

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.152

Winter 2020

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Welcome to the fourth and final edition of the 2020 magazine set! Shame it isn't the fourth and final lockdown of the pandemic, but our politicians have invested too much in flags, wood panelling, rostrums and slogans to stop now.

Thank goodness for correspondence chess though! We must be one of the few communities who have continued to enjoy our pursuits with minimal interference. Even Triple Lockdown time controls were introduced in advance...

We have another packed edition for you, starting with the first ICCF rating list of 2021 analysed by Alistair Maxwell. In addition to his grading work, Alistair has been scanning copies of pre-internet SCCA magazines which can now be downloaded from our website.

John Hawkes has pieced together a collection of games by Latvian players, including an indispensable couple of Latvian Gambits. As usual, the quality of chess and annotations makes for a seriously enjoyable read.

Peter Bennett makes two contributions. The first is the concluding chapter in his tale of managing a big games load. The second is another dip into his lockdown chess games with problems to solve, and some seasonal whisky on offer for a successful solver!

Our Chess Art spot features Stefan Zweig and a selection of book covers based on his chess works.

We have a new contributor this time, Awani Kumar from India, who has kindly provided a Knight's Tour to coincide with edition 152. Enjoy!

Alastair Dawson's Games Column looks at the development of a game strategy discovered by Richard Beecham after studying top engine play.

International and ICCF reports complete this offering.

January means it's our Annual Best Game competition. I'm waiting for confirmation of our judge, but remember to get your 2020 entries in by the end of this month (the Notices page provides full details). Good luck if you enter!

My best wishes for 2021! I trust you all manage to stay safe and well, and find plenty of things to be happy about.

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
December	J Dunn	P M Giuliani
November	A P Borwell	J S Murray
October	J S Murray	I Mackintosh

SCCA Officials

Position	Name	Address	Contact	Email
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 sit with Alistair Maxwell, grader@scottishcca.co.uk.



ICCF World Correspondence Chess Championship Preliminaries



ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner Gian-Maria Tani writes to announce the Preliminaries stage of the 2021 (45th) World Championship.

This event will be played in sections of 13 players (or 15/17 at the organisers' discretion), with entries closing on 2nd February and play commencing on 20th March 2021.

Entry must be made through National Delegates and each member federation is allowed to nominate entries. SCCA is entitled to 2 places in the 2021 cycle (includes Preliminaries and Semi-Finals).

If you are interested, please contact Gordon Anderson as soon as possible and before 31st January 2021.

- Preliminaries and semi-final for a 550-day event, with 75 days initial bank and 3 days increment for the first 50 moves.
- Final for a 700-day event, with 50 days initial bank and 5 days increment for the first 50 moves, and conditional moves will be permitted.

All games will be rated with title norms possible.

DE15A is open to all players who are eligible to enter tournaments via the Direct Entry Programme.

Players must enter via the ICCF Direct Entry system ONLY (Click on 'New events' then 'Jubilee Tournaments'). No entries may be made through national federations. The entry fee by Direct Entry will be €14.04.

Although the number of preliminary groups which each player may enter is unlimited, no player will qualify for more than two semi-final groups or more than one place in the final.

The closing date for all entries is 5th March 2021. Pairings will be issued as soon as possible after that date.

ICCF DE 15th Webserver Anniversary Tournament (DE15A)



The ICCF Congress in 2020 decided that following the incredible popularity of DE5A and DE10A, DE15A would be held to celebrate 15 years since the start of the Direct Entry Programme.

Working in collaboration with ICCF, the Non-Title Tournament Commissioner, IM Jörg Kracht, IA (GER), will organise the DE15A.

The first stage of DE15A will start on 5th April 2021, the 15th anniversary of the Direct Entry Programme.

The event will be organised in three stages, which will allow several players from each group stage to advance to the semi-finals and final. The number of promotions will depend on the total entries received.

Preliminary groups will likely comprise either 9 players (8 games), or 11 players (10 games), or 13 players (12 games), depending upon the number of entries received.

All games will be played by webserver with triple block system:

SCCA Website Archives and Downloads



Grader Alistair Maxwell continues to look for Scottish Correspondence Championship Games that are not currently listed on the website (you can locate what's there by following the link <https://www.scottishcca.co.uk/scotgames.html>). The earliest complete Championship is 1988-90 and Alistair would like to compile previous years.

Alistair has also been busy scanning copies of the SCCA magazine which pre-date the first online edition (issue 73 in Spring 2001). He's almost completed that task (and may have done so by the time we publish this edition) – see: <https://www.scottishcca.co.uk/members.html> (note that you'll need your SCCA member name and password if you want to download anything).

Anyone who has archive material which would enhance the website, please contact 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!

SCCA Annual Best Game Prize



The SCCA Best Game Prize will once again operate this year, covering games completed during 2020. The trophy (pictured above) will carry the inscription of its sponsor, Raymond BurrIDGE, i.e.

The R.J. BurrIDGE Trophy SCCA Best Game Prize 2020 (winner's name)

To recap on the rules:

- Entries are games which finish in calendar year 2020;
- Entries restricted to events organised by SCCA or ICCF;
- Only SCCA members can submit their games;
- Games may have been previously published;
- Submission period will close at the end of January 2021
- The Committee will appoint a judge (who cannot enter!);
- The winner will be announced by end-March 2021 and we'll feature the game in a subsequent magazine;
- The winner receives a trophy miniature and certificate.

We're just waiting to confirm this year's judge and we'll announce the winning entry by end-March.

Please send your games to Iain Mackintosh at president@scottishcca.co.uk – multiple entries are allowed – to reach him by end-January 2021.

Fernschach 2021 CC Database



Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2021 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 1,600,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 110,000 new games since 2020
- Approximately 10,000 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 €13.50 (shipping within Germany) and €15 (shipping elsewhere).

For further details, contact Herbert at:

Herbert Bellmann
Auf dem 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 2021

Your order must contain your complete postal address!

Email: hebel57@gmx.de

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

ICCF Updates



December 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.



2021/1 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

The first ICCF grading list of 2021 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 September 2020 and 30 November 2020. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 January and 31 March 2021.

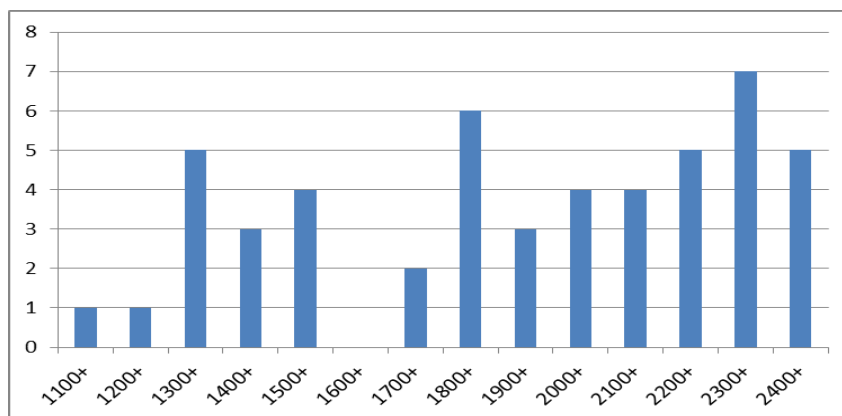
There were 3 new additions in this list – Benjamin Major, Theo van Stratum and Dietmar Wicht. Two players gained titles in the last grading period - Allan Buchan and Robert Montgomery, both CCE.

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 – Carlos Almarza Mato has crashed through the 1900 barrier, Martin Hardwick and Raymond Burrige are now over 1600. Andrew MacMillen (1400+), John Dunn (400+) and David Edney (300+) also reached new centuries. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Carlos Almarza Mato (100), Martin Hardwick (65), Raymond Burrige (43), Allan Buchan (35), Theo van Stratum (31), Benjamin Major and Dietmar Wicht (both 30).

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)	1959	2103 ↓	584	MacGregor, C A	449	1864 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	341	2349 ↔	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	788	2423 ↑
121	Anderson, J	302	1941 ↔	216	MacMillen, A N	1405	1584 ↑
313	Armstrong, J McK	453	1523 ↓		Major, B	30	1235
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	480	2476 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	817	1967 ↓
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	257	2426 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	258	2453 ↔
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	486	2380 ↑		Miles, A	66	1438 ↓
481	Beveridge, C (CCE)	582	2291 ↓	401	Moir, P J	205	1507 ↓
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	884	2382 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S (CCE)	318	2255 ↓
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096	2207 ↔	474	Murden, C (IM)	611	2453 ↑
486	Buchan, A W (CCE)	114	2267 ↑	564	Murray, J S	87	2012 ↓
602	Burrige, R J	1605	2083 ↓	440	Neil, C	342	1338 ↔
	Clark, S L	292	1836 ↓	453	Newton, A	30	1774 ↔
247	Cormack, W H	115	1894 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	184	1874 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1827	2311 ↓	604	Paine, Prof K A (SM)	228	2353 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	170	2192 ↔		Pettigrew, S	165	1375 ↓
478	Dunn, J	420	1557 ↑	432	Price, D	462	1878 ↔
371	Edney, D	306	1923 ↓	477	Sedstrem, A	106	1425 ↑
462	Gilbert, R	250	1710 ↑	439	Smith, M J	104	2152 ↑
596	Hardwick, M E	1663	1129 ↓	057	Sneddon, I (CCM)	366	2367 ↑
475	Kearns, A	113	1391 ↓	605	Taylor, W	136	2068 ↑
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	351	2238 ↔		van Stratum, T	31	1374
260	Knox, A	398	1404 ↔		Warren, J	36	2067 ↔
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	999	2323 ↔	480	Whittaker, I P	151	2138 ↑
	MacDonald, M	56	1389 ↔		Wicht, D	30	1898



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	50
New entrants	3
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	6
Full grades (30+ games)	50
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	14
Grading decreases (↓)	18
Grading static (↔)	15

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2476	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2238
Matheis, T (IM)	2453	Borwell, A P (IM)	2207
Murden, C (IM)	2453	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2192
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2426	Smith, M J	2152
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2423	Whittaker, I P	2138
Blake, M J (CCM)	2382	Almarza Mato, C	2103
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2380	Burridge, R J	2083
Sneddon, I (CCM)	2367	Taylor, W	2068
Paine, Prof K A (SM)	2353	Warren, J	2067
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2349	Murray, J S	2012
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2323	Marshall, I H	1967
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2311	Anderson, J	1941
Beveridge, C (CCE)	2291	Edney, D	1923
Buchan, A W (CCE)	2267	Wicht, D	1898
Montgomery, R S (CCE)	2255	Cormack, W H	1894

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	1959	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1827	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	999
Hardwick, M E	1663	Blake, M J (CCE)	884
Burridge, R J	1605	Marshall, I H	817
MacMillen, A N	1405	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	788

Selected Personal Best Grades 2021/1

	New	Previous		Gain
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2426	2422	2020/4	4
Blake, Michael J (CCM)	2382	2373	2020/2	9
Buchan, A W (CCE)	2267	2198	2020/4	69
Murden, C (IM)	2453	2450	2020/4	3
Smith, M J	2152	2124	2020/4	28
Sneddon, I (CCM)	2367	2363	2020/4	4

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), Paine, K A (1), Smith, M J (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.



