

# Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

**Magazine No.141**

**Spring 2018**

**ICCF Grading List 2018/1**  
*Kevin analyses the Q1 statistics*

**Best Game Prize 2017**  
*Clive adjudicates and annotates*

**Setting Personal CC Targets**  
*Peter gives himself something to aim for*

**The Hawkes Files**  
*John features enterprising bishops*

**International Update**  
*Peter reviews the global stage*

**4 Printed Issues**  
**Price £5 per annum**



*Artwork by Christine Dodd of Lewis*



Welcome to the Spring edition of the 2018 magazine set! In our part of the world, Spring is a catharsis. We are beguiled each year by sunshine and budding crocuses, ripping off our underkilts with gay abandon – then the malevolent Ice Gods reappear, inflicting chilblains on our exposed fatty deposits. All notable Scots food and drink is anti-hypothermic.

After our sad news at the end of 2017, I'm happy to report that Alan Borwell and Gordon Anderson have completed arrangements for an SCCA-sponsored George Pyrich Memorial Tournament, details of which appear on our Notices page. Entry is free and there's an engraved quaich for each grading band winner, so please try to enter, and pass the word on to CC and OTB players you know. Also on the Notices page is a summary of committee changes we've made following George's untimely departure.

Kevin Paine has analysed the second ICCF rating list of 2018 for us; yet another busy period with more games milestones for our active members. We're now tracking SM, CCE and CCM norm-holders on that page.

We didn't have space last time for a summary of our 2017 Domestic Results, so I've provided an update this time round.

It's customary for our Spring edition to feature the results of the Best Game Prize from the preceding year, and we've maintained that sequence here. Our judge on this occasion was newly arrived IM Clive Murden who did a great job of evaluating the entries and annotating the winning games. Clive insisted on not knowing the players, so he'll find out who he picked round about the same time as you do!

John Hawkes has compiled another fine selection of games, this time featuring decisive play by bishops (not a Greek Gift in sight!). There's a gem of a study by Troitzky at the end of John's article which I commend to you.

Peter Bennett does double duty this time, firstly by looking at his own methods of setting targets for improvement, and secondly by summarising our International activity, particularly our good form in the current Olympiad and European Team Championship.

Finally, a new front page image for this year's editions is provided by Christine Dodd, a Lewis-based artist. It's lovely and you can buy that and her other prints from the Scottish National Museum in Edinburgh.

### 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

2018	1st	2nd
March	K B McAlpine	A P Borwell
February	A P Borwell	J M Armstrong
January	Mrs D Livie	P J Moir

### SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	<a href="mailto:president@scottishcca.co.uk">president@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
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Treasurer	Gordon Anderson	63 Wellin Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AH	+44 (0) 115 923 1021	<a href="mailto:treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk">treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
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Grading	Kevin Paine	47 Park Hill Drive, Frome BA11 2LQ	+44 (0) 1373 467585	<a href="mailto:grader@scottishcca.co.uk">grader@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
Member	Alan Borwell	8 Wheatfield Avenue, Inchtute PH14 9RX	+44 (0) 1828 686556	<a href="mailto:alan.borwell@scottishcca.co.uk">alan.borwell@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
Games Editor	Alastair Dawson	10 Berry Place, St Andrews KY16 8RG	+44(0) 1334 477236	<a href="mailto:games@scottishcca.co.uk">games@scottishcca.co.uk</a>

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



## SCCA George Pyrich Memorial Tournaments



Tournament Organiser Alan Borwell has released the following announcement to ICCF Member Federations via the ICCF General Secretary.

The SCCA is organising some special tournaments in memory of our dear friend George Pyrich, who sadly died on 16th December 2017. To avoid clashing with other Memorial events, SCCA plans to start the tournaments on 9th September 2018 which will be the 67th anniversary of George's birthday. The planned structure of the Memorial Tournaments will be as follows:

- SCCA envisages Groups of 13 players each, arranged according to ICCF ratings as at 1st July 2018 but with balanced distribution of nationalities across groups. 20% of the places will be reserved for SCCA members.
- Being Memorial tournaments, there will be no entry fee and there will be engraved commemorative trophies (quaichs) for each of the Group winners.
- The envisaged provisional rating ranges of the groups are: below 2100; 2100-2199; 2200-2299; 2300-2399; 2400-2499 and 2500 and above. These groupings may be varied and there could be multiple groups within a range.
- All entries and enquiries should be sent to Alan Borwell as soon as possible and not later than 20th June 2018.
- Standard ICCF rate of play and leave allowances will be used.

## ICCF 2018 World Championship Semi-Finals



Gian-Maria Tani, ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner, writes to announce the start date of the Semi-Finals of the 42nd WCCC as June 20, 2018.

Entries will be accepted according with ICCF Tournament Rules valid as from January 1st, 2018, to be received not later than May 13, 2018.

Member Federations Nominations (MFN) for the Semi-Finals should also be submitted not later than May 13, 2018. MFN for 2017 cannot be used for 2018 WC Cycle.

Scottish players who are eligible and who are interested in playing should contact Gordon Anderson on [international@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk) as soon as possible and before 6th May 2018.

## SCCA Committee Responsibilities



Following the death of George Pyrich, new committee responsibilities have been agreed as follows:

- Iain Mackintosh: president, webmaster, magazine editor, minute secretary.
- Gordon Anderson: treasurer, ICCF delegate, international secretary.
- Kevin Paine: membership secretary, grader.
- Alastair Dawson: games editor.
- Alan Borwell: organiser of memorial events for George Live and George Pyrich.

The post of vice-president will remain vacant until our AGM in May. Relevant email addresses are given on the Officials webpage of [www.scottishcca.co.uk](http://www.scottishcca.co.uk)

Outside of committee, please note the following important roles:

- Richard Beecham: selection committee chairman (Tom Matheis and Clive Murden will assist).
- Peter Bennett: magazine reporting, including international events and other features.

## ICCF CCE and CCM Titles

Alan Bell of Falkirk, who was recently awarded the Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title, has now achieved his second Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) norm having reached the qualifying standard of 4.5 points while playing Board 4 for Scotland in the 11th European Team Tournament. Alan has thus been awarded the CCM title. Congratulations to Alan on his latest success!

**CCM Titles:** Bell, A D; Bennett, P G; Cumming, D R.

**CCE Titles:** Bell, A D; Bennett, P G; Cumming, D R.

CCE and CCM norm holders are now listed on the Grading List page of this magazine.

## 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](mailto:treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk) for more information. The usual method of subscribing is monthly standing order which spreads the annual cost.

## Fernschach 2018 CC Database



Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2018 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available since 2000
- Total 1,160,000 games (from 1991)
- Approximately 8,500 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:

Herbert Bellmann  
On the Brink 11

SCCA Magazine 141

46399 Bocholt  
Germany

Bank details:

Stadtsparkasse Bocholt/Deutschland

Herbert Bellmann

Iban: DE 33428500350100118801

BIC: WELADED1BOH

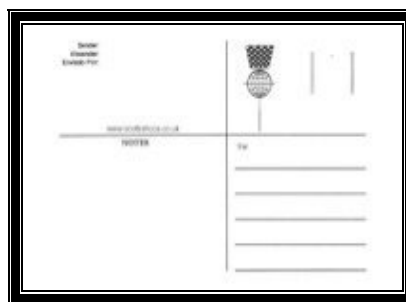
Purpose: FS CD 2018

Your order must contain your complete postal address!

Email: [hebel57@gmx.de](mailto:hebel57@gmx.de)

Website: <http://www.fernschach.org/fs-cd/index.html>

## 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. In May 2017, Royal Mail charged £2.90 for both a 100-card and 200-card parcel.

Orders and payments to Iain Mackintosh at [chess@iainmack.co.uk](mailto:chess@iainmack.co.uk) please.

## ICCF Game Archive



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



## 2018/2 Grading List

By Kevin Paine

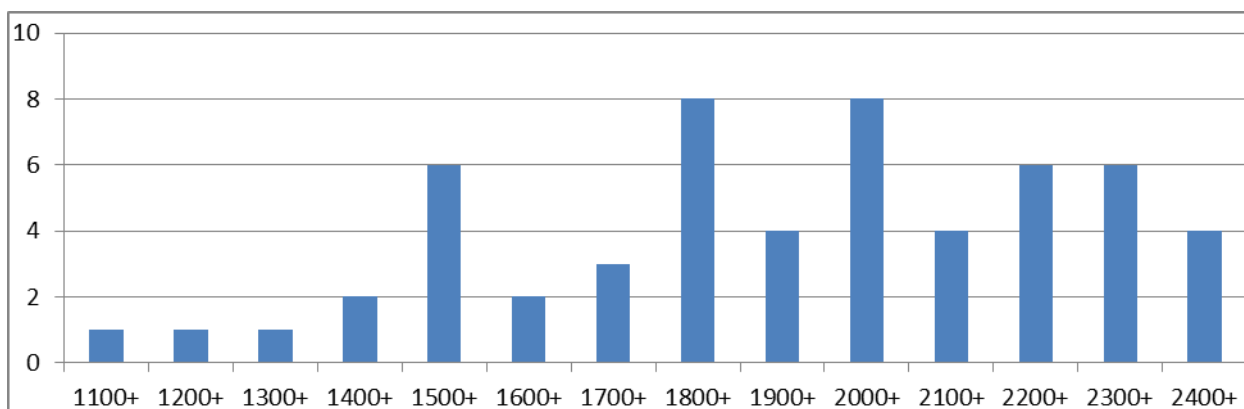
The second ICCF grading list of 2018 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 December 2017 and 28 February 2018. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 June 2018.

One addition (David Carswell) was recorded in this list. Three players were removed – Siegrun Macgilchrist, George Pyrich and Daniel Toye. Upwards movements in grading bands were recorded by John Armstrong (1500+), Derek Coope (1800+), and Andrew Macmillen (1600+) – well done to all of them!

Six new games centurions were recorded – Carlos Almarza Mato reached 1400+; David Cumming passed 1300; Andrew Macmillen vaulted 1200; Eoin Campbell surpassed 700; Peter Bennett went past 400 and Stephen Clark is now 200+. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Andrew Macmillen (52), Eoin Campbell (49), Carlos Almarza Mato (40) and Martin Hardwick (39).

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](mailto:grader@scottishcca.co.uk) if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
318	Almarza Mato, C	1419	2174 ↑	596	Hardwick, M E	984	1122 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	306	2337 ↑	1013	Hilton, S H	179	1594 ↔
121	Anderson, J	285	1870 ↑	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	337	2265 ↔
049	Armstrong, A	205	1890 ↔	260	Knox, A	318	1288 ↑
313	Armstrong, J McK	383	1509 ↑	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	835	2230 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	431	2467 ↓	584	MacGregor, C A	416	1935 ↑
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	231	2409 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	708	2387 ↑
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	402	2356 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	1211	1637 ↑
	Beveridge, C	345	2143 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	664	1844 ↓
472	Blake, M J	753	2322 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	231	2457 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1051	2249 ↓		McEwan, N R	35	1925 ↓
602	Burridge, R J	1236	1899 ↓	412	McKinstry, J	94	1481 ↔
601	Campbell, E S	739	2099 ↓	401	Moir, P J	196	1562 ↓
038	Campbell, I S	293	1862 ↔	598	Montgomery, R S	286	2260 ↓
467	Carswell, D	32	1581 ↑	474	Murden, C (IM)	524	2436 ↓
	Clark, S L	201	2021 ↑	564	Murray, J S	62	2006 ↑
364	Coope, D W	853	1803 ↑	440	Neil, C	283	1344 ↑
247	Cormack, W H	107	1894 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	162	1981 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1318	2361 ↑	604	Paine, Dr K A	198	2352 ↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G	129	2176 ↑	315	Petrie, A	105	1511 ↔
572	Dempster, D	807	1759 ↓	432	Price, D	364	2051 ↓
	Dunn, J	286	1579 ↑		Ross, D W	38	1886 ↔
	Dyer, M	107	2073 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	56	1480 ↓
371	Edney, D	237	1996 ↔	439	Smith, M J	70	2068 ↑
462	Gilbert, R	158	1753 ↓		Stewart, A G	36	2170 ↔
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	145	2241 ↔	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	178	2099 ↔
124	Goodwin, B J	356	1791 ↓	1120	Taylor, W	88	2031 ↓
399	Grant, J	58	1680 ↓	530	Watson, J (IM)	153	2297 ↔



