

# Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

**Magazine No.157**

**Spring 2022**

**ICCF Grading List 2022/2**  
*Alistair analyses the Q2 statistics*

**Best Game Prize 2021**  
*Maxim Konstantinov announces the winners*

**Correspondence Chess in Crisis**  
*Peter reflects on the Ukrainian invasion*

**The Hawkes Files**  
*John celebrates the life and games of Abram Khasin*

**Chess Art**  
*Featuring Ukrainian artists*

**Games Column**  
*Alastair studies the play of Nikolai Papenin*



**4 Printed Issues**  
**Price £5 per annum**

*Two knights back to back, from Skye, mid-13th century*  
National Museum of Scotland <https://www.nms.ac.uk>



Welcome to the first publication in our 2022 magazine set.

Events in Ukraine are dominating world headlines as Putin's pazers reportedly shell schools and hospitals then execute civilians. In this edition, we'll try to highlight some of the more creative contributions made by Ukrainians to our CC world.

Firstly though, the second ICCF rating list of 2022 is analysed by our grader Alistair Maxwell.

Next up is the result of our Best Game Prize for 2021. We're indebted to IM Maxim Konstantinov for judging the event; His comments, plus annotations from the three placed entries, make up the article.

Peter Bennett reflects on the Ukrainian invasion, recalling happier times when he was part of a broad European church in Essen, and examining the ICCF response to the crisis so far. A Freischach game from Essen and a new competition puzzle complete a wide-ranging and challenging script.

John Hawkes' column features Abram Iosifovich Khasin, a Ukrainian who made a notable contribution to the playing strength of the Soviet Union and also trained a generation of top Russian talent. Khasin (who lost both legs in the Battle of Stalingrad) was both an OTB IM and CC GM. He died recently, just short of his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, and coincidentally in Essen where he spent his last years.

Our Chess Art column spotlights Ukrainian artists, some resident in their homeland, and some elsewhere (including Russia). I think one was arrested in St Petersburg for protesting about the invasion.

Alastair Dawson's Games Column includes two high-level games of merit by GM Nikolai Papenin, probably the strongest Ukrainian player currently.

Our preparations for the ICCF Congress in Glasgow during August continue, and we now have a working website where delegates can browse the programme and register their attendance.

ICCF has organised an Emergency Congress to respond to the situation in Ukraine. Out Notices page lets you know where to look for current information and decisions.

## 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

2022	1st	2nd
March	A P Borwell	J Dunn
February	I Mackintosh	J Dunn
January	A P Borwell	J M Armstrong

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



## ICCF Emergency Congress



In view of the Ukraine Crisis, ICCF has called an Emergency Congress (EC) which will be held online on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Proposals to be voted on by the EC can be viewed at:

<https://www.iccf.com/Proposals.aspx?id=76> (note you need to be logged into the ICCF webserver to visit this page).

Comments may be added to the proposals until May 1<sup>st</sup>. The voting window for ICCF national delegates runs from April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>, and a voting report will be issued on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The SCCA committee is providing input to our delegate, Gordon Anderson. If you have any comments or suggestions to make, you can email Gordon at [international@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk)

## ICCF Peace Open Amici Sumus



The aim of this tournament is the friendship and respect of all players of the ICCF who want to stand in solidarity with Ukraine and set an example in this way.

Any player, including Russian and Belarussian players who stand in solidarity with Ukraine, can participate in this tournament regardless of their rating. This tournament is organized on the initiative of the BdF and ICCF.

There are no prizes. The entry fees will be donated to a non-profit organization to help the people of Ukraine and/or refugees from that country.

### Tournament Organisation

- Start date 01.05.2022.
- Entry deadline 15.04.2022.
- No end date for the tournament.
- The tournament will be played in a single phase.

### Registrations

- Registration via Direct Entry.
- Entry fees / per participation €9.36; multiple entries are possible.

- The tournament will be rated by ICCF and will enable ICCF title norms for the all groups that meet the conditions required by ICCF.

### Playing system

- ICCF standard time control 10 moves in 50 days with duplication after 20 days.
- Registered players will be sorted by rating order. The first 11 to 15 players form the first group, the following 11 to 15 players form the second group and so on. The groups are formed with players of as similar a rating as possible.
- The number of groups depends on the number of registrations.

## ICCF World Championship 2022



Frank Geider, World Tournament Director and Gian-Maria Tani, Title Tournament Commissioner have issued the following announcement:

Given the serious situation in Ukraine and the uncertainty of the situation, it is not appropriate to start the WCCC 2022 Preliminaries now, as planned.

The start of the WCCC46PR is postponed to approximately 20 May. All valid entries received are confirmed and the players will duly receive the start list in advance of the tournament start date.

For the same reason, the official announcement of the WCCC 2022 Semi-finals is also postponed to mid-May. The WCCC46SF will likely start in July instead of June 2022.

The start of the 33rd WCCC Final is also postponed to November 2022.

## ICCF Congress 2022



Gordon Anderson reports that preparations are continuing well to host this year's Congress in Glasgow during August.

You can now read full details of the programme online at:

<https://glasgow2022.scottishcca.co.uk/>  
Hopefully, amid the other chaos, this will proceed at last!

## Fernschach 2022 CC Database



Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2022 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 1,730,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 115,000 new games since 2021
- Approximately 10,000 annotated (300 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  
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Purpose: FS CD 2022

Your order must provide your complete postal address!  
Email: [hebel57@gmx.de](mailto:hebel57@gmx.de)  
Website: <http://www.fernschach.org/fs-cd/index.html>

## ICCF Updates

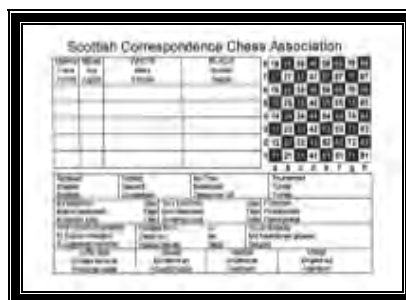
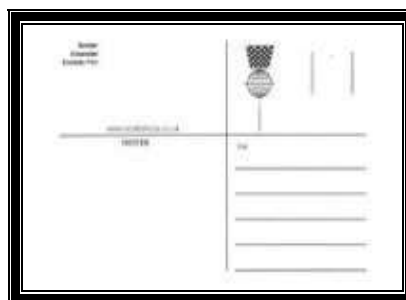


March updates to the Games Archive have now been added, and may be downloaded by logging into: <https://www.iccf.com/> then selecting Games Archive from the menu.

## CC Postcards

It may seem strange in the webserver era, but last year saw a substantial increase in the number of CC postcard sales!

We delivered to the UK, USA and Italy, with players happy to use the SCCA logo just keep playing. Looks like other suppliers have run out of stock. If you need any to top up your own reserves, we still have a decent stock to hand:



The SCCA has a stock of cc postcards showing the SCCA logo and website address. They are suitable for domestic and international use (English, German and Spanish used).

Orders in units of 100 please. The cards are supplied at their production cost (£2.50/100) and p&p is also required. I'll check current Royal Mail tariffs and let you know before I send the parcel.

Orders and payments to Iain Mackintosh at [chess@iainmack.co.uk](mailto:chess@iainmack.co.uk) please.

## Facebook Updates



In recent weeks, Ben Major has been providing news updates on the SCCA Facebook page.

If you prefer to get your updates from Social Media, then the page to visit is:

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishcca>

Many thanks to Ben for offering to do this job, and you can support him by posting your own comments on the page.



## 2022/2 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

The second ICCF grading list of 2022 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 Dec 2021 and 28 Feb 2022. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 Apr and 30 Jun 2022.

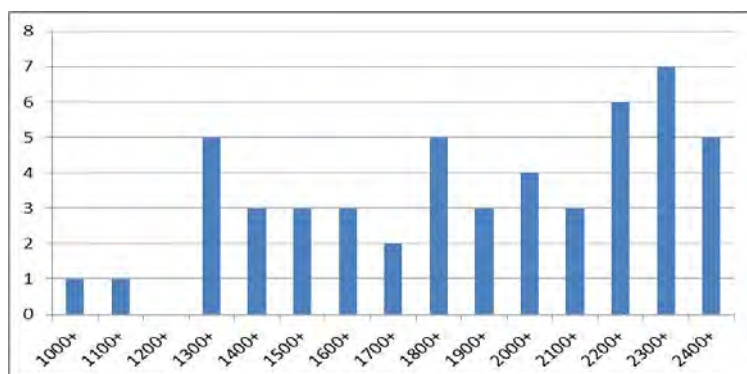
There are 2 deletions in this list. In the norms and titles stakes, Ian Whittaker obtained his second CCE norm and Colin Beveridge gained a third CCM norm and the title. Congratulations to them both.

The most significant rating moves were Ian Marshall (+61), Raymond BurrIDGE (+50), Ian Whittaker (+35), Derek Price (+25), Andrew MacMillen and Robert Gilbert (+21).

New games centurions were Carlos Almarza Mato (2200), David Cumming (2000+), Alan Borwell (1100+) and Peter Bennett (500+). Highest recorded games this quarter were Cumming (40), Carlos Almarza Mato (38), Colin Beveridge (26), Raymond BurrIDGE (25) and Ian Sneddon (21).