The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

A Latvian CC Games Miscellany

This New Year contribution to your magazine begins with a well-known 1912 game by the 'Father of Latvian chess' Karlis Betins, and finishes in 1997 with one between two great chessfriends Viljams Strelis and Val Zemitis. I had so many excellent games to choose from, and regrettably had to leave out so many great players.

For your own research in the subject there are two Web sources not to miss:

The 2-volume Encyclopaedia of Latvian Chessplayers by Val Zemitis (both OTB and CC); and The Latvian Chess History Project by jessicafischerqueen via Chessgames.com



White: Betins, Karlis
Black: Nimzowitsch, Aron
Correspondence Match, 1912
Philidor Defence [C41]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 d6
3.d4 Nf6
4.Bc4 Nxe4
5.0-0 d5

This Nimzowitsch/Klein variation would return in a 1921 CC match game between Betins and Ilyin-Genevsky; 5...Be7 6.Qe2 d5 7.Nxe5 0-0 8.Bb3 Nc6 9.Rd1 Be6 10.c4 Re8 11.Ba4 Bf6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Bxc6 Ng3 14.hxg3 Bd7 15.Qf3 Bxc6 16.Nc3 Rb8 17.cxd5 Ba8 18.Rb1 Rb4 19.Be3 Qb8 20.Rd2 Qb6 21.Re2 Rd8 22.Bf4 Bxd4 23.Rbe1 Rf8 24.Re8 Qc5 25.R1e7 Black resigns.
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6.Nxe5 dxc4
7.Re1 Nc6
8.Nxc6 bxc6
9.Rxe4+ Be7
10.Bg5 Be6
11.Bxe7 Qxe7
12.c3 Rb8
12...0-0 13.Nd2 Qg5 was far more reasonable.
13.Na3 Rxb2
14.Nxc4 Rb5
15.a4 Rd5?
16.Ne3
Latvian knights occasionally move backwards!
16... Rd8
17.f4 g6
18.Qf3 0-0



19.f5 gxf5
20.Qg3+ Kh8
21.Qe5+ Kg8
22.Nxf5 Qg5
23.Rg4 Qxg4
24.Ne7#

1-0



White: Moscow
Black: Riga
2nd Match by Correspondence 1909
QGD - Tarrasch/Rubinstein [D33]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 d5
2.Nf3 e6
3.c4 c5
4.cxd5 exd5
5.Nc3 Nc6

6.g3 Nf6
7.Bg5
Forgetting to finish the fianchetto, when Black's same sequence might continue; 7.Bg2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.0-0 d4 11.Na4 0-0 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Nxb6 axb6 14.Qxd4±
7... cxd4
8.Nxd4 Bc5
9.Nxc6
Now 9.Nb3? gets 9...Bxf2+!
9... bxc6
10.e3 h6
11.Bxf6 Qxf6
12.Be2 Rb8
13.0-0 h5!
14.Rc1 Bd6
15.Qa4 Bd7
16.Rc2 Qg6
17.e4?
⊔17.Rd2 and if 17...h4 18.Bd3 Qf6 19.Qxa7∞
17... h4
18.Bf3 hxg3
19.fxg3



19... Rxh2!
20.Ne2 Bc5+
20...Rb4 was a very strong alternative.
21.Rxc5 Rxe2
22.Bxe2 Qxg3+
23.Kh1 Ke7
24.Bh5
There was some slight hope in 24.Rxd5 especially the line 24...Qh4+? (⊔24...Qh3+ 25.Kg1 cxd5 26.Qa3+ Qxa3 27.bxa3 dxe4+) 25.Kg1 cxd5? 26.Qa3+ Kd8 27.Rxf7±

24... Qh4+
 25.Kg1 Qg5+
 26.Kf2 Rxb2+
 27.Rc2 c5
 28.Rxb2 Bxa4
 29.Bf3

Moscow could have resigned here.

29... Qf6
 30.Rb7+ Kd6
 31.exd5 c4
 32.Re1 Qh4+
 33.Kf1 c3
 34.Re4 Qg3
 35.Rxf7 Bb5+

0-1



White: Estrin, Jakov
 Black: Zdanovs, Igors
 Correspondence 1958
 Grünfeld Defence [D89]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 g6
 3.Nc3 d5
 4.cxd5 Nxd5
 5.e4 Nxc3
 6.bxc3 Bg7
 7.Bc4 c5
 8.Ne2 0-0
 9.0-0 cxd4
 10.cxd4 Nc6
 11.Be3 Bg4
 12.f3 Na5
 13.Bd3 Be6



14.Rc1

A very beautiful example of the well-known exchange sacrifice line was seen in the IX Leningrad Championship 1988-89, Y Y Pinus v A V Basok going; 14.d5 Bxa1 15.Qxa1 f6 16.Qb1 Bd7 17.Qb4! b5 18.Bc5 Re8 19.Qd4 Qb8 20.Rb1 Nb7 21.Ba3 a6 22.Rc1 Kg7 23.f4 e5 24.dxe6 Bxe6 25.Bb2 Rf8 26.Rc6

Nd8 27.Rxe6! Nxe6 28.Qd7+ Rf7
 29.Qxe6 Qd8 30.Nd4 Qd7 31.e5 Kg8
 (31...f5 32.Nxf5+!+-; 31...Qxe6
 32.Nxe6+ Kg8 33.Bc2!±) 32.f5 Rd8
 33.Bc2 gxf5 34.Qxd7 Rfxd7
 35.Bb3+ Kh8 36.e6! Re7 (36...Rxd4
 37.e7!) 37.Nc6 1-0 Notes by N.

Poleshchuk in CCYB-4.

14... Bxa2
 15.d5 Bb3
 16.Qe1 Ba4
 17.Qb4 Bd7

Six moves already made by the bishop!

18.Rfd1 b6
 19.Ba6 Bc8
 20.Bxc8 Rxc8
 21.Rxc8 Qxc8
 22.Qxe7 Qc2!
 23.Re1 Nc4
 24.Bf2 Nb2

25.d6?
 25.Nd4
 25... Nd3
 26.Rf1 Qxe2
 27.d7 Nxf2

28.d8Q
 28.Rxf2 Qe1+ 29.Rf1 Bd4+ 30.Kh1
 Qxf1#



28...Nd3!

And a smothered mate is threatened.

29.h4 Rxd8

0-1



White: Feist, K

Black: Grava, Arnolds

Karls Betins Memorial, 1969

Latvian Gambit [C40]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 f5
 3.Nxe5 Qf6
 4.d4 d6
 5.Nc4 fxe4

6.Nc3 Qg6
 7.Bf4 Nf6
 8.Ne3 c6
 9.d5 Nh5
 10.Bg3 Nxc3
 11.hxc3 Be7
 12.Be2 0-0
 13.Bh5 Qf6
 14.0-0 g6
 15.Bg4 Bf5
 16.Bxf5 gxf5
 17.Qh5

After turning down a more favourable opportunity way back at move 12. ♞17.g4

17... Qg6
 18.Qxc6+ hxc6
 19.f4 Bf6



20.Ne2? Bxb2
 21.Rab1 Ba3
 22.Rxb7 Be5
 23.Kf2 cxd5
 24.Rh1 Rf7
 25.Rxf7 Kxf7
 26.Rh8 d4
 27.Nd5 d3+
 28.Ke1 dxe2
 29.Nc7



29... Nc6!
 30.Nxa8
 Safer was 30.Rxa8 Bb4+ 31.Kxe2
 Nd4+ 32.Kf2 Nxc2=
 30... Bb4+
 31.Kxe2 Nd4+

32.Ke3 Nxc2+
33.Ke2 d5



34.Rd8?

And White is lost. His best shot was 34.Rh7+ Ke6 35.Nc7+ Kd6 36.Ne8+! Ke6 (36...Kc5? 37.Rc7+ Kd4 (37...Kb5 38.Rxc2 d4 39.Nc7+ Ka4 40.Rc6 Ka3 41.Nb5+ Kb2 42.Nxd4+-) 38.Ng7 and Black is losing, mate being threatened.) 37.Nc7+ and draw by repetition.

34... d4
35.Nc7 d3+
36.Kd1 Ke7!
37.Rxd3 exd3
38.Nd5+ Kd6
39.Nxb4 Nxb4
40.Kd2 Kd5

Source: the monumental double-tome "Encyclopedia of Latvian Chessplayers" compiled by Val Zemitis.

