Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

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

NB printed copies no longer available

Editorial and News

By Iain Mackintosh

Welcome to the summer edition of our 2024 magazine set. This is a sobering issue, as it comes after the deaths of two of our senior players – David Cumming and Graham Morrison – within days of each other back in May.

Rather than eulogise over much, we've decided to highlight some of the intrepid play our gifted friends have left us. I'm indebted to John Hawkes for researching the material and annotating selected games by David and Graham.

The third ICCF rating list of 2024 is analysed by our grader Alistair Maxwell, who reports several encouraging grading increases from our members.

Our Chess Art pages feature the work of French artist Geraldine Bonneau (also known as Fred!). I've probably over-compensated here after all our bad news, but I hope you'll enjoy the colourful and surreal images on display.

Membership/Domestic Secretary Mickey Blake supplies the final 2023-24 SCCA Championship table, where a late win by Iain Sneddon sees him join Allan Buchan in joint first place. Mickey also supplies a full set of tables for last year's and the current year's events.

International Secretary David Kilgour provides updates on the Rudolf Kolesnikov Semi-Final, a new Friendly International against USA and the Prelims of the 23rd Olympiad. Joint SCCA champions Allan Buchan and Iain Sneddon have entered the BCCC Championship 2023-25.

Awani Kumar rounds off the Edinburgh-London rematch we've been featuring recently, with both alpha and numerical Knight Tours.

Alastair Dawson features a great attacking game by Richard Beecham in his Games Column. This one has been pending for a few months, so it's great to see it in print at last!

We've recently published fully audited accounts on our Members' Downloads website page. We're in good shape, so many thanks to our treasurer Ian Whittaker and auditor John Fanning.

Enjoy the read, and thanks again to David Cumming and Graham Morrison for their fine play and enduring memories.

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, Ian Whittaker. 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 Ian to sign up for some units (contact details below).

Recent 100 Club Winners

2024	1st	2nd
June	K B McAlpine	K B McAlpine
May	K B McAlpine	G M Anderson
April	J S Murray	A P Borwell

SCCA Officials

President	Iain Mackintosh	11 West Grange Farm, St Andrews KY16 8LJ	+44 (0)1334 470287	president@scottishcca.co.uk
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35 Aniversario de la FECAP International Open Tournament

The Cuban Correspondence Chess Federation (FECAP) is pleased to announce the International Open Tournament on the occasion of its 35th anniversary. We cordially invite CC players from all countries to participate in this tournament.

The tournament consisting of 3 sections will be played in one phase, using the ICCF 2024/3 rating list:

Section A for players with a rating of 2300 or higher
Section B for players with a rating between 2000 - 2299
Section C for players with a rating of 1999 or lower

The tournament will be played on the ICCF server with triple block time control: tournament duration of 350 days (50 days initial clock, 75 days initial bank, 1 day increment for the first 50 moves).

The tournament will be rated and valid for obtaining norms for ICCF titles, meeting all conditions required by ICCF.

Registered players grouped by rating will be placed in groups of 11, 13 or 15 players in rating order so that all group members have a similar rating. The number of groups will depend on the number of registrations. A maximum of 2 registrations will be allowed, with the second registration the player will be assigned to the group following the first group.

The tournament start date is September 30, 2024.

Registration and payment of the entry fee for the 35th Aniversario de la FECAP International Open Tournament must be done via the DE system on the ICCF server by opening the **Cuba menu in New Events**.

The entry fee is 9 € and registrations must be received no later than September 10, 2024.

Section A
- 35 Aniversario FECAP A
- Organised by Pedro Vertíz Gutiérrez and directed byAustin Lockwood
- Open to players with rating 2300 or higher

Section B
- 35 Aniversario FECAP B
- Organised by Carlos Vila Hernández and directed byGiraldo Menéndez Rodríguez.
- Open to players with rating between 2000 - 2299

The registration fee is 9 Euros.
Players have to be rated 2000 or above.
Players have to be rated 2299 or below.
Players must have an RD of 150 or less.

Section C
- 35 Aniversario FECAP C
- Organised by Giraldo Menéndez Rodríguez and directed by Juan Alberto Martello.
- Open to players with rating 1999 or lower.

