

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.128

Winter 2014

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Welcome to the last edition of the 2014 magazine set. I hope all your Christmases were happy indeed, and on behalf of the SCCA I wish you all health and success in 2015!

Speaking of health, we're glad to report that Alan Borwell got back home for Christmas after an abdominal operation in December and is making good progress.

Another of our stalwarts, George Pyrich, hasn't had his own health troubles to seek in recent years and is planning to move to sunnier climes in Spain this year. That's the kind of stunt you can pull when you're an international director!

We're running our Best Game Prize again this year. If you've got some brilliancy you uncorked during 2014, please enter before end-January – full details are on the following Notices page.

George sets us in motion by analysing the first ICCF rating list of 2015 where Alan has some interesting comments to make about numbers of rated games.

I've summarised our 2014 domestic season for you, and thanks are due once again to our TDs who provided an excellent administration and results service.

Alan McGowan, the Chess Scotland archivist, looks at the role of the Greenock Telegraph in Scottish CC.

Peter Bennett has enjoyed some success in recent VWC events and brings you tales of some of his jousts with Russian players.

Our Games Column once more has some very well-annotated offerings, with notable contributions by Gordon Anderson, David Cumming and Tom Matheis.

George's international report covers the usual wide range of events in which Scottish teams and individuals are involved. Annotated games played by Iain Campbell and Geoff Lloyd feature, and there's just enough space to include a postscript arising from George's book review in our last issue.

Pour yourself a generous whisky and enjoy!

SCCA Membership

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

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

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

SCCA 100 Club

The 100 Club is an important revenue-earner for the SCCA and it helps us to keep our fees low and/or unchanged year on year. Responsibility for the 100 Club rests with our Treasurer, Gordon Anderson.

Units cost £1 with some members taking one unit while others take as many as 10 units per month. From the Association's perspective paying by Bankers Order is most convenient.

If you don't already subscribe to the 100 club please consider if you can help the SCCA by taking out units and make contact with Gordon whose contact details are shown below.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2014	1st	2nd
December	G D Pyrich	G M Anderson
November	I Mackintosh	P M Giulian
October	G M Anderson	G D Pyrich

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.



Italy v Rest of Europe Match



Marco Caressa, ICCF-Europa Zonal Director, writes to advise that the annual match between one country and the Rest of Europe will feature Italy in 2015 (last year it was Germany). The match will be played on the ICCF webserver over at least 100 boards.

Each country may nominate 3 players for the Rest of Europe Team. Time Control is 50 days for 10 moves and, per normal friendly matches, each player plays 2 games against his opponent. The start date is March 1st 2015. For further details or to volunteer, please contact George Pyrich on international@scottishcca.co.uk as soon as possible.

ICCF 2015 World Championship Preliminaries



ICCF Title Tournaments
Commissioner Gian-Maria Tani writes to announce the Preliminaries stage of the 2015 World Championship. This event will be played in sections of 13 players (or 15/17 at the organisers' discretion), with entries closing on

15th February and play commencing on 20th March.

Entry must be made through national delegates and each member federation is allowed to nominate entries - SCCA is once again entitled to 3 places in the 2015 cycle (includes Preliminaries and Semi-Finals). If you are interested, please contact George Pyrich before 8th February.

ICCF Player Profile Photographs



Andrew Dearnley, ICCF Marketing Director, writes to advise that player photographs can now be added to their ICCF profiles. To have your mugshot displayed, you send the image (in either jpg or png format) to your national delegate who carries out the

necessary steps to upload and resize the pic on the ICCF database. For further details, or to submit your photograph, please contact George Pyrich.

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SCCA 100 Club



Treasurer Gordon Anderson writes:

A number of members have actively subscribed to the Association's 100 club for a number of years and these contributions are very much appreciated. Recently, 3 long standing subscribers have retired and decided that they will no longer contribute to the 100 club. We urgently need some new subscribers.

If you have not been a subscriber or have previously subscribed but allowed your subscription to lapse, why not take up a unit or two or indeed three units (always happy to accept subscriptions for more units)? If you are interested please contact Gordon on treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk for more information. The usual method of subscribing is monthly standing order which spreads the annual cost.

SCCA Best Game Prize 2014



SIM Richard Beecham has kindly consented to be our judge for this competition. Submitted games will be rendered anonymous before they are sent to him.

The trophy (which won't look like the illustration!) will carry the inscription of its sponsor, Raymond Burrige.

- Entries will be games which finish in a given calendar year (2014 in this case);
- Entries will be restricted to events organised by SCCA or ICCF;
- Only SCCA members can submit their games (wins or draws);
- The submission period will close at the end of January 2015;
- Multiple entries are permitted, previously published games are eligible and entrants may optionally supply annotations;
- The winner will be announced by end-March 2015 and we'll feature the game in a subsequent magazine;

Please send your games to Iain Mackintosh at president@scottishcca.co.uk by **end-January 2015**.



2015/1 Grading List

By George Pyrich

The first ICCF grading list of 2015 has been published and the new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 September and 30 November 2014. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 January and 31 March 2015.

One addition was recorded in this list, with Anton Davis gaining a provisional rating. Four deletions were recorded, with Jonathan Lennox, Robert Loughran, Murdo MacDonald and Andrew Paulin dropping out due to inactivity. Membership numbers are retained for easy reinstatement should any previously removed players return to the board.

Ian Marshall recovered form to re-enter the 2000+ grading band, while Charles O'Neill-McAleenan made it to 2000+ for the first time. Congratulations to both players!

Nobody passed any century games milestones this time, but the last quarter was again very active, with the majority of players completing games. Raymond BurrIDGE with 66 and Martin Hardwick with 54 were out in front, while Eoin Campbell totalled 44; David Cumming played 34 and Carlos Almarza Mato notched up 33.

Alan Borwell points out that games totals are those recorded by the ICCF system, first introduced in the 1980s. Many CC players have additional completed games before that time – Alan's own record starts in 1972, so his games total is actually 1340+!

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	899	2168 ↑	063	Harvey, D	96	2066 ↑
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	261	2310 ↑	1013	Hilton, S H	127	1637 ↔
121	Anderson, J	244	1723 ↑	447	Jamieson, I M	79	1948 ↓
049	Armstrong, A	172	1882 ↓	322	Jessing, M	29	2083 ↔ *
313	Armstrong, J McK	266	1599 ↑	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	315	2327 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	394	2471 ↑	260	Knox, A	159	1595 ↑
599	Bell, A D (SM)	163	2400 ↑	1117	Laing, D	24	2100 ↔ *
501	Bennett, P G (SM)	267	2355 ↑	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	667	2263 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	959	2276 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	367	1883 ↓
424	BurrIDGE, R J	671	1986 ↓	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	606	2437 ↓
435	Cairney, J	60	2082 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	656	1739 ↓
601	Campbell, E S	176	2147 ↑	566	Marshall, I H	479	2029 ↑
038	Campbell, I S	258	1824 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	190	2445 ↑
	Clark, S L	76	2070 ↑	412	McKinstry, J	80	1568 ↓
364	Coope, D W	652	1912 ↓	401	Moir, P J	168	1619 ↔
247	Cormack, W H	82	1914 ↔	598	Montgomery, R S	244	2269 ↑
527	Craig, T J (SM)	371	2326 ↓	564	Murray, J S	42	1993 ↓
166	Cumming, D R (SM)	878	2330 ↑	440	Neil, C	142	1549 ↑
	Davis, A	14	1544 ↑ *	429	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	110	2018 ↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G	85	2061 ↔	444	Paine, Dr K A	156	2297 ↔
572	Dempster, D	745	1753 ↔	315	Petrie, A	84	1540 ↔
371	Edney, D	185	1984 ↓	432	Price, D	265	2091 ↓
372	Flockhart, H	29	2134 ↔ *	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	918	2168 ↓
459	Fraser, R A	60	1853 ↔	357	Robson, A C W	12	1374 ↔ *
462	Gilbert, R	59	1813 ↓		Sedstrem, A	13	1651 ↔ *
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	139	2275 ↓	439	Smith, M J	41	1950 ↔
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)	472	2398 ↔	463	Smith, P R	46	1737 ↔
124	Goodwin, B J	260	1952 ↑	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	158	2095 ↓
445	Graham, S (SM)	354	2202 ↔	1120	Taylor, W	46	2031 ↔
399	Grant, J	38	1773 ↑	452	Toye, D T	77	1582 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	495	1495 ↑	530	Watson, J (IM)	147	2306 ↔

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	62
New entrants	1
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	4
Full grades (30+ games)	56
Provisional grades (<30 games)	6
Grading increases (↑)	26
Grading decreases (↓)	16
Grading static (↔)	20

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2471	Lloyd, G (SM)	2263
Matheis, T (IM)	2445	Graham, S (SM)	2202
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2437	Almarza Mato, C	2168
Bell, A D (SM)	2400	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2168
Giulian, P M (SIM)	2398	Campbell, E S	2147
Bennett, P G (SM)	2355	Stewart, Dr K W C	2095
Cumming, D R (SM)	2330	Price, D	2091
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2327	Cairney, J	2082
Craig, T J (SM)	2326	Clark, S L	2070
Anderson, G M (SM)	2310	Harvey, D	2066
Watson, J (IM)	2306	Dawson, Prof A G	2061
Paine, Dr K A	2297	Taylor, W	2031
Borwell, A P (IM)	2276	Marshall, I H	2029
Gillam, S R (SM)	2275	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	2018
Montgomery, R S	2269	Murray, J S	1993

