 16. b3 Ne5 17. Bb2 Bxe6 18. Nxe6 Rxe6 19. e3 Qc8 20. Ne2 Re8 {Marinov,P (2374)-Necula,I (2341)/ICCF 2009/OM Corr/0-1 (50)}

**6... d6
7.Nc3 O-O
8.d5N**

8. Bd5+ Nxd5 9. cxd5 Nb4 10. a3 Na6 11. h4 Bf6 12. Qd3 Qe8 13. Qc4 Bd7 14. Be3 Qf7 15. Qb3 Rab8 16. Ne6 Rfc8 17. Ng5 Qg7 18. Rd1 h6 19. Nf3 b5 20. Na2 Rb6 21. Bd2 Be8 22. Ba5 Rb7 {Koen,M (2225)-Wang,L (2210)/Calimanesti-W 1992/OM 2.04/½-½}

**8... Ne5
9.Qb3 c5
10.h4=**



Here George tries for a kingside pawn storm, probing the h and g files. It's a matter of taste, but maybe George would have been safer castling kingside?

**10... Qa5
11.h5 Nxh5
12.Nxh5 gxh5
13.f4 Ng4
14.Bd2 Qb4
15.Rxh5 Bd7
16.Bh3 Be8
17.Bxg4 fxc4
18.Rg5 Bd7
19.e4 h6
20.Rh5 a5**

If George was going to castle now, the only place he could do it was the queenside, hence my queenside pressure. Most of his pieces were tied down to the queenside anyway, so despite my loose kingside pawn formation, I had little to fear in that sector of the board, and my own King was essentially safe.

**21.f5 Kf7
22.Qd1 Rg8!**



23.Rh4

Of course, White could not play 23. Qxc4?? because of 23... Bxc3 24.bxc3 Rxc3 25.cxb4 Rxe4+ 26.Kf2 axb4 27.Rc1 Rxa2 28.Kf3 Re5+

**23... h5
24.Qe2 b5
25.cxb5 a4
26.Rb1 Rh8
27.a3=+ Qb3
28.Qd1 Be5!**



A nice little in-between move that would win me a pawn or 2 and open up the position somewhat, which would benefit Black more than White because of White's king stuck in the centre and open to the 4 winds!

**29.Bf4 Bxc3+
30.bxc3 Qxc3+
31.Kf2 Qxa3
32.b6 Qa2+
33.Ke3?**

Deep Rybka 4 gives: 33. Bd2 Qc4 34. Qe2 Qc2 35. Rhh1 a3 36. b7 Rab8 37. Rbc1 Qb2 38. Bc3 Qxb7 39. Rb1 Qa7 40. Rxb8 Qxb8 41. Qa2 Rh7 42. Qxa3 Qb5 43. Ke3 Qc4 44. Qc1 Bb5 45. Qd2 Ke8 {-0.31/16}

**33... a3!-/+
34.Rxh5 Qxb1!
35.Qxb1 Rxh5
36.Qa2 Ra4
37.b7 Rb4**



38.b8=Q?

George said to me as he played this "Couldn't resist this one as it's my first pawn promotion on the server!" However, it was a mistake and it cost him the game. Deep Rybka 4 gives: 38. Qxa3 Rxb7 39. Qa2 Bc8 40. Kd3 Rb4 41. Qa5 Rh2 42. Bxd6 Rf2 43. Bxc5 Rf3+ 44. Kd2 Rxe4 45. f6 Bf5 46. Qc7 Kxf6 47. d6 exd6 {-0.76/15}

38... Rxb8
Deep Rybka 4 gives: 38... Rxb8 39. Qxa3 Rb4 40. Bxd6 Ba4 41. Bxe7 Rb3+ 42. Qxb3 Bxb3 43. Bxc5 Rh1 44. d6 Rf1 45. d7 Rd1 46. e5 Rxd7 47. Bd6 Rd8 48. Kf4 Rc8 49. Ba3 Rg8

50.Bc5 Bd5 51.Be3 Bb3 52.Bc5 Bd5
53.Be3 Bb3 {-1.95/17}

0-1



And for our third League encounter, your editor attempts to revive the days when romantics played without silicon implants and swashes were occasionally buckled.



White: Mackintosh, I (2395)
Black: Vivante-Sowter, J (2350)
King's Gambit [B00]
SCCA Webserver League 1, 2012
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 e5
2.f4

It had been years since I played this in a competitive game, but nostalgia dictated I try a few gambits in the events which started in January this year.

2... d5

John told me afterwards he'd recently invested in Larry Kaufman's "Repertoire for Black & White". Kaufman recommends Black return the pawn, and this move order is preferred, largely to stop White playing the Bishop's Gambit, 3.Bc4.

3.exd5 exf4

4.Nf3

If White tries an immediate 4.Bc4 then 4... Qh4+ 5.Kf1 Bd6 6.Nf3 Qh6 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.d4 0-0 leaves Black on the plus side of solid.

4... Nf6
5.Bc4 Nxd5
6.0-0 Be6
7.Bb3 Be7

Kaufman gives 7...c5 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Be5 10.Kh1 Bxd4 11.Qxd4 0-0 12.Bxd5 Nc6 13.Qxf4 Qxd5 14.Nc3 Qc5 15.Qf2 Rfe8 giving Black better development and a safer king.

8.c4 Nb6
9.d4 Nxc4



Black can play to hold the f-pawn by 9...g5 10.h4 h6 11.Nc3 Kf8 12.Qe2 g4 13.Bxf4 gxf3 14.Qxf3 Qxd4+ 15.Be3 Qe5 (15...Qd7 16.c5!) 16.Rae1 Bd6 17.Bxh6+ Rxh6 18.Rxe5 Bxe5 19.Qe3 (19.Qxb7? Rxh4 20.g3 Bd4+ 21.Rf2 Rh5 22.Qxc7 Bxf2+ 23.Kxf2 N8d7-/+) 19...Bg7 looks equal.

10.Nc3 Nb6
11.d5 Bg4
12.Bxf4 0-0

Safest. Black is solid and White has difficulty finding real attacking threats.

13.Qe1 Na6
14.Qg3 Bh5
15.Rad1

I looked at 15.d6! but 15...Bxd6 16.Rad1 Bxf4 17.Qxf4 Qf6 fizzles out with no compensation for White.

15... Bc5+
16.Kh1 Bd6
17.Ne4 Bxf4
18.Qxf4 Bg6
19.Ne5 Bxe4
20.d6

Still determined to advance the d-pawn! This leads to a forced draw, but at least the combination is pretty.

