

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.153

Spring 2021

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Welcome to the first edition of the 2021 magazine set. We're sporting a new cover logo – the third in the Lewis set designed by Brigitte Wolf in Canada. Brigitte has been very kind to us, and we owe her a huge vote of thanks!

This edition is very busy and I've had to hold a few things over until next time as a result.

We start with the second ICCF rating list of 2021 analysed by Alistair Maxwell. Alistair also does a turn in the Games Column later on. I've chipped in with a summary of 2020 domestic events, held over from edition 152.

We're very pleased to welcome Per Söderberg of Sweden who judged our 2020 Best Game Competition. As well as Per's notes, the three top-placed players annotate their winning entries.

Our Chess Art spot features Victor Vasarely, a chess enthusiast and 'grandfather' of the Op Art movement.

John Hawkes has supplied a fine collection of games by the Russian player Peter Dubinin, who finished a close second in the 3rd Correspondence World Championship (1959-62). These, plus the usual Miniature, contain some delightful chess from the pre-engine era.

Peter Bennett again makes two contributions. First is the conclusion of his Fireside puzzles from edition 152. Second is the amusing Riverside tale of 'tickling the trout'.

Our George Pyrich Memorial Tournament is now finished with prizes distributed worldwide. I've done a short summary of the event which was played in great spirit.

Alastair Dawson's Games Column features some excellent play by Alan Borwell over the decades – and he's still going strong!

Iain Sneddon has been forced to demit his Membership Secretary post at short notice due to family ill-health. Mickey Blake has kindly stepped in to cover and, with the assistance of Kevin Paine, has now initiated our Challengers event.

It looks like Covid will force this year's ICCF Congress to be an online event – confirmation awaited as we go to press. Stay safe and well, and get vaccinated if you can!

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

2021	1st	2nd
March	J Dunn	S R Gillam
February	I Mackintosh	A P Borwell
January	S R Gillam	J S Murray

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 Mackintosh pro tem. Grading duties sit with Alistair Maxwell, grader@scottishcca.co.uk.



ICCF 13th Veterans' World Cup



The Netherlands Federation for Correspondence Chess (NBC) will organize the 13th Veterans' World Cup tournament.

The first stage will start on 1st September 2021. As with the previous VWCs, the tournament 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 total entries received. It is envisaged that groups at the preliminary stage will comprise of 11 players (10 games) or 13 players (12 games) played by webserver with a rate of play of 10 moves in 40 days. Playing time in each stage will be about 18 months with a fixed closing date specified at the outset. Players have to be at least 60 years old on 1st September 2021.

A prize fund of €6,000 will be available for this tournament and the exact distribution of the fund will be determined once the number of entries and groups are known. Trophies will also be awarded to those finishing in first, second and third place in the final.

Players may enter:

- through their federation (SCCA entry fee is £9)
- where eligible, via the ICCF Direct Entry system. The entry fee by Direct Entry will be €12.48 for each preliminary group entered.

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 for more than one place in the final.

All entries should be made via the server from the 'New Events' page. Players will then have the choice of registering through their National Federation or using ICCF Direct Entry.

Entries sent by email directly to the tournament organiser by delegates or players will not be accepted.

Closing date for entries is 1st August 2021.

All veteran chess players are heartily invited to enter this tournament, both for the enjoyment of games and for friendly contact/communication with senior players around the world.

ICCF Nol van't Riet Team Tournament



The NTTC (Non-Title Tournament Commissioner) has announced the IV. ICCF Team Tournament for players rated <2300 – here in memoriam Nol van't Riet. All ICCF member federations are invited to enter their teams to this event, which will be

played on the ICCF webserver on two rounds: semi-final and final.

Each federation may enter two teams. All team players must be rated at <2300 on the ICCF rating list 2021/2 or the current FIDE list. In addition, all players must be full members of the federation they represent or be registered on the ICCF server for the country of the federation they represent for the tournament duration.

The semi-finals will start on July 4st, 2021 (the birthday of Nol van't Riet). There will be 6 players on each team. A maximum of 3 players may be replaced during the tournament. The right to be promoted from the semi-final shall be determined by the NTTC and approved by the Executive Board at the start of the tournament. The intention is for a 13 Team final.

The entry fee will be at the rate of € per player, i.e., €30 per team. There will be no further entry fee for the final.

The time control will be Triple Block (Duration of Tournament: 700 days; Initial Clock: 50 days; Initial Bank: 50 days; Increment: 5 days).

Scottish players wishing to be considered for selection are asked to make contact with Gordon Anderson no later than 15 May 2021.

ICCF North Sea Team Tournament



The English Federation for Correspondence Chess has agreed to organise the next edition of the North Sea Team Tournament. The event has been authorised by the ICCF World Tournament Director and the plan is to start the event on 1 September 2021.

The basic details as agreed are:

- The event will consist of teams with a coastline on the North Sea (eleven teams).

- The event will use all appropriate ICCF rules including tie breaks, adjudication procedures, etc. If any disputes arise they will be referred to the ICCF appeals panel.
- The event will be classed as an Invitation event according to ICCF rules.
- International ICCF norms will be available where the individual boards allow this.
- The event will consist of six boards per team with the following grade restrictions. The grades will be those at the official start date of the event.
 - 2400>
 - 2300-2400
 - 2200-2300
 - 2100-2200
 - 2000-2100
 - <2000

It is envisaged that Scotland will participate and Scottish players who wish to be considered for selection should contact Gordon Anderson by May 15th 2021.

SCCA Website Archives and Downloads



Alistair Maxwell writes: firstly, I would like to sincerely thank John MacNeill (SCCA Champion in 1973-74) who was the first person to respond to my quest for SCCA Championship Games from, let's just say, a few years ago. He also supplied some thoughts on how the games had progressed (so must have a better memory than me – either that or kept his notebooks!).

I hope he doesn't mind sharing one of his comments in the e-mail "Seeing mention of the Bernard Partridge Memorial Tournament brought back various pleasant memories of the man. Here's one: He said, "As my name is Partridge, I thought I'd play Bird's Opening for a lark" (according to a friend who was a member with Bernard at Giffnock & Clarkston Chess Club). Bernard didn't make jokes much, and so this rare specimen is to be prized." Much appreciated John.

I remember Bernard in his later years when he played over the board occasionally. I always saw a serious face during the game but always a smile at the end whether he won, lost or drew. I never had the pleasure of playing him but did have a few interesting conversations (none of which I remember – see above!).

Feel free to send me any archive material or games, either by post (home address 34 Loganswell Gardens, Glasgow G46 8HU), or by email to grader@scottishcca.co.uk

I will accept any format as long as I can read it and make sense of it! Please don't be shy whether you played or controlled events back in the day (someone must have games/crosstables etc. somewhere).

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:
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Email: hebel57@gmx.de
Website: <http://www.fernschach.org/fs-cd/index.html>

ICCF Updates



March 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.



2021/2 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

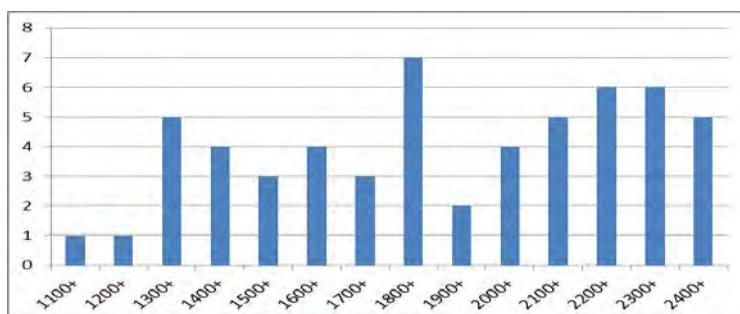
The second ICCF grading list of 2021 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 December 2020 and 28 February 2021. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 June 2021.

If any eagle-eyed readers spotted accidental omissions from the last grading report they kept it to themselves. I noticed some omissions when preparing this report and so apologies for the errors (not all are mine). I'm not going to tell you who I missed out and you can use it as a test (although see next paragraph, the rest all had surnames that began with G!).

There were 3 new additions in this list – Kieran Rafferty, Rob Taylor (Rob should have been listed with a provisional rating previously) and yours truly after some years of inactivity. Norms were achieved by Alan Bell (IM), Gordon Anderson (IM) and Ian Whittaker (CCE) – congratulations to them with a hope for future norms. The most significant rating moves were Rob Taylor (+73 and now obtaining a full rating), David Edney (+29) and Robert Montgomery (+20). The only other double figure moves up were Andrew MacMillen (+18) and Carlos Almarza Mato (+12).

More new games centurions featured – Carlos Almarza Mato (2000+), Geoff Lloyd (1000+), Colin Beveridge (600+) and Stephen Clark (300+). Highest recorded games during this quarter were Kieran Rafferty (51), David Cumming (44), Carlos Almarza Mato (43), Raymond Burrige (33), Allan Buchan (29), Iain Sneddon (28) and Martin Hardwick (23).