Top 30 Rated Games

Borwell, A P (IM)	958	MacGregor, C A	367
Pyrich, G D (IM)	918	Graham, S (SM)	354
Almarza-Mato, C	899	Kilgour, D A (GM)	315
Cumming, D R (SM)	878	Bennett, P G (SM)	267
Dempster, D	745	Armstrong, J McK	266
Burridge, R J	671	Price, D	265
Lloyd, G (SM)	667	Anderson, G M (SM)	261
MacMillen, A N	656	Goodwin, B J	260
Coope, D W	652	Anderson, J	244
Mackintosh, I (IM)	606	Montgomery, R S	244
Hardwick, M E	495	Matheis, T (IM)	190
Marshall, I H	479	Edney, D	185
Giulian, P M (SIM)	472	Campbell, E S	176
Beecham, C R (SIM)	394	Armstrong, A	172
Craig, T J (SM)	371	Moir, P J	168

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 Eloquery program, previously available for download from www.iccf.com

The Eloquery 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



2014 Results

By Iain Mackintosh

Championship

SCO/C2014, Sottish CCA Championship 2014/15

				TD Maxwell, Alistair												Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6						
1	SCO	620716	Campbell, Eoin S.	2000			½	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	½	6	2	21.25	0	1	
2	SCO	629031	Lloyd, Geoffrey	2276	½	½			½	½	1	½	.	.	1	½	5	2	19	2	2
3	SCO	620426	Cumming, David R.	2313	½	0	½	½			½	½	.	.	½	1	4	1	15.25	2	3
4	SCO	620635	Burridge, Raymond John	2048	½	½	½	0	½	½			0	0	½	½	3.5	0	15	0	4
5	SCO	620529	Montgomery, Robert S.	2310	½	½	.	.	.	.	1	1			.	.	3	2	13	6	5
6	SCO	620410	Goodwin, Brian J.	1889	½	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	.	.			2.5	0	11	2	6

SCO/C2013, Scottish CCA Championship 2013/14

				TD Maxwell, Alistair												Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5							
1	SCO	620426	Cumming, David R.	2304			½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	6	19.5	0	1
2	SCO	620345	IM Mackintosh, Iain	2438	½	½			1	½	1	1	1	1	1	6.5	5	17.75	0	2
3	SCO	620529	Montgomery, Robert S.	2312	0	0	½	0			1	1	1	1	1	4.5	4	7.25	0	3
4	SCO	620410	Goodwin, Brian J.	1946	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	1	1	1	1	0	4
5	SCO	620709	Smith, Peter R.	1760	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			1	1	1	0	4

The 2013-14 tournament is complete with David Cumming winning his second title by edging out Iain Mackintosh. In the 2014-15 event, Eoin Campbell is the leader in the clubhouse, but can be caught by three of the chasing players.

Premier

SCO/Prem2014/A, SCCA Premier 2014 A

				TD Paine, Dr. Kevin (IA)						Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6						
1	SCO	620635	Burridge, Raymond John	2048		½	1	1	1	1	4.5	4	8.5	0	1
2	SCO	620639	Jamieson, Ian M.	2003	½		½	1	1	1	4	3	7	0	2
3	SCO	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1829	0	½		1	1	1	3.5	3	5	0	3
4	SCO	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1664	0	0	0		1	1	2	2	1	0	4
5	SCO	629020	Knox, Arthur	1589	0	0	0	0		1	1	1	0	0	5
6	SCO	620578	Petrie, A.	1535	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	6

SCO/Prem2014/B, SCCA Premier 2014 B

				TD Paine, Dr. Kevin (IA)						Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6						
1	SCO	620635	Burridge, Raymond John	2048		1	½	1	1	1	4.5	4	8.75	0	1
2	ENG	211797	Lawrence, Stephanie	1823	0		1	1	1	1	4	4	6.5	0	2
3	SCO	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1829	½	0		1	1	1	3.5	3	5.25	0	3
4	SCO	620424	Anderson, James	1736	0	0	0		1	0	1	1	1	0	4
5	SCO	620578	Petrie, A.	1535	0	0	0	0		1	1	1	1	0	5
6	SCO	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1588	0	0	0	1	0		1	1	1	0	6

Raymond Burridge won both sections outright; he pipped Ian Jamieson in A, and Stephanie Lawrence in B by the same margin.

Open

SCO/Open2014/A, SCCA Open 2014 Section A

					TD Paine, Dr. Kevin (IA)																
Rated					1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	SCO	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1664			1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9.5	9	37	0	1
2	SCO	620424	Anderson, James	1736	½	0			1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	8	7	27.5	0	2
3	SCO	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1588	0	0	0	0			1	0	1	1	1	1	5	5	10.5	0	3
4	SCO	620578	Petrie, A.	1535	0	0	0	½	1	0			1	0	1	1	4.5	4	12	0	4
5	SCO	620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	1351	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0			1	1	3	3	4.5	0	5
6	SCO	620726	Kearns, Alan	1750 ^P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	6

Just one Open section this year, and winner Robert Gilbert narrowly failed to repeat his 100% Club performance of last year, conceding just a draw to runner-up Jim Anderson.

Challengers

2013-14 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J McK	10	8	0	5½
Burridge, R J	16	16	0	9
Cumming, D R	10	10	0	9½
Gilbert, R	8	8	0	3
Hardwick, M E	8	8	0	½
Lawrence, S	4	4	0	3
Longden, R	12	12	0	4½
Macgregor, C A	2	2	0	1½
Robson, A C W	6	6	0	0
Smith, P R	4	4	0	3½

2014-15 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J McK	8	8	0	2
Burridge, R J	8	8	0	5½
Cumming, D R	6	6	0	6
Davis, A	2	2	0	0
Gilbert, R	8	8	0	4½
Hardwick, M E	4	4	0	0

All games in the 2013-14 cycle are now complete, but the result remains the same – David Cumming takes gold. The 2014-15 cycle was smaller than usual. The gold medal winner is Raymond Burridge on the basis of the highest score over 8 games. Robert Gilbert was second. Honourable mention should be made of David Cumming who again scored 100% but only played 6 games.



This year's Christmas Capercaillie greeting sent worldwide to friends of the SCCA!

Postal League Division 1

2014		Opponent	Game A	Game B	Pts.
A	Social Stars				5
1	Doye, P	D1	½	½	1
2	Vivante-Sowter, J	C2	1	½	1½
3	Pomeroy, R	B3	½	0	½
4	Rosser, G	D4	1	0	1
5	Barron, G	C5	½	½	1
B	BCCA A				7½
1	Gallimore, D	C1	0	0	0
2	Bradney, R	D2	1	1	2
3	Beckett, P	A3	½	1	1½
4	Cooper, R A	C4	1	1	2
5	Smyth, S	D5	1	1	2
C	Knights of the Board A				3½
1	Cumming, D R	B1	1	1	2
2	Burridge, R J	A2	0	½	½
3	Anderson, J	D3	0	0	0
4	Kearns, A	B4	0	0	0
5	Gilbert, R	A5	½	½	1
D	BCCA B				4
1	Sutton, A	A1	½	½	1
2	Lawrence, Ms S	B2	0	0	0
3	Coats, J	C3	1	1	2
4	Tibbert, P H	A4	0	1	1
5	Riggs, J	B5	0	0	0

A truncated Postal League this year saw the BCCA A team record a first-ever victory, finishing well clear of multiple winners Social Stars.

Multiple Championship and League Winners

Championship

- 6 Mackintosh, I
- 4 Beecham, C R
- 3 Brown, Dr A C; Giulian, P M; McAlpine, K B; Norris, A J
- 2 Bryson, D M; Cumming, D R; Dawson, Prof A G; Gillam, S R; Hunter, D B A; Lennox, C J; Watson, J

League (Webserver and Postal)

- 17 Perth Correspondents
- 7 Social Stars
- 6 Five Brave Englishmen
- 4 Chess Suppliers; Streatham & Brixton
- 3 The Establishment; Black Knight
- 3 Kirkcaldy Kings; Knights of the Square Table

Webserver Leagues

An extra league this year reflected the popularity of this event.

In Division 1, Social Stars and Hounds of the Scheming Mind A shared the spoils, and though Social Stars won the individual match 3-1, no tie-break was operated. Multiple winners Perth Correspondents took third spot.

In Division 2, Civil Service A edged out Hounds of the Scheming Mind B by half a point, with Social B some way back in third place.

In Division 3, White Rose A had a two-point margin over Hounds of the Scheming Mind C who completed a hat-trick of second spots across the divisions. Renfrewshire Knights were a distant third.

Webserver League Division 1

SCO/WLeague1/14, SCCA Web League Div 1 2014

TD Dawson, A. G.

			1	2	3	4	5	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	+	Social Stars	2168		3	2.5	2.5	2	10	62	4	7	16	0	1
2	+	Hounds of the Scheming Mind A	2249	1		3	2.5	3.5	10	62	4	6	16	0	2
3	⊗	Perth Correspondants	2120	1.5	1		3	3.5	9	56	2	4	16	0	3
4	⊗	Black Knight	2084	1.5	1.5	1		2	6	37	-4	1	16	0	4
5	⊗	Knights of the Board A	2169	2	0.5	0.5	2		5	31	-6	2	16	0	5

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
Social Stars	Vivante-Sowter, J	Ewan, R	Etherington, J	Pallett, R
Hounds Scheming	Halliwell, Ms T	Schiller, W	R Maldonado, C J	Farkas, L
Perth Corresp	Borwell, A P	Paine, Dr K A	Harvey, D	Warren, J
Black Knight	Bell, A D	Pyrich, G D	Marshall, I H	Dempster, D
Knights Board A	Gillam, S R	Cumming, D R	Price, D	Jamieson, I M

Webserver League Division 2

SCO/WLeague2/14, SCCA Web League Div 2 2014

TD Dawson, A. G.

