

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.151

Autumn 2020

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Alistair analyses the Q4 statistics

The Hawkes Files
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Chess Art
Featuring Russian artist Olga Naletova

Chess Wonderland
Peter's lockdown relaxations

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Team and individual highlights

Games Column
Alastair looks at two fine Scottish performances



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Welcome to the third edition of the 2020 magazine set!

Lockdown continues to fluctuate here, with a confused population trying to work out what’s permissible before the regulations are changed yet again. It’s good practice for those of us reaching the age of permanent confusion, and I’ve had amnesia for as long as I can remember...

Our Notices pages include an obit for Douglas McRoberts of Kirkcaldy, who has died aged 88. We also cover the results of ICCF Congress 2020 online voting, which confirms that we will host the 2021 Congress in Glasgow. (We must hope that the Coronavirus Pandemic finally recedes by then.)

Alistair Maxwell has been doing good work to upload Scottish Championship games to our website, and is appealing to players who can provide more data. Alistair has also analysed the fourth ICCF rating list of 2020 and has certainly got the hang of it!

John Hawkes concludes his account of Bird’s Defence. John’s stockpile of chess games and history is a treasure trove, and once again he annotates fascinating encounters. There’s a fair Russian flavour this time.

On the Russian theme, I’m really pleased to welcome Olga Naletova to our magazine. Olga’s chess art is exceptional and she has generously assisted by sending hi-res images of her work. Do visit her website!

Peter Bennett interrupts his account of how he manages his huge games load to entertain us with a lockdown story of internet chess, complete with puzzles for you to solve.

Our International Report has re-appeared this time, with a clutch of reports on individual and team performances. The George Pyrich Memorial event is now nearing completion, with section winners receiving their engraved quichs.

Alastair Dawson’s Games Column looks at recent fine play by two Scottish players – Iain Sneddon and Allan Buchan.

There’s also space in this edition for an ICCF updates page.

I trust you are all managing to keep safe and well, plus stay moderately cheerful, as we pick our way through this strange period of time.

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
September	J M Armstrong	G M Anderson
August	L R McKenzie	A P Borwell
July	Mrs D Livie	S R Gillam

SCCA Officials

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President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Iain Sneddon and Iain Mackintosh pro tem; grading duties by Iain Mackintosh.



Douglas McRoberts RIP



Sad news from Kirkcaldy where Douglas McRoberts died suddenly at the Victoria Hospital on 17th August. Douglas was 88 and is survived by five children born to his late wife Elizabeth. Douglas was the SCCA's second life member and a great stalwart of the Association.

The ICCF webserver only lists his last 44 games, showing a highest grade of 2223 in 1994 and a closing grade of 2052 in 2001-02. His funeral was private.

Ian Marshall, also of Kirkcaldy, writes: I was so sorry to hear of the death of Douglas McRoberts. He used to live in the next street to me before he moved north.

I remember my first SCCA tournament more than 50 years ago, where one of my opponents was Douglas. It was a Major tournament and we both finished on 7/8. My only loss was against Douglas where he sacrificed rook for knight to gain the win. I have tried to find that game but alas cannot lay hands on it.

Douglas and my other opponents introduced me to postal chess. Back then it was really good as you often knew the person you were playing and this is what we both liked.

ICCF Congress 2020 Online Voting Results



The cancellation of the Glasgow Congress due to Coronavirus didn't completely wipe out the programme.

Here are the results of voting on the Proposals received. A record 85% of possible votes were cast, with no proxies used (maximum votes per proposal were 56).

001	Approve Services Committee Budget for 2021	47-0	Pass
002	Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) for election of Officials	32-12	Pass
003	Approve the 2019 Congress Minutes	50-0	Pass
004	Approve Financial Reports	47-1	Pass
005	Players' record keeping requirement	40-9	Pass

006	Players' requirement to update Personal Address	48-0	Pass
007	Counting FIDE GMs (superseded by Proposal 008)	41-7	
008	Eliminate Requirement of 5 GM opponents for GM Title	37-11	Pass
009	Make the Triple Block Time Control System an Official Option	41-7	Pass
010	Clarify the Requirement for a Title Tournament	41-6	Pass
011	Congress Allowances for ICCF Auditor	26-20	Pass
012	Limit the 10-Move Draw Rule	39-8	Pass
013	Lower Entry Fees	50-0	Pass
014	2020 and onwards - CCE and CCM Medals	19-27	Fail
016	Add a Second Payment Processor to the Server Entry Process	46-3	Pass
017	Validity of Half Qualifications for WCCC	41-7	Pass
018	Assumed Ratings	42-5	Pass
019	New Tournament Format	42-6	Pass
020	Special Provisions for the 70th ICCF Jubilee Events	31-17	Pass
023	Clarify Rules about resetting clocks after extended server down time	48-1	Pass
024	Establish Regional Tournaments	31-15	Pass
025	Norm Tournaments: Switching of an entry when the player's rating changes	49-0	Pass
027	Updates to the ICCF Voting Regulations and Electoral Procedures	35-10	Pass
028	Electronic Awards	20-28	Fail
029	Allow FIDE GMs to play free in ICCF GMN Events	38-7	Pass
030	New Title: International Organiser (IO) and its scales	18-27	Fail
031	Allow TCs to make TC-initiated substitutions directly	38-10	Pass
032	ICCF Congress 2021-Clydebank Glasgow	47-1	Pass
033	Title Norms in Chess 960	15-33	Fail
034	Limitations to the number of Open Tournaments organised by MFs	40-6	Pass
035	Final "B" in different rounds of the Tournament	18-30	Fail
036	New Tournament: World Team Cup	39-8	Pass
037	Friendly Matches Viewing Rules	15-29	Fail

Scottish Championship Games Request



New Grader Alistair Maxwell, keen hoarder that he is, is looking for Scottish Correspondence Championship Games that are not currently listed on the website (you can locate what's there by following the main menu games/scottish collections link). The earliest complete Championship there is 1988-90 but Alistair has games that go back as far as 1971-2!

If anyone who has games dating from then and is not too shy to share them, can you please send them to Alistair, either by post (home address 34 Loganswell gardens, Glasgow G46 8HU), or by email to grader@scottishcca.co.uk All formats accepted, .pgn, .cbv, pictures, scans - anything!

The aim is to update the history of Scottish Correspondence Chess which predates the Bulletin/Magazine. Alistair looks forward to hearing from you!

George Pyrich Memorial Section Winners



10 of the 14 sections are now complete, all with outright winners, so we have been busy sending out prizes to the successful players. SCCA trophies are known as quaichs – these are drinking cups (whisky is our preference, but you can also use your local favourite!).

IM Frank Hoffmann of Germany, winner of section 7 with 7½/12, sent me this photograph showing his engraved quaich. Well done Frank!



(see also International report)

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)
- German letters ä, ö, ü and ß are not counted in names
- Games from all main chess servers + post + email All tournaments marked correspondence so that CC games can be recognised in a larger database

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:
Bocholt Municipal Savings Bank
IBAN DE 33428500350100118801
BIC SWIFT WELADED1BOH
Purpose: FS CD 2019

Your order must contain your complete postal address!

Email: hebel57@gmx.de

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

ICCF Updates



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



2020/4 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

The fourth ICCF grading list of 2020 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 June 2020 and 31 August 2020. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 October and 31 December 2020.

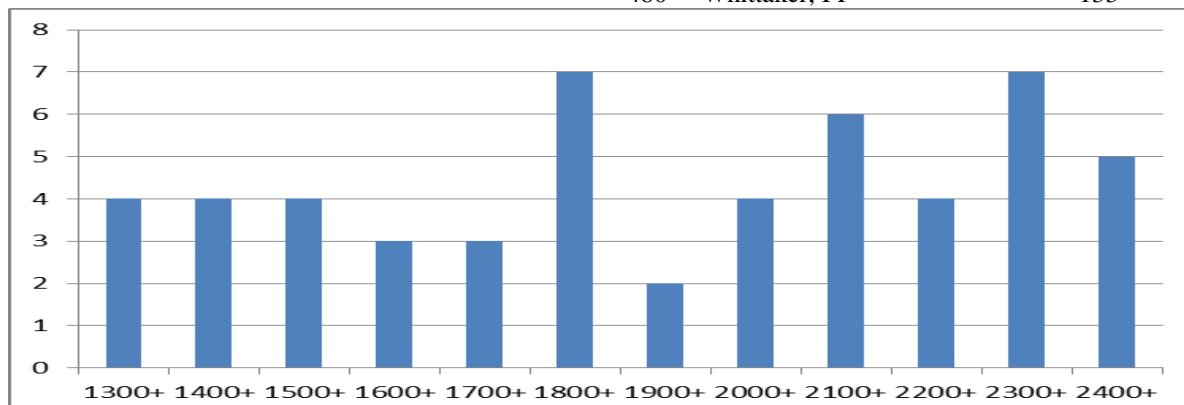
There were no new additions in this list. Two players gained titles in the last grading period – Michael Blake and Iain Sneddon (CCM). Iain has also secured an IM norm and qualified for the SM title as well!