20... Ne5



21.Bxf7+ Kh8
22.b4 Nd5
23.Rxd5 Bxd5
24.Bxd5 Rxf4
25.Rxf4

And with repetition looming, I offered the draw.

25... Qe8

Which John refused on the grounds that he wanted to see one more move!

26.Nf7+

White obliges with his only available option.

26... Kg8

And Black responds with his. If 26...Qxf7?? 27.Rxf7 Re8 28.Kg1 cxd6 29.bxc5 dxc5 30.Rxb7+ 1/2-1/2



Here's a final game from David Cumming, where he might have expected to face the Dutch Defence, but headed for Mediterranean climes instead. This comes from the friendly international which we started in January this year.

White: Cumming, David. R. (2151)
Black: Kogeler, Aart (2298)
Open Catalan, 5.Nf3 [E04]
Scotland vs. Netherlands, 2012
[Notes by David Cumming]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.g3 d5
4.Bg2 dxc4
5.Nf3 a6
6.0-0 Nc6
7.Nc3 Rb8
8.e4 Be7
9.Qe2 Nxd4
10.Nxd4 Qxd4
11.Rd1 Qc5
12.Be3

12.e5 Nd7 13.Bf4 0-0 14.Rd2 (14.Ne4 Qa5 15.Qh5 f6 16.Ng5 fxg5 17.Be4 h6 18.Qg6 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Qxe5 20.Qh7+ Kf7 21.Qg6+ Kg8 1/2-1/2 Ponomarev, R (2737)-Ivanchuk, V (2748)/OM 2.04) 14...f5 15.Rad1 Nb6 16.g4 Qa5 17.gxf5 Rxf5 18.Be4 Rxf4 19.Rd8+ Bf8 20.Bxh7+ 1-0 Umansky, M (2672)-Hamarat, T (2650)/ICCF 2008/OM Corr

12... Qh5
13.Qxc4N
13.Bf3 Qa5 14.Qxc4 (RR 14.Bd2 Qc5 15.Be3 1/2-1/2 Dimitrov, D (2372)-Budzyn, R (2325)/ICCF 2010/OM Corr) 14...0-0 15.a3 c6 16.b4 Qc7 17.Rac1 Rd8 18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.Qe2 e5 20.Nd5 Qd6 21.Bc5 1/2-1/2 Bochev, K (2448)-Dressel, R (2209)/ICCF 2006/OM Corr

13... c6
14.e5= Nd5
15.Bc5 Qxe5

16.Bd4 Qg5
 17.Ne4 Qg6
 18.Bc5



White has dynamic equality and an initiative, in compensation for the temporarily gambitted pawns.

18... b5
 19.Qd4 0-0
 20.Bxe7 Nxe7
 21.Qe5 Rb7
 22.Nc5 f6

Black has little option but to chase away the White queen, emphasising his light-squared weaknesses in the centre and on the queenside.

23.Qe2 Rc7
 24.Nxe6 Bxe6
 25.Qxe6+ Qf7
 26.Qd6!± Rfc8
 27.Qa3 Ng6
 28.Qxa6

White has restored the material equilibrium, whilst maintaining a fair initiative on the queenside light squares, and hopes to profit from his light-squared bishop's dominance of the g2-c6 diagonal.

28... Ne5!
 29.a4 Qb3
 30.axb5



30... Qxb5

Forcing the queen exchange, because the pawn threatens to become too powerful and win the battle for the light squares with winning threats, so it had to be taken off, but not 30...cxb5?? 31.Bd5+ winning the Black queen.

31.Qxb5 cxb5
 32.f4

That knight is far too powerful on e5 from where it dominates the centre of the board, it had to be dislodged.

32... Ng4
 33.Bf3 Ne3
 34.Rd3 Rc1+
 35.Rxc1 Rxc1+
 36.Kf2 Nc4
 37.Rc3 Rb1
 38.Bd5+

That knight was still a strong piece, whilst due to the lack of queenside activity on the lower ranks from the Black perspective meant that White's bishop was shooting at thin air, so the knight was superior to the bishop hence it was correct to exchange it off here.

38... Kf8
 39.Bxc4 bxc4
 40.Rc2 Rd1
 41.Ke2 Rd4

42.Ke3 Rd3+
 43.Ke4 g6
 44.Rxc4 Rd2
 45.b4 Ke8±

Houdini 2 gives: 45...f5+ 46.Ke5 Rxh2 47.Kd5 Ke8 48.Kc6 Kd8 49.b5 Rg2 50.Ra4 Rxc3 51.b6 Rc3+ 52.Kb7 Rb3 53.Ka7 Kc8 54.Rc4+ Kd7 55.Rc7+ Kd6 56.Rxh7 Ra3+ 57.Kb8 Ra4 58.Ra7 Rxf4 59.b7 Rb4 60.Ra6+ Kd5 61.Kc7 {0.76/26}

46.h4 Rb2
 47.f5! Rb3
 48.fxg6 hxg6
 49.Kd5+-

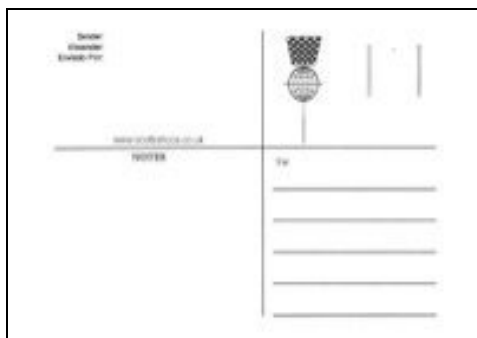


Houdini 2 gives: 49.Kd5 Ke7 50.Re4+ Kf8 51.g4 f5 52.gxf5 gxf5 53.Rf4 Ke7 54.Ke5 Kf7 55.Kxf5 Rb2 56.Ke5+ Ke7 57.Kd5 Kd7 58.h5 Rd2+ 59.Rd4 Rh2 60.Kc5+ Kc7 61.Rd5 Rf2 62.Rg5 Rc2+ 63.Kb5 Rh2 64.Rc5+ Kb7 {1.51/26}

1-0



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The Lewis Chessmen on a Fantasy Iceland

By Morten Lilleøren



[Ed –my thanks to Morten for submitting this article which remains very relevant to Scotland – the chessmen were discovered at Uig in Lewis (left) in 1831. This piece is a follow-up to his

initial rebuttal of Gudmundur Thorarinsson's views, published in SCCA Magazine 114 exactly a year ago.]