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 9 players with unfixed ratings in the latest list and I expect some of these will obtain fixed ratings soon). 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)	2200	2076 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	1437	1689 ↑
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	359	2362 ↑		Major, B	70	1197 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	489	1515 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	878	2029 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	504	2478 ↔	434	Matheis, T (IM)	273	2454 ↔
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	271	2428 ↑		Maxwell, A	49	2191 ↔
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	501	2377 ↑		Miles, A	83	1423 ↑
481	Beveridge, C (CCM)	698	2255 ↑	401	Moir, P J	205	1507 ↔
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	911	2386 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S (CCE)	350	2288 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1101	2207 ↓		Moss, R	47	1778 ↓
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	262	2369 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	645	2461 ↔
602	BurrIDGE, R J	1767	1923 ↑	564	Murray, J S	95	2024 ↔
247	Cormack, W H	117	1898 ↔	440	Neil, C	342	1338 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2013	2302 ↑	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	197	1851 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	172	2197 ↑	604	Paine, Prof K A (CCE, SM)	234	2351 ↔
478	Dunn, J	456	1524 ↓		Pettigrew, S	179	1366 ↑
371	Edney, D	325	1908 ↓	432	Price, D	498	1906 ↑
462	Gilbert, R	285	1738 ↑		Rafferty, K	68	1396 ↔
445	Graham, S W	86	1656 ↔		Ross, Derek I	43	1840 ↓
399	Grant, J	79	1629 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	115	1370 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	1733	1034 ↓	439	Smith, M J	120	2179 ↔
475	Kearns, A	115	1380 ↔	057	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	485	2363 ↑
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	356	2241 ↑		Taylor, R	57	1422 ↑
260	Knox, A	398	1404 ↔	605	Taylor, W	155	2079 ↔
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1061	2276 ↓	480	Whittaker, I P	227	2237 ↑
584	MacGregor, C A	476	1817 ↓		Wicht, D	42	1853 ↑
532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	813	2412 ↑				



## Statistical Analysis

Total listed	51
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	2
Grading increases (↑)	21
Grading decreases (↓)	13
Grading static (↔)	17

## Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2478	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2241
Murden, C (IM)	2461	Whittaker, I P	2237
Matheis, T (IM)	2454	Borwell, A P (IM)	2207
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2427	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2197
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2412	Maxwell, A	2191
Blake, M J (CCM)	2386	Smith, M J	2179
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2377	Taylor, W	2079
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2369	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2076
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2363	Marshall, I H	2029
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2362	Murray, J S	2024
Paine, Prof K A (CCE, SM)	2351	Edney, D	1923
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2302	Price, D	1906
Montgomery, R S (CCE)	2288	Cormack, W H	1898
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2276	Wicht, D	1853
Beveridge, C (CCM)	2255	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	1851

## Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C (CCE)	2200	Borwell, A P (IM)	1101
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2013	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1061
Burridge, R J	1767	Blake, M J (CCM)	911
Hardwick, M E	1733	Marshall, I H	878
MacMillen, A N	1437	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	813

## Selected Personal Best Grades 2022/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Blake, M J (CCM)	2386	2382	2021/1	4
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2362	2361	2021/4	1
Whittaker, I P	2237	2202	2022/1	35
Smith, M J	2179	2166	2021/4	13
Taylor, R	1422	1421	2022/1	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), Buchan, A (1)

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

Montgomery, R S (2), Paine, K A (1)

**Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE)** title norms:

Burridge, R J (1), Smith, M J (1), Whittaker, I P (2)

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.



## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual SCCA Best Game Prize

By IM Maxim Konstantinov

[Ed –this year we invited IM Maxim Konstantinov of Denmark to be our judge for the competition. Maxim was introduced to us by Søren Rud Ottesen, the Danish ICCF Delegate. Russian by birth, Maxim has lived in Denmark for some years, gaining his IM title in 2012. He is also a fine OTB player and a chess trainer.

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

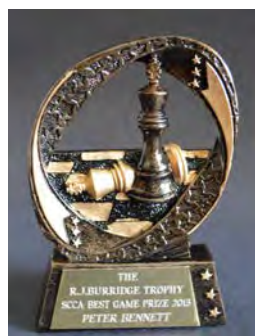
### Maxim Konstantinov: Reflections from a Best Game judge.

My general criteria when selecting games was to find if a game plan or any move makes you open your mouth in awe, wondering what just happened.

I looked through games without computer assistance at first, to get the human feel of them. Then I chose a few candidates to analyse more thoroughly to see what I missed. Of course, there was a lot 😊.

Also the other games, despite not reaching the top 3, were quite interesting. All had some interesting tactics or positional annihilation.

I would like to thank all the participants in the contest and express my sincere gratitude for being part of it!



### Third Place

#### Maxim Konstantinov

Looking at Black's poor opening, White chose an extremely beautiful way of finishing off, with Q-sacrifice, under-promotion, mating with rook and knight, and an actual mate on board!

All very rare for correspondence chess, but beautiful to watch!

**White: Peter Bennett**

**Black: Iceman 14**

Website: Frozen Rooks

Opening: Pirc Defence, Blue Moon Variation

[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4	d6
2.d4	Nf6
3.Nc3	g6
4.f4	Bg7
5.Nf3	0-0
6.Bd3	Bg4
7.h3	Bxf3
8.Qxf3	Nc6
9.Be3	e5

So far, this is fairly standard theory...

10.dxe5	dxex5
11.f5	Nd4
12.Qf2	c5

...but already White begins to build a strong kingside attack.

13.g4	a6
14.g5	Nh5
15.f6	Bh8
16.Nd5	h6
17.0-0-0	b6
18.c3	Ne6
19.Be2	Qb8
20.Ne7+	Kh7
21.Bxh5	Bxf6
22.gxf6	Nf4
23.Nxg6	fxg6
24.Bxg6+	Nxg6
25.Rd7+	Kh8
26.f7	Nf4
27.Bxf4	exf4
28.Qh4	Kh7
29.Qg4	Qe5



29...Qe5 was logical and as good a try as any other defence.

[Editor: Peter submitted this position as a competition puzzle in our last edition - White to play and mate in three moves.]

No correct solutions were received from readers. Undaunted, Peter submitted the game for the 2021 Best Game Prize, reasoning that the concluding moves, if not the game, might catch the judge's eye.]

The solution has only one line:

30. Qg8+!	Rxg8□
31. f8=N+!!	Kh8□
32. Rh7#	

Part of the point of White's 31st move is that it creates a double check (by both N and R) and, as is always the case in any double check, the K must move.

[Editor: Peter was surprised, but also flattered, to receive this prize as – unknown to me – he had once played Maxim, a game he lost as a result of being overwhelmed by his opponent's far superior play!]



## Second Place

### Maxim Konstantinov

Black has tried to hold a draw from positional nuances, closing down and playing on black squares, but White's slow, stubborn small improvement of the position led to Black's crack. A beautiful positional game.

**White: Buchan, Allan (2267)**

**Black: Borisovs, Leonids (2331)**

UKR 60/Jubilee s2

QGD, Tartakower Defence [D58]

[Notes by Allan Buchan]

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	e6
3.Nf3	d5
4.Nc3	Be7
5.Bg5	0-0
6.e3	h6
7.Bh4	b6
8.Be2	Bb7
9.Bxf6	Bxf6
10.cxd5	exd5
11.0-0	Nd7
12.b4	c6
13.Qb3	

Historically this looks promising for White. Of the 7 previous matches played between 2300+rated players, White won 3 and drew the others.

13... a5

14.b5

White now has a 50% win rate in the previous 4 matches in this line..

14... a4

15.Nxa4

Black sacrifices a pawn.

15... c5

Now Black can push the c pawn since White can't take due to the pin on the rook.

16.Nc3 c4

17.Qc2 Be7



18.a4

Black hasn't got the compensation he wanted. White has a distinct advantage now. Of the previous 8 games played to this point at all levels, White went on to win 7 and draw the other one.

18... Bb4

19.Rfb1 Ba5

20.Rc1 Re8

21.g3 Rc8

22.Bf1 Qe7

23.Kg2 Rc7

24.h3 Bb4

I'm not quite sure what this does.

25.Rcb1 Ra8

26.Qb2 Bd6?!

Better for the bishop to go back to a5 to support the c pawn should the c3 knight move.

27.Ne1

The knight wants to reroute to b4, where it can be annoying.

27... Nf6

28.Nc2 Qe6

29.Nb4 Ra5

30.Qe2 Bf8

31.Rb2 Be7

32.g4 Rd7

33.Rab1 Bxb4

34.Rxb4 g6

35.R4b2 Kg7

36.Ra2 Re7

Possibly 36...h5 was a better try.

37.Rba1 Re8

38.Re1 Qd6

39.Qf1 Re7

40.Bf3 Bc8

41.Qg2 Be6

42.Qh2 Rd7

43.Raa1 Qxh2+

White is more than happy to trade queens.

44.Kxh2 Ng8



45.Kg2

The king decides to go on a journey across the board. Like the knight,

before him, he's drawn to the b4 square.

45... Ne7

46.Rg1 Rd8

47.Kf1 Kf8

48.Ke2 Ng8

49.Kd2 Ke7

50.Bd1 Kf8

51.f3 Ke7

52.Bc2 Nf6

53.Na2 Bc8

54.Kc3 Bb7

55.Kb4

And he's arrived.

55... Ne8

56.Nc3 Nc7

57.h4 Ne8

58.e4 dxe4

59.Bxe4 Ba8

60.Rad1

Black resigns. The c pawn is falling, thanks to the itinerant king, and White's advantage is too much.