The most significant rating moves were Allan Buchan (+132), Martin Hardwick (+70) and John Dunn (+47) with Andrew McMillen, Alan Sedstrem and Iain Sneddon also gaining more than 20 rating points in the quarter.

More new games centurions featured – David Cumming has hit the 1800 mark and Martin Hardwick who is now just 2 away from 1600 games and completed a massive 109 in the quarter! Ian Marshall now has 800+, Clive Murden 600+ and John Dunn more than 400. Alan Sedstrem has sneaked over the 100 mark as well. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Martin Hardwick (109): Allan Buchan (38); David Cumming (35); Iain Sneddon (33).

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 (CCE)	1859	2163 ↔	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	351	2238 ↔
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	341	2349 ↑	260	Knox, A	398	1404 ↔
121	Anderson, J	302	1941 ↔	264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	988	2323 ↑
049	Armstrong, A	209	1876 ↔		MacDonald, M	56	1389 ↔
313	Armstrong, J McK	451	1536 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	448	1867 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	478	2478 ↔	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	785	2421 ↑
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	255	2422 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	1397	1582 ↑
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	482	2377 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	803	2002 ↓
481	Beveridge, C (CCE)	555	2294 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	258	2453 ↓
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	871	2373 ↔	867	McEwan, N R	39	1896 ↔
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096	2207 ↔		Miles, A	64	1454 ↓
486	Buchan, A W	79	2198 ↑	401	Moir, P J	203	1524 ↓
602	Burridge, R J	1562	2183 ↓	598	Montgomery, R S	314	2256 ↓
	Clark, S L	280	1853 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	603	2450 ↑
247	Cormack, W H	115	1894 ↓	564	Murray, J S	86	2013 ↑
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1800	2363 ↓	440	Neil, C	342	1338 ↔
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	170	2192 ↓	453	Newton, A	30	1774 ↔
572	Dempster, D	807	1759 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	184	1874 ↔
478	Dunn, J	405	1553 ↑	604	Paine, Prof K A (SM)	226	2357 ↓
371	Edney, D	291	1940 ↓		Pettigrew, S	159	1380 ↓
462	Gilbert, R	241	1667 ↔	432	Price, D	459	1878 ↑
124	Goodwin, B J	389	1719 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	101	1413 ↑
445	Graham, S W	86	1656 ↓	439	Smith, M J	95	2124 ↑
399	Grant, J	74	1650 ↓	057	Sneddon, I (CCM)	340	2363 ↑
596	Hardwick, M E	1598	1304 ↑	605	Taylor, W	131	2059 ↓
475	Kearns, A	112	1400 ↑		Warren, J	36	2067 ↔
				480	Whittaker, I P	133	2135 ↔



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	53
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Full grades (30+ games)	53
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	18
Grading decreases (↓)	16
Grading static (↔)	19

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2478	Borwell, A P (IM)	2207
Matheis, T (IM)	2453	Buchan, A W	2198
Murden, C (IM)	2450	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2192
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2422	Burridge, R J	2183
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2421	Almarza Mato, C	2163
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2377	Whittaker, I P	2135
Blake, M J (CCM)	2373	Smith, M J	2124
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2363	Warren, J	2067
Sneddon, I (CCM)	2363	Taylor, W	2059
Paine, Prof K A (SM)	2357	Murray, J S	2013
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2349	Marshall, I H	2002
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2323	Anderson, J	1941
Beveridge, C (CCE)	2294	Edney, D	1940
Montgomery, R S	2256	McEwan, N R	1896
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2238	Cormack, W H	1894

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	1859	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1800	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	988
Hardwick, M E	1598	Blake, M J (CCE)	871
Burridge, R J	1562	Dempster, D	807
MacMillen, A N	1397	Marshall, I H	803

Selected Personal Best Grades 2020/4

	New	Previous		Gain
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2349	2345	2020/3	4
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2422	2421	2020/3	1
Beveridge, C (CCE)	2294	2284	2020/3	10
Buchan, A W	2198	2066	2020/3	132
Murden, C (IM)	2450	2447	2015/3	3
Smith, M J	2124	2115	2020/3	9
Sneddon, I (CCM)	2363	2350	2001/2	13

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), Cumming, D R (1),
Sneddon, I (1)

Scottish Master (SM) title norms are held by:

Montgomery, R S (2) Sneddon, I (5)

Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:

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

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:

Burridge, R J (1), 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.



Bird's Defence to the Ruy Lopez - Part 2

40 years ago I was in Borås (Sweden) playing for the British Rail team in the 4-yearly USIC Railways Olympiad. It was a pleasant surprise when the Bulgarian delegation very kindly presented me with a signed copy of Andrei Malchev's Spanish Opening (1975 Edition).



Malchev's monumental tome and the copy of Modern Chess Openings (1946) I had bought in a Glasgow second-hand shop for £1.50 were invaluable for the following compilation of both correspondence and over-the-board games.



Andrei Malchev

White: Michel, Paul
Black: Rossetto, Hector
Mar del Plata (1), 1947
Ruy Lopez, Bird Defence [C61]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Bb5 | Nd4 |
| 4.Nxd4 | exd4 |
| 5.0-0 | h5 |

The 7th edition of Modern Chess Openings was published in 1946: it gave the 5...h5! move a whole column, going; 6. d3 Bc5 7. Nd2 c6 8. Bc4 d5 9.exd5 cxd5 10. Re1+ Kf8 11. Bb3 Bg4 12. Nf3 h4 13. h3 Bh5= The footnote went: Analysis by Fenley in the American Chess Review, November 1942, improving on Mackenzie-Bird, 1885 (8...d6).

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 6.d3 | Bc5 |
| 7.Nd2 | c6 |
| 8.Bc4 | d5 |
| 9.Bb3 | Kf8 |

No real surprise, like the earlier 5...h5, but 9...Ne7 was preferable.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 10.c4 | dx c3 |
| 11.bxc3 | Bg4 |
| 12.Qc2 | Be2 |

Seductive.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 13.Re1 | dx e4 |
| 14.Nxe4 | Bxd3 |



- | | |
|----------|------|
| 15.Qxd3! | Qxd3 |
| 16.Nxc5 | Qf5 |
| 17.Ba3 | Nh6 |
| 18.Re5 | Qg6? |

△18...Qc8

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 19.Rg5! | Qh7 |
|---------|-----|

19...Qxg5 was the only hope; 20.Ne6+ Kg8 21.Nxg5 a5 22.Rd1 a4 23.Bc2 g6 24.c4+–

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 20.Ne4+ | Ke8 |
| 20...Kg8 | 21.Nf6# mating king and queen! |
| 21.Re5+ | Kd8 |



22.Re7

A forced-mate finish could have crowned White's play more elegantly, i.e. 22.Rd1+ Kc7 23.Re7+ Kb6 24.Bc5+ Ka5 25.Bb4+ Kb6 26.Nc5 Rab8 27.Na4+ Ka6 28.Bc4+ b5 29.Nc5+ Kb6 30.Rdd7 Qb1+ 31.Bf1 and queen taking either of the bishops fails to prevent mate. Let's not forget that this was an otb game.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 22... | Nf5 |
| 23.Rd1+ | Kc8 |
| 24.Rxf7 | |

1-0



White: Kopilov, Nikolai
Black: Tolush, Alexander
USSR Championship SF, 1950
Ruy Lopez, Bird Defence [C61]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Bb5 | Nd4 |
| 4.Nxd4 | exd4 |
| 5.0-0 | c6 |

Tolush's preferred variation.

6.Bc4

To illustrate the rarer 6. Be2, White's third option with his bishop, here is Shishov-Tolush in the Tbilisi Tournament of 1963: 6.Be2 Nf6 (6...g6 7.d3 Bg7 8. Bf4 d5 9. Nd2 Ne7 is a good alternative layout also adopted by Tolush) 7. d3 d5 8. Bf3 Be7 9. Nd2 Be6 10. Re1 Qd7 11. e5 Ng4 12. Nb3 c5 13. c3 dxc3 14. bxc3 Rc8 15. Qe2 b6 16. c4 d4 17. a4 h5 18. h3 Nh6 19. Bxh5 Nf5

20. Bg4 Kf8 21. Bf4 g5 22. Bh2 Nh6
 23. f3 Nf5 24. Nd2 Kg7 25. Ne4 Rh6
 26. Rf1 Ne3 27. Rfb1 Rch8 28. Nf2
 Bd8 29. Bxe6 Rxe6 30. Ng4 Nf5 31.
 Qe4 Nh4 32. Qd5 Qc8 33. Ra2 Rhe8
 34. Rf1 Be7 35. f4 Rd8 36. Qe4 f5
 37. Qe2 Qc6 38. Nf6 Bxf6 39. exf6+
 Kg6 40. Qf2 Rg8 41. fxc5 and Black
 surrendered.