## Statistical Analysis

Total listed	<b>56</b>
New entrants	<b>1</b>
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	<b>3</b>
Full grades (30+ games)	<b>56</b>
Provisional grades (<30 games)	<b>0</b>
Grading increases (↑)	<b>23</b>
Grading decreases (↓)	<b>18</b>
Grading static (↔)	<b>15</b>

## Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	<b>2467</b>	Lloyd, G (SM)	<b>2230</b>
Matheis, T (IM)	<b>2457</b>	Dawson, Prof A G	<b>2176</b>
Murden, C (IM)	<b>2436</b>	Almarza Mato, C	<b>2174</b>
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	<b>2409</b>	Stewart, A G	<b>2170</b>
Mackintosh, I (IM)	<b>2387</b>	Beveridge, C	<b>2143</b>
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	<b>2361</b>	Campbell, E S	<b>2099</b>
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	<b>2356</b>	Stewart, Dr K W C	<b>2099</b>
Paine, Dr K A	<b>2352</b>	Dyer, M	<b>2073</b>
Anderson, G M (SM)	<b>2337</b>	Smith, M J	<b>2068</b>
Blake, M J	<b>2322</b>	Price, D	<b>2051</b>
Watson, J (IM)	<b>2297</b>	Taylor, W	<b>2031</b>
Kilgour, D A (GM)	<b>2265</b>	Clark, S L	<b>2021</b>
Montgomery, R S	<b>2260</b>	Murray, J S	<b>2006</b>
Borwell, A P (IM)	<b>2249</b>	Edney, D	<b>1996</b>
Gillam, S R (SM)	<b>2241</b>	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	<b>1981</b>

## Top 30 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	<b>1419</b>	Armstrong, J McK	<b>383</b>
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	<b>1318</b>	Price, D	<b>364</b>
Burridge, R J	<b>1236</b>	Goodwin, B J	<b>356</b>
MacMillen, A N	<b>1211</b>	Beveridge, C	<b>345</b>
Borwell, A P (IM)	<b>1051</b>	Kilgour, D A (GM)	<b>337</b>
Hardwick, M E	<b>984</b>	Knox, A	<b>318</b>
Coope, D W	<b>853</b>	Anderson, G M (SM)	<b>306</b>
Lloyd, G (SM)	<b>835</b>	Campbell, I S	<b>293</b>
Dempster, D	<b>807</b>	Dunn, J	<b>286</b>
Campbell, E S	<b>739</b>	Montgomery, R S	<b>286</b>
Mackintosh, I (IM)	<b>708</b>	Anderson, J	<b>285</b>
Marshall, I H	<b>664</b>	Neil, C	<b>283</b>
Beecham, C R (SIM)	<b>431</b>	Edney, D	<b>237</b>
MacGregor, C A	<b>416</b>	Bell, A D	<b>231</b>
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	<b>402</b>	Matheis, T	<b>231</b>

## Other Notes

**Scottish Master (SM)** title norms are currently held by:

Montgomery, R S (2)

Paine, K A (2).

**Correspondence Chess Master (CCM)** title norms:

Anderson, G M (1)

**Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE)** title norms:

Anderson, G M (1)

Beveridge, C (1)

Campbell, E S (1)

Lloyd, G (2)

Montgomery, R S (1)

This list includes a number of our members who are registered with other countries, and may include members who have played <12 games and have yet to receive a provisional rating.

To check your rating online at any time, go to the ICCF webserver site ([www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com)), click on the ICCF Ratings link then complete the search boxes.

A number of useful online rating enquiry facilities are available, including a personal forecasted rating as your results come in.



## 2017 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	CCE	Cumming, David R.	2306	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	1	1	1	7	4	27	0	1
2	SCO	620345	IM	Mackintosh, Iain	2366	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	.	1/2	1	1	1	1	6.5	4	24.25	1	2
3	ENG	210717		Blake, Michael J.	2233	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	.	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	1	1	6	3	23.5	1	3
4	SCO	620586		Smith, Mark J.	2034	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	0	.	1/2 <sup>A</sup>	1	1	1/2	1	5.5	3	21	1	4
5	SCO	30222	IM	Murden, Clive	2437	1/2	1/2	.	1	1	.	1/2 <sup>A</sup>	1/2	.	1	1	5	3	19.75	3	5
6	SCO	620613		Dawson, A. G.	2113	1/2	.	1/2	.	.	1	1/2	1/2	1	1	1	5	3	17	3	6
7	SCO	620204	IM	Pyrich, George D.	2104	0	1/2	0	1/2 <sup>A</sup>	1/2 <sup>A</sup>	1/2	1	1/2	1	1/2	1	5	2	17.75	0	7
8	SCO	620716		Campbell, Eoin S.	2121	1/2	0	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	4	0	17	0	8
9	SCO	620635		Burridge, Raymond John	2142	0	0	1/2	0	.	0	0	1/2	1	1	1	3	2	8	1	9
10	SCO	620410		Goodwin, Brian J.	1829	0	0	0	1/2	0	0	1/2	1/2	0	1	1	2.5	1	7.75	0	10
11	SCO	620713		Gilbert, Robert	1780	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1/2	0	0	0	0.5	0	2	0	11

The 2017-18 competition has been keenly fought and the outcome is still uncertain. Leader in the clubhouse is David Cumming, but he could be overtaken by Iain Mackintosh, Clive Murden or Alastair Dawson. Mickey Blake can also equal David's total.

### Premier

#### SCO/P/2017, SCCA Premier 2017

						TD Paine, Kevin (IA)						Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated						1	2	3	4	5	6					
1	SCO	620424		Anderson, James	1788	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	4.5	4	8.25	0	1
2	SCO	210729		Coope, Derek William	1921	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	4.5	4	8.25	0	1
3	SCO	620603		Armstrong, John M.	1536	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	0	3
4	SCO	620454		MacMillen, Andrew N.	1704	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	4
5	SCO	211319		Neil, Charles	1415	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	5
6	SCO	629020		Knox, Arthur	1415	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6

One Premier section again this year, with Jim Anderson and Derek Coope finishing exactly equal.

### Open

#### SCO/O/2017, SCCA Open 2017

						TD Paine, Kevin (IA)										Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated						1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5					
1	SCO	620424		Anderson, James	1788	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	8	24	0	1
2	SCO	620454		MacMillen, Andrew N.	1704	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	12	0	2
3	SCO	620603		Armstrong, John M.	1536	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1/2	1	3.5	3	4.75	0	3
4	SCO	211319		Neil, Charles	1415	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	4
5	SCO	620648		Hardwick, Martin E.	1343	0	0	0	0	1/2	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	1.75	0	5

One Open section again this year, with Jim Anderson entering the 100% Club with 8 straight wins!

## Challengers

2017-18 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J McK	10	10	0	2
<b>Blake, M</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11½</b>
Burridge, R J	10	10	0	8½
Gilbert, R	10	10	0	5½
Gowans, T	4	4	0	0
Kearns, A	8	8	0	6
Knox, A	8	8	0	0
Neil, C	10	10	0	2½

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

The 2016-17 Cycle was fully completed last year. The 2017-18 Cycle was won impressively by Mickey Blake with 11½/12, ahead of Raymond Burridge who finished with 8½/10.

## Leagues

There was no Postal League due to lack of entries. Three webserver leagues were contested once more, and a total of 21 teams reflected the continuing popularity of this event. The divisional winners were Scheming Mind A, Knights of the Board and Civil Service B – congratulations to all of them!

## Webserver League Division 1

### SCO/L1/17, SCCA League Div 1 2017

		TD Murden, Clive							Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
1	SchemingMind A	2290	2.5	3.5	2.5	3	3	3	17.5	72	11	12	24	0	1
2	Perth Correspondents	2245	1.5	2.5	2.5	3	3.5	2.5	15.5	64	7	10	24	0	2
3	White Rose A	2190	0.5	1.5	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	11.5	47	-1	7	24	0	3
4	BCCA Diamonds	2164	1.5	1.5	1.5	3	1.5	2.5	11.5	47	-1	4	24	0	4
5	SchemingMind B	2088	1	1	2	1	2.5	2.5	10	41	-4	5	24	0	5
6	BCCA Topaz	2157	1	0.5	1.5	2.5	1.5	2	9	37	-6	3	24	0	6
7	Social A	2174	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	9	37	-6	1	24	0	7

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
<b>Scheming Mind A</b>	Williamson, D L	Waller, A	Cade, S	Vivante-Sowter, J
<b>Perth Correspondents</b>	Mackintosh, I	Paine, K A	Borwell, A P	Warren, J
<b>White Rose A</b>	Herriot, B J	Sutton, A B	Rózański, R	Suffield, M
<b>BCCA Diamonds</b>	Sherwood, A	Mason, I J	Wilkinson, J P	Gould, I C
<b>Scheming Mind B</b>	Kjeldsen, K	Farkas, L	Parente, A	Rattay, W
<b>BCCA Topaz</b>	Sherwood, H	Sherwood, R	Weiss, L P	Farmer, M
<b>Social A</b>	Ewan, R	Pallett, R	Denham, C	Bisht, M



## Webserver League Division 2

### SCO/L2/17, SCCA League Div 2 2017

TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	🇬🇧 Knights of the Board	2182	■	2.5	3.5	2.5	3	3	4	18.5	77	13	12	24	0	1
2	🇬🇧 Civil Service A	2199	1.5	■	2.5	3.5	3	3.5	4	18	75	12	10	24	0	2
3	🇬🇧 White Rose B	2040	0.5	1.5	■	2.5	2	3.5	3	13	54	2	7	24	0	3
4	🇬🇧 Black Knight	2085	1.5	0.5	1.5	■	3	3.5	3	13	54	2	6	24	0	4
5	🇬🇧 BCCA Emeralds	2023	1	1	2	1	■	3.5	2.5	11	45	-2	5	24	0	5
6	🇬🇧 SchemingMind C	1734	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	■	2.5	5.5	22	-13	2	24	0	6
7	🇬🇧 Brutal Realism	1869	0	0	1	1	1.5	1.5	■	5	20	-14	0	24	0	7

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
<b>Knights of the Board</b>	Cumming, D R	Blake, M J	Burridge, R J	Price, D
<b>Civil Service A</b>	Barber, P	Yeo, G	Sargent, J M	Lewyk, I
<b>White Rose B</b>	Graham, O	Beckett, P J	Primrose, J	Ackley, P J E
<b>Black Knight</b>	Bell, A D	Pyrich, G D	Marshall, I H	Dempster, D
<b>BCCA Emeralds</b>	Beveridge, C	Campbell, E S	Cole, S	Palmer, V G
<b>Scheming Mind C</b>	Brotherton, T S	Hamer, J	Bedard, E	Miedma, H
<b>Brutal Realism</b>	Taylor, W	Murray, J S	Grant, J	Macmillen, A N

## Webserver League Division 3

### SCO/L3/17, SCCA League Div 3 2017

TD Anderson, James

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	🇬🇧 Civil Service B	1875	■	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	4	4	18.5	77	13	12	24	0	1
2	🇬🇧 BCCA Sapphires	1801	1.5	■	3.5	3.5	2.5	3	4	18	75	12	10	24	0	2
3	🇬🇧 White Rose C	1720	1.5	0.5	■	2.5	2	3	2.5	12	50	0	7	24	0	3
4	🇬🇧 BCCA Rubies	1669	1.5	0.5	1.5	■	1.5	4	2.5	11.5	47	-1	4	24	0	4
5	🇬🇧 Social B	1860	1	1.5	2	2.5	■	0	3	10	41	-4	5	24	0	5
6	🇬🇧 Social C	1596	0	1	1	0	4	■	2	8	33	-8	3	24	0	6
7	🇬🇧 Civil Service C	1663	0	0	1.5	1.5	1	2	■	6	25	-12	1	24	0	7

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
<b>Civil Service B</b>	Edney, D	Twitchell, N H	Bicknell, G	Pickering, P
<b>BCCA Sapphires</b>	Hudson, L	Tibbert, P H	Dudeny, K	Ellis, A
<b>White Rose C</b>	White, R	Holt, F	Clark, M	Cassell, R
<b>BCCA Rubies</b>	Elwood, D	Hughes, G	Hardwick, M E	Honey, S I
<b>Social B</b>	Etherington, J	Rosser, G C	Baron, M	Ross, G J S
<b>Social C</b>	Ash, G	Richardson, D	Neil, C	Rixon, A
<b>Civil Service C</b>	Pomeroy, R J	Ryan, R	Sedstrem, A	White, R



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SCCA Best Game Prize

By IM Clive Murden

[Ed – yet again, we received a very high standard of entry for our competition and I'm very grateful to Clive for doing such a prompt job of evaluating the games, and for his thorough analysis which adds to the player commentaries below. All entries were judged anonymously, sans annotations – further notes were added by the players once the final placings were known.]