0-1



White: Markauss, Juris

Black: Lanc, Alois

Šahs Magazine -25 1984–89
KID - Yugoslav Variation [E66]
[Notes by Juris Markauss]

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

Markauss - Wolny, XII Oly. Prelims 1992–94 had a move not to be missed; 6.0–0 c5 7.d5 Na6 8.Nc3 Nc7 9.a4 e5 10.e4 Ng4 11.h3 (11.Ne1!?) 11...Nh6 12.Be3 f5 13.Qd2 Nf7 14.Ng5! (14.Rad1) 14...Bd7 15.Nxf7 Rxf7 16.f4 b6 17.Rae1 a6 18.exf5 gxf5 19.fx5 Bxe5 20.Bf4 Bd4+?! 21.Kh2 Qf8

22.Bf3! Ne8 23.Re6 Rb8 24.Rfe1 Bxe6 25.dxe6 Ra7 26.Nd5 b5 27.Bh6 Bg7 28.e7 Qf7 29.Nb4!! A backwards knight sacrifice! 29...Rxe7 (29...Bxh6 30.Qxh6 Qg7 31.Bd5+ Kh8 32.Qxg7+ Kxg7 33.Nc6+-) 30.Bd5 Rxe1 31.Bxf7+ Kxf7 32.Qxe1 bxc4 33.Bxg7 1–0 Notes by Markauss.

6... c5
7.0-0 Ne6
8.d5 Na5
9.Nd2 e5
10.e4 Ng4
11.h3 Nh6
12.b3 f5
13.exf5 gxf5
14.Bb2 a6
15.Qc2 b6
15...Rb8 16.Rae1 b5 17.Nd1 f4 18.g4 Nf7 19.Bc3 b4 20.Bb2 Ng5 21.f3 Bd7 22.Nf2 Nb7 23.Nfe4∞ Markauss - Korolev, CC 1983/85

16.a3 Bd7
17.Ne2 Qe7
18.f4 e4
19.Rab1 Nb7
20.Rfe1 Rf7
21.Nf1 Bf6
22.Ne3 Rg7



Juris Markauss



23.Bxf6 Qxf6
24.Kf2 Nf7
25.Qc3 Qe7
25...Qxc3 26.Nxc3 b5 27.g4 fxg4 28.hxg4 Bxg4 29.Nxe4±
26.Bf1

26.Ng1!? h5 27.h4! Markauss
26... h5
27.Ng2 Kh7
28.Ng1 Rag8
29.Re3 Qd8
29...Nh6!? 30.Be2 Be8 Markauss
30.Be2 Kh6
31.h4! Kg6
32.Nh3 Nh6
33.Ng5 Re7?!



And White plays the "impossible" pawnshove!

33...Qe7?! Markauss
34.g4!! Nxc4+
35.Bxc4 fxg4
35...hxg4 36.h5+! Kxh5 37.Qf6 and mate is forced.
36.f5+! Bxf5
36...Kxf5 37.Kg3! Rxc5 38.Rf1+ Kg6 39.Rf6+ Kh7 40.hxg5 Rg7 41.Kh4 Kg8 42.Nf4+–
37.Nf4+ Kh6
38.Qf6+ Bg6
39.Rxe4 Rd7
40.Re6 Qxf6
41.Rxf6 Re7



42.b4!
42.b4 cxb4 43.Rxb4 Nc5 44.Rxd6 Ne4+ 45.Nxe4 Rxe4 46.c5! Rxb4 47.axb4 bxc5 48.bxc5 a5 49.Nxc6 Rxc6 50.Rxc6+ Kxc6 51.c6+– Markauss.

1-0



White: Saksis, Juris
Black: Viksna, Talis
 XVI Latvian CC Championship
 1989-90
 Petrov, Cochrane Gambit [C42]
[Notes by John E Hawkes after Strelis]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nf6
3.Nxe5 d6
4.Nxf7 Kxf7
5.d4 g6
6.Nc3 Bg7
 6...Qe8 7.Bc4+ Be6 8.d5 Bd7 9.0-0
 b5 was played in Strelis - Isaksson,
 CC 1986-88.; Vitolins - Kveinis,
 Jurmala, 1981 went; 6...Kg7 7.f4
 Qe8 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Bb4 10.a3
 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Nc6 12.Be2 Nxe5
(12...Nd5 13.Qd2 Rf8) 13.dxe5
 Qxe5 14.0-0 and 14...Re8 would
 leave Black with the better game.
7.Bc4+ Be6
8.Bxe6+ Kxe6
9.f4 Kf7
10.e5



10... Nc6
11.0-0
 11.exf6 Re8+; 11.d5 Nxe5 12.fxe5
 dxe5 13.0-0 Kg8 14.Qe2 Qd6
 15.Bg5 Rf8± (15...Nxd5 16.Qf3± Nf4
 17.Qxb7±)
11... dxe5
 11...Ne8 12.d5 Ne7 13.e6+ Kg8±
12.fxe5 Qxd4+
13.Qxd4 Nxd4
14.exf6 Bf8
15.Bd2 Bc5
16.Kh1
 16.Ne4 Nf3+ 17.Kh1 Nxd2 18.Nxd2
 Rhe8 19.Nb3 Bd6=
16... Rhe8
17.Nd5



17... Re2
18.Rad1 Rd8
19.Nf4
 19.Nxc7 Rd7
19... Ree8
20.Bc1 Nxc2
21.Rxd8 Rxd8
22.Nh3 Be3!
23.Bxe3 Nxe3
24.Ng5+ Ke8



25.f7+ Ke7
26.Ne6 Nxf1
 26...Rf8 27.Nxf8 Nxf1 28.Ne6 Kxf7
 29.Nd8+ Kf6 30.Nxb7 Ne3=
27.Nxd8 Ne3
28.Kg1
 28.Nxb7 Kxf7 29.Nd8+ Kf6 30.Nc6
 a6=; 28.Ne6 Kxf7 29.Nd8+ Kf6
 30.Nxb7 Ke5=
28... b6
29.Ne6 Kxf7
30.Nxc7 Kf6
31.b3 Ke5
32.Kf2 Nd1+
33.Kf3 Nc3
34.a4 Kd6
 A longer line is; 34...Ne4 35.Nb5 a6
 36.Nc7 Nc5 37.Ke3 Kd6 38.Ne8+
 Kc6 39.Nf6 h5 40.Kf4 Nxb3 41.Kg5
 Nc5 42.Kxg6 h4±
35.Na6



White's knight is uncomfortably
 offside and apparently vulnerable -
 but it's a draw even after the good try
 35...Na2

½-½



White: Siutskov, Yuri
Black: Shadurskis, Peteris
 Pushkin Tournament 1989-90
 Nimzoindian - Noa Variation [E35]
[Notes by John E Hawkes after Baltic Chess]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.Qc2 d5
 Whilst penning these notes during
 lockdown II in 2020 I just happened
 to flick through Tim Harding's Chess
 Mail 6/97 and noticed a page corner I
 long ago turned down as a reminder.
 The game indicated was Tiens van
 Greuning v Iain Smuts in a South
 African CC event ca.1992 - so here it
 is; 4...c5 5.dxc5 0-0 6.Bf4 Na6 7.e3
 Bxc5?! 8.Nf3 d6 9.a3 Nh5 10.Bg3
 Nxc3 11.hxc3 h6 12.0-0-0 Bd7
 13.g4 Bc6 14.Be2 Rc8 15.g5 h5
 16.Qh7+! Black resigns. 16...Kxh7
 17.Rxh5+ Kg8 (17...Kg6 18.Nh4#)
 18.Rdh1 f5 19.g6 and mate to come.
5.cxd5 exd5
6.Bg5 h6
7.Bxf6 Qxf6
8.a3 Bxc3+
9.Qxc3 0-0
10.e3 c6
11.Nf3 Re8
12.Be2 Nd7
13.0-0





- 13... Qd6!
 14.b4 Nf6
 15.Rfc1 Ne4
 16.Qc2 Bf5
 17.Bd3 a6
 18.Ne1 Qg6
 19.a4

The classic minority attack.

- 19... Re6
 20.b5 axb5
 21.axb5 Rc8
 22.Ra7 b6
 23.Qa4?

Wrong square with the Q. \triangleleft 23.Nf3

- 23... Nxf2!

- 24.Kxf2

24.Bxf5 Qxf5 25.Nf3 Nh3+ is very strong. e.g. 26.gxh3 Qxf3 27.Qc2 f5 28.Ra2 Rg6+ game over.

- 24... Bxd3

- 25.Ra8



25.Nxd3 Qxd3 26.Qa3 Qd2+ 27.Kg1 Rxe3+

- 25... Qg5!

Sacrificing the rook - and allowing check!

- 26.Rxc8+ Kh7

- 27.Nc2

27.g3 Qxe3+ 28.Kg2 Qe2+ 29.Kh3 Bf5+ 30.Kh4 g5#

- 27... Rf6+

27...Rf6+ and if 28.Ke1 Qxg2 and mate to follow.

0-1



Nikolajs Katishonoks

White: Pitkäranta, Tauno
 Black: Katishonoks, Nikolajs
 VI Baltic Sea Team Tournament
 1992-94

Catalan/Tarrasch [E17]

[Notes by John E Hawkes after Katishonoks]

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1.c4 | e6 |
| 2.Nc3 | c5 |
| 3.Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 4.g3 | b6 |
| 5.Bg2 | Bb7 |
| 6.0-0 | Be7 |
| 7.Re1 | d5 |
| 8.d4 | 0-0 |
| 9.exd5 | exd5 |
| 10.dxc5 | bxc5 |
| 11.e3 | Na6 |
- Equality according to K.
- | | |
|--------|------|
| 12.b3 | Qd7 |
| 13.Bb2 | Rfd8 |
| 14.Rc1 | h6! |
| 15.Ne5 | Qe6 |



- 16.Qe2! Nb4

16...Qxe5 17.Nxd5! Qxd5 18.Bxd5 Nxd5 19.Red1± at least.

- 17.a3

If 17.Red1 then 17...Ba6 would refute White's impertinent en-prise N

on e5; 18.Qe1 Qxe5 19.Nxd5 Qxb2 20.Nxe7+ Kf8 21.Bxa8 Rxa8

22.Rxc5 Nd3—

- 17... Nc6

- 18.Nxc6 Bxc6

- 19.Nb1 Rab8

- 20.Qc2!

The re-developing 20.Nd2 would be met by 20...Ne4!