6... **Nf6**
 6...d6!? 7.d3 Nf6 8.f4 (8.c3 dxc3
 9.bxc3 Be7 10.Nd2 0-0) 8...d5!
 9.exd5 b5! 10.Bb3 cxd5 11.Re1+
 Be7 12.Qe2 a5 13.a4 b4 14.Qe5 Ra6
 15.Qxd4 0-0 16.h3 (16.Nd2? Rc6
 17.Kf1 Bc5 18.Qe5 Re6-+) 16...Re8
 and now came a serious error in
 17.Qf2? and after 17...Bc5 18.Be3
 Rxe3! 19.Rxe3 Re6 White resigned :
 Liubarsky v Khokhlovsky, USSR
 1960.

7.e5 **d5**

8.exf6

The better capture is 8.exd6 Bxd6
 9.Re1+ Kf8! 10.d3 Qc7 11.h3 b5
 12.Bb3 c5 13.Nd2 Bb7-+ Kholmov]

8... **dxç4**

9.fxg7 **Bxg7**

10.d3 **çxd3**

11.çxd3 **Be6**

12.Nd2 **Qç7**

13.Ne4 **0-0-0**



Excellent position for Black: his "fat
 pawn" on g7 soon to be centralised.

14.a4

An interesting calculation is 14.Qa4
 Rd5! 15.Qxa7 Ra5 16.Nd6+ Kd7
 17.Qxb7 Qxb7 18.Nxb7 Rb5 and the
 N is trapped.

14... **Rhg8**

15.b4 **Bd5**

16.Ng3 **Be5**

17.f4 **Bd6**

18.Bd2 **Qe7**

19.Rf2 **Bxb4**

20.Re2 **Qd6**

21.Bxb4 **Qxb4**

22.Rb1 **Qd6**

23.Nf5?



If White attacks the King e.g. 23.Qe1
 Qxf4 24.Re7 c5 25.Rb5 b6 26.a5
 Qb8 27.axb6 axb6 28.Qa5 then
 28...Rd6 defends - that's not Black's
 king on b8!

23... **Qf6!**

24.Ne7+ **Qxe7**

25.Rxe7 **Rxg2+**

26.Kf1 **Rdg8**

That formidable B and two Rs squad,
 as in the Skotorenko game elsewhere
 in this collection.

27.Qe1 **Rg1+**

28.Ke2 **R8g2+**

29.Kd1 **Rxe1+**

30.Rxe1 **Rxh2**



31.Re7 **Rh1+**

32.Kc2 **Rxb1**

33.Kxb1 **Be6**

34.Kc2 **a5**

35.Re8+ **Kd7**

36.Rb8 **Kc7**

37.Rh8 **Kd6**

38.Rb8 **Kc7**

39.Rh8 **Kb6**

40.Rxh7 **Kc5**

Mato (The Grin) Jalec has several
 Bird games on his YouTube channel.
 Try <https://youtu.be/WLImEnT9Jn8>
 and browse for others.



Time control passed.

41.Rh8 **Kb4**

42.Rb8 **b5**

43.axb5 **çxb5**

44.Rd8 **Ka3**

45.Rxd4 **b4**

46.Rd8 **b3+**

47.Kc3 **a4**

An exciting otb clash between two
 very strong Soviet CC players.

0-1



Alexander Tolush



Tolush (left) giving a simultaneous exhibition
 to soldiers at the front (WW2).



White: Sherbakov, Vitaly

Black: Fridstein, German

Moscow, 1957

Ruy Lopez, Bird Defence [C61]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4

e5

2.Nf3

Nc6

3.Bb5

Nd4

4.Nxd4

exd4

5.0-0 Ne7

My old 1946 MCO-7 raved about this and the next move in a footnote, citing the game Smyslov - Bronstein in USSR Championship, Moscow 1944. The well-known game generates a stack of kibitzing on the Chessgames.com site.

6.c3 Nc6

7.Qa4

Ragosin - Fridstein, also Moscow 1957, went; 7.b4 Be7 8.Bb2 d5 9.e5 dxc3 10.Nxc3 0-0 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qa4 Rb8 13.a3 d4 14.Ne2 c5 15.Rfe1 Rb6 16.d3 Bb7 17.Rac1 cxb4 and the future 2nd CC World Champion went completely off the rails with 18.Qxa7? (18.Rc4) 18...Bg5 19.Rc5 when Bd2! threatening Qg5 by Fridstein would not have mated, but would have trapped the queen with Ra8.

- 7... **Bc5**
- 8.Na3 **0-0**
- 9.Nc2 **Qf6**
- 10.e5 **Qxe5**
- 11.Bxc6 **dx6**
- 12.cxd4 **b5**
- Forced.
- 13.dxe5 **bxa4**
- 14.d4 **Be7**
- 15.Bd2 **Rb8**
- 16.Bc3 **Rd8**
- 17.Ne3 **Be6**



- 18.Rfd1 **Bg5**
- 19.Nc2 **Be7**
- 20.Ne3 **Bg5**
- 21.Re1
- 21.Kf1 centralising the king to e2 was the best plan.
- 21... **Rb5**
- 22.Nc2 **Be7**
- 23.a3 **a5**
- 24.Rad1 **Bb3**
- 25.Rd2 **c5**
- 26.Red1?

- Not 26.Rc1 Bxc2 27.Rxc2 cxd4 28.Bxd4 Bxa3!±; but 26.Ne3 is playable e.g. 26...Bg5 27.dxc5!=
- 26... **Bxc2**
- 27.Rxc2 **cx4**
- 28.Rxd4 **Rxd4**
- 29.Bxd4



The position looks pretty good for White - but his back-rank is vulnerable, more so than Black's. And there is stronger than Bxa3.

- 29... **Rd5!**
- 30.Rd2 **Bg5**
- 30...Bg5 and the White bishop is lost.
- 31.Rd3 /Rd1 31...c5
- 31.e6 **fxe6**
- 31...Bxd2?? 32.e7 and White wins!

0-1



German Fridstein (right) playing Yuri Averbakh in 1953



White: Sedlacek, K
Black: Fridstein, German
 CSSR v USSR Corres. 1959
 Ruy Lopez, Bird Defence [C61]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

- 1.e4 **e5**
- 2.Nf3 **Nc6**
- 3.Bb5 **Nd4**
- 4.Bc4 **Nxf3+**
- 5.Qxf3 **Qf6**
- 6.Qg3 **d6**
- 7.0-0 **Qg6**
- 8.Qb3 **Nf6**
- 9.f4 **d5?!**
- 10.exd5

- 10.Bxd5 Bc5+ 11.Kh1 0-0 12.fxe5 Ng4 13.Qf3 and if 13...Nxe5 14.Qc3!±
- 10... **Bc5+**
- 11.Kh1 **Ne4**



- 12.d4
- White passes up 12.fxe5 Nf2+ 13.Rxf2 Bxf2 14.Bb5+ and Black had a difficult decision to make. Maybe 14...Kd8 was to be his choice? Worth noting here is 14... 14...c6 15.Bd3? (15.dxc6) 15...Qh5! threatening both Bg3 and Qd1+ and Black wins.
- 12... **exd4**
- 12...Bxd4 13.Be3 Nc5 14.Qa3 Qxc2 15.Bb5+ Bd7 16.Rc1±
- 13.Nd2 **Bf5**
- 14.Bb5+
- 14.Qxb7 0-0 15.Qc6±; An interesting line with White having to trade his Queen for pieces is: 14.Qb5+ c6 15.Qxb7 0-0 16.Qxc6 Ng3+! 17.hxg3 Qh5+ 18.Kg1 Rac8± 19.Bd3 (19.Qa6 d3+ 20.Rf2 Qe2-+; 19.Qb5 d3+ 20.Qxc5 Rxc5 21.cxd3 Qg6-+) 19...Rxc6 20.dxc6 Rc8 21.Nb3 Bb6 22.Bd2 Qg6±]
- 14... **c6**
- 15.Bd3 **0-0**
- 16.Nxe4 **Bxe4**
- 17.Bxe4 **Qxe4**
- 18.dxc6 **Qxc6**
- 19.Bd2 **Rfe8**
- 20.Rae1 **Bb6**
- 21.f5 **Rxe1**
- 22.Rxe1 **Re8**
- 23.Rxe8+ **Qxe8**
- 24.Qg3 **f6**
- 25.Qf3
- 25.Qb3+ Qf7 26.Qxf7+ Kxf7 27.g4±
- 25... **h6**
- 26.g3
- Curiously this little move will lose the game for White.
- 26... **Kh7**
- 27.b3 **Qc8**
- 28.Qd3?



28.Qe4; 28.c3; or 28.c4 was necessary.

28... Qc6+
29.Kg1 Qxc2!

The Bird leitmotif in Bc5 variations.

30.Qxc2 d3+
31.Qc5

The bishop ending is fascinating e.g.

31.Kf1 dxc2 32.Ke2 g6 33.fxg6+ Kxg6 34.Kd3 h5 35.Kxc2 Kf5 when winning variations for Black are;

36.Kd3 (36.h3 Bf2 37.Bf4 h4!)