What decides the “Best game of 2017”. This was a question I wondered about after Iain had asked myself to judge the games. Looking back over the last couple of years I noted that previous judges had faced this dilemma as well and I found Tom's comments from last year very insightful.

Judging games or being a judge for an Art show or best short story competitions, the judge as much as they try will be influenced by their own preferences. All of the games submitted had different openings to what I normally play and therefore I wasn't thinking throughout each of the games, I normally play this move or that move.

Again thinking back to Tom's approach last year of opening criteria or a novelty was a good starting point when looking at the games, was there a risk taken or good attack. The other thing I looked for was how enjoyable was the game to play through while being a spectator.

The winning game stood out, as the game unlike all of the other games submitted was a draw.

Normally games submitted have a result, which gives the judge some direction as to which side is making the claim (judges in this contest do not know who submitted the games and I've also requested that Iain does not inform myself so I know the winner when everyone else does.) in a draw there is no way to know whether the player submitting the game was White or Black.

With each game I have provided some analysis, hopefully not too verbose and have restricted my comments

It will be interesting to see how my analysis matches those of each of the players whose game came 1st, 2nd and 3rd. If experience has taught myself anything, sit two chess players in front of a game and you will have two different opinions about the game.

### Third Place

This game really belongs in another time. When referencing the game, Tartakower's name appeared from games played in the 1920's. Black's attempt to avoid the standard Albin counter-gambit with 4... c5 instead of the normal 4... Nc6 enables White a wonderful attack.

**White: Mackintosh, Iain (2363)**

**Black: Torgersen, Terje (2183)**

11th European Team SF, 2017

Albin Counter Gambit[D08]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh and Clive Murden]

**1.d4** **d5**

IM: My opponent introduced himself as 47 years old, living near Kristiansand, in the south of Norway.

**2.c4** **e5**

CM: This gambit is named after Adolf Albin who introduced the e-pawn push against Emanuel Lasker in 1893.

**3.dxe5** **d4**



**4.Nf3**

CM: 4.e3?! falls into a well-known trap after 4...Bb4+! 5.Bd2 dxe3 6.Bxb4?? exf2+ 7.Ke2 fxg1N+!

**4...** **c5?!**

IM: an infrequent and lesser continuation.

CM: 4...Nc6 5.Nbd2 Nge7 6.Nb3 Nf5 7.e4 Nh4 8.Nfxd4 Nxe5 9.f3 Bb4+ 10.Kf2 c5 11.a3 cxd4 12.axb4 d3±

**5.e3**

CM: 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be6 7.b3 h6 8.Nbd2 Qc7 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Bb2 0-0 11.a3 Ng6 12.Qc2 Ngxe5 13.Nxe5±

**5...** **Nc6**

**6.Bd3N**

IM: this is new to CC, though it's possible to transpose back via a later exd4.

CM: 6.exd4 cxd4 7.Bd3 Nxe5 8.Qe2 f6 9.Bf4 Bg4 10.Bxe5 Qa5+ 11.Kf1 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Qxe5 13.Qxb7 Rb8 14.Qc6+±

**6...** **Nge7**

**7.0-0** **Ng6**

**8.exd4** **cxd4**

**9.Be4** **Be7**

**10.Re1** **Ngxe5**

**11.Nxe5** **Nxe5**

**12.Bd5** **Nc6**

**13.Bg5** **Be6**

**14.Bxe7**

CM: 14.Bxc6+ also works: 14...bxc6 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qxd4 0-0 17.Nc3 Rfd8 18.Qe3 Qf6 19.b3 h6 20.Rad1 Bf5 21.h3 Bc2±

**14...** **Qxe7**

**15.Bxc6+** **bxc6**

**16.Qxd4** **0-0**

**17.b3**

CM: White has a number of good options, e.g. 17.Nc3 Rad8 18.Qe3 Rd7 19.Rad1 Rfd8 20.Rxd7 Qxd7 21.b3 Qd2 22.Qxd2 Rxd2 23.Rd1 Rxd1+ 24.Nxd1 Kf8±

**17...** **Rad8**

**18.Qe3** **Qb4**

**19.Nc3** **a5**



CM: 19...Rfe8 20.Rad1 Rxd1  
21.Rxd1 f6 22.h3 Bf7 23.Qf3 Bg6  
24.g4 Qb7 25.Rd6 Re1+ 26.Kg2 Be8  
27.Rd3±;

19...Bf5 20.Na4 a5 21.h3 Bg6  
22.Nc5 h6 23.Rad1 f6 24.Ne6 Rxd1  
25.Rxd1 Re8 26.Rd7 Bf7 27.Rd8±

### 20.Rad1

CM: again White has a number of good moves to choose from, e.g.  
20.h3 Rfe8 21.Rad1 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 f6 23.Qg3 Bf7 24.Rd6 Re6 25.Rxe6 Bxe6 26.Qe3 Bf7 27.g4 Kf8±

20... h6

21.h3 Rde8

22.Qg3 a4

23.Ne4

CM: 23.Nxa4 Bxc4 24.Rxe8 Rxe8  
25.Qd6 Qxd6 26.Rxd6 Bd5 27.Nc3 Ra8 28.Rd7 Ra3 29.f3 Kf8 30.Kf2 Ke8±

23... Kh7

24.Nd6 Rd8

25.Kh2 axb3

26.axb3 Rd7

27.Re3 Rfd8

28.Red3 Qb8

CM: Better is 28...f6 29.Ne8 Rxe8  
30.Rxd7 Bxd7 31.Rxd7 Re7 32.Rd8 Qc5 33.Qd3+ f5 34.Qg3 Qe5

35.Qxe5 Rxe5 36.Rc8±

29.c5 Qb4

30.Qe5 Bd5

CM: Better is 30...Rg8 31.Rg3 Qb8  
32.Qe4+ g6 33.Qxc6 Rc7 34.Qb6 Qxb6 35.cxb6 Rd7 36.b7 Rb8

37.Rgd3 Rdx7 38.Nxb7+-; or

30...Qb8 31.Qe4+ g6 32.Qxc6 Qb4

33.Re3 Qf4+ 34.Kg1 Qb4 35.Rb1 h5

36.Ree1 Rxd6 37.cxd6 Rxd6

38.Qa4+-

31.Rg3 f6

32.Qf5+ Kh8

33.Ne8 Rf7



### 34.Nxg7!

IM: This sac blows open Black's position.

34... Rxg7

IM: Here, Terje sportingly wrote to say: "Hello, strong move there (Nxg7!). I will soon resign this game (I played a not so good opening, and got punished by you)."

CM: 34...Rg8 35.Nh5 Qb8 36.Qf4 Qxf4 37.Nxf4 Rxg3 38.Kxg3 Rg7+ 39.Kh2 Bxb3 40.Rd6 Rg5 41.Rxc6 Kg7 42.g4+-

35.Qxf6 Rdd7

36.Rd4 Qb8

37.Rdg4 Qc7

CM: 37...Rdf7 38.Qxh6+ Rh7  
39.Qd2 Qf8 40.Qd4+ Rfg7 41.b4 Qe7 42.Rxg7 Rxg7 43.b5 Be6 44.b6 Bc8 45.Rxg7+-

38.Qxh6+ Kg8

39.Rxg7+

CM: 39.Rh4 Kf8 40.Qf6+ Kg8

41.Rh5 Rde7 42.f4 Re6 43.Rxg7+

44.Rxg7 44.Qd8+ Kf7 45.Qd7+ Kf8

46.Rxd5 Qf6+-

39... Rxg7

40.Qxg7+

IM: Here, Terje reached 40 moves and the next grading quarter before conceding graciously: "OK, this game is over! (my bishop can't stop all of your pawns!) Thanks for the game!"

1-0



## Second Place

Here White builds an attack that Black's slow play enables. Whites play shows an excellent understanding of co-coordinating their pieces to improve their position, added to Black's inaccurate play White creates an attack that cannot be stopped.

White: Bennett, Peter (2350)

Black: Kraujunas, Vladas (1977)

VWC9pr48, 2017

Sicilian, Anderssen Variation [B40]

[Notes by Peter Bennett and Clive Murden]

1.e4 e5

2.Nf3 e6

3.d4 cxd4

4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3

CM: Another option is 5.Bd3 a6

6.Qe2 d6 7.Be3 Be7 8.f4 e5 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Nc3 Nc6 12.0-0-0 Qc7 13.a3±

5... a6

CM: 5...d6 6.g4 (6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Nc6 10.f4 e5 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.Nf5 Bxf5 13.Rxf5=) 6...h6 7.Be3 Nc6 8.f3 d5 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qe2 Be7 13.0-0-0 0-0±;

CM: Also possible is 5...Nc6 6.Nxc6 (6.Be2 d5 7.exd5 exd5 8.Bf3 Bb4 9.Qe2+ Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.0-0 Ne5 12.Rad1 Bb4 13.Qb5?) 6...bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Bb7 9.Be2 c5 10.0-0 Qc7 11.c4 Ne3 12.Nd6+ Bxd6 13.exd6 Qc6=

6.e5

PB: In modern CC play 6.e5! has now been firmly established as (by far) White's strongest continuation, a theoretical sea-change from older OTB play in which either 6.Be2 or 6.Bd3 were more popular. The persistence of 6.Bd3 in OTB play is curious, however, since it scores only 42% (in 140 games) in my "Livebook" database, whereas 6.e5 (in just 14 games, so far) scores 81%. Old habits die hard, or so it seems.

CM: 6.Bd3 d6 7.f4 g6 8.Be3 Bg7

9.0-0 0-0 10.Kh1 Qc7 11.Qe1 b5

12.Qh4 Bb7 13.f5 e5 14.fxg6±

6... Ng8

CM: 6...Nd5 7.Nxd5 exd5 8.Qf3 Qe7 9.Qxd5 Nc6 10.Nxc6 dxc6 11.Qe4 Be6 12.f4 Bd5 13.Qe2 0-0-0 14.Bd2 Qc5±

7.Bf4

PB: This line is wrongly (in my view) regarded as a standard part of Sicilian theory. In all the true variations involving an early ...e6, Black has to decide how to defend e5: in the Scheveningen with ...d6; in the Taimanov with ...Nc6, ...Qc7 or both; in the Kan by delaying ...Nf6. My opponent here abandons the defence of e5, such that his move order is neither fish nor fowl - with the consequence that White already has three minor pieces developed and

Black none at all. This makes no strategic sense.

CM: Another option is 7.Bd3 d6 8.exd6 Bxd6 9.0-0 Nf6 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Qe2 Be5 12.Nf3 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qc7 14.c4 0-0 15.Bh4± 7... **Ne7**

CM: Also possible is 7...b6 8.Qf3 Ra7 9.Bd3 d5 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.0-0 Rd7 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Bg6+ hxg6 15.Rxd6 Rxd6+—

**8.Bd3 Qb6?!**

PB: This queen sortie is premature, blocks the b-pawn and further delays the development of Black's queenside pieces. How and when will they get into play? The answer is in my final annotation at the end of the game!

**9.Nb3 Ng6**

**10.Bg3**

PB: The attack 10.Be3 serves no strategic purpose. The move played strengthens White's hold on the h2 - b8 diagonal, a key theme in this game, which also explains White's choice of 7.Bf4!

**10... Nc6**

**11.Qe2 Qc7**

**12.Be4!**



PB: A perfect bishop placement - amazingly, still in OTB theory! - metaphorically holding the two black knights by the scruff of the neck: if either N captures on e5, the B captures the other and Black is a piece down.

**12... Bb4**

CM: Not bad, but better was 12...Na5 13.0-0 Nxe5 14.f4 Nec4 15.Rfe1 d6 16.Nxa5 Nxb2 17.Nxb7 Bxb7 18.f5 e5 19.Rab1 Bxe4 20.Nxe4±

**13.0-0 Nce7?!**

PB: Dubious, because it blocks the bishop's retreat square. 13...0-0 is essential.

**14.Na4 h5**

**15.h4 Nxe5?**

PB: Unable to resist the temptation to grab a pawn, Black walks into a nasty pin. From here on, until the end of the game, Black has a material superiority, but a strategically lost position.

