

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.136

Winter 2016

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 - *Iain summarises last year's domestic events*

ICCF Grading List 2017/1
George analyses the Q1 statistics

- **Dead Man's Defence**
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The Hawkes Files
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International Update
George takes the wider view

- **Games Column**
 - *A selection of last year's winners*



4 Printed Issues
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Sculpture by Douglas MacDonald



Welcome to the fourth and last edition of the 2016 magazine set. Unusually for us, the Christmas and New Year weather has been quite benign, and dog walks have been a feature hereabouts. Clearly this means that some other places have decided to impersonate Scotland for a while – so stop being stupid guys and revert to your usual habits!

If the weather doesn't get you down, then you can guarantee the politics will. Many commentators have expressed relief that 2016 is over but all the morons who prospered last year are back in action during 2017. Still, now that we know Brexit will be 'red, white and blue' we can sleep content.

I've summarised last year's domestic results, and once again we produced very lively events and good performances from a relatively small chess-playing population.

George Pyrich has analysed the first ICCF rating list of 2017 for us; another relatively stable period with rating and games milestones for our active members.

Peter Bennett has put pen to paper to comment on Dead Man's Defence and its underlying complexities, providing some understanding and ploys to mitigate the problem.

John Hawkes pitches in with a fine selection of Evans Gambit games. John also provides the fourth in his series of great CC miniatures and contributes an endgame study based on the chess art of René Magritte.

Bernard Milligan's games column features the winners of 2016 domestic events, including David Cumming, Mickey Blake, Andrew Macmillan and Andrew Waller (part of the victorious Hounds of the Scheming Mind B League team).

George Pyrich once again publishes an extensive international report with x-tables aplenty and annotated games played by members Eoin Campbell, David Cumming and Peter Bennett, all of whom picked up CCE norms in the period, plus Alan Armstrong who contributed to our unlikely friendly match victory over Australia.

It's time to dust down your best games of 2016 now and send them to myself by end-January. IM Tom Matheis will be this year's judge. Go for it!

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

2016	1st	2nd
December	L R McKenzie	P J Moir
November	A P Borwell	J M Armstrong
October	A P Borwell	J S Murray

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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Games Editor	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	games@scottishcca.co.uk

NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine (enquiries and domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) pro tem.



ICCF 2017 World Championship Preliminaries



ICCF Title Tournaments
Commissioner Gian-Maria Tani writes to announce the Preliminaries stage of the 2017 (41st) World Championship.

This event will be played in sections of 13 players (or 15/17 at the organisers' discretion), with entries closing on 12th 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 2017 cycle (includes Preliminaries and Semi-Finals).

Geoff Lloyd has achieved pre-qualification for the 2017 Preliminaries following his performance in WS/M/507.

If you are interested, please contact George Pyrich on international@scottishcca.co.uk as soon as possible and before 5th February.

ICCF Europa 2017 Webserver Championship



ICCF Europa Tournaments
Commissioner Leonardo Madonia writes to announce the 2017 cycle of the European Webserver Championship. This event will be played as follows:

- Open Rounds (for players rated under 2100, starts when filled)
- Preliminaries (for players rated between 2100-2299, starts when filled)
- Semi-Finals (for players rated between 2300-2499, starts on 20th September)
- Candidates (for players rated 2500 or over, starts on 15th March)

If you are interested, please contact George Pyrich on international@scottishcca.co.uk for further details..

ICCF Europa 2016-18 Postal Championship



ICCF Europa Tournaments
Commissioner Leonardo Madonia writes to announce the 2016-18 cycle of the 71st European Postal Championship. This event will be played as follows:

- Open Rounds (for players rated under 2100, starts when filled)
- Semi-Finals (for players rated 2100 or over, starts when filled)

If you are interested, please contact George Pyrich on international@scottishcca.co.uk for further details..'

SCCA Annual Best Game Prize



The SCCA Best Game Prize will once again operate this year, covering games completed during 2016.

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

**The R.J. Burridge Trophy
SCCA Best Game Prize 2016
(winner's name)**

To recap on the rules:

- Entries are games which finish in calendar year 2016;
- Entries restricted to events organised by SCCA or ICCF;
- Only SCCA members can submit their games;
- Games may have been previously published;
- Submission period will close at the end of January 2016;
- The Committee will appoint a judge (who cannot enter!);
- The winner will be announced by end-March 2016 and we'll feature the game in a subsequent magazine;
- The winner receives a trophy miniature and certificate.

IM Tom Matheis has now kindly agreed to act as judge and we'll announce the winning entry by end-March.

Please send your games to Iain Mackintosh at president@scottishcca.co.uk – multiple entries are allowed – to reach him by end-January 2016.

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.

Fernschach 2017 CC Database



Fernschach2017

Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2017 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available since 2000
- Total 1,003,400 games (from 1991)
- Approximately 8,020 annotated
- Games from all main chess servers + post + email
- All tournaments marked correspondence so that CC games can be recognised in a larger database
- Editing improved and refined
- German letters ä, ö, ü and ß are not counted in names

The price is €13 (shipping within Germany) and €15 (shipping elsewhere).

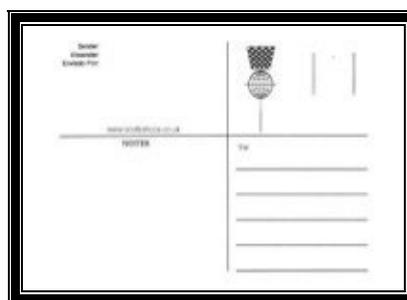
For further details, contact Herbert at:

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CC Postcards



The SCCA has a stock of cc postcards showing the SCCA logo and website address. They are suitable for domestic and international use (English, German and Spanish used).

Orders in units of 100 please. The cards are supplied at their production cost (£2.50/100) and p&p is also required.

Orders and payments to Iain Mackintosh at chess@iainmack.co.uk please. Royal Mail prices rose in April 2015, so check current p&p prices with Iain first.

ICCF Game Archive



The December update to the Archive has now been added, and all files may be downloaded by logging into: <https://www.iccf.com/> then selecting Games Archive from the menu.



2016 Results

By Iain Mackintosh

Championship

SCO/C2017, Scottish Championship 2017/18

					TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)											Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
1	SCO	620426	Cumming, David R.	2306		½	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.5	1	1	8	1
2	SCO	620716	Campbell, Eoin S.	2121	½		½	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0	1	8	2
3	SCO	620635	Burridge, Raymond John	2142	0	½		.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.5	0	0.5	8	3
4	ENG	210717	Blake, Michael J.	2233	.	.	.		.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	10	4
5	SCO	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1780	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	10	4
6	SCO	620345	IM Mackintosh, Iain	2366	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	10	4
7	SCO	620204	IM Pyrich, George D.	2104	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	.	0	0	0	10	4
8	SCO	620586	Smith, Mark J.	2034	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	0	0	0	10	4
9	SCO	620613	Dawson, A. G.	2113	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	0	0	0	10	4
10	SCO	620410	Goodwin, Brian J.	1829	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	0	0	0	10	4
11	SCO	30222	IM Murden, Clive	2437	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		0	0	0	10	4

SCO/C2016, ScottishCCA Championship 2016/17

					TD Maxwell, Alistair												Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated					1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6					
1	SCO	620426	Cumming, David R.	2260			½	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	1	7.5	5	28.25	0	1
2	SCO	620613	Dawson, A. G.	2049	½	½			½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	6	2	23	0	2
3	SCO	620345	IM Mackintosh, Iain	2405	½	0	½	½			1	½	.	½	1	1	5.5	3	20.25	1	3
4	SCO	620716	Campbell, Eoin S.	2120	½	0	½	½	½	0			½	½	1	½	4.5	1	17.5	0	4
5	SCO	620204	IM Pyrich, George D.	2124	½	0	½	½	½	.	½	½			½	½	3.5	0	17.5	2	5
6	SCO	620410	Goodwin, Brian J.	1871	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	.		1	0	4	1	6	

SCO/C2015, ScottishCCA Championship 2015/16

					TD Maxwell, Alistair												Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated					1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6					
1	SCO	620345	IM Mackintosh, Iain	2437			½	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	8.5	7	32.5	0	1
2	SCO	620426	Cumming, David R.	2330	½	½			1	½	1	½	1 ^E	1 ^E	1	1	8	6	30.75	0	2
3	SCO	620716	Campbell, Eoin S.	2147	½	0	½	0			½	½	½	½	1	1	5	2	17.75	0	3
4	SCO	620204	IM Pyrich, George D.	2168	0	0	½	0	½	½			½	½	1	1	4.5	2	14	0	4
5	SCO	620440	MacGilchrist, Siegrun	2108	0	0	0 ^E	0 ^E	½	½	½	½			½	½	3	0	10.5	0	5
6	SCO	620410	Goodwin, Brian J.	1952	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½		1	0	3	0	6	

The 2015-16 tournament is complete with Iain Mackintosh pipping early leader David Cumming at the post. In the 2016-17 event, David Cumming is the outright winner with second place yet to be decided. The 2017-18 competition has attracted 11 entries and will be a single round robin event for the first time in a while.

Premier

SCO/Prem2016/A, SCCA Premier 2016 A

Rated	TD Paine, Kevin (IA)											Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
1	ENG	210717	Blake, Michael J.	2199		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	7	21	0	1
2	SCO	620424	Anderson, James	1753	0		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	15	0	2
3	SCO	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1781	0	0		1	1	1	1	½	4.5	4	10.25	0	3	
4	SCO	629020	Knox, Arthur	1545	0	0	0		0	1	1	1	3	3	4.5	0	4	
5	SCO	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1681	0	0	0	1		0 ^E	1	1	3	3	4.5	0	4	
6	SCO	211319	Neil, Charles	1497	0	0	0	0	1 ^E		1	1	3	3	4.5	0	4	
7	SCO	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1610	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	1	1	0.5	0	7	
8	SCO	620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	1412	0	0	½	0	0	0	0		0.5	0	2.25	0	8	

Only one Premier section this year, with the newly domiciled Michael Blake entering our 100% Club.