36...Kg4 37.Be3 Bxe3 38.Kxe3 Kh3

31... Bxc5+

32.Kg2

Or 32.Kf1 g6 33.g4 h5 34.h3 gxf5 (34...a6 35.Ke1 Bd4) 35.gxf5

32... g6

33.g4

33.Kf3 gxf5 34.Be3 Bxe3 35.Kxe3

Kg6 36.Kxd3 Kg5 37.Ke3 Kg4+

33... h5

34.h3 hxg4

35.hxg4 gxf5

36.gxf5 Bf8!

0-1

German Samuilovich Fridstein (b.25 November 1911 d. New Year's Day 2001)

Mentor to the young Boris Spassky, coach, FIDE arbiter, co-editor of Shakhmaty v SSSR, and author of Ufimtsev Defence (1970).



White: Shevtsov

Black: Lukin

USSR Corres. 1960

Ruy Lopez, Bird Defence [C61]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5

2.Nf3 Nc6

3.Bb5 Nd4

4.Nxd4 exd4

5.0-0 Ne7

MCO-7 of 1946 also raved over this variation: 5...Ne7! 6.c3 Nc6! as in

Smyslov - Bronstein, Moscow 1944, and where the K-side fianchetto also followed on.

6.d3 g6

7.c3 Nc6

8.Nd2 Bg7

9.Nf3?! dxc3

10.bxc3 Bxc3

11.Bh6 Qf6

11...Bxa1 12.Qxa1 Rg8 13.Ng5↑

12.Re1 Ne5

13.Rxc3?

13.Ng5!

13... Nxf3+

14.Qxf3 Qxc3

15.Bc4 f6

16.Bg7 Rf8



17.e5?

17.Qe3 was good.

17... Qxe5

18.Qd1 Qd6

18...Rf7 was also good.

19.Re1+ Kd8

20.Qf3 c6

21.g4 b5

21...Qb4 threatening the R and also ...d5 was to be considered.

22.g5

22.Bxf8 Qxf8 23.Bxb5 Rb8±

22... f5

Or again 22...Qb4+

23.Bb3 Bb7

24.Qe3 c5



25.Bxf8

Qxf8

26.Qe5 Rc8
27.Bd5 Bxd5
28.Qxd5 Rc6
29.d4 Kc7
30.Qb3 cxd4
31.Qxb5 Qc5
32.Qa4 d3

0-1



White: Vaskans, Uldis

Black: Pavlenko, Oleg

USSR OTB, 1961

Ruy Lopez, Bird Defence [C61]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5

2.Nf3 Nc6

3.Bb5 Nd4

4.Nxd4 exd4

5.0-0 c6

6.Ba4 a5

Why not?

7.c3 Bc5

8.d3 Ne7

9.Nd2 d6

10.Nb3 b5

11.Nxc5 dxc5

12.Bc2 0-0

13.Qe2 Be6

14.f4 f5

15.exf5 Bxf5

16.g4 Bd7

17.f5 Nd5

18.cxd4 exd4

19.Bb3 Qh4

20.Qf3



20... Be6!

21.Qe4 Bf7

21...Rae8 22.g5 Qh3 23.Bd2 Bxf5

24.Bxd5+ cxd5 25.Qxd5+ Kh8

26.Qf3

22.Qxd4

□22.g5 and Black's K could be in trouble.

22... h5

22...Nf6 23.Bd1 Bh5 24.Bf4 Rad8±

23.Bd1 Nf6

24.Bf4 hxg4
 25.Bb3
 ○25.Be5
 25... Bd5
 Or 25...Qh3
 26.Be5



26... **Rae8?**
 Wrong file, and Black lets a growing advantage slip away; 26...Rad8 27.Bxf6 Qh3! (the inbetweenie he missed) 28.Bxd5+ Rxd5 29.Qf4 Rxf6+ All the Black pieces are threatening pawns.

27.Bxf6 Rxf6
 28.Bxd5+ cxd5
 29.Qxd5+ Kh8
 30.Qg2 Re3
 31.Rf4 Re1+
 32.Rxe1 Qxe1+
 33.Rf1 Qe3+
 34.Qf2 Qxd3
 35.Qh4+ Rh6
 36.Qxg4 Rxb2
 37.Kxh2

Content with a draw, most probably due to clock pressure. 37.Rd1 Rd2 38.Rxd2 Qxd2 39.Qh5+ Kg8 40.Qe8+ Kh7 41.Qxb5 is a queen ending slightly favourable for White.

37... Qxf1
 38.Qh5+ Kg8
 39.Qe8+

A fair result otb.

1/2-1/2



White: Matejcek, Pavel
 Black: Skotorenko, Vasily
 Corres., 1984
 Ruy Lopez, Bird Defence [C61]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.Bb5 Nd4
 4.Nxd4 exd4
 5.0-0 Bc5

Skotorenko had an important article published in Shakhmaty Riga magazine treating his preference for the move 5...Bc5.
 6.d3 c6



To illustrate the very imminent danger facing Black we have the 1979 postal miniature, Skotorenko (with White!) against Nadezhdin, going; 6...Ne7 7.Qh5 Bb6 8.Bg5 0-0 9.Bc4 Qe8 10.Nd2 Kh8 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.f4 c6 13.Nf3 f6 14.f5 Qe8 15.Qh3 d6 16.g4 g6 17.Qh6 d5 (17...g5 18.h4+-) 18.Ng5! f5g5 19.fxg6 1-0

7.Bc4
 Civin - Jirka, Czech Team
 Championship 2003, contains a manoeuvre that is essential knowledge in the Bird Defence; 7.Ba4 d6 8.Bb3 a5 9.a4 Ne7 10.f4 f5 11.Qh5+ g6 12.Qh6 Wait for it! 12...Kd7! 13.Nd2 Kc7 ,and if 14.e5 Qf8 and Black has nothing to fear.

7... d6
 8.f4 Nf6
 9.e5
 9.f5 0-0=
 9... Nd5
 10.Bxd5 cxd5
 11.Nd2 dxe5
 12.fxe5 0-0
 13.Nb3 Bb6
 14.Qh5 Qe8
 15.Bf4



15... a5!
 16.Rae1 Qc6
 17.Re2 a4
 18.Nd2
 18.Nc1 deserves consideration, but with the text move White plays to trap the Black queen.
 18... Qxc2
 19.Nc4
 19.Ne4 Qxd3!+-
 19... Qxe2
 20.Qxe2 dxc4
 21.Kh1



21... a3
 Rejecting 21...cxd3 22.Qxd3 Be6 22.dxc4 22.bxa3 c3 23.Bc1 was understandably unattractive.

22... axb2
 23.Qxb2 Bc5
 24.h4 b6
 25.Rf3 Bg4
 26.Rb3
 26.Rg3 h5=
 26... Ra6
 27.Rd3 Rfa8
 28.Rxd4 Bxd4
 29.Qxd4 Rxa2
 30.Qxb6 Rc2
 31.e5 Bf3!

The bishop and rooks combine to perfection. 31...Bf3 32.Kh2 Bxg2 33.Be3 Bd5+ 34.Kg3 Rg2+ 35.Kh3 (35.Kf4 Ra4+) 35...Rg6! 36.Qb4 Be6+ 37.Kh2 Rg4 and Ra2 check is to come.

0-1



The ICCF World Cup 6/7 SF 1990 featured LGM Nina Shchebenyuk gaining a good draw against Vasily Skotorenko, after a nice king walk by Black. Link:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=35168>

Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 18

White: Soloviev, N M.
Black: Skotorenko, Vasily
Ruy Lopez - Bird Defence [C61]
USSR Corres. 1976

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 Nd4
4.Nxd4 exd4
5.0-0 Bc5
6.b4



6... Bxb4

Palmo v Skotorenko in the 15th European Championship 1976 had Black declining the pawn offer. It produced a most exciting and complex game; 6...Bb6 7.c4 dxc3 8.Nxc3 Ne7 9.d4 0-0 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bc4+ Kh8 12.Bf4 d6 13.b5 c6 14.bxc6 bxc6 15.d5 Ng6 16.Bg3 c5 17.f4 f5! and a draw in 31 moves.

7.Bb2 Nf6
8.e5 Nd5
9.Qg4 0-0
10.Qxd4 c6
11.Bc4 Qb6



12.Bxd5

Missing the best line of play: 12.e6! Qxd4 (12...f6 13.e7 Bxe7 14.Qxb6

axb6 15.Nc3± at least.) 13.exf7+ Rxf7 14.Bxd4 d6 15.a3 Ba5 16.Re1 and if 16...Bf5 17.Nc3 and a slight edge for White.

12... Bc5!
12...cxd5 13.Qxb6 axb6±
13.Bxf7+?

Opening the f-line and allowing Black terrific pressure on f2 and down the f-line despite the Rf7 being occupied preventing mate. ⊖13.Qc3 cxd5 14.d4 with a slight edge for White.

13... Rxf7
14.Qc3 Bxf2+
15.Kh1

Now for the idea White either underestimated - or missed?