CM: Inaccurate. Better was 15...d5 16.exd6 Bxd6 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Rad1 Qc7 19.g3 Ne5 20.Rfe1 Ra7 21.Bh1 Ng4 22.Bf3 0-0 23.Bxg4±

**16.Rad1 f6**

CM: 16...Ra7 17.c3 b5 18.cxb4 bxa4 19.Nc5 d6 20.Bc2 f6 21.f4 Ng4 22.Nxe6 Qb6+ 23.Nd4 0-0 24.a3±;

CM: 16...d5 17.Bxd5 N7g6 18.Be4 f5 19.f4 Qc4 20.Qxc4 Nxc4 21.Rd4 Ne3 22.Rxb4 fxe4 23.Nb6 a5 24.Rb5+—

**17.a3 Ba5**

CM: Black should try 17...d5 18.axb4 dxe4 19.Qxe4 0-0 20.Rfe1 b6 21.Nc3 Ra7 22.Nd4 Nd5 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Qxd5+ Qf7 25.Qxf7+±

**18.Qe3 Qc4**

CM: 18...d5 19.Nxa5 Qxa5 20.Nb6 Ng4 21.Qb3 dxe4 22.Nxa8 Qc5 23.Qb6 Qxb6 24.Nxb6 Kf7 25.Rfe1 e5 26.Rxe4±;

CM: 18...Rb8 19.Nxa5 d5 20.Qb6 Qxb6 21.Nxb6 dxe4 22.Rfe1 Nd5 23.Nac4 Nxc4 24.Nxc4 Ra8 25.Rxd5 exd5 26.Nb6+—

**19.Bxe5 fxe5**

**20.Nxa5 Qxa4**

**21.b4 d5**



**22.Qg5!**

PB: Exploiting the weaknesses in the king's field.

**22... Qxa3?**

PB: Disastrously going for more material gain; but after 22...dxe4? 23.Nc4! 0-0 24.Qxe7 is also winning for White. Alternatives to 23...0-0 also fail because the N/c4 is has threats against b6, d6 and e5 which cannot be countered simultaneously. CM: Better is 22...dxe4 23.Nc4 0-0 24.Qxe7 Qe8 25.Qc7 Qc6 26.Qxc6 bxc6 27.Rfe1 Rb8 28.Rxe4 Rb5 29.Nxe5 Rd5 30.Rde1+— though

White still has a winning position.; CM: 22...Kf7 23.f4 Qe8 24.fxe5+ Kg8 25.Bd3 b6 26.Nb3 Nf5 27.Bxf5 exf5 28.Nd4 Rh6 29.Nxf5 Bxf5 30.Rxf5+—

**23.Bg6+ Kd7**

PB: My grandfather, back in 1952, told me always to get castled before move 10. This is what happens when you still haven't castled at move 23. The rest of the game is just like a blackbird teasing a worm before finally eating it.

CM: This is a mistake. Maybe 23...Nxc6 24.Qxc6+ Kf8 25.Rd3 Qxb4 26.Rf3+ Kg8 27.Rf7 Rh7 28.Nc4 Bd7 29.Nxe5 Qe4 30.Qxe4 dxe4 31.Rxd7+—

**24.Nc4 Qxb4**

**25.Nxe5+ Kc7**

**26.Rb1?!**

CM: 26.c4 Kb8 27.Rb1 Qd6 28.Nf7 Qc7 29.Nxh8 dxc4 30.Bxh5 Ra7 31.Nf7 b5 32.Qxg7 Nd5 33.Qh8 Nf4+—

**26... Qc5**

**27.c4 d4**

CM: 27...dxc4 28.Be4 Rd8 29.Qg3 Rd4 30.Nc6+ Qd6 31.Nxd4 Qxg3 32.fxg3 Kd6 33.Rf7 Nd5 34.Rxg7 Kc5 35.Ne2+—

**28.Be4 Nf5**

**29.Nd3 Qe7**

**30.Qf4+ Qd6**

CM: 30...Kd8 31.Bxf5 Rf8 32.Qxd4+ Qd7 33.Qb6+ Qc7 34.Be4 Qxb6 35.Rxb6 a5 36.Bxb7 Rb8 37.Rfb1 Bxb7 38.Rxb7+—

**31.Ne5 Qc5**

**32.Rfe1**

CM: 32.Nd3+ e5 33.Qf3 Qe7 34.Bxb7 Rb8 35.Qc6+ Kd8 36.Bxa6 Rh6 37.Qd5+ Qd7 38.Rxb8 Qxd5 39.Rxc8+ Kd7+—

**32... Rf8**

**33.Ng6+ e5**

**34.Nxe5**

PB: Now, back to my original question (at move 7) about Black's piece development? The answer: three of his pieces are still on their starter squares, perhaps a bit too much of a self-imposed handicap?

**1-0**



## First Place The R.J. Burrige Trophy 2017

This game has an opening where there is a wealth of different lines and sub-lines, the middle game has different paths to follow and the endgame offers subtle ideas. I found it a well-rounded game and an interesting study.

The game starts very even; both players know the opening and you can see the struggle to achieve a slight plus as the game enters the middle game. In the middle game the opening books have been put away and the analysis ability of each player is put to the test. Black makes interesting choices, though still finds enough resources to stay in the game.

In the endgame, White has done enough to win when suddenly (as can happen in chess) a slight error in calculation occurs (a problem I know too well). White's work in bringing about a superior endgame position fails and Black can now find the path to a draw. Credit to Black in recognising White had failed to find the correct move.

On playing through the game my thoughts were that Black entered this game (hopefully I'm correct) and has shown how a game can change all on a single move.

**White: Babic, Darko (2463)**

**Black: Matheis, Tom (2454)**

GER/AM02/B, Germany Advanced Masters 02, 2017

Sicilian Scheveningen, Keres Attack [B81]

[Notes by Tom Matheis and Clive Murden]

TM: Over the years, I asked myself a few times if there could ever be a justification for submitting a draw as your 'Best Game of the Year' entry and what such a game would have to entail to make it a serious contender. Little did I anticipate that I would be the one opting to do just this and that I would be able to submit a game that would highlight that correspondence chess is not dead yet! When I submitted the game, I admit that I felt sorry for Clive for having to provide even basic

comments as I considered his task mission impossible.

What makes this game so special in my opinion, is that many of my moves are a combination of engine analysis and my own understanding of the game paired with gut instinct and intuition. Players who rely solely on engines would have experienced a nightmare given the number of positions that even the strongest engines couldn't agree on and work out. I doubt that I will ever come across a position again where Komodo 11 and Stockfish 8 show a +3 advantage (had White played 43.Kb1), but are unable to come up with a winning strategy. I am proud of the fact that I looked further and didn't trust this seemingly decisive evaluation. Maybe someone can point out a winning strategy for White - if so please let me know.

Looking back, this game against a very strong player (who went on to win this tournament) is by far the most complex I have ever played (just consider how often I disagree with Clive's analysis!) and the one I analysed the most. I would love to know how many hours I invested in my analysis, how often I changed my mind on moves, how often I doubted myself etc. It is no understatement that it was a constant emotional rollercoaster. For these reasons my game against Babic is the one that I am most proud of, even ahead of my win against GM Bubir a couple of years ago (which came second in that year's Best Game competition).

I would like to thank Clive for his notes on my game which are much appreciated and of course for deeming a draw worthy of being his 'Best Game of the Year'.

**1.e4**                      **c5**  
**2.Nf3**                    **d6**  
**3.d4**                      **cxd4**  
**4.Nxd4**                  **Nf6**  
**5.Nc3**                    **a6**

**6.h3**  
CM: 6.Be3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.Nf5 h5 9.Bg5 hxg4 10.Nd5 Bxf5 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.exf5 Nd7 13.Bg2 Rh4 14.Qd3±

**6...**                      **e6**

TM: I am unsure on what basis Clive claims that 6...g6 is 'better'. It may well be a viable alternative, but in my reference database both moves

have more or less the same success rate with the main difference being that e6 has been played almost 7 times more often than g6. But this theoretical discussion is for another day...

CM: Better is 6...g6 7.Bc4 Bg7 8.0-0 9.Re1 b5 10.Bb3 Bb7 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Qb6 13.Qd3 Nbd7 14.Rad1 Nc5=

**7.g4**



TM: The first crucial point of the game. Black has to decide between Be7 (my move), h6 and d5 which all have been played many times. I have to admit that I underestimated White's attack and given how the game continued, I was soon kicking myself for not opting on the more cautious side, i.e. h6 or d5. Be7 may well be playable, however, given the engine's incredible tactical abilities nowadays, why risk giving them additional ammunition?

**7...**                      **Be7**

CM: 7...Nbd7 has also been played.

**8.g5**

CM: Also possible is 8.Bg2 0-0 9.g5 Nfd7 10.f4 Nc6 11.Be3 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd2 exf4 14.Bxf4 Ne5 15.Nd5 Nc4 16.Nxe7+±

**8...**                      **Nfd7**

**9.h4**

TM: A quick database check will tell you that 9.Be3 is the preferred move amongst the elite players. It certainly has a higher success rate and in fact, my opponent won against GM Schuster in the same tournament with this variation.

CM: White can also play 9.Be3 0-0 10.h4 Nc6 11.a3 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 b5 13.0-0-0 Bb7 14.f4 Nc5 15.Bg2 Bc6 16.h5 Qc7 17.h6±

**9...**                      **b5**

**10.a3**                    **Bb7**

**11.Be3**                  **Nc6**

TM: The preferred variation these days. 11...Nb6 and Nc5 haven't featured since 2014 and if you

consider Black's resulting struggles you can see why. 0-0 seems to be the only viable alternative and usually transfers to the main variation after 11...0-0 12.Qd2 Nc6.

**12.Qd2 0-0**

CM: Also possible is 12...Rc8 13.Rg1 0-0 14.0-0-0 Qc7 15.h5 Nde5 16.h6 g6 17.f4 Nd7±

**13.0-0-0**



**13... Nxd4**

TM: 13...Rc8 is a playable alternative with a similar 'success' rate although the term 'success' seems misplaced as my opening database quickly informed me that almost half of all games with either Nxd4 or Rc8 were eventually won by White. As you can imagine the alarm bells were well and truly ringing now and I knew that I would have a long, defensive battle ahead of me. I have to admit that I hadn't really considered Clive's suggestion 13...Nc5 which deserves closer scrutiny. Clive's alternative continuation below is plausible, and I believe that White can improve by playing 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.h5 (or even b4), both of which lead to unclear positions.

CM: Better is 13...Nc5 14.f3 Rb8 15.Kb1 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bc6 17.Bh3 a5 18.b4 axb4 19.axb4 Nd7 20.g6 e5 21.gxf7+ Rxf7±

**14.Bxd4 Bc6**

TM: Black mustn't waste time and launch his counter-attack. Bc6 is a good move as it protects the pawn on b5 allowing for a5 at some stage whilst at the same time keeping the pressure on e4.

**15.f4 Qb8**

TM: Looks more natural and aggressive than Rab8 in my humble opinion which may be possible but not 'better' as claimed by Clive. In fact, I only found two games of note with 15...Rab8, one being by renowned GM Arno Nickel from

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2010 which ended in a draw. The other game was a straightforward win for White.

CM: Better is 15...Rb8 16.b4 e5 17.Be3 exf4 18.Bxf4 Ne5 19.Be2 Rc8 20.Kb2 Bb7 21.Bxe5 dxe5 22.Qd7 Bc6 23.Qxd8±

**16.Kb1**

TM: In addition to the most popular move Kb1, White has also experimented with the immediate f5, the very optimistic g6 and the interesting Bh3. This is the kind of position that requires a lot of analysis, your own ability to assess positions and trusting your gut feeling to an extent. It's interesting to note that Komodo 11 prefers f5 and Bh3 as its first alternative whereas Stockfish 8 wants to play the more conservative Kb1 and even Rg1 as its first alternative. When your engines don't reach the slightest agreement you can bet on the fact that the position is extremely complex and requires extensive analysis. If I were German GM Huebner, I would probably cover all variations in great detail for the next 2-3 pages, but I won't bore you with all the analysis that I created at the time.

**16... a5**

**17.f5 b4**

**18.f6 b xc3**

TM: According to Clive 18... Re8 is the 'better' move based on the continuation below. I agree with Clive that this line is the most plausible, however, Black is totally lost after 26.Rxe1 and might as well resign?! According To Stockfish White has a +5 advantage. I firmly believe that my move 18...bxc3 is the only move that keeps Black in the game.

