

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.149

Spring 2020

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4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum



Welcome to the first edition of the 2020 magazine set which is issued in the midst of the dreadful Coronavirus Pandemic. Our sincere good wishes for health and safety go to our many members and worldwide friends at this time. It's a small consolation that CC players have pioneered self-isolation over many years...

The Pandemic has been responsible for the cancellation of this year's ICCF Congress, due to have taken place in Glasgow during August 23-27. The hotel we had booked has been requisitioned by the Scottish Government until September. Further details are given on our Notices page.

Kevin Paine has analysed the second ICCF rating list of 2020 for us. Again, no new titles to report, but we have introduced a small personal best table following an idea from Peter Bennett.

We welcome Icelandic GM Daði Örn Jónsson to our pages for the first time. Daði announces 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in our 2019 Best Game Competition and I must congratulate him for his very thorough analysis and judgement of entries.

No Hawkes Files this time, alas. John has been under the weather in recent weeks (happily not Corona-related), and our best wishes go to him for a full recovery!

Peter Bennett has placed his Ruy Lopez series on hold for the while, but has managed to make an educational article out of the huge games load he has undertaken recently.

Long-standing member Derek Coope sadly died suddenly back in January. He was quite a character, and I'm really grateful to his wife Joyce and Oban CC colleague Duncan Campbell for providing reminiscences in our obituary.

Our International column includes further contributions from Peter Bennett on the upcoming ETC Finals and the Veterans' World Cup, as well as a round-up of other events.

Alastair Dawson has kindly annotated some games from the George Pyrich Memorial section in which he played – they're a lively selection and well worth going through!

Last year, Brigitte Wolf of Canada provided the artwork for our cover page and I'm delighted that she's agreed to supply a further image for this year's magazine set. You can view her gallery by clicking the link below the image.

SCCA Membership

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

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

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

SCCA 100 Club

The 100 Club has been and continues to be an important revenue-earner for our Association, with many long-standing subscribers.

However, in recent years we have lost a number of subscribers through death and replacing them has been a challenge that, as yet, we have been unable to fully meet.

Could you help us address our challenge by agreeing to take one, two, three or more units each month?

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 making contact with Gordon to sign up for some units (contact details below).

Recent 100 Club Winners

2020	1st	2nd
March	P J Moir	C M Dowell
February	S R Gillam	P M Giuliani
January	J M Armstrong	Mrs D Livie

SCCA Officials

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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine, Iain Sneddon and Iain Mackintosh pro tem.



ICCF Congress 2020 Cancelled



The annual ICCF Congress due to have been held in Glasgow (Clydebank) from August 23-28, has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak

The Congress venue, the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Glasgow (Clydebank), is owned by NHS Scotland. On Friday, March 20, we were contacted by the venue and advised that the Scottish Government had instructed the venue to close its commercial operations with immediate effect until, at least, October 1, 2020.

The venue's website contains the following message: "The Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel is an important part of NHS Scotland. During the current challenges to our health service, the Hotel will be offering our resources to support the wider NHS effort. Therefore, we will only be accepting NHS priority-based activity until further notice. This is a challenging time for everyone, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause."

Consequently, the 2020 ICCF Congress cannot now be hosted by the SCCA. This news is extremely frustrating; however, we are all aware of the worldwide pandemic and the uncertainty which exists.

On 26 March 2020, the ICCF Executive Board issued the following statement:

- (a) The online process of submitting proposals will continue until the proposal submission deadline of June 23, 2020. See <https://www.iccf.com/Proposals.aspx?id=73>
- (b) Voting will only be available online by the delegates. There should be no need to appoint proxies or delegate designees this year. Online voting will start on July 8, 2020, and extend through July 28, 2020.
- (c) *** because voting will be online, delegates are highly encouraged to use the comment feature of each proposal to air concerns, ask questions, and so on ***
- (d) While the state of the hospitality industry will remain in flux, we still encourage Member Federations to consider putting in a proposal to host the 2021 Congress.
- (e) Due to the time, cost, and effort, medals and certificates will not be distributed this year.
- (f) Official's reports will be posted as they become available in the "Congress 2020 Documents" tab at <https://www.iccf.com/message?message=436>
- (g) After voting is tallied and reported, the EB will meet (in person or virtually) to define the priorities and specific actions needed for the implementation of the proposals.

IV Argentine Cup 75th Anniversary



The Argentine Correspondence Chess Federation (LADAC) is pleased to announce IV Argentine Cup – 75th Anniversary.

CC players of all levels from all countries of the world are warmly invited to participate in this event which has a three round structure:

Preliminaries. Start date 30th June 2020; entries close on 10th June. Each group will have 7-9 players. Multiple entries allowed. Entries via PayPal (see below). Only first place advances to the Semi-finals. Fees: 10€

Semi-Finals. Will start as soon as the qualifiers are determined. Groups of 11-13 players. ICCF titles and norms are possible. Players rated 2200 or higher may register for semi-finals directly and will pay 20€. Only section winners will advance to Final and only one qualification per player for the Final. (If a player qualifies for the Final in two or more groups, his better qualification will be selected and in the other group(s) the 2nd-placed player will qualify).

Final. Will start as soon as the qualifiers are determined. One group of 13 players. ICCF titles and norms are possible. Prizes: 1st 500€, 2nd 300€, 3rd 200€ (via Paypal).

All rounds will be played on the ICCF webserver, with rates of play standard 50 days/10 moves with duplication after 20 days.

Tie-Breaking rules are:

- (a) number of wins by each tied player in the tournament (the Baumbach tie-breaking system)
- (b) if after (a) the tie persists, then the points evaluation by the Sonneborn-Berger System,
- (c) if after (b) the tie persists, then the results of the tied players against each other.
- (d) if after (c) the tie persists, then the player with the lower rating at the beginning of the stage will qualify.

Entry payments via Paypal to by PayPal to jorgedeforelchess@gmail.com
Entry details including ICCF ID, Surname and Forename to jorgedeforel@yahoo.com.ar

6th British Webserver Team Tournament



The Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation (WCCF) is pleased to announce that entries for the 6th British Webserver Team Tournament are now open; this tournament will start on 12th April 2020.

The entry fee remains £20.00 per team. Entries to Russell Sherwood at:

treasurer@welshccf.org.uk and include

the team name and the names, board numbers, and ICCF ID numbers of the team captain and each of the four players.

The closing date for entries is Friday 10th April 2020, and the WCCF will inform you of payment arrangements on receipt of your entry. The full rules of the tournament are available on the WCCF website:

<https://welshccf.org.uk/content/88>

There are two significant changes from the 5th season:

1. Guaranteed time of 3 days per move will be utilised. (In simple terms this means that a player cannot be “timed out” as long as they make a move within the increment window).
2. Only 1 player in the team is required to be British registered (Welsh, Scottish or English).

WCCF will be operating a Player-Team matching service, so any team looking for player or players for a team should make contact on the address above.

Please note that each team should include at least one player playing under the flags of Wales, Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, or a British crown dependency or overseas territory; there are no restrictions on the nationalities of the other two players. Returning teams should include at least two members from Season Five, or they will be considered as a new team. New teams are very welcome, and will normally start in the lowest division, however the WCCF Executive Committee reserve the right to allocate teams to higher divisions should it be merited.

Fernschach 2020 CC Database



Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2020 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 1,450,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 100,000 new games since 2019
- Approximately 9,500 annotated (400 new)
- Games from all main chess servers + post + email All tournaments marked correspondence so that CC games can be recognised in a larger database
- 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

46399 Bocholt

Germany

Bank details: Transfer the purchase amount to:

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Email: hebel57@gmx.de

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

The Chess Player's Alice



The Clergy Correspondence Chess Club have released *The Chess Player's Alice*, by The Reverend Ivor Davies (1923-2005).

Ivor Davies was the Vicar of Hay-on-Wye for nearly 20 years, and was a Canon of Brecon Cathedral. He was the founder of the CCCC in 1967, and

the club continues to this day. *The Chess Player's Alice* is a whimsical analysis of the famous chess game from Lewis Carroll's *Alice through the Looking-Glass*.

The cover price is £4 but SCCA members can buy it for £3.50 post free. Please contact Rev Bruce Carlin, 44 Frank Lane, Dewsbury WF12 0JJ, e: brucecarlin@cooptel.net Cheques payable to CCCC or email Bruce to get bank details for BACS payments.

ICCF Games Archive

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



2020/2 Grading List

By Kevin Paine

The second ICCF grading list of 2020 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 December 2019 and 29 February 2020. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 June 2020.