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
317	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2002	2115 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	452	1840 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	345	2357 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	789	2423 ↔
121	Anderson, J	302	1941 ↔	216	MacMillen, A N	1408	1602 ↑
313	Armstrong, J McK	461	1505 ↓	485	Major, B	39	1242 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	493	2469 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	831	1892 ↓
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	260	2426 ↔	434	Matheis, T (IM)	263	2454 ↑
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	489	2369 ↓	083	Maxwell, A	45	2183 ↔
481	Beveridge, C (CCE)	602	2273 ↓		Miles, A	69	1443 ↑
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	886	2382 ↔	401	Moir, P J	205	1507 ↔
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096	2207 ↔	598	Montgomery, R S (CCE)	331	2275 ↑
486	Buchan, A W (CCE)	143	2268 ↑	474	Murden, C (IM)	620	2454 ↑
602	Burrige, R J	1638	2066 ↓	564	Murray, J S	89	2005 ↓
	Clark, S L	306	1830 ↓	440	Neil, C	342	1338 ↔
247	Cormack, W H	116	1896 ↑	453	Newton, A	30	1774 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1871	2294 ↓	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	184	1874 ↔
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	170	2192 ↔	604	Paine, Prof K A (SM)	232	2350 ↓
478	Dunn, J	430	1524 ↓		Pettigrew, S	169	1374 ↓
371	Edney, D	312	1952 ↓	432	Price, D	466	1862 ↔
462	Gilbert, R	263	1700 ↓	609	Rafferty, K	51	1610 N
124	Goodwin, B J	389	1719 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	107	1416 ↓
445	Graham, S W	86	1656 ↔	439	Smith, M J	106	2153 ↑
399	Grant, J	74	1650 ↔	057	Sneddon, I (CCM)	394	2363 ↓
596	Hardwick, M E	1686	1112 ↓		Taylor, R	35	1402 ↑
475	Kearns, A	115	1380 ↓	605	Taylor, W	143	2074 ↑
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	351	2238 ↔	484	van Stratum, T	34	1355 ↓
260	Knox, A	398	1404 ↔		Warren, J	36	2067 ↔
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1010	2314 ↓	480	Whittaker, I P	166	2135 ↓
	MacDonald, M	56	1389 ↔	487	Wicht, D	37	1875 ↓



You need to complete 12 ICCF-eligible games to obtain a provisional rating (* above). 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.

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	56
New entrants	3
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	6
Full grades (30+ games)	56
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	13
Grading decreases (↓)	23
Grading static (↔)	19

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2469	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2238
Matheis, T (IM)	2454	Borwell, A P (IM)	2207
Murden, C (IM)	2454	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2192
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2426	Maxwell, A	2183
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2423	Smith, M J	2153
Blake, M J (CCM)	2382	Whittaker, I P	2135
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2369	Almarza Mato, C	2115
Sneddon, I (CCM)	2363	Taylor, W	2074
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2357	Warren, J	2067
Paine, Prof K A (SM)	2350	Burridge, R J	2066
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2314	Murray, J S	2005
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2294	Edney, D	1952
Montgomery, R S (CCE)	2275	Anderson, J	1941
Beveridge, C (CCE)	2273	Cormack, W H	1896
Buchan, A W (CCE)	2268	Wicht, D	1895

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	2002	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1871	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1010
Hardwick, M E	1686	Blake, M J (CCE)	886
Burridge, R J	1638	Marshall, I H	831
MacMillen, A N	1408	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	789

Selected Personal Best Grades 2021/1

	New	Previous		Gain
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2357	2349	2020/4	8
Buchan, A W (CCE)	2268	2267	2021/1	1
Murden, C (IM)	2454	2453	2021/1	1
Smith, M J	2153	2152	2021/1	1

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:

Anderson, G M (1), Bennett, P G (1), Bell, A D (2),
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), Buchan, A W (1), Paine, K A (1)

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:

Burridge, R J (1), Paine, K A (1), Smith, M J (1), Whittaker,
I P (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.



2020 Results

By Iain Mackintosh

Championship

SCO/C2020, Scottish Championship 2020/21

												TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)								
Rated												Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place				
1	🇬🇧	620426	CCM	Cumming, David R.	2369			½	0	½	1	½	½	1	1	5	3	15.25	0	1
2	🇬🇧	210717	CCE	Blake, Michael J.	2369	1	½			½	.	½	½	1	½	4.5	2	15.75	1	2
3	🇬🇧	620345	SIM	Mackintosh, Iain	2414	0	½	.	½			½	½	1	1	4	2	11.75	1	3
4	🇬🇧	620409	CCE	Sneddon, Iain	2281	½	½	½	½	½	½			½	½	4	0	15	0	4
5	🇬🇧	211024		Whittaker, Ian P.	2083	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	½			1.5	0	6.25	0	5

The 2020-21 event hangs on one unfinished game. If Mickey Blake wins against Iain Mackintosh, he takes top spot. If Iain wins he ties for top spot on points and wins. A draw allows Mickey to tie on points, but victory would go to David Cumming on the Baumbach Rule.

Premier

SCO/P/2020, SCCA Premier 2020

												TD Paine, Kevin (IA)								
Rated												Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place				
1	🇬🇧	620775		Buchan, Allan	1800 ^P															
2	🇬🇧	620393		MacGregor, Colin A.	1872	0														
3	🇬🇧	620454		MacMillen, Andrew N.	1517	0 ^E	0													
4	🇬🇧	620603		Armstrong, John M.	1506	0	0	0												
5	🇬🇧	620628		Dunn, John	1474	0	0	½	0											
6	🇬🇧	620648		Hardwick, Martin E.	1278	0	0	0	0	0										

A clean sweep for Allan Buchan in last year's tournament.

Open

SCO/O/2020, SCCA Open 2020

												TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)								
Rated												Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place				
1	🇬🇧	620454		MacMillen, Andrew N.	1517															
2	🇬🇧	620713		Gilbert, Robert	1699	1	0													
3	🇬🇧	620603		Armstrong, John M.	1506	0	0	1	0											
4	🇬🇧	620776		van Stratum, Theo	1800 ^P	0	½	0	0 ^A	1	0									
5	🇬🇧	620726		Kearns, Alan	1428	0	0	0	0	0	0									
6	🇬🇧	620648		Hardwick, Martin E.	1278	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0						
7	🇬🇧	620778		Major, Benjamin	1800 ^P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½				

One Open section again last year, with Andrew MacMillen just pipping Robert Gilbert in a tight finish.

Challengers

2019-20 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J M	14	14	0	7
Beveridge, C	8	8	0	7½
Burrige, R J	10	10	0	7
Dunn, J	8	8	0	1½
Gilbert, R	10	10	0	4
Hardwick, M E	8	8	0	2
Kearns, A	8	8	0	7
Milton, G	8	8	0	0
Neil, C	8	8	0	3½
Whittaker, I P	8	8	0	5½

2020-21 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J M	20	20	0	6
Buchan, A W	8	8	0	7½
Burrige, R J	8	8	0	6
Dunn, J	16	16	0	10½
Gilbert, R	12	12	0	6½
Hardwick, M E	8	8	0	0
Jamieson, D	2	2	0	2
Kearns, A	8	8	0	½
Robinson, A	8	8	0	5
Major, B	2	2	0	0
Van Stratum, T	2	2	0	0
Wicht, D	10	10	0	8

The 2019-20 Cycle was fully completed last year. The 2020-21 Cycle completed before year-end and was won outright by John Dunn with 10½ points. Newcomer Dietmar Wicht finished 2nd with 8/10.

Leagues

SCO/L1/20, SCCA League Div 1 2020

TD Murden, Clive

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1 SchemingMind A 2396	█	2.5	3	2	3.5	3.5	14.5	72	9	9	20	0	1	Reyes Maldonado, César Jesús
2 Social A 2341	1.5	█	2	3	3.5	3.5	13.5	67	7	7	20	0	2	Rosser, Geoffrey C.
3 SchemingMind B 2336	1	2	█	3	3	3.5	12.5	62	5	7	20	0	3	McDermott, Frank J.
4 Knights of the Board A 2175	2	1	1	█	2	3.5	9.5	47	-1	4	20	0	4	Paine, Kevin
5 White Rose A 2133	0.5	0.5	1	2	█	2.5	6.5	32	-7	3	20	0	5	Sutton, Alan B.
6 SchemingMind C 2021	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	█	3.5	17	-13	0	20	0	6	Kjeldsen, Karsten

SCO/L2/2020, SCCA League Div 2 2020

TD Murden, Clive

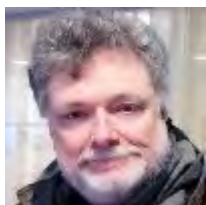
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1 Social B 2128	█	3.5	3	3.5	4	3.5	17.5	87	15	10	20	0	1	Lindberg, William J.
2 White Rose B 1859	0.5	█	2.5	2.5	3	3	11.5	57	3	8	20	0	2	Beckett, Phillip J.
3 Civil Service A 1997	1	1.5	█	2.5	3	2.5	10.5	52	1	6	20	0	3	Pomeroy, Ray J.
4 Brutal Realism 1816	0.5	1.5	1.5	█	3	2	8.5	42	-3	3	20	0	4	Paine, Kevin
5 Civil Service B 1841	0	1	1	1	█	3	6	30	-8	2	20	0	5	Ryan, Robert
6 Social C 1784	0.5	1	1.5	2	1	█	6	30	-8	1	20	0	6	Rosser, Geoffrey C.