				1	2	3	4	5	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	+	Civil Service A	2076		2	3	4	4	13	81	10	7	16	0	1
2	+	Hounds of the Scheming Mind B	2033	2		2.5	4	4	12.5	78	9	7	16	0	2
3	+	Social B	1933	1	1.5		1.5	3	7	43	-2	2	16	0	3
4	⊗	Brutal Realism	1912	0	0	2.5		2.5	5	31	-6	4	16	0	4
5	+	Civil Service B	1851	0	0	1	1.5		2.5	15	-11	0	16	0	5

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
Civil Service A	Sargent, J M	Lewyk, I	Barber, P	Pickering, P
Hounds Scheming	Kjeldsen, K	Grummitt, W	Duchardte, A	Pallett, R
Social B	Ackley, P J E	Cairney, J	Baron, M	Ash, G
Brutal Realism	Taylor, W	Macmillen, A N	Murray, J S	Grant, J
Civil Service B	Pomeroy, R J	Bicknell, G	Twitchell, N H	White, R

Webserver League Division 3

SCO/WLeague3/14, SCCA Web League Div 3 2014

TD Dawson, A. G.

				1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	+	White Rose A	2154		2.5	3.5	3.5	4	3	16.5	82	13	10	20	0	1
2	+	Hounds of the Scheming Mind C	1935	1.5		3.5	3	3	3.5	14.5	72	9	8	20	0	2
3	⊗	Renfrewshire Knights	1759	0.5	0.5		2.5	2.5	2.5	8.5	42	-3	6	20	0	3
4	+	White Rose B	1812	0.5	1	1.5		2	2.5	7.5	37	-5	3	20	0	4
5	⊗	Civil Service Scotland	1886	0	1	1.5	2		2.5	7	34	-6	3	20	0	5
6	+	Social C	1815	1	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		6	30	-8	0	20	0	6

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
White Rose A	Sutton, A B	Herriot, B J	Suffield, M	Grobler, D J
Hounds Scheming	Galvin, J H	Parente, A	Ikonomopoulos, I	Williamson, D L
Renfrew Knights	Macgregor, C A	Hilton, S H	Cochrane, R	Gilbert, R
White Rose B	Beckett, P J	Wood, B	White, R	Holt, F
Civil Service Scot	Hicks, G	Ryan, R	Sedstrem, A	Dick, S L
Social C	Rosser, G C	Pickering, P	Richardson, D	Rixon, A

3rd Webserver Open Section A1

SCO/Open/3A1, 3rd SCCA WS Open Group A Section 1

						TD Borwell, Alan P. (IA)											
Rated						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	SCO	620426		Cumming, David R.	2300	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	4	2	9.25	0	1
2	SCO	620184	SIM	Beecham, C. Richard	2461	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	4	2	9	0	2
3	SCO	629031		Lloyd, Geoffrey	2270	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	4	2	9	0	2
4	SCO	211558		Bennett, Peter G.	2336	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	3.5	1	8.25	0	4
5	SCO	620192	GM	Kilgour, David A.	2337	0	½	½	½	½	.	1	2.5	1	5.75	1	5
6	SCO	620577		Price, Derek	2043	½	0	0	½	.	½	1	2	1	3.75	1	6
7	SCO	620639		Jamieson, Ian M.	2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	7

3rd Webserver Open Section A2

SCO/Open/3A2, 3rd SCCA WS Open Group A Section 2

						TD Borwell, Alan P. (IA)											
Rated						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	SCO	620588	IM	Matheis, Thomas	2436	½	½	1	½	1	1	-C	4	3	8.25	0	1
2	SCO	620345	IM	Mackintosh, Iain	2438	½	½	½	½	1	1	-C	3.5	2	7.25	0	2
3	BRA	70104		Kover, Prof. Dr. Warner Bruce	2186	0	½	½	1	½	½	-C	2.5	1	5.25	0	3
4	SCO	620426		Cumming, David R.	2300	½	½	0	½	½	½	-C	2	0	5.25	0	4
5	SCO	620204	IM	Pyrich, George D.	2215	0	0	½	½	½	½	-C	1.5	0	3	0	5
6	SCO	620529		Montgomery, Robert S.	2317	0	0	½	½	½	½	-C	1.5	0	3	0	5
7	SCO	629036		Edney, David	1952	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	½	0	0	0	0	7

3rd Webserver Open Section B1

SCO/Open/3B1, 3rd SCCA WS Open Group B Section 1

						TD Borwell, Alan P. (IA)																
Rated						1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	SCO	629036		Edney, David	1952	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	9	8	35.75	0	1
2	SCO	620635		Burridge, Raymond John	1849	0	0	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	6.5	5	19.5	0	2
3	SCO	620522		Cormack, William H.	1921	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	6.5	4	21	0	3
4	SCO	620454		MacMillen, Andrew N.	1860	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	6	4	18.25	0	4
5	SCO	620603		Armstrong, John M.	1599	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	1	0	1	1	1	0	5
6	SCO	629020		Knox, Arthur	1596	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	5

3rd Webserver Open Section B1

SCO/Open/3B2, 3rd SCCA WS Open Group B Section 2

						TD Borwell, Alan P. (IA)															
Rated						1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
1	SCO	210729		Coope, Derek William	1939	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	6.5	5	18.75	0	1	
2	SCO	30129		Dempster, Dave	1727	0	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	5.5	4	13.75	0	2	
3	SCO	620716		Campbell, Eoin S.	1980	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	5.5	3	15.75	0	3	
4	SCO	620009		Campbell, Iain S.	1835	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	1	1	2.5	2	2.75	0	4	
5	SCO	620648		Hardwick, Martin E.	1429	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	0	0	5

Play is now complete in the 4 Preliminary Sections and all the qualifiers to the Finals established. Indeed the B Final officially started on 31st December but 4 games have already been completed!



The Greenock Telegraph and Correspondence Chess By Alan McGowan

The Reverend John Young was associated with Greenock Chess Club for many years and was a member of the club's teams that won the Spens Cup twice, in 1911 and 1923.



Greenock Chess Club, with Spens Cup, 1923

The photo shows members of the Greenock CC, Spens Cup winners in 1911 and 1923. Rev John Young is standing in the centre. Image taken by Bill Young, grandson of the Rev Young, and reproduced courtesy of the Chess Scotland archive.

In September 1923 he started a chess column in the Greenock Telegraph, which ran for sixteen years. During that time Rev. Young organised a number of correspondence matches between readers of the newspaper and teams from around Britain, invariably with success. Details of one of the contests are shown below, the match being decided a few months before the outbreak of WW2.

Some of the players were clearly connected to Greenock and surrounding area; the Rev. Young, of course, as well as CW Marshall, JB Law and J. Paton. However, I am not so sure that the three members of the Edinburgh Ladies' CC – Mrs Ritchie, Miss Henderson and Miss Milne Rae – were avid readers of a Greenock newspaper! Also, HJM Thoms was far removed from the newspaper's main circulation base, being a member of Dundee CC.



Nevertheless, this is an example of the rising popularity of correspondence chess in Scotland during the 1930s, partly helped, no doubt, by the fact that DM MacIsaac, editor of the chess column in the Glasgow Herald and a keen correspondence player himself, gave space to the Greenock Telegraph matches in his own column.

The contest against Cornwall commenced in October 1938, with the full results being published in the Glasgow Herald chess column of 23 June, 1939.

A ? has been shown where there was uncertainty about the spelling of a name.

Greenock Telegraph		Cornwall Chess Association
JW Hastie	1-0	SL Hart
HJM Thoms	½	JN Douglas
Rev. J. Young	½	EB Taylor
GE Kerr	½	CT Bennett
Mrs Ritchie	½	WJ T__ man ?
CW Marshall	½	Rev. WP Robertson
R. Laing	0-1	DR MEM Jago
JB Law	½	Rev. GE Hewson
J. Steele	0-1	A. Toms
JB Corstorphine	½	R. Lean
WM Mitchell	1-0	A. Mayne ?
J. Paton	½	S. Harvey
PD Walker	1-0	R. Dingle
W. Sharp	0-1	Rev. E. Truscott
Mrs Brockett	1-0	T. Coburn
J. Keddie	1-0	H. Westlake
T. Dunlop	1-0	Miss Chater
G. Dunlop	1-0	GC Jones
Rev. JE Henderson	1-0	Dr AG East
RN Murray	0-1	? Pearce
RA Brown	1-0	ET Dillon
J. McCracken	1-0	WB Williams
A. Lawson	1-0	WF Stamp
AS Morris	1-0	FA Glover ?
WS Peden	½	GP Hicks ?
J. Nisbet	1-0	Mrs Kingdom
JI Swan	1-0	HD Morris
DG Nicolson	½	JH Rose
R. Grant	½	L. Sherries ?
J. Leitch	½	R. Knight
CJ Doherty	½	C. Penrose
Miss Henderson	1-0	WA Crewes
Miss Milne Rae	1-0	FR Saxby
J. Nish	0-1	Mrs R. Martin
JG Stewart	½	DB Peacock
	23	12



Beating the Russians The ultimate goal of every chess player?

By Peter Bennett

Let's face it: in the world of chess, in any code, the Russians are good. For the second half of the 20th century they dominated the OTB game, apart from the all-too-brief period in which Fischer was at his peak. In the CC game Russia was, and remains, the country with by far the highest concentration of master-strength players. The fact that I am writing this article at all is a huge indirect compliment to the greatest chess nation on earth. A curious fact is that a tiny country - the Netherlands, punching well above its weight - has produced more CC Super-GMs than Russia; but to write an article entitled "Beating the Dutch!"? It just doesn't grab you as a title, does it?

Whereas hundreds of books have been written by or about Russian OTB players, relatively little has been said about their qualities as CC players. What, if anything, is special about Russian CC? Here, I can only share some of what I have learned over the years.

In the first place, most Russian CC players are strong OTB players as well, they belonged to clubs when they were young at which they were trained. They know their opening theory and their endgame theory; so you won't often outplay them in either.