Introduction

In 2010, engineer Gudmundur Thorarinsson, helped in some undefined capacity by his public relations specialist Einar Einarsson, published the seldom-visited view that the Lewis pieces were made in Iceland. The revised version of this article, *Are the Isle of Lewis Chessmen Icelandic?*, as well as his subsequent publications on this topic, may be found at his website: <http://leit.is/lewis/>. Thorarinsson's view was addressed in an article by Dylan Loeb McClain of the New York Times, in his somewhat cryptically entitled, *Reopening History of Storied Norse Chessmen*

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/09/arts/09lewis.html>). Their notion of an Icelandic origin for the Lewis pieces was given substantial promotion by Thorarinsson and Einarsson at those conferences and symposia they could attend. The idiosyncratic idea was not entirely ignored in academic and specialist circles as well.

I entered this discussion because I was shocked at the poor method employed by Thorarinsson in the pursuit of support for his theory. Accordingly, I published a riposte to his initial article in May, 2011. I entitled this first essay of mine, *The Lewis Chessmen were never anywhere near Iceland*, and published it on Chess Café (<http://www.chesscafe.com/text/skittles399.pdf>).

Thorarinsson then published a counter to my questions. Continuing to center his argument on a series of circumstantially-derived and –supported points, he went on to state that, “On behalf of Norway, I am thoroughly disappointed... [and moreover] I meant only to participate in literate discussions and studies” (op. cit, <http://leit.is/lewis/> and also <http://www.chessbase.com/newsdetail.asp?newsid=7116>).

I am Norwegian, but am unsure why Thorarinsson seems determined to cast this debate in nationalistic terms. Indeed, all of his mud-slinging and aspersions seem a bit off point. Instead, as I and others have noted repeatedly, despite his claims of “potency”, Thorarinsson's well-aided suppositions about the Lewis chessmen are based almost entirely on somewhat flaccid argumentation. He sidesteps acknowledging his disregard for a large number of facts with a coy demurral that, as what he terms “forensics” are inadequate to explain the Lewis pieces, all “conclusions about the Lewis chessmen... are, ultimately, speculative in nature.” This simply is not true: facts are available. What I

have put together previously and here is entirely based on the historical record writ large, requiring recourse to archaeology and artifact, saga and law. Thus, this expansion of my earlier argument serves to complete the necessary task of undermining the credibility of Gudmundur Thorarinsson's specious construction, for not only is his work circumstantial, but it also is seriously flawed. To keep this publication short, scholarly reference appurtenances have been omitted, but will be included in a later work of wider scope. Of course, specific questions regarding sources or other topics may be directed to me:

morlille@hotmail.com.

My argument is: Connecting the Lewis chessmen with medieval Iceland is at best a romantic notion entirely undermined by testing this thesis against the known and accepted historical facts.

The Old Norwegian Settlements: Regarding Thorarinsson's Argument that Certain Place Names Were Icelandic

The language in the Norse texts (sagas and poetry) existed before Iceland was settled by the Norsemen. This language was Old Norwegian, or, if you wish, Old West Norse. The relationship between Old Norwegian and Icelandic can be compared with English and American today, despite that the discrepancies between Old Norwegian and Icelandic were less than the ones existing between English and American today. This situation of linguistic divergence lasted until the end of the 14th century.

The Hebrides came under Norwegian control circa the early 9th century, and control of the region was consolidated by 1098. According to the texts many Norwegian kings visited or lived there during the centuries, and it logically and factually follows that settlers/colonists also sailed in the opposite direction. Etymological surveys have suggested relative proportions of Norse and Gaelic farm-names for Lewis to be 80% Old Norwegian and 20% Gaelic. A rather new count shows that out of 126 village names in Lewis, 99 are clearly of Old Norwegian descendant, while 9 are of unclear origin. These numbers give us an idea of the Norwegian presence in the past. Nowadays Lewis is the last piece of land facing the vast North Atlantic Ocean. Once, however, it was a main junction along the watercourse highway from Norway to Dublin.

Nothing lasts forever. The colonies in the larger islands were lost first: Dublin (which possibly was the first Norwegian city!) and all other Irish areas finally passed from Norse/Norwegian hands in 1171. The last part of the mainland of Scotland, the Hebrides and Man were transferred to the Scottish king in 1266. Norway itself later became a part of Denmark, and the Danes pawned their holdings in Shetland and the Orkneys to Scotland in 1468.

The language was more long-lived. The last “Ostmen” (Norse descendants) in Dublin were mentioned at the end of the 13th century. On the Isle of Man the language disappeared in the 14th century, in Caithness (Scotland) in the 15th century, and in the Hebrides in the 16th century. In the Orkneys the language was still known in the latter part of the 18th century.

The place names Lewis (Ljodhus), the Hebrides (Sudreyar) and Uig bay (Vik) are not Icelandic names. The Norse raids, trade and settlement of these regions started in the late 8th and the beginning of the 9th century, before the settlement in Iceland. The Norwegians settled in various Atlantic islands, and islanders therefore spoke (Old) Norwegian. They did so in Shetland, the Faroes, Orkney, the Hebrides and the Isle of Man. Indeed, Old Norwegian was spoken in the North of Scotland as well as several places in Ireland, including Dublin, the largest Norse colony. So place names were given before Iceland was even settled. Thus, for a crucial section of his Lewis-was-Icelandic theory, Thorarinsson does not even aspire to the *post hoc ergo propter hoc* fallacy. Indeed, he does not even make historical sense.

The Icelanders and the Walrus Ivory Trade: Regarding Thorarinsson’s Argument that Iceland Worked Walrus Ivory During the Time in Question

Colleen Batey finds that there is no archaeological evidence that ivory was worked in Iceland during the Free state in the Medieval age. The newly discovered chess piece from Siglunes in Iceland does not alter this, as it is made of a fish bone, not walrus tusk. The workshops at Skálholt mentioned by Gudmundur Thorarinsson did not process walrus tusk. More importantly, they dated to approximately 1500: this is 300-350 years after the Lewis chessmen. Thorarinsson further points to a walrus ivory bishop’s crozier as evidence both of ivory working and of religious iconography. While religious iconography must and will be addressed shortly, suffice it here to say that this ivory bishop’s crozier belonged to the Bishop of Gardar in Greenland...no Icelander. Moreover, the skeleton in the grave where the crozier was found has been radiocarbon-dated to 1272. This artifact and the argument hung on it are both therefore irrelevant to any serious contribution to research regarding the Lewis chessmen.

