

# Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

**Magazine No.154**

**Summer 2021**

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*Painted Stained Glass by Brigitte Wolf*  
[www.reflectionsglass.ca](http://www.reflectionsglass.ca)

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Welcome to the second edition of the 2021 magazine set, and I trust it finds you and your loved ones safe and well. We are being told here that Covid restrictions will be lifted soon and that the good sense of the Great British people will see us through. Expect mixed results then...

Once again, this edition is very busy and regular articles like the International report are being held over until next time in consequence.

First up after the Notices section is the third ICCF rating list of 2021 analysed by our grader Alistair Maxwell.

May is generally AGM month and this year was no different. We saw some committee changes involving Iain Sneddon and Mickey Blake and welcomed (post-meeting) Ian Whittaker to our ranks. A full report is provided along with Gordon Anderson's comprehensive accounts.

Our Chess Art spot is given over to the richly talented Laura Wait of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Laura's Chess Books were a feature of the noughties and she's graciously supplied a number of images I hadn't seen before. Big thanks Laura!

John Hawkes has given us an eclectic collection of games players including doctor, psychiatrist, astronomer and baron. There are some beautiful concepts and finishes to behold from the creative minds he's selected.

Peter Bennett yet again makes a double contribution. First is a continuation of the trout tale he provided last time. Second is a 'spot the move' puzzle, with the solutions given at the end of this edition.

We welcome back Awani Kumar of Lucknow, India. His Knights' Tours are tied into our magazine edition numbers, and you just have to admire his deft and creative work.

Alastair Dawson's Games Column reports on the 3rd Russian Rapidplay Championship, featuring the games of winner Mikhail Mikhailovich Churkin – fine play!

Scotland is competing in the final of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship which starts in August. It's a first appearance for us, so I'd like to wish all the team competitive chess and good results!

## 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
June	J Anderson	L R McKenzie
May	J Dunn	J M Armstrong
April	J S Murray	J S Murray

### SCCA Officials

Role	Name	Address	Contact	Email
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	<a href="mailto:president@scottishcca.co.uk">president@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
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Treasurer	Gordon Anderson	63 Wellin Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AH	+44 (0) 115 923 1021	<a href="mailto:treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk">treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
Membership	Mickey Blake	Culquha Mid Lodge, Castle Douglas DG7 2AQ	+44 (0) 1557 820584	<a href="mailto:membership@scottishcca.co.uk">membership@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
Member	Ian Whittaker	Inchkeith House, Lauder, Berwickshire TD2 6TE	+44 (0) 1578 722 670	<a href="mailto:ian.whittaker@scottishcca.co.uk">ian.whittaker@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
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Games Editor	Alastair Dawson	10 Berry Place, St Andrews KY16 8RG	+44(0) 1334 477236	<a href="mailto:games@scottishcca.co.uk">games@scottishcca.co.uk</a>

NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Iain Mackintosh pro tem.



## British Correspondence Chess Championship



The British Correspondence Chess Championship (BCCC) is the premier tournament on the British CC calendar. Running

continuously since 1921 and open to all British players, the BCCC has carried ICCF title norms since 2016. The BCCC caters for players of all levels and consists of a final, a candidates section and a number of reserves sections.

The BCCC is organised jointly by the English Federation for Correspondence Chess (EFCC), the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association (SCCA) and the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation (WCCF).

Further details of the tournament, including the full rules and a list of previous winners, are available on the EFCC website: [efcchess.org.uk/bccc.html](http://efcchess.org.uk/bccc.html).

There is a first prize of £100 and a second prize of £50. Entries close on August 31 and play is due to commence in September 2021. Entries can be made directly to Tournament Organiser Russell Sherwood or via the SCCA Gordon Anderson.

Entries and the entry fee of £12 should reach Gordon Anderson by 30th August 2021 or Russell Sherwood no later than 31st August 2021.

## ICCF 41st World Championship Candidates Stage



Gian-Maria Tani, ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner, writes to announce the Candidates stage of the 41st World Championship which will start on 20th September 2021.

All entries will be accepted according to ICCF Tournament Rules valid as from January 1, 2021, to be received not later than August 2, 2021. Rating numbers will be taken from the ICCF Rating List as at July 1, 2021 and/or from the current FIDE Rating List.

Candidates Tournament sections normally have 13 players with the possibility for the TTC to extend them to 15 or 17 players if appropriate in special situations.

Normally, no more than four Candidates Tournament sections are started each year with 1st and 2nd qualifying for a Final. However additional sections may be started at the discretion of the TTC. In this situation, the number of qualifiers for the Final may be reduced from two to one.

If the number of the entries isn't a multiple of 13, 15 or 17, sections will be filled with the players who ask to enter the Candidates Tournament according Rule 1.2.1.3.3; if it's again impossible to fill a section, the players who have been entered according to Rule 1.2.1.3.1 (h) and who have the lowest ICCF ELO rating won't be admitted to the 2021 Candidates' Tournament.

Entries have to be sent through the "New events" page on [www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com). The entry fee can be paid via Direct Entry or via the player's National Federation. Entries of "reserve players" must be sent by e-mail to the TTC via the player's National Federation. It is mandatory that the qualification right under Tournament Rules 1.2.1.3.1 should be specified for each entry.

Registration completes on 2nd August, so if you meet the entry criteria, please contact Gordon Anderson before 27th July, to register your interest.

## IA Title for Clive Murden



ICCF's Tournament Director Committee has confirmed the award of the International Arbiter (IA) to IM Clive Murden.

The process to obtain the title is quite onerous in that any candidate for the award required to have been a Tournament Director for at least 2,000 games (internal national events are not counted), has passed the TD Level 2 test and has performed the TD duties to an acceptable level.

Each candidate is supported by an approved Mentor – in this case, Gordon Anderson. Congratulations to Clive!



## ICCF Veterans' World Cup 13



Just a few weeks remain for eligible players to enter this tournament – 1<sup>st</sup> August is the closing date.

The full announcement for the event may be found at:

<https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1428> and contains information about eligibility, entry and prize fund.

Entries should be made via the ICCF server from the 'New events' page at:

<https://www.iccf.com/EventsAnnouncements.aspx>

## 11<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship Final



After a very long wait, this event is now officially live and play starts on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021. The end date has been set as 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

Thirteen nations are involved, each fielding 8-player teams. Teams and average grades are:

1		Germany	2485
2		Slovenia	2510
3		Italy	2487
4		Lithuania	2487
5		Switzerland	2500
6		Scotland	2411
7		Latvia	2413
8		Slovakia	2501
9		Poland	2472
10		Austria	2462
11		Ukraine	2441
12		Wales	2409
13		Bulgaria	2440



### Scotland Team:

1. Richard Beecham
2. Tom Matheis
3. Clive Murden
4. Iain Mackintosh
5. Alan Bell
6. Iain Sneddon
7. Kevin Paine
8. Gordon Anderson (C)

Good luck to all involved!

## 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](mailto:hebel57@gmx.de)

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

## ICCF Updates



June 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.





## 2021/3 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

The third ICCF grading list of 2021 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 Mar 2021 and 31 May 2021. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 Jul and 30 Sep 2021.

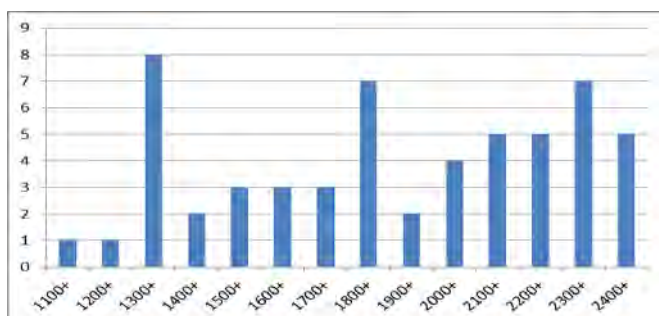
There were no additions or deletions in this list. Allan Buchan achieved the CCM title and with his rating going over 2300 also a Scottish Master norm. CCM norms were achieved by Colin Beveridge and Robert Montgomery (2), and Wilf Taylor gained a CCE norm. Clive Murden was awarded the IA title. Congratulations to all!

The most significant rating moves were Andrew MacMillen (+74), Allan Buchan (+53), Benjamin Major (+38), Carlos Almarza Mato (+28) and Ian Whittaker (+20).

New games centurions were David Cumming (1900+), Martin Hardwick (1700+) and Iain Sneddon (400+). Highest recorded games this quarter were Carlos Almarza Mato (63), David Cumming (46), Allan Buchan (44), and Raymond Burrige (36).