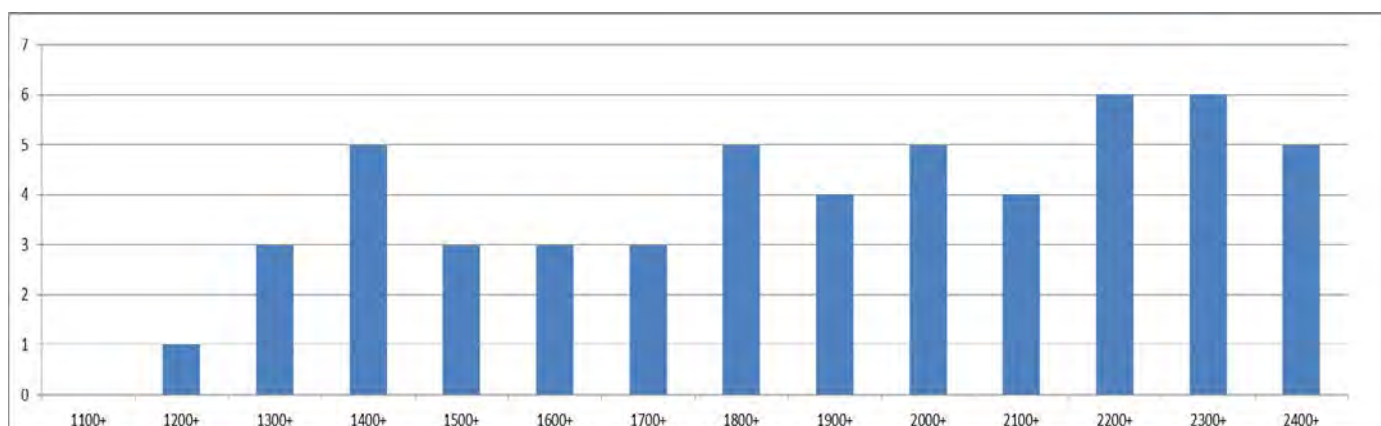
We had one addition (Stuart Graham re-activated), and one deletion (sadly, Derek Coope deceased) in this list. No titles or norms were gained by members in the last grading period.

There were four upwards movements in grading bands – Iain Sneddon is now 2300+; Raymond Burrige is 2200+; while both Mark Smith and Ian Whittaker are up to 2100+. Well done to all of them!

More new games centurions featured – Carlos Almarza Mato got to 1800+; David Cumming reached 1700+, Colin Beveridge surpassed 500, Pat Moir hit 200; and Ian Whittaker is now 100+. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Carlos Almarza Mato (57), David Cumming (47), Martin Hardwick (37), and Iain Sneddon (28).

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
317	Almarza Mato, C	1812	2169 ↑	260	Knox, A	390	1451 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	335	2344 ↔	264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	961	2294 ↑
121	Anderson, J	302	1941 ↔		MacDonald, M	56	1389 ↔
049	Armstrong, A	209	1876 ↔	584	MacGregor, C A	434	1867 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	427	1515 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	772	2416 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	472	2480 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	1378	1533 ↑
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	247	2421 ↔	566	Marshall, I H	784	2064 ↑
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	453	2370 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	253	2459 ↑
481	Beveridge, C (CCE)	512	2249 ↓	867	McEwan, N R	39	1896 ↔
472	Blake, M J (CCE)	866	2373 ↑		Miles, A	58	1477 ↔
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096	2207 ↓	401	Moir, P J	200	1536 ↓
602	Burrige, R J	1477	2211 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S	306	2263 ↓
	Clark, S L	268	1877 ↔	474	Murden, C (IM)	585	2443 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	113	1900 ↓	564	Murray, J S	77	2021 ↓
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1710	2334 ↓	440	Neil, C	340	1352 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	166	2192 ↑	453	Newton, A	30	1774 ↔
572	Dempster, D	807	1759 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	173	1966 ↓
478	Dunn, J	375	1465 ↓	604	Paine, Prof K A (SM)	219	2352 ↔
	Dyer, M	113	2069 ↔		Pettigrew, S	144	1401 ↓
371	Edney, D	276	1960 ↓	432	Price, D	447	1885 ↓
462	Gilbert, R	232	1682 ↓	477	Sedstrem, A	92	1386 ↓
124	Goodwin, B J	389	1719 ↔	439	Smith, M J	87	2114 ↑
445	Graham, S W	82	1689 ↓	057	Sneddon, I (CCE)	270	2315 ↑
399	Grant, J	69	1686 ↔	605	Taylor, W	118	2048 ↑
596	Hardwick, M E	1388	1214 ↓		Warren, J	36	2067 ↔
475	Kearns, A	94	1417 ↓	480	Whittaker, I P	101	2117 ↑
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	351	2238 ↔				



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	53
New entrants	1
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	1
Full grades (30+ games)	53
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	15
Grading decreases (↓)	22
Grading static (↔)	16

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2480	Burridge, R J	2211
Matheis, T (IM)	2459	Borwell, A P (IM)	2207
Murden, C (IM)	2443	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2192
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2421	Almarza Mato, C	2169
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2416	Whittaker, I P	2117
Blake, M J (CCE)	2373	Smith, M J	2114
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2370	Dyer, M	2069
Paine, Prof K A (SM)	2352	Warren, J	2067
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2344	Marshall, I H	2064
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2334	Taylor, W	2048
Sneddon, I (CCE)	2315	Murray, J S	2021
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2294	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	1966
Montgomery, R S	2263	Edney, D	1960
Beveridge, C (CCE)	2249	Anderson, J	1941
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2238	Cormack, W H	1900

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	1812	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1710	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	961
Burridge, R J	1477	Blake, M J (CCE)	866
Hardwick, M E	1388	Dempster, D	807
MacMillen, A N	1378	Marshall, I H	784

Selected Personal Best Grades 2020/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Burridge, R J	2211	2148	2016/1	63
Smith, M J	2114	2076	2019/4	38
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2421	2413	2019/3	8
Blake, M J (CCE)	2373	2369	2020/1	4
Matheis, T (IM)	2459	2458	2020/1	1
Paine, Prof K A (SM)	2352	2352	2018/2	0
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2344	2344	2020/1	0

Other Notes

Senior International Master (SIM) title norms are held by:

Matheis, T (1), Murden, C (1)

International Master (IM) title norms are held by:

Bennett, P G (1), Bell, A D (1)

Scottish Master (SM) title norms are held by:

Montgomery, R S (2)

Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:

Beveridge, C (1), Paine, K A (1)

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:

Montgomery, R S (2), Paine, K A (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), 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.



7th Annual SCCA Best Game Prize

By GM Dadi Örn Jónsson

[Ed – we broke new ground this year by inviting GM Dadi Örn Jónsson of Iceland to be our judge for the competition. You may remember an article by GM Morten Lilleøren of Norway which profiled Dadi in edition 145. He's a very talented individual, businessman, player and administrator. His approach to this project was very thorough, and he employed the same analysis techniques that he uses for his own games. Many thanks for your excellent work, Dadi!]

Dadi Örn Jónsson

9 games were submitted this year, and all were stripped of header information and annotations before being passed to me for analysis.

I was looking for lively games, even if there were some flaws. However, the games placed as 1st and 2nd are very good and they would always have been likely candidates, even with different criteria.

The 3rd placed game I chose because it has a nice combination at the end (although the overall quality of the game doesn't quite match the first two).

There were more good games that I liked, such as O-P and Q-R [Ed – both of these were played by Richard Beecham in the Max Zavarelli Memorial Tournament). However, I left those two games out because I felt they lacked some highlights (nice combinations, sacrifices, etc.) to make them stand out. But the winner can be proud of those games.



Third Place

Dadi Örn Jónsson

The highlight of this game is the forced win starting with the nice 24.Bxh7! sacrifice.

White: SIM Mackintosh, Iain (2410)

Black: Price, Derek (1996)
SCCA Championship 2019-20
Bishop's Opening [C24]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

This match was played in the SCCA Championship 2019-20. We had last met in the same event back in 2012–13.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Bc4 | Nf6 |
| 3.d3 | |
| 3.d4 is also sound, but less favoured by the top CC players. | |
| 3... | c6 |
| Best. | |
| 4.Nf3 | d5 |
| 5.Bb3 | Bd6 |
| 5...Bb4+ is currently popular for Black. | |
| 6.exd5 | cxd5 |
| 7.Bg5 | Be6 |
| 8.Nc3 | Qa5 |
| 9.0-0 | Nc6 |



10.Bh4N

New to CC.

10.Qe1 was Mackintosh-Bennett, SCCA Open, 2015, drawn (25).

10... **0-0**

11.Bxf6

Derek seems happy to break his k-side pawns in return for the open g-

file. Play becomes sharp, with both sides trying to open up lines of attack.

11... **gxf6**
12.d4 **e4**
13.Nh4 **Kh8**
14.f3

Best, looking to clear the b1–h7 diagonal.

14... **e3**
14...Rg8 and; 14...Nxd4 were both interesting alternatives for Black.
15.f4



15... **Ba3!**

I hadn't analysed this move. The tactic tries to exploit White's decision to play f4 before Ne2.

16.Ne2
16.bxa3 Qxc3±

16... **Bxb2**
17.Rb1 **Ba3!?**

17...Bc3 looks a little better for Black.

18.c3!
After this, White starts to gain some spatial control.

18... **Bd6**
19.Qd3 **Qa6**

20.Qxe3
20.Qxa6 bxa6 21.f5± also looks playable.

20... **Ne7**
21.Bc2 **b6?**

Too slow; Black needs to defend the mounting threats.

Maybe 21...Rg8 would have contested the open spaces better.

22.Ng3 **Rae8**
Playable a move or two back, but not now.



23.Rbe1!

This sounds the bugle for White's attack, bringing all pieces to bear and also covering the e-file should the Black king look there for an escape route later. The a-pawn isn't material.

23... Rd8

23...f5 would have avoided White's next, but I think the position is lost for Black now.

24.Bxh7!

This wins by force.

24... Kxh7

25.Nh5 Rh8

26.f5 Bc8

27.Nxf6+ Kg7

28.Qg5+ Kf8

29.Rf3 Qb5

30.a4

With hindsight, this diversion is probably unnecessary.

30... Qxa4

31.Rh3

31.Rg3 is a slightly quicker finish.

31... Be6

31...Be5 would eke things out a little longer.

32.fxe6

And with a forced mate looming, Derek resigned.

1-0



Second Place

Daði Örn Jónsson

I was impressed by White's kingside attack in this game. Maybe Black had a slightly better defending move at one point, but he was lost anyway.