15... d5!
16.exd6 Be6

Not 16...Bd4? 17.Qc4! and Black is under pressure.

17.Na3 Raf8
18.Rfb1



Five Black pieces to attack the king - it's curtains for White. If 18.d3 Qe3! (or 18...Bd4 19.Rxf7 Bxc3 20.Rxf8+ Kxf8 21.Bxc3 Qc5-+) 19.Qe5 Qh6! and a beautiful continuation could occur; 20.h3 Bd5 21.Kh2 Qg6 22.g4 Qh6 23.Nc4 Bg1+! 24.Kxg1 Qxh3-+ and surrendering the queen is the only way to avoid mate - game over; 18.Qe5 is relatively best, if 18...Rf6 19.Rfb1 Rg6 (19...Bd5 20.c4=) 20.c4 and Black has the strong flank-switch 20...Qd8!-+

18... Bd5
19.Nc4

Losing quickly, and giving us some beautiful play. 19.Qd3 threatens to play c4 whilst covering f1 with another piece, but there is 19...Rf3! 20.Qe2 Bc5 21.c4 Rf2-+

19... Qb5!

Black's last move is very strong, leading at haste to a beautiful mate, but one has to mention the stunning sequence 19...Be1! then 20.Rxe1 Qf2! and mate in eight. If 21.Ne3 then 21...Bxg2+ 22.Nxg2 Qf1+ 23.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Rxf1# a quite extraordinary back row mate.

20.Ne3

If 20.d3 comes 20...Bxg2+! 21.Kxg2 Qg5+ and mate in five moves.

20... Bxe3
21.Qxe3 Rf1+
22.Rxf1 Rxf1+
23.Rxf1

Or 23.Qg1 Bxg2+ 24.Kxg2 Qe2+ 25.Kh3 Qh5+ 26.Kg3 Qg5+ 27.Kh3 Qxg1 28.Rxf1 (28.d7 Rf3+ 29.Kh4 g5+ 30.Kh5 Rh3#) 28...Qxf1+ 29.Kg3 Qg1+ 30.Kh3 h5 31.d7 Qg4#

23... Qxf1+
24.Qg1 Bxg2#



0-1



Vasily Skotorenko





Chess Art

By Iain Mackintosh



Olga Naletova

<http://naletova.art/en/>

Olga works mainly in oils. She was born in St. Petersburg in 1966 and studied at Ioganson's Art College at the USSR Academy of Arts. In 1990 she graduated from the I.E.Repin Institute of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture at the USSR Academy of Arts, Faculty of Painting.

Having started as a realist painter, Olga has gradually developed her own unique manner. Paintings featuring chess are fantasies depicting fiction characters, which are more symbols than real people. Composition-wise, she's always been inclined to put an emphasis on both meanings and colours, the combination and dynamics of both. She strives to create an impression of a harmonic ensemble, which is based on a firm composition structure.

Olga has participated in numerous exhibitions in Russia. She also took part in three big exhibitions in Germany organized by the Russian Culture & Science centre; her personal exhibitions were held in Slovenia and Vietnam within the walls of the Russian embassies. In October 2016 she participated in the Beverly Hills artSHOW October 2016, Los Angeles, USA and in August 2017 she became a laureate of the International competition «Large Format Painting En Plein Air», Normandy, France. She has been a member of the St. Petersburg Union of Artists since 1992 and of the Moscow Union of Artists since 1996. She currently lives and works in Moscow.



Open Field for the Games



Queen's Answer



The Last King



The Royal Couple



The Game



The Game is just Starting



Autumn Came



Hot Night in Hanoi



Frozen Rooks and Dashing Sacrifices: a month spent in a chess “wonderland”!

By Peter Bennett

In chess terms August 2020 was, for me, rather boring. After one of the hardest and busiest seasons of my CC career, the vast majority of my games had come to a conclusion in June (as described in my article in the Summer issue). By July, with just ten games still in progress, I was no longer in any hurry to look for further results; and nor, so it seemed, were any of my opponents.

In the late summer we had crawled out of that long and unwanted hibernation in our Covid-19 “lockdown” rabbit holes, only to find, out in the open air, that nothing much was happening: shops were still boarded up, half the pubs had closed, holidays were impossible. Furthermore, in Edinburgh (where I live) there was no Festival or Fringe for the first time in over 70 years; and even the OTB chess clubs had closed their doors.

And, by the end of August, I was really bored....

Of course, I could always get down to those writing tasks; but, to gain the motivation to write I needed some action. Chess action. Even when I had been busy, three months earlier, I was busy generating draws. Just draws. Where were the splendid attacks and swashbuckling sacrifices of yesteryear? I didn't just need chess action. I needed chess excitement!

So, in late August, I went straight back down my rabbit-hole, like Alice before me, in search of a chess wonderland; and guess what I found.....?

Chess 24.7

I first alighted on Chess 24.7, which is a website. It offers you the chance to play chess against the site's computer program at four different levels: Easy, Medium, Hard and Expert. The problem, with the “Expert” level is that the computer takes time to think. Which is no good if you are trying to play blitz chess, as I was. So I settled on the “Hard” level. It isn't really hard, as we CC players would understand the term; but it hurls moves back at you like a cricket slip-catch machine.

The task was not to beat the computer – that was easy – it was to beat it as fast as possible. The program records the total time the player takes over all his moves up to checkmate (necessary, since the computer doesn't resign). After hundreds of games (I was playing 15 to 20 every morning, as a wake-up exercise) I managed to get my “record” down to 16 seconds. Naturally, any such game must be a brevity. In fact, I couldn't deliver mate in under 25 seconds without a queen sacrifice. With a bit of practice, I was winning 3 or 4 games with a queen sacrifice before breakfast every morning; but this was too predictable, in the end. Even Chess 24.7 can be boring.

I needed human opposition, a whirlwind chess affair, an act of delicious disloyalty to the chess establishment (uh, sorry

... that means the SCCA); and I eventually found it on another website.... At last I had discovered my “inner vagabond”, at least in chess terms.

IceColdRook.com (“ICR”, for short)

This is a pseudonym for a real chess website, the second part of my “wonderland” experience. Everyone who plays on this website uses nicknames; so you have no idea who you are playing or how good they are. They all have gradings, supported by masses of useless statistics; but, as I quickly found, actual playing standards don't correspond to the gradings.

Playing chess on ICR is a cross between a “speed dating” event and a masked ball. Working out, within the first few moves, what sort of opponent you are actually playing is crucial to your chances of success; and this kind of challenge is just up my street. Chess psychology has always been one of my key interests in the game. (It ought to be: psychology was my first degree subject).

ICR has no explicit rule book. There are unstated rules, for sure, but you have to interpret them from practical play. Many can be inferred from the answers the website managers give to FAQs. The “ICR support team”, so called, is as anonymous as the players. My researches suggest that this is probably just one geek in a shed, somewhere in the English Home Counties.

Still, somehow it all works. There are hundreds of guys (the site claims it is tens of thousands) who have been playing on the site for more than 15 years. You would think that this amount of experience would make them strong players; but, in the main, it doesn't seem to. Some addicts have played over 10,000 games. One of my opponents had played over 23,000 games and just short of a million moves. Is life really long enough for such a bizarre accomplishment?

The time limits are tighter than under the ICCF; but few players take full advantage of the available time. The website warns new players that this is a “correspondence chess” site and that they should expect games to be slow. In reality, once a game is underway, 80% of my opponents (at least) tend to play quite fast. It is more like a slower version of OTB on the internet.

I joined the site on 4 September. In less than three weeks, I have been playing 33 games, 23 completed and 10 still in progress. The fastest completed game took less than 24 hours from beginning to end.

There are some curious conventions. One thing that intrigues me is the similarity in both openings employed and style of play between different players on the site. It is as though ICR is a chess cocoon: players generally ignore modern real-world theory; but they clearly copy each other.

An example. My MCO10 (the tenth edition of MCO, published in 1965) described Philidor's Defence as rather old-fashioned and not much played, nowadays. But it is alive and well and extremely popular on ICR 55 years later, as are some rather strange variations of the French Defence. Fewer than 20% of players seem to be using a modern openings database.

The rules of development are roundly ignored. In fairness, most players advance a centre pawn or two and develop a couple of minor pieces; but after that, they attack: either by advancing more pawns or getting the queen into play as soon as possible.

In 17 completed games, I have won five queens: two were trapped and three left en prise. The players who did this were not novices: some had played over 300 games on this site alone. I think they were just being careless. Perhaps most of them are playing on their mobile phones?

A lot of players are reluctant to resign games. There seems to be a convention on the site that you play a game to its conclusion, as we all did when we were eight years old. Whatever the reason, in 12 of my 23 completed games, I have actually delivered checkmate; but in only two games (so far) have I had to claim a game when my opponent timed out.

Rook play on ICR

Standards of play on ICR vary hugely. I have several opponents who are well booked up and using strong engines; and I certainly don't expect to win all my games; but among the majority who play quickly and superficially, there seems to be a collective reluctance to bring their rooks into play. In a sense, that is the natural consequence of launching attacks before you have completed your development.