Open

SCO/Open2016/A, SCCA Open 2016 Section A

Rated	TD Paine, Kevin (IA)											Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place			
	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6								
1	SCO	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1681			.	1	1 ^E	½	1	1	1	1	6.5	6	18.5	1	1
2	SCO	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1781	0	.			1 ^E	½	½	½	1	1	4.5	3	10	1	2
3	SCO	620744	Crawford, Robert	1750 ^P	½	0 ^E	½	0 ^E			1	0 ^E	1	1	4	3	9.5	0	3
4	SCO	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1610	0	0	½	½	1 ^E	0			1	1	4	3	8.5	0	4
5	SCO	620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	1412	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	5	

Only one Open section this year, and Andrew Macmillen won it by a margin with one game still to complete.

Challengers

2015-16 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J McK	14	14	0	5
Blake, M	4	4	0	3½
Burrige, R J	18	18	0	14
Cumming, D R	8	8	0	8
Gilbert, R	4	4	0	0
Hardwick, M E	14	14	0	½
Lawrence, S	4	4	0	2½
Neil, C	14	14	0	6½

2016-17 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J McK	12	12	0	2
Blake, M	8	8	0	7½
Burrige, R J	6	6	0	4½
Crawford, R	8	8	0	6½
Gilbert, R	12	12	0	7½
Hardwick, M E	8	8	0	1
Knox, A	10	10	0	3

As expected, Raymond Burrige took gold in the 2015-16 cycle after the late flurry of games completed. The 2016-17 cycle finished with joint winners – both Mickey Blake and Robert Gilbert finished on 7½ points. Mickey played less games to get his points, but Robert's performance was a distinct improvement on 2015-16. This competition doesn't have a tie-break rule, so well done to both players!

Leagues

There was no Postal League due to lack of entries. Three webserver leagues were contested once more, and a total of 22 teams reflected the increasing popularity of this event. The divisional winners were Hounds of the Scheming Mind B, Social A and White Rose B – congratulations to all of them!

Webserver League Division 1

SCO/WLeague1/16, SCCA Web League Div 1 2016

TD Dawson, A. G.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	Hounds of Scheming minds B	2216	■	2	1.5	2.5	3.5	3	3	15.5	64	7	9	24	0	1
2	⊕ BCCA Diamonds	2265	2	■	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	15	62	6	10	24	0	2
3	Hounds of Scheming minds A	2319	2.5	2	■	2	2.5	1.5	3.5	14	58	4	8	24	0	3
4	⊕ White rose A	2214	1.5	1.5	2	■	2	2.5	3	12.5	52	1	6	24	0	4
5	⊠ Perth correspondents	2224	0.5	1.5	1.5	2	■	2.5	3	11	45	-2	5	24	0	5
6	Hounds of Scheming minds C	2040	1	1.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	■	1.5	9.5	39	-5	2	24	0	6
7	⊕ Civil Service A	2137	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	2.5	■	6.5	27	-11	2	24	0	7

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
Hounds B	Cousins, R	Waller, A	Williamson, D L	Hollands, G
BCCA Diamonds	Thompson, B	Maguire, G	Wilkinson, J P	Mason, I J
Hounds A	Rivas Maceda, J	R Maldonado, C J	Elburg, J	Laine, J
White Rose A	Sutton, A B	Cook, D D	Herriot, B J	Suffield, M
Perth Corresp	Mackintosh, I	Borwell, A P	Paine, K A	Warren, J
Hounds C	Kjeldsen, K	Parente, A	Cook, P	Sitorus, Y
Civil Service A	Barber, P	Sargent, J M	Lewyk, I	Edney, D

Webserver League Division 2

SCO/WLeague2/16, SCCA Web League Div 2 2016

TD Dawson, A. G.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	⊕ Social A	2181	■	2.5	2	3.5	3	4	4	19	79	14	11	24	0	1
2	⊕ BCCA Topaz	2269	1.5	■	3.5	3	3	4	4	19	79	14	10	24	0	2
3	⊠ Knights of the Board A	2157	2	0.5	■	2.5	3.5	3	4	15.5	64	7	9	24	0	3
4	⊕ BCCA Emeralds	2026	0.5	1	1.5	■	2	4	4	13	54	2	5	24	0	4
5	⊠ Black knight	2114	1	1	0.5	2	■	4	4	12.5	52	1	5	24	0	5
6	⊠ Renfrewshire knights	1825	0	0	1	0	0	■	3.5	4.5	18	-15	2	24	0	6
7	⊕ Civil Service B	1887	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	■	0.5	2	-23	0	24	0	7

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
Social A	Vivante-Sowter, J	Ewan, R	Pallett, R	Denham, C
BCCA Topaz	Sherwood, R	Sherwood, H	Jones, I	Relyea, A
Knights Board A	Cumming, D R	Kover, W B	Burridge, R J	Price, D
BCCA Emeralds	Beveridge, C	Glanville, C M	Cole, S	Gould, I C
Black Knights	Bell, A D	Pyrich, G D	Marshall, I H	Dempster, D
Renfrew Knights	Cochrane, R	Macgregor, C A	Gilbert, R	Hilton, S H
Civil Service B	Twitchell, N H	Bicknell, G	Dick, S L	Pickering, P

Webserver League Division 3

SCO/WLeague3/16, SCCA Web League Div 3 2016

TD Dawson, A. G.

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	+	White Rose B	1939		3	3.5	4	3	3.5	3.5	4	24.5	87	21	14	28	0	1
2	✉	Brutal realism	1854	1		1.5	3	2	4	4	4	19.5	69	11	9	28	0	2
3	+	BCCA Sapphires	1853	0.5	2.5		2.5	2	3.5	3.5	4	18.5	66	9	11	28	0	3
4	+	Social B	1795	0	1	1.5		2	2.5	2.5	4	13.5	48	-1	7	28	0	4
5		Hounds of Scheming minds D	1703	1	2	2	2		1.5	2	2.5	13	46	-2	6	28	0	5
6	+	White Rose C	1763	0.5	0	0.5	1.5	2.5		3	3.5	11.5	41	-5	6	28	0	6
7	+	BCCA Rubies	1554	0.5	0	0.5	1.5	2	1		1.5	7	25	-14	1	28	0	7
8	+	Civil Service C	1703	0	0	0	0	1.5	0.5	2.5		4.5	16	-19	2	28	0	8

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
White Rose B	Graham, O	Beckett, P J	Grummitt, W	Wood, B
Brutal Realism	Taylor, W	Murray, J S	Grant, J	Macmillen, A N
BCCA Sapphires	Campbell, E S	Tibbert, P H	Dudeney, K	Woodhouse, S
Social B	Brown, S	Pickering, P	Ross, G J S	Ash, G
Hounds D	Huff, D C	Druś, M	Bedard, E	Kraut, M
White Rose C	Clark, M	White, Ri	Holt, F	Cassell, R
BCCA Rubies	Walker, J T	Hutchings, J M	Hardwick, M E	Selby, R
Civil Service C	Ryan, R	Pomeroy, R J	Sedstrem, A	White, Ro



Veterans' World Cups

By Alan Borwell

Veterans World Cups 2 and 3 (both now concluded), & 4 are all sponsored by the Scottish CCA.

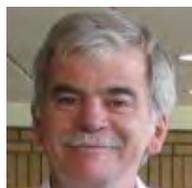
VWC4/f, Final - 4th ICCF Veterans World Cup

TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)

Category 6 SIM=10 IM=8½

					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
1	GER	82320	IM	Sikorsky, Reinhard	2405		½	½	0	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	8.5	4	56	0	1
2	ITA	241016		De Filippis, Francesco	2415	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1 ^E	1 ^E	½	½	1	8.5	3	56.5	0	2
3	CRO	900009	SIM	Ljubičić, Ante	2484	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1 ^E	½	½	1	7.5	2	51.75	1	3	
4	USA	511655	IM	Rodriguez, Keith A.	2327	1	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	0	7.5	2	53	0	4
5	CZE	130234		Leiner, Raimund	2357	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	1 ^E	½	½	½	7.5	1	51.25	0	5
6	GER	85849	SIM	Kraft, Dieter	2466	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	7.5	1	51	0	6
7	RUS	141402	IM	Kopeikin, Valentin Vasilievich	2436	0	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	7	1	47	0	7
8	GER	85722		Felkel, Siegfried	2417	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	48.5	0	8
9	RUS	140583	IM	Shulman, Boris Yakovlevich	2418	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	48.5	0	8
10	USA	510993		Dessaules, Peter	2352	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	7	0	48.5	0	8
11	RUS	141926		Evgrafov, Boris Nikolaevich	2341	½	0 ^E	0 ^E	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1 ^E	6.5	1	43.25	0	11
12	GER	85028	IM	Stieger, Helmut	2413	0	0 ^E	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1 ^E	6	1	39.25	0	12	
13	NED	370283		Thierry, Rein D. J.	2326	0	½	½	½	0 ^E	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6	0	41	0	13
14	BEL	40429	IM	Van tricht, Marcel	2385	½	½	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	5.5	0	38.25	0	14
15	RUS	141943	IM	Moskvichev, Valery Ivanovich	2435	0	0	.	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	0 ^E	0 ^E	½	½	5	1	34.75	1	15	

Veterans World Cup 4 Final (TD Gordon Anderson). The Final of 15 players started on 15/1/2015 with no closing date. Both SIM and IM title norms are available. So far 104 games are finished with 1 still ongoing. Reinhard Sikorsky (GER) will win the event on the Baumbach tie-break rule. Francesco de Filippis (ITA) has achieved an IM norm and should finish second. The outstanding game involves SIM Ante Ljubičić, currently in third place.