1-0



## First Place

### The R.J. Burrige Trophy 2021

#### Maxim Konstantinov

I chose this game because of the seldom-used line in a well-known variation (9.Nxb8) which leads to an interesting, not thoroughly analysed, position, with room to fail for both sides.

White's handling looks mercilessly clean, especially the Q-sac which is amazing. Positional material sacrifices in CC are always some kind of a jewel.

Overall, a more or less clean game from both sides. Black needed to be more precise in early midgame.

**White: Buchan, Allan (2321)**

**Black: Gross, M. C. (2276)**

MT-Riet/SF1

Open Catalan [E04]

[Notes by Allan Buchan]

1.d4

d5



2.c4 e6  
 3.Nf3 Nf6  
 4.Nc3 c6  
 5.g3

This is only the 3rd most popular move here but I fancied exploring it.

5... dxc4  
 6.Ne5

The main line is 6.Bg2

6... b5  
 7.Bg2 a6  
 8.Nxc6

Not the most popular move at the highest levels, but it looks sound and I was keen to get out of book.

8... Qb6  
 9.Nxb8 Rxb8  
 10.0-0 Bb7  
 11.e4 Bb4  
 12.a4N 0-0  
 13.Bg5 Nd7  
 14.Be3 h6  
 15.Qc2 f5?!

A bit ambitious. White has a slight edge.

16.Rad1  
 16.d5 right away is also possible

16... Bxc3  
 17.d5 Qd6  
 18.exf5 Rxf5  
 19.bxc3

After these exchanges White still remains very slightly better.

19... Bxd5?

This isn't really possible due to the queen sac that follows.



20.Qxf5!

A crazy-looking move but gives White a significant positional advantage.

20... exf5  
 21.Bf4 Qf8

The best Black can do, losing the bishop to check and then losing the exchange.

22.Bxd5+ Kh8  
 23.Bxb8 Qxb8  
 24.axb5 axb5

Now the dust has cleared, Black is a pawn up but White is going to win it back easily, and then enjoy a positional superiority.

25.Be6 Ne5

26.Rd5 b4

27.Rb1 b3?!

27...Nf3+ was possibly the best try..

28.Bxf5 g6

29.Be4 Kg7

30.Ra1 h5

31.h4 g5?!

31...b2 was best.

32.Raa5 Nf7

33.Rdb5 Qe8

Black is struggling for counterplay.

34.Bd5 gxh4

35.Rb7

35.Bxc4 looks like a free pawn, but it's losing after 35...Qe1

35... b2

36.Rab5 Kh8



The best move. Black can't afford to allow Rxf2+

37.Rb8 Nd8

38.gxh4 Kh7

39.Rxb2 Qe1+

40.Kg2 Qxc3

41.Re2 Qg7+

42.Kf1 Qd7

43.Be4+ Kg7

44.Re3 Kf8

45.Bf3?!

45.Rf3+ is better.

45... Qh3+?!

45...Qc7 is best here

46.Kg1 Qxh4

47.Rb5

Black resigns.

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  
 2021 Allan Buchan



This year's winner, also known as Allan Guthrie in literary circles.



## Correspondence Chess in Crisis: a player's perspective

By Peter Bennett

In the last month, what we have witnessed is the invasion of one sovereign country, Ukraine, by another country, Russia, many of whose troops came into Ukraine via a third country, Belarus, resulting in a mass exodus of refugees from Ukraine initially across the borders into neighbouring countries, notably Poland, but also Moldova, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. These are matters of fact, well-documented by the world's press: hundreds of journalists from more than fifty different countries in six different continents have borne witness to this human catastrophe.

Never has a war been more extensively covered. The blatantly disingenuous counter-narrative, that this is just a limited military operation designed only to rescue Ukrainians from some kind of nazification, has been exposed by the world's press as complete piffle; and, by the way, in studying the events of the last few weeks very closely, I am mainly interested to hear what the experts have to say; and the picture they are painting is remarkably consistent.

By contrast, I pay scant attention to the pronouncements of current politicians of any hue. I am, for example, frankly disinterested in what Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Joe Biden have to say on the subject.

Of course, it is my very great privilege, living in a country where we have free speech and, by the same token, a free press, to be able to adopt and express such perspectives without fear. The people of Russia, by contrast, have never been so fortunate.

The situation is very worrying, but it is as it is. So we have to deal with it.

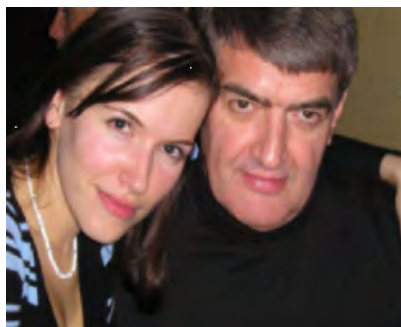
Today I am writing as a player, specifically as a participant in Semifinal 1 of the 12th European Team Championship. It so happens that Semifinal 1 contains the teams from Scotland, Russia, Ukraine and Poland. So, unlike many other

SCCA Magazine 157

players, we can't simply "get on with" the chess. The crisis is right here, in front of us – with unavoidable consequences for our tournament group.

My own perspectives on the wider community of Europe, including the nations just mentioned, are partly contemporary; but they are also historical. So, first, let me take a step back from the current conflict, take a trip back in time, and try to put my own feelings in some kind of human context.

Below is a photograph. On the left is a Russian lady, by the name of Ludmila, known to her friends simply as Mila. On the right is myself. The picture was taken on 19 November 2004, just over 17 years ago, in Essen, Germany.



Does the picture suggest an intimate relationship? Actually, no. Mila was studying medicine in Essen, I was then working for a language services company. The photograph was taken at a party; and the person who took it was Mila's German boyfriend, with whom she was living at that time.

Mila and I were, nevertheless, good friends. The occasion was to have been (just) her own 27th birthday party. Then she discovered that, by chance, she and I had the same birthday; so Mila suggested we have a joint party.

I invited a few friends, Mila rather more; and her guests included the Polish lady who appears in the next photograph, also with me.



It was my 59th birthday, incidentally; so there was a 32-year gap between Mila and myself.

Another important person who featured at this (locally famous) party was a lovely Ukrainian lady by the name of Iryna, who was the bar manageress at the chosen venue. Iryna was working flat out all evening, so we never managed to tempt her into a photograph.

I was a regular customer of that bar for several years; and it was a wonderfully cosmopolitan milieu, especially for people who had come to Germany from Eastern Europe. At the time I rather took all this for granted; only in retrospect do I realise what a privilege that social experience had been.

There we were: Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Germans and Brits (+ Czechs, Slovaks, Bulgarians and Romanians on other occasions) socialising together in one big, European happy family, as I think the photographs from that very memorable evening clearly show.

This "European happy family" was also evident in the local chess community. I regularly played what is known as "Freischach" in Essen's Grugapark, in essence, the local botanical gardens.

This was chess in the open air, mainly played on a board made up of 64 flagstones, each about 40cm square, in contrasting light and dark stone, and giant plastic, weighted pieces, up to 60cm tall.

Our local Freischach group in the Grugapark mainly comprised Russians, Ukrainians, Poles and Germans. I was the only British player who ever went down there, at that time. Along with this article, I have also submitted one of my illustrative Freischach games to the Games Editor.

Fast-forward to 2022. Is our ETC Semifinal still one big happy family? Sadly not, how could it be?

On board 4, I have already concluded six games (all draws) and I am left with the situation which, for me, is at once both poignant and distressing, that I now have just three games still in progress, against: Russia, Ukraine and Poland; and there is no way forward to conclude this tournament satisfactorily. You couldn't make it up, if you were writing a novel.

So what is to be done? Well, first of all, I would like to step aside from the grave problems of the ETC and take a brief look at the whole question of how games are actually 'won' in modern CC.

Rather than make an essentially theoretical point, I shall use the example of one game I played, some years ago in the VWC. I had Black against a player, whose ICCF rating was much lower; nevertheless he was using an engine and was putting up strong resistance.

By move 15, I had fully equalised; by move 25 I had a slight advantage; by move 35, I had a slightly greater advantage; by move 45 I had a strong advantage; and by move 55 I had an advantage that was only slightly less than a winning advantage.

Even so, if that game had been adjudicated at move 55, and if the adjudicator had been solely focussed on the chess position, as some are, and not on the course of the game, I might well have been left with just a half-point. There was no forced win; that basic fact was unavoidable.

On move 56, my opponent finally made the slight inaccuracy which tipped the game over the edge, from a strong advantage to a winning advantage. In the end, he resigned; and there was no adjudication.

Furthermore my win in that game gave me the vital extra half-point that allowed me to qualify for a VWC Semifinal.

Anyone who has played recently in open-entry tournaments will have had similar experiences. Unless someone blunders – which is rare – winning takes time, a lot of time.

The proposed 'mass adjudications' of over 30 Ukrainian games (I want to call them mass executions, as that is what they feel like) are at an early stage of the tournament. My own game against my Ukrainian opponent has only reached move 17. Thus, in very few of the games the Ukrainians had been hoping to win will there be any realistic chance of actually securing a win.

My own prediction, if these adjudications go ahead on 16 May (after three months with the clocks stopped) is that Ukraine will end up with a 50% score (which is where they stand with their completed games, so far), or very close to it, and that this will not be enough to qualify for the Final; whereas, if there had been no invasion, Ukraine would have been very strong contenders to progress to the Final.