SCO/L3/20, SCCA League Div 3 2020

TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)

	1	2	3	4	5	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1 Social D 1589	█	2	2.5	3.5	4	12	75	8	7	16	0	1	Rosser, Geoffrey C.
2 Civil Service Scotland 1738	2	█	3	2	4	11	68	6	6	16	0	2	Pomeroy, Ray J.
3 Civil Service C 1522	1.5	1	█	2.5	3.5	8.5	53	1	4	16	0	3	Conway, John
4 Knights of the Board B 1669	0.5	2	1.5	█	3	7	43	-2	3	16	0	4	Paine, Kevin
5 White Rose Yarm School 1789	0	0	0.5	1	█	1.5	9	-13	0	16	0	5	Pointon, Michael

Three leagues last year, with Scheming Mind A, Social B and Social C respectively taking the honours.



8th Annual SCCA Best Game Prize

By SIM Per Söderberg

[Ed –this year we invited SIM Per Söderberg of Sweden to be our judge for the competition. Per is the ICCF delegate for Sweden, and is a vastly experienced player (CC & OTB) and administrator. He's also been a good friend to SCCA over the years.

Once again, 9 games were submitted this year, and all were stripped of header information and annotations before being passed to Per for analysis. Many thanks for your excellent work, Per!]

Per Söderberg: Reflections from a Best Game judge.

From Iain Mackintosh I got a question: would I consider accepting the task to decide which three games, played during 2020 and by Scottish players, should be selected as the best games.

The first issue to consider was what is a "Best Game"? Usually the selection is only awarded to the winning player (though I could very well consider if a drawn game could be awarded!). It is very important that the losing player also contributes to the game by his play. Honour should be given to both players when creating a great Best Game.

Having said that, some of the 9 games brought forward will not be considered as the losing player made blunders and mistakes and even if the winner plays a perfect game the game is not considered for an award.

One criterion that I feel is important is that the selection of best game shall be having something creative. So, playing a game where the crucial moves are not new was not considered for an award.

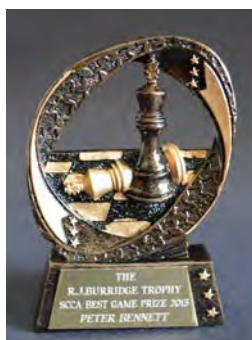
The second issue is the question about objectiveness. We are all different and we have different opinions about what is a masterpiece in chess. The games were given to me with anonymous players and without comments. I'm sure, that some players will disagree with my

opinion about their contributed games. The "Best Game" lies in the eyes of the beholder. I have played chess for more than 50 years and have seen all kind of games not to mention the thousands of games that I have played.

The third issue is to create a few criteria for the selection of games, I decided to have these:

- a) A creative game with very good play from both sides.
- b) Nice novelty in a known opening.
- c) Dazzling attacks, with or without material imbalance, and
- d) Positional outplay.

As well as the games selected below, I would also like to make an honourable mention of one more game that was very close to being awarded. The game M vs N (Peter Bennett v Lubor Jozefini in VWC12 pr34) refutes, more or less, the Scandinavian Defence 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 line.



Third Place

Per Söderberg

Third place goes to O vs P, as the nice move 25. --- Ba3N turns a position that has been rather drawish to a win for Black, by winning an exchange.

White: Noriega, Antonio (1957)

Black: Bennett, Peter (2362)

VWC12 pr34, 2020

English Four Knights [A29]

[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4	e5
2.Nc3	Nf6
3.Nf3	Nc6
4.g3	d5
5.cxd5	Nxd5
6.Bg2	Nb6
7.0-0	Be7
8.a3	0-0
9.b4	Be6
10.Rb1	f6
11.d3	a5
12.b5	Nd4
13.Nd2	Qc8
14.e3	Nf5
15.Qc2	Rd8
16.Bb2	Nd6
17.a4	Nf7
18.Nf3	Bf5
19.Rfd1	Bb4
20.Ba1	c6
21.bxc6	bx6
22.Nh4	Bg4
23.Rdc1	Rb8
24.Ne4	c5

So far, this is theory, although this particular sub-variation is rarely played. Why not? From White's point of view, it yields very little chance of a win, as these notes will attempt to show. The problem is that the line also holds few prospects for Black, if playing for a win. At the time that we reached this point, the only previous game I was aware of was Hegde-Kunz (see below).
25.Nxc5



25...Ba3!?

At the time that I played this move, I believed it to be an innovation. I didn't believe that it was necessarily an improvement on previous play; and I was aware that it was risky

Nevertheless, the line presents White with more dilemmas to solve going forward, hence more opportunities for the first player to miss the best line, than the move that Kunz adopted:

25...Qxc5 26.Qxc5 Bxc5 27.Rxc5 Nxa4 28.Rcb5 Rxb5 29.Rxb5 Rxd3 30.h3 Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Bc8 32.Rxa5 Rxa1 33.Ra8 Nd6 34.g4 Kf7 35.Bc6 (Tiits-Pauwels, Keres MT 2011, drawn.) 35...g5 36.Nf3 Bb7 37.Bxb7 Nxb7 38.Ra7 Ke6 (Baiocchi-Heinke, WCCC36 SF04, 2012, drawn.) 39.Rxb7 Ra2 Hegde-Kunz, MN174, 2017, drawn.

Later on, when this game was over and out of sheer inquisitiveness, I wrote to Harry Kunz, to ask him whether he had considered playing 25....Ba3. His answer surprised me. Kunz hadn't even looked at 25....Ba3 because, at that stage, he was merely following two high-level theory games (the existence of which I was completely unaware). I have now inserted the references to these earlier games in the score of Hegde-Kunz, above. The reason I had missed them is that I no longer include games as old as 9 years ago in my database searches. It now seems that I was the only player even trying to innovate in this line!

26.d4 Bxc1
27.Rxc1 Nd7



28.Be4?!

Finally, the inaccuracy from White which I had been hoping for. This mistake, however is very forgivable: White is assuming that Black must now defend the h-pawn; but 28....h3?? 29.Bh7+! is winning for White. (Better is 28.Nf5, although Black still retains the initiative).

28... Nxc5
29.Bxh7+ Kh8

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30.dxc5 Rd1+
31.Rxd1 Bxd1
32.Qxd1 Kxh7
33.Qc2+ Kg8
34.Nf5 Qe6
35.h4 Qb3
36.Qxb3 Rxb3
37.c6 Rb1+
38.Kg2 Rc1
39.Bb2 Rc2
40.e4 g6
41.Ne7+
41.Ne3 Rxb2 42.c7 Nd6 43.Nc4 Rc2
44.Nxd6 Rxc7
41... Kg7
42.Ba3
42.Ba1 Nd8 43.Nd5 Nxc6
42... Nd8
43.c7 Rxc7
44.Nd5 Rc4
45.Be7 Nc6
46.Bxf6+ Kf7
47.Bg5 Rxa4



The queening threats of the outside passed pawn are now decisive.

0-1



Second Place

Per Söderberg

Second place is awarded to A vs B, as the complicated position that arises after 24. Bxa6! is handled with precision.

White: Buchan, Allan (2066)
Black: Blittkowsky, Ralf (2110)
Alberto Barreras Memorial (VEN), 2020
Pirc Defence, Austrian Attack [B09]

[Notes by Allan Buchan]

1.d4 g6
I've not faced this too often in correspondence matches.

2.e4 Bg7

3.Nc3 d6

4.f4

Always happy to have an opportunity to push my 'f' pawn against a kingside fianchetto.

4... Nf6

5.Nf3 0-0

The other main move here is 5...c5 which Fischer played against Spassky the one time in his career he played a Pirc.

6.Bd3 Na6

Strange-looking move, but an interesting alternative to Nc6, the idea being to relocate the knight to c7.

7.0-0 c5

8.d5 Rb8

9.Kh1

The most popular move in my ICCF database featuring games between over 2300s, white scoring 4 wins and a draw from the 5 games played from this position.

9...b6N

Quite happy to see this rather than the more attacking Bg4. We're out of book now.

10.Qe2

Developing with tempo.

10... Nc7

Black doesn't care, he wants to go here anyway.

11.a4

This is played on move 9 quite a bit on some online server databases, but it seems stronger to harass the knight first so it can't use the b4 square and be a nuisance.

11... a6

Not sure what this does. Bb7 straight away might have been better.

12.Bd2



I'm now fully developed and my position looks a little stronger than Black's. His queenside is cramped and he has a couple of pieces tied down to the defence of the 'a' pawn.

12... **Bb7**

13.Rae1 **e6**

Freeing up the diagonal for his bishop.

14.dxe6

Pretty much forced.

14... **Nxe6**

This looks like it drops the 'a' pawn but Black has ways to combat it.

15.f5

Good opportunity to play a key move against his kingside fianchetto.

15... **Nd4**

16.Qf2

I don't much like the look of exchanging knights as it gives Black the semi-open 'c' file as well as an annoying pawn on d4.

16... **Ng4**

The marauding knights are a handful.

17.Qg3 **Nxf3**

Happy to see this.

18.Rxf3 **Ne5**

19.Rff1 **Bf6**

With the threat of Bh4, skewering the queen and rook.

20.Rd1

Pre-empting 20...Bh4

20... **Kh8**

Black should probably have played 20...Nxd3

21.Be2

Preserving the bishop.

21... **Qe7**

22.Qh3!?

A missed opportunity here. I could have played Bxa6 now rather than on move 24. But I decided to make my queen safe while maintaining some kind of threatening presence along the 'h' file.