So here are some curious statistics. In my first 23 completed games – all of which I won – I castled in 16 (70%), whereas my opponents castled in just 6 (26%).

In the 7 games (30%) in which I omitted to castle, this was a conscious choice. In the 17 games (74%) where my opponents failed to castle, the exposure of the king to attack on or near its starter square was in every case a key reason why the game was lost.

Yet my opponents came from at least 12 different countries and 6 different continents. The only thing they had in common was that they played on the ICR site – which is where I think they must have picked up the “no-castle” virus. Strange.

My 23 opponents had a collective army of 46 rooks. Even including the 6 castling moves, only 14 of those 46 rooks were ever moved at all: 32 were still “frozen” on their starter squares at the conclusion of the game. Hence my nickname for the site: IceColdRook.com.



ICR Problem Positions

Below are three problem positions which arose during my ICR “wonderland” adventures. Because these are all correspondence games which were started on or after 4 September 2020, it follows that the games which are already concluded are the most one-sided, hence not at all interesting as games. So the purpose of the three diagrammed positions is to provide readers with the standard of problem which can be solved by simple studying the diagram, as though you had met the position in OTB play or seen it in a newspaper chess column.

Problem Position 1

White: PGB

Black: Iceman 1

1.e4 e6 2.d4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e5 c5

Now we have a French Defence in which Black has lost a vital tempo, rendering 2...c6 a pointless move.

5.c3 c4 6.b3 cxb3 7.axb3 Nc6 8.Bd3 a6 9.Na3 Bxa3 10.Bxa3 Nge7 11.h4



White already has a strategically won game. Should Black now castle? This is a slightly unfair question, since he is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't! 11...0-0?! So he does!

Problem question 1:

With what twelfth move can White now launch a winning attack? (Standard: Easy) (Note: there is no immediate forced mate, so only the key move is required)

Problem Position 2

White: PGB

Black: Iceman 2

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.f3 0-0 6.Qd2 Nbd7
7.0-0-0 a6 8.e5 dxe5 9.dxe5 Ne8 10.f4 c6 11.h4 Qa5 12.h5
Nc5 13.Qf2 Ne6 14.Bb6 Qb4 15.g3 c5 16.Nd5 Qa4
17.Nxe7+ Kh8 18.hxg6 fxg6 19.Nxg6+ Kg8 20.Ne7+ Kh8



Black may have been hoping for 21.Ng6+, leading to a perpetual check.

Problem question 2a:

What should White now play on move 21, to initiate a mate in six? (Standard: Easy)

Problem question 2b:

What should White then play on move 22, to secure the #5? (Standard: More difficult)

Problem Position 3

White: Iceman 3

Black: PGB

1.g3 e5 2.Bg2 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Ne2 Nc6 5.0-0 h5 6.h4 Bg4
7.c3 Qd7 8.d4 0-0-0 9.b3 g5 10.hxg5 h4 11.a4 h3 12.dxe5
hxg2 13.Kxg2



White is hopelessly lost; but Black's second-best move in this position only yields #11.

Problem question 3a:

What is the only move with which Black can now initiate a mate in four? (Standard: Medium)

Problem question 3b:

With best defence (hence not to succumb to #3), on which square will the White king be mated?

(Standard: Very difficult)

(Answers on page 21)

Conclusion

Sceptics might say that this entire project was just the chess equivalent of "fool's gold". And they would be right. This was just a brief adventure in wonderland, to have a bit of fun before a very challenging winter sets in.

I have already stopped taking on new games on the ICR site; and the few I have in progress will no doubt wind down over the coming weeks. For a short while though, it was seriously addictive. Every time I switched on the computer I could find someone, somewhere in the world, who wanted to play a fast game now, this minute. At two-thirty in the morning, when you are suffering from insomnia, ICR is a very tempting diversion; but, if you succumb to temptation, the games then take off like the broomsticks in the film of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. I played over 500 moves in three weeks, peaking at more than 25 moves a day; and the games quickly descended into "skittles".

So, dear friends, I am back out of my rabbit hole. Back to reality and the ICCF; and, in the meantime, almost nothing has happened on any of my "proper" games. No-one even missed me while I was in wonderland....



White Knight in *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll, 1872.
Illustration by John Tenniel



International Update

By Iain Mackintosh

22nd Olympiad Preliminaries

CC022/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	█	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.5	1	2	2.5	4	23	56	5	4	41	13	1
2	Canada	2407	2.5	█	2	1	2.5	1.5	2.5	2	1.5	3.5	19	51	1	2	37	17	2
3	Denmark	2406	1.5	2	█	3	2.5	1.5	2	2.5	1.5	2.5	19	51	1	1	37	17	3
4	Portugal	2358	2.5	1	3	█	2	2	1.5	1.5	1	2	16.5	51	1	1	32	22	4
5	Scotland	2382	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	█	2.5	1.5	1	1	1	16.5	47	-2	0	35	19	5
6	Argentina	2449	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2.5	█	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	15.5	55	3	0	28	26	6
7	U.S.A.	2490	1	2.5	1	1.5	1.5	1	█	0.5	0.5	3	12.5	54	2	1	23	31	7
8	Romania	2437	2	2	2.5	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	█	0.5	2	12.5	52	1	0	24	30	8
9	Spain	2458	2.5	1.5	0.5	1	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	█	1	10	52	1	0	19	35	9
10	Nicaragua	2152	1	1.5	1.5	1	1	0.5	0	1	0	█	7.5	26	-13	0	28	26	10

Our team of IM Clive Murden, CCM Alan Bell, CCM David Cumming, CCM Peter Bennett, SM Kevin Paine and CCM Gordon Anderson is currently in 5th place, though their percentage score is a little lower than those round about them.

Carlos Flores Gutiérrez Team Tournament

MT-Gutiérrez/SF3, Carlos Flores Gutiérrez Team Tournament SF3

TD Mrkvička, Josef (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Ukraine 2	2245	█	3	2.5	2.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	2	0.5	14	63	6	1	22	26	1
2	Germany 2	2242	2	█	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	1	10	52	1	0	19	29	2
3	Slovakia	2249	1.5	1.5	█	2	1	0	1	2	1	10	62	4	0	16	32	3
4	Scotland	2145	1.5	1.5	0	█	1.5	1	1	1	2	9.5	45	-2	0	21	27	4
5	Argentina	2171	0.5	0.5	1	1.5	█	1	0.5	1.5	2	8.5	60	3	0	14	34	5
6	Portugal	2151	0.5	0.5	0	2	1	█	0	1.5	1.5	7	58	2	0	12	36	6
7	Russia 1	2221	1.5	1.5	1	1	0.5	0	█	1	0	6.5	54	1	0	12	36	7
8	USA	2221	0	0.5	0	1	0.5	0.5	0	█	0	2.5	17	-9	0	14	34	8
9	South Africa	1854	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	1	█	2	20	-6	0	10	38	9

Early days in SF3, but our team of Colin Beveridge, Robert Montgomery, Raymond Burrige, Ian Whittaker, Wilf Taylor and David Edney is respectably placed in 4th position behind stronger-graded sides.

10th European Team Championship Final

In the 10th ETC Final, one game is still holding up the top placings, so no word yet of a start date for the 11th ETC Final.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Aug 2020	16	Venezuela	Server	2	6		
May 2020	10	England U1800	Server	5	6		
Mar 2020	20	Netherlands	Server	13	14		
Nov 2019	20	Cuba	Server	11½	25½		loss
Jun 2019	27	Sweden	Server/Postal	16½	34½		loss
Mar 2019	19	Panama	Server	17	21		loss

Our match against Panama is now complete, and we have lost against both Sweden and Cuba. This year's fixtures are closer: Netherlands and England U1800 both lead by just one point. Venezuela has taken an early lead in our best-of-three match. We hope to start a match against USA in the near future..

George Pyrich Memorial Team Tournament (ICCF)

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

		TD Falatowicz, Piotr											Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11								
1	Switzerland 1	2221	■	3	2.5	4	4.5	4	4	4	3.5	3.5	4	37	61	14	17	60	0	1
2	England Knights	2238	3	■	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	4	4	3	4.5	36.5	60	13	18	60	0	2
3	Italy 1	2187	3.5	2.5	■	3	3	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	5	3	33.5	56	8	14	59	1	3
4	Lithuania 1	2220	2	2.5	2	■	3	3.5	4	3	4	3	4	31	54	5	11	57	3	4
5	Brazil 1	2243	1.5	2.5	3	2	■	4	3	3	3	3.5	3.5	29	49	-1	10	59	1	5
6	Indonesia	2093	2	2	2.5	2.5	2	■	3.5	1.5	4	4	4	28	47	-3	8	59	1	6
7	Russia 2	2176	2	2.5	3	2	3	2.5	■	3	3.5	4	2.5	28	47	-3	7	59	1	7
8	Netherlands	2155	2	2	2.5	2	3	3.5	3	■	3	4	2.5	27.5	47	-3	7	58	2	8
9	Romania 1	2118	2.5	2	2.5	2	3	2	2.5	3	■	2	3.5	25	41	-10	4	60	0	9
10	Scotland	2117	2.5	3	1	3	2.5	2	2	2	4	■	2.5	24.5	41	-10	4	59	1	10
11	Germany 2	2007	2	1.5	3	2	2.5	2	2.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	■	24	41	-10	3	58	2	11

With just one game remaining, our team remains in 10th spot, though could overtake Romania with a win.