It's worth pointing out that had Black tried to close down the position on the kingside with 30...h5 it would have been met with 31.Rxh5! with mate to follow.

White: SIM Beecham, C. Richard (2476)

Black: IM Voveris, Gediminas (2415)

MT-Zavanelli B (LTU) ICCF, 2019 French Classical System [C11]
[Notes by Richard Beecham]

Looking back over one's games gives a completely different outlook on one's play. I can see now where I could have improved.

1.e4 e6

2.d4 d5

3.Nc3 Nf6

4.e5 Nfd7

5.f4 c5

6.Nf3 Be7

7.Be3 Ne6

8.Qd2 a6

9.Bd3 b5

10.0-0 0-0

11.Nd1

Another idea is 11.Qf2 f6 12.Qg3 f5! 13.Qh3 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Bxd4 Nc5

11... c4

12.Be2 f5

13.Ng5

Again, I could possibly have improved with 13.Kh1!? b4 14.Rg1 Rf7 15.b3 c3 16.Qe1 a5 17.a4 Ba6 18.Nf2

13... Nb6

14.g4 h6

More active for Black was 14...b4!?

15.gxf5 exf5 16.Rf2 a5 17.Rg2 Bxg5

18.Rxg5 Qe7 19.Bf2 Nd8

15.Nh3 Kh7

16.Kh1 b4

17.Rg1 g6

18.Rg2 Rg8

The idea of the pawn sac 18...c3! is interesting 19.bxc3 Nc4 20.Qd3 a5 with the idea of Ba6 to follow.

19.Bf2 Bd7

20.b3 c3

Another alternative was 20...Na7 21.Ne3 Nb5 22.Rag1 Qc7 23.gxf5

exf5 24.bxc4 Nxc4 25.Nxc4 dxc4 26.d5 but White's central pawns look impressive.

21.Qd3 Qf8

22.Ng1 fxg4

23.Rxg4

One of my other engines suggests 23.Bxg4 a5 24.Ne2 Qf7 25.Qh3 Rg7 26.Ne3 Rag8 27.Rag1 Kh8 28.Bf3 and I now think it is correct.

23... Nc8

No better was 23...Bd8 24.Qh3 Nc8 25.Nf3 N8e7 which transposes back to the game.

24.Qh3 Bd8

25.Nf3 N8e7



26.Ng5+!

I had many alternatives at this point, one idea being to play 26.Ne3 Nf5 27.Nxf5 exf5 28.Rg2 Be7 29.Bh4 Bxh4 30.Qxh4 Qe7 31.Qh3

26... Kh8

27.Ne3 Nf5?

It is perhaps difficult to criticise this move, but 27...Nxd4 may have been a little better, viz: 28.Bd3 Ndf5

29.Nxf5 gxf5 30.Bc5 Rc8

28.Nxf5 exf5

29.Rh4 Bxg5

30.fxg5 Kg7

31.Rxh6 Rh8

32.a3 Rxh6

33.Qxh6+ Kf7

34.Qh7+ Qg7

35.Qh3 Qf8

36.axb4 Nxb4



37.Qxc3

People say you learn more from your losses than your wins, but being self-critical about your wins is also very important.

Again, here I could play 37.Ra5! Rc8

38.Rc5 Rxc5 39.dxc5

37... Rxc8

38.Qh3!?

And again 38.Qf3 and; 38.Qg3 were more accurate.

38... Rxc2

39.Bxa6 Rc7



39...Rxf2? is fatal: 40.Bb5!

40.Bf1 Kg8

41.Be1 Nc6

42.Qd3 Qd8

43.Bd2 Be8

44.Bg2 Qd7

45.Ra8 Kg7

46.Qh3

I can see the reason I came home with the silver and congrats to Iain on a very fine game!

1-0



First Place The R.J. Burridge Trophy 2019

Dadi Örn Jónsson

Although I enjoyed all the games I reviewed, this one quickly caught my attention and I spent a lot of time analysing it.

The Dragon variation and the Yugoslav attack in particular, are of great interest to me like so many other chess players.

In this game White plays the rare 19.Bxc4!? and I was curious to see what type of game it would lead to.

I'm not sure the chess engines are evaluating the ensuing positions correctly, but both players played well in a complicated position.

I'm pretty sure the position is roughly equal up to move 25, but I spent some time on analysing 25...Qh3 instead of black's 25...R4c5. Black's 27...Bf6 looks a bit risky, but it leads to a lively continuation with Black correctly sacrificing a pawn on the next move.

White gradually manages to improve his position against a good defence by Black and finally manages to turn his advantage into a winning position with the beautiful 55.e5! breakthrough.

I think this is a well-played and interesting game from beginning to end. I didn't know who the players were when I analysed the game, and was pleasantly surprised when I found out.

I have played against GM Arild Haugen and he is a very solid player. It requires talent and stamina to win against him.

White: SIM Mackintosh, Iain (2394)

Black: GM Haugen, Arild (2407)
George Pyrich Memorial, 2019
Sicilian Dragon, Yugoslav Attack [B78]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

This game was played in MT-Pyrich/S03 - the George Pyrich Memorial event organised by SCCA.

As is normal nowadays, much of the play was attritional, though section winner Hermann Rösch of Panama was an exception with an enterprising +3 score. This game was my most enjoyable; both players tried to attack and kept up a good conversation throughout. I've kept some of our exchanges in the notes below, prefixed by AH and IM respectively.

1.e4

IM: Thank you for playing in memory of George Pyrich. I hope you enjoy your games!

1... c5

AH: It is an honour to play in this tournament. Good luck with your games! Best wishes from Stavanger!

2.Nf3 d6

3.d4 cxd4

4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3 g6

6.Be3 Bg7

7.f3 0-0

8.Qd2 Nc6

9.Bc4

The Yugoslav Attack, where both sides have designs on the enemy king!

9... Bd7

10.h4 h5

11.0-0 Ne5

Arild had played 11...Rc8 against GM Leonardo Ljubičić in EU/TC9 2011-12, drawing after 41 moves.

12.Bb3 Rc8

13.Bg5 Rc5

14.Kb1 b5

15.g4 a5

16.gxh5 Nxh5

17.Nd5 Re8

18.a3 Nc4

19.Bxc4

Relatively unusual. Most White players choose Qf2 or Qg2 in this line.

19... Rxc4



20.Nb3N

New to CC. 20.c3 was Frydendal-Maltais, WS/O/630, 2013, 0-1 (31).

20... a4
21.Nc1 Be6
22.c3

This looked a bit more solid than any of the available knight moves.

22... Bxd5
23.Qxd5 Qd7
24.Rhe1 Rec8
25.Na2 R4c5
26.Qd2 Qe6
27.Qc2 Bf6

Neither player has gone for an all-out attack. Both are jostling for a positional advantage while keeping a wary eye on the many tactics contained in the set-up. After this move, things start to happen.

28.Be3 b4!

Best.

29.axb4

29.Nxb4? Rxc3±

29... R5c7

30.Rd3 Ra8

31.Red1

31.Rd5 is a good alternative with the Black rook now on a8.

31... Be5

32.b5

This move threatens to establish the passed b-pawn on b6, with support from the knight after Nb4-d5.

32... a3

33.b3□ Qf6

34.Bg5

Now White starts to widen out his operations.

34... Qh8

35.c4

Maintaining the pawn shield outweighs the open a1-h8 diagonal for now.

35... Nf4

36.R3d2 Ne6

36...Rb8 and; 36...Ra5 both offer tactical alternatives.

37.Rg2 Qh5

37...Nxc5 38.hxc5 Qh3 39.Qf2±

38.Rf1 Bg7

39.Qd1 Rcc8

40.Bd2 Nc5

41.Rh1 Bf6

42.Bg5 Bg7

The White bishop can't be taken.

43.Bf4 Rd8

44.Rg5 Qh8□

45.Be3 Bf6

45...Bh6 46.Bd4 Bg7 47.Bxc7 Qxc7

48.Rg2+-

46.Rg2 Qh5

47.Rd2 e6

48.Rg1 Qxh4

49.Rg4 Qh8

50.Rg1 Qh4

51.Rg4 Qh8

52.Rgg2

White is in control positionally and has pretty well eliminated any Black threats. However, he hasn't yet found a breakthrough move and needs to do so before the position starts to repeat.

52... Qh4

Draw offered by AH. (I took this as a good sign). IM: I think White still has something; I just don't know what it is! I will play some more moves to find out.

53.Rh2!?

Missing the key move 53.e5!

53... Qg3

54.Rhg2 Qh4

54...Qe5 55.Bd4 Qf4 56.Rg4+-



55.e5!

At last! AH: I guess you found the best move on the second time around ;-) (Arild can see the best shots quicker than me!)

55... Bxe5

56.Bg5□

IM: I did see e5, but maybe I wasn't bright (or brave) enough to play it earlier.

56... Qh8

56...Qh7 57.Bxd8 Rxd8 58.Nb4 a2+ 59.Rxa2 also sees White through.

AH: I feel like I am playing against Braveheart!

57.b4

IM: It's ok; I don't paint my face when I analyse!

57... Nd7

58.f4

All of a sudden, the White attack just flows along.

58... Bf6

59.Rh2 Qg7

60.Bh6 Qh8

61.Qc2 Nb6



62.f5! Be5

62...gxf5 63.Rdg2+ mating.; 62...exf5 63.Be3 Qg7 64.Bxb6 winning.