All Sections
- International
- 13 Players
- 12 Games
- Planned start date is 9/30/2024
- Time control is Triple Block system for a 350 day event, with 75 days initial bank and 1 day increment for the first 50 moves.
- The tournaments will be played in a single phase at Triple Block time control for a 350 days event.
- The tournament will be rated and valid to obtain the norms for ICCF titles in groups that meet all the conditions required by ICCF.
- Up to 2 registrations will be allowed, with the second registration the player will be paired in the group following the first group.
- The registered players will be allocated in groups of 11, 13 or 15 players in ranking order, so that all group members have a similar rating.
- The number of groups will depend on the number of registrations.
- The registration fee is 9 Euros.
- Entries and fees must be received no later than September 10, 2024.

Certificates

In this tournament, certificates will be awarded to the top 3 players in each group.

Tie Breaks

The tie-breaking system will be as follows:
1. Baumbach,
2. Sonnenborn-Berger,
3. the results of the players tied with each other and
4. the lowest rating at the start of the tournament.

Amici Sumus,
Giraldo Menéndez Rodríguez
FECAP President & ICCF Delegate for Cuba

Fernschach 2024 CC Database

Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2024 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 1,933,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 95,000 new games since 2023
- Over 10,000 annotated (320 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 €14.00 (shipping within Germany) and €16 (shipping elsewhere). Email version €12.
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 (Stadtsparkasse Bocholt)
> IBAN DE 33428500350100118801
> BIC SWIFT WELADED1BOH
> Purpose: FS CD 2023

Your order must provide your complete postal address!
Email: hebel57@gmx.de
https://www.bdf-fernschachbund.de/news/fernschach-cd-2023-erschienen.html

ICCF Games Archive Updates

June updates to the Games Archive have now been added. You can now download all annual archives to end-December 2023.

SCCA on Twitter

Mickey Blake sends a reminder that we are now on Twitter at https://twitter.com/scotcorrchess

The account is linked to membership@scottishcca.co.uk

If you are a Twitter user, feel free to follow us and retweet our news items. We'll retweet news from ICCF to broaden the reach of their tournament announcements etc., and our posts will carry the tag #CorrespondenceChess

Our page looks like this:

Scottish Correspondence Chess
24 Tweets

Scottish Correspondence Chess
@ScotCorrChess

The SCCA is a non-profit body responsible for organising and promoting correspondence chess (CC) in Scotland. We are a full national member of ICCF.

Scotland · scottishcca.co.uk · Joined May 2022

21 Following   6 Followers

If you're a Twitter user, feel free to get in touch!

SCCA on Facebook

Mickey Blake continues as our FB editor.

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

https://www.facebook.com/scottishcca

You can help Mickey by posting your own comments on the page, and 'Liking' anything which catches your eye!

For reference, ICCF are on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/168419426514337

2024/3 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

The third ICCF grading list of 2024 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 Apr and 30 June 2024. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 Jul and 30 Sep 2024.
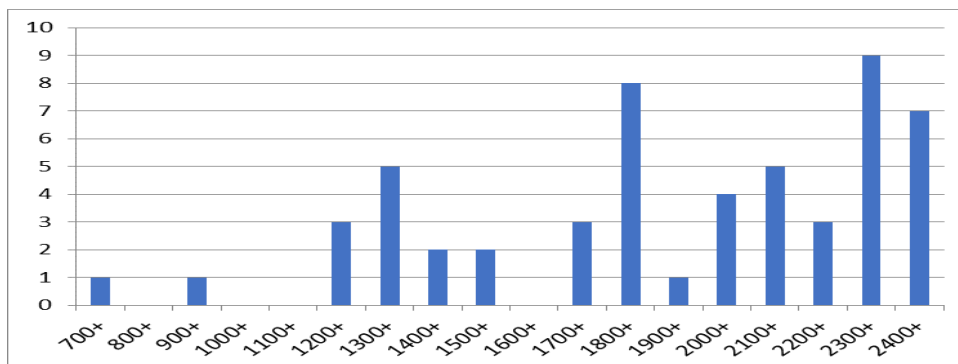
It appears that there were no new norms in the latest rating period.

There was 1 addition to the list, returning after a period of inactivity. Sadly, we have lost 2 from the list, Graham Morrison and David Cumming, who have passed away. My personal condolences to their families and they will be sadly missed. The most significant rating moves were Andrew MacMillen (+81), Derek Price (+80), John Dunn (+66), James Murray (+43), Benjamin Major (+42), Andrew Taylor (+41), Colin McGregor (+34), Carlos Almarza Mato (+31), Robert Bruce, Martin Hardwick, Robert Montgomery, Wilf Taylor (all +22), Iain Mackintosh (+21) and Geoffrey Lloyd (+20).