[The carbon dating is reported a bit oddly in the source material, as “1272” is rather precise. The range is 1230-1290. Also, while the crozier might be older than the skeleton, there was a lapse between some of the Greenlandic bishops, even an actual vacancy in the bishopric of Gardar for several years. Thus must we assume that the crozier was kept at the bishopric for years at a time when there was no bishop? Moreover, the appointed bishops were Norwegians, some of whom were absent from Gardar for years. Therefore there was no continuity, and it is likely that the skeleton is that of a Norwegian bishop who perhaps brought his crozier with him. In the absence of more information, the dating of the skeleton must hold as that of the crozier as well. Occam’s Razor must hold in such cases.]*

Prior to 1135, Iceland may well have participated in the walrus ivory trade. However, three of the four ships that

were in Greenland around 1130 were Norwegian ships. It should also be noted that the sole ship with an Icelandic crew afterwards sailed to Norway, presumably to sell the cargo from Greenland there, before they made the turn back to Iceland. This Icelandic-crewed ship is the last Icelandic ship that is recorded in any written source visiting Greenland before Iceland became a part of the Norwegian kingdom in 1264. The ship which sank off Hitarnes was not Icelandic. Instead, the ship was wrecked on its way back to Norway from Greenland with cargo destined for Norway. Thus, there is no record of any Icelandic participation in the walrus ivory trade after 1135.

It is a facile assumption that the Icelanders took part in the voyages to the Irish Sea. The simple fact is that they did not. The best testimony about whom the Icelanders used to have connections with is without doubt the Icelandic free state laws. There we find special provisions that apply to people from Norway, Shetland, Faroe, Orkney, Caithness and Greenland. There is, though, no mention whatsoever to peoples from the Hebrides, Man or Ireland.

Gudmundur Arason did indeed travel to the Hebrides. This was, however, due to bad weather; the ship was heading for Norway, where Gudmundur Arason was to be ordained as Bishop of Holar by the archbishop of Nidaros. Beyond the vagaries of travel, the simple fact is that Arason’s ship was a Norwegian one.

In the period 1193-1211, when Páll Jónsson (the man Gudmundur Thorarinsson assumes was the commissioner of the chessmen) was bishop, there is no record of an Icelandic shipwreck in the vicinity of the Isle of Lewis. More globally, there are not “numerous references” of the sailing of the Icelanders to the Southern Isles. Indeed, there is no record of any Icelandic ship whatsoever—not one—visiting the Hebrides in the period 1150-1260. The explanation for this is a simple one. Whilst ocean-going vessels were necessary to travel to both Greenland and the Hebrides, Icelanders did not have such ships anymore. It is true that during the settlement, they had many ships. These boats, though, did not last long: experts estimate that these ships lasted roughly 20-30 years. Many of the islands settled during this period were not forested. Even in Iceland a limited access to wood disappeared long before the Lewis chessmen were made. This made it impossible to repair and replace ships as necessary to maintain an oceangoing fleet. Helgi Thorlaksson states, “At the end of the eleventh century the Icelanders possessed a fleet of oceangoing vessels, but in the second half of the twelfth century they were very few and around 1200 there were none. All transportation over the ocean was in the hands of the Norwegians and men from the Orkney and Shetland islands.” Njörður Njarðvik went on to explain that,

In the 12th century when the sources are becoming more and more reliable, there are only five examples of oceangoing vessels owned by Icelanders, all dated before 1170. From 1170 to the end of the Free State (1264) there is only one sure example of an Icelander who had an oceangoing vessel[:]. . . Snorre Sturlason who was given a ship as gift in Norway [in] 1220.

In conclusion: There is no evidence that there was an Icelandic presence in the Hebrides at the time the Lewis chessmen were made. Further, there is no record of any Icelandic ship visiting the Hebrides in the period 1150-1260, while during this time the Norwegians were in firm control of the region. The Norsemen had been there for centuries, and maintained a significant presence.

The Clonard Queen: a Sidebar



“The Clonard Queen” is a drawing of a chess piece similar to the queens in the Lewis sets. She has the same characteristics and design, and hence quite possibly is of the same origin. This queen was found in an Irish bog 14 years earlier than the Lewis Chessmen were found. This very significant find indicates as well that other chess pieces had been transported (and lost!) in the same region as the Lewis pieces. This strongly suggests that the Lewis chessmen came to Lewis in a regular, quotidian sort of way. As has been established, however, the connection between Iceland and Ireland was minimal or non-existent. Hence the very existence of this piece is difficult to explain in conjunction with Gudmundur Thorarinsson’s assumptions. Moreover, some idiosyncratic series of events leading to Icelanders nonetheless being in the region so as to lose or hide the Lewis pieces is undermined by the finding of the Clonard Queen.

The Old Norwegian Language and the Bishop at the Chessboard: Regarding Thorarinsson’s Argument that Use of the Word “Bishop” Was Privileged to Iceland

Gudmundur Thorarinsson’s main argument hinges on his claim that the word *bishop* for the chess piece in the Old Norse language was only used in one of many areas sharing the language. In other words, despite a shared language, only Iceland but not all of Scandinavia had this usage. Linguists usually assume just the opposite of this, believing instead that if a word occurs in a language, and that word denominates an activity known elsewhere within the area where this language is spoken, the word/denomination is used in the same capacity by all contemporaneous practitioners of the language. Thorarinsson flies in the face of practice by professionals and experts with his linguistic privileging. Moreover, Iceland was a part of the Kingdom of Norway when the bishop-mentioning text in question was written.

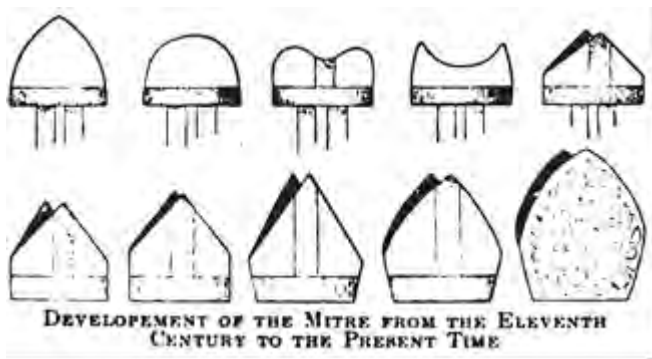
Archaeological finds demonstrate that chess was known in Norway as early (if not earlier) than the first half of the 12th century. However, Gudmundur Thorarinsson claims that Norwegians never used the word bishop, and always used the word “loeper”. If accepted, this idea of Thorarinsson’s produces an unsupportable chain of suppositions: Norway must have been the first country using this word, and the Norwegians used this word centuries before anyone else. Hence, even if all the surrounding countries used the word “bishop”, Norway used the word “loeper”. Furthermore, even if parts of the same kingdom (viz., the Faroese, or Iceland) used the word “bishop”, the mainland used “loeper”. Indeed, the argument extends, the Norwegians clung to this word even when Norway became a part of Denmark...despite that the Danes used the word “bishop”. All of this is simply untenable.