- 20... Rb6

- 21.Nd2 Ne4!

- 22.Bxe4 dxe4

- 23.Nc4 Ra6

This works out surprisingly well.

- 24.Red1 Bd5

- 25.Rd2



- 25... h5!

Beginning a fantastic attack on the White king.

- 26.Rcd1 h4

- 27.Na5

A second N goes en-prise!

27.Be5 was a decent option.

- 27... Rd7

- 28.Qc3 f6

- 29.a4 h3

- 30.Ba3 Qg4!

An important finesse. 30...Qf5

31.Kf1 Qf3 32.Rxd5 Qh1+ and a perpetual check - only a draw.

- 31.Kf1



31.Rxd5?? and White gets mated by 31...Qxd1+! 32.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 33.Qe1 Rxe1#!; 31.Bxc5? Qf3 32.Kf1 Be6!

and mate can only be avoided by the too-costly 33.Qc4

We have reached the denouement stage - carried out with admirable precision by Black.

31... Rad6!
32.Nc4 Qf3
33.Nxd6 Bxd6!

Demolition man enters the fray! And that's not the White-squared bishop; 33...Be6? 34.Nf5! Bxf5 35.Qc4+ Kf8 36.Ke1 and White survives.

34.Rxd5 Bxg3
35.Qe1 Bxh2!!
36.Rxd7 Bd6!!

Two consecutive double exclamation marks are amply justified.

0-1



White: Rinkis, Uldis

Black: Rydholm, Lennart

Karlis Betins Memorial 1993-94,
KID - Sämisch Variation [E88]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6
5.f3 0-0
6.Be3 e5
7.d5 c6
8.Qd2 cxd5
9.cxd5 a6
10.Bd3



10... Nh5
10...Nbd7 11.Nge2 Ne8 12.g4 b5
13.Ng3 Nc5 14.Bc2 b4 15.Na4 Qa5
16.a3! and Black found his Q-side
intentions thwarted: Akopov -
Yarmolik, XVII USSR Corr.
Championship [1-0 in 35 moves]

11.Nge2 f5
12.exf5 gxf5
13.0-0 Qe8!?

13...Nd7 14.Bxf5 Rxf5 15.g4±

14.Kh1

Uldis Rinkis v Scotland's George
Pyrich in the same event went; 14.a4
Nd7 15.a5 Ndf6 16.Na4 e4 17.Bc2
Kh8 18.Nb6 Rb8 19.Nf4 Bd7
20.Nxd7 Qxd7 21.Ne6 Rf7 22.Ba4
Qe7 23.Bg5 b5 24.axb6 Qb7 25.Bc6
Qxb6+ 26.Be3 Qxb2 27.Qxb2 Rxb2
28.Rxa6 exf3 29.Ra8+ Ng8 30.Be8
Rxc2+ 31.Kh1 Be5 32.Bg1

[Remember the move!] 32...Rfg7
33.Nxg7 Nf4 34.Rxf3 Kxg7 35.Bf2
Rg5 36.Ra7+ Kh8 37.Be3 Rg4 38.h3
Rh4 39.Bxf4 Rxf4 40.Rxf4 Bxf4
41.Bd7 Nh6 42.Be6 Be5 43.Kg2 Bd4
44.Rb7 Be5 45.Kf3 Bc3 46.Ke3 Be5
47.Kd3 Bg3 48.Rd7 Bh2 49.Kc4 Be5
50.Kd3 Bh2 51.Ke3 Be5 52.Kf3 Bh2
53.Rb7 Be5 54.Rc7 Bh2 55.Rc2 Be5
56.Rg2 Bf6 57.Kf4 1-0 Terrific

resistance from George.

14... Nd7
15.g4 e4
16.gxh5 exd3
17.h6! Bf6
17...dxe2? 18.Rg1±
18.Qxd3 Ne5
19.Qc2 Bd7



20.Rae1

A new move at the time.

20... Kh8
21.Nf4 Rc8
22.Qd1 Qf7
23.Ne6! Bxe6?!
24.dxe6 Qxe6
25.Nd5 Qf7
26.Nxf6 Qxf6
27.f4 Nc6
28.Qd5 Nb4
29.Qd2 Nc2



29...Nc6 30.Rc1 Qxh6 31.Rg1±;
29...Rc2 30.Bd4! (30.Qxb4??
Rxb2+! and Black wins.) 30...Rxd2
31.Bxf6+ Kg8 32.Bc3±

30.Bg1!

Here it is - a strange attacking move.

30... Rc7
30...Qf7 31.Qxc2 Rxc2 32.Bd4+ Kg8
33.Rg1+ Qg6 34.Rxg6+ hxg6 35.Re7
Rf7 36.Rxf7 Kxf7 37.h7 Rc8 38.h8Q
Rxh8 39.Bxh8+- Rinkis
31.Rc1 Rfc8
32.Rfe1! Kg8
33.Qd5+ Qf7
34.Re6 Rc6
34...Re7 35.Qg2+



35.Rxc2!! Rxc2
36.Rg6+ hxg6
36...Kf8 37.Qxd6+
37.h7+

1-0



White: Strelis, Viljams

Black: Zemitis, Val

Correspondence 1997

Latvian Gambit [C40]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 f5
3.Nc3 fx4

4.Nxe5 Nf6
5.Ng4 Nh5



6.Bc4
6.d3! d5?! was a game Kozlov - Melchor in the Pavels Atars Memorial 1988 and pointed out by Tim Harding in his Latvian Gambit article in Chess Mail 5/1999; 7.dxe4 dxe4 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Ne5 Be6 10.Nxe4 Nd7 11.Nxd7 Kxd7 12.Be2 Bf5 13.Ng5 Re8 14.Be3 Bg6 15.0-

0-0+ and a win for White in 50 moves.

6... Nf4
7.g3 d5
8.Bb3 Ng2+
9.Kf1 h5



10.h3?
10.Ne5! would have prevented Black having all the fun; 10...Bh3 (10...Bd6 11.Nf7! Kxf7 12.Bxd5+ Kf8 13.Bxe4 Nh4 14.gxh4 Bg4 15.f3 Bh3+

16.Ke2+--) 11.Kg1 c6 12.Nxe4! and if 12...Nd7 13.Ng6±

10... hgx4
11.Kxg2
11.Bxd5 gxh3 12.Bxe4 would last longer.

11... gxh3+
12.Kh2 Qf6
13.Rf1 c6

Now it's a clear --+

14.d3 exd3
15.cxd3 Be7
16.d4 Bf5
17.Re1 Bg4
18.Qc2 Qf3
19.Rg1 Nd7
20.Be3 Bh5
21.Rae1 Nf6
22.Bg5 Ng4+
23.Kxh3 Bg6+
24.Bh4 Rxx4#

0-1



Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 19

White: Gorski, Jan
Black: Gebuhr, Günter
Baltic Sea Team Tournament IV,
1982

Nimzoindian Dutch variation [E43]
[Notes by John E Hawkes after
Gebuhr]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.e3 b6
5.Bd3 Bb7
6.Nf3 Ne4
7.0-0 f5
8.d5

8.Ne5 is a rare continuation well worth noting; 8...0-0 (8...d6? 9.Bxe4 fxe4 10.Qh5+ of course.) 9.Nxe4 fxe4 10.Bc2 d6 11.a3 Ba5 12.Qg4 Rf5 13.Bxe4 h5 14.Qxf5! - Veresov
8... Nxc3
9.bxc3 Bxc3
10.Rb1 Na6
10...Bf6 11.e4! was considered "rather dismal" by Black, based on 11...0-0 12.Re1 exd5 13.exd5 g6 14.Bh6 Bg7 15.Qd2 Na6 16.Bg5 Gligoric - Hecht, Belgrade 1969, and won by White.

11.Qc2 Ba5!
12.Ba3

12.e4 Nb4 13.Rxb4 Bxb4 is a dubious exchange offer - Gebuhr.

12... Qf6
13.Nd4 0-0-0



14.c5
Tempting, but 14.dxe6 or 14.Bb2 should have been played - Gebuhr

14... Nxc5
15.Bxc5 bxc5
16.Qxc5 Bb6
17.Qb4

Hoping Black would snap up the second pawn.

17... f4!
18.Nb5 fxe3
19.Nxa7+ Kb8



20.d6 exf2+
21.Kh1 Qf3!

The only move - a beautiful one, combining both attack and defence. 21...Kxa7? 22.dxc7 and White wins.

22.dxc7+ Ka8
23.cxd8Q+ Rxd8
24.Rg1
24.Nc6 Bxc6 25.Be4 (25.Qa3+ Ba7) 25...Bxe4 26.Rxf2 Qxf2 27.Qxe4+ Kb8--

24... fxg1Q+
25.Rxg1 Qf2

0-1





Managing 48 Games in the 2019/20 Season Part 3: final report

By Peter Bennett

In the first article (Part 1) I focussed on the logistical exercise of managing a large number of games, while simultaneously ensuring a steady stream of results. By 31 March 2020, when Part 1 went to press, I had reduced my games tally to 25.

The second article (Part 2) covered the period up to 30 June 2020, by which time I had only 10 games, of the original 48, still in progress. All the additional results had been draws, still leaving a lot of uncertainty about whether my 48-game season had been a success or not.

At the time of writing – 1 January 2021 – I now have only one game still in progress, which will probably, and eventually, be drawn. For the purposes of this final report, I assume that it will be.

I scored “minus one” in the latest batch of results: P9 W1 D6 L2. This was more or less exactly as expected.

At least two of my SCCA contemporaries predicted that my (2019-20) 48-game season would have a detrimental effect on my playing standard. So the main evaluative question is: did it?

I should reiterate first that the challenge was not just about numbers, it was also about the strength of my opponents. The average grading of my 48 opponents was well over 2300; and 14 of them were graded 2400+, all in international events.

Many players regularly take on far more than 48 games; but most of their larger tallies include a lot of domestic events and open-entry tournaments. 38 of my 48 starts had been restricted entry.

Why did I lose two games?

A key evaluative issue is lost games. Did I lose games which I might have saved, if I had been playing fewer games?