2017/1 Grading List

By George Pyrich

The first ICCF grading list of 2017 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 September and 30 November 2016. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 January and 31 March 2017.

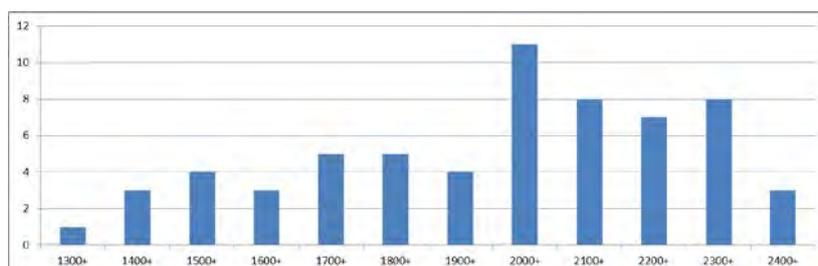
There was one addition to this list – Derek Ross entered at 1886 (38 games). Movement across the grading bands featured Martin Hardwick regaining 1300+; and Alastair Dawson regaining 2100+ for the first time since 2013.

Two new games centurions were recorded – Carlos Almarza-Mato passed the 1200 games mark and Eoin Campbell reached 500+.

Highest recorded games during this quarter were Carlos Almarza-Mato (98), Eoin Campbell (58), Martin Hardwick (52), Andrew Macmillen (48), Raymond Burrige (43), and David Cumming (31).

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	1217	2199 ↑	063	Harvey, D	102	2053 ↔
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	287	2321 ↑	1013	Hilton, S H	177	1604 ↓
121	Anderson, J	266	1788 ↔	447	Jamieson, I M	82	1918 ↔
049	Armstrong, A	193	1890 ↓	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	329	2287 ↔
313	Armstrong, J McK	338	1536 ↑	260	Knox, A	257	1415 ↓
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	405	2470 ↔	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	768	2269 ↑
599	Bell, A D (SM)	193	2396 ↑	471	Macgilchrist, Mrs S	52	2095 ↔
501	Bennett, P G (SM)	345	2332 ↓	584	MacGregor, C A	393	1930 ↑
	Beveridge, C	263	2173 ↓	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	668	2366 ↓
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1034	2256 ↔	216	MacMillen, A N	990	1704 ↓
602	Burrige, R J	1073	2142 ↑	566	Marshall, I H	579	2049 ↓
435	Cairney, J	62	2076 ↔	434	Matheis, T (IM)	212	2457 ↓
601	Campbell, E S	510	2121 ↑	412	McKinstry, J	94	1481 ↓
038	Campbell, I S	293	1862 ↔	401	Moir, P J	185	1617 ↔
	Clark, S L	154	2058 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S	269	2262 ↔
364	Coope, D W	738	1921 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	452	2437 ↑
247	Cormack, W H	106	1898 ↑	564	Murray, J S	55	2014 ↓
527	Craig, T J (SM)	372	2323 ↔	440	Neil, C	238	1415 ↓
166	Cumming, D R (SM)	1153	2306 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	146	2075 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G	107	2113 ↑	604	Paine, Dr K A	179	2309 ↑
572	Dempster, D	785	1791 ↑	315	Petrie, A	105	1511 ↔
	Dunn, J	237	1579 ↓	432	Price, D	339	2047 ↑
	Dyer, M	105	2063 ↔	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	985	2104 ↓
371	Edney, D	220	1956 ↓		Ross, D W	38	1886 ↑
462	Gilbert, R	131	1780 ↓	439	Smith, M J	59	2034 ↑
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	145	2241 ↔		Stewart, A G	34	2159 ↔
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)	473	2398 ↔	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	173	2117 ↔
124	Goodwin, B J	320	1829 ↓	1120	Taylor, W	69	2029 ↑
445	Graham, S (SM)	354	2202 ↔		Thornton, J	35	1611 ↔
399	Grant, J	51	1731 ↔	452	Toye, D T	77	1582 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	856	1343 ↑	530	Watson, J (IM)	151	2297 ↔



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	62
New entrants	1
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Full grades (30+ games)	62
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	19
Grading decreases (↓)	19
Grading static (↔)	24

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2470	Borwell, A P (IM)	2256
Matheis, T (IM)	2457	Gillam, S R (SM)	2241
Murden, C (IM)	2437	Graham, S (SM)	2202
Giulian, P M (SIM)	2398	Almarza Mato, C	2199
Bell, A D (SM)	2396	Beveridge, C	2173
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2366	Stewart, A G	2159
Bennett, P G (SM)	2332	Burridge, R J	2142
Craig, T J (SM)	2323	Campbell, E S	2121
Anderson, G M (SM)	2321	Stewart, Dr K W C	2117
Paine, Dr K A	2309	Dawson, Prof A G	2113
Cumming, D R (SM)	2306	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2104
Watson, J (IM)	2297	Macgilchrist, Mrs S	2095
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2287	Cairney, J	2076
Lloyd, G (SM)	2269	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	2075
Montgomery, R S	2262	Dyer, M	2063

Top 30 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	1217	MacGregor, C A	393
Cumming, D R (SM)	1153	Craig, T J (SM)	372
Burridge, R J	1073	Graham, S (SM)	354
Borwell, A P (IM)	1034	Bennett, P G (SM)	345
MacMillen, A N	990	Price, D	339
Pyrich, G D (IM)	985	Armstrong, J McK	338
Hardwick, M E	856	Kilgour, D A (GM)	329
Dempster, D	785	Goodwin, B J	320
Lloyd, G (SM)	768	Campbell, I S	293
Coope, D W	738	Anderson, G M (SM)	287
Mackintosh, I (IM)	668	Montgomery, R S	269
Marshall, I H	579	Anderson, J	266
Campbell, E S	510	Beveridge, C	263
Giulian, P M (SIM)	473	Knox, A	257
Beecham, C R (SIM)	405	Neil, C	238

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

The Eloquary 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



Time Play in Modern CC: (1) Dead Man's Defence (DMD)

By Peter Bennett

Just about everyone who has played CC on the server in recent years will be familiar with DMD: one player has a clearly winning position; but his opponent, rather than resign, simply falls into a pattern of playing losing moves very, very slowly. If the defender has, say, 90 days of reflection time in hand at the point when he realises he is losing, he can easily take 3 months over his next five moves and postpone the loss in this way.

If, during this 3-month period, the defender passes another time-control, he could receive another 50 days of reflection time; and if he further makes full use of his allowance of 45 days annual leave, he could delay the end of the game by a further three months. In such a situation, six months can go by without any appreciable progress in the game. Naturally, this is very frustrating, to say the least, for the person who is (a) winning it, and (b) trying to bring it to an early conclusion.

What the ICCF has now done is to outlaw DMD, a brave and admirable step in principle but taken, in my view, without adequate consideration of the complexities of the problem. Playing slowly when you are losing is now, effectively, classified as unethical. The problem is: have we reached a clear and satisfactory definition of what is, and what is not, DMD? And are there some situations in which slow play in a losing position might be justified or at least understandable?

My own view is that the practice I abhor is that of playing slowly when you are losing without good reason. I discovered a long time ago that DMD comes in a variety of different guises and how you deal with it may depend on which particular form of DMD you are dealing with.

Blanket judgmentalism doesn't really help. For example, another player once wrote me a note complaining about a mutual opponent, Bloggs (a pseudonym, of course) who was a notorious exponent of DMD. I was able to reassure him that Bloggs (whom I had known for longer) was slow in general, not just in defence. He was equally infuriating with his ultra-slow play even when he was winning a game. So the crucial issue is not the absolute pace of the game, but the relative pace of games that you are winning and games that you are losing.

I also learned through experience that the best way to deal with DMD is to try to keep open a means of communication with your opponent through the messaging system.

For example, I have a very friendly relationship with one of my current opponents who is nevertheless in the early stages of DMD. I have had a winning advantage (currently +5.5 on deep engine analysis) for more than two months now; and my opponent has used up 96 playing days more than I have.

Less than 50% of this "analysis time" has been used to work on the game. Put another way, my opponent is currently spending a week over every move merely contemplating his

own demise. Even so, in this particular game, I am reasonably confident that my opponent will soon do the decent thing and resign; so I am unlikely to have to make a complaint.



Reaper playing chess
Chess on Pinterest - darkwoman.centerblog.net

On previous occasions I have used such open communication to elicit a response from an opponent who is clearly playing DMD. Here is an example:

"Dear X,

Thus far I have thoroughly enjoyed our encounter in this tournament. In the (chess) position we have now reached, however, may I be so bold as to ask, what are your plans for this game?

The reason I ask is this. I am sure it will come as no surprise to you that my own assessment is that White has a clearly winning advantage and has already had such an advantage for more than ten moves. Do you disagree with this assessment?

Clearly, if you genuinely believe that Black can still save the game, then please let me know as I absolutely respect your right to play on, if that is your view of the position.

On the other hand, if you are inclined to agree with my assessment, and you are playing on for some other reason, please be kind enough to explain this to me.

I am well aware that there are sometimes good reasons for playing on in a “losing” position.

With best regards,
Sumus amici,

Peter”

More often than not, such a note elicits an immediate resignation.

Unfortunately, most exponents of DMD are as disinclined to communicate as they are to resign. Sending a message such as the one above is inadvisable when an opponent is a chronic non-communicator. Essentially, these players are bad losers: they not only hate losing but also, by extension, hate all opponents to whom they are losing.

So they “punish” these horrid people who have the temerity to win games against them by postponing resignation as long as possible. Once it becomes clear that your DMD opponent is functioning in this kind of territory, you have no option but either (a) to sit it out patiently, or (b) to draw the matter to the attention of the TD.