CM: Better is 18...Re8 19.fxe7 e5 20.g6 Rxe7 21.Bc4 exd4 22.Nd5 Rxe4 23.gxf7+ Kh8 24.Rhe1 bxa3 25.b3 Rxe1 26.Rxe1±

**19.Bxc3 Bd8**

**20.fxc7 Re8**

**21.h5**

TM: A serious and maybe even stronger alternative is 21.g6. In Burg-Finocchiaro 2014-15 (two absolute heavyweights in correspondence chess with ratings greater than 2580 at the time), Burg won a spectacular game with: 21.g6 fxc6 22.h5 g5 23.Bh3 (Both Komodo and Stockfish favour 23.Bc4 which leads to a very unclear position after 23...Bxe4 24.Rhf1 d5 25.Qf2 White's position appears to be

clearly better, however, neither Komodo nor Stockfish are indicating a clear winning strategy at this stage.) 23...g4 24.Rdf1 e5 25.Bxg4 Nf6 26.Qh6 Qb7 27.Rxf6 Bxf6 28.Qxf6 Qe7 29.Qh6+ In our game I was half expecting 21.g6 and had planned to deviate from Finocchiaro's 23...g4 by playing 23...Nf6 instead followed potentially by 24.Qxg5 e5 25.Rhf1 Ra7!

**21... Bxg5**

TM: Clive criticises this move and claims that a number of inaccuracies by Black have led to a much better position for White. White may have the more comfortable position but as you will see, it is very hard for White to make decisive progress. After Clive's preferred move 21...Bxe4 and 22.g6 Bf6 23.Qh6 fxc6 24.hxc6 Bxc6 25.Bxf6 Nxf6 26.Bd3 Bxd3 27.Rxd3 Qb7 28.Rg1 Qa7 29.Rdd1 White is clearly better according to the engines and it is hard to see how Black can possibly hold on in the long-term. It's the type of position where humans might struggle to find a win, but engines really excel.

21...Bxg5 follows Evtushenko-Daubenfeld (both >2500).

CM: Inaccurate play has given White the advantage. Better for Black is 21...Bxe4 22.g6 Bf6 23.Qh6 fxc6 24.hxc6 Bxc6 25.Bxf6 Nxf6 26.Bd3 Bxd3 27.Rxd3 Qb7 28.Rg1 Qa7 29.Rdd1±

**22.Qxg5 Nc5**

**23.Qe3**

TM: Evtushenko played 23.Rh4 first and then 24.Qe3, but this doesn't make a difference.

**23... Nxe4**

TM: Stronger than 23...Bxe4 after which White gains the upper hand: 24.Rh4 Rc8 25.Rxe4 Nxe4 26.Qxe4 Rxc3 27.Bd3 Rxd3 28.Rxd3 d5 29.Qh4+±

**24.Rh4**



TM: Here I finally agree with Clive! 24.Rh3 deserved serious consideration although it's virtually impossible to reach a conclusion whether it's actually a better move than Rh4. Interestingly, Komodo considers the position equal after 24.Rh3 Qb7 25.h6 e5 26.Qe1 Rab8 27.b3 a4 28.Bb2 axb3 29.Rxb3 Qc7 30.Bc4 Rxb3 31.Bxb3 Nc5 and it's difficult to see how White can make progress. Stockfish on the other hand sees a +0.8 advantage after 24.Rh3 Qb7 25.Qe1 Rab8 26.b3 Bd5 27.Bxa5 Qa7 28.Re3 Rec8 29.Kb2 h6 20.Bg2 f5 31.Bf3 etc. 24...e5 should also be considered as a serious alternative to Qb7. For example 24... e5 25.Qe1 d5 26.Bxa5 Qa7 27.Bd2 Rab8 28.Rb3 Rxb3 29.cxb3 f5 is unclear and the Black centre pawns may well offer adequate counterplay. In any case, I think it's fair to say that it's impossible to calculate the various permutations and that there comes a point where you have to trust your instinct. Regardless of whether White plays Rh3 or Rh4, my gut instinct told me that my centre pawns would play a pivotal role in defending my position.

CM: Better for White is 24.Rh3 Rc8 25.Qe1 d5 26.Bd3 Nxc3+ 27.Qxc3 Bb5 28.Qf6 Bxd3 29.Rdx3 Qc7 30.Rc3 Qd8 31.Qf4 Rc4±

**24... Qb7!**

TM: I'm not sure if my opponent was hoping for 24...d5 which happened in Evtushenko-Daubenfeld. I had anticipated this position for several moves and had prepared 24...Qb7 in connection with the rook sacrifice on move 28 which is a lot stronger. In fact, for the first time I was slightly optimistic that I would be able to hold the position. 24...d5 may just hold things together, but I wanted to keep the c6-h1 diagonal open for my bishop.

**25.Be1 Rc8**

TM: Black has to make a difficult decision. Komodo and Stockfish once again can't agree on a 'best' variation and I had to spend several hours looking into 25...f5, d5, Bd5 and Rec8. In all variations, the resulting positions are very unclear (going into detail would easily fill pages of this magazine!) and I'm not sure if White can obtain an advantage. In my analysis of Rec8 I came across the rook sacrifice on move 28 after which I concluded (far too prematurely as it turned out!) that

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the game was an almost certain draw, so I decided to opt for the least prominent of the 4 options.

**26.b3**

CM: Another option White could consider is 26.Bc4 Rab8 27.Qc1 d5 28.Bd3 Qe7 29.Bxe4 dxe4 30.Rh3 Ba4 31.Rc3 e5 32.Rd5 Kxg7 33.Rxa5 Bd7+; CM: 26.Qc1 Rab8 27.Bc4 d5 28.Bd3 Qe7 29.Bxe4 dxe4 30.Rh3 Qc5 31.h6 Bd5 32.Rc3 Qb5 33.Ka1 Rxc3=

**26... f5**

TM: Or the immediate 26...Bd5

**27.h6 Bd5**

TM: My engines now (of course!) again suggest a number of options for White. Rh3 and Rd4 are popular with both engines and SF gives a 0.00 evaluation after 28.a4. I should perhaps remind you that a 0.00 evaluation doesn't necessarily mean that the position is equal, but - in engine terms - that the chances for both sides are equal! This game underlines this significant difference beautifully.

**28.a4**

TM: This came as a relief as I anticipated greater problems after 28.Rh3.

**28... Rxc2!**

TM: It was impossible to analyse all the various permutations, but I didn't come across any variations that promised White a long-term advantage. My engines displayed an optimistic 0.00, but it was clear that this evaluation had to be taken with a large pinch of salt given the resulting complexities. In addition, I didn't see any other alternative that would give me some peace and quiet!

**29.Kxc2**

TM: 29.Rxd5 leads to a forced draw after 29...Rc3! 30.Bxc3 Qxb3+ with perpetual check.

**29... Rc8+**

**30.Bc4**

TM: 30.Kb2 is met by Rc3! again.

**30... Bxc4**

**31.Kb2**

TM: 31.bxc4 Rxc4+ 32.Bc3 Rxc3+ 33.Qxc3 Nxc3 34.Kxc3=

**31... Rb8**

**32.b4**

TM: 32.Bxa5 Qa6 33.Rd4 e5 34.Rxc4 Qxc4 35.Bb6 Qc6 36.Rh5 Qxb6 37.Qxb6 Rxb6 38.Rxf5 Rb8=; TM: Likewise, 32.Rxe4 fxe4 33.b4 d5 34.Qd4 Qc6 35.Qe5 Rc8 36.b5 Bxb5 37.axb5 Qxb5+=

**32... d5**

**33.Qd4 Qc6**

**34.Qe5**

TM: Rxe4 returns the exchange, but doesn't provide White with anything tangible, especially given the opposite bishops. 34.Qe5 is the only way to continue if White is playing for a win.

**34... Rc8**

**35.Rc1**

TM: 35.b5 Bxb5 is met by 36.Rxe4 fxe4 37.axb5 Qxb5+=

**35... axb4**

**36.Bxb4 Qb6**

**37.Ka1**

TM: 37.Ka3? Ra8 38.Rxc4 dxc4±

**37... Ra8**

**38.Ba3 Rxa4**

**39.Rh3 Qd6**

**40.Qxd6 Nxd6**

**41.Rb1**

TM: 41.Kb2 is worth a closer look. 41...Nf7 42.Ra1 f4 43.Rhh1 Ra6 44.Bc5 (44.Be7 Rb6+ 45.Kc3 Rb8 46.Kd2 Re8 47.Ra7 d4 48.Bf6 Bd5 49.Rh5 Nd6 50.Bxd4 e5 51.Rc7 Bf7 52.Rxe5 Nc4+ 53.Rxc4 Rxe5 54.Rc8+ Re8=) 44...e5 45.Rxa6 Bxa6 46.Kc3 d4+ 47.Kd2 Bc4=

**41... Ra8**

**42.Rb6 Ne4**

TM: Clive advocates 42...Nf7 which may also be playable, but I was almost certain that after 42...Ne4 I would be able to hold the position together. 43.Kb2 would be more or less a forced draw as happened in the actual game and after 43.Kb1 I was going to stick to my plan as described in my next comment.

CM: Inaccurate. Better is 42...Nf7

**43.Kb2** [



TM: 43.Kb1 appears to be the only move that seems to offer realistic winning chances. The big difference between Kb1 and Kb2 is the fact that White can play Rh2 and if Black advances the d-pawn then White can play Bb4 and two pieces prevent the pawn's advance to d2 as happened in the game. In addition, White may also be able to transfer the rook to

the b-file. However, it's almost a shame that White didn't play Kb1 as after the plausible continuation 43.Kb1 d4 (much stronger than 43...Re8 which Clive suggests) 44.Rh2 Be2 45.Rxe2 Nc3+ 46.Kb2 Nxe2 47.Rxe6 Rb8+ 48.Kc2 Rc8+ 49.Kd2 Ng3 50.Re5 we could potentially have reached a truly remarkable position. Both, Komodo and Stockfish now show a staggering +3 advantage for White, but are unable to convert this usually decisive advantage into a clear win!! It's hard to believe, but the reason White can't make real progress is the pawn on g7 which one would expect to be decisive in the long-term! I had reached the conclusion that I would be able to hold this game by applying the following strategy: a) move the rook between e8 and a8, b) sacrifice the 2 pawns as they don't matter, c) if the opportunity arose exchange rooks as White can't win the endgame despite the B+P vs K position. I can simply sacrifice my knight on h6 followed by Kf7. White's king can't advance due to stalemate! If anybody can demonstrate how White can win

after Kb1, I would love to hear from him/her.  
 CM: White missed the following:  
 43.Kb1 Re8 44.Rh2 Be2 45.Kc1 Rc8+ 46.Kb2 Bd3 47.Bd6 d4 48.Be5 Nc5 49.Rb8 Rxb8+ 50.Bxb8 Be4+-  
**43... d4**  
**44.Rh1 d3**  
**45.Bb4**  
 TM: 45.Ra1 d2 46.Bb4 Rd8 47.Ba5 Be2 48.Rb4 Ra8 49.Rxe4 fxe4 50.Bxd2 Rxa1=  
**45... d2**  
 TM: I'm not at all sure why Clive criticises this move. If I had an alternative that would offer me winning chances, then yes, of course d2 would deserve a '?', but at the end of the day d2 is a simple and neat way to secure the draw.  
 CM: Black should play 45...Ra2+ 46.Kb1 Ra8 47.Rd1 Re8 48.Bd6 Nc3+ 49.Kc1 Nxd1 50.Kxd1 Kf7 51.Rb8 Rxb8 52.Bxb8 Ba2 53.Kd2=;  
 CM: 45...Re8 46.Rc1 Bd5 47.Rd1 Nf2 48.Rf1 Ne4 49.Rb5 Ng3 50.Rd1 Ne4 51.Be1 Rc8 52.Rb6 d2 53.Bxd2±  
**46.Rd1 Be2**

CM: 46...Ra2+ 47.Kb1 Ra8 48.Rxd2 Nxd2+ 49.Bxd2 Kf7 50.Bg5 e5 51.Rf6+ Kg8 52.Bd2 Bf7 53.Bc3 Re8 54.Kc2±  
**47.Rxd2 Nxd2**  
**48.Bxd2 Re8**  
 TM: The titanic battle comes to an end! With opposite bishops there is little point in playing on and the Black pawns can be easily stopped as Black's rook is tied to the 8th rank. My opponent admitted after the game that he didn't know what was going on for most of the game. First he thought he was winning, then that the game was drawn, then that he was winning again and then that the game was indeed a draw. A couple of chessfriends who have since played through the game all stated that this game was a real advert for correspondence chess and a prime example for proving that cc is not yet dead. I couldn't agree more...