You need to complete 12 ICCF-eligible games to obtain a rating. Fixed ratings are based on at least 30 games and only these are shown below (for information there are 11 players with unfixed ratings in the latest list). Rating changes are denoted by arrows. Email [grader@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:grader@scottishcca.co.uk) if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
317	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2065	2143 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	465	1817 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	345	2357 ↔	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	791	2423 ↔
121	Anderson, J	302	1941 ↔	216	MacMillen, A N	1417	1676 ↑
313	Armstrong, J McK	474	1524 ↑		Major, B	46	1280 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	495	2472 ↑	566	Marshall, I H	840	1861 ↓
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	260	2426 ↔	434	Matheis, T (IM)	267	2453 ↓
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	492	2370 ↑		Maxwell, A	47	2180 ↓
481	Beveridge, C (CCE)	625	2321 ↑		Miles, A	73	1436 ↓
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)	339	2284 ↑
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	143	2321 ↑	474	Murden, C (IM)	626	2453 ↓
602	Burrige, R J	1674	2018 ↓	564	Murray, J S	90	2005 ↔
	Clark, S L	306	1830 ↔	440	Neil, C	342	1338 ↔
247	Cormack, W H	117	1898 ↑	453	Newton, A	30	1774 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1917	2267 ↓	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	439	1528 ↑		Pettigrew, S	174	1375 ↑
371	Edney, D	316	1947 ↓	432	Price, D	467	1871 ↔
462	Gilbert, R	266	1726 ↑		Rafferty, K	68	1396 ↓
124	Goodwin, B J	389	1719 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	112	1381 ↓
445	Graham, S W	86	1656 ↔	439	Smith, M J	107	2155 ↑
399	Grant, J	77	1646 ↓	057	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	415	2360 ↓
596	Hardwick, M E	1705	1104 ↓		Taylor, R	41	1388 ↓
475	Kearns, A	115	1380 ↔	605	Taylor, W	147	2075 ↑
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	351	2238 ↔		van Stratum, T	34	1355 ↔
260	Knox, A	398	1404 ↔		Warren, J	36	2067 ↔
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1026	2307 ↓	480	Whittaker, I P	182	2155 ↑
	MacDonald, M	56	1389 ↔		Wicht, D	39	1861 ↓



## Statistical Analysis

Total listed	56
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Grading increases (↑)	16
Grading decreases (↓)	17
Grading static (↔)	23

## Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2472	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	Maxwell, A	2180
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2423	Smith, M J	2155
Blake, M J (CCM)	2382	Whittaker, I P	2155
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2370	Almarza Mato, C	2143
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2360	Taylor, W	2075
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2357	Warren, J	2067
Paine, Prof K A (SM)	2350	Burridge, R J	2018
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2321	Murray, J S	2005
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2307	Edney, D	1947
Montgomery, R S (CCE)	2284	Anderson, J	1941
Beveridge, C (CCE)	2268	Cormack, W H	1898
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2267	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	1874

## Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	2065	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1917	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1026
Hardwick, M E	1705	Blake, M J (CCM)	886
Burridge, R J	1674	Marshall, I H	840
MacMillen, A N	1417	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	791

## Selected Personal Best Grades 2021/3

	New	Previous		Gain
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2321	2268	2021/2	53
Smith, M J	2155	2153	2021/2	2
Whittaker, I P	2155	2138	2021/1	17
Major, B	1280	1276	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:

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), Buchan, A (1)

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

Beveridge, C (2), Montgomery, R S (2), 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. Members who have played <30 games are not shown.

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

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



## AGM 2021

By Iain Mackintosh



- Meeting:** The 44<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association.
- Venue:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, 4pm by Zoom.
- Present:** Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Gordon Anderson, Mickey Blake, Alan Borwell, Kevin Paine, Ian Whittaker (until technical problems intervened).
- Apologies:** Alastair Dawson, Alistair Maxwell, Iain Sneddon.

### Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM

On the proposal of Gordon Anderson, seconded by Kevin Paine, the minute of the meeting held on 24th May 2020 was accepted as an accurate record and approved.

### Matters arising from the 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM

None.

### President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh reviewed the preceding year which unfortunately saw our bid to host the 2021 ICCF Congress in Glasgow during August founder again due to Covid restrictions. Gordon Anderson deserves a further big vote of thanks for all his work to date and we'll keep on trying!

On the playing front, it was another busy year for the SCCA. Domestic events all ran on schedule and results are summarised below. Internationally, we have had a long wait to contest the 11th European Team Final which will now start in August 2021. We were widely represented in ICCF individual and team competitions.

Our website was regularly updated with new content. Our Facebook page continues to service our social media following. The online magazine was produced on schedule each quarter; while the printed magazine was interrupted by Covid restrictions, but has now resumed.

As usual, the SCCA has been indebted to its hard-working committee members and tournament directors, all of whom deserve our grateful thanks for their efforts and commitment.

### Secretary's Report

In March 21, Iain Sneddon was forced to resign at short notice due to his wife's ill-health. We'd like to thank Iain for all his hard work to date and wish him well. Also due thanks is Mickey Blake, who stepped forward quickly to take over. We have still to finalise 2021 membership figures, but expect a slight rise in Annual subscriptions and the same number of Life/Patron members.

Mickey reported that the 2020-21 Championship was still in progress, with 3 players still in contention. The 2020 Premier was won by Allan Buchan with a 100% score. Andrew Macmillen won the 2020 Open. John Dunn triumphed in the 2020 Challengers. The Webserver League featured 3 divisions: in 1, Hounds of the Scheming Mind A prevailed; in 2, Hounds of the Scheming Mind C won it; and in 3, White Rose C finished on top. The 8th Annual Best Game Prize was adjudicated by SIM Per Söderberg and won by Iain Mackintosh.

Grader Alistair Maxwell summarised new title- and norm-holders:

- IM Norm: David Cumming (May 20); Iain Sneddon (Sep 20); Alan Bell (Jan 21); Gordon Anderson (Feb 21).
- SM Title: Iain Sneddon (Sep 20).
- CCM Title: Mickey Blake (Aug 20); Iain Sneddon (Aug 20), Allan Buchan (May 21).
- CCM Norm: Allan Buchan (Mar 21); Robert Montgomery (Apr 21).
- CCE Title: Robert Montgomery (Oct 20); Allan Buchan (Dec 20).
- CCE Norm: Raymond Burrige (May & Jun 20); Mark Smith (Nov 20).

## Treasurer's Report

Gordon Anderson presented a full set of accounts and once again expressed his thanks to Alan Hind for a comprehensive audit. We ended the year to 31st March 2021 showing a deficit of £965 (2020: £134 deficit) with net assets of £7,925 (2020: £8,891).

Income in the 12 month period was higher than that in 2020, amounting to £1,729 (2020-£1,561). Membership subscriptions recovered well, from £133 in 2020 to £196 in 2021. Donation income increased slightly to £147, (2020-£128), while Bank interest reduced slightly. Income from Magazine sales was also slightly higher, mainly due to electronic copies, a consequence of increased membership fees, of the excellent publication. Income from the 100 club was relatively flat following new subscribers coming on stream following on from an appeal made last year. Entries to domestic competitions also declined while there has been an increase in fees paid to ICCF for entries on behalf of members.

Expenditure in the year increased to £2,694 (2020-£1,696). The increase in expenditure results primarily due to the costs incurred for trophies and postage for sending the quaichs to winners, following the completion of the George Pyrich Memorial events. It is of interest to note that the total costs of setting up, running and rewarding participants was spread over 3 sets of accounts and in total amounted to just over £3,200.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon and Alan Hind which was unanimously agreed. Gordon moved adoption of the audited accounts, seconded by Kevin Paine and unanimously agreed.

## International Secretary's Report

Current friendly matches are with Sweden (postal on one board), Venezuela and the USA. No further matches are planned at present, due to upcoming team events. In 2020 we entered 22 players into 89 ICCF tournaments. So far in 2021 there have been 17 entries by 12 players. In the 22nd Olympiad Preliminary, we are likely to finish 2nd bottom of our section ahead only of Nicaragua. The final of the 11th ETC is now scheduled to start on 1st August 2021. Our team will be that which qualified for the final apart from Iain Sneddon replacing Peter Bennett (unavailable). The semi-finals of the 12th ETC start on the same date and our team is currently being selected. In the Carlos Flores Gutiérrez team event, Scotland has scored 21½ points with 2 games left.

The Nol van't Riet Memorial team event has been announced for players rated <2300. The next edition of the North Sea Team event has also been announced and will start on 1st September. Teams have been selected for both events. We are being stretched by all of these events in view of our limited resources.

The 2021 ICCF Congress will be a virtual affair due to the Covid restrictions. Delegates will vote online on proposals during August. We'll propose the 2022 Congress be held in Glasgow.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon which was unanimously agreed. Kevin Paine moved adoption of Gordon's report, seconded by Mickey Blake and unanimously agreed.