In the original version of his article, Thorarinsson wrote, “The Lewis Chessmen are the only chess pieces that include bishops with crosier and mitres and full ceremonial clothing.” To challenge this claim, I presented six images of other Medieval chess pieces depicting a bishop. These pieces are classified as chess pieces by a number of researchers and Gudmundur Thorarinsson has so far been unable to present evidence to refute their opinion. Instead, he silently elided his statement in a later version of his article to read, “The Lewis chessmen are also to my knowledge the first known chess pieces that include bishops...”. Even this watered-down rephrasing is not, however, in accordance with the archaeological facts.

Piece d'Echec en Ivoire, from the Collection of Jean-Jacques Marquet de Vasselot: a Second Sidebar



The private collection of Jean-Jacques Marquet, curator of the Louvre, contained an artifact of striking pertinence to this discussion: a bishop carved of walrus ivory. The ivory itself has been radiocarbon dated within the usual 95% probability to 770-990 CE. Also, note that the bishop’s mitre is worn facing sideways, to borrow James Robinson’s description, rather than frontally. This is in accordance both with contemporaneous changes in mitre orientation and the earliest European chess piece designs. The reverse elevation of canopy/piece reveals the old arabic abstract shape of the *alfil* piece, complete with “horns”.



Thus here we see an artifact that is strongly likely to predate the Lewis pieces that is connected with both early European and Arabic chess set design and a crozier-bearing, sideways-mitre-wearing bishop.



The Written Sources: Regarding Thorarinsson's Argument that Use of the Word "Bishop" for a Particular Chess Piece Originated in Iceland ... as well as the Invented Case of the Compound Word "Bishopsmate"

Thorarinsson's original argument regarding use of the word bishop was, "The word "bishop" for a chess piece is only used in two languages, Icelandic and English." This was amended in his next publication to the rhetorical query, "The question arises, when was it first used for a chess piece? That is the main issue here." He then goes on somewhat ponderously to answer, "At the time the chessmen were made, this word in relationship to chess was only used in Iceland...It is safe to assume therefore that the word bishop as a chess piece is much older in Icelandic than English. This suggests that the chess term may have originated in Iceland."

Gudmundur Thorarinsson writes expansively of Old Norse "manuscripts" and "written sources" mentioning the chess bishop. This also is simply incorrect. There is only one manuscript in the Old Norse language, *Mágus Saga Jarls*, that refers to the "bishop". The oldest known version of the *Mágus Saga Jarls* dates to 1300-1325. The Lewis chessmen date to the period 1150-1200. This chronological gap of 100-175 years renders the *Mágus Saga Jarls*, like the Bishop of Gardar's crozier, quite irrelevant to our discussion. Moreover, H. J. R. Murray himself cites two Latin texts circa 1200-1250 mentioning the bishop on the chessboard. Hence, even if the (allegedly) Icelandic manuscript or manuscripts referred to by Gudmundur Thorarinsson were pertinent here, they are predated by the texts identified by Murray.

Furthermore, several scholars (Cederskiöld, Halvorsen, Glauser, Kalinke) argue that this particular text is possibly or probably of Norwegian origin. There is no scholar who has argued unequivocally that this text has its origin in Iceland. Thus even if the surviving version were Icelandic, it would seem reasonable to believe it to be a copy. Hence, the *Mágus Saga Jarls*, be it Norse or Icelandic, is of unclear provenance. It therefore cannot be mobilized to identify Iceland rather than Norway in use of the word "bishop" for a chess piece.

Finally, Thorarinsson makes much of his point about the word "bishopsmate" as part of his chain of evidence so as to argue for early use of the word bishop. He points to this "bishopsmate" because he wishes us to accept that if two words are joined to form a new one, each of the original two words is older. *Prima facie*, this is a sensible enough argument, but this second foray into linguistics is even more ill-conceived than his first, for it rests on false premises. In the oldest extant version of the text (parchment AM 580 B, characterized by Cederskiöld as "almost a hundred years older than any of the others") the term actually appeared as "biskups mat". Two words. Not one word. In this matter, we were misinformed by Gudmundur Thorarinsson from the beginning.

The Icelandic Church's Opposition to Chess and Berserkers: Regarding Thorarinsson's Argument that the Church Opposed Chess Except in Iceland

One of Gudmundur Thorarinsson's main arguments against Trondheim as the place where the chessmen were made was the Church's opposition to such a project. As will be discussed shortly, this has little relevance as an argument against Trondheim. Possible clerical or legal opposition to games writ large is, though, a valid refutation of Thorarinsson's idiosyncratic notion that the bishop of Skalholt commissioned the Lewis pieces. Nonetheless, Thorarinsson repeatedly emphasizes his idea that the Church opposed chess, while he vigorously promotes the peculiar and contradictory idea that the Lewis pieces were specifically commissioned by the bishop. However, the Icelandic codex of law, *Gragas*, states unequivocally that,

On dice-throwing and board games (Konungabok, #233)...It is prescribed in our laws that men shall not throw dice for money, but if they do, then the penalty is lesser outlawry. Nor are men to play board games with money at stake or anything else which a man thinks better to have than be without. And the penalty for a man who stakes money or anything else on a board game is lesser outlawry, and there is no right to claim such a stake.

Simply put, Iceland was not a European safe haven for game players who wanted to place stakes on their play. These laws were not shared by any other Nordic country at the time the Lewis chessmen were made. Even though chess as it is played today and perhaps chess as it was played then is not generally conceived of as a game of stakes, the Icelandic environment seems somewhat less friendly than elsewhere, where games pieces were regarded as commodities purveyed by merchants, in response to a robust demand. Moreover, if the Lewis pieces were bespoke ones (a

wholecloth supposition on Thorarinsson's part), for an Icelandic bishop to be the patron of such work seems extremely unlikely.