New games centurions were Martin Hardwick (2000+), Ian Sneddon (800+) and Steve Pettigrew (200+). Highest recorded games this quarter were Carlos Almarza Mato and Robert Bruce (44), Martin Hardwick (41) and Iain Sneddon (35).

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. Rating changes are denoted by arrows. Email grader@scottishcca.co.uk if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade		No.	Name	Results	Grade	
317	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2586	2147	↑	584	MacGregor, C A	536	1957	↑
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	421	2321	↑	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	868	2431	↑
	Anderson, T R	74	1811	↑	216	MacMillen, A N	1533	1736	↑
	Antunes, A	56	2205	↔		Major, B	120	1222	↑
313	Armstrong, J McK	570	1307	↓	566	Marshall, I H	929	2300	↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	561	2479	↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	324	2450	↔
599	Bell, A D (IM)	285	2429	↔		Maxwell, A	75	2060	↔
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	513	2378	↔		Miles, A	106	1231	↔
481	Beveridge, C (CCM)	854	2353	↑	598	Montgomery, R S (CCM)	405	2355	↑
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	978	2397	↑		Moss, R	47	1778	↔
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105	2197	↔		Munro, P R	102	2155	↓
	Bruce, R (CCE)	1166	1899	↑	474	Murden, C (IM)	689	2467	↑
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	468	2455	↑	564	Murray, J S	119	2021	↑
602	Burridge, R J	2013	1776	↓	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	255	1582	↑
	Carswell, D	56	1575	↓	604	Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	260	2333	↔
247	Cormack, W H	139	1820	↓		Pettigrew, S	202	1337	↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	179	2144	↔	432	Price, D	541	2063	↑
478	Dunn, J	566	1327	↑		Rafferty, F	42	1343	↔
371	Edney, D	339	1818	↔		Ross, Derek I	57	1808	↔
	Foote, I	276	1803			Sedstrem, A	120	1327	↑
462	Gilbert, R	335	1485	↓	477	Smith, M J (CCE)	134	2239	↔
596	Hardwick, M E	2038	761	↑	439	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	832	2410	↓
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	381	2288	↑	057	Taylor, A	52	1842	↑
260	Knox, A	431	1266	↔		Taylor, R	82	1425	↔
	Lima, J	30	2039	↔		Taylor, W (CCE)	235	2110	↑
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1232	2301	↑	605	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	348	2317	↑
	MacDonald, M	134	913	↓	480	Wicht, D	82	1890	↔

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	**54**
New entrants	**1**
Deletions (inactive, lapsed, non-members etc.)	**2**
Grading increases (↑)	**27**
Grading decreases (↓)	**8**
Grading static (↔)	**18**

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	**2479**	Marshall, I H	**2300**
Murden, C (IM)	**2467**	Kilgour, D A (GM)	**2288**
Buchan, A W (CCM	**2455**	Smith, M J (CCE)	**2239**
Matheis, T (IM)	**2450**	Antunes, A	**2205**
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	**2431**	Borwell, A P (IM)	**2197**
Bell, A D (IM)	**2429**	Munro, P R	**2155**
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	**2410**	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	**2147**
Blake, M J (CCM)	**2397**	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	**2144**
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	**2378**	Taylor, W (CCE)	**2110**
Montgomery, R S (CCM)	**2355**	Price, D	**2063**
Beveridge, C (CCM)	**2353**	Maxwell, A	**2060**
Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	**2333**	Lima, J	**2039**
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	**2321**	Murray, J S	**2021**
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	**2317**	MacGregor, C A	**1957**
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	**2301**	Bruce, R (CCE)	**1899**

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C (CCE)	**2586**	Bruce, R (CCE)	**1166**
Hardwick, M E	**2038**	Borwell, A P (IM)	**1105**
Burridge, R J	**2013**	Blake, M J (CCM)	**978**
MacMillen, A N	**1533**	Marshall, I H	**929**
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	**1232**	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	**868**

Selected Personal Best Grades 2024/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Murden, C (IM)	**2467**	**2464**	**2024/2**	**3**
Blake, M J (CCM)	**2397**	**2389**	**2024/1**	**8**
Montgomery, R S (CCM)	**2355**	**2336**	**2023/4**	**19**
Beveridge, C (CCM)	**2353**	**2336**	**2024/2**	**17**
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	**2317**	**2315**	**2024/1**	**2**
Marshall, I H	**2300**	**2281**	**2024/2**	**19**
Anderson, T R	**1811**	**1792**	**2024/2**	**19**

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), Sneddon, I (2)
Scottish Master (SM) title norms are held by:
Buchan, A (1), Beveridge, C (1), Morrison, G J (1), Whittaker, I P (1)
Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:
Whittaker, I P (1), Taylor, W (1)
Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:
Burridge, R J (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), 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.