## Election of Office Bearers

The following office-bearers were elected to office for 2021-22.

Office	Name	Proposer	Seconder
<b>President</b>	Iain Mackintosh	Gordon Anderson	Kevin Paine
<b>Vice President<sup>1</sup></b>			
<b>International Secretary</b>	Gordon Anderson	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Borwell
<b>Secretary<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>Membership Officer</b>	Mickey Blake	Gordon Anderson	Alan Borwell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gordon Anderson	Kevin Paine	Alan Borwell
<b>Committee Members</b>	Alan Borwell Kevin Paine	Gordon Anderson Gordon Anderson	Iain Mackintosh Alan Borwell

<sup>1</sup> No nomination received. <sup>2</sup> No nomination received. We will review secretarial and membership functions during the year and hope to recruit another committee member to assist.

## Appointment of Auditor

Alan Hind was proposed by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Kevin Paine, and duly reappointed.

## Subscriptions

Gordon Anderson proposed no change to domestic membership fees for 2021-22. This was seconded by Alan Borwell and unanimously agreed.

## AOB

The Edinburgh CC Bicentenary takes place in Nov 2022, and the club hopes to reproduce the famous Edinburgh-London postal match, and perhaps others. SCCA is happy to provide support, but decisions are required re playing format. (**Action: GA, IW**)

A vote of thanks to the chair was proposed by Gordon Anderson and unanimously agreed.





## SCCA Accounts 2020-21

By Gordon Anderson

2019-20			Profit & Loss	2020-21		
Income	Expenses	Net		Income	Expenses	Net
			<b>General</b>			
133.00			Annual Members (@£7)	196.00		
0.00			Life Members (@£100)	0.00		
0.00			Patron Members (@£125)	0.00		
128.00			Donations	147.66		
	0.00		Chess Scotland Grant/Donation		0.00	
15.80			Bank Interest	3.72		
	0.00		Committee Expenses		0.00	
	50.00		Chess Scotland Affiliation Fee		50.00	
	32.11		ICCF Affiliation Fee		32.91	
	70.00	<b><u>124.69</u></b>	Auditor's Fee		70.00	<b><u>194.47</u></b>
			<b>Domestic Competitions</b>			
24.00			Individual Entry Fees	9.00		
140.00			Team League Fees	140.00		
	171.26		ICCF Webserver Fees		119.36	
	85.71		Prizes & Trophies		1385.98	
	0.00	<b><u>-92.97</u></b>	Controllers' Expenses		0.00	<b><u>-1356.34</u></b>
			<b>International Competitions</b>			
0.00		<b><u>0.00</u></b>	International Match Fees	0.00		<b><u>0.00</u></b>
			<b>ICCF Competitions</b>			
266.50	183.26		Individual & Team Fees	336.00	369.05	
	0.00	<b><u>83.24</u></b>	Bank Transfer Fees		0.00	<b><u>-33.05</u></b>
			<b>Magazine</b>			
57.00			New Magazine Email (@£3)	84.00		
45.00			New Magazine Printed (@£5)	30.00		
	118.40	<b><u>-16.40</u></b>	Printing & Postage		89.91	<b><u>24.09</u></b>
			<b>Website</b>			
0.00	0.00		ISP Connection Fees (Donation)	0.00	0.00	
0.00	0.00	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	Domain Registration	0.00	28.78	<b><u>-28.78</u></b>
			<b>100 Club</b>			
672.00			Units Bought	663.00		
	360.00		Prizes		360.00	
	0.00	<b><u>312.00</u></b>	Cheque Written Back		0.00	<b><u>303.00</u></b>
			<b>Other</b>			
80.00	125.00		Miscellaneous	119.63	188.66	
	500.00	<b><u>-545.00</u></b>	ICCF Congress		0.00	<b><u>-69.03</u></b>
<b><u>1561.30</u></b>	<b><u>1695.74</u></b>	<b><u>-134.44</u></b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b><u>1729.01</u></b>	<b><u>2694.65</u></b>	<b><u>-965.64</u></b>

**Balance Sheet 2020-21**

<b>Bank Summary</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<b>Payins</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>	<b>Written Off</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Closing</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
BoS Current	580.51	3520.79	2632.82	0.00	0.00	1468.48	
Barclays	8066.39	3.72	1500.00	0.00	0.00	6570.11	
	<b><u>8646.90</u></b>	<b><u>3524.51</u></b>	<b><u>4132.82</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>8038.59</u></b>	<b><u>8646.90</u></b>
Net Opening/Closing	<b><u>-608.31</u></b>						

<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Creditor</b>	<b>Debtor</b>		
100 Club Dec Chq 10665	30.00			
100 Club Prizes Jan-Mar	40.00			
100 Club Received 2021-22	28.00			
Whisky Tour Refund	30.00			
Peter Bennett Overpaid	38.10			
League Fees Not Banked		70.00		
Subs/Mag Not Banked		20.00		
FP To Iain Mackintosh	26.73			
Chq 010641	10.00			
<b>Subtotals/Net</b>	<b><u>202.83</u></b>	<b><u>90.00</u></b>		
			<b><u>-112.83</u></b>	<b><u>244.50</u></b>

**Net Assets at March 31, 2021** **7925.76** **8891.40**

**Capital Account**

Balances b/f		7891.40	8025.84
Surplus/Deficit		-965.64	-134.44
Subtotal		<b><u>6925.76</u></b>	<b><u>7891.40</u></b>
Less Allocation to Development Account		0.00	0.00
Balances c/f		<b><u>6925.76</u></b>	<b><u>7891.40</u></b>

**Development Account**

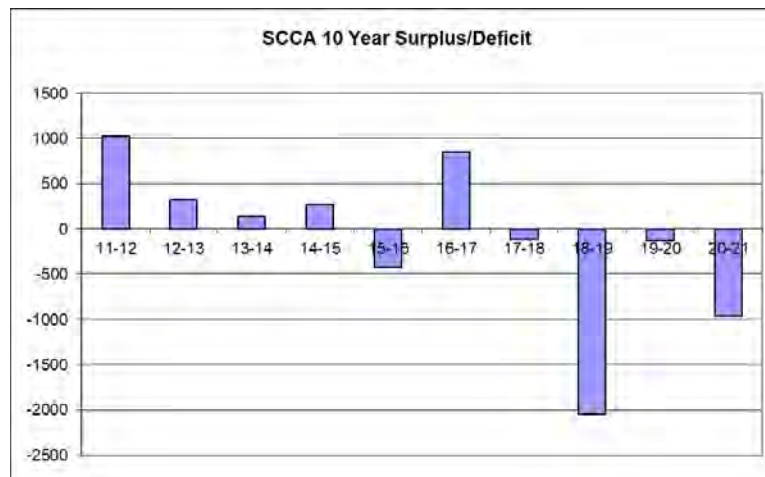
Balance b/f		1000.00	1000.00
Allocation from Capital Account		0.00	0.00
		<b><u>1000.00</u></b>	<b><u>1000.00</u></b>

**Account Totals** **7925.76** **8891.40**

**Auditor's Report**

I have examined the foregoing accounts and have obtained such explanations as I considered necessary. In my opinion these accounts have been properly prepared from the accounting records of the Association and are in agreement therewith.

Alan Hind, CA, May 2021.





## Chess Art

By Iain Mackintosh

### Laura Wait

Laura studied art history in college at Barnard College, New York, receiving a BA, cum laude, in Art History in 1975. She lived for a year in Los Angeles in 1975-76, studying lithography and drawing at Otis Art Institute. In 1976, she went to Croydon College of Art in London and received certificate in printmaking with merit for a one-year course in 1977, specialising in intaglio and bookbinding. She continued her studies in traditional bookbinding at Croydon, and received a Certificate with distinction in 1981.

Laura moved to Denver, Colorado in 1981, and ran a successful bookbinding and conservation business until 2003. During that time she developed her own artist books, many now held in collections worldwide. Laura's wall books feature pages looped together by a hinging system to form a concertina along the wall. The painting technique is encaustic – beeswax, damar resin and pigment applied in molten form – which allows layers to be incised with lines and figures, or rubbed away to expose other writings and colours.



Laura is fascinated by the history of symbols: early on, fertility and garden symbolism; then chess imagery; and now music, letterforms and numbers. Her chess interest began with checkerboards, then evolved via Sun Tzu (who the Chinese claim invented chess) into the strategy of war – empires, kings, soldiers, mathematics – through to modern chess c.500AD in the Persian Empire. She has also been influenced by Bauhaus designs and Man Ray.