With the first of my two losses, this question is easy to answer. During my busy season I had 47 new starts; and the 48th game was a “hangover” from the previous 2018/19 season. This was the first game that I lost.

At what stage of that game did I make the vital mistake that ultimately led to the loss? The answer is, in about June 2019, before the first of my other 47 games had even started; and at a time when I had no more than seven games in progress.

The reason it took so long for my opponent to develop and convert his advantage was essentially because he was a chronically slow player. He actually used over 290 days of

“reflection time” in the course of winning that game (more than double the most I have ever used when winning a game on the webserver). So my heavy games load in the latter part of that game had almost nothing to do with why I lost it.

My evaluation of the second loss is less clear. The main reason I lost the game was that I was experimenting with a defence I had never tried before. My opponent appeared to go “out of book” on move 10; so I then played with the same approach I might have taken to any other game that was “out of book”.

What I failed to spot was that the game transposed back into a different book line four moves later. Had I been more familiar with the opening, I probably wouldn’t have been so easily caught out by this transposition.

The pursuit of title norms

In three of the four tournaments I entered during my busy season there was a chance to get a second IM norm. In two events I missed the norm by one point. In the third it seems probable that I shall miss the norm by 0.5.

Might I have stood a better chance, with fewer tournaments? My gut feeling is “no”. I can think of very few games this last season where I felt I “missed” a win.

The effect on my ICCF rating

From the summer of 2019, just before the season started, to the spring of 2021 (by which time my final game should have ended), my “live” grading improved from 2363 to a predicted 2371, eight points higher. To what is this increase attributable?

Well, clearly 48 games did not help my grading improve. The main factor, I believe, is that, exceptionally in 2019/20, I was playing in 3 restricted-entry category 4 tournaments and only one open-entry event.

In a more typical season, I would have been playing in 2 category 4 events, and 2 open-entry tournaments; and my grading would not have risen.

To make progress in the world of CC – just as in OTB – you have to avoid playing against much lower-graded players. It is as simple as that. Whether that is a good thing or not is highly questionable; but that is how it is done!

In this busy season, I failed to achieve most of my targets. The only one I did manage was my highest-ever grading – 2382 – not too bad, at the age of 74! From now on, unfortunately, I suspect it will be all downhill.



Chess Art

By Iain Mackintosh
and John Hawkes

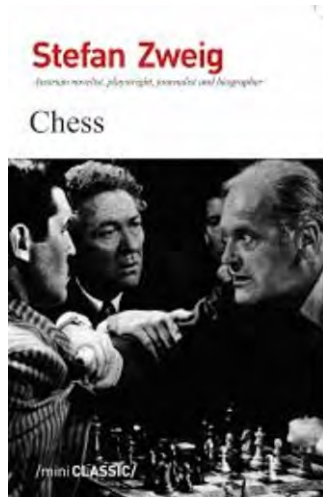
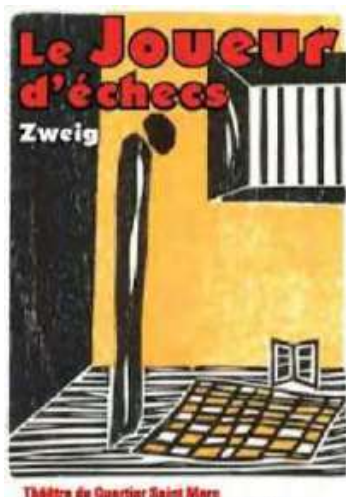
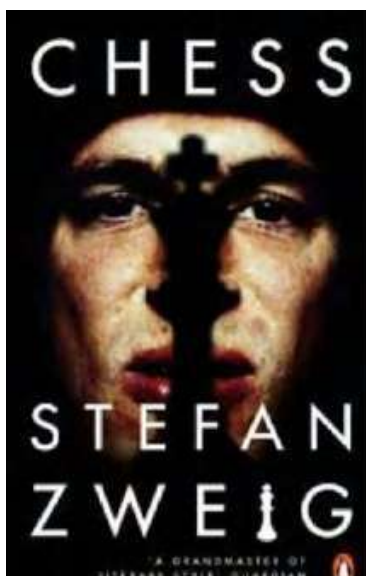
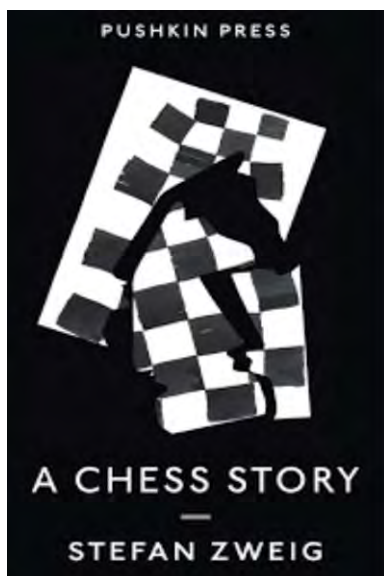
Stefan Zweig

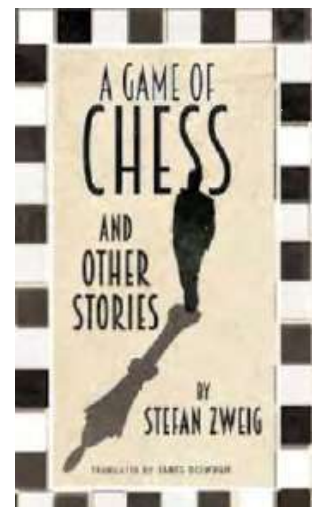
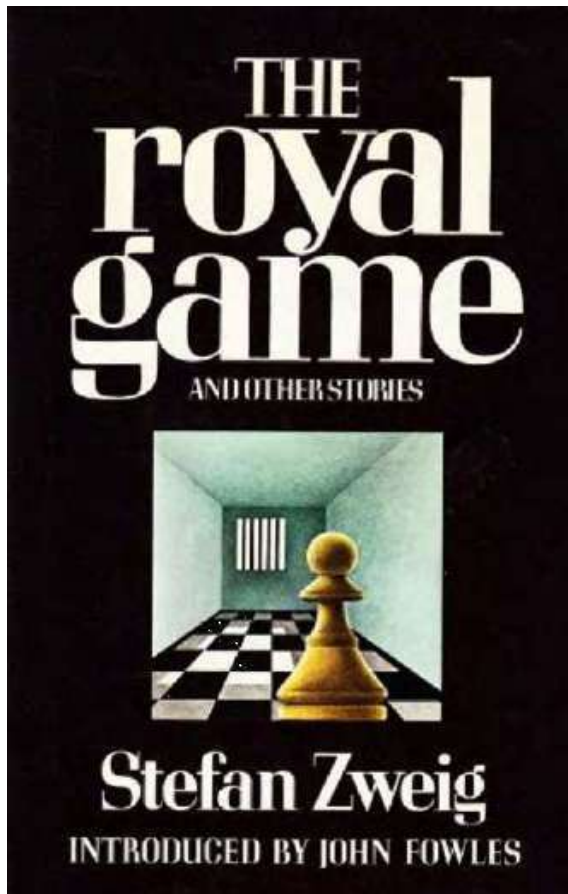
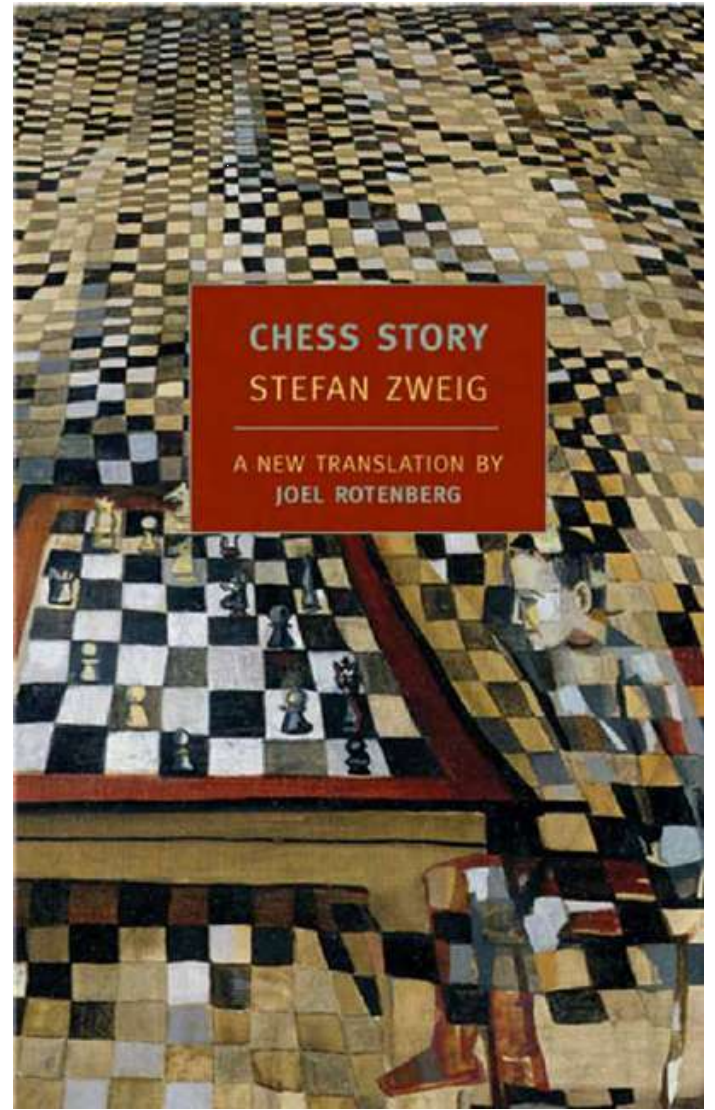


(November 1881 – 22 February 1942) was an Austrian novelist, playwright, journalist and biographer. At the height of his literary career, in the 1920s and 1930s, he was one of the most widely translated and most popular writers in the world.