22... **g5**

23.Qh6



Things are about to get very tactical. I'm hitting the bishop once. If I can

play Nd5, forking the queen and bishop, then it's going to be hard for Black to save his bishop.

23... **Rfd8**

Rg8 looks better, although I can see why Black doesn't want to take away a potential escape square for the king.

24.Bxa6!

This is the sacrifice I should have played earlier, deflecting the protector of the d5 square.

24... **Bxa6**

Ng4 is an interesting alternative.

25.Nd5

Black can't afford to pick off the f1 rook just yet.

25... **Ng4**

26.Qh5

Two of Black's pieces remain under attack.

26... **Be2**

At first glance, this looks like a dangerous counterattack, but my pieces look to be better coordinated than Black's, and I can afford to play down quite a bit of material if need be due to the various threats the knight, bishop and a single rook can rustle up.

27.Nxe7

Little choice but to take the queen.

27... **Nf2+**

28.Rxf2



Black resigns.

A possible continuation might be:

28.Rxf2 Bxh5 29.Nd5 Bxd1 (The best line for Black might be: 29...Bd4 30.Rdf1 f6 31.Bc3 Bf7 32.Bxd4 cxd4 33.Nxf6 Kg7 34.Nd5 Bxd5 35.exd5 where White has a passed pawn, a two-pawn material advantage, and 3 of black's five pawns are isolated.) 30.Nxf6 Bxc2 31.Bxg5 Bxa4 32.Rf4 Kg7 33.Nxh7 Kxh7 34.Bf6 with mate unavoidable with Rh4.

1-0



First Place

The R.J. Burrige Trophy 2020

Per Söderberg

The winning game goes to G vs H for its novelty 17. a5 in a known position that often ends in draw, for the material imbalance and the positional play in a position with bishops of opposite colour and rooks; and for the way the pieces harmonise, finally winning despite the hard fight from Black.

White: Mackintosh, Iain (2414)

Black: Rawlings, Alan J C (2394)

Keith Richardson Memorial, 2020 Sicilian Najdorf, Unusual White 6th Moves [B90]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

Both players have known each other for decades, and both were a little late starting this game: Iain was working on the Glasgow Congress website for 2020 (which sadly didn't happen), while Alan and his wife were enjoying a brief break in the Welsh Border country.

1.e4 **c5**
2.Nf3 **d6**
3.d4 **cxd4**
4.Nxd4 **Nf6**
5.Nc3 **a6**
6.h3

This move avoids the established Najdorf lines of 6.Bg5 and 6.Be3

6... **e5**
 ... and this is Black's most common response.

7.Nde2 **h5**
8.g3 **Be6**
9.Bg2 **Nbd7**

9...b5= is the main alternative.

10.a4 **Be7**
11.0-0 **Rc8**
12.Be3 **Nb6**

12...h4 was played in Dronov-Finocchiaro, 2015, drawn.

13.b3 **d5**
14.Bxb6 **Qxb6**
15.Nxd5 **Nxd5**
16.exd5 **Bd7**



17.a5N

New to CC. 17.c4 is the only previous move, with all games drawn.

Russell Sherwood had played 17.c4 against Alan in their 2015 game, so time to try something different.

17... Qd6

Best.

18.c4 f5

19.Nc3 e4

20.Na4 h4!?

Preferring open play.

20...Bxa4 21.Rxa4 g6= was the main alternative.

21.c5!

The only move for an initiative.

21... Qg6

Best.

22.d6 Bf6□

23.b4 hxg3

23...Bxa1 24.Qxa1 0-0 25.Nb6 Bb5

26.Nxc8 Rxc8 27.g4 Bxf1 28.Qxf1±

24...Nxb6 gxf2+

24...f4 is also playable.

25.Rxf2□ Kd8

25...Be5 and; 25...Qg3 were also worth considering.

26.Nxd7

26.Nxc8? Rxh3! gives Black equality.

26... Kxd7□

27.Ra3□ Bh4□

28.Rd2 Qe6

29.Qa4+ Kd8□

30.Qc2 Rh6



31.Rd1

After the first round of tactics, the position is roughly equal, but unbalanced - asymmetric pawns, opposite coloured bishops, exposed kings and the heavy pieces ready to rumble. Both players want to play the open game...

31... Bf6

32.Re3 Bc5

33.Bf1

White looks to activate his q-side pawns.

33... Kd7

33...Rg6+! 34.Kh1 Bf4 35.Rc3 e3 was a good counter-attacking line.

34.b5 axb5

35.Bxb5+ Kd8

36.a6 f4



37.Qa4!

After this, White is winning.

37... b6

38.c6 Rg6+

39.Kh1 Bxd6

40.c7+ Rxc7

41.Qxe4 Qxe4+

42.Rxe4 Ra7

43.Rxf4

Exploiting the pinned bishop.

43... Rh6

44.Rf3 Kc8

45.Rfd3 Kc7

46.R1d2

Black is in virtual zugzwang, but White still has to figure out the best way to force a conclusion.

46... Re6

47.h4 Ra8

48.Rc3+ Kd8

49.Rg3 Ra7

50.h5 Rf6

51.Re3 Kc7

52.Rc2+ Bc5

52...Kd8 53.Re8#

53.Re7+ Kb8

54.Re8+ Kc7

55.Rg2 Bf8

56.Rg5

56.Rc2+ is more direct, but enough is enough.

And here Alan wrote: Enough!

Material may be level, but Black's position is hopeless. Congratulations on a fine win!

Iain replied: Thanks Alan. Our game was a pleasant exception to a lot of current CC - both players having a go and trying to do something, so let's rejoice in that! Good fortune in your remaining fixtures.

1-0



The R.J. Burrige Trophy

Winners

- 2013 Richard Beecham
- 2014 Charles O'Neill-McAleenan
- 2015 Peter Bennett
- 2016 Kevin Paine
- 2017 Tom Matheis
- 2018 Peter Bennett
- 2019 Iain Mackintosh
- 2020 Iain Mackintosh





Chess Art

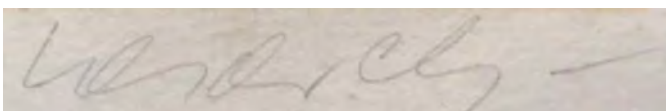
By Iain Mackintosh and John Hawkes

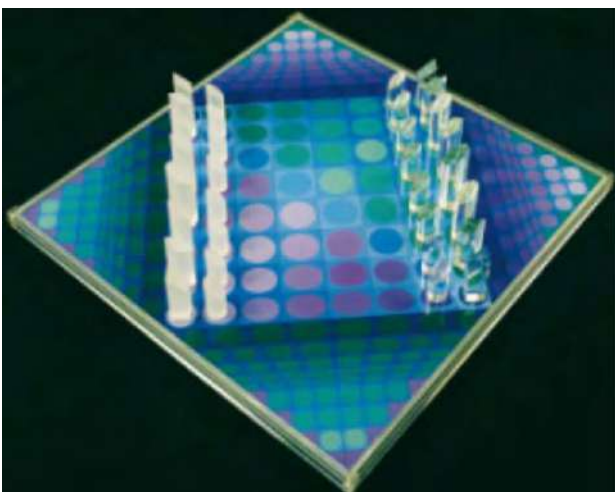
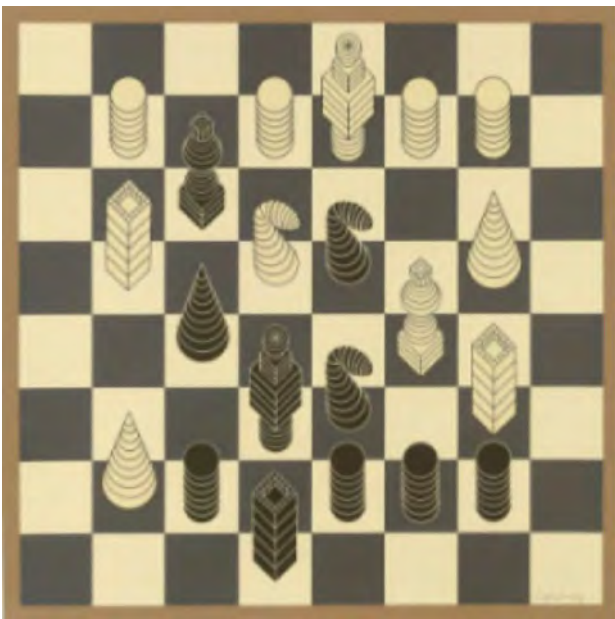
Victor Vasarely (9 April 1906 – 15 March 1997)

Vasarely was a Hungarian-French artist, who is widely accepted as a "grandfather" and leader of the Op art movement.

Vasarely was born in Pécs and grew up in Pöstyén (now Piešťany, Slovakia) and Budapest. He took up medical studies, but abandoned them in 1927 to learn traditional painting, then enrolled at Sándor Bortnyik's private art school, then recognised as Budapest's centre of Bauhaus studies.

Vasarely left Hungary and settled in Paris in 1930. His early graphic period resulted in works such as Chess Board (1935) and Zebra (1937), both shown below. Over the next three decades, he developed his style of geometric abstract art, working in various materials but using a minimal number of forms and colours. The photograph shows him teaching his grandson chess in 1972







The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

Peter Vasilievich Dubinin 1909-1983



Peter (Pyotr) Vasilievich Dubinin was born in Warsaw, then part of Imperial Russia.