One extreme form of DMD is to play slower and slower and never to resign, such that the game eventually ends as a default on time. On the several occasions I have experienced this, it was against relatively low-graded, inexperienced players who were possibly quite unaware that this way to lose is regarded as unethical in the correspondence game.

This further drew me into a false sense of optimism that stronger players, especially titled players, would be rather more grown-up about these matters. How wrong I was!



Chess Lady vs Skeleton
Susan Polgar Chess Daily News
chessdailynews.com

In a recent game, another Scottish player found himself in a winning position against a GM who had a grading of well over 2500. So did the GM resign? Not at all. He played on

for months in a ridiculously lost position! Unfortunately, these things still happen.

On one occasion, I was similarly caught out. I had a clearly winning position against a SIM after playing a piece sacrifice with which (unknown to my opponent) I had already won a game against another player.

I had already sent the completed game to the editor of an international chess publication who had commissioned me to write an article about the line.

So, when my SIM opponent started playing DMD and my advantage had passed the +7.00 stage, I wrote to him, telling him about this prospective article, then asking him whether he was still playing for a draw and, if not, would he consider bringing the game to a conclusion ahead of my copy deadline (some six weeks off, at that stage)?

His reply was a bit huffy and he proceeded to play DMD for a further six months, finally resigning when the position had reached +17.50 to White and I had a forced mate in 26. So I missed the copy deadline but my article appeared in a later issue, anyway.

This particular SIM is also an IA who is highly placed in the ICCF and currently TO to more than 500 games in ICCF tournaments. But he was clearly not averse to playing “gamekeeper turned poacher” when irked by a prospective loss to a lower-graded “upstart”.



In the Disneyland, Florida, Pirates of the Caribbean ride, there are two skeleton pirates playing chess.

The chess pieces are specifically set in a stalemate, so they're playing a never-ending game.

At least, with DMD, the endgame tablebases have, to some extent, come to our rescue. Nowadays, if you find that your opponent is playing DMD, the best strategic remedy is to exchange off material as fast as possible, in order to reduce the position to a 6-man endgame, at which point the win can be claimed anyway.

This resource does not help with other forms of “time play”, a subject which I propose to take up in my next article. .



An Evans Gambit Selection

This coincides with the start-up of the new ICCF thematic event.



Captain William Davies Evans
(1790-1872)

Evans ranks as one of the most influential and overlooked Welshmen of all time. In the 1820s, he gave chess a new lease of life, and he also saved thousands of lives by inventing a system of maritime safety lights.



Mikhail Ivanovich Tchigorin
(1850-1908)

White: Tchigorin, M

Black: Urusov, N

Le Monde Illustré Corr. Tmt, 1884-86

Evans Gambit [C51]

[Notes by John E Hawkes, after Romanov & Grodzensky]

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Bc4 | Bc5 |
| 4.b4 | Bxb4 |
| 5.c3 | Bc5 |
| 6.0-0 | d6 |
| 7.d4 | exd4 |
| 8.cxd4 | Bb6 |
| 9.Nc3 | Na5 |
| 10.Bg5 | Ne7 |

Steinitz v Tchigorin, London 1883, had gone 10...f6 11.Bf4 Nxc4 12.Qa4+ Qd7 13.Qxc4 Qf7 14.Nd5 g5 15.Bg3 Be6 16.Qa4+ Bd7 17.Qa3 Rc8 18.Rfe1

11.Nd5
11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.Nd5 Re8 13.Bxe7 Rxe7 14.Ng5+ Kg8 15.Qh5 h6 16.Qg6 hxg5 17.Nf6+ Kf8 18.Nh7+ Kg8 19.Nf6+ Draw by repetition (Tchigorin)]

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 11... | f6 |
| 12.Bxf6 | gxf6 |
| 13.Nxf6+ | Kf8 |
| 14.Ng5 | Ng8 |



14...Nxc4 15.Qh5 Kg7 16.Qf7+ Kh6 PWH Smith v PH Clarke, First Grand Open CC Tmt - Round 1 (1978) went; 17.Ngxf7!? (17.Qh5+ draw.) 17...Bxd4 18.g4 Bxf6 19.Nxf6 Rg8 20.f4 Rxc4+ 21.Kh1 Qh8 22.f5 (22.Qxe7? Rg7! 23.Ng8+ Rxc8-+; But White could have tried for the variation 22.Rg1 Ne3 23.Qxe7 Rg7 24.f5!!±) 22...Ne5 23.Nxc4+ (23.Qxe7 Rg7 24.Ng8+ Kh5 (24...Qxg8 25.Qh4#!) 25.Qe8+ Rf7±) 23...Nxc4 24.Qxe7 Qf6 25.Qxc7 Nf2+ 26.Kg1 Nxe4 27.Qa5 Bd7 0-1

15.Ngxf7+	Kg7
16.Bxc8	Rxc7
17.Nxf7	Qh4!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 18.Qf3 | Kxg8 |
| 18...Bg4 19.Qf7+ Kh8 20.Nf8 wins. | |
| 19.Nf6+ | Kg7 |



20.Nh5+	Kg6
20...Kh6 21.Qf8+ Kxh5 22.Qh8+ Kg5 23.Qg7+ Kh5 24.Qh7+ Kg5 25.f4+ and White wins.	
21.Nf4+	Kh7
22.Nd5	Be6
23.Nxb6	axb6
24.d5	Bg8
25.Rac1	Qe7
25...c5 26.e5! dxe5 27.Qf5+ Kh8 28.Qxe5+ Kh7 29.Rc3	
26.Qh3+	

Black resigns in view of 26...Kg7 27.Qc3+ and 26...Kg6 27.Rc3

1-0



White: Aronson, V

Black: Umansky, Mikhail M

13th USSR Ch. 77-78

Evans Gambit [C51]

[Notes by John E Hawkes based on those in Khod v Konverte by Romanov and Grodzensky]

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Bc4 | Bc5 |
| 4.b4 | Bxb4 |
| 5.c3 | Be7 |
| 6.Qb3 | Nh6 |
| 7.d4 | Na5 |
| 8.Qa4 | Nxc4 |
| 9.Qxc4 | d5! |

Or Ravinsky's variation 9... Ng4!
 10.h3 Nf6 11.dxe5 d5! 12.exd6 cxd6
 13.0-0 0-0=10.h3 Nf6 11.dxe5 d5!
 stems from Ravinsky.

10.exd5 e4
11.Ne5 f6



12.Bxh6

12.d6 Bxd6! 13.Bxh6 fxe5 14.Bxg7
 (14.dxe5 gxh6 15.exd6 Qxd6
 16.Qxe4+ Be6 and White must not
 grab the b-pawn because of
 17.Qxb7? Qe5+) 14...Qg5 15.Bxh8
 Qc1+ 16.Ke2 Bg4+ 17.f3 exf3+
 18.gxf3 Bxf3+ 19.Kxf3 Qxh1+
 20.Ke3 0-0-0+

12... gxf3
13.d6 fxe5
 13...Qxd6 14.Qf7+ (14.Nf7? Qf4!)
 14...Kd8 15.Qg7 Rf8 16.Qxf8+!±
14.dxe7 Qxe7
15.Qb5+ c6
16.Qxe5 Qxe5
17.dxe5 Rg8
18.Nd2 Bf5
19.Rg1 Rd8
20.Nc4 Ke7
21.Nd6 Ke6
22.Nxb7 Rd5
23.Rb1 Kxe5
24.c4 Rd3
25.Na5 c5
26.Rb5



26... Bg4!
27.Rxc5+ Kd4

28.Rd5+ Kc3
29.f3

White's options were as follows:
 29.Nc6 Rg6 30.Nxa7 Ra6 31.Nb5+
 Kxc4 32.Rxd3 exd3-+; 29.Nb3 a5
 30.f3 (30.Nd2 Rxd5 31.cxd5 Kd3
 32.f3 e3 33.Nb3 Rc8 34.fxc4 a4-+;
 30.Nxa5 Ra8 31.f3 Rxd5 32.cxd5
 Rxa5 33.fxc4 Rxa2-+) 30...Bxf3
 31.Kf2 a4 32.Nc5 Rd2+! 33.Rxd2
 Kxd2+; In addition there was 29.f4
 when play might go on 29...Rb8
 30.Nb3 Re3+ 31.Kf2 Re2+ 32.Kg3
 Rg8+

29... Bxf3
30.Kf2 Bg4
31.Rc1+ Kb2
 31...Kd2?? 32.Nb3#
32.Re1 e3+
33.Kg1
 33.Rxe3 Rf8+ 34.Rf3 Bxf3 35.Rxd3
 Be4+
33... Kc2
34.Nb3 Rxd5
35.cxd5 Kd3

0-1



White: Jegerborn, Kurt
Black: Högborg, Per-Gosta
 Swedish Oldboys Championship
 1984
 Evans Gambit [C51]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes based on
 notes in the SSKK Bulletinen]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bc4 Bc5
4.b4 Bxb4
5.c3 Be7
6.d4 Na5
7.Nxe5
 7.Be2 exd4 8.Qxd4!?! (8.cxd4 Bb4+
 9.Kf1!?) 8...Nf6 9.e5 Nc6 10.Qf4
 Nh5 11.Qa4 g6 12.Bh6± Melts -
 Gajevsky, USSR CC 1981.
7... Nxc4
8.Nxc4 d5
9.exd5 Qxd5
10.Ne3 Qa5
11.0-0 Nf6
12.c4 c6
 12...0-0 13.d5 with ideas of Bb2 and
 the long diagonal.
13.Bd2 Qc7
14.Nc3 0-0
15.Qf3 Rd8
16.Ne2 Be6



17.Rfc1 Qd7
18.a4! Bg4
19.Nxg4 Qxg4
20.Qe3 Qe4
21.Rab1 b6
22.Rb3! Rd7
23.a5 Rb8
24.Qxe4 Nxe4
25.Bf4± Bd6
26.Bxd6 Nxd6
27.c5 Nb5
 27...Re7 28.cxd6 Rxe2 29.Kf1+-
28.cxb6 axb6
29.Rxc6 Nxd4
30.Nxd4 Rxd4
 Black is lost.
31.g3 Kf8
32.Rxb6 Ra8
33.Rc7 Rd5
34.a6
 Black resigns; if 34...Ra5 35.Rbb7
 A nice example of White winning via
 queenside action.