By John E. Hawkes

Drawing by Nina Dmytriieva of John with Junior:who died 10 May 2024

Obituaries

Introduction

May 2024 was a dreadful month for SCCA with 2 deaths recorded among our top players. First to be announced was Graham James Morrison following a stroke in his adopted town of Lytham St Annes. He was closely followed by David Roderick Cumming who died in his sleep in Inverness.

We celebrate the lives of both players by publishing some of their great moments at the chessboard.

This is easier to do in David's case as he has a long history of SCCA membership and tournament play.

Graham joined in May 2023, and we published some of his Edinburgh-London games in editions 164-165. However, we have unearthed a gem from 2022-24 to remember him by.

White: Cumming, David
Black: Kusnierz, Janusz
ICCF World Cup 22 e-mail 2017
Sicilian: Najdorf Poisoned Pawn [B97]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Bg5	e6
7.f4	Qb6
8.Qd2	Qxb2
9.Rb1	Qa3
10.e5	dxe5

Cumming - Sadler C. (7th NATT e-mail 2016) continued; 10...h6 11.Bh4 dxe5 12.fxe5 Nd5 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.e6 Bxe6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Bd3 Be7 17.Bg6+ Kd8 18.Bxe7+ Qxe7 19.0–0 Nd7∓

11.fxe5	Nfd7
12.Ne4	h6
13.Bh4	Qxa2
14.Rd1	

14...	Qd5

14...Nxe5 15.Nb5!

15.Qe3	Qxe5
16.Be2	Bc5
17.Bg3	Bxd4
18.Rxd4	Qa5+
19.Rd2	0-0
20.Bd6	Rd8
21.g4	f6

Cumming - Leenders (3rd North Sea TT e-mail 2016) continued; 21...Nc6 22.g5 hxg5 23.Rg1 Nf6 24.Rxg5 Qa1+ 25.Rd1 Nxe4 26.Rxa1 Nxg5 and a long struggle ensued.

22.g5	

22.h4 is too slow; 22...Ne5 23.g5 Nf7!

22...	hxg5
23.h4	g4
24.h5	Nc6
25.h6	g6
26.Bxg4	f5

If 26... e5? there is 27.Qb3+!! Kh8 28.Qf7 and mate cannot be prevented e.g. 28...Rg8 29.Be6 Qd8 30.h7 Rg7 31.Qg8+! Qxg8 32.hxg8Q#

27.Qg5	Kh8

28.Bc7!	Qxc7

28...Qb4 was a serious option.

29.Rxd7!	Qxd7

If 29...Qa5+ 30.Kf1! Qa1+ 31.Kg2 Qxh1+ 32.Kxh1 Rxd7 33.Qf6+ Kh7 34.Qf8!! and mate in 4 after 34...fxe4 35.Bxe6; whereas 29...Rxd7 30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.Qxg6+ Kf8 *(31...Kh8 32.Qe8+ Kh7 33.Nf6#)* 32.h7 Rxh7 33.Rxh7 Qxh7 34.Qxh7 and Q plus a minor piece will win comfortably.

30.Qf6+	Kg8
31.Qxg6+	

and Black resigns. 31.Qxg6+ Kh8 32.Qf6+ Kg8 33.Rg1! setting up mate in 4.

1-0

David playing at the Inverness Congress in 2013.

(Picture by James Brett)

White: Talbot, T.N.
Black: Cumming, David [C15]
SCCA 1992–93
French – Winawer [C15]
[Notes by John E Hawkes /Cumming in CCYB-9]

1.e4	**e6**
2.d4	**d5**
3.Nc3	**Bb4**
4.a3!?	**Bxc3+**
5.bxc3	**dxe4**
6.Qg4	**Nf6**
7.Qxg7	**Rg8**
8.Qh6	**Nbd7**

8...Rg6 9.Qd2 b6 10.Bb2 Bb7 11.0–0–0 Qe7 12.Ne2 Nbd7 13.c4 0–0–0 14.Qe1 c5 15.Nc3 cxd4 16.Rxd4 Ne5= Sakharov- Dubinin corres.1977

9.Ne2

9...	**c5**

Fischer v Kovacevic, Rovinj - Zagreb 1970 went; 9...b6 10.Bg5 Qe7! 11.Qh4 Bb7 12.Ng3 h6! 13.Bd2 0–0–0 14.Be2 Nf8 15.0–0 Ng6 16.Qxh6 Rh8 17.Qg5 Rdg8 18.f3 e3! and 0–1 in 30 moves.