Take opening theory, for example. In the mid-seventies, I acquired the complete 5-volume 1st edition of ECO (the Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings) which gave me an advantage over many CC players who were still relying on the (nevertheless brilliantly revised) 10th edition of MCO. ECO had, at a guess, 20 times as many lines as MCO; but a few years later a CC-IM friend of mine used occasionally to send me photocopies of lines from a Russian openings encyclopaedia, published only in Russian, which was about three times the size of ECO.

Today, a Western CC expert of my close acquaintance has a database with 13 million CC games; but my *SCCA Magazine* 128

fear is that the Russians would chuckle at such a claim over their vodkas, before dipping into their "closed" Russian databases with 30 million games....

Even without engaging in too much Fischerite paranoia, another characteristic of Russian CC players is that they are hugely competitive. In the current 100-board, Russia v Europe match, in which players were broadly matched for grading, the Russians are absolutely hammering the rest of the continent. In that match, too, I have suffered only the third 2-0 whitewash that I can recall in the 49 years since I first played postal chess.



When I first started playing in Category 3 events, where master norms are available, my former club colleague CC-SIM Alan Rawlings gave me a useful piece of advice: watch the Russians, they are usually much stronger than their gradings would suggest! The reason for this, as I subsequently discovered, is that they play most of their chess in internal, Russian competitions; so with fewer opportunities to play in international events they don't have the same chance to advance their ICCF rankings. Once they break into the international arena, their gradings often rise dramatically.

In complicated middle-game positions, too, the Russians are formidable: they work hard, they fight, they are supremely determined and they never give up. An example to which the interested reader may care to refer is the game Bennett - Gus'kov in WCCC36pr10. In that game I mounted a risky but blistering attack at one stage of which I thought I was winning and, I am sure, would have prevailed against a typically lazy British opponent relying too

heavily on his engine; but my Russian opponent burned midnight oil at every move, often surprising me with the adventurousness of his defence, and got a deserved draw. He even had the cheek to claim - and get! - a draw in his adjudicated game in that tournament against Gomez, in which his opponent stood +2.75 in the final position. The result was that Gus'kov finished half a point ahead of me in the tournament.

So, back to the original question: how to beat the Russians? My answer is to stick with first principles, never lose track of those simple timeless lessons about how to win chess games, as set out in the writings of the supreme exponents of the open game, such as Capablanca and Bronstein. The eventual aim of a chess game is to deliver mate, the most commonly effective way to force mate being to achieve superiority through the promotion of a pawn. Before a pawn can be promoted, it needs to become a passed pawn. So in every middle game position we have to think, which of my pawns has the best chance of becoming a passed pawn? And how can we bring this about? This simple, unbending rule is the common, linking factor between the three illustrative games I have presented in this article.

In the first game, below, my opponent's initial grading of 2164 was typically misleading and already out of date as we started playing. By the time we had finished our game, Silin had already crossed the 2300 barrier - to 2303 - six months and two lists before I did. By the adjudication date he was graded 2351. Against lower-graded opposition in this tournament group, he outscored me with 6 wins to my 4; and, if I had drawn my game against him, Silin would have finished ahead of me (and I would not now be playing in the VWC4 Semifinal for which I subsequently qualified - see the third game, below).

White: Bennett, Peter (SCO), 2252
Black: Silin, Viktor (RUS), 2164
 ICCF VWC4 PG11
 French Defence [C18]
 [Notes by Peter Bennett]

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. e4 | e6 |
| 2. d4 | d5 |
| 3. Nc3 | Bb4 |
| 4. e5 | |

In many French variations, especially the Winawer and the Advance, the e-pawn is White's most potent pawn.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 4... | c5 |
| 5. a3 | Bxc3+ |
| 6. bxc3 | Ne7 |
| 7. Qg4 | O-O |
| 8. Bd3 | c4 |
| 9. Bh6 | Ng6 |
| 10. Bxg6 | fxg6 |
| 11. Be3 | Nc6 |
| 12. h4 | Rf5 |
| 13. Qh3 | Bd7 |
| 14. g4 | Rf8 |
| 15. h5 | gxh5 |
| 16. Qxh5 | h6 |
| 17. g5 | Be8 |
| 18. Qg4 | h5 |



19. Qxe6+

At the cost of a shattered king side, White turns the e-pawn into a protected passed pawn. This doesn't show up as a huge advantage on engine analysis at this stage, but is potentially a vital asset for the subsequent endgame.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 19... | Bf7 |
| 20. Qh3 | Qa5 |
| 21. Ne2 | g6 |



22. e6!

Taking advantage of the Black Q being out of position on a5. My natural tendency would be to hold the pawn back, but White cannot afford to waste time, given that Black also has a protected passed pawn. It is possible that my opponent was expecting 22.0-0, the preference of the engine I was using at the time; but this is one of those exceptional situations in which White's solid pawn centre provides the king with its best protection. Castling either side is contra-indicated by the pawn structure.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 22... | Be8 |
| 23. a4 | Ne7 |
| 24. Bc1 | Qd8 |
| 25. Ba3 | a5 |
| 26. f4 | Qc7 |
| 27. Kd2 | Ra6 |
| 28. Rhe1 | Kh7 |
| 29. Rf1 | Rf5 |
| 30. Ng3 | Rxf4 |
| 31. Rae1 | Nc6 |
| 32. Re3 | Nd8 |



33. e7!

1-0



My next opponent, Purynychev, is not as strong as Silin but he was a tough nut to crack, all the same. To illustrate the degree of respect one should afford any Russian opponent, the top seed in the tournament in which we met was the Bulgarian SIM, Georgi Sapundjiev (2379), whose highest grading historically had been 2529. I was pleased to get a draw against Sapundjiev but Purynychev beat him in their individual game!

White: Bennett, Peter (SCO), 2288
Black: Purynychev, Yury (RUS), 2130

ICCF VWC5 PG03, 2014
 Closed Ruy Lopez [C92]
 [Notes by Peter Bennett]

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 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 | Bb7 |
| 10.d4 | Re8 |
| 11.Nbd2 | Bf8 |
| 12.a4 | h6 |
| 13.Bc2 | Nb8 |
| 14.Bd3 | c6 |
| 15.Nf1 | Nbd7 |
| 16.Ng3 | Qc7 |
| 17.Bd2 | g6 |
| 18.Qc1 | Kh7 |
| 19.b3 | Bg7 |
| 20.Qc2 | Nf8 |
| 21.axb5 | axb5 |
| 22.dxe5 | dxe5 |
| 23.c4 | bxc4 |
| 24.Bxc4 | Rxa1 |
| 25.Rxa1 | c5 |
| 26.Ra7 | Ne6 |
| 27.Qa2 | Re7 |
| 28.Qa5 | Qd6 |
| 29.Bxe6 | fxe6 |
| 30.b4 | Bxe4 |



After 30 moves of an unremarkable Ruy Lopez, we reached the following position. Here I spotted the chance to create a passed d-pawn in the fall-out after a series of exchanges.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 31.bxc5 | Rxa7 |
| 32.cxd6 | Rxa5 |
| 33.Bxa5 | Bxf3 |
| 34.gxf3 | Nd7 |



In the space of 4 moves, the board is completely transformed!

35.Ne4

Blocking the doubled e-pawns, hemming in the B/g7 and securing the safety of the crucial d-pawn.

- 35... Bf6**
36.Kf1 Bh4
37.Bd2 Bd8
38.Ke2 g5
39.Kd3 Kg6
40.Kc4 Kh5



The White king, travelling all the way from g1 to c8, has just one goal in mind, removing the minor pieces from the defence of d8 and securing the promotion of the passed pawn. In this task White must succeed or he will lose, given the Black king's counterplay on the kingside. It is insufficient to use the queening threat on d8 to win a piece.

- 41.Nc5 Nxc5**
42.Kxc5 Kh4
43.Kc6 Kxh3
44.Be3 Ba5
45.Kb7 Kg2
46.d7 Bd8
47.Kc8



No-one would resign such a position in an OTB game, with Black being a pawn up; but the point is that the White B can chase the Black B away from the defence of the queening square, for example in the following variation: 47.Kc8 Be7 48.Bc5 Bf6 49.Bb6 Kxf3 50.Bd8

1-0



My next opponent, Golubenko, I had played before. On the previous occasion, when I also had White, he played very solidly for a draw; and I never had even the inkling of a decent advantage. So, for fear of a repeat performance, I changed my opening for this game.

White: Bennett, Peter (SCO), 2331
Black: Golubenko, Aleksandr (RUS), 2225

ICCF VWC4 SF03, 2014
 Symmetrical English [A39]
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

- 1.c4 c5**
2.Nf3 Nf6
3.Nc3 Ne6
4.g3 g6
5.Bg2 Bg7
6.0-0 0-0

Thus far Black's play was mirror-image development. It is quite extraordinary how much the balance in a position can shift as much as it subsequently did in this game, from such an unpromising start!

- 7.d4 cxd4**
8.Nxd4 Nxd4
9.Qxd4 d6
10.Qd3 Bf5
11.e4 Be6
12.b3 Nd7
13.Be3 Qa5
14.Rac1 Ne5
15.Qd2 Nc6
16.f4 Rac8
17.Rf2 Rfe8
18.Nb5 Qxd2
19.Rxd2 b6
20.e5 dxe5
21.fxe5 Nxe5
22.Nxa7 Rcd8
23.Rxd8 Rxd8
24.Nb5



24... Bg4?!

A natural attacking move, rated by the engines, which seizes control of f3 and begins a strong attack against the exposed White king; yet abandoning the b-pawn is surely

unwise, in strategic terms, unless the kingside attack is certain to be decisive?