1-0



White: Skotorenko, Vasily
Black: Trapl, Jindrich [C51]
 USSR-CSFR Match, 1990
 Evans Gambit [C51]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes based on
 those of Trapl in CCYB-3]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bc4 Bc5
4.b4 Bxb4
5.c3 Be7
6.Qb3 Nh6
7.d4 Na5
8.Qa4 Nxc4
9.Qxc4 Ng4
 9...exd4 10.Bxh6 gxh6 11.cxd4 d5
 12.exd5 0-0 is unclear according to
 Konstantinopolsky in ECO2,1981
10.Nxe5
10... Nxe5

11.dxe5 d6

12.Bf4

The same ECO-2 gives Skotorenko-Tomaszewski, corr.1976 with a +/- evaluation after this 12.Bf4.

12... 0-0

13.0-0 dxe5

14.Bxe5 c6

15.Qe2

15.Qb3 Qb6 16.Qxb6 axb6

15... Qa5

16.f4 Be6

17.Bd4 f6!

Not 17...b5 18.f5 Bc4 19.Qg4 Trapl

18.Kh1 c5

19.Be3

19.Bf2 Rad8 20.a4 Qa6!! 21.Qxa6

bxa6 Trapl

19... Rad8

20.f5?

The assessment at move 12 has to be reversed!

20.c4 Rd7 21.Nd2 Rfd8 22.Nf3

(22.Rfd1 Qc3!+) 22...Rd3 23.Rac1

Qb4+ Trapl

20... Bf7

21.Rc1 Bd6

22.Nd2 Rfe8



23.h3

23.Rab1 Qc7 24.g3 b6 intending Qb7

- Trapl.; 23.Nc4?? Qa6+

23... c4!

24.Qf2

24.Bd4 and Black has 24...Qxf5

25.Bxa7 Qf4 26.Bg1 Bb8 27.Rd1

Rd3 28.Qf2 Qd6 followed by Red8

(Trapl)

24... Ba3

25.Rc2 Rd3!

26.Bd4

If 26.Bxa7 Rxc3 27.Rxc3 Qxc3

28.Bd4 Qd3 29.Qe3+ Trapl

26... Qa4

27.Nf3 Rxe4

28.Ne1

28.Bxa7 Qa5 29.Qb6 Qxf5 30.Qxb7

Rxf3+ Trapl

28... Rdx4

29.cxd4 Qd7

30.Rd1 b5

31.Nf3



31... Bd5!

32.Re2

32.Nh4 and White would have been devastated by the brilliant sequence disclosed by Trapl in his superb CCYB annotation; 32...g5! 33.fxc6 Qxh3+! 34.gxh3 Re1+ 35.Kh2 Bd6+ 36.Qg3 Bxg3+ 37.Kxg3 Rxd1+

32... Qxf5

33.Rxe4 Bxe4!

34.d5 c3

35.Re1 c2

36.Qxa7 Bxf3

37.Qb8+ Bf8

White resigned.

If 37...Bf8 38.gxf3 Qxf3+ 39.Kg1

c1Q

0-1



© John E. Hawkes



Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 4

By John E. Hawkes

White: Lipiridi, Aleksander

Black: Pchelkin, Aleksey

USSR Corr Ch 1984

QGD Ragozin Defence [D38]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

Aleksander Lipiridi (1940–91) played in this 16th USSR Ch and then in the Simagin Memorial 1985–91 and 3rd European Team Tmt. before his premature demise.

1.d4 Nf6

2.Nf3 e6

3.c4 d5

4.Nc3 Bb4

5.Bg5



5... h6

Black could angle for 5...Nbd7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 c5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 when he has a very promising line of play, viz. 9... 9...c4 10.Bf5 (10.Bc2 Qa5 11.Qd2 is an option) 10...g5 11.Bg3 Nc5! as in Ritson-Morry v Dr Bergeraser in the giant Dyckhoff Memorial 1956–58, Section 4/M, going 12.Bxc8 Nd3+ 13.Ke2 Rxc8 14.Qc2 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Ne4 16.Nd2 Nxc3+ 17.hxc3 Qf6 18.f3 Qd6 19.Qa4+ Kf8 20.Nf1 Kg7 21.g4 b5! 22.Qc2 a5 23.Rh3 Qa3 24.Ng3 b4 25.Nf5+ Kf8 26.Rah1 Rc6 27.Rb1 Re6 28.Rhh1 bxc3 29.Rb8+ Re8

30.Rhb1 Nb4 31.Rxe8+ Kxe8
 32.Nd6+ Ke7 33.Qf5 Qxa2+ 34.Kf1
 c2! 35.Qe5+ Kd7 36.Re1 c1Q 0-1
6.Bxf6 Qxf6
7.e3 0-0
8.Rc1 c6
9.Bd3 dxc4
10.Bxc4 Nd7
11.0-0 Bxc3
12.Rxc3 b6?!



12...e5 is more usual play.
13.Bd3! Bb7
14.Be4 e5

15.Qc2 exd4
16.exd4 Rac8
17.Rc1 Nb8
18.Ne5 Rc7



With Black in a huddle to protect the c-pawn, Lipirdi now switches his attention to the k-side.

19.Rf3 Qd6
20.Bh7+ Kh8
21.Re1 Re7
 Not 21...Qxd4 22.Ng6+! (22.Nxf7+ Rxf7 23.Rxf7 is a longer win.)
 22...fxg6 (22...Kxh7 23.Nxf8+ Kg8

24.Qh7+ Kxf8 25.Qh8#) 23.Rxf8+ Kxh7 24.Ree8 and mate is unstoppable; 21...g5 had to be played at this point.

22.Ree3!! g5
 Now it allows White to finish in style.

22...c5 23.Rxf7 Rexf7 24.Ng6+ Kxh7 25.Nxf8+ Kg8 26.Qh7+ Kxf8 27.Qh8#

23.Ng6+! fxg6
24.Rxf8+ Kxh7
25.Qb3! Rg7

26.Ree8
 Black must surrender his queen, when the position is hopeless for him.

1-0



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Chess Art



René François Ghislain Magritte (November 21, 1898– August 15, 1967) was a Belgian surrealist artist who painted around 1,600 pieces.

Magritte was an avid chess player and several of his paintings use chess references, often the versatile icon (bilboquet) which can resemble a pawn or piece.



In Magritte's 1926 painting *Checkmate*, the bilboquet resembles a chess piece - the falling king.

The White king and Black bishop piece next is confusingly credited to both Magritte and Arepo.

Can you solve the endgame study by drawing from the theme of the work? Black to play and mate in 5 moves. Answer on p24.





Games Column

By Bernard Milligan

Happy New Year! This quarter's column features games by the winners of the main 2016 domestic tournaments. We start with new SCCA champion David Cumming in action against IM George Pyrich.

White: Cumming, David R (2260)

Black: Pyrich, George D (2124)

SCCA Championship 2016-17

Pirc Defence [B07]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

- 1.e4 d6
- 2.d4 Nf6
- 3.Nc3 g6
- 4.Bg5

Opting for a less-analysed variation. 4.f4; 4.Nf3 and; 4.Be3 are all heavily favoured.

- 4... Bg7
- 5.f4 0-0
- 6.Qd2 c6
- 7.Nf3 b5
- 8.Bd3 Bg4
- 9.0-0 Qb6
- 10.Ne2 c5
- 11.e5 d5

12.Ng3N

And now we're out of the ICCF database.

12.c3 Ne4 13.Qe3 cxd4 14.cxd4 Nxc5 15.fxc5 Nc6 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Rxf3 Rae8 18.Qf2 Nb4 19.Bb1 f6 20.a3 Na6 21.gxf6 was Anreiter, A (2250) - Pyrich, G (2251), ICCF Champions League, 2010, agreed drawn.

- 12... c4
- 13.Be2 Ne4! =

Only move to keep equality.

- 14.Nxe4 dxe4
- 15.Bxe7 exf3
- 15...Rc8 16.Ng5 Bxe2 17.Qxe2 favours White.

- 16.Bxf3 Bxf3
- 17.Bxf8 Be4
- 18.Bxg7 Kxg7

19.Rf2

19.Rae1 is also playable.

- 19... Qc6?!

This drops a tempo.

Better were 19...h5 to blunt g4; or

19...Nd7 to complete his

development.



- 20.g4! Nd7
- 21.f5 Kh8

21...c3 looks a bit more active for Black.

- 22.fxc6 Qxg6
- 23.h3 h5

This keeps chances about even.

- 24.Kh2 hxg4
- 25.Qf4 Bf3

- 26.Rg1 Qh7

Only move.

- 27.Rg3 Re8!?

27...Rg8 was the better square.

- 28.Kg1!

Necessary preparation for the White attack.

- 28... Re6
- 29.Rh2 Rh6



- 30.Qxh6!

The only winning try.

- 30... Qxh6
- 31.hxg4 Qxh2+
- 32.Kxh2 Bb7
- 33.Re3 Nf8
- 34.b3 Ne6

- 35.bxc4!

White again finds the only winning continuation.