Zweig was raised in Vienna, Austria-Hungary. He wrote historical studies of famous literary figures, such as Honoré de Balzac, Charles Dickens, and Fyodor Dostoevsky. He wrote biographies of Joseph Fouché (1929), Mary Stuart (1935) and Marie Antoinette (1932), among others. Zweig's best-known fiction includes Letter from an Unknown Woman (1922), Amok (1922), Fear (1925), Confusion of Feelings (1927), Twenty-Four Hours in the Life of a Woman (1927), the psychological novel Ungeduld des Herzens (Beware of Pity, 1939), and The Royal Game (1941).

In 1934, as a result of the Nazi Party's rise in Germany, Zweig emigrated to England and then, in 1940, moved briefly to New York and then to Brazil, where he settled. In his final years, he would declare himself in love with the country, writing about it the book Brazil, Land of the Future. Nonetheless, as the years passed Zweig became increasingly disillusioned and despairing at the future of Europe, and he and his wife Lotte were found dead of a barbiturate overdose in their house in Petrópolis on February 23, 1942. His work has been the basis for several film adaptations. Zweig's memoir, Die Welt von Gestern (The World of Yesterday, 1942), is noted for its description of life during the waning years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire under Franz Joseph I and has been called the most famous book on the Habsburg Empire. A selection of chess-themed book covers follows:





Further Stefan Zweig references:

<https://www.chesshistory.com/winter/winter96.html>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/KWxqmSmAr1GjEUKJA>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/TmQbBmKzWHFf3CXC7>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/rga6ohYLEC52xh7ZA>

<https://onartandaesthetics.com/2017/09/25/genius-obsession-suspense-stefan-zweigs-spectacular-chess-story-1941/>

<https://www.behance.net/gallery/8367241/Chess-Story>



A Knight's Tour Celebrating SCCA Magazine 152

By Awani Kumar

[Editor's Note: we welcome Awani Kumar to our magazine! Awani lives in Lucknow, India, and has devised a Knight's Tour which has the same number of moves as this edition of the magazine.]

I am pleased to write for the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association magazine 152. Let us celebrate edition 152 with an interesting tour of a knight on an 8x19 (=152) cell board.

The knight is a curious piece, having a weird-looking move which has not changed since the inception of chess around the 5th Century.

The Knight's Tour is a fascinating puzzle over a millennium old. Here, the challenge is to move a knight on an empty board in such a way that it covers all the cells in successive moves, without visiting any cell twice. There are zillions of

knight's tours on an 8x19 board, but tours having magic properties are rare, thus more fascinating.

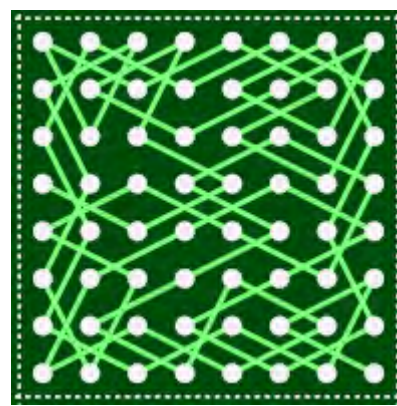
Figure 1 is a semi-magic Knight's Tour. Readers can check that all the consecutive numbers from 1 to 152 are knight's moves, and the sum of all the 19 columns is 612.

Since it is an 'even by odd' size board, the number of light and dark cells in the rows are unequal. Therefore, all the 8 rows will have odd and even sum alternately and can't have a magic constant.

Eagle eyed readers will also spot that it is a closed (or re-entrant) tour, which means that the start and end cells of the tour are connected by a knight's move. In general, it is more challenging to get a 'closed' tour and readers may like to compose more such semi-magic tours.

Figure 1

65	16	87	138	67	14	85	12	69	10	83	8	71	6	81	4	79	152	75
88	137	66	15	86	139	68	141	84	143	70	145	82	147	72	149	76	3	78
17	64	135	90	19	62	13	92	11	60	9	94	7	58	5	80	1	74	151
136	89	18	63	134	91	140	61	142	93	144	59	146	95	148	73	150	77	2
125	26	129	30	131	20	133	34	117	38	41	96	57	98	49	108	53	102	47
128	29	126	23	122	33	120	37	40	35	114	111	42	109	54	103	48	107	52
25	124	27	130	31	132	21	116	113	118	39	56	97	44	99	50	105	46	101
28	127	24	123	22	121	32	119	36	115	112	43	110	55	104	45	100	51	106
612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612	612



'Knight's Tour' by US artist Man Ray, 1944. Man Ray was also a designer of chess sets. Visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/caroluschess/famous-people/artists/man-ray>

A number of web articles can provide further information, e.g. Joe Leslie-Hurd on 'Large Knight's Tours' at: <http://www.gilith.com/chess/knights/>



Chess Problems for the Winter Fireside: a further selection from my “wonderland” experience answers to the editor: president@scottishcca.co.uk

By Peter Bennett

Yet another coronavirus “lockdown” is upon us; but correspondence chess has the huge advantage of being a hobby we can pursue without ever going out of the house.

So why not curl up by the fireside and test the “little grey cells” beloved of Hercule Poirot with a few more chess problems? There is even an “honesty prize” on offer. The competition is open to anyone with a current ICCF grading of less than 2300 (“stars barred” this time).

The prize will be a half bottle of single malt in a presentation box, for the first correct solution to all three of the problem positions in this article to be emailed to the Editor.

Your entry must be accompanied by a declaration that you have not used an engine. In any case, a thoughtful chess player could certainly see the solution to all three problems, by merely studying the diagrams. Even so, it is absolutely permissible to get out your real chess set, set the positions up, and push wood, to check the forward lines. In no case are you being asked to look more than four moves ahead. Good luck!

These problems aren’t as neat as the ones you find in newspapers which are sometimes called, “taken from a variation in the game Smith v Jones....” All the positions given here were actually reached in recent CC games on the “frozen rooks” website referred to in my lasr article.

As before I have given the full score of each game up to the problem position, merely to show how the positions arose. The games themselves are not particularly interesting in any other respect.

Problem Position 1

White: PGB

Black: Iceman 4

Irregular Philidor Defence

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f6 4.Bc4 Bg4 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 exd4 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Qxb7 f5



Problem question 1a:

White to play and force black’s resignation within three moves. What move should White now play?

Problem question 1b:

There are only two lines, so please give all three moves in both lines.

(Standard: Fairly Easy)

(Clue: the solution does not allow Black to take the e-pawn with check)

Problem Position 2

White: PGB

Black: Iceman 5

Sicilian Najdorf

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f4 Qc7 10.Nf3 Rc8 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Kb1 b5 13.Bd3 Be7 14.f5 Nb4 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 0-0 18.dxe6 Bxe6 19.Rde1 Bc4 20.Bf5 Rce8 21.b3 Rb8 22.Nd4 Rfe8



White has a winning advantage. He can set the win in motion now with 23.bxc4, accepting the material plus, just as he could have done on the previous move with 22.bxc4.

The problem with taking the bishop is that, after recapture with the b-pawn, the b-file is opened and the White king’s field is exposed to attack, thus allowing Black unnecessary counterplay.

Problem question 2:

What better move can White now play to launch a more decisive attack?

Only the first move is required, as there are too many variations in the ensuing play, although entrants are free to give their ideas for a maximum of four moves in one illustrative forward line.

(Standard: Very Difficult)

Problem Position 3

White: PGB

Black: Iceman 6

Dutch Defence

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.a3 Be7 5.Bf4 d6 6.e3 0-0 7.Nf3 Qe8 8.Be2 Nbd7 9.0-0 b6 10.Rc1 Bb7 11.b4 Ne4 12.Nb5 Bd8 13.c5 bxc5 14.dxc5 e5 15.c6 Bxc6 16.Rxc6 exf4 17.exf4 Kh8 18.Nxc7 Bxc7 19.Rxc7 Ndf6 20.Ba6 Qh5 21.Bb7 Rae8 22.Nd4 Ng4 23.h3 Nef6 24.hxg4 Nxg4 25.Nf3 Rf6 26.Qd4 Rg8 27.Bd5 Rh6



Black is threatening mate on h1.

Problem question 3a:

Can White avoid the mate on h1?

Problem question 3b:

If so, how can Black’s attack be nullified within a maximum of four moves?

(Standard: Difficult)

(Clue: if your analysis stretches beyond four moves, you are on the wrong track)



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	█	3	4	3	3.5	3	3	2	2.5	4	28	56	6	10	50	4	1
2	Canada	2407	3	█	3	2.5	3.5	2	2	2.5	2.5	3.5	24.5	52	2	6	47	7	2
3	Denmark	2406	2	3	█	3	2.5	3	2	2.5	2	4.5	24.5	51	1	5	48	6	3
4	Portugal	2358	3	2.5	3	█	2	2.5	2	2	2	3.5	22.5	52	2	4	43	11	4
5	Scotland	2382	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	█	2	2.5	2	1.5	4	21.5	50	0	2	43	11	5
6	Romania	2437	3	2	3	2.5	2	█	1.5	1	1.5	4	20.5	53	3	4	38	16	6
7	Argentina	2449	3	3	3	2	2.5	1.5	█	2	1.5	1.5	20	54	3	3	37	17	7
8	U.S.A.	2490	2	2.5	2.5	2	2	1	2	█	2	3	19	54	3	1	35	19	8
9	Spain	2458	2.5	2.5	1	2	2.5	1.5	1.5	2	█	1.5	17	51	1	0	33	21	9
10	Nicaragua	2152	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1	1	0.5	0	0.5	█	8.5	22	-21	0	38	16	10

Our team of IM Clive Murden, CCM Alan Bell, CCM David Cumming, CCM Peter Bennett, SM Kevin Paine and CCM Gordon Anderson remains in 5th place, though the chasing teams have more remaining games.