25.Bxb6

This simple capture dramatically changes the game. Black will soon have a 4-1 pawn majority on the kingside, but both the kings are also on the kingside, which means that the White king is well-placed to defend any advance. On the queenside, White now has three linked passed pawns, well supported by his pieces, whereas Black has no queenside at all. I have noticed that even strong engines have difficulty evaluating the strength of a passed pawn on the second rank (here, on a2), since it is still 5 moves from the queening square. In this position, the engines are still scoring White's advantage as less than half a pawn. Curious, surely? It is bit like Lord Nelson holding his blind eye to the telescope and saying, "I see no pawns!"

- 25... Rd2**
26.a4 Bh3
27.Be4 Bf5
28.Bb7 Bc8
29.Ba8 Bg4
30.Re1 Nd3
31.Rb1 Ne5
32.Bh1 Nf3+
33.Bxf3 Bxf3
34.a5 f5
35.Re1 Bf6
36.a6



So here we are, only a few moves later; and without Black committing any palpable error, the engines have now woken up to the fact that White is winning. The pawn/a6 must have come within range of the admiral's telescope!

- 36... Rg2+**
37.Kf1 Rxb2
38.Bd4 Kf7
39.Bxf6 Kxf6
40.Re3 Bh1
41.Re2



41...Rxe2

More or less forced. If 41...Re3? the exchange sacrifice 42.Rg2 locks in the rook for long enough for the a-pawn to queen.

42.Kxe2 Ke6

Now the minor piece ending is straightforward for White.

43.b4 Kd7

44.c5 Bd5

45.Ke3 Bg2

46.Nd4 Ba8

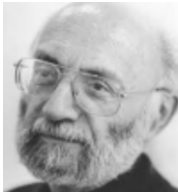
47.Kf4

White's final move, advancing the king, destroys all Black's counterplay on the kingside. Curiously, as in the games in my previous article on bishop endings, the game ends with material equality; but the engines score the position as +18.0 to White, since he can now queen by force.

1-0



So the Russians can be beaten; but to achieve this you need your chess brain, a chess strategy and more than a spot of midnight oil. A strong engine helps but does not suffice. All the games in this article focused on strategic pawn play, which is where it all started for me when my grandfather taught me to play chess back in 1952.



The Art of Samuel Bak

By Iain Mackintosh

I illustrated Peter Bennett's last article with some chess images from Samuel Bak, and here are some more. Bak's work is rooted in memories of World War II and you can find these images (and many others) on the University of Minnesota website:

<http://www.chgs.umn.edu/museum/responses/bak/chess.html>



'Ready' (watercolour)



'Across' (watercolour)



'Other Rules' (oil on canvas)



'Bishop, Knight, Rook' (watercolour)



Games Column

By Bernard Milligan

I hope you all had a great festive holiday and best wishes to all of you for 2015! If the quality of games here is maintained all year, we'll be in for some entertaining reading.

Gordon Anderson posted a fine performance playing on board 1 in the 2nd Thor Løvholt Memorial Team Tournament. Here are two games against strong opponents.

White: Anderson, Gordon (2299)
Black: Larsson, Mats (2295)
2nd Thor Løvholt Team Tournament
Bd 1, 2014
King's Indian Fianchetto [E69]
[Notes by Gordon Anderson]

1.d4 **Nf6**
2.c4 **g6**
3.Nc3 **Bg7**
4.g3 **0-0**
5.Bg2 **d6**
6.Nf3 **Nbd7**

"Of all Black's options on move 6, this one is most in keeping with traditional King's Indian strategy; Black aims simply to play ...e5 as quickly as possible. In many lines Black's e-pawn and White's d-pawn are exchanged, leading to a typical pawn structure in which White has a half-open d-file and Black has a half-open e-file. The structure confers a substantial space advantage on White, and in the long term he can hope for an 'automatic' advantage. His aim is to complete his development without making any concessions, avoiding exchanges and use his space advantage to squeeze Black slowly to death. Black, for his part, must use his piece activity to disturb the smooth flow of White's development and to generate counterplay before White can establish a firm grip on the position", a quote from Lasha Jangava in his King's Indian & Grunfeld: Fianchetto Lines.

7.0-0 **e5**
8.e4 **c6**
"This is the most flexible continuation", Jangava.
9.h3 **Qa5**



"With this move Black invites tactical complications. The main aim is to secure counterplay against the exposed and undefended c4 pawn", a further quote from Jangava.

10.Be3 **exd4**
11.Nxd4 **Nb6**
12.Nb3 **Qb4**

There are only 6 games in my database where this position arises. More normal and better is 12...Qh5 13.Qxh5 Nxh5 14.g4 Nf6 15.Na5 Be6 16.Rfd1 Nxc4 17.Nxc4 Bxc4 18.Rxd6 Rfc8 19.f4 Ne8 when White is better. The move played looks too risky to me limiting as it does available squares for the monarch.

13.c5 **Nc4**
14.Bd4 **Be6**
15.Rb1 **Ne8**

White is following Tkachiev-Juncovic, Croatia Cup, Pula 2000. Black deviates with a move that looked far too passive to me. In the Tkachiev game Black played Rfd8 which looks more active.

16.a3 **Ne3**
Almost forced.
17.Bxc3 **Qxb3**
18.Re1 **Rd8**
19.Bf4 **h6**

I didn't like this move for Black, presumably played to prepare g5 hitting the White B.

20.g4 **f6**
This and Black's last move were suggested by the silicon friend and it's hard to see what Black is planning to obtain counterplay.

21.Ne2 **f5**
22.gxf5 **gxf5**
23.e5 **Qxd1**
24.Rbxd1 **d5**

Black looks to have escaped the worst, however, with the centre closed White can place his N on d4 and has freedom to play on both

wings while Black is overly cramped and can do little to counter White's plans. The added bonus for White is the e-pawn which when supported by the f-pawn will shut the B bishop out of the game.

25.Nd4 **Nc7**



Now White re-routes his black-squared B which is heading for a5 with the aim of exchanging for the Black N.

26.Bd2 **Rc8**
27.Ba5 **Kf7**
28.f4 **Rg8**
29.Bxc7 **Rxc7**
30.Kf2 **Bc8?**

Bringing the c7 R back to c8 looks better.

31.Bf3 **Kg6**
32.Rg1+ **Kh7**
33.b4 **Re7**
34.Bh5 **Bd7**

Confirmation that his 30th move was an error.

35.Bg6+ **Kh8**
36.Kf3 **Rd8**

Black's position is poor and finding moves is difficult but perhaps 36...Rf8 is better.

37.a4 **a6**
38.Rb1 **Rf8**

White is clearly better and opening the queenside seemed appropriate hence

39.b5 **axb5**
40.axb5 **cxb5**
41.Nxb5 **Bxb5**
42.Rxb5 **Rc7**

White is happy to trade his c-pawn for the pawn on b7 in view of the weak Black d- and f-pawns. The remainder of the game does not need comment.

43.Rb6 **d4**
44.h4 **d3**

45.Rd1 Rb8
 46.Rxd3 Rxc5
 47.Rbd6 Bf8
 48.Rd7
 1-0



White: Moza, Manfred (2289)
Black: Anderson, Gordon (2299)
 2nd Thor Løvholt Team Tournament
 Bd 1, 2014
 French McCutcheon [C12]
[Notes by Gordon Anderson]

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

The McCutcheon variation, named after John Lindsay McCutcheon (1857–1905). The basic idea is active play on the queenside and in the centre. The counter-play should prove adequate compensation for White's kingside activity. White's main continuation is

5.e5 h6
 6.Be3 Ne4

The main line is 6.Bd2. My database reveals that players chose 6.Be3, possibly the best alternative to the main line, in only 8% of games played but had a success rate of 61%. The move played has been increasing in popularity and leads to quite complex play with chances for both sides.

7.Qg4 g6

The alternatives are Kf8 and g5. 7...Kf8 has never appealed to me, although it is quite popular and a valid alternative to the move played, whilst 7...g5 strikes me as too risky, providing a weakening of the k-side with scope for White to undermine, at an appropriate time, with h4.

8.a3 Bxc3+
 9.bxc3 c5

Thematic and relatively easy to play. The alternative is 9...Nxc3 10.Bd3 c5 11.dxc5 Nc6

10.Bd3 h5

A popular move in recent years and a favourite of Moskalenko and perhaps is the reason for the popularity of the g6 line. It forces White's Q to commit, the options being, Qf4, Qf3, Qh3 and Qd1. The latter two allow for easier play by Black. My opponent prefers Qf3. Interestingly, there are only 16 games in my

database where that is the selected move.

11.Qf3 Nxc3
 12.dxc5 Nc6
 13.Qf4 d4



White is slightly ahead in development, however, Black's control of the central d4 square results in a balanced position.

14.Bd2 g5
 15.Qxg5 Qxg5
 16.Bxg5 Nxe5

Of the 16 games, only 6 reached this position and all but one followed the line selected by my opponent.

17.Bf6 Nxg3+
 18.cxd3 Rg8
 19.Bxd4 Nd5
 20.g3 Bd7
 21.Ne2N

My opponent chooses an alternative, which is also the choice of the machine! Kostenuk-Zhukova, Gibraltar 2010 continued 21.Nf3 Bc6 22.Ne5 Nb4 23.Nxc6 Nc2+ 24.Kd2 Nxa1 25.Na5 b6 26.Rxa1 bxa5 27.Rb1 Rg5 with even chances although Black eventually won.

21... f6
 Black wants to strengthen his centre and to reduce the scope of the White B. 21..0-0-0 was played in Quintas Galeano-Yepes Martinez 2011, however, I felt f6 offered more chances, at this stage while keeping open the option of Kf7 or queenside castling.

22.Kd2 e5
 23.Be3 Bc6

With the not too subtle threat...