63.fxe6 Bxh2

64.exf7+ Kxf7

65.Rf2+ Ke8

66.Rf8+ Qxf8

67.Bxf8 Kxf8

68.Qxh2 Kg7

69.Qh4 Re8

70.Qd4+ Kg8

71.Qxb6 Re1+

72.Kc2 Re2+

73.Kc3 Rf8

74.Kb3

AH: No point in dragging this out anymore! Thanks for the lesson and good luck in the rest of the games! IM: Many thanks Arild! I was lucky I had two chances to play e5 and my analysis was better second time around. You were a very sporting and friendly opponent, and it was a pleasure to play you - thanks for our game and best wishes in your remaining ties! I hope George is pleased with me... AH: George must be proud of you ;-).

1-0





Managing 48 Games in the 2019/20 Season

Part 1: my approach to the task

By Peter Bennett

Why are 48 games a problem?

In the SCCA, there are at least six or seven players who have regularly taken on considerably more than 48 games in a season. So why might this be a problem for me? There are three answers to this question:

- 1) The quality of the opposition was high: for example, 12 of my 48 opponents were graded 2400 or higher; and 3 of my 4 tournaments are international (category 4) events in which title norms are available;
- 2) My own style of CC does not suit playing more than 25 games simultaneously - above that number I feel stressed; and
- 3) Age. This is my busiest-ever CC season – and I am 74 years old! So, on those grounds at least, maybe I am being a touch foolhardy?

So why take on 48 games in the first place?

A co-incidence of duty, a felt sense of obligation, and opportunity.

My only “informal” tournament group was a preliminary section of the 12th Veterans World Cup (VWC12pr34, 10 games). I wanted to support Ian Pheby, the T.O., in his last season in charge of the first round of an event he has run very well for several years on behalf of the ICCF.

At the same time, I had qualified for two Semi-Finals of VWC10 (VWC10SF4 and VWC10SF6, with 14 games in each); and I did not want to miss the opportunity to play in both.

Last but not least, I am part of the Scottish team playing in the Olympiad Prelims (9 games) which officially started in January, but was actually up and running on the server by mid-December.

These four events comprised 47 new starts + 1 “straggler” game (not even from last season, but the season before! It has been going on for over two years, and will probably continue for at least another six months....).

A plan to meet the challenge

Ahead of my “big” season, I had one advantage: in the summer of 2019 I had very few games still in progress from previous seasons; and this gave me the opportunity to spend time completely changing the way I organise my correspondence games.

For example, in the 58 years since I first played a CC game (in 1962, by post against my cousin, when we were at different boarding schools) I have always prepared vast sheets of hand-written analysis of variations, with most kept in files, but some pinned to the walls around the room with blue tack.



My late wife Joy, if she were to glance down from heaven, would be delighted to see that the variation trees and blue tack have all gone and the walls are clean again.

This season, for the first time, and once my games are “out of book”, all the forward lines of analysis are now on computer files.

By contrast, the dates on which moves are sent and received are now back in manual form, using a logbook which I designed for the purpose and in which I can more easily keep track of what is happening in my games portfolio as a whole.

The curious thing is, this new administrative system has worked very well and leaves me wondering why I didn't make these changes years ago. Better late than never, I suppose!

Setting intermediate targets

The next question I asked myself was: how long will this ultra-busy period – with so many games – actually last? ...which is a bit like saying: how long is a piece of string?

So I broke the whole exercise down into a series of phases, setting a date ahead at each stage (the first one being 31 August 2019) by which I wanted to achieve some specified, realistic and achievable goals.

This helped me to focus on the “here and now” task, rather than dreaming too much about the future.

The following table sets out the pattern of my season to date, in five phases. The themes picked out in CAPITALS are addressed in the ensuing discussion.

Phase	Theme	Key Outcomes	Games in Progress
1 (up to 31 Aug 19)	Filing Games in Openings Folders	38 new games up and running; all but 3 older games concluded	41
2 (up to 30 Nov 19)	Creative Use of Annual Leave	First 3 results in this season's games + 2 results in older games	36
3 (up to 31 Jan 20)	Focus on games where an early result might be possible	7 further results brings the total to 10 for the new season; Olympiad games now started	38
4 (up to 29 Feb 20)	Creative Use of Annual Leave (from the new 2020 allocation)	Just 1 new result; grading back up to 2370 after a year of being in retreat	37
5 (up to 31 Mar 20)	Breakthrough Day! (17 March)	6 new results, including 3 wins. Results to date: P17 W5 D12 L0 “Live” grading: 2379	31

Filing Games in Openings Folders (Phase 1)

In the past, I used to open a folder for each new tournament section; and in the folder would be one sheet (sometimes more than one) for each game, with notes on the theory lines I intended to follow. In larger tournaments (say with 14 games), I would have separate folders for “games with White” and “games with Black”.

This season, I changed all that and created “thematic” folders, based on the openings being played. So, for example, all my Nimzo-Indian Defence games went in one folder, irrespective of whether I had the white or black pieces. The same would apply to the Berlin Defence, and so on.

Last season, I found that an increasing number of opponents employed the Caro-Kann, in preference to the Sicilian Defence. This year was the same; and, for the first time, I played several Caro-Kanns with Black. I found that the moves played against me, when I had White, often gave me ideas for the systems to use when I had Black. So, one Monday, I spent the whole day looking at Caro-Kann games; and on Tuesday, I spent the whole day looking at the Ruy Lopez, Wednesday was KID-day, and so on.

Creative Use of Annual Leave (Phase 2 and Phase 4)

Back in the old days, I used Leave for holidays. I went on holiday once a year and took Leave in all my CC tournaments simultaneously, giving myself a complete break from chess.

Those days are long gone. As long ago as 2013, when I spent a week living on a yacht as “crew”, I recall playing moves in my VWC games on the captain's tablet – an expensive item at that time!

The fact is I haven't used Leave for holidays for many years. Back in 2016, when Joy, my late wife, and I had our last holiday in Lanzarote, I remember playing a few pre-planned moves on the computer terminals in the hotel lobby.

Nevertheless, I use all my (45 days) Leave in every calendar year of every tournament, essentially to put one, or even two, tournament sections “on hold” while I concentrate intensively on the others. For this purpose, having 38 autumn starts was very helpful. It may be anomalous, but the fact that annual Leave is only based on the calendar year meant that the first tranche of 45 days' Leave could all be taken in four months.

In my case, I took it all in three months, between 1 Sept and 30 Nov, in all three of my VWC events. My two VWC Semi-Finals were never running simultaneously throughout that period – I was always on leave in one of them. So it never actually felt as though I had 38 games in progress, and often fewer than half that number.

So what happened in December and January? As I expected, many of my opponents took Leave in December, realising at the last minute that they could not carry it over into the New Year. Others took Leave over the New Year period, and yet more took ski-ing holidays in January. In late January, and right through February, I reverted to taking sequential Leave – now, with the new allocation for 2020 – while working extremely hard on the games that were actually “live”. I have to say that February was the toughest month because, by now, over 70% of my games were “out of book” and hence required a great deal of intensive analysis. At the time I was also disappointed that, despite my efforts, I was able to generate only one new result in the month, bringing my games tally down from 38 to 37.

One positive point was that I knew, by the end of February, that my grading in the 2020/2 list, to take effect on 1 April, would be back up to 2370, where it had been a year earlier.

Breakthrough Day! (17 March 2020)

What I had hoped, but could not presume, would happen in the first two weeks of March, was that there might be a new surge of results. Indeed there was! I was quickly offered three favourable draws by strong opponents, who had merely been waiting for the end of the rating period. A fourth opponent then resigned a lost position.

Mid-month, a second resignation by a Russian opponent, concluded my “game of the season” which I hope to annotate later in the year.

Finally came “Breakthrough Day”, on the 17th of March. It was just a normal day when I logged on and brought my (then) list of 32 current games on screen. I clicked twice on the column “time spent”, to bring the “slowest” game to the top of the list.

This game was the 16 days that my only “DMD” opponent had used since his last move. The next entries were 12, 11, 10, 8, etc, down to the “6” for the player ninth on the list. The point is that all nine games were ones where it was my opponents' turn to play. I also had a tenth “slow” opponent whose name was much lower down the list because I had only sent him my own latest move two days previously. What I suddenly realised was that the strain of the season was also getting to my opponents: many of them had earlier been playing quite quickly.

The next 10 games listed (with the “time used” being between 5 days and 2 days) were all games where it was my turn to play. My own pace, to borrow a term from cricket, had thus settled down to “military medium”.

I then wrote down the names of the 10 “slow” opponents and compared it to another list of opponents in the 12 games I believed would certainly, or virtually certainly, end in a draw. Curiously, there was only one name in both lists. Thus there were 20 games where either my opponent was playing slowly or there was little need for further intensive analysis. The tough challenge lay in the other 12 games – but that was manageable.

Up to the first week in March, I had been playing up to 6 moves a day, on average, over a six-month period. Now, abruptly, the pressure is off and I am playing fewer than half that number.

I have broken the back of the “big season” challenge, at least as a logistical exercise. My “chess” evaluation of the project will have to wait for the next Issue of the magazine; but at least I will conclude the month of March with a “live” grading of 2379, higher than I had ever previously thought possible. Whether it will stay there until 2020/3 is quite another matter!



Chess Art

By Iain Mackintosh



Stratagem 1



Stratagem 2



Born in England, Keith Morant worked and exhibited in London until 1973 when he moved to New Zealand and settled in Christchurch. He has drawn and painted obsessively for as long as he can remember and, while classically trained, has always followed his own path of individual expression.