In 1932 Dubinin was drafted into the Army. He carried a chess book in his backpack as he fought all over the Western front. Decorated for valour, he also suffered frostbite in both legs.

Awarded the IM title in 1950 and the GMC title in 1962, he was joint USSR CC Champion in 1957.

In 1952 he was awarded the Soviet Union's Honoured Master of Sport.

In the 3rd Correspondence World Championship (1959-62), he finished 2nd behind Alberic O'Kelly de Galway. Dubinin died in Nizhny Novgorod.

White: Hervir, Jaroslav
Black: Dubinin, Peter [B35]
European Championship 1971-75
Sicilian, Accelerated Dragon
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 g6
5.Nc3 Bg7
6.Be3 Nf6

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7.Bc4 Qa5



8.0-0
8.Qd2 loses a pawn to 8...Nxe4 e.g.
9.Nxc6 Qxc3 10.Qxc3 Bxc3+
11.bxc3 dxc6+

8... 0-0
9.Nb3 Qc7
10.f4 d6
11.Be2 Rd8
12.Qe1 d5
13.Nb5 Qb8
14.e5 Ng4
15.Bd2 f6
16.h3 Nh6
17.c4 d4
18.Bf3 fxe5
19.fxe5 Nf5
20.Ba5 Nxa5
21.Qxa5 b6
22.Qb4 Bxe5
23.Bxa8



Dubinin now rattles off no less than 18 consecutive checks!
23... Bh2+
24.Kh1 Ng3+
25.Kxh2 Nxf1+

26.Kg1 Qh2+
27.Kxf1 Rf8+
28.Bf3 Rxf3+
29.gxf3 Bxh3+
30.Ke1 Qg1+
31.Kd2 Qe3+
32.Kd1 Qxf3+
33.Kc1 Qf1+
34.Kd2 Qf4+
35.Kd1 Bg4+
36.Kc2 Bf5+
37.Kd1 Qf3+
38.Kc1 Qf1+
39.Kd2 Qd3+
40.Ke1 Qe3+
41.Kd1

And it's mate in 4 with the quiet little pawn-push...

41... d3

0-1



White: Dubinin, Peter
Black: Kjellander, Sven
3rd World Corres. Championship,
1959-62
Ruy Lopez - Exchange Deferred
[C77]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 a6
4.Ba4 Nf6
5.Bxc6 dxc6
6.d3 Bd6
7.Nbd2 0-0
8.0-0 c5
9.Nc4 Qe7
10.Bg5 h6
11.Bh4 Qe6
12.b3 b5
13.Ne3 g6
14.Bxf6 Qxf6
15.a4 Bb7
16.Kh1 Kh7
17.g4 Qe6
18.Nd2 Be7
19.f3 Bg5
20.Qe1



Equality - or a shade better for Black?

- | | |
|---------|-------------|
| 20... | Qd7 |
| 21.h4 | Bf4 |
| 22.Ng2 | f5 |
| 23.Nxf4 | exf4 |
| 24.Rg1 | fxg4 |
| 25.Rxg4 | Rae8 |
| 26.Qf2 | Qd6 |
| 27.axb5 | axb5 |



- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 28.b4! | cxb4 |
| 29.d4 | Rd8 |
| 30.Nb3 | Bc8 |
| 31.Rg2 | Rf7 |
| 32.Ra7 | Rg7 |
| 33.d5 | c6 |
| 34.Rxg7+ | Kxg7 |
| 35.Nd4 | c5 |
| 36.Nxb5 | Qb6 |
| 37.c4 | bxc3 |
| 38.Nxc3 | Qf6 |
| 39.Ne2 | Qd6 |
| 40.Qe1 | Kh7 |
| 41.Ng1 | Re8 |
| 42.Qc1 | Bd7 |
| 43.Ra2 | Rg8 |
| 44.Qa1 | Qe7 |
| 45.e5 | |



45... **Qxh4+**
 Rejecting 45...Ra8! when 46.Rxa8 Qxh4+ 47.Kg2 Qg3+ 48.Kf1 Bb5+ 49.Ne2 Qxf3+ 50.Kg1 Qe3+ 51.Kh1 Qh3+ 52.Kg1 Qe3+ would be a draw by perpetual check.

46.Rh2 **Qg5**
 47.e6 **Bc8**
 48.Qa2 **Re8**
 Worth considering was 48...Bb7 49.d6 Ra8 50.Qb2 Bd5 51.e7 Bc6 and if 52.Qc3 Qg4!

49.Nh3 **Qe7**
 50.Qc4 **Rf8**
 51.Nf2
 51.Nxf4? Qf6 of course.
 51... **Bb7**
 52.Ne4 **Rd8**
 52...Rf5 looks better, but 53.d6 Qg7 54.Qc3! (54.d7 Qa1+ 55.Kg2 Qb2+ Draw.) 54...Qxc3 55.Nxc3 Bxf3+ 56.Kg1 Bc6 57.d7+-

53.Qc3!
 Black was hoping for 53.d6? Rxd6! 54.Nxd6 Bxf3+ 55.Kg1 Qxd6+-
 Now Dubinin treats us to a splendid finish.

53...Qg7
 53...h5 54.Nf6+ Kh6 55.Qe5 and there's a simple R or N sacrifice on h5.
 54.Nf6+ **Kh8**
 55.e7 **Re8**
 56.Nxc8! **Qxc3**
 57.Rxh6+ **Kg8**
 58.Nf6+!
 58.Nf6+ Kg7 59.Rxg6+! Kxg6
 60.e8Q+ Kf5 61.Qe6+ Kg6 or Kg5
 62.Ne4+ wins the queen.

1-0



White: Dubinin, Peter
Black: Lundqvist, Ake
 3rd World Corres. Championship
 1959-62
 Bogo-Indian [E11]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| 1.c4 | e6 |
| 2.d4 | Bb4+ |
| 3.Bd2 | Qe7 |
| 4.Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 5.Qc2 | Bxd2+ |
| 6.Nbxd2 | d6 |
| 7.e3 | c5 |
| 8.Bd3 | Nc6 |
| 9.dxc5 | dx5 |
| 10.a3 | Bd7 |
| 11.Nb1 | 0-0-0 |
| 12.Nc3 | Rhe8 |
| 13.0-0 | Kb8 |
| 14.Rfb1 | e5 |
| 15.Bf1 | Bg4 |
| 16.b4 | Bxf3 |
| 17.gxf3 | Nd7 |
| 18.Nd5 | Qg5+ |
| 19.Bg2 | Re6 |
| 20.f4 | exf4 |
| 21.Nxf4 | Rh6 |
| 22.b5 N | a5 |
| 23.Qc3 | |



- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 23... | Ne5 |
| 24.Qxa5 | Nf3+ |
| 25.Kf1 | Nd2+ |
| 26.Ke1 | |
| Refusing the repetition. | |
| 26... | Nxb1 |
| 27.Rxb1 | Rxh2 |
| 28.b6 | a6 |
| 29.Kf1 | Qf5 |
| 30.Re1 | g5 |
| 31.Ne2 | Qg4 |
| 32.Ng3 | Qxc4+ |
| 33.Kg1 | Rh6 |





- 34.Ne4 Qb3
- 35.Nxc5 Qxb6
- 36.Qc3 Kc7
- 37.Bxb7 Ka7
- 38.Bg2 Rc8
- 39.Rd1 g4
- 40.Qg7 Rd6
- 41.Rb1 Rb6
- 42.Rxb6 Qxb6
- 43.Nd3! g3
- 44.Qxg3 Qb1+
- 45.Bf1 Rc6
- 46.Qh3 Rg6+
- 47.Kh2 Qb8+
- 48.Nf4 Qd6



- 49.Qc8 Rg5
- 50.Qc4 f6
- 51.Qf7+ Kb6
- 52.Qxh7 Qxa3
- 53.Qd7 Qb2
- 54.Qd6+ Ka7
- 55.Qxa6+ Kb8
- 56.Bg2 Rb5
- 57.Qd6+ Kc8
- 58.Nd3

1-0



White: O'Kelly de Galway, Alberic
Black: Dubinin, Peter

3rd World Corres. Championship,
 1959-62
 King's Indian, Saemisch [E80]
*[Notes by John E Hawkes after
 O'Kelly]*

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 g6
- 3.Nc3 Bg7
- 4.e4 d6
- 5.f3 c6
- 6.Be3 a6
- 7.Qd2 b5
- 8.Bd3

The relevant vintage otb game quote here has got to be Boris Spassky - Larry Evans at the Varna Olympiad 1962; 8.0-0-0 bxc4 9.Bxc4 0-0 10.h4 d5 11.Bb3 dxe4 12.h5 exf3 13.hxg6 hxg6 14.Bh6 fxg2 15.Rh4! Ng4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qxg2 Nh6 18.Nf3 Nf5 19.Rh2 Qd6 20.Ne5 Nd7 21.Ne4 Qc7 22.Rdh1 Rg8 23.Rh7+ Kf8 24.Rxf7+ Ke8 25.Qxg6 Nxe5 26.Rf8+ Kxf8 1-0

- 8... bxc4
- 9.Bxc4 d5
- 10.Bb3 dxe4
- 11.Nxe4

11.fxe4 Ng4 12.Nf3 Nxe3 13.Qxe3 0-0 14.h4! Bg4 15.h5 Bxh5 16.0-0-0 with a dangerous attack for White.