½-½



## Setting Personal CC Targets: A Practical Exemplar (continued from p17)

By Peter Bennett

### 3. To win at least 7 of my original 26 games (35%)

My tally of results since 15 November now stands at P13 W5 D7 L1. The crucial point, though, is that my latest win was in a game which was not even on my hit-list back in November. So, with 5 wins in the can and two potentially winning games still in progress, my target of seven wins (from the original 26) is now virtually secure. Indeed, I will be disappointed if I don't make it 8. So my estimated chance of achieving this target now goes up to 95%.

### 4. An IM norm in the Euro Team Champs (ETC) (25%)

This was a long shot; and it is proving to be rather too long! I now need 3.0/4.0 from my remaining games. I have one level position which will almost certainly be drawn and one game I am very confident of winning (+2.10, on deep analysis). Unfortunately, I also need a second win in a game where I stand only +0.47 (which now looks insufficient) and I need not to lose a game I am defending, where I stand -0.35. So my chances of the norm? Now down to 10%, unfortunately; but I shall keep trying....

### Provisional Review – 15 Mar 2018 (games tally = 12)

This month there was nothing new to report, hence no change in my predictions. The only new result was a draw which I had been expecting.

### Stop Press – 29 Mar 2018

Two opponents, in games where I held an advantage, have now resigned. This means that I have achieved the third of my original objectives: to win at least 7 of the 26 games I had in progress on 15 November 2017. The 14 completed games are now P14 W7 D8 L1.

There is, however, a great deal of work still to do in relation to the (now) 10 games of the original 26 which are still in play: I have the Black pieces in 8 of them.







## Setting Personal CC Targets: A Practical Exemplar

By Peter Bennett

In a short article last year, I posed the question: Can we improve at CC? And I concluded: yes, we can! What I want to do now is to consider the question “how?”

First let me give an example from my own experience in the recent past. In 2010, aged 65, I finally retired from full-time work, latterly in Germany. I came home to Edinburgh where Joy, my late wife, had been “keeping the home fires burning”; and one of my first decisions was to make a conscious effort to improve my CC performance, as a retirement project.

In the ICCF 2010/2 list, my grading was 2148. This was about the same as it had been in 1978, some 32 years earlier when (using a conversion formula) I calculated that it had been 2120. Actually, allowing for grading inflation (partly generated by computer engines), my grading had probably fallen. So was I just a lifelong “2150 player”? Or did I have the ability to do a bit better than that? I thought so. I reckoned I could get my grading to 2300, and set about this task with considerable energy. Joy used to say: “Peter! You haven’t retired at all! You have merely changed your profession. Now you are a “professional” correspondence chess player!” I am sure a few other SCCA members have been similarly tagged by their loved ones....

Cut to the chase. By the ICCF 2013/1 list, my grading had improved to 2334; and it has remained within 30 points or so of that figure for the last five years. How did I do it? Well that is another story (which I am happy to tell in a future issue, if anyone particularly wants to know).

Of course, as soon as you achieve a target, you need to set a new one, otherwise intellectual vegetation sets in. So my next target, set in 2013, was to get the SCCA “Master” title, or SCCM, which I duly managed in 2014. My next again target was the ICCF CCM title which I gained in the Spring of 2017. So what next? This was the question which led me to take stock of my CC goals in early November (2017), just ten weeks ago as I write today.

The problem with writing about historical goals (e.g., getting my grading up from 2150 to 2350) is that it is very easy, as any cynic might observe, to focus on the success stories and simply ignore the failures. Much riskier is to share your goals publicly, when they are first made, such that, as the story unfolds, others can see your failures as well as your successes. So that is what I now want to do, in this article and its subsequent updates.

The first part of “taking stock” was to look at my ICCF results over a 15-month period. This gave me a very dispiriting picture of my own recent CC activities, viz: P69 W5 D63 L1. There was even one whole quarterly period in which ALL my results were draws. If that pattern was typical, and set to continue, there was nothing for it: time to give up CC altogether! Fortunately, there was a set of explanations for my 91% draw ratio. These 15 months spanned the period in which Joy became terminally ill. To  
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give more time to Joy, in her last few months, I took all available leave, but I also needed to reduce my CC games tally substantially and quickly. The easiest way to do this was to offer (and accept) any draws that were going – which I duly did.

The problem with this “cull” was that it undermined the strategic purpose of participating in certain tournaments at all. I had 12 games in a ICCF “Master Norm” section and the five draws I had already taken effectively wrecked my chances of a norm; so I took a further five draws, leaving me with just two “straggler” games against opponents who wanted to continue. A third batch of draws came in my VWC8 Semi-final. The purpose of participating was either (a) to qualify for the Final, or (b) to get a norm. Once again, the draws I had already taken wrecked my chances of achieving either goal. So I baled out of that tournament as quickly as possible. The Semi-Final had started in June 2017 and I was the first participant to conclude all his games – by the end of November.

Back to my CC review which I conducted on 14 November. At that point I had 26 games in progress (which had reduced from a high point of 46) and there was one unusually positive feature: all 26 games were technically competitive. My strongest position was +1.50 and the weakest, -1.50. Neither was a certain win or a certain loss. So I asked myself: what targets can I set for these 26 games which will reduce the risk of repeating the 91% draw ratio and which could kick-start one last, serious attempt at “improvement”? Did I still have a glorious CC swansong in the locker? I had improved a lot beyond the age of 65; but to improve further, beyond the age of 72? Quite a challenge, eh?

### **Six Targets for CC Improvement (Set on 14 Nov 2017; games tally = 26)**

My targets needed to be both ambitious and realistic, so neither certain to be reached nor doomed to failure. I also tried dispassionately to “rate” my chances of achieving each target. So here they are, with my own estimate (to the nearest 5%) of my chances of achieving them:

#### **1. To qualify for one VWC10 Semi-Final (50%)**

I had just started two VWC10 preliminary groups. Historically (between VWC4 and VWC9) I had qualified 4 times and failed to qualify 3 times. Most recently, I had failed to qualify in VWC9; so it was important to renew my efforts this season.

#### **2. Not to lose more than 3 of my 26 games (45%)**

I was defending in at least 12 games, in four of those with considerable difficulty. I fully expected to lose at least two eventually, very probably three, more likely four. To achieve this target I needed to remain solid in all the other eight “defence” games and find at least one very good save.

### 3. To win at least 7 of my original 26 games (35%)

This was ambitious! To turn a (retrospective) 7% win ratio into a prospective 27% win ratio. There were some grounds for optimism: two games in which I was reasonably hopeful to win eventually and a further three or four with marginal advantages. Surely I could dig deep and create winning chances in one or two others, as well? Six (50%) would have been a more modest target, but I decided to force myself to look for at least seven wins. This would involve a ban on draws in any games where there was even a remote chance of generating an advantage.

### 4. An IM norm in the Euro Team Champs (ETC) (25%)

This was a long shot; and something which I have (privately!) been thinking about for seven years. To cross the line, I needed 2 wins and no losses in my remaining games, a big “ask”. I came within 1 point of an IM norm on two previous occasions, in the 10th ETC last time and in my VWC5 Semi-Final. Could I go one better? Probably not; but, nothing ventured, nothing gained!

### 5. To beat my highest grading (2373) in 2018 (15%)

Another “big” ask. My “live” grading on 14th November was 2346. Somehow, I had to find 27 extra points. This would involve exceeding my targets in both (2) and (3) above, that is, winning at least nine games (not just seven) and losing no more than 2. Possible, but very unlikely.

### 6. To qualify for two VWC10 Semi-Finals (5%)

Very unlikely indeed, but I had at least to give it a try. Finally, I sent an email to our Editor on 15 November, listing all these aims and my estimates of the chances of achieving them; so I had, for the first time, gone “public” with my goals.

### Provisional Review – 15 Dec 2017 (games tally = 18)

The most important development in the first month was a further 8 results: W1 D6 L1, reducing my games tally to 18. Curiously, none of these results materially affected either my six targets or my chances of achieving them. These were the eight most predictable results of the 26.

The six draws, mainly tidying up results in older tournaments, were those where neither I nor my opponents felt there was any prospect of any other result. In one case, I was certainly defending a slight disadvantage, so it was a relief to tick that one off the list.

The win was in my second most advantageous position, when my opponent (in VWC10pr50) abruptly decided to resign all his remaining games. It didn't affect my “seven wins” target because this was one of the two I was counting on, anyway; but it did damage my chances in the group because my opponent had also resigned several level positions against other participants. So my prospective win in that game no longer helped me qualify for a S/F.

The loss was in the game which was my most difficult defence. Much to my (IM) opponent's surprise, I played my last 12 moves very quickly, hoping to tempt him into hasty play. It didn't! His advantage of +1.50 increased progressively to +2.40. Technically, I could have played on a bit longer but, instead, I decided to cut my losses and focus my energies on achievable goals.

My “live” grading on 15 December (also my official grading in the 2018/1 list) was 2342, which meant that my 2373 target was slightly further from my reach.

### Provisional Review – 15 Jan 2018 (games tally = 15)

My three new results, reducing my tally from 18 to 15, were all wins. Two of these were games against lower-graded opponents who (fortunately) were not playing DMD, so we had made a lot of moves (and my advantages had substantially increased) in a relatively short period of time.

The third win was in a game which had been level on 15 Nov and hadn't even been on my list of seven games where I was targeting a win. Does this make the seven wins more likely? Unfortunately not! In two of the original list of seven games I was hoping to win I now had to downgrade my chances. Both are now more likely to end in draws.

So my chances of achieving my six targets are all fundamentally the same as they were two months ago, when I originally set them. Cumulative results (from the original 26 games) in the meantime stand at P11 W4 D6 L1. My “live” grading at 15 January was 2350, still 23 points short of my 2373 target.

One additional point: my chances of achieving anything are now critically dependent on my performance with the Black pieces. At the point where I had just 16 games in progress, I had 5 games with White and 11 games with Black – quite a challenge!

### Provisional Review – 15 Feb 2018 (games tally = 13)

As of yesterday, 14 February, I have now completed 50% (13) of my original 26 games. Finally, my two most recent results will have a real impact on my original targets. My targets 1, 5 and 6, from the original list (see above) are unaffected by these new results, but three targets – 2, 3 and 4 – are now virtually resolved.

### 2. Not to lose more than 3 of my 26 games (45%)

I had been defending in 12 games, in four with considerable difficulty. I said in November that “I fully expected to lose at least two eventually”. The good news is that on 29 January I secured a draw – a “save” I am truly proud of – in one of the games I had “fully expected to lose”! I could still lose two more, but I am now very unlikely to lose three more; so I believe that my chances of achieving this target are now up to 85%. There is still work to do as I am technically defending in 7 further games, but I am much more confident about most of them.



concludes on p15...



## The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes



**William Lambert**

[robertburnschessset.com/bannockburn-chess-set](http://robertburnschessset.com/bannockburn-chess-set)

### Bishops

A selection of games with the ecclesiastical gentlemen playing important roles.

**White: López Esnaola, Benito**  
**Black: Suárez Sedeño, Manuel**

Spanish Tournament 1984–86  
Closed Sicilian [B24]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	c5
2.Nc3	Nc6
3.g3	g6
4.Bg2	Bg7
5.Nge2	d6
6.d3	Rb8
7.0-0	b5
8.f4	b4
9.Nd5	e6
10.Ne3	Nd4
11.c4?!	Ne7
12.Kh1	0-0
13.g4	f5
14.exf5	exf5
15.gxf5	Nxf5
16.Nxf5	Nxf5
17.Rg1	Qh4
18.Bd5+	Kh8
19.Ng3	Nxg3+

19...Bd4 was also good.

20.Rxg3	Re8
21.Rb1	Bd4

□21...Bf5

22.b3?

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22.f5!	Bxf5	23.Bg5+–
22...		<b>Rb7</b>
23.f5		
23.Be4	Rbe7	24.Bd2 Rxe4!
23...		<b>h6</b>
24.Qf1		<b>Rbe7!</b>
25.Bg5		
□25.Rxg6	Re1	26.Rxh6+
25...		<b>hxg5!</b>
26.Rh3		<b>Bxf5</b>
27.Rxh4+		<b>gxh4</b>
28.Bc6		

The plot thickens with an exchange sacrifice.

28...		<b>h3!</b>
29.Bxe8		<b>Rxe8</b>
30.Re1		<b>Re5</b>
31.Rxe5		<b>dxе5</b>



**Bernard De Linton**

[robertburnschessset.com/bannockburn-chess-set](http://robertburnschessset.com/bannockburn-chess-set)

**White: Dolgov, Igor M**

**Black: Mikhailchuk, P**

USSR Central Chess Club Champ  
Scotch/Danish Gambit [C44]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5

2.Nf3

Douglas Bryson used the gambit line against Konstantin Lerner in the SCCA v USSR 1982 corr. "cable" match: 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Qb3 Qc8 9.Ng5 Nd8 10.f4 Be7 11.f5 e5 12.0-0 Nf6 13.Bd2 c6 14.Rac1 h6 15.Ne6 Nxe6 16.fxe6 0-0 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Rxf8+ Qxf8 19.exd5 cxd5 20.Qxd5 Re8 21.Qxb7 and the game was drawn in 45 moves.