In this sense, adjudication is neither a neutral, nor neutralising, act in chess terms. Premature adjudication of games will always damage the chess chances of one or other party.

What makes it worse is that Russia already stands at "+1" in this semi-final; and they are favourites to qualify for the Final. If Russia does qualify, with a little help from their military friends, who have conveniently wrecked the chances of one of their key rivals by destroying their internet connectivity (among many other things) then that is an unthinkable, unconscionable situation.

So the issue is not whether or not the Russian team are playing under a Russian flag, or as individuals, they are in any case the incidental beneficiaries, in chess terms, of one of their key rivals being pushed into a ditch, so to speak, by Russian military activity.

In this situation, I see no possibility of the Russian team being allowed to continue playing in the ETC on any terms, for the foreseeable future. The damage to Ukrainian interests has already been done; and, even in the medium term, this is irreversible.

I say this as someone who has always had great sympathy for the people of Russia and great admiration for its chess players, both in CC and OTB. So I am not "unfriendly to Russia", the expression Vladimir Putin prefers to use, in describing sanctions against Russia by the rest of the world: I am merely critical of the current regime in the Kremlin, the way it systematically represses and deceives its own people and its decision to flout international law by invading the Ukraine.

I scarcely need to state that I also have huge sympathy for the people of the Ukraine in the present crisis and, by extension, their chess team. Nevertheless, I must also acknowledge a degree of disappointment about the stopping of the clocks.

The ICCF was absolutely right to stop the clocks on 24 February as an interim short-term measure to see what could be done – to find a way of keeping the Ukrainian team in the tournament; but I don't go along with the assumption that this blanket cessation of play could or should continue for 12 weeks – until the ICCF EGM finally decides what to do about the crisis – unless and until such further investigation found that there was no possibility of keeping the games going.

In the ETC, it is very easy to make substitutions – I have seen it happen, several times – so why was that not even considered? Scotland has only 11 2300+ players, Ukraine has 54. Even if only 30% of the Ukraine's senior players still had internet connectivity, they would have had the resources to make substitutions.

Special dispensation could have been given for Ukraine to make temporary substitutions, with a view to the original player taking over again at a later date. And so on.

Here there is a slightly negative comparison with other sports. While Ukraine has gone into complete chess lockdown, Ukrainian athletes went to Belgrade and competed very successfully in the World Indoor Athletics Championships and even finished higher up the medal table than the UK, a country that is traditionally very strong in athletics. I congratulate them on their commitment to the age-old principle, “the show must go on”.

But where is the equivalent determination to “keep the show on the road” in the world of chess?

Have we forgotten that some correspondence chess continued right through the Second World War? It was what kept many players of that period feeling sane.

Enough of that. I would like to conclude this article with a quick look at my own position in the Board 4 group of the ETC, purely as an illustration of how the Ukrainian crisis affects everyone in these team events. Taken in isolation, my own situation matters not a jot; but if there are 30 or 40 other players, from a range of countries who, like me, feel disadvantaged (in chess terms) by current events, then the integrity of the whole tournament would be brought into question.

Briefly, then, the six draws I have already agreed include all four of the games in which I had the black pieces. In all three of my outstanding games, I have both the white pieces and (at least) a slight advantage. This was the ideal mid-tournament scenario from which to launch an assault on a plus score by

the end of the event. Five weeks ago I would have given myself an 85% of an IM norm and even a 25% chance of a SIM norm, beyond my wildest dreams at the outset.

One of the games will certainly end in a draw; and it is only a matter of time before that agreement is reached. My opponent and I already have an understanding about that. In the other two games, if both went to adjudication on 16 May, I would be claiming a win in both; but in one case I would have very little chance of being awarded the win, simply because it is too early in the game – for reasons broadly comparable to the VWC example I gave earlier.

So we must wait to see what actually happens; but if my own final result is, say, a half-point worse than I believe I would have scored if all the games had continued uninterrupted to a conclusion, then my decision will be to retire permanently forthwith from such team events. For me, the credibility of the ICCF is on the line here.

Chess aside, I am also concerned about the way in which the Extraordinary Meeting of the ICCF Congress, in early May, has been convened. It so happens, in times past, that I have served on the Boards of three different companies, in one case for 25 years, three of which were as Company Chairman.

So I have a lot of experience of convening and chairing EGMs (Extraordinary General Meetings) – about nine in all, from recollection. This arose because, during my term of office as Chairman, there happened to be a great deal of

dissension amongst shareholders; and I had the awkward job of acting as referee.

In British Company Law – which I believe to be the same in most other countries – the lead time for convening an EGM is three weeks: that is, shareholders (or stakeholders), have a right to be given three weeks’ notice of the event.

On the other hand, because the express purpose of an EGM is to consider urgent business which cannot wait until the next AGM, it is impolitic for the Chairman, typically acting in conjunction with the Company Secretary, to delay the EGM more than a few days beyond the time required for formal notifications.

From the initial request to hold an ICCF EGM, to the point where its decisions will be announced, there is a gap of 11 weeks. I have looked at the ICCF statutes and I can see no justification for such a protracted timetable when there is urgent business to address. Maybe I am wrong about that, in which case I would be happy to be corrected.

In the meantime, I am left with the uncomfortable impression that a can is being kicked down the road. So far, the genuinely decisive action that we have witnessed in the other sports – from UEFA, to the IOC – has been distinctly lacking in the community of correspondence chess.

If we sit on the fence any longer, the ICCF is at risk of disintegrating.



Essen’s Grugapark, scene of Peter’s Freischach games.

**White: Bennett, Peter**  
**Black: Treptow, H**  
 Grugapark Essen, 2002  
 King's Gambit Accepted [C34]  
*[Notes by Peter Bennett]*

1.e4 e5  
 2.f4 exf4  
 3.Nf3 Nf6  
 4.e5 Nd5  
 5.d4 Be7  
 6.c4?!

Inaccurate but, with any luck, good enough for skittles!

6... Ne3  
 7.Bxe3 fxe3  
 8.Bd3 0-0  
 9.0-0 Bb4  
 10.Nc3 Bxc3  
 11.bxc3 d6  
 12.Qc2 g6  
 13.Rae1 Nc6  
 14.Rxe3 dxe5  
 15.d5 Ne7  
 16.Nxe5 c6  
 17.dxc6 Nxc6



Taking the c-pawn was a diversion, to get the N away from the defence of g6; 17....bxc6 might have been better.

18.Nxg6?! fxc6  
 19.Rxf8+ Qxf8  
 20.Bxg6 hxg6

In for a penny, in for a pound, but the more accurate defence - easier to see in post-mortems than in open-air skittles - was 20....Qh6! 21.Re8+ Kg7 22.Qf2! Qc1+ 23.Re1 Qxe1+ (there was no choice) 24.Qxe1 hxg6=, whereas the defence I had worried about during the game 20....Qc5 21.Qf2 may even favour White.

21.Qxg6+ Qg7  
 22.Re8#

My opponent gave me the mate in one because he believed that the alternative defence was unplayable, as he was bound to lose his queen. It

is true that White has a winning advantage anyway, but the game doesn't end quite so quickly. A possible continuation would be: 21....Kh8! 22.Qh5+ Kg8 23.Rg3+ Qg7 24.Qd5+ Kh7 25.Rxg7 Kxg7 26.g4 Rb8 27.a4 Kf6 28.g5 Kg6 29.h4 Bf5 30.Qd6 Kh5 31.Qf4 Bg4 32.g6! Kxh4 33.g7 and White now wins in a canter.

1-0



## Spring Chess Competition

By Peter Bennett

This issue's competition position is taken from a game which has no chess merit whatsoever!

The reason - as is my established habit - I have included the full score of the game is only to show two things: firstly, that the problem position arose in a real game, that is, it is not a concoction; and secondly, to show that it is recent. At the time of writing, this particular game was completed just three weeks ago.

Black is an inexperienced chess player, playing fast 'skittles' on the internet and, in the process, taking absolutely no notice of the opening book. My impression is that this mode of play is his own choice, and this is how he enjoys his chess.

I would like to think that the concluding moves of the game actually served as some kind of chess instruction, and might lead black to take a more organised approach to his opening play; but I suspect, sadly, that this is not so.

There are quite a number of dedicated players on the Frozen Rooks website who have played

more than 20,000 games on that site alone - and even after all that experience, have never once even tried to learn anything at all about the chess opening.

Chess theory, as they see it, is simply something they declare themselves 'not to believe in'. I just hope that my GP isn't such a player, who also takes the same 'suck it and see' attitude to medical theory, when randomly treating their patients with whatever drug takes their fancy in the decision-making moment!

**White: Peter Bennett**  
**Black: Iceman 15**  
**Website: Frozen Rooks**  
 Game completed: 3 March, 2022

1.e4 e5  
 2.Nf3 d6  
 3.d4 exd4  
 4.Nxd4 h6  
 5.Nc3 a6  
 6.Bf4 Nf6  
 7.Qe2 Be6  
 8.0-0-0 b5  
 9.e5 Nfd7  
 10.Nxe6 fxe6



White to play and mate in 4 moves, against any defence.

Standard: fairly easy

Entries should be submitted to the Editor on or before 30 April 2022. The first fully correct solution will be published in Issue 158 (summer) and the solver duly credited. The first correct solution by a player graded under 2100 will win a bottle of single malt whisky (or gift of equivalent value) as a prize.

Good luck!