Gudmundur Thorarinsson refers *passim* to Icelandic texts about berserkers, but here as elsewhere he somehow overlooks contemporaneous legal codices, which are generally regarded as being among the best written resources for serious scholarship of this era. As concerns berserkers, No. 7 of the medieval Icelandic laws (the chapter about the Church) states, "If a man goes into a berserk frenzy, the penalty is lesser outlawry, and the same penalty applies to the men who are present unless they restrain him...". These laws date to *circa* 1122-1133, which means that berserkers were outlawed in Iceland at the time the Lewis chessmen were made. Thus, the bishop of Skalholt would have been very brave or very foolish to defy outright a law against berserkers by commissioning a set of games pieces depicting precisely such.

Finally, Thorarinsson's arguments against Trondheim because there are bishops, not archbishops at the board, are beside the point. Let us bear in mind that at the time of the advent of the Gregorian reform movement in the church all over Europe, one of the claims was the clergy's independence of the kings. Thus if someone had launched a game where no less than four archbishops were present, ready to sacrifice themselves for their respective kings, it would seem like that this would have been received by others than the clergy as an intended provocation.

With similar disdain for historical probability, Thorarinsson goes on airily that, "One might imagine that the [Icelandic] bishops...thought it fitting that the men standing closest to the royal couple should be bishops." The actual fact is that Iceland was not a kingdom and it had no formal aristocracy at the time the Lewis chessmen were made. Indeed, Iceland had no kings, no queens, only two bishops, no knights and no regular army for the *hrökr*s/warriors to join. Icelandic society, in contrast to most of western Europe, thus is one of the least likely places in all of the medieval world to give the chess pieces their modern identities on what has been termed "the allegorical chessboard".

Minor Errata

Last, I would like to use this opportunity to briefly correct some of the less egregious of Thorarinsson's mistakes, omissions, and conclusions so as to further emphasize that Thorarinsson trades in speculation at best rather than fact.

1. The bishops' "[m]itres changed again around the year 1200, so the chessmen are unlikely to be much younger than that." As reference for this, he cites "Robinson, *The Lewis Chessmen*; Stratford, *The Lewis Chessmen and the enigma of the hoard*. "First of all, the mitre did not change again before the 14th century. Secondly, none of the cited authors claimed otherwise.
2. "Some scholars claim that the Icelander Sæmundur the Learned was the first citizen of the Nordic countries to be educated in a university in France. He studied there for many years and probably paid for his education with precious artifacts from

Iceland." As universities did not exist in either France or Europe itself at that time, this statement is an anachronism unlikely have been made by Thorarinsson's purported "scholars". While general information batted about on the Internet is that Sæmundur, established at Oddi as of 1078, studied at what would by 1150 become the Sorbonne, modern scholarship tends more to the idea that Sæmundr fróði studied instead in Franconia. Methods of payment for his education are certainly even more speculative rather than "probably... with precious artifacts from Iceland".

3. "According to historians the 'Church politic' in Trondheim was clear. The church should be peaceful and not participate in war or violence." Here I wish only to point out that Thorarinsson makes this claim in regards to the time when the crusades were reaching their peak; a time when bishop Absalon, possibly Denmark's greatest warlord of all times, was at the height of his powers; and a time when the Norwegian church was one of the major forces in the Norwegian civil war (1130 to 1240). Any historian making such a dubious claim should be identified. As usual, Thorarinsson fails to do so despite the appeals to authority he repeatedly makes with such grandiose ostentions to "historians".
4. "[T]he Norwegians know little about their history before 1200, except what was written in Iceland by Icelanders." This is an odd statement. I will focus on the last part, concerning the written sources to Norwegian history. First we have the Norwegian medieval laws, while the medieval Norwegian diplomas are contained in 22 volumes with close to 20000 documents. The three oldest extant history books about Norway were all written in Norway, by Norwegians. In addition there are several shorter texts about history written by Norwegians.
5. Finally, it is necessary to address the abuse of quotes by old scholars. Thorarinsson points to Madden and Murray because they concluded that the use of "hrökr" (warrior) indicated that the chessmen were from Iceland. They thought this because they thought that only Iceland used this term to denominate the rook: both of these men were unaware of the Faroese language, which still has the same expression. Moreover, they were unaware of the fact that this term was used all over Scandinavia in the Medieval era. It is simply inappropriate to mine these fine scholars for misleading and outdated quotes in such a way.

Conclusion

One of the main deficiencies with Gudmundur Thorarinsson's work about the Lewis pieces is the sheer number of incorrect historical facts. The text is marred with simple faults. Hence, the historical handicraft is not well done. Moreover, a number of important and known facts indicating conclusions contrary to his own are omitted, despite that some singlehandedly undo his entire thesis. Additionally, Thorarinsson employs questionable methods, referring to "scholars" and "historians" without naming them, to "manuscripts" without providing any references, to

“artifacts” without providing images or even stating where they might be located. When he does name a written source, he does not cite page numbers. Indeed, approximately 25% of his references as a whole are interviews which cannot be verified. Thus, a reader has to take Gudmundur Thorarinsson’s statements at face value. As demonstrated here, such faith in a work riddled with mistakes, omissions, unsupported assertions, misused sources, and questionable conclusions is a risky business indeed.

Thanks for help from Kristjan Sander (Estonia) and historian Milissa Ellison (USA), who also served as professional editor for English usage and argumentation. I

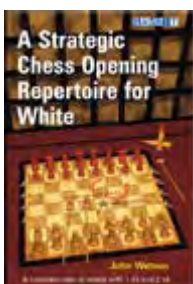
also wish to thank chess collector Ole Drønen (Norway) for his critical comments.

The author, Morten Lilleøren is university-trained in history. In the chess world he is an ICCF Grand Master and was a member of the Norwegian National Team that won the 15th Correspondence Chess Olympiad.

Morten Lilleøren
November 2011-11-05
Oslo, Norway



Recent titles to look out for:



Castles in the air:

After the much-hyped cloud computing comes the news that you can now use cloud chess engines to give your brain and/or your computer a rest. ChessBase’s Fritz 13 (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) is part of one such offering, and the general idea is that some chess capitalist acquires a NASA-sized computer, puts one or more chess engines on it, connects it to the internet then flogs the service to geeks whose houses or wallets aren’t big enough for DIY. You may not get wiser if you subscribe, but you will get poorer as you’ll need to trade in ducats [zat no where the pigeons bide? Ed] every time you buy a slot. Ebay addicts are catered for, as these offerings can allow you to outbid (or be outbid by) other users of the operation, though you can pay more to exclude these irritants. Can’t see me trying it, but I’ll be interested to hear from those of you who do...