- O'Kelly.
- 11... 0-0
- 12.Ne2 a5
- 13.0-0 a4
- 14.Bc4 Nxe4

14...Nbd7 had been played by Vassily Smyslov in the 1958 World Championship return match with Mikhail Botvinnik.

- 15.fxe4



It's rather like a Gruenfeld, so...

- 15... c5!
- Black is underdeveloped - but White has a weak pawn centre - O'Kelly.
- 16.Bh6
- If 16.Bd5 Ra5! 17.dxc5 e6 18.Bc4 Qxd2 19.Bxd2 Rxc5 - O'Kelly.

- 16... Bg4
- 17.Bxg7 Kxg7
- 18.Qc3

O'Kelly gives the line 18.Rxf7+ Rxf7 19.Bxf7 Bxe2 20.Bd5 Ra6! 21.Qxe2 e6 followed by Qxd4+, and Black is in command.

- 18... cxd4
- 19.Nxd4 e5
- 20.Nc2 Nd7!
- 21.Ne3 Qb6
- 22.Rf2 Be6
- 23.Rd1

23.Bxe6? fxe6! 24.Rd1 Nf6! - O'Kelly.

- 23... Rac8
- 24.b3 axb3
- 25.axb3 f6
- 26.Rfd2 Nc5



Black has played himself into a most promising position, but White finds a string of good moves.

- 27.Rd6! Qb8
- 28.Bxe6 Nxe6
- 29.Rd7+ Rf7

29...Kh8 30.Nc4 Rc7 defends the second rank; 31.Rxc7 (31.Qh3? Qa7+) 31...Qxc7 with a slight edge for Black.

- 30.Rxf7+ Kxf7
- 31.Rd7+ Ke8

31...Kg8 32.Nd5! Rxc3 (32...Nf8 33.Ne7+ Kh8 34.Qxc8 Qxc8 35.Nxc8 Nxd7 36.b4±) 33.Nxf6+ Kf8 34.Nxh7+ and a perpetual - O'Kelly.

- 32.Qd2





32... **Rc1+!**
 Very close to a win is 32...Ng5 33.h4
 Qb5! but 34.Nd5! Qc5+ 35.Kh2
 Nf3+ 36.gxf3 Kxd7 37.Nb6+ Kc7
 38.Nxc8 Kxc8=

33.Qxc1
 33.Kf2? Nc5! 34.Kf3 Rf1+ 35.Nxf1
 Qxb3+ and Black picks up the rook
 and wins - O'Kelly.

33... **Kxd7**



34.Nd5!
 Avoids the Qb6 pin motif returning:
 with his two weak isolated pawns
 White must play aggressively. -
 O'Kelly.

34... **Qa7+**
35.Kf1 **f5**
36.Qc4! **Kd6**
37.Nf6 **Qa1+**
38.Kf2 **Nf4**
39.g3 **Qb2+**
40.Kf3 **Qg2+**
41.Ke3 **Qg1+**
42.Kf3 **Qd1+**

½-½



White: Simagin, Vladimir
Black: Dubinin, Peter
 Ragozin Memorial 1963–66
 Sicilian, Dragon Variation [B79]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 **c5**
2.Nf3 **d6**
3.d4 **cxd4**
4.Nxd4 **Nf6**
5.Nc3 **g6**
6.Be3 **Bg7**
7.f3 **Nc6**
8.Qd2 **0-0**
9.Bc4 **Qa5**
10.0-0-0 **Bd7**
11.Bb3 **Rfc8**
12.Kb1 **Ne5**



13.Qe2
 Richardson - Dubinin in the 7th
 World Championship Final 1972–76
 would go; 13.Bg5!? Rc5 14.Rhe1
 Rac8? 15.f4 Neg4 16.Nf3! Rxc3
 17.bxc3 Bc6 18.e5! Ne4 19.Rxe4
 Bxe4 20.Bxe7 dxe5 21.Ng5+—
 Annotations by Richardson.

13... **b5**
14.Ncxb5 **Rab8**
15.Na3 **d5**
16.exd5 **Nxd5**
17.Bxd5 **Qxd5**
18.Nb3 **Qb7**
19.Bd4 **f6**
20.h3 **g5**
21.Qd2 **Be6**
22.Rhe1 **Bf7**
23.Bc3
 ◻23.Bxe5 fxe5 24.Qxg5+—
23... **Ng6**
24.Re4 **e5**
25.Rb4 **Qa8**
26.Rxb8 **Qxb8**
27.Bb4 **Nf4**
28.Bc5?
 28.g3! Nxb3 29.Qd7 Nf2 30.Rd2
 Be8 31.Qe7±

28... **Bxb3**
29.Bd6 **Bxc2+**
 29...Bxa2+ 30.Kxa2 Qb7±
30.Nxc2 **Qb7**
31.Ba3 **e4**
32.Qd7 **Qxd7**
33.Rxd7 **exf3**
34.gxf3 **a5**

35.Ne3



35... **h5**
 Playing to win.
 35...Nxb3 36.Nf5 Bf8 37.Bxf8 Rxf8
 38.Nh6+ Kh8 39.Nf7+ Kg8 40.Nh6+
 Draw.

36.Bd6
 Forcing the knight to take.
 36.Nd5 Nxd5 37.Rxd5=; 36.Be7
 Kf7!±

36... **Nxb3**
37.Nd5
 37.Nf5 Bf8 38.Bxf8 Kxf8 39.Rh7
 Rc5 40.Rxh5 Ng1±
37... **Kh8**
38.Ne7
 38.Be7? Rc6
38... **Re8**
39.a4 **Ra8**
40.Kc2
 40.Nf5 Bf8 41.Bxf8 Rxf8 42.Ra7
 Ng1±

40... **Ng1**
41.f4 **Nf3**
42.Kd3 **g4**
43.Ke3 **Re8**
44.Kf2 **h4**



45.Nf5
 ◻45.b4
45... **h3**
46.Be7 **Kh7!**
 46...h2 is premature; 47.Kg2 Kg8
 48.Rd8 Kf7 49.Rxe8 Kxe8 50.b4
 axb4 51.Bxb4 Bh8 52.Ne3±

47.Rd8

The alternative was 47.Bxf6 Kg6
48.Nxg7 h2 49.f5+ Kh6 50.Nxe8
h1Q 51.Bc3 Kg5 52.Nd6 Kf4+ and
mate looming up.

47... Nh4!!

48.Rxe8 Nxf5

49.Bd8 g3+

50.Kf3 Bf8!

Or 50...Bh6 51.Bxa5 Bxf4 52.Kxf4
g2 53.Bb6 h2+

51.Bxf6

51.Rxf8 h2 52.Kg2 Ne3+ 53.Kh1

Ng4 54.Bb6 Nf2+! 55.Bxf2 gxf2+
is worth a diagram!

51... g2

52.Rxf8 Nh4+!

53.Ke4 h2

54.f5



Queening either pawn allows mate!

54... Ng6!!

A quite incredible only-move
winner!

55.fxg6+ Kxg6

56.Bd4

h1Q

56...g1Q?? 57.Rg8+ and White wins!

57.Rf6+ Kh7

58.Rf3

58.Rf7+ Kg8 59.Rg7+ Kf8 60.Kf5

(60.Kf4 Qd1+) 60...Qd1 61.Rg4

Qxd4+

58... g1Q

59.Bxg1 Qxg1

60.Rb3 Qg4+

61.Kd3 Qxa4

62.Kc2 Kg6

63.Kc3 Kf6

64.Ra3 Qd1

An absolutely fantastic finale to an
extraordinary game.

0-1



Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 20

White: Koch, Berthold

Black: Krebs, Hans

Correspondence, 1953–56

Ruy Lopez - Centre Attack [C84]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5

2.Nf3 Nc6

3.Bb5 a6

4.Ba4 Nf6

5.0-0 Be7

6.d4 exd4

7.e5 Ne4

8.Nxd4 0-0

9.Nf5 d5

10.Bxc6 bxc6

21.Qd2 Kh8 22.Qf4 Bf5 23.Nh4 g6

24.Bh6 Rg8 25.Nd2 c4 26.Ndf3 Bc5

27.Ng5 Ra7 28.Nhf3 Bg4 29.h3 Bxf3

30.gxf3 Qf5 31.Qh4 Bb6 32.Bg7+

Rxg7 33.fxg7+ Kxg7 34.Qxh7+ Kf8

35.e6 1-0

11... Qxe7

12.Re1 f6

13.f3 Ng5

14.Nc3 Rb8

15.Qd2

Consistently rejecting Bxg5

15... Ne6

16.Na4?

⊖16.b3

16... fxe5

17.Rxe5 Qd6

18.Re2 Rb4

19.b3 Rh4

20.g3

20.h3 Qg3 21.Qe1 Nd4! 22.Qxg3

Nxe2+ 23.Kf2 Nxc3 24.Kxg3 Rh5+

20... Nd4

21.Rf2 Nxf3+

21...Qg6 22.Qg5=

22.Rxf3 Rxf3

23.gxh4



23... Bh3!

Not 23...Rg3+ 24.hxg3 Qxg3+

25.Qg2 Qe1+ and Black must take
the draw.