Since the 1980s he has exhibited extensively on the international stage, holding shows in London, New York, Miami, Toronto, Tokyo, Beijing, Sydney, Melbourne, Istanbul, Valencia, Madrid, Florence, Ferrara, Bologna and Venice.

For further details, try: <http://morantart.com/> and <http://www.keithmorant.com/>



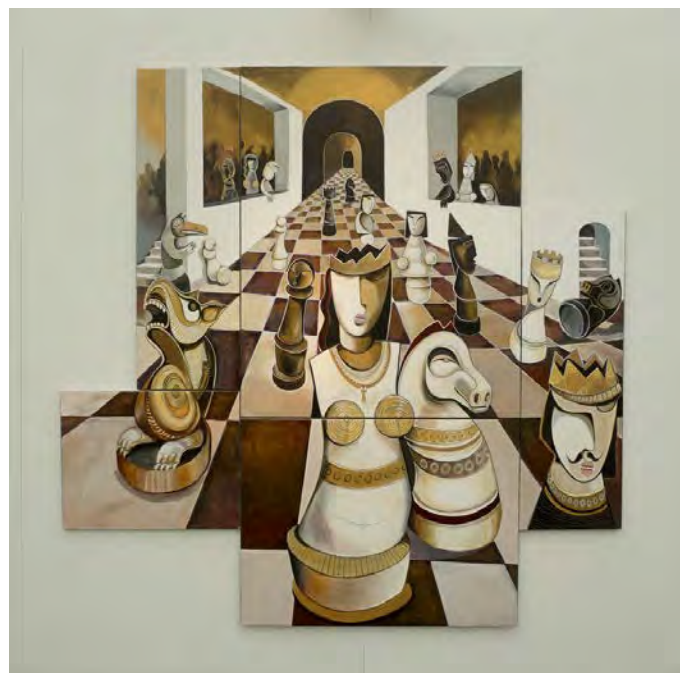
Chess Art

By Iain Mackintosh



Die Schachspieler by Sándor Bortnyik, 1951

Sándor Bortnyik (1893–1976) was a Hungarian painter and graphic designer. He was associated with Bauhaus and Cubism.



Checkmate by Paul Ygartua

Paul Ygartua (b 1945) is a Canadian artist of British birth. He paints in many styles, including Realism, Fauvism, Abstract Expressionism and Surrealism



Chess Match with DuChamp By R.T. Earll Jr

A Neo-Cubism study.



Chess Game by Wlad Safronow, 2008

Wlad Safronow (b 1965) is a Ukrainian painter, sculptor and photographer now living in Augsburg, Germany.

Brad Slaugh is an American artist who studied at the Universities of Boston and Utah before starting his painting and teaching career. He now lives in South Salt Lake City, Utah where he runs Poor Yorick Studios. Further details at: <https://bradslaugh.com> and <https://pooryorickstudios.com>



Chessmen by Brad Slaugh



Night Chess by Brad Slaugh



Derek Coope

By Iain Mackintosh

SCCA member Derek Coope died suddenly at the Oban Chess Club on 15th January 2020. He'd been teaching youngsters earlier in the day and was with his great friend Duncan Campbell later on when taken ill.



Derek had requested that his body be donated for medical research, so no funeral was scheduled. A memorial service was held at the Royal Hotel in Oban on February 15th (the same venue where he died in January).

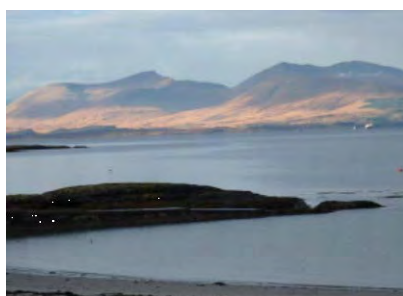
Derek was born in 1938 in Luton and died aged 81. He is survived by his wife Joyce and their four children Mandy, Debbie, Jason and Dan, plus four grandchildren.

Derek was an academic, gaining a Chemistry degree (Leeds University), a Mathematics degree (Royal Holloway College), and an Honorary Masters in Mathematics (Open University). He taught Maths in numerous schools, colleges and universities, including a stint in the Ivory Coast.

Derek lived life to the full and had a huge range of interests including football (he was a 'ground hopper' visiting all 92 English League grounds and all but 2 in Scotland). He was nicknamed 'the professor' by that community, though never actually held the title.

He was also avid about rugby; buses and trains; dogs; food; geology; and mountain walking (he and Joyce back-packed in UK, the Pyrennes, the Andes and in New Zealand).

He loved the mountains and the sea and realized his dream of living beside both in 2001 when he and Joyce moved from Greater London to Ganavan, by Oban.



They campervanned for a few years discovering Orkney, Shetland, The Outer Hebrides and The Inner Hebrides, Mull and the surrounding Islands.

Chess was another huge love in his life. Derek was a prolific player, both OTB and CC. He played OTB in Surrey, Yorkshire, Oxford and London leagues from the 1980s, and first appeared on the ICCF grading list (CC) in 1992 playing almost 1,000 games, with a highest rating of 2129 in 2012.

Mark Page, posting on the English Chess Forum in January said: "Derek was an amazingly sociable and gregarious person and in recent years he seemed to be on a mission to know everyone in Scottish Chess - and I think he may well have done so. He was forever introducing me to people he had come to know. He loved the social and informal aspects of club and tournament chess, and was never happier than in a large group at a pre- or post-match meal."

In celebration of Derek, here are two of his games, one from his over-the-board (OTB) play, and one from his correspondence chess (CC).

OTB

Duncan Campbell of Oban CC writes: The following game was played at the 2019 Perth Congress. Due to some late withdrawals Derek, who was 2nd highest graded, played Walter Pearson, 4th highest graded, in Round 1. Derek and Walter were great rivals competing at the top of many minor tournaments in Scotland and played each other often.

In this game Derek played a double fianchetto as he often did: or, as he put it, "Derek's creeping round the edges attack". Derek ended the tournament 3rd= with 4/5.

White: Coope, Derek (1362)
Black: Pearson, Walter (1334)

Perth Minor, 2019

Reti Opening [A05]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.Nf3 **Nf6**
2.b3 **d5**
3.Bb2 **c5**
4.g3 **Nc6**
5.Bg2

GMs Nakamura and Vachier Lagrave have adopted this line now, no doubt after scanning the Perth Bulletin...

5... **g6**
6.0-0 **Bg7**
7.d3 **0-0**
8.Nbd2 **Bd7**

8...Qc7 is the preferred GM move here.

9.c4N

Derek now ventures where no GM or computer has thus far dared...

9... **d4**
10.a3 **Qc8**
10...a5⁺ is probably Black's best reply.
11.b4 **b6**
12.b5± **Na5**

Derek has established a small edge, and now both players indulge in some cut and thrust to establish the advantage.

13.Ne5 Rb8
 13...Bh3 14.e3 (14.Bxa8 Qxa8
 15.f3 ♣) 14...Bxg2 15.Kxg2 dxe3
 16.fxe3 Ng4 ♣
 14.Nxd7 Qxd7
 15.Nf3 Ng4
 16.h3 Ne5
 17.Nxe5 Bxe5



18.Qd2?

This hands the initiative to Walter.
 18.e4 Bg7 19.f4 gives White a good position.

18... Nb3!
 19.Qg5 Bf6
 20.Qh6 Nxa1 ♣
 21.Rxa1 Qf5
 22.Qd2 Bg5
 23.Qe1 Bh6
 24.a4 Qd7
 25.h4 Rfc8

Black has won the exchange and controls a bigger share of the board, but White remains competitive.

26.Kh2 Rc7
 27.a5 e6
 28.Bc1

Derek starts to contest Walter's spatial control.

28... Bxc1
 29.Qxc1



29... Re8?

And Walter plays a loose move to help the comeback.

29...Qe7 was better.

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30.Bc6!
 Forcing the return of the exchange.
 30... Rxc6
 31.bxc6 Qxc6
 32.axb6 axb6=
 33.Qb2 e5
 34.Ra6 Rb8
 35.f3 Qb7
 36.Qb5 Qc7
 37.Kg2



37... Rb7??

Having kept the position equal after the unfortunate return of the exchange, Walter now blows it.

Maybe the impending time control got in the way of clear thinking?

38.Qe8+

No lack of clarity on Derek's part!

38... Kg7
 39.Ra8 Kf6

40.Qh8+

40.g4 is also good for White, but see a check, give it!

40... Ke6

41.Qxh7?

This doesn't lose, but it gives Black some hope.

41.Qe8+ Kd6 42.Rd8+ is horrendous for Black.

41... Rb8
 42.Rxb8 Qxb8

43.g4

43.Qh6 looks best.

43... b5

43...e4! This move would have been hard to spot in the heat of battle, but it could result in Black rescuing the draw, e.g.: 44.h5 exf3+ 45.Kxf3 Qb7+ 46.Kf2 Qc7 47.hxg6 Qf4+ 48.Ke1 Qc1+ 49.Kf2 with a perpetual.

44.cxb5 Qxb5

44...e4! is still possible here.

45.h5

45.Qh8 guarantees a White win.

45... gxh5

45...Qb2! 46.Kf2 e4 as above, just holds.

46.Qxh5 f6

46...Qd7! is best for Black.

47.Qf5+

Derek now administers the 'coope de grace'!

47... Ke7

48.g5 Qc6

49.Qh7+ Kf8

50.g6 Qe6

51.g7+

1-0

What a great contest! Both players giving it a go; good moves and mistakes; a bit of a frenzy around the time control; then Derek, on the verge of victory, almost throwing it away but holding on for the win. Well done both!