Dilbert cartoons are published by Scott Adams at <http://www.dilbert.com/>

If you’ve ever worked in a corporate office, you’ll recognise all the characters...



2nd Webserver Open Final

By George Pyrich

SCO/Open2/final		2nd SCCA Webserver Open Final		TD MacGregor, Colin A. (IA)													
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	SB	RG	Place	
1	SCO	620643	Bell, Alan D.	2353	█	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	5.5	16.75	0	1
2	SCO	629031	Lloyd, Geoffrey	2301	½	█	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	5.5	16.75	0	1
3	SCO	620588	IM Matheis, Thomas	2442	½	½	█	½	1	.	½	1	1	5	15.25	1	3
4	SCO	620345	IM Mackintosh, Iain	2372	½	½	½	█	½	.	½	1	1	4.5	13.25	1	4
5	SCO	620426	Cumming, David R.	2271	½	½	0	½	█	½	½	1	1	4.5	12.75	0	5
6	SCO	620623	Paine, Dr. Kevin	2216	½	½	.	.	½	█	½	1	1	4	10.75	2	6
7	SCO	211664	Graham, Stuart	2309	0	0	½	½	½	½	█	1	1	4	10	0	7
8	SCO	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1801	0	0	0	0	0	0	█	1	1	1	0	0	8
9	SCO	620669	Paulin, Andrew	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	█	1	0	0	0	9

We've had 3 results since our last issue and now only 2 games remain unfinished. However, the leader board remains unchanged and, as before, Kevin Paine can still win the event if he wins his last 2 games!

Here's Kevin in action against Andrew Macmillen.

White: MacMillen, Andrew N (1801)
Black: Paine, Dr. Kevin (2216)
SCCA 2nd Webserver Open Final, 2011

Open Catalan [E05]
[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.c4 **Nf6**
2.Nf3 **e6**
3.g3

Introducing the Catalan now played by almost everyone at top GM level - needless to say there are screeds of theory to follow as in almost every other opening.

3... d5
4.Bg2 **Be7**
5.0-0 **0-0**
6.d4 **dxc4**
7.Qc2 **b5!?**

Very much a sideline which for some reason has never become popular. Usually Black plays 7...a6 when either 8.Qxc4 or 8.a4 are White's options.

8.a4 **b4**
9.Nbd2

9.Ne5!/? was played in Shankland v. Shabalov, USA Ch., 2011 with the continuation 9...Qxd4 10.Bxa8 Qxe5 11.Bf3 Ba6 12.Bf4 when Black maybe has compensation for the exchange - he eventually won.

9... Bb7
10.Nxc4 **Be4**
11.Qd1 **c5**
12.dxc5 **Nbd7**
13.Nfe5 **Bxc2**
14.Kxg2 **Qc7**
15.Nxd7 **Nxd7**
16.Be3 **Rfd8**
17.Qc2



17... Bxc5

Already Black is slightly better.

18.Rac1 **Qb7+**
19.Kg1 **Bxe3**
20.Nxe3 **Rac8**
21.Qb1

21.Qd3 looks better and if 21...Nc5 then maybe 22.Qb5

21... Nc5
22.b3 **Ne4**
23.Rxc8 **Rxc8**
24.Qd3 **Nc3**
25.Nc4 **Qd5**
26.Qe3 **Rc7**
27.Re1 **f6**
28.Qf3 **h6**
29.e4 **Qc6**
30.Kg2?

Now White goes downhill steadily - better was 30.a5

30... Nxa4
31.Rd1 **Nc5**
32.Rd8+ **Kh7**
33.Nd6 **a5**
34.h4 **a4**
35.bxa4 **b3**

Passed pawns should be pushed!

36.a5 **b2**
37.Rb8 **Rb7!**
38.Rxb7

38.Nxb7 Qb5!

38... Nxb7
39.Qb3 **Qc1**
40.Qxe6 **Nxd6**
41.Qxd6 **b1Q**

And it will soon be mate...

0-1



International Update

By George Pyrich

Forthcoming ICCF Events

We are well represented in the 5th ICCF Webserver Open which started on 1st June. Raymond Burrige is playing in 5 sections whilst Derek Coope, Allan Petrie, David Cumming, Derek Price and Ian Marshall are playing in 2 and Colin Beveridge in 1.

We are similarly well represented in the 5th ICCF Veterans World Cup where entries close on 10th July. Derek Coope, Peter Bennett and Alan Borwell have all entered 2 sections whilst Geoff Lloyd, Brian Goodwin, Derek Price and George Pyrich have been mindful that players need be successful in only 1 Preliminary section in order to qualify for the next stage!

The next cycle of the ICCF Champions League is now scheduled to start on 15th October and the official announcement for the event is expected shortly. Anyone interested in playing should contact George Pyrich without delay!

Europa Postal Cup

EU/PC/pr2		European Postal Cup - Preliminary Group 2								TD Hömske, Markus (IA)							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Scottish Claymores	2110	█	0.5	0	0.5	2	0.5	3	3	9.5	73	6	5	13	15	1
2	CASPA-ROV	2005	0.5	█	0	0.5	1	0	2	3	7	77	5	3	9	19	2
3	Veterans	2310	1	1	█	0	0	0	2	2	6	100	6	2	6	22	3
4	A. D. Scacchi Rocca Priora	2247	0.5	0.5	0	█	0	0	2	1	4	80	3	1	5	23	4
5	Dutchess	2076	1	0	0	0	█	0	1	1	3	50	0	0	6	22	5
6	Germany B	2159	0.5	0	0	0	0	█	1	1	2.5	83	2	0	3	25	6
7	White Rose Exiles	1879	0	0	0	0	0	0	█	2	2	15	-9	1	13	15	7
8	Arc-en-ciel / Rainbow / Regnbåge	1854	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	█	0	0	-13	0	13	15	8

Unsurprisingly we have now incurred a couple of losses, though the team still sits at the top of the table! Unfortunately Stuart Graham has had to stand down on top board and has now been replaced by George Pyrich.