Laura now lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I'm very grateful for her co-operation in sending the images displayed here and for her background notes. You can see more at: <http://www.laurawait.com/>



Chessmen



Rook Book





Pawn Storm





Middlegame



1 War of Words; 2 Battlefield; 3 Fat Red Line; 4 Knave Sortie





## The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

### Échecs Éclectiques

My offering this time is a set of games spanning a period from 1880 to the early 1930s. They feature a Scottish doctor, a Spanish psychiatrist, an Irish astronomer, a French CC/OTB champion, and a Bavarian noble.

Bio of Dr Ronald Cadell Macdonald, 3 times BCF CC Champion:

[https://www.chessscotland.com/documents/history/biographies/macdonald\\_dr\\_rc.htm](https://www.chessscotland.com/documents/history/biographies/macdonald_dr_rc.htm)



Ronald Cadell Macdonald (1868-1942)

**White: Macdonald, R.C.**  
**Black: Bussell, W.M.**  
British CC, 1927  
Caro Kann [B18]  
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 c6  
2.d4 d5  
3.Nc3 dxe4  
4.Nxe4 Bf5  
5.Ng3 Bg6  
6.f4



I don't have a contemporary reference game, but 6.h4 h6 and now 7.f4 is from CCYB-7 and the notes by Zuzek to a game with Houdek (Argentinian corres. 1989-91) continuing; 7...e6 8.Nf3 Nd7 9.h5 Bh7 (9...Bf5!? 10.Nxf5 ...Qa5+) 10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Ngf6 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.fxe5 Nd7 14.0-0 Be7 and wait for it... 15.Rxf7!?

6... e6  
6...Nf6 7.f5? Bxf5 8.Nxf5 Qa5+ of course.  
7.Nf3 Bd6  
8.Bd3 Ne7  
9.0-0 Nd7  
10.Ne5 Qc7  
11.Ne4 Bxe4  
12.Bxe4 Nf6  
13.Bd3 Nf5  
14.c3 h5  
15.Qe2 Kf8  
16.Bd2 Re8  
17.Rae1 g6  
18.b4 Kg7  
19.g3 Be7  
20.a3 Qd6  
21.Bc1 b6  
22.Bb2 Kf8  
23.Rd1 Rg8  
24.Qf3 Rc8  
25.Ba6 Rc7  
26.c4 g5  
27.fxc5 Rxc5  
28.c5 Qd5  
29.Qf4!



The only move to trouble Black.  
29... Ne8?  
Black had to play 29...Rg7 then if 30.Nxf7 Rxf7 31.Qxc7 Ne3 32.Qc8+ Kg7 33.Rd2 Nxf1 34.Bxf1 Ng4 and he seems on top - but there's the

fantastic resource 35.Qxc6! saving White.

30.Bc4 Qd8  
30...Rg4 31.Nxg4 Qxc4 32.Nh6+  
31.Nxf7! Kxf7  
32.h4

1-0



Rey Ardid

**White: Rey Ardid, Ramon**  
**Black: Johansson, Nils**  
Spain v Sweden Friendly Match, 1932  
Tarrasch Defence [D33]  
[Notes by John E Hawkes after Rey Ardid]

1.d4 d5  
2.c4 e6  
3.Nc3 c5  
4.cxd5 exd5  
5.Nf3 Nc6  
6.g3 c4



**7.e4 dxe4**  
If 7...Bb4 8.exd5 Qxd5 9.Bg2 then 0-0 with the better position.

**8.Ng5**  
If 8.Nxe4 Bb4+ gaining a tempo in development.

**8... Qxd4**  
Or; 8...Nxd4 9.Bxc4 Ne6 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Nxe6!; and 8...h6 9.Ngxe4 Bf5 10.Bxc4 Qxd4 11.Qb3! Bxe4 12.Bxf7+ Kd8 13.Be3 Qe5 14.0-0-0 →

**9.Bf4!**  
If 9.Be3 Qxd1+ 10.Rxd1 Ne5!

**9... h6**  
**10.Ngxe4 Qxd1+**  
**11.Rxd1 Be6**  
11...Bg4 12.Be2 Bxe2 13.Kxe2  
**12.Nb5 Bb4+**  
**13.Ke2!**

An important decision. The natural continuation 13.Nec3 Rd8 14.Nc7+ Ke7 15.Nxe6 Rxd1+! 16.Kxd1 fxe6 17.Bxc4 e5! 18.Nd5+ Kd6 19.Nxb4 exf4! 20.Nxc6 Kxc6 21.gxf4 Nf6 22.Rg1 Rd8+ 23.Ke2 Rd7 and it's impossible for White to exploit his slight plus. [Rey Ardid]

**13... Rd8**  
**14.Ned6+ Ke7**

**15.Bg2**  
15.Nxb7? Bg4+ 16.f3 Bxf3+! and Black wins the exchange.

**15... Nf6**  
**16.Nxb7 Bg4+**

**17.f3!**  
Retaining the bishop pair.

**17... Rxd1**  
**18.Rxd1 Bf5**  
If 18...Bc8 19.a3 Bxb7 20.axb4±  
**19.a3 Bd3+**  
**20.Kf2**



**20... g5!**  
Clever defence by Black; White had prepared to answer 20...Ba5 with the problem-like lines: 21.Nxa5 Nxa5 22.Re1+ Kd7 (Si 22...Kd8 23.Bc7+ winning a piece. And if; 22...Kf8 23.Nxa7) 23.Bh3+ Kc6 24.Nxa7+

Kc5 (Si 24...Kb6 25.Nc8+ followed by Re7.; 24...Kb7 25.Re7+; and if 24...Kd5 25.Re5+ wins a piece.) 25.Re5+ Nd5 (Si 25...Kd4 26.Nb5#; Si 25...Kd6 26.Re8+ etc.; if 25...Kb6 26.Nc8+ Ka6 27.Re7 etc.) 26.Be3+ Kd6 27.Nb5+!! Kc6 (27...Kxe5 28.Bd4#) 28.Bd7+! Kxd7 29.Rxd5+ Kc6 (Si 29...Ke8 or e6 30.Nc7+ Ke7 31.Rxa5 etc.) 30.Rd6+! Kxb5 (O 30...Kb7 31.Rb6+ Kc8 32.Ra6 c3 33.Ra8+ Kd7 34.Rxh8 cxb2 35.Nc3 and wins.) 31.Rb6+ Ka4 32.Rb4#



Fantastic!  
**21.Be3!**  
21.Bc7 a6! and Black doesn't lose a piece.

**21... Rb8**  
Johansson plays the best defence: 21...Bc2 22.Rc1 Rb8 23.Rxc2 Rxb7 24.Nd4! Nxd4 25.Bxd4 Ba5 26.Re2+ wins the knight; 21...a6 22.Nd4! Nxd4 23.Bxd4 Rb8 24.axb4 Rxb7 25.Re1+ wins a piece. 21...Ba5 22.Bc5+ Kd7 23.Nxa5 Nxa5 24.Bd4! Ke6 25.b4! Rb8 26.Nc7+ Kd7 (Si 26...Ke7 27.Re1+ Kd7 28.Na6! and wins.) 27.Na6 Rb6 28.Nc5+ Ke7 29.Nxd3 cxd3 30.Bxb6 axb6 31.Rxd3+→

**22.axb4 Rxb7**  
**23.Bc5+ Kd8**  
23...Kd7 24.b3! Rxb5 25.bxc4+→; 23...Ke6 24.Re1+ Ne5 (24...Kd5 25.Nc3#) 25.Nd4+ Kd5 26.f4+ Ne4+ 27.Bxe4+ Bxe4 28.fxe5+→

**24.f4! Rxb5**  
24...Kd7 25.b3! wins.  
**25.Bxc6 Rb8**  
**26.b5!**

Threatening to win the exchange by Bxa7 then Bb7.

**26...Kc7**  
**27.Bxa7 Rd8**  
**28.fxg5 hxg5**  
**29.Bf3! Kc8**  
29...Nd5 30.b3! wins; If 29...Ne4+ 30.Bxe4 Bxe4 31.Bb6+ etc.; and if 29...Nd7 30.Be3 f6 31.Ra1 etc.

**30.Re1!**  
Far stronger than 30.b6 Ne4+ 31.Bxe4 Bxe4 and bishops of opposite colours.

**30... g4**  
30...Re8 31.Rxe8+ Nxe8 32.Ke3+→; 30...c3 31.bxc3 Bxb5 32.Re5! Ba6 33.Rxg5 Rd2+ 34.Kg1 Rc2 35.Rc5+ wins.

**31.Bc6 Rd6**  
**32.Re7 Bg6**  
32...Re6 33.Rxe6! (33.Rxf7? Re2+ 34.Kg1 Ne4! 35.Bb7+ Kd8 36.Bxe4 Bxe4 and drawing chances for Black.) 33...fxe6 34.Ke3+→

**33.Bb6 Rd2+**  
**34.Ke1 Rd3**



If 34...Rxb2 35.Ra7 Rb1+ 36.Ke2 Rb2+ (36...Bd3+ 37.Ke3 Re1+ 38.Kd4 Re4+ 39.Kc3! etc.) 37.Ke3 Rb3+ 38.Kd4 Rd3+ 39.Kxc4 and wins.