24.Bb2

The bishop is out at last, playing the
only move!

24... Rf4!

25.Kh1

25.Qe2 Qg6+ 26.Kh1 Bg4 27.Rg1

Bxe2 28.Rxg6 hxg6+

25... d4!

26.Nc3

26.Qe2 Qd5+ 27.Kg1 Rg4+ 28.Kf2

(28.Qxg4 Bxg4 29.Re1 Qf3 and

inevitable mate.) 28... Qg2+ 29.Ke1

Re4 and same sad story for White.

26... c5

And the threat of Qc6+ is too much.

0-1



11.Nxe7+

F. Lehmann - H. Seyboth, in the
inter-city CC match between Riga
and Bromberg in 1878 went; 11.Nd4
Bd7 12.f3 Nc5 13.Re1 Ne6 14.c3
Bc5 15.f4 Bb6 16.Kh1 c5 17.Nf3 c6
18.f5 Nc7 19.Bg5 Qc8 20.f6 Ne8





Chess Problems for the Winter Fireside: The Solutions

By Peter Bennett

There were no correct solutions from eligible entrants in this “stars-barred” competition; but Richard Beecham very kindly provided the solutions, in spite of being ineligible for the prize!

Notes by Richard Beecham (CRB) and Peter Bennett (PGB).

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 1:

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

Answer

1.Qc8+! Qd8 (forced) 2.Bf7+!! Kxf7
3.Qxd8 and Black has lost his queen. (CRB)

If, alternatively, 2....Ke7 3.Qe6 mate. (CRB)

Problem Position 2

White: PGB

Black: Iceman 5

Sicilian Najdorf



I used to love casting a wet fly for brown trout. I often thought, when I'm retired I will have all the time in

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1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6
8.0-0 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?

Answer

Yes! 1.Nc6!

Black cannot save the game but can delay mate beyond 14 moves with 1....Kh8, 1....Rb7 or 1....Bf8 (CRB)
After 1.Nc6! Qxc6? Black is mated in a maximum of 14 moves (CRB).

Are trout really more intelligent than chess players?

By Peter Bennett

the world for fly-fishing; and then I'll be able to concentrate properly on this wonderful hobby!

My opponent actually played 1....Qxc6? 2.Qh6 Rb7 3.Bxh7+ and mate followed quickly (PGB). 1.bxc4 is also winning for White, of course (CRB).

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 3

Can White avoid the mate on h1? If so, how can Black's attack be nullified within a maximum of four moves?

Answer

Yes! (CRB)

With 28.Qxg7+!! Rxc7 29.Rc8+ Qe8
30.Rxe8+ Rg8 31.Rxc8 mate (CRB).
That is exactly what happened in the game! (PGB).

The advertisements for life insurance may give that kind of impression of

retirement. The reality, for most of us, is quite different.

In my case a series of challenges put paid that dream: a three-year term as chairman of my family business, my late wife Joy's doctorate, a final "tour of duty" with my old employer in Germany when they were busy and short of staff, supporting my wife through the five years that she spent fighting cancer, downsizing into retirement accommodation, covid lockdown.... Nothing went as planned.

So the fishing now has the status of a cherished memory. A retirement hobby it never became.

But one thing I do remember. Brown trout are clever little bug ... uh ... fellows. We all remember the days when they were on a rise and we caught six fish in twenty minutes. We prefer to forget the days when we spent six hours casting a line and not getting a touch.



Last week I had reason to recall the time when I was standing on a high bank, on a sunny day, and casting down into the crystal clear water of a rock pool. Some people would say, in these conditions, the trout will have no interest in your fly. But I quickly saw that this was not true.

As I gently pulled my fly through the water, there was a trout, a good-sized trout, only inches away from my fly and following it! For twenty minutes that trout and I played cat and mouse. I towed the fly round the pool and the trout followed its every movement. I jerked it left, jerked it right, jerked it upwards. The trout continued to follow the fly, bemused by this little dance; but it wouldn't take the fly. It was a bit too canny; and I eventually gave up.

The reason I recalled this episode was a correspondence chess game I was playing.

White: PGB
Black: Iceman 7

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 d6
5.c4 Nf6
6.Nc3 a6
7.Be2 Qb6

Not the cleverest move in this position; not yet disastrous either. But why has my opponent played it? Does he imagine, for example that, by attacking the b-pawn and the N/d4 simultaneously, he is over-committing my bishop, as a defender?

The trout fisherman in me now decided to cast a fly, namely the b-pawn as a "lure". I didn't for one moment think that my opponent would be foolish enough to fall for such a simple ruse. But, well, nothing ventured, nothing gained!

8.Be3



Back came my opponent's reply. I couldn't believe it!

8... Qxb2?

On the Fozen Rooks website I have a much higher grading than this particular opponent. So what especially surprised me was his complete lack of suspiciousness towards the "lure". Clearly the man was not a trout fisherman! Nor even clever enough to be a trout.

So, being inclined to a little naughtiness, I wrote him a very polite note, suggesting gently that, when an "experienced" chess player leaves a piece or a pawn en prise, it

is almost always for a reason and almost never an oversight.

9.Na4 Qb4+

Back came my opponent's move, but with no reply to my message. I could just imagine his bristling whiskers as he went into a good old huff....

10.Bd2 Qa3
11.Nxc6 bxc6

So, how about casting a second fly?

12.Rb1



Now the a-pawn is offered up as a "lure". Surely my opponent won't make the same mistake twice? Especially not after being told exactly how I am playing the position? I mean, this is a bit like texting the trout to say that a dangerous lure is about to be cast.

12... Qxa2??

This move simply loses the queen.

13.Ra1 Qxa1
14.Qxa1 Nxe4
15.Bf3 1-0

I sent my opponent a message thanking him for the game. He didn't return the courtesy. I was sorely tempted to add that he might find bingo more to his liking; but the one hobby he should definitely not take up is fly-fishing.

I have often thought that people who have never fished with a wet fly may be inclined to underestimate the intelligence of trout. It has only just occurred to me that the converse is also true: trout often over-estimate the intelligence of people.



George Pyrich Memorial Tournament

By Iain Mackintosh



All 14 sections in George's Memorial Tournament have now completed play. With 13 players per section, 182 players were involved with games being both friendly and

competitive. Trophies have now been sent to all the following winners. Apologies to some recent recipients who had to pay postal surcharges following the UK departure from the EU. We've now refunded these.

#	Cat		Winner(s)
1	11		GM Ruslan Tleptsok (RUS) 7/12
2	8		IM Luca Esposito (ITA) 7/12
3	7		CCM Hermann Rösch (PAN) 7½/12
4	4		Oliver Killer (SUI) 7½/12
5	4		CCM Gennady Egoshin (RUS) 7½/12
6=	4		IM Ottesen, Søren Rud (DEN) 7/12
6=	4		SIM Ian M Pheby (ENG) 7/12
6=	4		Luís Manuel Cadillon Costa (POR) 7/12
6=	4		SIM Alan J C Rawlings (ENG) 7/12.
7	4		IM Frank Hoffmann (GER) 7½/12
8	1		CCE Jan Kratochvil (CZE) 7½/12
9	1		CCM Matteo Troia, (ITA) 7/12
10	K		Djamel Zeghachov (SWE) 8½/12
11	H		Vladimir Babychuk (UKR) 8½/12
12	H		Mario Sena Lopes (POR) 9/12
13	C		Roberto Sayas (VEN) 9½/12
14			Richard Rozo (VEN) 11½/12



The spirit of Amici Sumus was very noticeable across the event, and it was a fitting tribute to George who contributed immensely to both SCCA and ICCF, and chess in general.

George gave dedicated service to both organisations over many decades and was hugely respected as an administrator and a principled individual. He was honest, worked hard, made friends everywhere, and brought a sense of humour to everything he did.

Søren Rud Ottesen (DEN), one of the joint winners in section 6, was delighted with his trophy and sent me this photograph of it.

The trophy is made of pewter and is in the shape of a quach – a special kind of shallow two-handed drinking cup or bowl traditional in Scotland. The name derives from the Scottish Gaelic *cuach*, meaning a cup.

I've been encouraging the trophy winners to fill their quachs with whisky (or the local equivalent) and drink a toast to George – he certainly deserves it!

Many thanks again to everyone who took part as players and administrators for making this event so special and enjoyable!



Games Column

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By Alastair Dawson

Alan Borwell has been a strong correspondence (and over the board) chess player for many years.

He has represented Scotland in a huge range of correspondence tournaments as well as playing for his country at international level in over the board Seniors competitions.

As an illustration of Alan's long and illustrious correspondence chess career we reproduce here three of his games spanning the decades.

The first dates back over 50 years to 1960 and a postal tournament where Alan ruthlessly dismantles his opponent's inaccurate opening play and concludes the game with a lovely sacrifice.

The second is a masterly display 30 years later against one of Poland's strongest correspondence players.

The final game is much more recent (2014) where again we see a relentless squeezing of the opponent's relatively congested position culminating in a nice sacrificial attack.