## The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

### Abram Iosifovich Khasin Grandmaster

[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Abram\\_Khasin](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Abram_Khasin)

Born  
February 15th 1923  
Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine  
Died  
February 6th 2022  
Essen, Germany



Hastings 1963/64 British Movietone

### Selected Correspondence Games

**White:** Jezek, Jaroslav  
**Black:** Khasin, Abram  
6th Olympiad Final 1968–72  
Irregular Reti [A00]  
*[Notes by John E Hawkes]*

This was Khasin's debut in the Soviet Union correspondence team, a team that in the previous 5th Olympiad Final 1965–68 had finished in second place behind Czechoslovakia. In this very fine example of his chessplaying, Khasin is on board five scoring an impressive 6 out of 8 points - the first of his three successive Olympiad Gold Medals! His board-three performance in the 8th Final was to be particularly impressive - 11 points from the 12 games, to more than compensate for future world champion Estrin's disastrous counter-performance on top board, and to let USSR finish in first place, just ahead of Hungary and Great Britain.

1.g3	d5
2.Bg2	Nf6
3.d3	e5
4.Nd2	Be7
5.c4	c6
6.Qc2	Be6
7.Ngf3	Nbd7
8.b3	0-0
9.Bb2	Qb8
10.e3	a5
11.a3	Ne8
12.Qc3	f6

Thwarting the long-diagonal pretensions of the very experienced Czech.

13.0-0	Nd6
14.a4	Rc8
15.Rfb1	



15...	Ra7!
16.Qc1	b5
17.Qf1!	

To exchange bishops, a reasonable plan.

17...	b4
18.Bh3	Bxh3
19.Qxh3	Nf7
20.Rc1	Rd8

Cautious play, as 20...Nc5 21.Ne1 Rd8 22.d4! dxc4 23.Rxc4 Rad7 24.Rac1 is rather better for White.

21.cxd5	cxd5
22.Rc2	Rc8
23.Rxc8+	Qxc8
24.Qe6	Qc2!
25.Rb1	Bd8!
26.Qxd5	
26.Qe8+ Nf8	27.Qb5 Rd7

And Khasin plays his only-move...

26...	Nb6!
27.Qe6	

27.Qe4 Nd6! and d3 falls.  
27... Re7  
28.Qh3



28...Ng5!  
28...Qxd3 had probably been expected. Black is now winning.

29.Qf1  
29.Nxg5 fxg5 30.Bc1 Qxd3 31.Qg4 Rf7 and Black is dominating the entire board.

29...	Nxf3+
30.Nxf3	Qxb3
31.Bxe5	Qxa4
32.Ba1	Rc7
33.Nd4	Qd7
34.Qd1	Be7
35.e4	Bf8!
36.Nf5	
36.Qb3+ Qf7	37.Qxf7+ (37.Ne6? a4-+)
37...	a4
37.d4	Nc4
38.d5	b3
39.Nd4	



39... Na3  
 40.Rc1 Rxc1  
 41.Qxc1 Nc2!  
 42.Bb2  
 42.Nxc2 Qc7+  
 42... Nxd4  
 43.Bxd4 a3  
 44.Qc4 Qb7  
 45.d6+ Qf7

If the Black Bishop were on e7 then White playing dxe7! Qxc4, e8(Q) mates him!

46.Qb4 b2  
 0-1



**White: Khasin, Abram**

**Black: Angelov, Petko**

Lenin Centenary Tournament 1970-73

Ruy Lopez - Siesta Variation [C74]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

Khasin won the very strong Lenin Centenary tournament with 12.5 points, ahead of Baumbach on 11 and Morozov on 10.

1.e4 e5  
 2.Nf3 Nc6  
 3.Bb5 a6  
 4.Ba4 d6  
 5.c3 f5  
 6.exf5 Bxf5  
 7.d4 e4  
 8.Ng5 d5  
 9.f3 e3

Shaposhnikov - Estrin is a classic CC reference from the 60s; 9...h6 10.fxe4 hxg5 11.exf5 Bd6 12.Qe2+ Kf8 13.h3 g4 14.Qxg4 Rh4 15.Qg5 Re4+ 16.Kd1 Be7 (16...Nxd4 17.Qxd8+ Rxd8 18.Nd2 Nxf5 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Rf1+-) 17.Qg6 Nxd4 18.Nd2 b5 19.cxd4 bxa4 20.Nf3 (20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Kc2±) 20...Bf6 21.Bg5 Rb8 22.Bxf6 Nxf6 23.Rc1 Rxb2 24.Qg3 Ree2 0-1

10.f4 Nf6  
 11.Nf3

Quist - Angelov corres.1962 had gone; 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Nf3 Ng4 14.h3 h5 15.Ne5 Qf6 16.Qe2 Bxe5 17.hxg4 hxg4 18.Qxe3 Be4 19.Nd2 Bd6 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qg3? Qf5 22.c4 0-0-0 23.Bd2 Be7 24.Qe3? (24.Bc3 Qh5 25.Rfe1 g5!) 24...Rxd4 25.b4 Rd3 White resigns.

11... Bd6

12.Bxe3  
 12.Ne5 0-0 13.Bxe3 Bxe5 14.dxe5 Ng4 15.Bc5 Qh4+ 16.g3 Qh3 17.Qxd5+ Kh8 18.Bxf8 Rxf8 19.Nd2 Rd8 20.Qc5 Qg2 21.0-0-0 Nf2 22.Ne4 was Kalinkin - Grokhotov USSR 1962, an interesting example of rare long-castling strategy by White.

12... 0-0  
 13.0-0 Ng4  
 14.Qd2 Na5  
 15.Bb3 Nxb3  
 16.axb3 Be4  
 17.Ne5 Qh4  
 18.h3 Nxe3  
 19.Qxe3 g5

20.fxg5! Rather than development completion with 20.Nd2

20... Rxf1+  
 21.Kxf1 Bxe5  
 22.dxe5 Re8  
 23.Nd2 Rxe5  
 24.Nxe4 Rxe4



25.Ra4! Rxe3

If 25...Rxa4 the inbetweeny 26.Qe6+ nets another pawn.

26.Rxh4 c5  
 26...Rg3 27.Rb4 b5 28.h4 c5  
 29.Rf4±  
 27.b4 d4  
 28.cxd4 cxb4  
 29.d5 Rd3  
 30.Rxb4 b5  
 31.Ke2 Rxd5  
 32.h4 a5  
 33.Re4 Rc5  
 34.Kf3 b4  
 35.Re8+ Kf7  
 36.Ra8 b3  
 37.Rb8 a4  
 38.Rb4 Rc2  
 39.Rxa4 Rxb2  
 40.Rb4 Rb1  
 41.Kg4 Ke6  
 42.Kh5 b2

43.g3 Kf5  
 44.Kh6 Rc1  
 45.g4+  
 Black resigns.  
 1-0



**White: Khasin, Abram**

**Black: Maedler, Juergen**

8th World Championship Final 1975-80

King's Indian Averbakh [E74]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6  
 2.c4 c5  
 3.d5 g6  
 4.Nc3 Bg7  
 5.e4 d6  
 6.Be2 0-0  
 7.Bg5 h6  
 8.Bf4 e6  
 9.dxe6 Bxe6  
 10.Bxd6 Re8  
 11.Nf3 Nc6  
 11...Qb6 12.e5 Nfd7 13.Nb5 Nc6 14.Bc7 Qa6 15.0-0 Rec8 16.Qb3 Ndx5= Neishtadt-Nesis in the 12th World Championship Final 1984-91  
 12.0-0 Qa5  
 13.Nd2 Nd4  
 14.e5 Nd7  
 15.f4 Nf5



16.Nde4!?

An exchange sacrifice avoiding the variation 16.Nb3 Qa6

16... Ne3  
 17.Qb3 Nxf1  
 18.Bxf1 f6  
 19.exf6 Nxf6  
 20.Nxc5 Bf7  
 21.Nxb7 Qf5  
 21...Ng4! 22.Nxa5 Bd4+ and perpetual check should be noted.

22.h3 Ng4?!  
 23.hxg4 Bd4+  
 24.Kh1 Qxg4  
 25.Nb5 Re3  
 26.Nxd4 Rxb3  
 27.Nxb3



27... g5  
 28.N7c5 Re8  
 29.Nd2 Re3  
 30.Nde4 Qh4+  
 31.Kg1 g4  
 31...gxf4 32.Rd1 Bg6 33.Rd4 Re2!  
 34.Bxe2 Qe1+ draws.

32.g3 Rxg3+  
 33.Nxg3 Qxg3+  
 34.Bg2

34.Kh1 Qh4+ 35.Kg2 Be8! was Black's big hope.

34... h5

Both players would have worked through 34...Bxc4 35.Ne4 Qe3+ 36.Kh2 Kf7 (36...Bd3 37.Nf6+) 37.f5! Bd3 38.Bg3! Bxe4 39.Re1+–

35.Ne4 Qc3+

36.Kh1  
 36.Kf1?? Bxc4#

36... Bxc4  
 37.Be5 Kf8

38.Rd1  
 Entering the fray at last.

38... Bd3  
 38...Bxa2 39.Bd4 Qb3 40.Bc5+ Kf7  
 41.Rd7+ Kg6 42.Rd6+ Kg7 43.f5+–

39.Bd6+ Kg7  
 40.Bc5! Qe2

41.Nc3 Qc2  
 42.Bd4+ Kh6

43.Be3  
 And the queen has no move and must protect her bishop.