**35.Ra7**  
Good enough, but here was a forced mate by 35.Rc7+ Kb8 (35...Kd8 36.Ra7+ Kc8 37.Ra8#) 36.Ra7 and mate in four.

**1-0**



**White: Rey Ardid, Ramon**  
**Black: Dyckhoff, Eduard**  
Spain-Germany CC Match  
Correspondence, 1932  
QGD – Tarrasch [D34]  
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

**1.d4 d5**  
**2.c4 e6**  
**3.Nc3 c5**  
**4.cxd5 exd5**  
**5.Nf3 Nc6**  
**6.g3 Nf6**  
**7.Bg2 Be7**  
**8.0-0 0-0**  
**9.dxc5 d4**



- 10.Na4 Bf5
- 11.a3 Ne4
- 12.e3 Nxc5
- 13.Nxd4 Nxd4
- 14.exd4 Nxa4
- 15.Qxa4 Qb6
- 16.d5 Bf6
- 17.Re1 Rad8
- 18.Ra2 Bd4
- 19.b4 Bd7
- 20.Qd1 Rde8
- 21.Rxe8 Rxe8
- 22.Rd2 Rc8
- 23.h3

<http://www.tara.tcd.ie/handle/2262/76982>



William Henry Stanley Monck

**White: Monck, William H.C.**  
**Black: Shenele, Peter S.**  
 Correspondence 1880  
 King's Gambit Accepted [C33]  
*[Notes by John E Hawkes]*

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.f4 exf4
- 3.Bc4 g5
- 4.d4 Bg7
- 5.Qh5 Qf6
- 6.e5
- 6.Nf3 Qg6
- 7.Qe2
- 7.Qxg6 hxg6 8.Nf3=
- 7... Ne7
- 8.Nf3 d5
- 9.exd6 cxd6
- 10.c3 Nbc6
- 11.h4 h6
- 12.hxg5 hxg5
- 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8
- 14.Na3 a6
- 15.Bd2 Bf5
- 16.0-0-0

- 18.Bxc6+ Kd8 19.Qxd3! Qxd3
  - 20.Bxa8±
  - 18... Kd7
  - 19.Bb3 Rc8
- The errors have cancelled each other out: White is in serious trouble and now plays another weak move.  
**20.Qh1**



- 20.Nc2 Na5
  - 20... Nb4
  - 21.Ne1 Bb1
- 21...Be2 is winning of course - but there is something very special in the air.  
**22.Nxb1? Qc2+!!**  
 A smothered-mate dual!



Aimé Gibaud

**White: Gibaud, Aimé**  
**Black: Legrain, Gaston**  
 2nd French Correspondence.  
 Championship 1931  
 Reti [E17]  
*[John E Hawkes after Gibaud]*

- 1.Nf3 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.b3 b6
- 4.g3 Bb7
- 5.Bg2 c5
- 6.Bb2 d5
- 7.cxd5 exd5
- 8.d4 Nbd7



- 23... Ba4
- 24.Qxa4 Rxc1+
- 25.Kh2 Re1
- 26.Qc2 Re8
- 27.Re2! Rd8
- 28.Re7 Bf6
- 29.Rc7 Be5
- 30.d6 Qxd6
- 31.Rxb7 Bd4
- 32.Qc4 Rd7



- 33.Qc6!!
- 1-0



The next game comes from Tim Harding's doctoral thesis at:



- 16... b5
- 17.Bd5 Bd3?
- 17...Rc8+
- 18.Qe1?

9.0-0 Be7  
 10.Nc3 0-0  
 11.Rc1 Ne4  
 12.Nxe4 dxe4  
 13.Nd2 f5



14.g4!? g6  
 14...Nf6 15.gxf5 cxd4 16.Nc4 Bc5  
 17.b4 Bxb4 18.Qb3 Be7 19.Rfd1  
 And White is better according to  
 Gibaud; 14...Bd6 15.Nc4 Bb8 with  
 Qh4 looming is an option for Black.  
 15.gxf5 gxf5  
 16.Rc3 Bf6  
 17.Rg3+ Kh8  
 18.Nc4  
 Or 18.Qa1 in true Reti fashion.

18... Qe7  
 19.e3 cxd4  
 20.Bxd4 Rad8  
 21.f4 Bxd4  
 22.Qxd4+ Qf6  
 23.Rd1 Ne5!  
 24.Nd6 Nc6  
 25.Qd5 Rd7  
 More accurate was 25...Qe7 26.Bf1  
 Rf6 27.Bc4 Qf8 when 28.Nxb7 Rxd5  
 29.Bxd5 Nb4 30.Rg8+ Qxg8+  
 31.Bxg8 Kxg8 32.Rd8+ Kf7  
 33.Rd7+ Kg6 A promising endgame  
 for Black.  
 26.Bf1! Rfd8  
 27.Bc4



27... h6?  
 Losing quickly. 27...Qf8 was the  
 only option, but 28.Qd2 Rxd6  
 29.Qc3+ Nd4 30.Rxd4 Rxd4  
 31.Rg8+ Qxg8+ 32.Bxg8 Kxg8  
 33.exd4+-  
 28.Rg8+ Kh7  
 29.Ne8!  
 The winning line goes; 29.Ne8! Rxe8  
 (29...Qg6+ 30.Rxg6 Rxd5 31.Rg7+  
 Kh8 32.Bxd5+-) 30.Qxd7+ Re7  
 31.Qd5 (Not 31.Re8? Qg7+  
 (31...Rxd7? 32.Rxd7+ Kg6 33.Rg8+  
 Kh5 34.Be2+ Kh4 35.Rg5!) 32.Kh1  
 Rxd7+-) 31...Ne5 32.fxe5 Qg7+  
 (32...Bxd5 33.exf6 Kxg8 34.fxe7+-)  
 33.Rxg7+ Rxg7+ 34.Kh1 Bxd5  
 35.Rxd5+-



## Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 21

White: Blum, M.  
 Black: von Feilitzsch, M.  
 Deutsche Schachzeitung , 1931  
 Nimzoindian (Spielmann) [E23]  
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

[Game source: SSKK Bulletinen  
 'Miniatures' 6/1987]

1.d4 Nf6  
 2.c4 e6  
 3.Nc3 Bb4  
 4.Qb3 c5  
 5.dxc5 Nc6  
 6.Nf3 Ne4  
 7.Bd2  
 The San Remo variation.  
 7... Nxc5  
 8.Qc2 0-0  
 9.a3 Bxc3  
 10.Bxc3 f5  
 11.b4 Ne4  
 12.Bb2 b6



A good Black alternative is; 12...d6  
 13.e3 e5 14.Be2 Be6  
 13.g4?! ffg4?  
 13...Nxf2! 14.Kxf2 ffg4 15.Rg1  
 Qh4+ 16.Ke3 Qh6+ 17.Kd3 d5! was  
 the drawn game between Botvinnik  
 and Miasoedov, Leningrad 1931.  
 14.Qxe4 gxf3  
 15.Rg1 Rf7  
 16.0-0-0 Qc7  
 17.e3 d5



18.Rxd5!  
 18.Rxd5 exd5 19.Qe8+ Rf8  
 20.Qxc6! Qxc6 21.Rxg7+ Kh8  
 22.Rg6+ Rf6 23.Bxf6+ Qxf6  
 24.Rxf6± was playable, but White is  
 seeking more than just an  
 advantageous ending.  
 18... Nxb4+  
 19.Bc4  
 The immediate self-pin is forced.  
 If 19.Kb1 Nxd5 20.Bc4 and Black  
 survives with 20...Kf8!  
 19... Nxd5



The natural developing move  
 19...Bb7 would probably have had  
 the continuation: 20.axb4 b5  
 21.Qxe6 Qxc4+ 22.Kb1 g6 23.Qe5!  
 when 23...Kf8 this time fails to  
 24.Rd4!, whereas 19...exd5 allows a  
 forced mate by 20.Rxg7+ Kf8  
 21.Rg8+! Kxg8 22.Qe8+ Rf8  
 23.Rg1+ etc.