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	█	3.5	1.5	3	3	4	4	3	2.5	24.5	61	9	9	40	8	1
2	Slovakia	2249	2.5	█	2.5	2	2	3.5	3.5	2	5	23	62	9	6	37	11	2
3	Argentina	2171	1.5	2.5	█	1.5	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	4.5	19	59	6	2	32	16	3
4	Russia 1	2221	3	2	2.5	█	3	1.5	2	1.5	3	18.5	52	2	3	35	13	4
5	Germany 2	2242	2	2	1.5	2	█	2	3	1.5	4	18	54	3	3	33	15	5
6	Scotland	2145	2	1.5	1.5	2.5	2	█	1.5	2	4.5	17.5	46	-3	2	38	10	6
7	USA	2221	2	1.5	1.5	1	2	3.5	█	1.5	3	16	45	-3	3	35	13	7
8	Portugal	2151	2	1	1.5	2.5	1.5	3	1.5	█	2.5	15.5	51	1	1	30	18	8
9	South Africa	1854	0.5	0	0.5	2	0	0.5	1	0.5	█	5	14	-24	0	34	14	9

Our team of Colin Beveridge, Robert Montgomery, Raymond Burrige, Ian Whittaker, Wilf Taylor and David Edney is now in 6th place as the stronger-graded sides consolidate.

10th European Team Championship Final

In the 10th ETC Final, one game is still holding up 3rd place, so still no word of a start date for the 11th ETC Final.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Oct 2020	30	USA	Server	8	9		
Aug 2020	16	Venezuela	Server	4½	14½		
May 2020	10	England U1800	Server	7	11		loss
Mar 2020	20	Netherlands	Server	17	18		
Nov 2019	20	Cuba	Server	12	26		loss
Jun 2019	27	Sweden	Server/Postal	17	35		loss

Our server match against Sweden is now complete, but the postal game remains outstanding. We have lost to Cuba, with a couple of boards still in play. The Netherlands match is very tight and could go either way. England U1800 have pulled away to win that fixture. Venezuela has extended their lead in our best-of-three match. We started a new match against USA in October.

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	3.5	4	4	3	4	4.5	36.5	60	13	18	60	0	2
3	Italy 1	2187	3.5	2.5	3.5	3	3	3.5	3.5	5	3.5	3	34	56	8	15	60	0	3
4	Lithuania 1	2220	2	2.5	2.5	4	4	3.5	3.5	3	4	4	33	55	6	13	60	0	4
5	Brazil 1	2243	1.5	2.5	3	2	3	3	4	3.5	3	3.5	29	48	-2	10	60	0	5
6	Russia 2	2176	2	2.5	3	2	3	3	2.5	4	3.5	3.5	29	48	-2	9	60	0	6
7	Netherlands	2155	2	2	2.5	2.5	3	3	4.5	4	3	2.5	29	48	-2	7	60	0	7
8	Indonesia	2093	2	2	2.5	2.5	2	3.5	1.5	4	4	4	28	46	-4	8	60	0	8
9	Scotland	2117	2.5	3	1	3	2.5	2	2	2	4	3	25	41	-10	5	60	0	9
10	Romania 1	2118	2.5	2	2.5	2	3	2.5	3	2	2	3.5	25	41	-10	4	60	0	10
11	Germany 2	2007	2	1.5	3	2	2.5	2.5	3.5	2	3	2.5	24.5	40	-11	4	60	0	11

With all games finished, our team has moved up to 9th spot, pipping the Romanians.

George Pyrich Memorial Tournament (SCCA)

Only two sections remain in play. Scottish standings and section winners/leaders are:

Section 1	3-10=	Tom Matheis	6/12	Winner: GM Ruslan Tleptsov (RUS) 7/12
Section 2	3-4=	Clive Murden	6½/12	Winner: IM Luca Esposito (ITA) 7/12
Section 3	7-11=	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	Leaders Ottesen/Pheby/Cadillon Costa/Rawlings 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	9-10=	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) 11½/12
Section 14	12 th	Martin Hardwick	1/12	Winner: Richard Rozo (VEN) 11½/12

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		620345	SIM Mackintosh, Iain	2414		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	8½					6.5	2	35.5	1	1
2		159028	IM Ottesen, Søren Rud	2387	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	8½	7½				6.5	1	34.75	0	2
3		212902	Wharam, George	2385	½	½		½	½	½	1	½	½	.	½	½	8½	7½	6½	5	4½	6	1	32.75	1	3
4		212018	LGM Halliwell, Toni	2400	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8½	7½	7			6	0	32.5	0	4
5		212651	CCM James, Angus	2399	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8½	7½	7			6	0	32.5	0	4
6		210701	SIM Rhodes, John D.	2402	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	.	8½					5.5	0	30.75	1	6
7		940829	CCM Galytskyi, Volodymyr	2401	½	½	0	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	8½	7½	7			5.5	0	29.75	0	7
8		210745	SIM Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2394	0	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	8½					5.5	0	29.5	0	8
9		429125	IM Sławiński, Tomasz	2410	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	.	8½	7½				5	0	28.75	2	9
10		211541	CCM Catt, Peter	2395	½	½	.	½	½	½	½	½		½	.	½	8½	7½	7			5	0	27.75	2	10
11		429151	IM Szerlak, Andrzej	2406	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	8½	7½				5	0	26.5	0	11
12		210514	SIM Pheby, Ian M.	2422	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	.	½		8½					4.5	0	26.25	3	12
13		81532	GM Baumbach, Fritz	2421	.	½	½	½	½	.	½	½	.			8½						4	0	22.75	4	13

Iain Mackintosh has taken the lead in this event, though several outcomes are still possible.

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		620184	SIM Beecham, C. Richard	2476		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	9½					8.5	3	55.25	0	1	
2		920371	IM Samerdokas, Alfredas	2455	½		½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	9½	8½				8.5	3	54.75	0	2	
3		212704	SIM Rallabandi, Praveen Kumar	2459	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	9½					8	2	52	0	3	
4		920401	IM Korabliov, Aleksandr	2477	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	.	½	1	1	9½	8½				7.5	2	49.25	1	4	
5		511155	IM Ingersol, Harry	2490	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	9½	8½				7	1	47	0	5	
6		920383	IM Vekelis, Gintaras	2349	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	9½	8½				7	0	47	0	6	
7		690023	SIM Salcedo Mederos, Pablo	2380	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	9½					7	0	47	0	6	
8		910274	IM Mende, Ingus	2433	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	9½	8½				7	0	47	0	6	
9		920078	CCM Voveris, Gediminas	2415	0	0	½	½	½	½	½		1	½	½	½	½	9½	8½	7½			6.5	1	42	0	9	
10		920048	GM Dambrauskas, Virginijus	2457	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0		½	½	½	½	9½					6.5	0	44	0	10	
11		929021	IM Kurylo, Rišard	2344	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	9½	8½				6	0	39.25	0	11	
12		910321	IM Klimakovs, Sergejs	2446	½	½	½	.	1	½	½	½	½	½		.	.	9½	8½				5.5	1	39.5	4	12	
13		920418	CCM Voveris, Saulius	2405	0	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	9½	8½	7½			5.5	0	37.25	1	13	
14		920126	Mužas, Kestutis	2217	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	½		9½	8½	7½	5½	5	5.5	0	37	1	14	
15		929018	IM Rauduvė, Algirdas	2371	½	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	½	½	9½	8½				5	0	33.25	1	15	

Similarly, Richard Beecham now occupies top spot, but isn't yet guaranteed victory.



Games Column

games@scottishcca.co.uk

By Alastair Dawson

Richard Beecham has been one of Scotland's strongest correspondence players for many years now; witness his present rating of 2480.

Playing Richard is a bit like standing on the beach looking at a tsunami a mile or so offshore and trying to figure out what to do next. But in a game of chess you cannot run - instead you have to face, in Richard's case, a relentless onslaught of very powerful moves.

We feature below a remarkable chess engine game that Richard had kindly annotated for us. It is a game played a couple of years ago by Alpha Zero against Stockfish. Richard explains very clearly the formulation of plans in the game that were made by Alpha Zero.

He then shows us how he used the knowledge gained from Alpha Zero and its treatment of the Grünfeld Defence in a match he played recently in the 4th Argentine Cup against a very strong opponent.

White: Alpha Zero

Black: Stockfish

London Match, 2018

Exchange Grünfeld [D85]

[Notes by Richard Beecham]

About a year ago I bought the excellent book 'Game Changer' by Matthew Sadler (the English GM who won an individual Gold Medal at the 1996 Olympiad) and Natasha Regan, the English Women's IM. The book describes how the artificial intelligence system Alpha Zero thinks, its playing style and opening repertoire. It also presents a collection of lucidly explained chess games all against Stockfish over 415 pages. One of these games in particular I really enjoyed and I thought I would give this variation a try if someone played the Grünfeld against me. Let's take a look at Alpha Zero in action against Stockfish, this game played in London during 2018.

1.d4 **Nf6**
2.c4 **g6**
3.Nc3 **d5**

4.cxd5 **Nxd5**
5.Nf3 **Bg7**
6.e4 **Nxc3**
7.bxc3 **c5**
8.Be3 **Qa5**
9.Qd2 **Nc6**
10.Rb1 **a6**
11.Rc1 **cxd4**
12.cxd4 **Qxd2+**
13.Kxd2 **e6**

This 'endgame variation' is very popular: the statistics are that White has scored +19, -14 over 56 games against an average of an ELO 2478.

14.Bd3

In another game from this series

Alpha Zero played:

14.h4 h5 (a T.N. from Stockfish)
 15.e5 0-0 16.Rg1 Rd8 17.Bd3 Nb4
 18.Be4 Bd7 (18...Nxa2 19.Rb1 Bf8
 20.g4 looks deadly) 19.Bg5 Rdb8
 20.a3 Nd5 21.g4 The engine

evaluations at this point are interesting; but first something about the way that Alpha Zero works. Alpha Zero makes its evaluations by estimating its 'expected score' from a given position, wins counting as 1 and draws counting as 0.5. It expresses its evaluation between 0% and 100% so if it is 50% it could be a win or a loss or a draw! Anyway, at move 21. g4, Komodo and Stockfish give an evaluation of 0.01. Alpha Zero has an expected score of 79.6%, which is not far from a winning position.

14... **Bd7**
15.e5!