CC

Derek played in all the SCCA domestic events and was also very fond of international matches. Here he takes on a higher-rated Lithuanian player in a friendly international.

White: Coope, Derek W (1903)

Black: Kraujūnas, Vladas (1972)

LTU-SCO 2010

Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening [A01]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

Derek had a fondness for unorthodox openings!

1.b3 e5

2.Bb2 Nc6

3.g3

3.e3 is more generally played.

3...d5

4.Bg2 Be6

5.d3 f5N

New to CC.

5...Qd7 has been preferred here.

6.Nd2 Nf6

7.Ngf3 Bd6

7...e4 would have mixed things up a bit.

8.0-0 0-0

9.a3

9.e3 is more combative, but Derek is still ok with the move played.

9... a5

10.c4 d4

11.Qc2 Bc5

12.Ng5 Bd7

13.b4 axb4

14.Nb3 Be7

15.c5 bxa3

16.Qc4+ Kh8

17.Rxa3 Rxa3

18. Bxa3 Qc8
19. Rb1 Nd8



The opening has been relatively quiet for both players, with Black having a slight edge at this point.

19...Ng8! is Black's best.

20. Na5 b5?!

Inaccurate, and gives Derek a chance to counter - a chance he grabs with both hands!

21. cxb6! Bxa3

22. b7! Qb8

22...Nxb7 23. Bxb7 is good for White.

23. Nc6!

Derek is picking all the right moves!

23... Bxc6

23...Nxc6 24. Bxc6 h6 is a little better for Black.

24. Bxc6 Bd6



25. Ne6 Nxe6

26. Qxe6±

A very nice position for White.

26... Qa7

27. Qc8! g6

28. Qxf8+ Bxf8

29. b8Q Qxb8

30. Rxb8

A fine combination by Derek.

30... Kg7

31. Kg2 e4?

Black was probably desperate for counterplay at this point.

32. dxe4+- fxe4

33. f3 e3
34. f4 h6
35. Rb5 Kf7
36. Kf3 Kg7
37. h3 Bd6
38. Be4! Kf7
39. Bd3 Be7
40. g4 Kg7
41. g5 hxg5
42. Rxc5 c5
43. Rxc6+ Kf7
44. Rg1 Nd7
45. Bc4+ Kf8

45...Ke8 avoids the clincher, but maybe Black had thoughts of hara kiri by this stage!

46. Rg8#

It's very unusual to see a mate in CC play, and Derek deserves this finale after an enterprising attacking display!

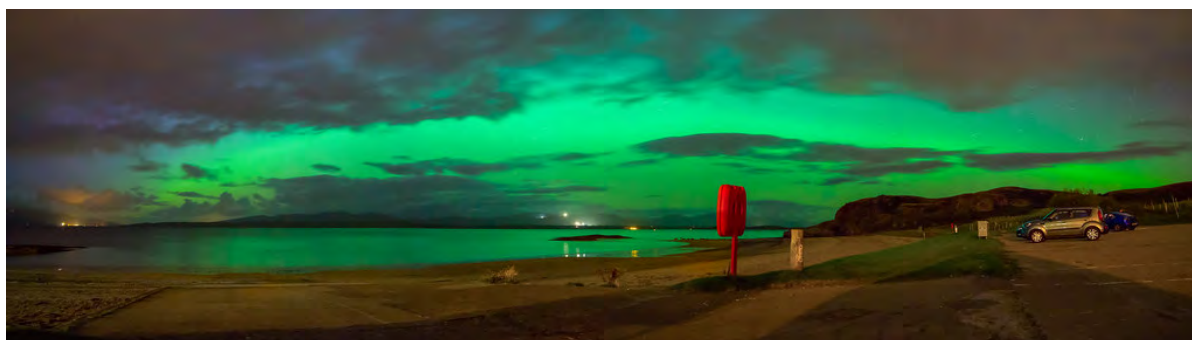
1-0



Below are two of Derek's favourite local views:



The Morvern Hills and north tip of Lismore Island from Port Appin (near Ganavan). [Graham Cameron, Flickr](#)



An aurora taken from Ganavan looking towards Lismore and Morvern. [R McNab, Flickr](#)



International Update

By Iain Mackintosh

22nd Olympiad Preliminaries

CCO22/S3, ICCF Olympiad 22 Preliminaries - Section 3

TD Pheby, Ian M. (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Cuba	2412		2	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	58	1	0	6	48	1
2	Denmark	2406	1		0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	3.5	43	-1	0	8	46	2
3	U.S.A.	2490	0	0.5		0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	2.5	50	0	0	5	49	3
4	Canada	2407	1	0.5	0		0	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	2.5	50	0	0	5	49	4
5	Nicaragua	2152	0.5	0.5	0	0		0	1	0	0	0	2	66	1	0	3	51	5
6	Portugal	2358	0	0	0.5	0.5	0		0.5	0	0	0	1.5	50	0	0	3	51	6
7	Scotland	2382	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.5		0	0	0	1.5	37	-1	0	4	50	7
8	Argentina	2449	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	50	0	0	2	52	8
9	Romania	2437	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0		0	0.5	50	0	0	1	53	9
10	Spain	2458	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0		0.5	50	0	0	1	53	10

First results are coming in for the 22nd Olympiad Preliminaries. Our team is: IM Clive Murden, CCM Alan Bell, CCM David Cumming, CCM Peter Bennett, SM Kevin Paine and CCM Gordon Anderson.

10th European Team Championship Final

EU/TC10/final, 10th European Team Championship - Final

TD Klauner, Thed (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Germany	2499		3.5	4	4	4	4	4	3.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5	6	51.5	53	7	15	96	0	1
2	Slovenia	2463	4.5		4	4	4.5	4.5	4	4	4	4.5	3.5	5	4	50.5	53	6	16	95	1	2
3	Italy	2478	4	4		4.5	3	4	4.5	4	4	5.5	4	4	5	50.5	53	6	15	95	1	3
4	Switzerland	2489	4	4	3.5		3.5	4	4	5	4.5	4	4.5	4.5	4.5	50	52	5	15	95	1	4
5	Russia	2530	4	3.5	4	4.5		4	4	4.5	4	4	4.5	4	4.5	49.5	52	4	15	95	1	5
6	Portugal	2433	4	3.5	4	4	4		4	3.5	4	4.5	5	4.5	4.5	49.5	51	3	14	96	0	6
7	Spain	2495	4	4	3.5	3	4	4		4	4.5	4.5	4	5	5	49.5	52	4	14	95	1	7
8	France	2492	4.5	4	4	3	3.5	4.5	4		4.5	4	4	4	4	48	50	0	13	96	0	8
9	Poland	2425	3.5	4	4	3.5	4	4	3.5	3.5		4	4	4	4	46	47	-4	8	96	0	9
10	Czech Republic	2459	3.5	3.5	2.5	4	4	3.5	3.5	4	4		4.5	4.5	3.5	45	47	-5	8	95	1	10
11	Romania	2423	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	3.5	3	4	4	4	3.5		4.5	4	45	47	-5	7	95	1	11
12	Estonia	2424	3	3	4	3.5	4	3.5	3	4	4	3.5	3.5		4.5	43.5	45	-9	6	96	0	12
13	England	2418	2	4	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3	4	4	3.5	4	3.5		41.5	43	-12	4	95	1	13

Peter Bennett writes: It looks like the 11th ETC Final will not now start until about September - which is no surprise, since there are still 4 games in progress in the 10th Final, several of which affect the determination of who qualifies for the 11th Final.

The problem is that these games carry no end-date. It so happens that I have played three of the eight guys involved, one from each of 3 of the 4 games still in progress. I'm not in the least bit surprised that two of the players I know are the last to finish their games - no names, no pack drill! So I am not optimistic that all four games will get finished by August; but the TO, presumably, can see who is trying to win, and who is merely trying to save, the games - which will clearly limit the potential outcomes.

In the 11th ETC Semi-Final EU/TC11/sf1, Scotland has finished third. Switzerland and ourselves had an identical total score and percentage rating but the Swiss won the match between our two countries and were awarded second place behind Lithuania.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Mar 2020	20	Netherlands	Server	1	1		
Nov 2019	20	Cuba	Server	5½	11½		
Jun 2019	27	Sweden	Server/Postal	15½	29½		loss
Mar 2019	19	Panama	Server	17	20		loss
Aug 2018	23	Belgium	Server	17½	28½		loss

Our match against Belgium is now complete, and we have lost against both Panama and Sweden. The Cubans have opened up a lead, and the recently started match against Netherlands is currently tied.

George Pyrich Memorial Team Tournament (ICCF)

MT-Pyrich/SF3, George D. Pyrich Memorial Team Tournament SF3

TD Fałatowicz, Piotr

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	Switzerland 1	2221	█	1.5	3	2	4.5	4	4	2	3	3.5	3	30.5	59	10	11	51	9	1
2	Italy 1	2187	2.5	█	2.5	3	2.5	3	3	3.5	3	5	2	30	60	10	8	50	10	2
3	England Knights	2238	3	2.5	█	2	3.5	3	2.5	3	3	2.5	3	28	56	6	7	50	10	3
4	Lithuania 1	2220	2	2	2	█	3	3	3.5	3	3	2.5	3	27	56	6	7	48	12	4
5	Brazil 1	2243	1.5	2.5	2.5	2	█	3	2	3	2	3	3.5	25	46	-4	5	54	6	5
6	Indonesia	2110	2	2	2	2	2	█	3	3	1.5	4	3	24.5	48	-2	5	51	9	6
7	Russia 2	2176	2	3	2.5	1.5	3	2	█	3	1.5	3.5	2.5	24.5	48	-2	5	51	9	7
8	Romania 1	2118	2	2.5	2	2	3	2	2	█	3	2	3	23.5	45	-5	3	52	8	8
9	Netherlands	2155	2	2	2	2	3	2.5	2.5	3	█	3	1.5	23.5	50	0	3	47	13	9
10	Scotland	2117	2.5	1	2	3	2	2	1.5	3	1	█	2.5	20.5	38	-12	2	53	7	10
11	Germany 2	2007	1	1	1.5	1.5	2.5	2	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	█	19	42	-7	0	45	15	11

Our team of Geoff Lloyd, Robert Montgomery, Iain Sneddon, Raymond Burrige, Derek Price and David Edney has had a bad sequence of results and sits in 10th spot.