2... Nc6

3.d4 exd4

4.c3 dxc3

5.Bc4 cxb2

6.Bxb2 Bb4+

Dolgov - Waldhauser, EuH 1990–93, is a good example of the recommended defence 6...d6 7.0-0 Be6 8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.Qb3 Qd7 10.Ng5 Nd8 11.f4 Nf6 12.Nd2 Be7 13.Rad1 h6 14.e5!? hxg5 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.fxg5 Bxb2 17.Qxb2 e5 18.Qc2 Qe7 19.Qg6+ Kd7 20.Ne4 Kc8 21.Rf3 Rf8 22.Rxf8 Qxf8 23.Rf1 Qg8 24.h4! d5 25.h5?!

According to Dolgov, White should



And now we have a very rare scenario of Q fighting against 2 Bs.

32.Qf3 Kg7

33.Qb7+ Kf6

34.Qf3 Kg5

35.Qe2

35.Qg3+? Bg4 Zugzwang.

35... Kf4!

36.Qe1 Kf3

37.Qd1+ Ke3

38.Qe1+

38.Qf1 Kd2+–

38... Kxd3

39.Qd1+ Ke3

40.Kg1 Bd3

41.Qg4

41.Qe1+ Kf3+ 42.Kh1 Be4 and mate in a few moves.

41... Kd2+

0-1



have played 25.Nf6! giving the winning line of play 25...Qf7□  
26.Qxf7! Nxf7 27.Nxd5 (27.Ng8! too) 27...Nd8 28.Rf8 Kd7 29.h5 c6 30.h6 cxd5 31.h7!)

7.Nc3 Nf6  
8.Qc2 d6  
9.0-0-0 0-0  
10.e5 Ng4  
11.Nd5 Bc5  
12.exd6 cxd6  
13.h4 Kh8  
14.Ng5 f5  
15.Nf4 Nce5  
16.Qc3 Bxf2  
17.Kb1 Qc7  
18.Bb3 Qxc3  
19.Bxc3 Bc5  
20.h5 b6

21.Ng6+  
21.h6 gxh6 22.Nf7+ Rxf7 23.Bxf7 Bb7 and Black is developed.

21... hxc6  
21...Nxc6 22.hxc6 h6 23.Rxh6+ Nxh6 24.Rh1 and mate cannot be parried.  
22.hxc6+ Nh6



23.Rde1!

Calmly preparing the denouement: White's rooks will eliminate both defending knights.

23... Rf6  
24.Nf7+ Rxf7

24...Kg8 25.Nxe5+ Be6 26.Nd7 Bxb3 27.Nxf6+ gxf6 28.Bxf6 Rf8 29.Bb2+-

25.Bxf7 Be6  
26.Rxe5 Bb4

26...Bxf7 27.Rxh6+ gxh6 (27...Kg8 28.gxf7+ wins.) 28.Re8#

27.Ba1 Bxf7  
28.Rxh6+ 1-0



White: Omelchenko, Lev Evgenyevich

Black: Mikenas, Vlasdas IX USSR Corr Ch 6970 USSR

English, Mikenas-Flohr Variation [A19]

[Notes by John E Hawkes after Omelchenko]

1.c4 Nf6  
2.Nc3 e6  
3.e4 c5  
4.e5 Ng8  
5.d4 cxd4  
6.Qxd4 Ne6

7.Qe4  
7.Qe3 Nh6!

7... f5

7...d6 is best according to Bagirov in his 1989 monograph on the English e.g. 8.Nf3 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nf6 (9...Bd7!) 10.Nxc6 Nxe4 11.Nxd8 Nxc3 12.Nxf7 Kxf7 13.bxc3 b6 14.Be3 Ba6 15.0-0-0 Be7 16.c5! Bb7 17.Bc4 Bxg2 18.Rhe1 Rhc8 19.Rd7 Bc6 20.Rxe7+!! Kxe7 21.Bg5+ Kf8 22.Rxe6 Be8 23.Be7+ Kf7 24.Bd6 24...g5 25.Re7+ Kf6 26.Rxh7 bxc5 27.Be7+ Kf5 28.Bd3+ Kf4 29.Rh6 g4 30.Re6 Bc6 31.Bxc5 Kf3 32.Bf1 Kf4 33.Bd3 Kf3 34.Re3+ Kg2 35.Rg3+ Kxh2 36.Rxg4 Rg8 37.Bg6 a5 38.Bd6+ Kh1 39.c4 Rh8 40.f4 Rh3 41.f5 Rf3 42.Be7 Rh8 43.f6 Rh2 44.Rd4 Rhf2 45.Rd1+ Kg2 46.Rd2 Rc3+ 47.Kb2 Rxc4 48.Rxf2+ Kxf2 49.f7 Rf4 50.f8Q Rxf8 51.Bxf8 Ke3 52.Kc3 Kf4 53.Kd4 a4 54.Bh6+ 1-0 Mikenas - Bezzola, I Euro TT prelims 1979-83

8.Qe2  
8.Qe3 Nh6

8... Nge7  
9.Nf3 Ng6

10.Bd2 a6  
10...Qc7 11.Nb5 Qb8 12.Bc3 a6

13.Nbd4 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.Qxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxf5∞

11.0-0-0 Qc7  
12.Re1 Bc5

13.Kb1!  
[Smyslov]

13... Nd4

I don't often quote OTB games, but Kholmov - Chistiakov (Leningrad 1955) is a must: 13...0-0 14.h4 Nd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.f4 b6 (16...Bxc3 17.Bxc3 Nxf4 18.Qf3 Ng6 19.h5 with a strong initiative - Kholmov) 17.h5 Ne7 18.Qd3 Nc6 19.Be2 Bb7 20.Bf3 Rad8 21.Be3 Bxe3 22.Qxe3 Na5 23.b3 Bxf3 24.gxf3! d6 (24...Nb7) 25.exd6 Rxd6 26.h6! g6 27.Rd1 Nb7 28.Rxd6 Qxd6 29.Rd1 Qc6 30.Na4 b5 31.Qe5 Rf7 32.Nc5!! Qxf3 33.Kc1 bxc4 34.Nxe6 Nd6 35.Rxd6 Qh1+ 36.Rd1

14.Nxd4 Bxd4  
15.f4 b5?!

16.cxb5 0-0  
17.Be3 Bxc3

An important variation here is:  
17...Qb6 18.Bxd4 Qxd4 19.Qf3 Rb8

20.bxa6 Qd2 21.Bb5 Bxa6 22.Re2+-

18.Rc1 Qb7  
19.Rxc3 Qe4+

20.Qc2 Nxf4  
21.Qxe4 fxe4



22.Rxc8!  
23.bxa6 Raxc8

24.Bd4 Nd5  
25.Bb5 Nb4

25...Nc6

26.Ba7 Nb4

26...Ra8 27.Bxd7 Na3+ 28.bxa3 Rxa7 29.Bxe6+ Kh8 30.Bc4+-

27.Rd1  
27.Bxd7 Rc7 28.Bxe6+ Kh8 29.Be3

Nxa6 30.Bd5+-

27... Ra8  
28.Bc5 Rfb8  
29.Bxd7 Nd3



30.Rxd3!

The second exchange sacrifice is better than the variation; 30.Bxe6+

Kh8 31.Ba3 Rxa6 32.Bb3 Rxa3 33.bxa3 Nxe5 34.Re1 Nc4

30... exd3  
31.a7 Rb7

32.Bxe6+ Kh8  
33.Bd5 d2

34.Kc2 d1Q+  
35.Kxd1 Rd7

36.Bd6

Double self-pin!

36... Raxa7  
37.b4 g5  
38.Kc2 Ra6  
39.b5 Ra5  
40.e6!

Studylike finish: 40.e6 Rxd6 41.e7 Ra8 42.Bxa8 Re6 43.b6 Rxe7 (43...Kg7 44.b7 Rc6+ 45.Kd3 Rd6+ 46.Kc4 Rc6+ 47.Kd5 of course.) 44.b7 Re8 45.a4

1-0



White: Riihimäki, P

Black: Koskinen, V

Finnish Tournament -1983

Caro Kann [B16]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 c6  
2.d4 d5  
3.Nc3 dxe4  
4.Nxe4 Nf6  
5.Nxf6+ gxf6  
6.Nf3 Bg4  
7.Be2 Qc7

The rarity 7...Na6!? occurred in a 1967 USSR Team Ch game,

Yangerber-Kopylov: 8.0-0 Nc7 9.c4 Qd7 10.Be3 Bg7 11.Nh4 f5 12.h3 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 f4 14.Bxf4 Ne6 15.Be3 (15.Nf5!?) 15...Nxd4=

8.h3 Bh5  
9.0-0 Nd7  
10.Be3 e6  
11.c4 Rd8  
12.d5 Nb6  
13.Qb3 c5  
14.dxe6 fxe6  
15.Rad1 Rxd1  
16.Rxd1 Bg6  
17.Nh4 Be7  
18.a4 Kf7  
19.Bf3 Rb8  
20.Nxg6 hxg6  
21.a5 Nd7  
22.a6 b6  
23.Bf4! e5  
24.Bh6 Nf8  
25.Bd5+ Ne6  
26.f4 Rd8  
27.f5!? gxf5  
28.Qg3 Rxd5!  
29.cxd5 Nd4  
30.Qg7+ Ke8  
31.Qg8+ Kd7  
32.Be3 f4  
33.Bxd4 cxd4  
34.Qe6+ Kd8  
35.h4 Qc4  
36.Qc6

Having turned down the perpetual White enters a fascinating endgame.

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36... Qxc6  
37.dxc6



37... Kc7  
38.h5 f5  
39.h6 Bf6  
40.Kf2

40.Rc1 e4 41.Kf1 d3 42.Rc3! was an interesting alternative for White.

40... e4  
41.Rh1 d3  
42.h7 Bh8  
43.Rh6 b5!  
44.Ke1 e3  
45.Kd1 b4

46.Ke1?

Missing a finesse. 46.Kc1! was the move; 46...b3 (46...d2+ 47.Kc2 b3+ 48.Kd1 Bxb2 49.h8Q Bxh8 50.Rxh8+-) 47.Re6 d2+ 48.Kd1+-

46... Bxb2  
47.h8Q Bc3+!  
48.Qxc3 bxc3  
49.Rh7+ Kxc6  
50.Rh8 c2

0-1



White: Sorokin, G

Black: Sorri, J

IX Olympiad Prelims

Ruy Lopez, Open [C84]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5  
2.Nf3 Nc6  
3.Bb5 a6  
4.Ba4 Nf6  
5.0-0 Nxe4  
6.d4 Bc7  
7.Qe2

Lehikoinen - Sorri in the 1st Heilimo Memorial went: 7.Re1 f5 8.d5 Na5! 9.Nxe5 0-0 10.c3 Bc5 11.Re2 d6 12.Nf3 Nc4 13.Bc2 Re8 14.Qe1 Bd7 15.b3 Nxf2 16.Nd4 Ng4! 17.h3 Rxe2 18.Qxe2 Qh4! 19.Bxf5 Bxf5 20.hxg4 Bxg4 21.Qe4 Ne5 22.b4 Bb6 23.Nd2 Rf8 24.Qe3 and the Finn finished his

miniature with an artistic touch - 24...Bd1! and White resigned.

7... f5  
8.dxe5 0-0  
9.Rd1 Qe8

A characteristic of the variation.

10.Bb3+ Kh8  
11.Nbd2

The subject of a consultation game, Blackburne and Kling v Falkbeer and Zytogorsky in 1864, (better known for the Lasker-Walbrodt draw at the great Nuernberg 1896 Tournament).

11... Nc5  
12.Nc4 f4!



13.c3

Argomaniz v Sorri in the XIII WC SF went 13.Bd2 and after 13...Qg6 14.Re1 b6 15.c3 Bb7 16.Rac1 Nxb3 17.axb3 b5 18.Na3 Nxe5! white cut his postal costs by resigning!

13... Nxb3  
14.axb3 b5  
15.Na5 Nxa5  
16.Rxa5 Bb7  
17.Rd4

Trying to induce a weakening ...g5 from Black.