43.. .g3  
 44.Rd2 Qc1+  
 45.Nd1 Qb1



46.Bg1! Bg6  
 46...h4 47.Nc3 wins the bishop.

47.Rd6 Kg7  
 48.Ne3 Be4

49.Rd1 Bxg2+  
 50.Kxg2 Qxb2+

51.Kxg3 a5  
 52.Rd5 Qxa2

53.Rxh5 a4  
 54.Nf5+ Kf7

55.Nd4 Ke7  
 56.Nf3! a3

57.Bd4 Qg8+  
 58.Rg5 Qa8



59.f5 a2

60.f6+ Kf8

61.Ba1 Qb8+

62.Re5! Qb1

63.Re1 Qg6+

If again 63...Qb8+ then 64.Ne5!

64.Kf4 Qh6+

65.Ke4 Qg6+

66.Ke3 Qb1

67.Kf4 Kf7

68.Bd4 Qb8+

69.Kg4 1-0



White: Khasin, Abram  
 Black: Kondali, Jovan  
 8th Olympiad Final 1977–82  
 King's Indian [E70]  
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.c4 g6  
 2.Nc3 Bg7

3.d4 c5

4.d5 d6

5.e4 Nf6

6.Bd3 0-0

7.Bg5 h6

8.Be3 Nbd7

9.h3 e6

10.dxc6 fxe6

11.Nf3 e5

12.Qd2 Kh7

13.0-0-0 a6

14.g4 Ne8

15.Be2



15... Qa5

The Yugoslav player declines an immediate 15...b5 as after 16.h4 (16.cxb5? axb5) 16...Nb6 17.h5 g5 the sacrifices on g5 would have a twist; 18.Nxg5+ hxg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5! 20.Qxg5 Bh6 21.Qxh6+ Kxh6 but nevertheless tending to favour White after 22.Rdg1

16.h4 b5

17.Ng5+! Kh8

18.h5 gxh5

19.Ne6 b4

20.Bxh6

20.Nd5 Qxa2 21.Bxh6 Qa1+ 22.Kc2

Qa4+ 23.Kb1 is also game over for Black.

20... Rf4

21.Rxh5 bxc3

22.Bxg7+ Kg8

23.Qd5 Nb6

24.Rh8+ Kf7

25.Nd8+ Ke7





26.Nc6+

26.Bf6+! was the mating finish.

26...Rxf6 27.Nc6+ Kd7 28.Rh7+

Ng7 29.Rxg7+ Ke8 30.Qg8+ Rf8

31.Re7#

26... Kd7

27.Nxe5+ Kc7

28.Qc6+

Khasin's finish goes 28.Qc6+ Kb8

29.Rxe8 cxb2+ 30.Kb1 (30.Kxb2??

Na4+ Black wins!) 30...Ra7

31.Qxd6+ Ka8 32.Nc6! threatening

king and queen.

1-0



**White: Morgado, Juan Sebastian**

**Black: Khasin, Abram**

Bartis Memorial 1992-99

French Winawer [C19]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e6  
 2.d4 d5  
 3.Nc3 Bb4  
 4.e5 Ne7  
 5.a3 Bxc3+  
 6.bxc3 c5  
 7.Nf3 Qa5  
 8.Bd2 Nbc6  
 9.Be2 Bd7  
 10.0-0 Qc7  
 11.Re1 f6  
 12.exf6 gxf6  
 13.dxc5 e5  
 14.c4 dxc4  
 15.Bxc4 0-0-0  
 16.h3

16.Nh4!? was worth considering - Khasin

16... Ng6  
 17.Qe2 Rhe8

18.Reb1?

18.Qe3 Nce7 19.Qb3 Bc6 20.Red1 Kb8 21.Rab1 Nf5 22.Bb5± Morgado

18... e4  
 19.Ne1 Nd4  
 20.Qe3 Bc6  
 21.Rb4



21... Ne5

21...Nh4 22.Qf4 Nxe2! 23.Qxc7+ Kxc7

was pointed out by Morgado,

when one possible continuation is

24.Rb2 (24.c3 Nxe1 25.Bf4+ Kc8

26.cxd4 Nf3+ 27.Kf1 Rxd4μ)

24...Nxe1 25.Ba5+ Kc8 26.Bxd8

Rxd8 27.Rxe1 Nf3+ 28.Kf1 Nd2+

and Black picks up the c4 bishop and should win.

22.Bd5 Ndf3+

23.Nxf3 Nxf3+

24.gxf3 Rxd5

25.fxe4 Rg5+

26.Kf1

26.Kh1 and White's king would be quickly checkmated - Khasin.

Morgado saw things thus; 26...Qe5

27.Rf1 Qf5 28.Kh2 Bxe4+→

26... Qh2

27.Ke2 Bxe4

28.Qf4 Qxh3

Preferred to 28...Bf3+ 29.Kd3□

Rd5+ 30.Kc3 Qxf2 when Morgado

would not miss 31.Rc4? Rxd2

32.Qxd2 Re3+→]

29.Be3 Qh5+

30.Kd2 Rf5

31.Qg3 Rf3

And Khasin started to think he was

winning easily, when suddenly came

32.Qd6!

32.Qg7? Rxe3 33.fxe3 Qh2+ was

indeed fine for Black; and 32.Qg1

Rd8+ 33.Kc1 Rh3 34.Rxe4 Rh1

35.Kb2 Rxg1 36.Rxg1 Qf5±

Morgado

32... Rd8

33.Rxe4 Rxd6+

34.cxd6 Qa5+

35.Ke2 Rf5

36.Rd1 Rd5

37.Rxd5 Qxd5

38.Rf4 Qe6

38... Qxd6?? 39.Rc4+

39.Kf3 b6

40.Rd4 Kd7

41.Bf4 b5!

I had already calculated variations to

the very end - Khasin

42.Bg3 Qf5+

43.Kg2 Qxc2

44.Rg4 Qc5

45.Rg7+



45... Ke8!!

(Khasin)

46.Re7+ Kd8

47.Rxh7 Qxa3

48.Rh8+ Kd7

49.Rh7+ Ke6

50.Re7+ Kf5

51.Rf7 b4

52.Kh2

52.Bh4 Kg4! 53.Bg3 (53.Bxf6 Qf3+

54.Kg1 Qd1+ 55.Kh2 Qxd6+ wins)

53...Qf3+ 54.Kh2 Qa8!→

52... b3

53.d7 Qa5

54.Rf8 b2

55.Rb8 Qd2

56.d8Q Qxd8

57.Rxd8 b1Q

58.Rd5+ Kg6

59.Rd6 a5

60.Bh4 Qb8

61.Bg3 Qb4

62.Rd3 Qb5

63.Rc3 Qh5+

64.Kg1 Qg4

65.Kh2 a4

After 65...a4 66.Rd3 comes 66...Qc4

so White resigned. 67.Rf3 Qb3!

being a beautiful study-like winner.

"A very tense game" - Abram Khasin

0-1



**White: Khasin, Abram**  
**Black: Sapundjiev, Georgi**  
 European Team Championship  
 1988–92  
 QGD Modern Variation [D53]  
*[Notes by John E Hawkes after Khasin]*

- |                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1.d4                          | d5   |
| 2.c4                          | e6   |
| 3.Nc3                         | Nf6  |
| 4.Bg5                         | Be7  |
| 5.e3                          | 0-0  |
| 6.Qc2                         | c5   |
| 7.dxc5                        | dx4  |
| 8.Bxc4                        | Qa5  |
| 9.Nf3                         | Qxc5 |
| 10.Bd3                        | h6   |
| 11.Bh4                        | Bd7  |
| 11...Nbd7 is the normal move. |      |
| 12.0-0                        | Bc6  |



- 13.Nd4!  
 13.e4 Nbd7 (13...e5?! 14.b4! Qxb4  
 15.Nxe5) 14.a3 a5=  
 13... Nd5!?  
 14.Nxc6 Nxc6  
 15.Nxd5 Qxd5  
 16.Bh7+! Kh8  
 17.Be4! Qa5!?  
 18.Bxe7  
 18.Bxc6 Bxh4 19.Bxb7 Rab8 20.Bf3  
 Bf6=
- |                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 18...                           | Nxe7 |
| 19.Bxb7                         | Rab8 |
| 20.Bf3                          | Rfc8 |
| 21.Qe2                          |      |
| 21.Qb1 was to be considered.    |      |
| 21...                           | Rd8! |
| 22.a3                           | Rb3  |
| 22...Rd2?! 23.b4! Rxe2 24.bxa5± |      |

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 23.Rfd1 | Rdb8 |
| 24.Rd2  | Qe5! |
| 25.Ra2  | Nf5  |
| 26.g3   |      |
- Black's e3 sacrifice combination now has a glitch. It would have worked if  
 26.Bc6? Nxe3 27.fxe3 Rxe3-- 28.b4  
 Rxe2 29.Rxe2 Qd4+ 30.Kf1  
 26... Nxe3?  
 26...Nd6 27.Bc6 Ne4 28.Rc2±  
 (28.Rd7 Rxb2? 29.Rxb2 Rxb2  
 30.Bxe4 Rxe2 31.Rd8#)  
 27.Rc2!!  
 27.fxe3? Rxe3 28.Qf2 Rxf3 29.Qxf3  
 Qe1+ 30.Qf1 Qxd2 31.Qxf7 Rc8!  
 and Black is winning.  
 27... Qf5  
 27...Rd8 28.fxe3 Rxe3 29.Qf2+  
 (29.Rd2? Rxe2 30.Rxd8+ Kh7  
 31.Bxe2 Qxe2--+) 29...Qf5  
 28.fxe3 Rxe3  
 29.Qxe3 Qxc2  
 30.Be4! Qd1+  
 31.Kg2 Rb3  
 32.Qf2

1-0



Douglas Griffin @dgriffinchess

Former Scots chessplayer. Writer & blogger on Soviet chess history; translator of Russian-language chess literature.