White: Gawlik, H J
Black: Borwell, Alan Peter
 Postal Chess Club, 1960
 Irregular Opening [A00]
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.b4 e5
2.Bb2 f6
 Capturing the pawn with 2 ...Bb4 is the most common move here but there a wide range of transpositions. The 2nd most popular move is 2 ...d6 and the third is the move played.
3.e4 Bxb4
4.Bc4 Ne7
5.Qh5+
 Now Black has to choose between 5..g6 and 5..Ng6.
 5.f4 d5 6.exd5 Bd6 7.fxe5 fxe5
 8.Qh5+ Ng6 9.Nf3 Nd7 10.0-0 0-0= Tartakower-Reti, Viena 1919.

5... g6
6.Qh4
 6.Qh6 d5 7.exd5 Nf5 Heading for d6 after the Q retreats.

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6... d5
 Remember that this game was played before computer chess had even been thought of - in retrospect in 2021 the move 6..d5 has been played 25 times and every time White recaptures the pawn.

7.exd5 Nd7
8.Bb3
 Eighteen years later Alan was to play this same line again against Buczinski but on that occasion his opponent departed with 8. Ne2 to which Alan replied with 8..Nf5.

8... Bd6
9.g4?
 And it is here that Black starts to get on top: better moves for White could have been 9.Nc3 or possibly 9. Ne2. The move 9. g4 goes against the general principle of developing pieces at the start of the game rather than making too many commital pawn sorties.



9... h5!
10.Ne2 g5
 And remarkably, despite a relatively bare kingside, Black is driving White backwards with the queen being harassed.

11.Qh3 Nc5
12.Qf3 Ng6!
13.gxh5 Nh4
14.Qc3
 So many queen moves at the start of the game can never be good for White.

14... Bg4
15.Ng3 Nf3+
 White's position is starting to crash around his ears!
16.Kf1 Bh3+
17.Ke2 Nd4+
18.Kd1 Bg4+

19.Ke1
 White is now making just about as many moves with his king as he has made with his queen!
 [19.Kc1 Ne4 20.Qe3 Nxc3 21.fxg3 Ne2+ 22.Kd1 Nxc3+]
19.. Qd7
20.d3? Nxb3
21.Ne4
 21.cxb3 Bb4!
21... Qf5
22.Ng3 Qf3
 Painful to watch, Black is damaging White with a display of overwhelming force.
23.Nd2 Nxd2
24.Kxd2



24. Bb4!
 A lovely finish since 25 Qxb4 Qxf2+ mates.
 24...Bb4 25.Qxb4 Qxf2+—+
0-1



White Borwell, Alan Peter (SCO)
(2385)
Black: Konca, Damian (POL)
(2485)
 Correspondence (CCYB 16/338), 1992
 King's Indian, Sämisch [E86]
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

We now move on 32 years to find Alan playing one of Poland's strongest correspondence chess players.

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 g6
 3.Nc3 Bg7
 4.e4 d6
 5.f3

The Sämisch variation of the King's Indian, a highly popular line played over the decades.

5... 0-0

In contrast to the previous game, Black's next move appears over 54,000 times on the databases.

6.Be3 e5
 7.Nge2 c6
 8.Qd2 Nbd7

And here White has a range of options the most popular being (a) 9.0-0-0 and a kingside assault, (b) 9. d5 to close the centre before embarking on an attack, (c) 9. g4 an an immediate foray on the kingside and finally (d) 9 Rd1 the move played in the game.

With this move White is telling Black that his king is either going to securely castle on the kingside or remain in the centre of the board.

9.Rd1
 9.d5
 9... a6
 10.dxe5!?
 10.Nc1; 10.d5
 10... Nxe5!
 10...dxe5 11.c5

11.Nc1
 White now reorganises his setup and sets his sights firmly on the pawn weakness on d6.

11.b3 b5 12.cxb5 axb5 13.Qxd6 Nfd7 14.f4?! b4! Karpov-Kasparov, Linares 1993

11... Nfd7
 12.Qxd6 b5!?



A double-edged position has arisen. Black's plan is to take advantage of the tempo losses involved in the Qd6 and the subsequent extrication of the monarch out of d6 where it could

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become an easy target for the Black pieces. Since Black has already castled he tries to break open the position for active piece play. White has other ideas!

13.f4 Ng4
 14.Bd4 b4
 15.Bxg7 Kxg7
 16.Qxb4 c5
 17.Qb3!

17.Qa4 Qe7 18.Qc6 Rb8 19.Nb3 17... f5

Mayhem! Black is striving to open the a8-h1 diagonal for his bishop.

18.e5 g5!
 19.N1e2 Re8

20.Nd5

But now it is White who is starting to take control over the central squares.

20.g3 gxf4 21.Bg2 Ra7 22.0-0 Ne3 23.gxf4 Nxf1 24.Rxf1

20... gxf4
 21.Nexf4 Qa5+
 22.Rd2 Rb8
 23.Qc3 Qxc3

24.Nxc3

So now the Queens are off and White's king does not look so vulnerable after all. Remarkably, both white-squared bishops are still on their original squares.

24... Ndx5
 25.Kd1 Ne3+
 26.Kc1 N5xc4
 27.Bxc4 Nxc4
 28.Rc2 Nb6



29.Rd1

Gradually, the White pieces are beginning to develop energy. We have also witnessed artificial castling by White on the queenside, just about the last thing one would have expected after 9 moves of the game when White played Rd1!

29... Nd7
 30.Ncd5 Re5?

White now has two pawn islands as opposed to 4 isolated pawns for

Black, two of which hinder the coordination of the Black pieces.

30...Re4

31.Rc3 Re4
 32.Rg3+ Kf7
 33.Nh5 h6
 34.Rg7+ Kf8
 35.Rh7

Black resigns. A masterly display - Alan's analysis goes:

35.Rh7 Rc4+ 36.Kb1 Rd4 37.Rxd4 cxd4 38.Nhf4 d3 39.Ne6+ Kg8 (39...Ke8 40.Ndc7#) 40.Rg7+ Kh8 41.Ne7 Ne5 42.Rg8+ Kh7 43.Nf8# 1-0



White: Borwell, Alan P (2217)

Black: Gillam, Simon R (2291)

SCCA Webserver League, 2014

Modern Defence [B06]

[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

We now move on to 2014, a mere 54 years after our first game in the trilogy. This time we find Alan playing in a national league tournament in Scotland.

1.e4 g6
 2.d4 Bg7
 3.Nc3 d6

Curiously, this week Alan had been preparing for an opponent in the 4NCL Online Championship team event where he is Captain of Dundee. His preparation was along the lines of what happened in the early stages of this game (whereas his March 2021 match transposed instead into a Philidor with ...Be7)]

4.Be3 a6



5.Qd2

One of the most aggressive lines for White, the intention being to play Bh6, exchange on g7 and advance with h4-h5 etc.

5... b5
6.h4 h6
7.0-0-0 Bb7

White already has a marked edge.

8.f3 Nd7
9.h5 g5

10.Nge2

Having created a pawn weakness on Black's kingside, White does not hesitate to generate more pressure on Black's position.

10... e6
11.d5 Ne5
12.Nd4 Qf6
13.Be2 Ne7
14.Rhf1 Nc8
15.Nb3

White has so much space to work with while Black is quite cramped.

15... Nd7
16.f4 gxf4
17.Rxf4 Qe7
18.Rdf1 Ne5

The computers are suggesting the quite unusual Bf2 here intending Bh4 - but White can just continue exerting more and more pressure.

19.Na5 Rb8
20.Bf2

Now comes the dangerous move that leads to even more congestion in the Black camp.

20... Qd7
21.Bd4 0-0
22.Bg4 b4
23.Bxe5 dxe5



24.Rxf7!

A very nice sacrifice that seals the game.

24... Rxf7
25.Rxf7 bxc3
26.Qxc3 Qd8
27.Bxe6 Kh8
28.Qg3

A beautiful game from Alan.

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Now Alistair Maxwell demonstrates his versatility by annotating a game by former champion John MacNeill.

White: MacNeill, John N
Black: Marshall, Claude W
SCCA Ch 1973-4, 1973
French Tarrasch [C07]
[Notes by Alistair Maxwell]

Here is a game from the 1973-74 Championship where the winner plays a veteran (at the time) of the Scottish Chess scene.

1.e4 e6
2.d4 d5
3.Nd2 c5
4.exd5 Qxd5
5.Ngf3 Nf6
6.Bc4 Qc6
7.Qe2 a6
8.a4 Nbd7
9.0-0 Be7
10.Ne5 Nxe5
11.dxe5 Nd7
12.Qg4 g6
13.Re1 b6
14.Bf1 Bb7
15.Nc4 h5



Both sides have set out their stalls, Black expanding on the kingside with queen and bishop pointing toward the White king, while White tries to exploit the weaknesses being created and remains solid and ready to pounce.

16.Qe2 h4
17.h3 0-0-0
18.Ra3 Kb8
19.Rd1 g5

20.Rad3 g4
21.hxg4 h3
22.f3 hxg2
23.Bxg2 Qxa4

I suspect this isn't a position to grab a pawn in but who knows these days. Claude must have decided he had time.

24.Nd6 c4
25.Rd4 Bxd6
26.Rxd6 Bd5
27.Be3



27... Rh7??!

I suspect this is a mistake as the Black pieces lack co-ordination from here on. 27 ...Qb4! is the computer suggestion.

28.Bxb6 Rdh8
29.Bf2 Rc8?

And ...Qb5 is the only move here although with his king now wide open, Black is in trouble.

30.b3! Qa2
31.Rxd7 cxb3
32.Qe3

And it is now all over.

1-0



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