George Pyrich Memorial Tournament (SCCA)

Our best placed player was Raymond Burrige in section 14, who finished 2nd. Scottish standings and section leaders are:

Section 1	2 nd =	Tom Matheis	6/12	Leader: GM Ruslan Tleptsok (RUS) 6½/11
Section 2	3 rd =	Clive Murden	6½/12	Leader: IM Luca Esposito (ITA) 7/12
Section 3	7 th	Iain Mackintosh	6/12	Winner: CCM Hermann Rösch (PAN) 7½/12
Section 4	10 th	David Cumming	6/12	Leader: Oliver Killer (SUI) 7½/12
Section 5	n/a	n/a	n/a	Winner: CCM Gennady Egoshin (RUS) 7½/12
Section 6	n/a	n/a	n/a	Leader: IM Søren Rud Ottesen, (DEN) 7/12
Section 7	n/a	n/a	n/a	Winner: IM Frank Hoffmann (GER) 7½/12
Section 8	12 th	Alan Borwell	5/12	Winner: CCE Jan Kratochvil (CZE) 7½/12 (now decd.)
Section 9	9 th	Geoff Lloyd	6/12	Winner: CCM Matteo Troia, (ITA) 7/12
Section 10	n/a	n/a	n/a	Winner: Djamel Zeghachov (SWE) 8½/12
Section 11	9 th	Eoin Campbell (decd.)	5½/12	Winner: Vladimir Babychuk (UKR) 8½/12
Section 12	9 th	Alastair Dawson	5½/11	Winner: Mario Sena Lopes (POR) 9/12
Section 13	13 th	Derek Price	2½/12	Winner: Roberto Sayas (VEN) 9½/12
Section 14	2 nd	Raymond Burrige	10½/12	Winner: Richard Rozo (VEN) 11½/12
Section 14	11 th	Tom Gowans	3/12	Winner: Richard Rozo (VEN) 11½/11
Section 14	12 th	Martin Hardwick	1/12	Winner: Richard Rozo (VEN) 11½/11

Other Memorial Events

Keith Richardson Memorial (ENG)

MT-Richardson, Keith Richardson Memorial

										TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)																							
Category 7										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	GM	SIM	IM	CCM	CCE	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
1		159028	IM	Ottesen, Søren Rud	2387		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8½	7½					6.5	1	31.75	0	1
2		620345	SIM	Mackintosh, Iain	2414	½		½	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	½	.	.	8½									6	2	31.5	2	2	
3		210701	SIM	Rhodes, John D.	2402	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	½	8½								5.5	0	28	1	3	
4		212018	LGM	Halliwell, Toni	2400	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	½	½	8½	7½	7						5.5	0	27.5	1	4	
5		940829	CCM	Galytskyi, Volodymyr	2401	½	½	½	½		½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8½	7½	7						5.5	0	27.25	0	5	
6		210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2394	½	0	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8½								5.5	0	26.75	0	6	
7		212902		Wharam, George	2385	½	½	½	½	1	½		½	½	.	.	½	.	8½	7½	6½	5	4½				5	1	26.75	3	7		
8		429125	IM	Ślawiński, Tomasz	2410	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	.	.	8½	7½							5	0	26.75	2	8		
9		429151	IM	Szerlak, Andrzej	2406	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	8½	7½						5	0	23.75	0	9		
10		212651	CCM	James, Angus	2399	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	½	½		½	.	.	8½	7½	7						4.5	0	24.5	3	10		
11		211541	CCM	Catt, Peter	2395	½	½	½	.	½	½	.	½	½	½		½	.	8½	7½	7						4.5	0	23.5	3	11		
12		81532	GM	Baumbach, Fritz	2421	½	.	.	½	½	½	½	.	½	.	½		½	8½								3.5	0	18.75	5	12		
13		210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	2422	½	.	½	½	½	½	.	.	½	.	.	.	.	8½									3	0	16.75	6	13

Iain Mackintosh is handily placed as this event nears its conclusion.

Max Zavanelli Memorial (LTU)

MT-Zavanelli B, Max Zavanelli Memorial - Lithuania B

										TD Dearnley, Andrew (IA)																								
Category 7										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	GM	SIM	IM	CCM	CCE	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1		920371	IM	Samerdokas, Alfredas	2455		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	9½	8½						8.5	3	53.5	0	1		
2		620184	SIM	Beecham, C. Richard	2476	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	.	½	9½							8	3	51.75	1	2		
3		212704	SIM	Rallabandi, Praveen Kumar	2459	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	9½						8	2	51	0	3		
4		920401	IM	Korabliov, Aleksandr	2477	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	½	1	1	9½	8½						7.5	2	48	1	4		
5		511155	IM	Ingersol, Harry	2490	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	½	9½	8½					7	1	45.75	0	5		
6		920383	IM	Vekelis, Gintaras	2349	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	9½	8½						7	0	46	0	6		
7		690023	SIM	Salcedo Mederos, Pablo	2380	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	9½							7	0	46	0	6		
8		910274	IM	Mende, Ingus	2433	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	9½	8½						7	0	46	0	6		
9		920078	CCM	Voveris, Gediminas	2415	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½		1	½	½	½	½	½	9½	8½	7½				6.5	1	41	0	9			
10		920048	GM	Dambrauskas, Virginijus	2457	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0		½	½	.	½	½	9½							6	0	40.75	1	10		
11		929021	IM	Kurylo, Rišard	2344	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	9½	8½						6	0	38.5	0	11		
12		910321	IM	Klimakovs, Sergejs	2446	½	½	½	.	1	½	½	½	½	½	½		.	.	.	9½	8½						5.5	1	39	4	12		
13		920418	CCM	Voveris, Saulius	2405	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	.	½	.	.	½	½	9½	8½	7½				5	0	33.75	2	13			
14		920126		Mužas, Kestutis	2217	0	.	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	½	½	9½	8½	7½	5½			5	5	0	32.25	2	14		
15		929018	IM	Rauduvė, Algirdas	2371	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	½	½	9½	8½						5	0	32.25	1	15		

Equally, Richard Beecham remains in contention with just a few games remaining of the Lithuanian Zavanelli Memorial.

Recent Veterans World Cup (VWC) Results

VWC12 pr47 Charles O'Neill-MacAleenan finished 10th with 1/10
 VWC12 pr34 Peter Bennett finished 3⁼ with 6½/10
 VWC12 pr31 Colin Beveridge finished 4th with 6/10
 VWC12 pr27 Ian Whittaker finished 10th with 2½/10
 VWC12 pr5 Derek Coope (d) sits 8th with 4½/10
 VWC12 pr3 Geoff Lloyd sits 2nd with 7/9
 VWC12 pr1 Derek Coope (d) finished 9th with 3½/10

VWC11 sf3 Robert Montgomery sits with 0/0

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 finished 5th with 8/12

VWC10 sf6 Peter Bennett sits 4⁼ with 7½/14

VWC10 sf4 Peter Bennett sits 8th with 7/12

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



Frozen Rooks and Dashing Sacrifices: Problem Position Solutions

By Peter Bennett

Problem question 1

The key move is 12.Bxh7+!
 The game actually continued 12...Kxh7 13.Ng5+ Kg8
 14.Qh5 Re8 15.Qh7+ Kf8 16.Qh8#, although Black could
 have held out a little longer with best defence.

Problem question 2a:

The key move is 21.Rxh7+!

Problem question 2b:

After 21.Rxh7+ Kxh7 (forced) 22.Bd3+! is the only move to
 secure the #5. The king has to be forced off h7 (onto either
 h8 or h6) before the White queen checks on h2.
 The continuation is 22...Qe4 23.Bxe4+ Rf5 24.Bxf5+ Kh8
 25.Qh2+ Bh6 26.Qxh6#

Problem question 3a:

13...Bf3+!, sacrificing the bishop to draw the king into open
 play.

Problem question 3b:

The king is mated on e5. The continuation is 14.Kxf3
 Nxe5+ 15.Kf4 Nh5+ 16.Kxe5 Bg7# (see diagram opposite)

Alice in Wonderland Artwork

By Maxim Mitrofanov, a Russian artist b. 1975. Maxim has
 illustrated the Chronicles of Narnia and Peter Pan in
 addition to his Alice in Wonderland series.





Games Column

games@scottishcca.co.uk

By Alastair Dawson

Two Scottish players caught the eye in this quarter's Grading List. Iain Sneddon gained the CCM title, posted an IM norm and qualified for the SM title which will be awarded at next year's SCCA AGM.

Newcomer Allan Buchan gained an impressive 132 rating points during the last quarter and is now 2198.