Douglas summarises Abram Iosifovich Khasin:

International Master (1964). Correspondence Chess Grandmaster (1972). A participant in 5 USSR Championship finals, he was an Honoured Trainer of the USSR (1968); among his pupils were Razuvaev & Bareev.

He lost both legs at the Battle of Stalingrad, 1942-43.

Selected links:

<http://www.partner-inform.de/blogs/detail/17/3456/besedy-s-abramom-hasinym-tal-hasin-i-gaprindashvili-v-gastingse>

<http://www.aparchive.com/metadata/CHESS-CONGRESS-NO-SOUND/be58afceeda3490eb2ddde4121f75862>

[https://chesspro.ru/events/2012/hasin1\\_enc.html](https://chesspro.ru/events/2012/hasin1_enc.html)

[https://chesspro.ru/details/kalinin\\_khasin](https://chesspro.ru/details/kalinin_khasin)

## Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 25

**White: Horch, J.**

**Black: Darmogray, Paul M**

Correspondence 1968

Two Knights Defence [C58]

[Notes by John E Hawkes after van der Tak and Nijboer]

1.e4 e5  
2.Nf3 Nc6  
3.Bc4 Nf6  
4.Ng5 d5  
5.exd5 Na5  
6.d3

Morphy's line.

6... h6  
7.Nf3 e4  
8.Qe2 Nxc4  
9.dxc4 Bc5  
10.Bf4 0-0  
11.Nfd2 Bg4  
12.Qf1 c6!  
13.dxc6?!

USSR 1962; 13.h3?! cxd5 14.hxg4 Nxc4 15.Bg3 e3! winning, says the van der Tak/Nijboer Tactics book. One can envisage; 16.Qd3 exf2+ 17.Kd1 Ne3+ 18.Kc1 saving the monarch, but 18...Qg5! 19.Bxf2 Qxg2 20.Bxe3 Qxh1+ 21.Qf1 Qxf1+ 22.Nxf1 Bxe3+ 23.Nxe3 dxc4 24.Nxc4 would be a lost endgame for White.

13... Qb6!  
14.Nb3  
14.cxb7 Qxb2 15.Nb3 Bb4+  
16.N1d2 (16.Bd2 Rad8+) 16...e3!  
17.fxe3 (17.Bxe3? Bxd2+ 18.Nxd2 Qxa1+ 19.Nb1 Ne4! and mate is unavoidable.) 17...Bxd2+ 18.Kf2 Ne4+ 19.Kg1 Rad8 20.h3 Qc3 21.hxg4 Bxe3+ 22.Kh2 Nf2! 23.Bxe3 Qxe3 24.g3 Qf3+ 24... Nh5!  
15.Bc1



Now comes a fourth consecutive "good move".

15... e3!  
16.Nxc5 exf2+  
17.Qxf2 Rfe8+  
18.Kf1 Re2  
19.Qd4 Rae8  
20.Bd2 Bh3!  
21.gxh3  
21.Qd5 Rxg2 22.Qxg2 Bxg2+  
23.Kxg2 Qxc6+ 24.Kf2 Qf6+  
25.Kg1 Re2 26.Nd3 Qf3 and mate next move.  
21... Qxc6  
21...Qxc6 and 22.Qd5 gets a 22...Qf6+ and mate again.  
0-1



13.Nc3 Re8 14.Nb3 Bb4 15.h3 Bh5 16.g4 Bg6 17.0-0-0 Bxc3 18.dxc6 Qb6 19.bxc3 Qxc6 with good play for Black in Ferberov - Seremeta, SCCA Magazine 157



ICCF IA/IM Paul M. Darmogray  
(1934-2006) Ukraine  
[https://kszgk.com/?page\\_id=2746](https://kszgk.com/?page_id=2746)





## Chess Art

By Iain Mackintosh

### Ukrainian Chess Art

A tribute to the creative talents now under bombardment.



Chess by Inna Gershov Slutsky



Chess by Ed Potapenko



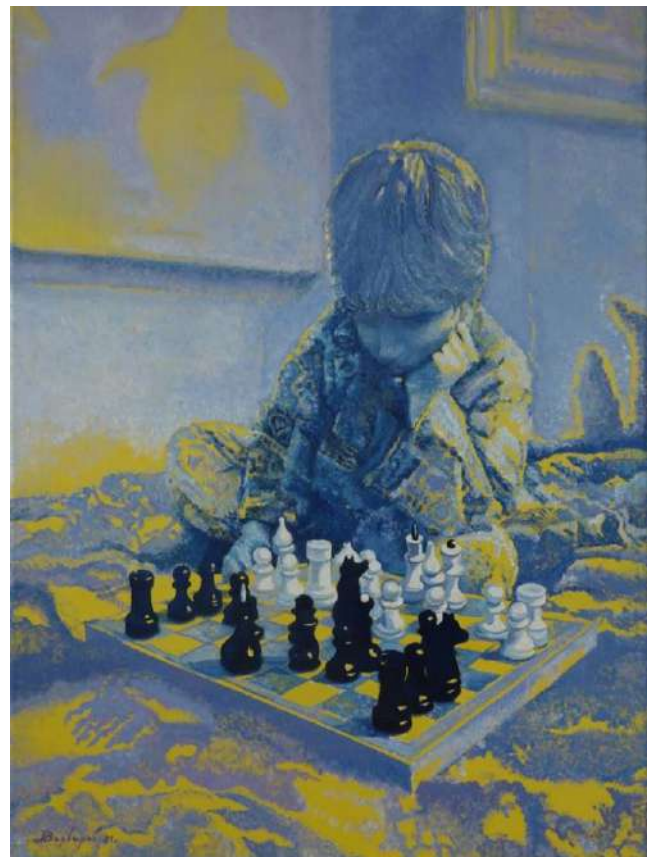
ChessGame by Wlad Safronow



Chess Players by Dmitry Savchenko



Kitchen Chess by Anastasia Yesipova



Chess Painting by Anatolii Varvarov



Let's Play by Valeriy Grebenyuk



Ukrainian Folk Style Chess Pieces



Kyiv Mini Chess Sculpture





## Games Column

[games@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:games@scottishcca.co.uk)

By Alastair Dawson

For this particular games column, we feature the strongest Ukrainian correspondence chess players of recent times - GM Nikolai Papenin.

It is enormously difficult to qualify for the ICCF World Championship Finals - indeed anyone playing in such an event has our huge respect.

The last player to take part in this event from Ukraine was GM Papenin and it was in the WC28/final that started in October 2013.

Nikolai was born in 1985. He is registered with FIDE under the flag of Russia as an IM with an over-the-board rating of 2295.

But in 2013 when WC28 started he represented Ukraine - in fact he was one of the highest rated players in the tournament with an ICCF rating of 2687.

In correspondence chess as White, Nikolai enters Nimzo-Indian systems with the move 4.f3 but in over-the-board play he prefers 4.g3.

In today's game section we feature two of his games played in WC28. He is White in both games and both end in draws. One features 4... c5 and the other 4... d5. Despite both games ending in draws the play is of the very highest calibre. Enjoy.

**White: Papenin, Nikolai (2687)**  
**Black: Finocchiaro, Fabio (2621)**  
 ICCF WCCF Finals, 2013  
 Nimzo-Indian Sämisch [E25]  
*[Notes by Alastair Dawson]*

**1.d4**                **Nf6**  
**2.c4**                **e6**  
**3.Nc3**              **Bb4**

Quite a rare move in a Nimzo-Indian. By far the most popular moves in this position are 4.e3, 4.Qc2 and 4.Nf3 but still Chessbase records over 16,000 games with this move and a score rate of 54.3% for White.

**4.f3**                **d5**  
**5.a3**                **Bxc3+**  
**6.bxc3**              **c5**  
**7.cxd5**             **Nxd5**  
**8.dxc5**             **Qa5**

SCCA Magazine 157

A fairly chaotic position has emerged with White briefly a pawn ahead - perhaps not ideal for over the board play but fairly routine for a high-profile correspondence game. This position has been reached over 2000 times before and White, despite the shattered pawns has a 54.6% win rate.

**9.e4**                **Ne7**  
**10.Be3**             **0-0**  
**11.Qb3**             **Qc7**

This position has been reached previously by Shankland, Vidit, Mamedyarov, Shirov amongst many top players.

**12.Bb5**             **Nec6**  
**13.Ne2**             **Na5**  
**14.Qb4**             **e5**

Black solves the problem of the bad bishop.

**15.0-0**             **Na6**  
**16.Bxa6**             **bx a6**

Black is gradually opening up the position to start attacking the weak White pawns,

**17.c4**



It is at this point that we have a parting of the ways. The majority of games that have been played in this position prefer 17. Rad1 but 17.c4 has been played 12 times - plus one must not forget that White is still a pawn ahead.

**17...**                **Be6**  
**18.Rfd1**            **Rab8**  
**19.Qe1**             **Nxc4**  
**20.Bf2**

And now we have reached a completely new position. The material balance is equal now - but what is to happen to the c5 pawn, can White make use of it further?