24.Rhc1

This move surprised me since I had been expecting Rhe1 with the aim of exerting pressure on the Black centre.

24... 0-0-0

An acceptable alternative was 24...Kf7

25.Nc3 Nc7

Also possible was 25...Nxc3 26.Kxc3 (26.Rxc3 h4 27.Rb1 hxg3 28.hxg3 Rh8) 26...Rd7 27.Rab1 (27.f4 Rgd8 28.Rd1 Be4 29.d4) 27...Rgd8 28.Rd1 Kc7 However, I wanted to keep the minor pieces on the board and to provide further protection for the Black K.

26.Kc2 f5

27.Rab1 h4

An attempt to open the k-side.

28.Rb4

If 28.gxh4 f4 29.Bd2 Ne6 when I felt Black was slightly better.

28... hxg3

29.hxg3 Ne6

30.Rd1 Rdf8

The silicon friend suggested 30...Rgf8 but this seemed illogical to me. Black wants to open the f, g and h files and needs to use both Rs to achieve.

31.Re1 Rh8

32.Bf4

I didn't really expect this move. Rather I had been anticipating a4 and d4, although at this stage I felt a draw was the most likely outcome.

33... Nd4+

33.Kc1 a5

34.Rc4 Nf3

35.Rxe5 Rh1+

36.Kc2 Nxe5

37.Bxe5 Rg8

38.Rf4 Rh5

Here the game was agreed drawn. Interestingly, my opponent had the best score (7 points) on Board 1 and obtained his first IM Norm while I missed out on mine by a half point.

½-½



Now David Cumming claims a SIM scalp in the Russian CCA 20th Anniversary event.

White: Cumming, David. R (2295)

Black: Kazoks, Aivars (2331)

RCCA 20 Years Open SF7, 2014

King's Indian Classical [E90]

[David Cumming]

Nf2 55.d6 Nd3 56.Bf6 Nf4 57.d7
Ne6 58.Kd5 b3 59.Kd6 Nd8 60.Bxd8
b2 61.Bb6 b1Q 62.d8Q Qd1+
63.Kc7 Qc2+ 64.Kb8 Qc6 65.Qc7+
Qxc7+ 66.Kxc7 Ke6 67.Kc6 Ke5
68.Bc5 Ke4 69.Bd6 Kd4 70.Bb4 Kc4
71.Bc5 2.79/27

1-0



Finally, here's a very well-annotated win by Tom Matheis from our 3rd Webserver Open.

White: Matheis, Thomas (2436)
Black: Montgomery, Robert (2317)
SCCA 3rd WS Open, 2014
King's Indian Classical [E99]
[Notes by Tom Matheis]

1.d4 **Nf6**
2.c4 **g6**
3.Nc3 **Bg7**
4.e4 **d6**

The King's Indian - in my opinion one the most interesting openings in correspondence chess as it invariably leads to a highly complex game with good attacking chances for both sides.

5.Nf3
It's somewhat fascinating that one's preference for a particular line in correspondence chess doesn't necessarily reflect one's preferred move for over the board chess. In an over the board game I would usually have no hesitation in playing the Saemisch Variation 5.f3 which also leads to sharp games.

5... **0-0**
6.Be2 **e5**
7.0-0 **Nc6**
8.d5 **Ne7**
9.Ne1

The main alternative is 9.b4 which is far more common. I was keen to divert from the main track as early as possible and keep Robert guessing as to my intentions. Ne1 is fairly non-committal and allows me to pursue a number of variations.

9... **Nd7**

The other alternative is Ne8.

10.Be3 **f5**
11.f3 **f4**

'Let the mayhem begin' - Carver's famous quote from Tomorrow Never Dies nicely describes the complex tactical battle that is about to ensue. Black is hoping to breakthrough on the king-side whereas White hopes

that his counter-attack on the queen-side will prevail - the typical scenario which makes the King's Indian so interesting and popular!

12.Bf2 **g5**

13.Nd3

The main alternatives are 13.Rc1 and 13.a4 - both moves are perfectly ok, but lead to slightly different types of positions.

13... **Nf6**

14.c5

It's time to start the counter attack on the queen-side. Black is about to gather a menacingly looking armada on the king-side, so White must now become more active.

14... **Ng6**

15.Rc1

The difference to 13.Rc1 is highlighted by the following main line: 13.Rc1 Ng6 14.c5 Nxc5. By playing 13.Nd3 and delaying Rc1, 14...Nxc5 is no longer a plausible option, so Black continues with his plan instead.

15... **Rf7**

16.a4 **Bf8**

A subtle move preparing h5 followed by either Rg7 or Rh7. And should White decide to capture on d6, Black has the additional option of Bxd6.

17.a5

White is preparing to rip open Black's queen-side.

17... **h5**

The alternative is 17...Rg7 and White must choose between 18.cxd6, 18.c6 or 18.b4. I was prepared to play 18.c6 after which the game could well continue along the lines of 18...bxc6 19.cxd6 h5 20.b4 Be6 21.b5 g4 22.Rb1 g3 23.hxg3 fxg3 24.Bxg3 h4 with a very unclear position (Pezicca-Telepnev, Gold-2011)

18.Nb5



We have now reached a key position! White has several options all leading to different position types. GM Haugen experimented with 18.a6 in his game against GM

Jorgensen (NOR-DEN email 2011) and after 18...bxa6 19.Kh1 g4 20.cxd6 cxd6 21.Qa4 g3 22.Be1 a very tactical and interesting game ensued which is well worth playing over, eventually ending in a draw. As most of you will have reference databases there is no need to copy the whole game, but drop me a line if you can't find it. Interestingly, I had the identical position against chessfriend Kover in the same tournament - only that I had the Black pieces! Bruce opted for the more cautious 18.Kh1 (incidentally Houdini's second choice after 18.Nb5) after which I started a brutal attack which White couldn't defend against after a couple of incorrect moves and White collapsed big style: 18...g4 19.a6 g3 20.axb7 Bxb7 21.Be1 Bc8 22.Qb2? gxh2! 23.cxd6 cxd6 24.Nb4 h4 25.Nc6 Qe8 26.Bb5 Nh5 27.Kxh2 a6 28.Bc4 Ng3 → I played 18.Nb5 with the full intention of capturing on a7 and sacrificing my Knight on c6 shortly after in exchange for some powerful connected pawns.

18... **g4**

Given how the game developed I believe that 18...a6 (the move I had lined up as the reply in my game against Kover) is a better solution, but the position remains unclear after the plausible moves 19.Na3 g4 20.Nc4.

19.cxd6

Stockfish actually prefers 19.Qc2, but as I had already made up my mind with regard to the plan I was going to pursue, I didn't spend too much time considering this alternative. A plausible continuation after 19.Qc2 would be 19...a6 20.Na3 h4 21.cxd6 Bxd6 22.fxg4 Nxg4 23.h3 Nxf2 Nxf2 +=

19... **cxd6**

20.Nxa7 **gxf3**

This came as a slight surprise as I had expected an immediate Bd7 instead after which White has to decide between 21.Qb3 or 21.Bb6. 21.Qb3 gxf3 22.gxf3 is the same as in the actual game and leads to a better position for White, however, 21...Qxa5 22.Ra1 Qd8 23.Qxb7 b3 24.Bb6 gxh2+ 25.Kh1 Qe8 26.Nc6 Rc8 27.Ra7 Bxc6 28.Qxf7 Qxf7 29.Rxf7 Kxf7 30.dxc6 Rxc6 31.Ba5 d5 is probably equal. If White opts to counter 20...Bd7 with 21.Bb6 we reach a similar position as in the actual game but crucially without the

exchange on f3. 21.Bb6 Qb8 22.Nc6 bxc6 23.dxc6 Be6 and now 24. Nb4 gives White a lasting advantage regardless of Black's preferred move as the following plausible variations demonstrate: a) 24...Rg7 25.c7 Qb7 26.Qc2 Kh8 27.Bc4 Bxc4 28.Qxc4 Ne7 29.Kh1 Qc8 30.Rfd1 gxf3 31.gxf3 Qh3 32.Qf1 Qxf1 33.Rxf1 +- b) 24...Qe8 25.c7 Rg7 26.Kh1 Kh7 27.Nd5 Nxd5 28.exd5 exf3 29.dxe6 exf2 30.Qxe2 h4 31.Qc4 Ne7 32.Qe4+ Kg8 33.Rfd1 +- and c) 24...Nh4 25.Kh1 Rg7 26.Rg1 Qc8 27.c7 Kh8 28.a6 Nd7 29.Bf2 g3 30.hxg3 fxg3 31.Be3 Ng6 32.Nd5 h4 33.Bc4 Rh7 34.Qe1 Nd7 35.Nxd7 Rxd7 36.Bxe6 Rxe6 37.b4 followed by b5 and b6.

21.Bxf3 Bd7



22.Bb6
22.Qb3 and even 22.Bxh5 are worth a closer look. The latter doesn't seem to cut the mustard: 22.Bxh5 Nxh5 23.Qxh5 Qxa5 24.Rc3 Rg7 25.Qe2 Nh4 26.Bxh4 Qxa7+ 28.Nf2 Qb6 29.Qc2 Ra2 and it's unclear how White can progress. 22.Qb3, however, appears to be a serious contender at first glance. Let's see: 22.Qb3 Qxa5 23.Ra1 Qc7 24.Nb5 Qd8 25.Rxa8 Qxa8 26.Rc1 Qa5 27.Nc7 Ba4 28.Qc3 Qxc3 29.Rxc3 +- White has the advantage, even if it's going to take precise play to convert the point. But there is a remarkable move that seems to solve most of Black problems: 23...Qd8!! (instead of Qc7) 24.Qxb7 Bg4 25.Qb5 Bxf3 26.gxf3 Ng4!! 27.Qb6 (27.fxg4 Qg5!) Qd7 28.Nc6 Rxa1 29.Rxa1 Ne3 30.Bxe3 Qh3 31.Ne1 Rg7 32.Ra7 Re7+ 33.Kf2 Qxh2+ 34.Kf1 fxe3 = There may be a way in which White can improve on this variation, however, I decided not to analyse this further nor deviate from my original intentions.