This looked odd to me; at first White loses control of d5 and f5 without being forced to! On the other hand, it reduces the power of Black's g7 bishop and creates a possible outpost

for the knight on f6 and d6. It also fixes the centre for a future attack on the flanks without having to worry about the centre.

15... **0-0**
16.Rb1 **b5**
17.hb1 **Ne7**

Trying to stop White's pawn advance comes at a price viz: 17...h6 18.h5 g5 19.Nxg5 hxg5 20.h6 Bh8 21.h7+ Kg7 22.Bxg5+- with the threat of 23.Bf6 and the not insignificant threat of 23.Bh6 mate!!

18.h5 **Bc6**
19.h6 **Bh8**
20.Ng5 **Bxg2**
21.Rhc1 **Bd5**

Threatening 22...f6, freeing Black's position.

22.Rc7 **Nf5**
23.Ne4



A stunning idea, protecting the 'h-pawn' and sacrificing another pawn all to keep the king 'in the box'.

23... **Rfc8**
24.Rbc1 **Rxc7**
25.Rxc7 **Bxa2**
26.Nc5 **Bd5**
27.Nd7

Note how the knight prevents ..f6 and also stops ..Kf8.

27... **Nxe3**
28.Nb6 **Rb8**
29.fxex3 **Re8**
30.Nd7 **Bf3**
31.e4 **Ra8**
32.Rb7 **Bg4**
33.Bb1 **Bh3**
34.Ke2 **g5**



Black's two passed pawns are going nowhere viz:

- 34...a5 35.Rxb5 a4 36.Rb7 a3 37.Ba2
35.Bd3 **Bg4+**
36.Ke3 **Bd1**
37.d5 **exd5**
38.exd5 **Re8**
39.Be4 **Bg4**
40.Nf6+ **Bxf6**
41.exf6 **b4**
42.d6 **b3**
43.Kd4 **Rd8**
44.Ke5 **Re8+**
45.Re7 **Rf8**
46.Bd5 **b2**
47.Rb7 **Re8+**
48.Kd4

1-0



White: Beecham, Richard (2480)
Black: Korogodski, Leonid (2352)
 4th Argentine Cup -75th Anniversary, 2020
 Exchange Grünfeld [D85]
[Notes by Richard Beecham]

Now to my game; played in the 4th Argentine Cup -75th Anniversary, Preliminary Round -group 31. My opponent, Leonid, sent greetings from Philadelphia, informing me that he is 54 years old, has 3 children, d writes science fiction and is a software developer.

- 1.d4** **Nf6**
2.c4 **g6**
3.Nc3 **d5**
4.cxd5 **Nxd5**
5.Nf3 **Bg7**
6.e4 **Nxc3**
7.bxc3 **c5**
8.Be3 **Qa5**



In the British Championship 2020/22, I am playing my good friend and railway enthusiast, Geoff Lloyd. He continued here with 8..Bg4, which was expected as he played it in the 1st Welsh Open against Rhys Jones. That game ended in a draw after 30 moves. After Geoff's 8...Bg4 our game continued with:

- 8...Bg4** **9.Qa4+** **Nc6** **10.Rc1** **Bxf3**
11.gxf3 **cxd4** **12.cxd4** **a6** **13.d5** **b5**
14.Qd1 **Na5** **15.h4!** **0-0** **16.h5** **Rc8**
17.h6 **Bh8** and his king is firmly 'in the box'. This game is still in progress so it would not be appropriate to comment any further.



Blast (or other such words)! There are 41 games played with 14...0-0 and only 5 games with 14...Bd7. I had every right to expect our game to continue as in the Alpha Zero vs Stockfish game and 14...0-0 but it was not to be.

15.e5 **Nb4**
16.Be4 **Bc6**

Also possible was: **16...Nd5** **17.h4** **Bc6** **18.h5** **gxf5** (not: **18...0-0** **19.h6** **Bh8** **20.Ng5** and the king is 'in the

box') **19.Rxh5** **h6** **20.Rhh1** **0-0-0±** and White is slightly better.

- 17.Bxc6+** **Nxc6**
18.Rc3 **Rb8**

Another idea was to play: **18...0-0-0** **19.Rb1** **Rd7** **20.Kd3** **Rc7** **21.Ke4** **Rd8** **22.g4±** when the White king is leading from the front.

- 19.Rb3** **Na5**
20.Rbb1 **0-0**
21.h4 **Rfc8**
22.h5 **Rc4**
23.h6!



23... **Bf8**
 And the king is again 'in the box'.

24.Kd3 **Ba3?!**
 A dubious move but an understandable one. Black tries to prevent White from contesting the c-file but the simple **24...Rbc8** does the same thing.

25.Nd2 **Rc6**
26.Ne4 **b5**
 Not: **26...Nc4** **27.Nf6+** **Kh8** **28.Nd7** and the b-pawn falls.

27.Bc1 **Be7**
 Best and preferable over the following three lines:
27...Bf8 **28.a4** **Rc4** **29.axb5**; **27...Nc4** **28.Bxa3** **Nxa3** **29.Rbc1** **Nc4** **30.a4**; **27...Bxc1** **28.Rhxc1** **Rd8** **29.Nf6+** **Kh8** **30.f4**

28.Bg5 **Bxg5**
 Black has to take this time, viz:
28...Ba3 **29.Nf6+** **Kh8** **30.Rhe1** **Nc4** **31.d5!**

- 29.Nxg5** **Rc4**
30.Rbc1 **Rbc8**
31.Rxc4 **Rxc4**
32.Rh4!





My 'go-to' engine said that 32. Ne4 was best, which is +0.56 better than 32. Rh4. I followed the 32. Ne4 line to move 58 and although White is pawn up in a knight and pawn ending, the game looked drawn to me.

32... Nc6
33.Rf4 Nd8

Rather passive, I expected:

33...Nb4+ 34.Kd2 Rc2+ 35.Kd1 Rc7

34.Rf3

34.Nh3

34... a5

35.a3 Rc8

36.Ke4 a4

37.Kd3 b4

38.Kd2 bxa3

38...b3 39.Rc3±

39.Rxa3 Ra8

40.Ne4 Nc6

41.Kc3 Ne7

42.g4 Nd5+

43.Kc4 Kf8

44.Ng5



Keeping the Black king firmly 'in the box'.

44... Kg8

45.Kb5 Nc7+

46.Kc6 Nd5

47.Kb7 Ra5



The contrast between the two kings is enormous; White's strategy of pushing the h-pawn, keeping the Black king at home, has worked to perfection.

48.Ne4 Kf8
49.g5

1-0



Leonid Yakovlevich Savitsky was born on the 12 of January 1911 in St Petersburg exactly 110 years ago.

He played in two USSR Championship Finals before a heart condition destroyed his talent and life. He passed away on the 8th of July 1935 at only 24 years of age.

White: Dubinin, Peter

Black: Savitsky, Leonid [D38]

USSR IX Championship 1934/35

Leningrad, 1934

Nimzoindian, Noa Variation [E34]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4

Nf6

2.c4

e6

3.Nc3

Bb4

4.Qc2

Botvinnik - Savitsky in the Leningrad Championship 1932 has become very well-known for White's outrageous queenside pawn structure. 4.Qb3 c5 5.dxc5 Nc6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Nd4 8.Qa4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nf5 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Rc1∞

4...

d5

5.Nf3

dx4

6.e3

b5

7.a4

c6

8.axb5

cxb5

9.Bd2

Bxc3

10.Bxc3

Nc6

11.Ne5

Nxe5

12.dxe5

Nd5

13.b3

Nxc3

14.Qxc3

0-0

14...a5 15.bxc4 b4

15.bxc4

bxc4

16.Bxc4

Bb7

17.0-0

Qg5

18.f3

Rc8

19.e4

Rfd8

20.Rf2

a5

21.Rxa5

Rd1+

22.Rf1

Rd2



23.Rf2?

Dubinin must have been in time trouble. 23.g3 was the move to play; but not 23.g4? Qf4+

23...

Rxf2

24.Kxf2

Rxc4!

After Qxc4 Black picks up the rook on a5 and his bishop prevents a back-row mate.

0-1



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games@scottishcca.co.uk



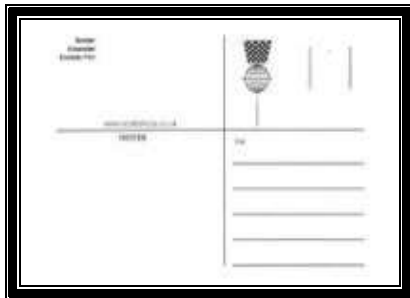
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ICCF is the International Correspondence Chess Federation. ICCF was founded in 1951 as a reincarnation of the ICCA (International Correspondence Chess Association), itself founded in 1945 as successor to the IFSB (Internationaler Fernschachbund), founded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

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

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2021

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

Theme 2/21: Sicilian Alapin, B22

1.e4 c5 2.b3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4

Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

Webserver Events 2021

Theme 2/21: French Winawer, Poisoned Pawn, C18

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8

Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 March

Theme 3/21: Modern Defence, B06

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3

Entries by 31 March; play starts 15 April

News

- ❑ Registration is still possible for 70th ICCF Jubilee events, most of which will start in Q1 2021. Check here: <https://www.iccf.com/EventsAnnouncements.aspx>
- ❑ An ICCF Definitions and Acronyms document has been added to the website. It may be found here: <https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1397>
- ❑ Sadly, Nol van 't Riet (NLD) died in November at the age of 75. An honorary member of both NBC and ICCF, Nol helped to found the NBC in 1966, and was instrumental in designing the Ratings System for both organisations. An IA, he acted as TD for ICCF Europe competitions, and later administered International Relations for ICCF. He participated in strategic developments, including Webserver development. A major figure in CC and a perfect gentleman.
- ❑ The largest friendly match ever staged by ICCF is now under way. The recently created World Zone is playing the European Zone over 445 boards!
- ❑ The 21st World Cup is now complete, with medallists: GM Matthias Gleichmann (GER) [Gold]; SIM Wojciech Krzyżanowski (POL) [Silver] and IM Ivan Ivec (CRO) [Bronze].

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