**20...**                **Nb2**  
**21.Rd6**             **Rfd8**  
**22.Rxd8+**          **Qxd8**  
**23.Rb1**             **Ba2**  
**24.Ra1**             **Nd3**  
**25.Qd2**



There is a dynamic tussle for control of both the b- and d-files.

**25...**                **Rb2**  
**26.Qc3**             **Rb3**  
**27.Qd2**             **Rb2**  
**28.Qc3**             **Rb3**

And the game ends in a draw by repetition. Top-level play from both opponents and, of course, Black is happy to take the half-point in such a prestigious tournament.

½-½



**White: Papenin, Nikolai (2687)**  
**Black: Clever, Hans-Hermann (2520)**

ICCF WCCF Finals, 2013  
 Nimzo-Indian [E20]  
*[Notes by Alastair Dawson]*

**1.d4**                **Nf6**  
**2.c4**                **e6**  
**3.Nc3**              **Bb4**  
**4.f3**                **c5**  
**5.d5**

Now we have a wrinkle in the opening repertoire. The move 4.f3 is played again, although this time Black replies with c5 rather than d5.

5... 0-0  
 6.e4 d6  
 7.Nge2 Ba5  
 8.Ng3 b5

We now reach a sort of Benko/Benoni position but where the black-squared bishop of Black is sitting on ...a5 and not fianchettoed on g7!

9.cxb5 exd5  
 10.exd5 Bb7  
 11.Bd2 Nxd5

There now commences a series of exchanges that lead to simplification of the position. We are also in a completely new position.

12.Nxd5 Bxd5  
 13.Bxa5 Qxa5+  
 14.Qd2 Qxd2+  
 15.Kxd2 Rd8



To the unaccustomed eye one might think that ..Re8 was a better idea since it takes control of the e-file.

However, the d6 pawn is very weak and needs protection straight away.

16.a4 Nd7  
 17.h4 Rab8  
 18.Bd3 a6  
 19.Nf5 Kf8  
 20.Ne3 Be6  
 21.Rhb1

And now White plans to get rid of a pawn weakness.

21... d5  
 22.b3 c4  
 23.bxc4 dxc4  
 24.Be2 Nc5+  
 25.Ke1 Nb3  
 26.Ra3 axb5  
 27.axb5 Rd4  
 28.g3 g6  
 29.Nc2 Rd6  
 30.Ne3 Nd4  
 31.Kf2 Nxe2  
 32.Kxe2 Rdb6  
 33.Rc3 Rc8



And now there is a seesaw of counter-pressures with White pressurising the c4 pawn and Black exerting pressure on the b5 pawn.

34.Rb4 Bd7  
 35.Nxc4 Rxb5  
 36.Rcb3 Re8+  
 37.Kf2 Rc5  
 38.Ne3 Kg7  
 39.Rb7 Bc6  
 40.Rc7 Re6  
 41.Ra3

Both players jostle for a small advantage, but if the rooks come off the position is to all intents and purposes drawn.

41... h5  
 42.Raa7 Rf6  
 43.f4 Rb5  
 44.Ra2 Rb3  
 45.Raa7 Rb2+  
 46.Kg1 Re2  
 47.Re7 Kf8  
 48.Kf1 Bb5  
 49.Kg1 Rd2  
 50.Rac7 Bc6  
 51.Kf1 Be8  
 52.Re5 Bd7  
 53.Ke1 Rfd6  
 54.Nc4 Rd1+  
 55.Kf2 Ra6  
 56.Ra5 Rf6  
 57.Ne5 Be6  
 58.Ra8+ Kg7  
 59.Rb7 Rd2+

1/2-1/2



And now a query from Peter Bennett who wonders if the following game has any theoretical significance:

**White: Renard, Stephane**

**Black: Bennett, Peter**

12th European Team Championship, 2021

QGD Ragozin [D38]

[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.d4 Nf6  
 2.c4 e6  
 3.Nf3 d5

With Black, I was playing all the openings 'with a very straight bat', to borrow a term from cricket. This was the first time I had ever played in a category 7 tournament group; and at that level, the general rule is that you play for a draw with Black and a win with White.

4.Nc3 Bb4  
 5.cxd5 exd5

As a very rough rule of thumb, the more White initiates exchanges in the opening, the easier it is for Black to equalise. With White, I would not play 5.cxd5 in this position.

6.Bg5 h6  
 7.Bh4 0-0  
 8.e3 Bf5  
 9.Qb3 Bxc3+  
 10.Qxc3 g5  
 11.Bg3 Ne4  
 12.Qxc7 Nc6  
 13.Bb5

The immediate 13.Qxd8 is the more usual choice here.

13... Rc8  
 14.Qxd8 Rfxd8

So far, this is all standard theory; yet White's pursuit of a win suddenly disintegrates very quickly; but why? I was simply playing the game to the best of my ability, but without the aid of a decent reference database, which I lost as a result of recent computer breakdown. So I can only now pose the question: did White make a mistake? Or did the game follow a known pathway, all the way to its conclusion? Or did Black find an innovation without realising it?

15.Ke2 Nb4N  
 16.Rhc1 Nc2  
 17.Rab1 Nb4

Here Black declares his intention to force a draw by repetition. White duly acknowledges that any attempt to avoid the repetition yields a significant initiative to Black. So a draw is agreed.

**18.Ra1**

My opponent is no slouch. His name appears in the start list with the already out-of-date rating of 2366; but his "live" rating at the conclusion



of our game, after a string of recent wins, was 2395, easing slightly back to 2392 for the 2022/1 rating list.  
½-½

Using ChessBase and the most recent ICCF games update (end-Feb 2022) reveals the following:

At move 14 (Qxd8 Rfxd8) there are 7 games listed in the database (though not yet yours). All ended in draws. End dates were 2019, 2020 and 2021.

There are three following variations:  
15. Nd2 (4 games) 2020, 2021  
15. Ke2 (2 games) 2019, 2021  
15. 0-0 (1 game) 2020

So, Renard's 15.Ke2 wasn't a novelty, but your 15... Nb4 was! Credit for that, but alas it didn't alter the traditional outcome of this line.

Looking at the earlier moves, after 7.Bh4, there are almost 600 games listed (570 going with 7.Bh4, 70 with 7.Bxf6).



### 2022 Scottish Championship

Our 2021 Scottish Champion, Allan Buchan is defending his title against David Cumming, Colin Beveridge, Ian Whittaker, Iain Mackintosh, Iain Sneddon and Robert Montgomery

### 2022 Premier

The Premier this season has 8 players hoping for promotion to the Championship. The players are, Raymond Burrige, Derek Price, Derek Ross, Andrew Taylor, Colin MacGregor, Andrew Macmillan, Dietmar Wicht and John Armstrong.

### 2022 Open A

Andrew Macmillan, Robert Gilbert, John Armstrong and John Dunn.

### 2022 Open B

Andrew Macmillan, John Armstrong, Martin Hardwick and Benjamin Major.

Around 250 games then feature 7... 0-0 (other lines favour White). Everybody plays 8.e3 and 90% of games then go 8... Bf5 9.Qb3 Bxc3+ There's a 50:50 split between 10.Qxc3 and 10.bxc3

About 25% go with 10... g5 (the rest favour 10... Nbd7). Everybody then plays 11.Bg3 Ne4

There's a 60:40 split between 12.Qxc7 and 12.Qa3 with Black playing 12... Nc6 to the former.

After your choice of 13.Bb5 all games follow with 13... Rc8 14.Qxd8 Rfxd8

So, we could appeal for a 'Bennett variation' after 15... Nb4 but I doubt it would make it to NIC!

And Peter closed with observation that "the fact that virtually all the games in this line end in draws is not the point, as I see it. Forcing the draw at move 18 is a much better outcome for black, in pragmatic

terms, than securing a predictable draw 8 months later at move 45."

## Publish Your Games

You can participate in the magazine by submitting your own games, or anything of note you've come across in your travels.

We're happy to publish all grading standards and lengths of games as long as there's some interesting play! Please send your submissions to:

[games@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:games@scottishcca.co.uk)



## Domestic Events Update

By Mickey Blake

### Challengers

Firstly we must congratulate the 2021-22 Challengers Winner Robert Gilbert who amassed 10½ pts from 14 games. Well done Robert!

The 2022-23 Challengers season has started in fine style with 16 pairings begun, we welcome new member Tom Anderson to the Challengers and the SCCA.

We have had a few early results, please remember that pairings can be obtained at any time of the year and we do have some players in the wings ready for a new challenger.

Entrants are broadly classified as beginner, intermediate or advanced strength to assist with like pairings, but developing players are encouraged to challenge above their level to gain experience. Medals are awarded for best playing performance(s) during a season. Entrants are reminded that in order to

be eligible to win a medal, they must have taken part in at least 8 games against 3 different opponents.

### 2022 Leagues

#### Division 1: Champions

SchemingMind A are defending their title in this very competitive top tier of the league. Knights of the board A represent Scotland and comprise Allan Buchan, Iain Sneddon, Derek Price and Raymond John Burrige.

#### Division 2: Brutal Realism

represents Scotland in this division. The team are David R. Cumming, Wilf Taylor, James S. Murray and Dietmar Wicht.

**Division 3:** Knights of the Board B for Scotland on this one, the team are Andrew N. Macmillan, John Dunn, Benjamin Major and Martin E. Hardwick who has already secured two wins for his team.