22... Qb8
23.Nc6 bxc6
24.dxc6 Be6
25.b4

I have now reached the position that I was anticipating and hoping for after 18.Nb5. Black has a knight for 2 pawns, but White's pawn armada is excellent compensation and now looks more menacing than Black's king-side attack.

25... h4?
Black continues his march on the White king, however, here it was absolutely essential to stop the White pawns with 25...Ra6 instead! For example, after 25...Ra6 26.Bxh5 Rg7 27.Kh1 Rxb6! 28.c7 Rxc7 29.Rxc7 Ra6 30.Rc1 += White still appears to be better, but Black may be able to hold this complex position. If 26.c6 then 26...Qe8 27.g3 Ra8 28.gxf4 exf4 29.Bd4 Ng4 and again, Black may well hold things together.

26.h3
I was keen to eliminate all counterplay opportunities and prevent potential moves such as h3, Ng4 (at a later stage). The other alternative is 26.Nf2 which also maintains the White advantage.

26... Rg7
27.b5
Now it becomes obvious why Black simply had to play 25...Ra6.

27... Nh8?
27...Qc8 is better here, applying some pressure on h3, but after 28.Nf2 it's difficult to see what else Black can try.

28.c7 Qe8



29.Nxf4!!
The second knight sacrifice! It must be the first time I ever had the opportunity to sacrifice two knights in a game. The sacrifice nicely frees up the d4 square for my bishop.

29... exf4
30.Bd4 Qxb5
Black could've saved his knight on f6, of course, but then the pawns would've proved unstoppable.

31.Bxf6 Rg6
31...Rg3 doesn't change anything. 32.e5 d5 33.c8Q Rxc8 34.Rxc8 Bxc8 35.Bxd5+ Nf7 36.e6 +-

32.e5 Rc8
33.Be4
A remarkable position if you come to think of it. Black is still a knight up for 2 pawns and has broken up the connected White pawns, however, the attack on the White king has come to nothing and it is now all of a sudden White that is attacking the Black king out of seemingly nowhere.

33... Rxf6
What else?
34.exf6 Qxa5



35.Kh1!
A nice subtle move. Preventing any potential checks and also telling my opponent that I have things totally under control regardless of what he plays.

35... Nf7
36.Re1 Nh6
36...Rxc7 37.Rxc7 Qxc7 38.Qh5 +-
37.Qc2 Qg5
38.Bb7 Rxc7
39.Qxc7 Qxf6

Very unusual: 2 rooks vs bishop, knight and pawn. Again, I can't recall ever having had this before in a serious game.

40.Qa5 Nf7
41.Bd5 Ne5
42.Rc7

1-0



Thanks to all who sent games. Having started with an empty cupboard, I ended up with more games material than I could use – I'll hold the remainder over until the next edition.





2nd Thor Løvholt Team Tournament

MT-Løvholt2/sf2, 2nd Thor Løvholt Team Tournament Semi-Final 2

TD Dearnley, Andrew (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1		Austria	2228		2	3.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	3	4.5	4.5	31.5	62	13	13	50	4	1
2		Sweden	2213	3		3	3	3	2.5	4	4	3.5	5	31	59	10	12	52	2	2
3		Ukraine	2187	1.5	3		2.5	4	3.5	4.5	3	5	4	31	62	12	12	50	4	3
4		Slovenia	2228	2.5	3	2.5		3.5	3	3.5	3.5	4.5	4.5	30.5	58	9	12	52	2	4
5		Czech Republic	2168	2.5	3	2	2.5		2.5	4	3.5	4	4	28	52	3	9	53	1	5
6		Lithuania	2187	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	3.5		3.5	3	2.5	5	27	55	5	7	49	5	6
7		Netherlands	2203	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	2	1.5		3.5	2.5	4	21	39	-11	4	53	1	7
8		Latvia	2138	2	2	1	2.5	2.5	2	2.5		3	3.5	21	41	-8	3	50	4	8
9		Scotland	2083	1.5	2.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3.5	3		2.5	20	37	-13	3	53	1	9
10		Belgium	2045	1.5	1	2	1.5	2	1	2	2.5	3.5		17	31	-20	2	54	0	10

This event now nears its completion with our team with one game yet to finish destined to now finish in a rather disappointing 9th place.

10th European Team Championship

EU/TC10/sf2, 10th European Team Championship - Semifinal 2

TD Glaser, Karel (IA)

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1		Bulgaria	2420		3	4	2.5	2.5	2	3	2.5	2	3	3	27.5	50	1	1	54	26	1
2		Estonia	2427	3		3.5	2	2	2.5	1.5	3	2	2.5	2	24	53	3	0	45	35	2
3		Denmark	2340	4	1.5		2	3	2	2	2.5	2	2.5	1	22.5	47	-2	1	47	33	3
4		Ukraine	2415	3.5	2	2		3	1.5	4	1.5	1	2	2	22.5	54	4	1	41	39	4
5		Scotland	2327	2.5	2	3	2		2	2.5	1	2	2.5	2	21.5	47	-2	0	45	35	5
6		Portugal	2372	2	2.5	3	1.5	3		2	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	21	55	4	0	38	42	6
7		Belgium	2360	3	1.5	2	3	2.5	2		2.5	0.5	0	2	19	44	-5	0	43	37	7
8		Netherlands	2389	2.5	3	1.5	1.5	2	1.5	2.5		1.5	2	0.5	18.5	50	0	0	37	43	8
9		Romania	2455	2	2	2	1	2	1.5	2.5	1.5		1.5	2	18	54	3	0	33	47	9
10		Lithuania	2361	3	1.5	2.5	2	1.5	0.5	2	1	1.5		0.5	16	47	-2	0	34	46	10
11		Turkey	2383	1	2	1	1	2	1.5	2	0.5	1	0.5		12.5	43	-4	0	29	51	11

Our team has slipped a little since last time and presently shares 7th place in the 11 team section. However this placing is well ahead of its 11th place seeding and with 38 games still to complete may yet move up the table.

Current Friendly Internationals

GB/TriNat/2014, British Tri-Nations 2014

TD Siefring, Dr. Carl L.

				1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place		
1		Wales	1948				12	13.5	25.5	77	18	4	33	7	1
2		Scotland	1942	5			7	12	37	-8	0	32	8	2	
3		England	2018	2.5	8			10.5	33	-10	0	31	9	3	

Play continues briskly in the new Tri-Nations British Team Tournament with only 25% of the games yet to be completed after barely 8 months play. As can be seen from the table above, there have been some surprising results to date (Wales 13½ England 2½ - although we are faring only a little better against the Welsh). Iain Campbell on Board 10 has been the team's top performer thus far completing all his 4 games with a 100% score! We provide another of Iain's games at the end of this report.

A new Friendly International match against Iceland over 27 boards started on 1st December and another against Wales over 20 boards is scheduled to commence on 10th January. Details of the pairings and current scores for these and other matches may be found via our Scottish CCA web page. Our other current matches continue against Switzerland (we've started rather poorly and presently trail 3-10), France (with the score now 5½ - 30½ our defeat is now confirmed) and Venezuela (we presently trail 14-28 with only a few games yet to finish).

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Jan 2015	20	Wales	Server	1	1		
Dec 2014	27	Iceland	Server	½	3½		
Nov 2014	25	Switzerland	Server	3	10		
May 2014	25	Venezuela	Server	14	28		loss
Apr 2014	10	Tri-Nations	Server	(S) 12	(W) 25½	(E) 10½	
Mar 2014	23	France	Server	5½	30½		loss

5th Champions League

CL/2012/C1, Champions League 2012 C1

TD Vugt, Wim H. van

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1		Fenix I	2200	■	3	2	2.5	3	2	4	2.5	3	3	3.5	4	4	36.5	76	25	22	48	0	1
2		Black Sea	2337	1	■	2	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	4	3	3	4	3	33	68	18	21	48	0	2
3		Old Friends Team	2442	2	2	■	2	2.5	2	2	3	2.5	2.5	3.5	3	4	31	64	14	19	48	0	3
4		Chess Club Travertin 2	2337	1.5	1.5	2	■	2	2	2.5	2.5	1.5	4	2.5	3	3.5	28.5	59	9	15	48	0	4
5		Golden King	2157	1	1.5	1.5	2	■	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	3	3	3	3.5	28	58	8	16	48	0	5
6		Grupo de Xadrez do Porto B	2052	2	1	2	2	1.5	■	2	2	2	2.5	2.5	3	3.5	26	54	4	14	48	0	6
7		All the King's Men	2236	0	1.5	2	1.5	2	2	■	3	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	24	50	0	14	48	0	7
8		The Lewis Chessmen	2293	1.5	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	2	1	■	1.5	3	2.5	3	2.5	22.5	46	-3	9	48	0	8
9		DEMC 2	2266	1	0	1.5	2.5	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	■	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	22	45	-4	12	48	0	9
10		Latvian Knights	2068	1	1	1.5	0	1	1.5	2	1	2	■	3.5	1	2.5	18	37	-12	6	48	0	10
11		BCCA Rooks	2198	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	■	2.5	2.5	16	33	-16	4	48	0	11	
12		CCI 1	2247	0	0	1	1	1	1	1.5	1	1.5	3	1.5	■	3	15.5	32	-17	4	48	0	12
13		Czech Black & White Team	2038	0	1	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1	■	11	22	-26	0	48	0	13	