17... c5!  
18.Rxf4 Rxf4  
19.Bxf4 Qf7

The point : Black has the initiative, obtains a q-side majority and has a B-pair.

20.Bg3 Qxb3



21.Ra1 Bc6  
 22.Ne1 a5  
 23.Nd3 Qc4  
 24.f3 b4  
 25.Qe3 Bb5  
 26.Nf2 a4  
 27.Ne4 a3

Threatening b4–b3.

28.cxb4 cxb4  
 29.Nd6 Qd3!

30.Qc1

30.Qxd3 Bxd3 31.bxa3 b3! is a motif to keep in mind.

30... h6

31.h3 Bc6

32.Kh2 Bxd6

33.exd6 Re8

34.bxa3 Re2

The most brutal threat is now Rxc2+.

35.Qf4 Qxf3  
 36.Qxf3 Bxf3



37.Bf2 Rxf2  
 38.Kg3 Bc4!!

Another beautiful move with the queen's B concludes matters.

0-1



**Troitzky Study Solution**

1.h7 f2  
 2.Bc4 a2  
 3.Kb2 Ka5  
 4.h8=B!

Underpromotion avoids stalemate!

1-0

4. h8=Q? a1=Q+ 5. Kxa1  
 f1=Q+ 6. Bxf1 Bd4+ =) 1-0



**Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 9**

By John E. Hawkes

**White: Angelov, Petko**

**Black: Langer, Wolfgang**

37th European Individual Champ.

King's Indian Attack [A08]

[Notes by John E Hawkes after

Angelov]

1.Nf3 Nf6

2.g3 d5

3.Bg2 c5

4.d3 Nc6

5.Nbd2 e6

6.e4 Be7

7.0-0 0-0

8.Re1

8.e5 Nd7 9.Re1 b5 10.Nf1 a5 11.h4

b4 12.Bf4 Ba6 13.Ne3 a4 was

Uhlmann's refined way of playing

Black: rapid advance q-side and his

queen staying in touch with his

castled king - often going to e8.

(NB Preceding diagram refers to position after 15.Ne3)

8... Qc7

9.c3 b6

10.e5 Nd7

11.Qe2 a5

12.Nf1 Ba6

13.h4 Rfe8

14.Bf4 b5

15.Ne3

Threatening 16. Nxd5 exd5 17. e6! □

15... Nd8

16.Ng5 Bb7

17.Qh5 h6

18.Ng4! hxg5

19.hxg5 Bf8

20.Nf6+! Nxf6

20...gxf6 21.gxf6 Nxf6 22.exf6 e5

23.Bh3+–

21.gxf6 Ne6

If 22...g6 23.Qh3! Bg7 24.fxg7 Kxg7

25.Qh6+ Kg8 26.Rh1 f5 27.exf6 Qh7

28.Qxh7+ Kxh7 29.Kg1+ Kg8

30.f7+ Kxf7 31.Rh7+ wins a piece.

23.Rh1

23.fxe7 Qxe7 24.Rh1 g6 25.Qh3 Bg7

26.Kg1 g5 27.Qh7+ Kf8 and Black is

still alive.

23... Nf5

24.Kg1 Nh6

25.Re1

and Black resigned. Next comes

fxg7, and if 25...g6 26.Qxh6! Bxh6

27.Bxh6 and mate after Bg7 is

inevitable.

1-0



**Troitzky Study1924**



22.Kh2! Ne7



**White to play and win.**



## ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries

### CCO21/S4, ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries - Section 04

TD Millstone, Michael (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Ukraine	2434	█	3	2.5	3.5	2.5	3	3.5	5	4.5	3.5	31	59	10	12	52	2	1
2	Scotland	2393	3	█	3	3	3	2.5	3	3.5	3.5	4	28.5	53	4	11	53	1	2
3	Lithuania	2511	3.5	3	█	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	3.5	3.5	4	28	56	6	10	50	4	3
4	Wales	2348	2.5	3	2.5	█	2.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	3	26.5	51	2	8	51	3	4
5	Argentina	2458	3.5	3	2.5	3.5	█	3	2	2.5	3	3	26	54	4	8	48	6	5
6	Brazil	2376	2	2.5	3	2.5	3	█	3	3	3.5	3	25.5	49	-1	7	52	2	6
7	Romania	2445	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	2	3	█	2.5	3	3.5	24.5	51	1	5	48	6	7
8	Norway	2380	1	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	█	3.5	3.5	23.5	46	-4	5	51	3	8
9	Hong Kong	2301	1.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	2	2.5	2	2.5	█	4	21	41	-9	2	51	3	9
10	South Africa	2245	1.5	2	2	2	2	3	2.5	1.5	2	█	18.5	37	-13	1	50	4	10

The team has thus far scored 28½ points from 53 completed games. Our 4 wins to date have been Richard Beecham (Bd 1), Alan Bell (Bd 3) and Gordon Anderson (2 on Bd 6). With just 1 game to finish, we may not be able to hold on to 2<sup>nd</sup> spot.

## 11th European Team Championship (ETC)

### EU/TC11/sf1, 11th European Team Championship - Semifinal 1

TD Glaser, Karel (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Iceland	2411	█	3	3	3.5	4	3	3.5	3	3	4.5	2.5	33	50	1	3	65	15	1
2	Switzerland	2440	3	█	3.5	3	4	4.5	2.5	4.5	3	2	2.5	32.5	52	3	5	62	18	2
3	Croatia	2349	3	3.5	█	4	4	3	3	3	2.5	3.5	2.5	32	50	1	2	63	17	3
4	Bulgaria	2423	3.5	3	4	█	4.5	2.5	3	3	2.5	3	2	31	51	2	3	60	20	4
5	Denmark	2346	4	3	4	3.5	█	3	2	3	3.5	4	0.5	30.5	46	-4	3	65	15	5
6	Scotland	2390	3	3.5	3	2.5	5	█	2	2.5	2	4	2.5	30	53	4	3	56	24	6
7	Lithuania	2498	3.5	2.5	4	3	3	2	█	2	2	4	2.5	28.5	54	5	2	52	28	7
8	Estonia	2372	3	3.5	3	3	3	2.5	2	█	2.5	3.5	2.5	28.5	50	1	0	56	24	8
9	Finland	2364	3	3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	█	2	2.5	24.5	49	-1	0	50	30	9
10	Norway	2229	3.5	2	2.5	2	3	2	1	2.5	2	█	1.5	22	40	-10	0	54	26	10
11	Turkey	2400	2.5	2.5	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	1.5	█	19.5	47	-2	0	41	39	11

Our 11th ETC Semi-final is progressing reasonably well, with 70% of the games now completed. As in most modern CC tournaments, however, getting most of the games finished is not a problem. It is the last 5% which will drift on interminably; so this promises to be the first of several quarterly progress reports!

The good news is that Scotland put out a very strong team this time round and we are currently making excellent progress. The event is played over 8 boards and the only notable absentee from the upper echelons of Scottish CC is David Cumming. David is currently ranked 6th in the Scottish grading list, but had slipped to 9th at the time that the team was selected.

So far, the only player to have completed all his games is Alan Bell, on Board 4, who finished with a 50% score, just half a point short of a second IM norm. Even so, Alan had a CCM norm with a half-point overscore which secures him the CCM title.

In the “as it stands” team table, Scotland lies 6<sup>th</sup> behind Iceland, who lead the way; but this has no more significance than the “as it stands” tables which are confusingly presented on television when Premier League football games are in progress. All it means is that Icelandic players have completed more of their games; and I confidently expect that Scotland will overtake them in due course.

A better guide to our progress is the “+/-” column in the team table which gives the number of wins, minus the number of losses, which looks like this:

- +5 Lithuania
- +4 Scotland
- +3 Switzerland
- +2 Bulgaria
- +1 Estonia
- +1 Croatia
- +1 Iceland

The remaining 4 of the 11 teams playing in our Semi-final – Denmark, Finland, Norway and Turkey – have a minus score and are almost certainly out of contention.

In our 25 remaining games we will do well to score 50%. This slightly pessimistic prediction is based on my own evaluation of some of the games, along with reports from several team colleagues on the remainder. Even so, an end result of +5 would give us an excellent chance of a podium finish and a place in the Final; so it is all to play for! I also predict that Lithuania – who have by far the strongest team – will win the Semi-final, but that potential outcome

need not worry us. We still have an excellent chance of 2nd place if we perform well in our outstanding games against Bulgaria and Estonia, especially.

All in all, we are certainly punching above our weight this time round considering that, on grading average, we were ranked only 6th of the 11 teams at the outset. After a slightly mixed performance in the 10th ETC, this is very encouraging for Scottish CC.

Finally, let me express gratitude on behalf of all the Scottish team to Gordon Anderson for taking over as Team Captain, following the sad loss of George Pyrich. George would have been delighted to have seen how well the team is playing.

One of Gordon’s first “duties” was to instruct me to refuse the offer of a draw from one of my current opponents. Curiously, the reason Gordon gave me that instruction was because I asked him to! More of that little tale in my next report.... :-)

## Current Friendly Internationals

### GB/TriNat/2017, British Tri-Nations 2017

		TD Sitorus, Yosua										
		1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	England	2034	10	17.5	27.5	67	14	2	41	7	1	
2	Wales	1957	9	12	21	51	1	1	41	7	2	
3	Scotland	1973	4.5	10	14.5	32	-15	0	44	4	3	

Our team is on schedule to finish at the foot of the table.

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Dec 2017	18	Scheming Mind	Server	11	13		
Jul 2017	21	Australia	Server	20	15		
Apr 2017	21	Finland	Server	11	22		loss
Dec 2016	24	Italy	Server	11½	36½		loss
Dec 2016	8	Indonesia	Server	9	5		win
Nov 2016	26	Canada	Server	26½	25½		win

Our matches against Canada and Italy are now fully completed. We have a tight match against Scheming Mind, and hold a healthy lead over Australia, but have now lost our fixture against Finland.

### NATT 7 / NSTT 3

In NATT 7, Scotland sits in bottom place with a score of 32/85 and 3 games yet to finish.

In NSTT 3, Scotland sits in second-bottom place with a score of 22/53 and 7 games still to finish.

### Esko Nuutilianen Memorial Team Tournament

The team has now scored 18/36 (50%) and sits in 8th place.

### The Veterans’ World Cup (VWC)

Geoff Lloyd is still waiting to start his VWC9 Semi-Final, probably in August. Meantime he’s to be congratulated on

gaining his second CCE norm in the Esko Nuutilianen Memorial Team Tournament!

- Derek Coope (VWC10pr6) – sitting bottom quarter.
- Derek Coope (VWC10pr9) – sitting bottom half.
- Eoin Campbell (VWC10pr15) – finished mid-table.
- Brian Goodwin (VWC10pr16) – finished bottom quarter.
- Peter Bennett (VWC10pr50) – sitting top.
- Peter Bennett (VWC10pr51) – sitting top quarter.
- Geoff Lloyd (VWC10pr55) – sitting mid-table.

### General

A full list of available individual events and entry fees is available at our web site [www.scottishcca.co.uk](http://www.scottishcca.co.uk)





## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 2018

#### Theme 2/18: Ruy Lopez, Archangelsk Variation, C78

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7  
Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

#### Theme 3/18: King's Indian, Storm Attack, E76

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4  
Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

### Webserver Events 2018

#### Theme 4/18 – Ponziani Opening, C44

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4  
Entries by 15 May; play starts 1 June

#### Theme 5/18 – Winawer Gambit, D10

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e5  
Entries by 31 August; play starts 15 September

Note there are no Email Events in 2018.

## News

- ❑ The new ICCF Finance Director is Jan M. Vosselman (NED), who was elected unopposed on March 13.
- ❑ The 2018 European Championship Candidates have now started with 65 players from 25 countries taking part. The event has 5 sections of 13 players and is rated category VIII (average rating 2433). The winner and runner-up in each section qualifies for the final.
- ❑ The 2018 World Championship Preliminaries have now started with 156 players from 44 countries taking part. The event has 12 sections of 13 players and is rated category III (average rating 2321). The winner and runner-up in each section qualifies for a semi-final.
- ❑ Thanks to the work of Marco Caressa, the ICCF webserver is now available in the Italian language. This brings the total languages supported to 11. You can choose the one you prefer in your Personal Settings.
- ❑ The 2018 ICCF Congress will be held in the seaside resort of Llandudno, North Wales, from August 18-23.

Further details of all ICCF activities and events; entries to events, and orders for ICCF publications may be obtained via Gordon Anderson at: [international@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk)

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