**20.Rxd5! Bb7**  
 The pinning of the rook can't save  
 Black, but 20...exd5 21.Qe8+ Rf8  
 22.Rxg7+ and Black would resign.  
**21.Qxe6!**  
 21.Qxe6 and if 21...Qxc4+  
 (21...Bxd5 22.Qxd5!) 22.Kb1 g6 then  
 we have a beautiful mate by  
 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qxg6+ Kf8

25.Qd6+ Re7 26.Qf6+ Rf7 27.Rd8+  
 Rxd8 28.Qxd8#

**1-0**



**Chess Art**  
**Caliph's Peons by Laura Wait**







## The Return of the Trout

By Peter Bennett

In my previous article about chess and trout, I was suggesting that brown trout, in particular, would make excellent chess coaches, at least for inexperienced players. Why?

Well, why not try spending an afternoon casting a wet fly for brown trout? And you will soon see what I mean.

The wet fly is a lure. Brown trout are interested in lures, they investigate them and, in bright conditions, you can see them doing it. But the larger, more experienced trout are also suspicious of lures. As they should be. In this respect, inexperienced chess players – who have a tendency, nay a compulsion, to grab every loose pawn that is going – have much to learn from trout.

So here is yet another game taken from my experiences on the ‘frozen rooks’ website (please see my articles in previous issues for a more detailed description of this experience).



**White: Bennett, Peter**  
**Black: Iceman 10**  
 2021  
 (Very) Irregular Opening [B00]  
*[Notes by Peter Bennett]*

<b>1.e4</b>	<b>b6</b>
<b>2.d4</b>	<b>Bb7</b>
<b>3.Bd3</b>	<b>h6</b>
<b>4.Nf3</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>5.e5</b>	<b>Ne4</b>
<b>6.Qe2</b>	<b>Ng5</b>
<b>7.Nxg5</b>	<b>hxg5</b>
<b>8.Bxg5</b>	



At this point, through the messaging system, I reminded my opponent of one of the golden rules of practical play, especially where loose pawns are concerned:

If an inexperienced chess player leaves a loose pawn en prise, it may be an oversight.

If an experienced chess player leaves a loose pawn en prise, it is almost always for a reason.

**8... Bxg2?**

A trout would have told him that this might be a lure, hence risky.

**9.Rg1 Bb7**

**10.Nc3**

Once again, through the messaging system, I pointed out that Black has a choice in this position: to take or not to take, that is the question...

**10... Rxh2?**

Black now has a pawn advantage! I could sense my opponent licking his lips.

**11.d5 a5**

Now I realised that ‘Iceman 10’ had missed out on another essential chess lesson. For which, unfortunately, I have to take full responsibility since, incidentally, I am his coach. When, just over 100 years ago, Nimzowitch overthrew the dated ideas of the Tarrasch School, such that it was no longer necessary to occupy the centre with pawns, he (Nimzowitch) had advocated a different approach: the indirect control of the centre, with the pieces.

The fianchetto of the queen’s bishop was indeed Nimzowitchian in principle; but it had now become

clear that this particular bishop was only using the vacant centre as a motorway through which to glide backwards and forwards, collecting pawns.

Furthermore, neither Tarrasch nor Nimzowitch had advocated ceding the control of the centre entirely to the other player. Nor is there any openings manual which advises the second player to leave his c, d, e, f and g-pawns on their starter squares until at least move 12.

**12.e6 Bxd5**  
**13.Nxd5 dxex6**



**14.Nxb6 cxb6?**

Having already taken two poisoned pawns, Black may as well take a poisoned knight as well.

**15.Bb5+ Nd7**  
**16.0-0-0 Ra7**  
**17.Rxd7 Rxd7**  
**18.Rd1 f6**  
**19.Qxe6 Rh5**  
**20.Rxd7 Qxd7**  
**21.Bxd7+ Kd8**  
**22.Bc6 Kc7**  
**23.Qd7+ Kb8**  
**24.Qb7#**

If Black were a trout, he would be an angler’s dream, wouldn’t he?

**1-0**





*[Editor's Note: we welcome Awani Kumar back to our magazine! This article covers editions 153 and 154.]*

Readers are well aware of the classical Knight's Tour puzzle (see edition152). The author has composed interesting tours of a knight on 9x17 (= 153) and 11x14 (= 154) cell boards.

The Knight's Tour is a curious puzzle and the task 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. Although 'Tour of a Knight' is over a millennium old puzzle ( the oldest record dates back to 840 AD), but the 'Figured Tour' of a Knight is a recent, albeit less explored, field of research.

The term was coined in 1940s by T. R. Dawson (1889-1951), a British author, columnist and 'the father of Fairy Chess'. The name 'Figured Tour' is appropriate for any numbered tour in which certain arithmetically-related numbers are arranged in a geometrical pattern.

Figured tours are basically pieces of art which have an aesthetic appeal. For example, Figure 1 is a 'figured tour' of knight on 9x17 board. Here all the consecutive square numbers  $1^2, 2^2, 3^2 \dots 12^2$ , that is, 1, 4, 9 ... 144 are also on the knight's path and when joined, make a beautiful diamond shape. Its area is 36. Consecutive square numbers on the knight's path make an octagonal shape in Figure 2. Its area is 52. Readers may look for other polygon shapes.

89	112	91	70	87	114	93	68	85
102	71	88	113	92	69	86	115	94
111	90	101	136	119	126	99	84	67
72	103	120	125	100	135	118	95	116
123	110	137	134	153	98	127	66	83
104	73	124	121	130	81	152	117	96
109	122	131	138	133	128	97	82	65
74	105	144	129	80	149	64	151	50
145	108	75	132	139	48	51	34	63
76	1	106	143	148	79	150	49	52
107	146	77	140	47	142	33	62	35
2	59	4	147	78	61	36	53	32
5	10	57	60	141	46	55	24	37
58	3	42	9	56	25	38	31	54
11	6	13	26	45	28	17	20	23
14	43	8	41	16	19	22	39	30
7	12	15	44	27	40	29	18	21

Fig.1. Figured tour (diamond shape)

Symmetrical figures are pretty. The circle is supposed to be a perfect closed figure and it is natural to look for a figured tour with square numbers along its periphery.

111	116	87	150	109	118	85	126	107
88	149	110	117	86	127	108	119	84
115	112	147	122	151	120	135	106	125
148	89	114	145	136	123	128	83	130
113	146	91	152	121	134	131	124	105
90	153	144	133	76	137	100	129	82
143	92	75	138	99	132	77	104	101
6	1	98	141	74	139	102	81	78
93	142	5	2	97	80	65	62	103
4	7	56	71	140	73	48	79	64
55	94	3	8	57	96	63	66	61
44	9	70	95	72	47	68	49	32
17	54	45	58	69	50	33	60	67
10	43	16	53	46	59	36	31	34
15	18	13	40	25	22	51	28	37
42	11	20	23	52	39	26	35	30
19	14	41	12	21	24	29	38	27

Fig.2. Figured tour (octagonal shape)

Figure 3 has the square numbers in a near circular formation. The central number between 1 and 153 is 77 and it is in the central cell of the 9x17 board. The centre of the circular formation also lies in the central cell of the oblong board.

53	84	43	60	51	86	41	62	91
44	59	52	85	42	61	90	67	40
83	54	97	50	87	66	63	92	89
58	45	82	65	98	95	88	39	68
55	106	57	96	49	64	99	74	93
46	81	48	105	102	75	94	69	38
107	56	143	76	123	104	71	100	73
144	47	80	103	148	101	122	37	70
1	108	145	142	77	124	147	72	121
112	141	2	79	146	149	152	125	36
109	4	111	138	153	78	35	120	151
140	113	6	3	34	137	150	9	126
5	110	139	16	25	8	127	136	119
114	17	24	7	132	33	118	129	10
23	20	15	26	117	128	131	30	135
18	115	22	13	32	133	28	11	130
21	14	19	116	27	12	31	134	29

Fig.3. Figured tour (near circular shape)

After putting in intense effort, it is the best symmetrical arrangement author could get - readers may like to improve it.

Figure 4 has all the consecutive square numbers on the knight's path and the curve takes the shape of a heart – the universal symbol of love. We love, adore and admire the *SCCA Magazine!*



115	96	87	138	113	104	85	106	111
88	141	114	97	86	139	112	103	84
95	116	147	140	137	98	105	110	107
142	89	152	133	146	79	108	83	102
117	94	145	148	153	136	99	78	109
90	143	134	151	132	149	80	101	82
93	118	91	144	135	100	67	130	77
6	1	122	119	150	131	76	81	66
123	92	5	2	121	126	65	68	129
4	7	120	125	60	75	128	47	64
33	124	3	8	127	48	63	72	69
12	9	34	61	74	59	70	49	46
17	32	11	58	35	62	73	56	71
10	13	16	31	52	57	36	45	50
21	18	27	14	25	38	51	42	55
28	15	20	23	30	53	40	37	44
19	22	29	26	39	24	43	54	41

Fig.4. Figured tour (heart shape)

9x17 is an 'odd by odd' side board. Therefore, the first cell (1) and the last cell (153) cannot be connected by a knight move.