- 35... bxc4

- 36.Ra3 a6
- 37.d5 Bxd5
- 38.Rxa6 Kg7
- 39.a4 c3
- 40.Rb6

And it's just a matter of time and technique now.

1-0



Next up is Mickey Blake, who won last year's Premier with a very impressive 7/7 and so entered our 100% Club. His opponent here is Jim Anderson of Dundee.

White: Blake, Michael J (2199)

Black: Anderson, James (1753)

SCCA Premier 2016

Benko/Volga Gambit [A57]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 c5
- 3.d5 b5
- 4.cxb5 a6
- 5.e3

5.bxa6 is the popular main line, with White scoring 60+% on the ICCF database.

- 5... g6
- 6.Nf3

6.Nc3 is the preferred try here.

- 6... d6
- 7.Nc3 Bg7
- 8.e4 0-0
- 9.a4 Ne8



- 10.Bg5N

Mickey has channelled the play

down a sideline where White scores highly and, as he now departs known territory, White has the material advantage of the gambit pawn, plus a distinct positional edge]

10... Nd7
11.Be2 axb5
12.axb5 Rxa1
13.Qxa1 Nb6
14.0-0 Qc7
15.h3 f5

Jim understandably opts for a freeing move.

16.exf5 Bxf5
17.Qc1 Nf6
18.Re1 Re8
19.Nd2 h6
20.Bf4 g5
21.Bg3 Bg6



22.h4!

After some regrouping, this move launches the decisive White attack.

22... gxh4
23.Bxh4 Nfxd5
24.Nxd5 Nxd5
25.Bc4 Bf7
26.Qd1 e6
27.Qg4 Kh8
28.Ne4 Rb8?!

Wasting a tempo.

29.Bxd5! exd5
30.Nf6 Rf8
31.Qf5 Bg8

Anything else allows mate.

32.Re8 Qf7
33.Rxf8

33.Rxf8 Bxf8 34.b6 d4 35.Qg4 Be7
36.b7 Bxf6 37.Bxf6+ Qxf6 38.b8Q

1-0



And now we turn to the 2016 Open event, where Andrew Macmillen enjoyed a touch of good fortune when overcoming his nearest rival, Robert Gilbert.

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White: Gilbert, Robert (1781)
Black: MacMillen, Andrew N (1681)

SCCA Open 2016
Benko/Volga Gambit [A58]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 c5
3.d5 b5
4.cxb5 a6
5.bxa6 g6
6.g3?!

A little-used and low-scoring line for White.

6... d6
7.Bg2 Bg7
8.e4N

And now the players are breaking new CC ground.

8... Bxa6
9.Ne2 0-0
10.0-0 Nbd7
11.Nbc3 Qc7

12.Re1!?

12.Qc2 looks the better option.

12... Rfb8

12...Ne5 is also worth considering.

13.f4 Nd3!

13.f4 Ra7

14.Qc2 Nb6

14...Rab7 would have been more consistent with Black's 13th.

15.e5 dxe5

16.fxe5 Ng4

17.e6 fxe6

Black's positional play has been somewhat unco-ordinated and White has achieved a small plus. However, just when it seems your game is going nicely, the Chess Gods implant perverse thoughts in your mind...



18.Nf4??

Robert is hoping to tie up the centre, but it presents Black with a cheapo. 18.Bh3! looks a good try here, with the same objective of controlling the central squares.

18... Bd4+!

Andrew seizes his opportunity.

19.Be3?

19.Kh1 survives longer, but the aftershock is understandable.

19... Nxe3
20.Rxe3 Bxe3+
21.Kh1 Bxf4
22.gxf4 Qxf4



White could resign here.

23.Ne2 Bxe2
24.Qxe2 e5
25.Rf1 Qg5
26.Qf3 Rxa2
27.Qf7+ Kh8
28.d6 Rxb2
29.Rg1 exd6
30.Qf3 Qf4
31.Qh3 Nc4
32.Qd3 Rd2
33.Qc3 Qd4
34.Qf3 e4
35.Qh3 e3

0-1



And now to our Webserver League, where a record 22 teams competed last year. Division 1 was won by Hounds of the Scheming Mind B, and this game features their board 2 clash against Perth Correspondents.

White: Waller, Anthony (2244)

Black: Borwell, Alan P (2291)

SCCA Web League Div 1 2016

Queen's Indian [E18]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.Nf3 b6
4.g3 Bb7
4...Ba6 is the current 'hot' move.
5.Bg2 Bb4+

5...Be7 is more conservative and also more popular.

- 6.Bd2 Be7
 7.Nc3 0-0
 8.0-0 Na6
 8...d5 scores better.
 9.Bf4 d6
 10.d5 e5
 11.Be3 h6
 12.Qb1 Nb8N

After the opening phase, a small plus to White.

- 13.h3 a5
 14.a3 Nh7
 15.Qc2 f5

A competitive thrust from Black.

- 16.Bd2 Na6
 Maybe 16...Qe8 to sustain the kingside initiative?

- 17.Rab1 Qd7
 18.b4 axb4
 19.axb4 Bf6
 20.e3 Rf7
 21.Rfd1 Kh8

22.Nb5

Neither player seems to have a strong initiative in mind, though 22.e4 has some prospects for White.

- 22... Nb8
 23.Bc3 Bc8
 24.Nd2 Bb7
 25.h4



25... f4

This move brings an end to the shuffling, but it doesn't work out in Black's favour.

- 26.Rf1 Bc8
 27.exf4 exf4
 28.Ne4 Bxc3
 29.Qxc3 Nf8
 30.Nd4!

White now starts to exercise dominant central control.

- 30... Ra4
 31.c5 Ba6?!

A bit peripheral, though 31...dxc5

- 32.bxc5 Qxd5 33.Ng5 Qxd4
 34.Nxf7+ Kg8 35.Qxd4 Rxd4
 36.Ne5 looks strong for White.

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32.c6

White's squeeze is really biting now.

32... Qe7?!

32...Qd8 was the best of Black's limited options.

33.Rfe1 Bc8?

Missing White's discovered attack.

34.Nc5!

1-0



White: Gilbert, Robert (1781)

Black: Blake, Michael J (2199)

SCCA Challengers 2016

Caro Kann Advance Variation [B12]

[Notes by Kevin Paine]

Here is a game between the joint winners of the Challengers, Robert Gilbert and Mickey Blake, in what appears to be a rare variation of the Caro-Kann. The game goes according to rating, with Mickey able to take advantage of some apparent inaccuracies by Robert.

- 1.e4 c6
 2.d4 d5
 3.e5 c5
 4.c4 cxd4

5.Qxd4

5.Nf3 is more common.

- 5... e6
 6.cxd5 Nc6
 7.Bb5 Qxd5N

Already a novelty in my database. I have a game from Manila in which Black played 7...exd5 and went on to lose: but not as a consequence of that move. Mickey's move is just fine and forces the exchange of queens.

8.Qxd5 exd5

9.Nf3 Bg4

10.Nd4?!

Queens are off the board, so breaking opening principles is probably ok.

But this does slow down White's development.

- 10... Nge7
 11.Bg5 a6
 12.Nxc6 Nxc6
 13.Ba4

Loath to give up bishop for knight.

13.Bxc6+!? bxc6 14.0-0=

13... Bb4+

14.Bd2 Bc5

15.Nc3 0-0

16.Nxd5?!

With the king where it is, White may have been better to protect the e-pawn. Perhaps 16.h3 Bf5 17.f4 is ok.

16... Nxe5

17.Bc2

Is it too late to castle? 17.0-0 Rad8

18.Bb3 Rxd5 19.Bxd5 Rd8 20.Bxb7

Rxd2 21.Bxa6 leads to an interesting

position in which White may have some counterplay.

17... Rad8

18.Ne3 Rfe8



19.Bc3 Nc4!

20.0-0 Nxe3

21.fxex3 Bxe3+

Black now picks up a pawn and still has a development advantage.

Mickey doesn't let the full point slip away.

22.Kh1 Be2 23.Rfe1 Bd2-+

24.Bxd2 Rxd2 25.Rac1 Kf8 26.b3

b5 27.h3 g6 28.Bb1 Kg7 29.b4

Red8 30.Rc2 Bc4 31.Rec1 f5 32.a4

Rxc2 33.Bxc2 Rd2 34.axb5 axb5

35.Kg1 Kf6 36.g4 fxg4 37.hxg4

Kg5 38.Bd1 Kf4 39.Rb1 Bd3

40.Ra1 Kg3 41.g5 Rg2+ 42.Kh1

Be4 43.Ra3+ Kf4 44.Bf3 Rg3

45.Bxe4 Rxa3 46.Bc6 Kg3

Completes a nice win by Black.

46...Kg3 47.Bg2 Ra1+ 48.Bf1 Rxf1#

0-1





International Update

By George Pyrich

ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries

CCO21/S4, ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries - Section 04

TD Millstone, Dr. Michael (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Wales	2348		0.5	1	0.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	5.5	50	0	0	11	43	1
2	Romania	2445	0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1	0.5	1.5	0	5	55	1	0	9	45	2
3	Scotland	2393	1	0.5		0	0	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	1	5	50	0	0	10	44	3
4	Lithuania	2511	0.5	0.5	0		0.5	1	0	0	0.5	1	4	50	0	0	8	46	4
5	Hong Kong	2301	1	0.5	0	0.5		1	0.5	0	0.5	0	4	50	0	0	8	46	5
6	Brazil	2376	1	0	0.5	1	1		0	0.5	0	0	4	50	0	0	8	46	6
7	Argentina	2458	0.5	1	0.5	0	0.5	0		1	0	0.5	4	50	0	0	8	46	7
8	Ukraine	2434	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	0.5	1		0	0	3.5	50	0	0	7	47	8
9	South Africa	2245	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	0		0	2.5	41	-1	0	6	48	9
10	Norway	2380	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.5	0	0		2.5	50	0	0	5	49	10

The team has made a steady start with 10 results to date – all draws – finding itself in mid-table.