9th European Team Championship

EU/TC9/sf2		9th European Team Championship - Semifinal 2												TD Glaser, Karel (IA)							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Switzerland	2387	█	3	2.5	4	3	5	3	3.5	3.5	4	2.5	3	37	51	2	4	72	16	1
2	Lithuania	2488	3	█	2.5	3.5	4	4	2.5	2.5	3	3.5	2	3	33.5	51	2	2	65	23	2
3	Czech Republic	2429	3.5	2.5	█	3	3	3.5	2.5	3.5	1.5	4	1	3	31	52	3	1	59	29	3
4	Finland	2448	3	3.5	3	█	2.5	3.5	3.5	3	2	3.5	1.5	2	31	51	2	0	60	28	4
5	Romania	2420	3	4	3	2.5	█	2	2	3	2.5	3.5	2	3	30.5	52	3	1	58	30	5
6	Luxembourg	2311	3	3	3.5	2.5	2	█	3.5	3	2.5	3	2	2	30	44	-8	0	68	20	6
7	Poland	2452	4	2.5	1.5	2.5	2	4.5	█	3.5	2.5	2	2.5	2	29.5	46	-5	3	64	24	7
8	Scotland	2358	3.5	2.5	3.5	3	2	3	4.5	█	2.5	3	1	1	29.5	49	-1	2	60	28	8
9	Austria	2407	3.5	3	1.5	2	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	█	2	2.5	2.5	29	51	2	0	56	32	9
10	Belarus	2291	3	3.5	3	1.5	2.5	3	3	2	2	█	1.5	3.5	28.5	45	-5	0	62	26	10
11	Russia	2350	2.5	2	1	3.5	2	3	3.5	3	2.5	1.5	█	2.5	27	57	7	0	47	41	11
12	Spain	2412	3	2	3	1	2	3	3	1	2.5	3.5	1.5	█	25.5	48	-2	0	53	35	12

Currently we are sitting in a congested mid-table, with only 2 points separating 3rd and 9th positions.

Witold Bielecki Memorial Team Tournament

MT-Bielecki/pr1		Memorial "Witold Bielecki" - Preliminary 1							TD Wojnar, Mariusz							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Belarus	1845	█	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.5	2	4	17	68	9	4	25	11	1
2	Finland	1930	2.5	█	1	2.5	2.5	1.5	4	14	66	7	2	21	15	2
3	Austria	1927	1.5	1	█	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	12.5	62	5	2	20	16	3
4	Germany	1864	1.5	0.5	0.5	█	3	1.5	4.5	11.5	46	-2	3	25	11	4
5	England	1986	1.5	1.5	0.5	2	█	1.5	2	9	40	-4	0	22	14	5
6	Portugal	1969	1	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	█	2	8	42	-3	0	19	17	6
7	Scotland	1891	0	0	1.5	1.5	1	2	█	6	25	-12	0	24	12	7

Unfortunately our team continues to struggle in this event and now has only just over 30% of its games remaining.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
May 2012	20	Italy	Server	1	4		
Mar 2012	21	Czech Republic	Server	8	12		
Feb 2012	30	Netherlands	Server/Post	6	15		
Mar 2011	20	Romania	Server	12	27		loss
Mar 2011	32	France	Server/Post	14	41		loss
Jan 2011	10	Hong Kong	Server	9	11		loss
Nov 2010	15	Cape Verde	Server	23½	6½		win
Nov 2010	30	Finland	Server/Post	21	38		loss
Sep 2010	32	Sweden	Server/Post	22	39		loss

Our new match against Italy over 20 server boards finally got under way on 10th May, while we also started the 21-board Czech Republic match in March.

European Open Class Postal

The Open Class tournament is the 1st level of ICCF Promotion tournaments. These are regularly started tournament sections where entries are continuously accepted.

Open Class tournaments are offered via postal and webserver playing methods. Sections typically have 7 players, and if you win your section, you are eligible for entry into the next section (Higher Class).

As mentioned in our ICCF Ratings report, Raymond Burridge is very active with an astonishing 59 results in the last quarter! Raymond recently had a nice short win in an ICCF Europe Zone postal event, admittedly assisted a little by his opponent.

White: Burridge, Raymond (1834)

Black: Winkler, Eberhard (1781)

French Defence [C19]

EU/O/127 ICCF, 2012

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.e4	e6
2.d4	d5
3.Nc3	Bb4
4.e5	c5
5.a3	Bxc3+
6.bxc3	Qc7
7.Nf3	Ne7
8.a4	b6
9.Bb5+	Bd7
10.Bd3	Nbc6
11.0-0	c4?!

Black usually plays 11...h6 here, preparing k-side castling which can't be played immediately in view of the "Greek gift" sacrifice Bxh7+

12.Be2	a5?!
--------	------

Another wasted move

13.Re1	h6
14.Bf1	0-0
15.g3	

21.	Bc6?
Rather generous.	
22.Bxc6+	Kf8
23.Qf4#	

1-0



15... Rfe8

After this he's just lost. 15... f6 was better when something like 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Bf4 Qb7 18.Bh3 Raf8 leaves White better but Black is still in the game.

16.Bh3 Rab8

17.Nh4 Ng6?

Very weakening although White had a big attack coming anyway.

18.Nxg6 fxc6

19.Qg4 Ne7

20.Ba3 h5

21.Qg5



21. Bc6?

Rather generous.

22.Bxc6+ Kf8

23.Qf4#



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

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2012

Theme 4/12: Ruy Lopez, Cordel Defence, C64

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

Theme 5/12: Winawer Gambit, D10

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e5

Entries by 15 November; play starts 1 December

Webserver Events 2012

Theme 5/12: French, MacCutcheon Variation, C12

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.e5 h6

Entries by 1 September; play starts 15 September

Theme 6/12: Anti-Benoni, Kasparov's Gambit, A31

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d5

Entries by 15 October; play starts 1 November

Note there are no Email Events in 2012.

News

- ❑ Champions League 5 has been delayed by adjudications in the previous cycle which affect promotion and relegation. The organisers are hopeful of starting cycle 5 in October.
- ❑ The first Junior World Cup has been won by Danny Porcelli (ITA) after 4 years of play – he may have been junior when he started, but...
- ❑ The German organisers (BdF) of Veterans' World Cup 5 have extended the registration period to July 10th, with play still expected to start on September 1st.
- ❑ Play in Veterans' World Cups 2-4 (organised by SCCA) continues to progress on schedule.
- ❑ The 5th ICCF Webchess Open Tournament has attracted a record 637 entries.
- ❑ Rafael Leitão of Brazil has been awarded the GM title for his performances in the World Championship Candidates & World Championship Final. He joins a very exclusive band of players who are GM's both with ICCF and FIDE

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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