CL/2012/C7, Champions League 2012 C7

TD Kracht, Jörg (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1		Chess.com - Russia	2303	■	2.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	3	2.5	3	3	2.5	3	3.5	32	66	16	22	48	0	1
2		Vityaz 2012	2213	1.5	■	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	2	3	3.5	4	30	62	12	18	48	0	2
3		Anunnaki IV	2193	1.5	1.5	■	2	3	2	2.5	2	3	3	2	3.5	4	30	62	12	16	48	0	3
4		Zugzwang Bocholt 1	2266	2	2	2	■	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	3	2.5	3.5	29	60	10	19	48	0	4
5		Le Palamède	2327	2	1.5	1	2	■	1.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	4	26	54	4	14	48	0	5
6		Torres Quevedo	2248	1.5	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	■	1.5	3	2	2	3	2	3.5	26	54	4	12	48	0	6
7		CSM Cluj Napoca 1	2344	1	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	■	2.5	2	2.5	3	2	3.5	25.5	53	3	13	48	0	7
8		DEMC 3	2138	1.5	2	2	1.5	2	1	1.5	■	2	1.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	23.5	48	-1	10	48	0	8
9		Scottish Claymores	2315	1	1.5	1	1.5	2	2	2	2	■	2	1.5	3	4	23.5	48	-1	9	48	0	9
10		Brazilian Chessfriends	2387	1	2	1	2	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	2	■	2	2.5	3	23	48	-1	11	47	1	10
11		A.D.A. MÓSTOLES	2191	1.5	1	2	1	1.5	1	1	1.5	2.5	2	■	3	3.5	21.5	44	-5	8	48	0	11
12		Kyloe	2167	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	2	2	1.5	1	0.5	1	■	3	16	34	-15	4	47	1	12
13		Rochade 5171 Chessmates	2015	0.5	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1	0.5	1	■	5	10	-38	0	48	0	13

And faced with the prospect of 43...
Rb8 44.Ne5, Black resigned.

1-0



White: Lloyd, Geoff (SCO) (2247)

**Black: Petkov, Stoyan (BUL)
(2389)**

ICCF EU/TC10/sf2, 2014

Colle System [D05]

[Notes by Geoff Lloyd]

European Team Championship,
board 8.

1.d4	d5
2.Nf3	Nf6
3.e3	e6
4.Bd3	c5
5.c3	Nc6
6.Nbd2	Bd6
7.0-0	0-0
8.dxc5	Bxc5
9.e4	Qc7

9...Bb6 10.Qe2 h6 11.c4 Ng4 12.h3
Nge5 was Peter Svidler (2765) -
Viktor Kupreichik (2445),
Dortmund 1991, draw agreed after
12 moves.

10.exd5	exd5
11.Nb3	Bb6
12.Qc2	h6
13.Re1	Bg4
14.Nfd4	Rae8
15.Be3	



15... Ne5

15...a6 16.Bf5 Re5 17.Bd3 Rfe8
18.Qd2 Bc8 19.f3 Qb8 20.Bf2 Bc7
21.Rxe5 Nxe5 22.g3 Nc4 23.Qc2 h5
24.Re1 Rxe1+ 25.Bxe1 h4 26.Qf2
Nh5 27.f4 Nf6 28.Nf5 Bxf5 29.Bxf5
Qe8 30.Bd2 was Essam El Gindy
(2467) - Stelios Halkias (2521),
Linares 2003, 0-1 after 50 moves.

16.Nb5	Qd8
17.Bxb6	Qxb6
18.N5d4	Bd7
19.h3	Nxd3
20.Qxd3	a5
21.Nc2	Ne4
22.Ne3	a4

22...Bc6 23.Qd4 Qd8 24.Rad1 when
White is better.

23.Nd2	Bb5
24.Qxd5	Nxf2

1/2-1/2



Issue 127 Bent Larsen Postscript

Peter Bennett writes:

I must say, I am extremely envious
of your having met Bent Larsen in
Buenos Aires in 1997 and it is
gratifying to hear that he seemed a
very decent chap.

I would still take slight issue with the
statistics you quote and your claim
that they show that Larsen "couldn't
quite cut it" with World Champions.
The figures conflate the games
played in matchplay and tournament
play and therefore mask the point I
was making. Take Larsen's record
against Petrosian, for example. If
you separated the figures out, I think
you would find that Larsen's
tournament record against Petrosian
was very different from their
matchplay record.

Larsen was at his best, surely, when
both players were playing purely on
the basis of their own wits and had
little time available for preparation
against specific opponents. For that
reason, Larsen was at his best in very
large, single round robin events
(which nowadays you rarely see,
which is a great pity).

The one criticism I have of the recent
St Louis tournament is that, being
double round robin, it was played
within a cosy little clique of about 7
players.

When I wrote an article about Larsen
for the former OUCCS magazine,
about 15 years ago, I amassed some
stats about his tournament record. In
the "golden age" of chess (from
about 1952 to 1978) the strongest
tournaments were the Interzonals,
which came just before the
matchplay stage of each World
Championship cycle. Sometimes
these were as much as 21-player all-
play-all. Larsen played in at least
four of these tournaments over the
years (I am saying this from
memory) and my recollection is that
his overall record in them was better

than any other player in the world in
a 20-year period. In 1971, he came
second to Fischer (so, yes, Fischer
proved himself stronger than Larsen,
even in tournament play); but I think
this shows that Larsen was strong
enough to compete with the world's
best.

The conflated stats (hence also
gradings) equally give a misleading
picture of players who were highly
inconsistent. Tal is the supreme
example. Between 1958 and 1973
there were three periods, each of
about one year (the last being
1972/3), during which Tal was
regarded as almost unbeatable and
the guy the top players feared the
most. But most of the time he was
either ill, on drugs or on the bottle;
and then he lost a lot of games. He
was the only player to have beaten
Fischer 4 times in less than 6 weeks
(OK, that was early in Fischer's
career, but the American was already
beating World Champions, even
then).

One also gets curious "stats". The
only player to have beaten Fischer
six times (and against whom Fischer
had a minus score) was Geller. But
Fischer and Geller never played in
matchplay, I suspect, at least not a
long match.

George Pyrich replies:

Yes, Larsen did do very well in the
Interzonal events – however, I think
that these events suited his
aggressive style and his off-beat
opening repertoire – bear in mind
also that these events had larger
fields and contained a fair number
who had no realistic chance of
qualifying and were in effect “just
making up the numbers”. Rather like
Fischer, he played to win every game
right to the end of an event unlike
others who were happy to pace
themselves and simply ensure
qualification. How he would have
fared in to-day's elite super GM
events is another matter. In one of
Kasparov's “My great predecessors”
volumes he's actually quoted as
saying that he found success very
much harder and much more elusive
against the half dozen or so at the
very top. Finally, he never played
Petrosian in a match and Petrosian
did win a World Championship
match against Botvinnik.



General Information

ICCF is the International Correspondence Chess Federation. ICCF was founded in 1951 as a reincarnation of the ICCA (International Correspondence Chess Association), itself founded in 1945 as successor to the IFSB (Internationaler Fernschachbund), founded in 1928.

ICCF organises a huge variety of tournaments for individual and team play; operates a worldwide rating system and awards GM, SIM and IM titles to male and female players to recognise strength and performance. Most play is based now on the ICCF webserver, with a residue of postal and email events. Principal tournaments are:

World Individual (www.iccf-webchess.com)

- World Championship. Annual cycles progress through preliminary, semi-final, candidate and final stages.
- World Cups. These include Adult, Junior and the highly popular Veterans events.
- Norm Tournaments. For aspiring IM, SIM and GM players, categorised by rating strength.
- Promotion Tournaments. For middle-strong players, spanning Open, Higher and Master classes.
- Aspirer Tournaments. For beginners and lower-graded players.
- Thematic Tournaments. Organised by opening variations (see opposite).

World Team (www.iccf-webchess.com)

- Olympiads. National team event, 6-player teams, played to a very high standard.
- Champions League. National, cross-national and scratch 4-player teams, several divisions.

European Zone (www.iccf-europa.com)

- European Individual Championship.
- European National Team Championship.

Other

- Friendly Internationals. ICCF member organisations play team events, usually 2 games per player.
- Invitation/Memorial Events. To commemorate anniversaries and deceased officials and players.
- Chess 960. New events featuring Fischer/Random chess opening positions.

SCCA members are eligible to enter all ICCF events, though Scottish nationality is required for national representation.

Current tournament fees are shown on the Fees page of the SCCA website, and all Scottish players competing in ICCF events have bookmarks from the SCCA site to the relevant ICCF cross-table for easy checking of results.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2014

Theme 1/15: King's Gambit, Hungarian Defence, C39

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ne5 d6

Entries by 15 January; plays starts 1 February

Theme 2/15: Grünfeld Exchange Variation, D85

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Rb1

Entries by 1 March; play starts 15 March

Webserver Events 2014

Theme 1/15: Slav Defence, Chebanenko Variation, D15

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.e5

Entries by 1 January; plays starts 15 January

Theme 2/154: French Defence, Exchange Variation, C01

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5

Entries by 15 February; plays starts 1 March

Note there are no Email Events in 2015.

News

- ❑ A major ICCF webserver upgrade was released in December, including online player claim forms, improved personal rating forecasts and player photo uploads via NDs.
- ❑ Minutes from the ICCF Congress in Sydney are still in the revision process but should be published on the ICCF website soon.
- ❑ The 4th Chess960 World Cup will be announced soon, with registration closing on February 28th and play beginning on March 15th.
- ❑ The Witold Bielecki Memorial tournament has completed after 2 years and 9 months of play. 1st place went to GM Stephan Busemann (GER) while 2nd was GM David van der Hoeven (NED).
- ❑ Registration for the EU Zone Candidates 2015 will close on February 20th with play beginning on March 15th.

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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