White: Sneddon, Iain (2281)
Black: Zhorov, Boris Mikhailovich (2264)

Celso Sanchez Pouso (VEN) 2020
Sicilian Najdorf [B94]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1.e4 | c5 |
| 2.Nf3 | d6 |
| 3.d4 | cxd4 |
| 4.Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5.Nc3 | a6 |
| 6.Bg5 | Nbd7 |
| 7.Qe2 | h6 |
| 8.Bh4 | g6 |
| 9.f4 | Qc7 |
- 9...e5 is more often played.
10.0-0-0 e5

11.g4
Sharpest.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 11... | Bg7 |
| 12.fxe5 | dxе5 |
- 12...Nxe5 is also possible.
13.Nb3 Nb6
14.h3 Be6

15.Qf3N
15.Qf2 has been played by David Cumming here.

15... Nbd7



- | | |
|---------|------|
| 16.Nd5 | |
| Best. | |
| 16... | Bxd5 |
| 17.exd5 | Rc8 |

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- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 18.Bd3 | 0-0 |
| 19.d6 | Qb8 |
| 20.c3 | Rc6 |
- 20... Rfe8 looks slightly better.
21.Bxf6 Nxf6
22.Na5 Rxd6
23.Qxb7± Qxb7
24.Nxb7 Rb6
25.Nc5 Rc8
26.Ne4 Rcb8
- The immediate 26...a5 was also possible.
27.Rh2!
Strong.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 27... | Kf8 |
| 28.a4 | a5 |
| 29.Bb1! | |
- Another good move from Iain.
29... Nxe4
30.Bxe4 Bf6
31.Rd5 Bg5+
Best.
32.Kb1 Bf4
33.Re2 Ra6
34.Rb5 Rd8



35.Rb7+-
Iain's piece play in the middle game is impressive.

- | | |
|-------|------|
| 35... | Rda8 |
| 36.c4 | |
- 36.Rb5 is an attractive alternative as White continues to dictate the play.
36... R6a7
37.Rb5 Rd8
38.Bd5 Ke7
39.Kc2 Kf6
40.h4 Bg3
41.b4!

White is forcing the issue.

- | | |
|-------|------|
| 41... | axb4 |
| 42.a5 | Re8 |
- 42...h5 might have given more counterplay.



43.Bb7!
Another turn of the screw. The Black Ra7 plays no further part in the game.

43... Bxh4
Black can't mobilise quickly enough on the k-side.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 44.c5 | Bg3 |
| 45.a6 | Re7 |
| 46.c6 | Ke6 |
| 47.Rb6! | Rc7 |
| 48.Kb3 | f5 |
| 49.gxf5+ | gxf5 |
| 50.Kxb4 | e4 |
| 51.Rg2 | Be5 |

Best.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 52.Rg6+ | Kf7 |
| 53.Rxh6 | Bf4 |
| 54.Rh7+ | Kf6 |
| 55.Rxc7 | Bxc7 |
| 56.Rb5 | f4 |

Black's connected passed pawns look impressive, but can't stop the White initiative.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 57.Kc3 | Ke7 |
| 58.Kd4 | e3 |
| 59.Kd3 | Kd6 |
| 60.Rh5 | Bb6 |
| 61.Rh6+ | Ke5 |
| 62.Rh7 | f3 |
| 63.c7 | f2 |
| 64.Ke2! | |

Black bows to the inevitable. A masterly display by Iain!

1-0



Iain obtained his second ICCF CCM norm and subsequently the CCM Title whilst playing in the Celso Sanchez Pouso IM y VII FEDAPVEN Group B2 event.

Iain scored 7/12, the qualifying standard being 6.5 points. His first norm was obtained in April 2020 whilst playing in the Celso Sanchez Pouso IM y VII FEDAPVEN Group B4 which he won with a score of 7/12.

**White: Edney, David (1967)
Buchan, Allan**

SCCA League Div 3 2020
Alekhine's Defence [B04]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 Nf6
2.e5 Nd5
3.d4 d6
4.Nf3 dxe5
5.Nxe5 g6
6.Bc4 c6
7.0-0 Bg7
8.Re1 Nd7

8...0-0 is more common.

9.Nf3 a5!?

10.Bf1N

Only 10.a4 appears on the ICCF database.

10... b5

11.a4 b4

12.c4

Best.

12... bxc3

13.bxc3

13.Nxc3 was a little better.

13... 0-0

14.Ra3?! c5

Best.

15.c4 Nb4

16.d5 Nf6

17.Be3

17.Nc3 is also playable.

17... Qb6

18.Nc3 Bf5

19.Re2 e6

20.dxe6 Bxe6

21.Rd2 Bf5=



22.Nh4

22.Rd6 was maybe worth a try.

22... Be4

23.g3 Rfe8

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23...Rfd8 was a whisker better.

24.Rd6 Bc6

25.Bg2 Rad8

26.Bxc5 Rxd6

27.Qxd6 Qb7

28.Bxc6 Nxc6

29.Qd1 Ne5

30.Rb3 Qc6

31.Bd4 Rd8

32.Qe2 Rxd4

33.Qxe5 Rxc4

34.Qxa5 Bf8

35.Rb6 Qc7

36.Qb5 Rb4

37.Rc6 Qd7

38.Qa6 Ng4

Both players have handled the middle game tactics very well.

39.Nf3?!

Hard to spot, but the best line for White here is 39.h3 Nxf2 40.Kxf2 Qd4+ 41.Kf1 Rb2 42.Ne2 leading to a theoretical draw.

39... Rb2!

40.Qc8 Qa7

The next few moves are forced.

41.Nd1 Rxf2

42.Ra6 Rc2+

43.Rxa7 Rxc8

44.Kf1 Rc2

44... Rc1 is slightly better.



45.h3?

Here David errs.

45.a5! would have maintained the tension, with good drawing chances.

45... Nf6!

Allan seizes his chance.

46.Ng1 Rc1

47.Ke2 Ra1

48.g4 Ra2+

49.Kd3 Ra3+

50.Ke2 Bc5

51.Ra8+ Kg7

52.Nf3 Nd5

53.Ne5 Nf4+

54.Kd2 Rxh3

Black has a big positional advantage and now starts to edge ahead on material also.

55.a5 h5

23

Engineering a passed pawn.

56.gxh5 gxh5

57.Nb2 h4



58.Nbd3? Nxd3

59.Nxd3 Rxd3+!

Allan finishes with a lovely combination.

60.Kxd3 h3

The winger can't be stopped!

0-1

David Edney has appeared on our Grading List for most of this century, clocking a high of 2215, and consistently averaging 1950+. Allan's performance against such a strong player augurs well!



You can participate 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! Send to: games@scottishcca.co.uk



Another Maxim Mitrofanov Alice illustration.



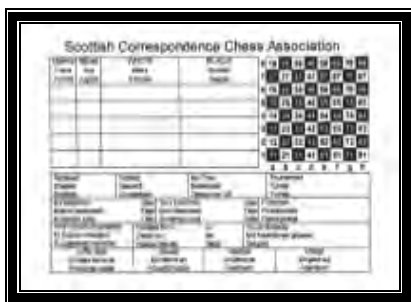
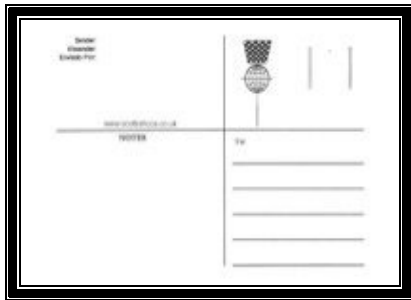
General Information

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 2020-21

Theme 4/20: French, Chatard-Alekhine Attack, C13

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4

Entries by 15 November; play starts 1 December

Theme 1/21: Nimzoindian, Rubinstein System, E40

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 O-O 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.O-O

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 February

Webserver Events 2020

Theme 6/20 – Catalan Opening, E01

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2

Entries by 15 October March; play starts 1 November

Theme 7/20 – Sicilian Nimzowitsch, Brohinka Var., B29

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Ng4 4.h3 Nh6

Entries by 30 November; play starts 15 December

News

- Dr Ferdinand Burmeister (USA) was unanimously elected as the ICCF Finance Director in July.
- The semi-finals of Veterans' World Cup 11 started in August. Robert Montgomery represents Scotland in section 3.
- The semi-finals of the Carlos Flores Gutiérrez Team Tournament have started. Scotland competes in section 3 and the team is: Colin Beveridge, Robert Montgomery, Raymond Burrige, Ian Whittaker, Wilf Taylor and David Edney.
- ICCF is conducting a player poll to canvass potential improvements and developments on the webserver, plus views on rules, time controls and other issues.
- IM Irina Vladimirovna Perevertkina (RUS) has become the 11th Ladies World Champion, finishing with 5/8 in a truncated final.
- Gerd Schowalter (GER) has won the 70th European Postal championship, scoring scored 10/14 games with 8 wins, 4 draws and 2 losses. He also gained CCE, CCM, IM and SIM norms for his performance.

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