NATT 7

NATT/7, North Atlantic Team Tournament VII

TD Martello, Juan Alberto (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Wales	2296		2.5	2.5	3.5	2	2	2.5	3.5	2	3	1.5	2	27	54	4	0	50	38	1
2	Norway	2390	2.5		2	3.5	1.5	2	2.5	1.5	1	2	2	2	22.5	52	2	0	43	45	2
3	Portugal	2356	2.5	2		2	1	0.5	2	4	0.5	4	1.5	2	22	55	4	2	40	48	3
4	U.S.A.	2398	2.5	2.5	3		1.5	3	1	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	0.5	21.5	48	-1	0	44	44	4
5	England	2396	2	1.5	1	2.5		1.5	2.5	1.5	0.5	4	1	2	20	54	3	1	37	51	5
6	U.S.A.-II	2386	2	2	0.5	3	1.5		2.5	2	0.5	2.5	1.5	2	20	50	0	0	40	48	6
7	France	2359	2.5	1.5	2	1	2.5	2.5		1.5	2	2	0.5	2	20	48	-1	0	41	47	7
8	España - Desafío	2348	2.5	2.5	2	1.5	1.5	2	1.5		2	1.5	1.5	1	19.5	47	-2	0	41	47	8
9	España-Fortuna	2360	2	1	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3	2		3	0.5	1.5	18	58	5	0	31	57	9
10	Scotland	2184	1	1	2	1	2	1.5	2	1.5	1		1	2.5	16.5	37	-11	0	44	44	10
11	Canada	2320	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	1	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	2		1	15.5	51	1	0	30	58	11
12	Iceland	2330	2	2	1	0.5	1	2	1	1	1.5	1.5	1		14.5	43	-4	0	33	55	12

Rather unsurprisingly the team continues to struggle in this event – presently the team has 16.5 points from 44 completed games and is rooted firmly at the foot of the table. As before, it should be mentioned however that our team is by some considerable margin the lowest rated in the event.

ICCF Champions League

The motion that this event revert to its old format of 4 divisions with either 11 or 13 teams each of 4 players was approved at the 2016 ICCF Congress and a new cycle of the event is anticipated to start sometime early in 2017.

Current Friendly Internationals

GB/TriNat/2016, British Tri-Nations 2016

TD Ylönen, Olli

			1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Wales	2029		8	10	18	64	8	1	28	12	1
2	England	2061	6		8.5	14.5	50	0	0	29	11	2
3	Scotland	1991	4	6.5		10.5	36	-8	0	29	11	3

After some 6 months play almost 3/4 of the games have been completed. Unfortunately the team seems destined for last place.

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Dec 2016	24	Italy	Server	2	4		
Dec 2016	8	Indonesia	Server	3½	2½		
Nov 2016	26	Canada	Server	3	4		
Jan 2016	25	USA	Server	24½	24½		
Oct 2015	25	Australia	Server	25½	22½		win
May 2015	25	Netherlands	Server	17½	31½		loss

New matches against Canada and Italy are both currently in progress and another over 8 boards against Indonesia started recently. In our current matches we are assured of victory over Australia 25.5 to 22.5 with only 2 games remaining but trail Netherlands 17.5 – 31.5 with only 1 game unfinished. Things are very tight in our other current match against USA with scores tied at 24.5 – 24.5 and only 1 game unfinished.

NSTT 3

North-Sea/TT3, North Sea Team Tournament 3

			TD Doorn, Jos P. M. van											Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
1	Netherlands B	2264	█	2	1.5	1.5	2	1	0.5	0	0.5	1.5	0	10.5	50	0	0	21	39	1
2	Netherlands A	2280	2	█	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	1	0	0.5	1.5	0	7.5	53	1	0	14	46	2
3	France	2302	1.5	0.5	█	1	2	0.5	0	1	0	1	0	7.5	68	4	0	11	49	3
4	Denmark	2371	2.5	1.5	0	█	1.5	0	0	0.5	0	1	0	7	63	3	0	11	49	4
5	Scotland	2164	1	0	1	0.5	█	1	0.5	1.5	0.5	1	0	7	41	-3	0	17	43	5
6	Belgium	2210	1	0.5	0.5	0	0	█	0.5	0	0.5	2	0	5	50	0	0	10	50	6
7	Sweden	2274	0.5	1	0	0	1.5	0.5	█	0	0	1	0	4.5	64	2	0	7	53	7
8	England	2345	1	0	0	0.5	1.5	0	0	█	0	1	0	4	57	1	0	7	53	8
9	Norway	2236	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	█	1	0	3	60	1	0	5	55	9
10	Iceland	2338	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	█	0.5	2.5	16	-10	0	15	45	10
11	Germany	2288	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	█	1.5	75	1	0	2	58	11

Play continues briskly in this event and to date the team has scored 7 points from 17 games (41%) to stand presently 10th of the 11 teams well ahead the strong Icelandic team which is surprisingly underperforming. There is very little however between ourselves and those teams above us and a few wins would see the team climb the table.

11th European Team Championship

The semi-finals of this new cycle was scheduled to start late in 2016 but has been delayed until spring 2017. The selection process will commence when the official announcement for the event is received.

British CC Team Championship 2015/16

GB/TC2015/6, British CC Team Championship 2015/6

			TD Akrill, Richard																Total	FG	RG	Wins
			Bd 1	Bd 2	Bd 3	Bd 4	Bd 5	Bd 6	Bd 7	Bd 8												
1	Scottish CCA		1	1	1	½	1	½	1 ^E	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	11	16	0	6
1	Trophy Hunters		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½ ^A	1	1	1	1	½	½	11	16	0	6
3	Welsh Dragons		½	½	0	0	½	½	1	½	½ ^A	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	9	16	0	4
4	Square Bashers		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	1	0	½	½	½	1	½	8.5	16	0	3
5	CS Administrators		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	½ ^A	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	8.5	16	0	2
6	BCCA		½	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	0	0	1	½	½	½	½	½	7.5	16	0	2
7	HSBC		½	½	0	½	½	0	1	½	½	1	0	0	0	½	0	0	5.5	16	0	2
8	White Rose		½	½	½	½	½	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	½	1	½	0	5.5	16	0	1
8	SchemingMind		½	½	½	1	½	½	½	0 ^E	½	½ ^A	½	0	0	0	0	0	5.5	16	0	1

Our team finally finished in a tie with “Trophy Hunters” but with the tie-break working in our favour the team finished in first place, a splendid result in our first season in the event!

British CC Team Championship 2016/17

Play started recently in the new season where we hope to repeat last year's success. We have again been able to field a strong team (1. Tom Matheis 2. Clive Murden 3. Alan Bell 4. Iain Mackintosh 5. Gordon Anderson 6. Kevin Paine 7. David Cumming 8. David Kilgour) and can be optimistic of our prospects.

ICCF World Championship 41 Preliminaries

Entries close on 12 February for this event where we may submit nominations on behalf of 3 members. Those wishing to be considered for selection should contact George Pyrich without delay.

ICCF 7th Webchess Open

Entries close 31 December for this event scheduled to start 31 January 2017. Thus far 5 of our members have entered a total of 5 Preliminary Sections (David Cumming 3, Derek Coope 2, Colin Beveridge 1, Geoff Lloyd 1 and Eoin Campbell 1).

ICCF CCE Norms for Eoin Campbell, David Cumming and Peter Bennett

The Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title is a relatively recent introduction to the ICCF list, and we're having a bit of a flurry with players picking up norms in ICCF events.

Eoin Campbell has scored 4/11 on board 7 in the North Atlantic Team Tournament (NATT) VII and thus qualifies for his first CCE norm.

David Cumming has completed two: in WS/MN/138, where he achieved the 4½ score with a game to spare, and in the 2nd Interzonal Individual Tournament Prelim A where he scored the requisite 3 with three games still to finish.

Peter Bennett collected a norm in the Veterans World Cup 7 Semifinal 02, scoring the necessary 5 points (also with three games still to finish).

The CCE title is awarded for achieving two or more norms with a total of at least 24 games. So, although David has the right number of norms, his game count is still short (it will stand at 20 when his two events complete). Eoin stands at 11, and Peter will reach 14 when his semi-final completes.

Congratulations to all three players - it's an intriguing race to see who will be our first CCE title-holder!

General

A full list of available individual events and entry fees is available at our web site www.scottishcca.co.uk

Here are games from the three players who have registered CCE norms. We start with Eoin Campbell in NATT7.

White: Gunnlaugsson, Gísli (2077)
Black: Campbell, Eoin S (2068)
NATT/7 ICCF, 2016
Slav Defence [D12]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 **d5**
2.Nf3 **Nf6**
3.e3 **Bf5**
4.c4 **c6**
5.Nc3 **e6**
6.Nh4 **Be4**
7.Bd2N
Not on the ICCF database.
7.f3 is the line preferred by former World Champion Tunc Hamarat, amongst others.

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7... **h6**
8.Nxe4 **Nxe4**
9.Nf3 **a5!?**
10.Bd3 **Bd6**
11.c5 **Nxd2**
12.Qxd2 **Bc7**
13.0-0 **0-0**
14.Qc2 **Nd7**
15.Rfe1 **Qe7**
15...f5 also looks playable.
16.Rac1
16.e4 was an alternative here with no Black pawn on f5.
16... **a4**
17.Rb1?!
Seems to lose a tempo; e4 still looks a better shot.
17... **Rfc8**
18.b4 **axb3**
19.Rxb3?!
19.axb3 looks preferable.