Figure 5 is a semi-magic tour on 11x14 board. All the consecutive numbers from starting cell (1) to the last cell (154) are on the knight's path and the sum of all the rows is 1085. It is an open tour – 1 and 154 are not connected by a knight move – and readers may like to compose the more challenging closed semi-magic tour.

There can't be a magic tour (which has both the rows and columns with magic sum) on 'odd by even' size board because of unequal number of dark and light cells along the columns.

By the same logic, there can't be semi-magic tour on 'odd by odd' size board.

15	8	151	136	35	32	123	120	63	66	61	94	89	92	1085
152	137	14	7	124	121	34	31	60	87	64	91	68	95	1085
9	16	135	150	33	36	119	122	65	62	67	88	93	90	1085
138	153	6	13	118	125	30	37	86	59	104	51	96	69	1085
17	10	149	134	29	38	117	126	105	52	85	70	103	50	1085
154	139	12	5	116	127	40	27	84	55	58	97	100	71	1085
11	18	133	148	39	28	115	128	57	106	53	102	49	98	1085
140	147	4	19	132	41	26	111	54	83	56	99	72	101	1085
1	20	143	146	23	114	129	44	107	110	79	46	75	48	1085
144	141	22	3	42	131	112	25	82	45	108	77	80	73	1085
21	2	145	142	113	24	43	130	109	78	81	74	47	76	1085

Fig.5. Semi-magic tour on 11x14 board

Figure 6 (A & B) both show consecutive square numbers forming geometrical figures, namely, an oblong and a square respectively.

117	152	125	140	119	136	123	134	55	60	57
126	131	118	151	124	133	146	137	58	101	54
153	116	141	132	139	120	135	122	61	56	59
130	127	154	143	150	145	138	147	100	53	102
115	142	129	2	97	148	121	80	103	62	85
128	3	96	149	144	105	90	99	86	81	52
95	114	1	108	111	98	79	104	63	84	87
4	109	112	93	78	91	106	89	82	51	64
113	94	5	110	107	76	73	70	49	88	83
6	9	26	77	92	71	36	75	34	65	50
27	14	7	10	25	74	69	72	23	48	33
8	11	16	39	68	37	24	35	66	45	22
15	28	13	18	41	30	67	20	43	32	47
12	17	40	29	38	19	42	31	46	21	44

Fig 6 (A)

117	134	131	126	115	140	129	104	57	102	59
132	125	116	141	130	127	114	101	60	105	56
135	118	133	146	139	142	151	128	103	58	61
124	145	120	143	152	147	100	113	150	55	106
119	136	91	138	121	112	149	98	109	62	83
92	123	144	153	148	99	110	81	84	107	54
1	90	137	122	111	154	97	108	79	82	63
72	93	2	89	96	75	80	85	64	53	78
19	4	73	94	69	88	67	48	77	86	65
10	71	18	3	74	95	76	87	66	49	52
5	20	9	70	17	68	47	36	51	40	43
8	11	6	27	14	25	32	41	44	35	50
21	28	13	16	23	30	37	46	33	42	39
12	7	22	29	26	15	24	31	38	45	34

Fig 6 (B)

Figure 7(A) has the consecutive square numbers arranged along a line that looks like a pole. Figure 7(B) is the well-known and most revered figure. Here the square numbers take the shape of a cross.

97	94	119	130	117	154	143	136	141	146	151
124	129	98	95	120	135	116	145	152	137	140
93	96	123	118	131	144	153	142	139	150	147
128	125	132	99	134	121	112	115	148	103	138
89	92	127	122	113	100	107	102	105	110	149
126	83	90	133	86	81	114	111	108	59	104
91	88	85	82	79	64	101	106	57	62	109
84	77	72	87	66	49	80	63	60	53	58
71	68	75	78	73	36	65	56	51	34	61
76	41	70	67	48	25	50	35	54	31	52
69	44	47	74	37	16	55	24	27	20	33
40	13	42	45	2	9	26	7	32	23	30
43	46	11	38	15	4	17	28	21	6	19
12	39	14	3	10	1	8	5	18	29	22

Fig 7 (A)

12	43	52	41	2	7	18	31	22	27	20
51	40	11	14	5	30	3	28	19	32	23
44	13	42	53	8	1	6	17	26	21	68
39	50	63	10	15	4	29	66	69	24	33
62	45	54	49	64	9	16	25	34	67	70
55	38	57	60	83	36	65	80	85	78	89
46	61	48	37	58	81	84	35	88	71	86
103	56	59	82	127	100	123	118	79	90	77
150	47	104	101	146	121	126	99	124	87	72
105	102	151	128	139	144	119	122	117	76	91
152	149	154	145	120	147	140	125	98	73	116
109	106	129	148	143	138	113	134	75	92	95
130	153	108	111	132	141	136	97	94	115	74
107	110	131	142	137	112	133	114	135	96	93

Fig 7 (B)

Readers may have guessed that the chosen 153 and 154 cell boards are intimately related to recent issues of the *SCCA Magazine*. The author has shown a few figured tours of the knight and readers are encouraged to compose more of them – the sky is the limit for figured tours.



### Spot the Winning Move... ...just by studying the diagrams (Solutions on p24)

By Peter Bennett

Like all the previous problems I have submitted, these positions are taken from real (and also recent) CC games. So there is no perfect solution, as there might be for a composed problem. An engine will spot the solutions immediately. The question is, can you?

**White: Bennett, Peter**  
**Black: Iceman 11**  
2021; Irregular Opening  
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

- 1.e4                d5
- 2.exd5            Qxd5
- 3.Nc3             Qa5
- 4.d4               c6
- 5.Bd2             Qb6
- 6.Bc4             Nf6
- 7.Qe2             Qxd4
- 8.Nf3             Qd8
- 9.0-0-0

Thus far this is known to theory.

9...                Bf5?

Now, everything starts to go horribly wrong for Black.

- 10.Ne5            e6
- 11.g4             Bg6
- 12.Bf4            Qc8
- 13.h4             Nxf4
- 14.Qxg4          Bf5



The bishop is chasing the queen. So where should the queen go?  
Standard: fairly easy.

**White: Iceman 12**  
**Black: Bennett, Peter**  
2021; Irregular Opening  
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

- 1.e4                c5
- 2.Nf3             d6
- 3.d4               cxd4
- 4.Nxd4           Nf6
- 5.Nc3             a6
- 6.Be3             e5
- 7.Nb3            Be6
- 8.h3              Be7
- 9.Be2            Nbd7
- 10.0-0          Rc8

So far, this is a fairly standard Sicilian Defence.

11.Nd5

Loose. This move concedes a pawn.

- 11...               Nxe4
- 12.Qd3            f5
- 13.Bf3            Ndf6
- 14.Bb6            Qd7
- 15.Nxe7          Qxe7
- 16.Na5            0-0
- 17.Bxe4          fxe4
- 18.Qa3            Nd5
- 19.Rfd1



With complete control of the centre and an extra pawn, Black has several ways to win from this position. The one I chose was an unusual sacrifice. Can you spot it?  
Standard: tricky.





While searching through recent Scottish ICCF tournament games, I thought I would have a look and see ICCF tournament activity in Russia. The list of chess tournaments is staggering and the strength of players mind-boggling.

One tournament that caught my eye was the recent 3rd Russian Rapidplay Championship that completed a few weeks ago. Eighteen players took part with the standard ICCF Rapidplay rules of 10 moves in 10 days.

The strongest player in the tournament was SIM Mikhail Mikhailovich Churkin (2517). As befits a player of this stature he won the Championship with 11.5/17 a clear point ahead of the field. His strategy for winning was quite clear - draw with your closest competitors and get your wins against players in the lower half of the draw. And he did just that! For the highest graded 7 opponents he notched up 7 draws. But for his remaining 10 opponents from mid-table downwards he scored 8.5/10.

For an SIM of this strength his play is instructive. We include here 3 games where he has the White pieces. The games feature Semi-Slav, Grünfeld and Queens Gambit openings. In the first and third he gains a positional edge, then launches an irresistible attack.

The Grünfeld game is more refined; first he secures an edge, then he swops one advantage for another before engineering the final breakthrough with a crushing pin. Enjoy.