George Pyrich Memorial Tournament (SCCA)

Our best placed competitor to date is Raymond Burrige in section 14, who sits in 2nd position. The Scottish standings are:

Section 1	8 th	Tom Matheis	6/12	Leader: GM Ruslan Tleptok (RUS) 6½/11
Section 2	12 th	Clive Murden	5½/11	Leader: CCM Gareth Yeo (WLS) 7/12
Section 3	7 th	Iain Mackintosh	6/12	Leader: CCM Hermann Rösch (PAN) 7½/12
Section 4	10 th	David Cumming	6/12	Leader: Oliver Killer (SUI) 7½/12
Section 8	12 th	Alan Borwell	5/12	Leader: CCE Jan Kratochvil (CZE) 7½/12
Section 9	9 th	Geoff Lloyd	6/12	Leader: Matteo Troia, (ITA) 7/12
Section 11	9 th	Eoin Campbell (decd.)	5½/12	Leader: Vladimir Babychuk (UKR) 8½/12
Section 12	10 th	Alastair Dawson	5/11	Leader: Mario Sena Lopes (POR) 9/12
Section 13	13 th	Derek Price	2½/12	Leader: Roberto Sayas (VEN) 9½/12
Section 14	2 nd	Raymond Burrige	10½/12	Leader: Richard Rozo (VEN) 10½/11
Section 14	11 th	Tom Gowans	3/12	Leader: Richard Rozo (VEN) 10½/11
Section 14	12 th	Martin Hardwick	1/12	Leader: Richard Rozo (VEN) 10½/11

Some Veterans World Cup (VWC) Thoughts

Peter Bennett writes:

The 13th running of the VWC is expected to be announced shortly on the ICCF website; and will probably start in about August 2020.

Around 8 or 9 SCCA players have supported the event over the years; and I have played in it more than most. So I thought it might be helpful to offer a few thoughts on the subject for anyone thinking of entering the VWC this year. The only formal requirement is that you are over 60.

Two short stories will give you some “flavour” of the event.

Four years ago, I played in VWC9pr48 and was placed third (with 7/10) in my 11-player section. There were 62 sections, but only 11 third-place players could qualify for a Semi-Final. My ranking (on the usual tie-break rules) was only 26/62 which put me 15th on the “reserve list” for the Semi-Final. I therefore assumed that there was no chance of going through; but 15 of the 135 automatic qualifiers declined the invitation; so I scraped in! The moral: never give up in a Veterans’ event!

The player just behind me in fourth place in VWC9pr48 who failed to qualify was Vladimir Eliseev, a Russian (who, perchance, I am also playing this year). I thought it was a shame that he did not progress, on account of his amazing score, which read:

P10 W6 D1 L3 (6.5/10.0).

Now, can any reader tell me of any other event, domestic or international, in which a player could, in the modern era, record a score like that?

So Who Should Enter The VWC?

- Players who want to avoid bore-draw tournaments!
- Players who are not afraid to lose games
- Players who want to meet opponents from all over the world.

And Who Should Avoid The VWC?

- Players who are afraid to lose games.
- Players who don't want to risk being held to a draw by a much lower-graded player. This (and its anagram) happens!
- Players who are terrified of “open” events and who want to mollycoddle their 2300+ gradings, by confining themselves to events which allow direct-entry to a second stage

So that's it, in a nutshell! Why not give it a go?

Recent VWC Results

VWC12 pr50 Charles O'Neill-MacAleenan sits 10th with 1/10
VWC12 pr34 Peter Bennett sits 4th with 3½/4
VWC12 pr31 Colin Beveridge sits 2nd with 5/8
VWC12 pr27 Ian Whittaker sits 10th with 2½/10
VWC12 pr5 Derek Coope (d) sits 7th with 4½/10
VWC12 pr3 Geoff Lloyd sits 2nd with 6/8
VWC12 pr1 Derek Coope (d) sits 7th with 3½/10

VWC11 pr38 Eoin Campbell (d) finished with 5½/12.
VWC11 pr36 Robert Montgomery finished 3rd with 8/12
VWC11 pr35 Colin Beveridge finished 10th with 6/12
VWC11 pr34 Derek Price finished 12th with 1½/12
VWC11 pr29 Brian Goodwin finished 12th with 1½/12
VWC11 pr15 Geoff Lloyd sits 4th with 8/12

VWC10 sf6 Peter Bennett sits 6th with 5/9
VWC10 sf4 Peter Bennett sits 13th with 3/5

VWC10 pr55 Geoff Lloyd finished 6th with 6/10
VWC10 pr51 Peter Bennett finished 2nd with 6/9
VWC10 pr50 Peter Bennett finished 1st with 8½/10.
VWC10 pr16 Brian Goodwin finished 10th with 2/10.
VWC10 pr15 Eoin Campbell (d) finished 8th with 3½/10
VWC10 pr9 Derek Coope (d) finished 10th with 1½/10
VWC10 pr6 Derek Coope (d) finished 9th with 2/10

VWC9 sf9 Peter Bennett finished 9th with 7/14
VWC9 sf3 Geoff Lloyd finished 13th with 6/14

VWC8 sf6 Peter Bennett finished 6th with 6½/14

VWC7 sf2 Peter Bennett finished 10th with 7/13

VWC6 sf8 Alan Borwell finished 12th with 6½/14

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



Games Column

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By Alastair Dawson

The George Pyrich Memorial tournament is nearing its conclusion.

Here we include 3 games from Section 12: one of them is mine while the other two are from the runaway winner - Mario Sena Lopes.

Two of the games can best be described as odd - at least they both had unusual finishes.

The other (by Mario Sena) is a beautiful positional game from the deserved tournament winner. Nothing odd about this one - just high calibre chess.

Whoever said that correspondence chess is devoid of thrills and spills is mistaken - and I am sure George would agree! Judge for yourselves!

White: Dawson, A G. (2183)
Black: Walther, Joachim (2193)
 MT-Pyrich/S12 (SCO), 2018
 Vienna Game [C26]
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.e4

A number of years ago, Paul Motwani played an e4 system that most of his opponents found near impossible to beat. His games in Chess Tempo show that in tournaments he scored 17 straight wins. Given that Paul is one of Scotland's very best Grandmasters of all time and the fact that a score like this is undoubtedly down to his immense talent, the variation is worthy of a lot of attention. It is known as the Vienna Mieses variation. For these various reasons I thought that I would try it out in a series of correspondence games with the hope of learning from these together with Paul's games so that I might be able to try it out in over the board play. As it turned out, this particular game in the Memorial Tournament for George Pyrich, section 12, had a very odd twist at the end. The last time I played George was in one of the last Glenrothes Open tournaments that he organised. I was thinking of George when I played this game and I am

sure he would have smiled at the nonsense I was try to pull off!

- 1... e5**
2.Nc3 Nf6
3.g3

This is the start, the B goes to g2, Nge2 follows, then d3 and 0-0. A main aim for White is to stop Black playing ..Bh3, ..Qd7 and exchanging bishops. To achieve this, h3 has to played at exactly the right time. In the long term White is going to play f4 and initiate a kingside attack. If Black ever varies at any time by playing ...c6 to prepare ...d5, White's plan is to counter with a swift d4. The setup for White can be employed against various Black setups including 1...c5.

- 3... Bc5**
4.Bg2 0-0
5.Nge2 Nc6
6.0-0 d6

And now is the time to play h3.

- 7.h3 a5**

8.Kh2

The king steps out of a future pin and gives extra protection to h3.

- 8... Bd7**



9.f4

So the break is underway now, d3 has not yet been played. If ...ef4 is played, White has a pleasant choice between Nf4 and taking full control of d5. Or he can try the much riskier yet more aggressive gf4 depriving the Black N of the e5 square.

- 9... a4**
10.d3 a3
11.b3

White is quite content here with Black having partly blocked the position with ...a3. So if White can hold the centre, he would then be

free to launch a direct attack against the Black king.

- 11... Qe7**
12.Bd2 Nd4
13.Nxd4 Bxd4



14.f5

So here comes the pawn storm on the kingside.

- 14... h6**
15.Rc1 c6

And here comes Black's counter in the centre.

- 16.g4 Nh7**
17.Qe1 b5
18.h4 b4
19.Ne2 Bb2
20.Rd1 c5

But Black cannot quite pull it off because White has too much firepower aimed at d5 - thanks to the Bg2.

21.g5

White gambles here and gives up a pawn in order to open lines for his pieces.

- 21... hxg5**
22.hxg5 Nxg5
23.Rh1 f6
24.Qh4 g6

Black has to try this freeing move before the attack on h-file becomes unstoppable. White's problem is getting his king out of the way such that it does not block the coordination of his pieces.