19... **b6**
19...e5 also came into contention here.
20.cxb6 **Bxb6**
21.e4 **Qd6**
22.exd5?! **cxd5**
23.Qb2 **Bd8**



24.Rb1 Nb6!
 Black has handled the positional play better, and now has a definite edge.
25.Qe2 Na4
26.Qd2?!
 Another loss of tempo.
26... Ba5
27.Qe3
 Only move; Qe2 or Qd1 both lose for White.
27... Nc3
28.Ra1 Bd8
29.Rb2
 29.a3 was worth considering here.

29... Ra3!
30.Ne5 Rb8
31.Rc2
 31.Rxb8 Qxb8 32.Qc1 Qa8
31...Bf6
32.Rac1
 32.Rxc3!? Rxc3 33.Bh7+ Kxh7
 34.Qxc3 Bxe5 35.dxe5 Qa6 would give White more room to wriggle.
32... Bxe5
33.dxe5 Qb4
34.h4 d4
35.Qf4 Rba8
36.g4 Qe7
37.g5 hxg5



And Black won after a time forfeit by White.
 If 37...hxg5 38.hxg5 g6 39.Kg2 Qb7+ 40.Kh2 Qd5 and Black is well placed to convert the game to a win.

0-1



Now David Cumming delivers a fine win in the ICCF Interzonal match..

White: Cumming, David R (2253)
Black: Brzezinski, Brian (2225)
 Interzonal IT2A ICCF, 2016
 French Defence [C18]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 e6
2.d4 d5
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.e5 c5
5.a3 Bxc3+
6.bxc3 Ne7
7.Qg4 0-0
8.Bd3 f5
 8...Nbc6 is the other popular try here.
9.exf6 Rxf6
10.Bg5 Rf7
11.Qh5 g6
12.Qd1 Nbc6
 12...Qa5 is the fashionable Black alternative.
13.Nf3 Qa5
14.Qd2
 Heading for less-charted waters.
 14.Bd2 has been favoured by GMs Dothan and Ljubicic.
14... Nf5
15.Ne5 Nxe5
16.dxe5 Ng7
 Just one example of this on the ICCF database and it ended badly for Black.
17.0-0N
 17.g4 was played in Solf (2290) - Zylla (2376), 1-0, 2014.
17... b6
18.a4 c4
 A fire escape for the Black queen, but it makes Bb7 more difficult to play now.
19.Be2 Bd7
20.Bg4
 20.g4 is the alternative method of attack, followed by f- and h-pawn advances and, as here, not worrying too much if Black takes the a-pawn.
20... Bxa4?!
 20...Qc5 is more circumspect.



21.Bf6! Re8
22.h4± b5
 Hoping for counterplay.
23.h5 gxh5

The h-pawn has to be taken or the Black king is fatally exposed.
 23...Nxb5 24.Bxb5 gxh5 25.Qg5+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.f4 Qc7
 28.Rf3+-
24.Bh3 Qc7
25.Rfe1 a5
26.Ra2
 A worthwhile subplot; the Black bishop on c2 would interfere with White's attack.
26... Qa7
27.Qf4
 27.Qh6 works equally well for White.

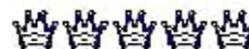
27... Bxc2
 Desperation, but short of realistic alternatives.
28.Rxc2 b4
29.Rce2
 29.Rd2 is a little quicker, but it all comes to the same thing.
29... b3



30.Qh6 a4
31.Bxg7 Rxg7
32.Bxe6+ Kh8
 32...Rxe6 33.Qxe6+ Kh8 34.Qxd5 and it's over.
33.Bxd5 a3
34.Qxh5 Rg6
35.Qf5 a2
 The Black foot soldiers can't be faulted, but elsewhere in the kingdom, the sky darkens...
36.Bf7 Rf8
37.e6 Rxe6
38.Qxe6 Qxf7
39.Qe5+ Qf6
40.Qc5

And Black called it a day. A very well conducted attack by David.

1-0



Finally, Peter Bennett submits a game from VWC9 Preliminaries. His CCE norm was obtained in a VWC7 Semi-Final, where all his results to date have been draws.

White: Bennett, Peter G (2350)

Black: Eliseev, Vladimir

Yakovlevic (2209)

VWC9 /pr 48 ICCF, 2016

French Defence [C18]

[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4	e6
2.d4	d5
3.Nc3	Bb4
4.e5	Ne7
5.a3	Bxc3+
6.bxc3	c5
7.Qg4	0-0
8.Bd3	c4
9.Bh6	Ng6
10.Bxg6	fxg6



The pawn structure in this line definitely favours White, who now controls the a1-h8 diagonal, with a permanent strong square on e5, the ideal pivot for a kingside attack. To avoid this, Black must either refrain from playing 8...c4 or keep the f-pawn on the f-file so that it can attack e5 with ...f6. From here on, White has all the chances on the kingside and Black minimal chances on the queenside. These are all positional considerations which engines don't usually pick up, at least not yet.

11.Be3	Bd7
12.h4	Rf5
13.Ne2	Ba4?!

An error, in my view, as the bishop is pursuing a non-existent attack.

14.Kd2 Qe8?!

A further inaccuracy. It is imperative that Black develops his queenside pieces.

15.Ng3	h5
16.Qh3	Rf7

17.Ne2 Nd7

Finally getting the QN into play - but too late to save the day.



18.Nf4!

An innovation, as far as I am aware - which I believe is winning for White.

18... Nf8

19.g4 Rc8

20.Rhg1 hxg4

21.Rxg4 Rcc7

At last the QR gets some action, but to no avail.

22.h5

For those who might think Black's resignation premature, take a look at the following line which is forcing (diversions for Black being worse for the defender): 22.h5 Rxf4 23.Rxf4 gxh5 24.Rg1 Rf7 25.Rf6! Qe7 26.Bg5! Nh7 27.Qxh5 and Black's king will soon be exposed.

1-0



Finally, we have a game from our friendly match against Australia, where we scored an unexpected win.

White: Armstrong, Alan (1879)

Black: Eraclides, George (1889)

AUS-SCO 2015

Veresov Opening [D01]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 Nf6

2.Nc3

Alan decides to go off-piste with this line which doesn't score highly for White in CC.

2... d5

3.Bg5 Bf5

3...Nb7 is more common.

4.Nf3 e6

5.e3 Be7

6.Bd3 Bxd3

7.cxd3 Nbd7

8.0-0 0-0

9.Qb3N

New to the ICCF database. 9.Rc1 c6 10.Na4 h6 11.Bh4 Bd6 12.Nc5 Qb6 13.Qc2 Qc7 14.e4 Bf4 15.Rce1 Nxc5 16.Qxc5 Nd7 17.Qc2 f6 18.Qe2 Rf7 19.e5 Bg5 20.Bg3 f5 21.Nxg5 hxg5 22.f4 g4 23.Rb1 Qb6 24.Qe3 a5 25.Be1 a4 26.Bc3 Nb8 27.h3 gxh3 28.Qxh3 g6 29.Kf2 Rh7 30.Qe3 Na6 31.Rh1 Qc7 32.g4 Rf8 33.Qg3 fxe4 34.Qxg4 Rxf4+ 35.Qxf4 Rf7 36.Rh4 Rxf4+ 37.Rxf4 Qh7 38.Kg2 Qh5 39.Rbf1 Qg5+ 40.Kf3 Nc7 41.Ke2 Qh5+ 42.Ke1 1-0 was Reynolds, P (2567)-Kilgour, D (2580) ICCF World Championship 15,1996.

9... Rb8

10.Rac1 a6

11.e4 dxe4

11...Nb6 looked more solid.

12.dxe4 b5?!

12...c5 is maybe a better shot.



13.e5!

Alan seizes his opportunity and quickly builds a winning position.

13... Ne8

14.Bxe7 Qxe7

15.d5 b4

15...exd5 16.Nxd5 Qd8 17.Nb4+-

16.Ne2 exd5

17.Ned4 Rb6

18.Nc6 Rxc6

Pretty much forced.

18...Qe6 19.Nfd4+-

19.Rxc6 Nxe5

20.Nxe5 Qxe5

21.Qxb4 Nf6

22.Re1 Qf5

23.Rxc7 Ng4

24.f3 Ne5

25.Rb7 Nc4?

A mistake in a lost position which allows a nice finish for White.

26.Qxf8+!

1-0





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 2017

Theme 1/17: Evans Gambit, C51

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

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 February

Theme 2/17: Russian Defence, C43

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4

Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

Webserver Events 2017

Theme 1/17 - English Four Knights, A38

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 Nf6

Entries by 1 January; play starts 15 January

Theme 2/17 - Caro Kann Panov Variation, B13

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4

Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 March

Note there are no Email Events in 2017.

News

- ❑ Ragnar Wikman of Finland, a long-term friend of SCCA, was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Bremen Congress.
- ❑ Yuri Tyulenko (RUS) produced a commanding performance to win the 4th ICCF Webchess Open Final. He finished with 10½/16 ahead of Bobby Johnson (USA) on 9½ and Stanislav Šplíchal (CZE) on 9.
- ❑ The 70-board friendly match between Poland and the Rest of Europe got under way on December 15th. David Cumming is representing Scotland on board 27.
- ❑ Thomas Herfurth (GER) has won the ICCF Diamond Jubilee Postal World Cup XIX Final which started in January 2014. He finished on 8/12 and beat fellow Germans Edgar Achilles and Ralf Anderskewitz on tie-break (Baumbach/SB).
- ❑ The ICCF Games Archive is now available up to December 2016 and can be downloaded from: <https://www.iccf.com/> Note that you need to login first.

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

Solution to Chess Art Endgame Study:

1... b1=B! 2.Nf2+ Kg3 3 Nd3! Bc2 4.Nc5 Bf5 and Be4# next move.

The SCCA Magazine is sponsored by Mackintosh Independent.