**White: Churkin, Mikhail Mikhailovic (2519)**  
**Black: Kirsanov, Vladimir Nikolaevic (2217)**  
RUS/RC3 2020  
Semi-Slav [D46]  
*[Notes by Alastair Dawson]*

**1.d4**            **d5**  
**2.c4**            **c6**  
**3.Nf3**          **Nf6**

**4.Nc3**           **e6**  
**5.e3**            **Nbd7**  
**6.Qc2**           **Bd6**  
**7.Bd3**           **dx4**  
**8.Bxc4**          **b5**

This is a highly ambitious line to play against someone so experienced - just watch how White prevents Black from ever playing the freeing move ..c5.

**9.Bd3**           **a6**  
**10.0-0**          **Bb7**



So why cannot Black play 10..c5 at this point? The reason is the reply 11. Ne4 and after 11..Ne4 12. Be4 Rb8 13. b3 Nf6 14. dc5 Ne4 15. Qe4 and there is a nasty check on c6 if the ..c5 pawn is captured.

**11.e4**  
Now there is a fork threatened.  
**11...**           **e5**  
**12.h3**

And here ..c5 is countered by d5 when the bishop on b7 becomes entombed while White also has a passed d-pawn for the rest of the game.

**12...**           **0-0**  
**13.dxe5**          **Nxe5**  
**14.Nxe5**          **Bxe5**  
**15.Be3**

And now we have ..c5 prevented by the Be3.

**15...**           **Bd4**  
**16.Bxd4**          **Qxd4**  
**17.Rad1**          **Qc5**  
**18.Rfe1**          **Rae8**  
**19.Qd2**          **h6**  
**20.Bb1**          **b4**  
**21.Na4**          **Qa5**  
**22.Qc2**



Beautiful coordination: now not only does the c5 square continue to be in the control of White but White is also generating new threats along the b1-h7 diagonal.

**22...**           **Qg5**  
**23.Qc5**          **Qxc5**  
**24.Nxc5**

And now c5 is occupied by the N and the Black defences crumble.

**24...**           **Bc8**  
**25.Rd6**

1-0



**White: Churkin, Mikhail Mikhailovic (2519)**  
**Black: Sychov, Aleksandr Vitalievic (2267)**  
[D98]  
RUS/RC3 2020  
Grünfeld, Russian System  
*[Notes by Alastair Dawson]*

**1.d4**            **Nf6**  
**2.c4**            **g6**  
**3.Nc3**          **d5**  
**4.Qb3**

A relatively rare move in the Grünfeld; much more popular is 4.cd5 with established analysis extending to move 20 and beyond. White chooses to take Black off the beaten path straight away.

**4...**            **dx4**  
**5.Qxc4**          **Bg7**  
**6.e4**            **0-0**  
**7.Be2**           **Nfd7**



This is one of several Black plans that include 7..Nc6, 7..a6, 7..a6 and 7..c6.

**8.Nf3 Nb6**

**9.Qc5**

White has a good grip of the centre here and easy development as well as having more pieces in play. Pay attention to the N on ..b6; it has been actively chasing the White queen but very quickly becomes a spectator in the game.

**9... Bg4**

**10.Be3 Bxf3**

Possibly not the best choice because it gives White threats on the kingside as well as a pawn majority in the centre. Perhaps Black thought that White would recapture with the bishop in order to keep the pawn structure intact - but White is more ambitious. In the games that have been played in this line Black has more frequently elected to develop the Nb8 - either to c6 or d7.

**11.gxf3 e5**

**12.dxe5**

This move is seen less often than 12.d5. In favour of 12.de5 White gains precious development tempi.

**12... N8d7**

**13.Qb5 c6**

**14.Qb3 Bxe5**



**15.0-0-0**

And this is the tempo issue we were discussing: Black has to move his queen out of the pin. The move ..Nf6 is possible but Black has to be very careful that the bishop on e5 is not exposed to danger. Meanwhile White can initiate an attack along the h- and g-files coupled with a long-term plan of advancing with f4.

**15... Qc7**

**16.Kb1 Rad8**

**17.h4 Nf6**

**18.Rdg1 Nh5**

**19.Bd1 Rfe8**

**20.Ne2 Bf6**

Ultimately Black had to choose what to do with the bishop. After White played Ne2 the blockade on f4 was gone. Now Black has a misplaced N on ..h5. Also the N on b6 does not have much of a future.

**21.Bc2 Re5**

**22.Bd3 Na4**

Black sees a way of exchanging off this N for the white-squared bishop.

**23.Qxa4 Rxd3**

**24.Qc2 Qd8**

**25.Nc3 Ra5**

**26.Rd1 Rd7**

**27.f4 Bxc3**

Black is in danger of being overwhelmed by a central pawn advance and so jettisons the bishop.

**28.bxc3 Rxd1+**

**29.Rxd1 Qxh4**



**30.Qd3**

So now we see the White plan, the White pieces are centralised while the Black pieces are dispersed - in particular the Nh5 has to get back into play - and fast!

**30... Qe7**

**31.f5 h6**

**32.Rg1 Nf6**

**33.f3 g5**

**34.Rh1 Kg7**

**35.Qd2 Ng4**

A nice little tactic with ..Qe4+ threatened if the N is captured. But White has seen further.

**36.Bd4+ f6**

**37.Qg2 Ne5**

**38.f4 Nf7**

**39.e5**

And this is what White saw and Black did not. If 39..fe5 40. fe5 Ne5 White has the devastating 41. Qh2.

**39... fxe5**

**40.fxe5 Rxe5**

**41.Re1 Qd6**

**42.Qe4 Kf6**



**43.c4**

And the pin on e5 leaves Black in a hopeless position. The final moves are all centred around this deadly pin.

**43... h5**

**44.Kc2 b6**

**45.Qd3 Qb4**

**46.Bc3 Qe7**

**47.a3 h4**

**48.Bd4 a6**

**49.Re2 Qc7**

**50.Re3 Qe7**

**51.Kb1 Qc7**

**52.a4 Qe7**

**53.Kc1 Qc7**

**54.Qd1 Ke7**

**55.f6+ Kxf6**

**56.Qh5 Kg7**

**57.a5 bxa5**

**58.Qe2 Kf6**

**59.Rf3+ Kg6**

**60.Qc2+ Kg7**

**61.Rf5**

1-0



**White: Churkin, Mikhail**

**Mikhailovic (2519)**

**Black: Trushnikov, Vyacheslav**

**Evstafiev (1854)**

RUS/RC3 2020

QGD Exchange Variation [D36]

[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

**1.d4 Nf6**

**2.c4 e6**

**3.Nc3 d5**

**4.cxd5 exd5**

**5.Bg5 c6**

**6.e3 Be7**

**7.Bd3 Nbd7**

**8.Qc2**

One of the most common Semi-Slav chess positions from time immemorial.

8... 0-0

9.Nge2

Usually when this move order arises one can tell that White is planning to develop the N on e2 rather than f3. This line has been deadly for many years with Kasparov and Carlsen amongst many who have used it with success.

9... Re8

10.0-0 Nf8

11.f3 g6

Relatively uncommon with Black normally preferring 11..Be6, 11.Nh5 or 11.. Ng6.

12.Rad1 Ne6

13.Bh4 b6



14.Qc1

Quite a rare move, normally White puts the king to safety here with 14. Kh1. The idea is to take some control

over the black squares after eventually playing e4. After all, Black has weakened the black squares around the kingside so why not try to take advantage of this.

14... Bb7

15.e4

And here we go.

15... a5

16.e5 Nh5

17.Bxe7 Qxe7

18.f4

And the plan has worked perfectly.

While Black has been developing his bishop on b7 and gaining space on the queenside, White has grabbed space in the centre of the board, exchanged off the black-squared bishops and has initiated an attack starting with f4.

18... f5

19.exf6 Nxf6

20.f5 gxf5

21.Rxf5



Mayhem. Within a few moves White has created an enormous attack. The rest is almost painful to watch, certainly to play against if you are the Black player!

21... Nd7

22.Rf3 Rf8

23.Rg3+ Kh8

24.Bxh7 Qf6

25.Bg6 Qf2+

26.Kh1 Nf4

27.Rg4 Ba6

28.Nxf4

1-0



## Publish Your Games

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## Solutions to Spot the Winning Move



The Iceman 11game ended:

15.Qxf5 exf5

16.Bxf7+ Ke7

17.Bg5#

1-0



The Iceman 12game ended:

19... Rf3!?

My reasoning was this. All White's pieces are on the queenside, so the K is highly vulnerable to a kingside attack. The one piece that can get across to the kingside is the White Q, along the third rank; so, for Black, it

was worth sacrificing BOTH rooks to prevent this. The game continued:

20.gxf3 Qg5+

21.Kh1 Bxh3

22.Rg1 Qh5

23.Rxg7+ Kxg7

24.fxex4 Rc3



Facing a mate in three, White resigns. 0-1