- 25.Kg1 Qg7**
26.fxg6 Be8
27.Rf1 Bxg6
28.Rh2 Qh7
29.Qg4 Qg7
30.Ng3 Bd4+
31.Kh1

White is starting to infiltrate. Black has to hang on and defend since the queenside and centre are both blocked.

31... d5
32.Bxg5



And here Black resigned and I could not understand why! Yes, White has all the play but there is no obvious breakthrough in sight, at least not that I could see. An odd game I thought!

1-0

Later, after sending in my notes for publication, our editor supplied the details which had escaped me. The following line exploits the defensive frailties of the Black king and queen:

32... fxc5
33. Qe6+ Bf7
34. Qc6 Rfc8
35. Qd7 Rd8
36. Qh3 g4
37. Qh4 Bg6
38. Nf5 Bxf5
39. Rxf5 Be3
40. Rh5 Bf4
41. Rh8+ Kf7
42. Rh7 Bxh2
43. Rxc7+ Kxc7
44. Qxc7+ Kh8
45. Qh4+ Kg8
46. Qg5+ Kf7
47. Qf5+ Ke7
48. Kxh2+-

And the rest should be pretty straightforward.



White: Chalyi, Yevheniy (2082)
Black: Lopes, Mario Sena (2184)
MT-Pyrich/S12 (SCO), 2018
Queen's Pawn Game [D02]
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.Nf3 d5
2.d4 c6

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3.Bf4 Nf6
4.e3 Nh5

Lopes asks the question of the Bf4 very early. White need not have found himself in this position had he played some other developing move instead of e3 on move 4 - for this reason 4. c4 was probably quite a wise thing to do.

5.Be5 Nd7
6.c4 e6

So now it is entirely up to Black to decide the fate of White's bishop.

7.Bd3 Nhf6
8.Bg3

Black brings the N back and White retreats to g3.

8... Be7
9.a3 dxc4

10.Bxc4
After the early manoeuvres the tempi are equal and Black has chosen the c4 capture. As in all these sorts of Slav positions, Black has the choice whether he captures or not. By the same token on each move, White has to calculate 2 sets of lines based on whether Black decides to capture or not.

10... a6
11.a4 0-0
12.0-0 c5



And here comes the thematic break.

13.Nc3 Nh5
14.Be5 Nhf6
15.Qc2 cxd4
16.exd4

Now Black is making progress in the centre.

16... Qa5
17.Rfe1 Nxe5
18.dxe5

And finally the Black-squared bishop is gone. Now Black has to develop the Bc8, reroute his N, put Rs on the c- and d-files and all should be fine.

18... Nd7
19.Bd3 h6
20.Nd2 Nc5
21.Nb3



Even at this point the Black square weaknesses in the White position are beginning to become evident.

21... Nxb3
22.Qxb3 Rb8
23.Qc4 Rd8
24.Qe4 g6
25.Rad1 Bd7

With White's help Black has found an efficient way to develop the Bc8. It is noticeable also how few good squares the Nc3 has to move to.

26.Qf4 Kg7
27.h4 Bc6
28.Bc2 Qb6
29.b3 Qc5
30.Re3 Rxd1+
31.Bxd1 Rd8
32.Bf3 Rd4



What is noticeable here how the compact nature of the Black pawn structure contrasts with the scatter of the White pawns. Black is efficiently targeting these weaknesses and the cracks are starting to show.

33.Be4 Rb4
34.Rg3 Qd4
35.Rf3 Be8
36.h5 Bg5

Ouch - but no surprise since Black is in charge of the Black squares.

37.Qg3 gxh5
38.Rd3 Qc5
39.Kh2 h4
40.Qf3 Qxe5+

There goes another Black-squared weakness - the end is nigh.

41.g3 hxg3+
42.fxg3 Rxb3

A fine game by Black and a deserved winner of Section 12 - George would have liked this one for sure!

0-1



White: Bontems, Cyrille (2141)
Black: Lopes, Mario Sena (2184)
MT-Pyrich/S12 (SCO) 2018
Sicilian Taimanov [B48]
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 e6
3.Nc3 a6
4.d4 cxd4
5.Nxd4 Qc7

The ever popular Taimanov Kan system.

6.Bd3 Nc6
7.Be3 Nf6
8.0-0 Ne5
9.h3 b5
10.f4 Nc4



Black has pretty much everything he wants here. The White e4 pawn is a target once ... Bb7 is played; both White bishops are passive while both of the Black bishops have the potential to dominate the board.

11.Bxc4 Qxc4
12.Qd3 d5

If there is a Q exchange here the Black white-squared bishop will rule the board so White declines..

13.e5 Nd7
14.Qxc4

But White tries the exchange anyway.

14... dxc4
15.f5 Nxe5

So Black wins a pawn but after 16. Rae1 White has all his pieces in play and good compensation.

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16.fxex6 fxe6



17.Nxc6

And then inexplicably White sacrifices his N with no clear follow up.

17... Bxc6
18.Ne4 0-0-0
19.a4 Bd5

What on earth had White in mind when he essayed the Ne6 sacrifice - another odd game! George would have been scratching his head at this one!

0-1



This game is from the Scotland-Panama Friendly International.

White: Cormack, William H. (1894)

Black: Rodriguez S, Mario Augusto (1807)

PAN-SCO Board 17, 2019

Sicilian Dragon, Yugoslav Attack [B78]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 d6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 g6
6.Be3 Bg7
7.f3 Nc6
8.Qd2 0-0
9.Bc4 Ne5
10.Bb3 Bd7
11.0-0-0 Qa5
12.h4 h5

13.Bh6N

New to CC.

13... Rac8
Best.

14.Bxg7 Kxg7
15.g4 hxg4

16.h5

Bill is playing enterprising chess!

16... Rh8

17.hxg6

17.f4 Rxh5 18.fxe5 Qxe5 19.Nf5+ Bxf5 20.exf5 Qxf5 is an interesting alternative, but Black holds.

17... Nxc6

18.Ba4 Be6

18...Rxh1 19.Rxh1 Rh8 20.Rxh8 Kxh8 21.Qh6+ Kg8=

19.Bb5!?

19.Bb3 looks more solid.

19... a6

20.Bd3 Qe5

20...Rcg8 takes the Black king out of the limelight.

21.Nf5+

Best.

21... Bxf5

22.exf5 Nf4

23.fxg4 Rxh1

24.Rxh1 Nxc6

25.Rg1 Nxd3+

26.Qxd3 Rc4

27.Kb1

Guarding against any checks on the c1-h6 diagonal.



27... b5

28.Qf3 Qd4

29.Qg2 Kf6

30.Nd5+ Kg7?

30...Kxf5 was the only move.

31.Rf1+ Ke6 32.b3 Qxd5 33.Qxd5+ Kxd5 34.bxc4+ bxc4 35.Rxf7 and Black should hold the draw.

31.b3!

Deflecting the rook.

31... Rc5

32.Ne3!

Winning the knight plus the game.

1-0



You can help by submitting your own games, or anything of note you've come across in your travels. We're happy to publish all grading standards and lengths of games as long as there's some interesting play!



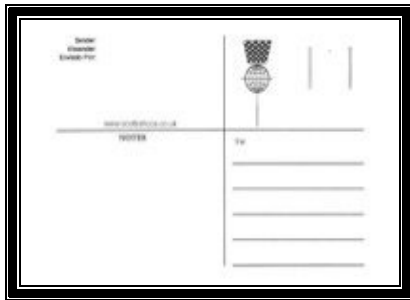
General Information

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, IM, CCM and CCE titles to recognise strength and performance. Most play is based now on the ICCF webserver, with a residue of postal and email events.

ICCF organises a vast range of tournaments on its main world site (www.iccf-webchess.com) and its European Zone site (www.iccf-europa.com). SCCA members are eligible to enter all ICCF events, though Scottish nationality is required for national representation. Current tournament fees are shown on the Entry Fees page of the SCCA website.

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. As a guide, Royal Mail charge approx. £3 for both a 100-card and 200-card parcel.

Orders and payments to Iain Mackintosh at chess@iainmack.co.uk please.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2020

Theme 2/20: Sicilian Neo-Sveshnikov, B32

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6

Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

Theme 3/20: Keres Defence, D06

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Bf5 3.c4 e6

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

Webserver Events 2020

Theme 3/20 - Slav Noteboom System, D31

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4

Entries by 31 March; play starts 15 April

Theme 4/20 – Bird’s Opening, A02

1.f4

Entries by 15 May; play starts 1 June

News

- The Preliminaries of WCCC 2020 will start on March 20, featuring 11 sections of 13 players with average rating 2325. 42 countries are represented, and there are 2 GM; 13 SIM; 34 IM; 47 CCM and 27 CCE involved.
 - The Candidates of the European Individual Championship 2020 started in February. 6 Sections of 13 players are playing, with an average rating of 2421. 25 countries are represented, and there are 9 GM; 24 SIM; 26 IM; 17 CCM and 2 CCE involved.
 - The ICCF Privacy Notice has been updated to reflect changes in the way personal information is handled following decisions made at the 2019 ICCF Congress in Vilnius:
 - ICCF no longer records or stores your date of birth;
 - ICCF no longer records or stores your gender;
 - Information relating to date of birth or gender has now been removed from our database;
 - Sensitive information collected during investigations (for example information about your health, etc.) is now destroyed six months after we have processed it.
- Please review the updated Privacy Notice, here: <https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1333>
- The ICCF Games Archive is now available up to March 2020 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 Gordon Anderson at: international@scottishcca.co.uk