10.g3	**b6**
11.Bg2	**Bb7**
12.0-0	**Qe7**
13.a4	**Ng4**
14.Qf4	

14.Qxh7 0–0–0 15.Qh4 Qxh4 16.gxh4 and Black may have tried 16...e3 hoping for 17.fxe3? Nxe3!

14...	**f5**
15.h3!	

(Cumming)
15.a5 Ndf6∓

15...	**Ngf6**
16.Bb2	**Nd5**
7.Qd2	**0-0-0**
18.a5	

18.Ba3! Cumming

18...c4	
19.axb6	**axb6**
20.Ra4	**b5**
21.Ra2?	

(Cumming)
⌒21.Ra7

21...	**N7f6**
22.Ra7	**Nc7**
23.Rfa1	

23...	**h5**
24.Qf4	**Nfd5**
25.Qh6	**Rh8**
26.Qc1	**h4**
27.Nf4	**Rhg8**
28.Nxd5	**Nxd5**
29.Qe1	**Qg7**
30.Kh2	**hxg3+**
31.fxg3	**Nf4**

32.Ra8+	**Kc7!**

32...Bxa8? 33.Rxa8+ Kb7 34.Rxd8 Rxd8 35.gxf4 White is winning; But after 32...Kc7! 33.R8a7 *(33.Rxd8 Kxd8 34.Qe3 Nh5 35.g4 fxg4 36.h4 g3+ 37.Kg1 Qf6 38.d5 Qf2+ 39.Qxf2 gxf2+ 40.Kxf2* and once more that magic move *40...e3+!)* 33...Nxg2 34.Kxg2 Kb8! 35.Qe3 *(35.Bc1 e3+* again *36.Rxb7+ Qxb7+ 37.Kh2 f4–+ 38.g4* then simply *38...Rxg4)* 35...e5 36.dxe5 *(36.g4 f4 37.Qg1 e3+ 38.Kf1 Qh7–+)* 36...Qxg3+! 37.Qxg3 Rd2+ 38.Kf1 Rxg3–+ 39.Ba3 e3 What else? 40.Bd6+ Kc8 41.Rxb7 Rf2+ 42.Ke1 Rg1#

0-1

White: Morrison, Graham
Black: Stolz, Stephan [D43]
VI AEAC Masters–18, 2022–24
QGD Semi-Slav, Moscow Variation
D43
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4	**d5**
2.c4	**e6**
3.Nf3	**Nf6**
4.Nc3	**c6**
5.Bg5	**h6**
6.Bxf6	**Qxf6**
7.e3	**Nd7**
8.Be2	**g6**
9.0-0	**Bg7**
10.e4	**dxc4**
11.e5	

White has avoided the variation 11.Bxc4 e5 12.d5 Nb6 13.Bb3 Bg4=

11...	**Qe7**
12.Bxc4	**0-0**
13.Re1	**b5**
14.Bd3	**Bb7**
15.Be4	**Rfd8**
16.Qe2	

16.Nxb5 Nxe5!

16...	**Nb6**
17.Rac1	**Rac8**
18.a3	**a5**
19.Nb1	**b4**
20.Nbd2	**bxa3**
21.bxa3	**a4**
22.h4	**Bf8**
23.h5	**gxh5**
24.Rb1	**Nd5**
25.Bxd5	

25.Bc2 c5 26.Qe4 Bg7 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Ne4 cxd4 29.Nd6 Rc7 30.Nxd4 Ba8! and Black becomes the attacker e.g. 31.Bxa4 Nc3 32.Rb4 Qg5! 33.g3 Nxa4 34.Rxa4 Qxe5! 35.Ne4 h4–+

25...	**cxd5**
26.Nf1	**Rc3**
27.Ng3	**Ra8!**
28.Nxh5	**Ba6**
29.Qd2	**Rxa3**
30.Nf6+	**Kh8**
31.Qf4	**Bd3**

The no-longer-bad bishop has greatly improved Black's defences - and can also aid the a-pawn's advance.

32.Rbc1

32... Bg7

Another possibility was; 32...Rb3 then if 33.Ng4 *(33.Nh2 Bf5 34.Nxd5 Qg5! 35.Qxg5 hxg5 and Black has a winning endgame.)* 33...a3 34.Nxh6 Bg6 35.Qh2 Kg7 36.Ng4 a2 37.Ra1 Raa3 38.Qh6+ Kg8 39.Qd2 Qb4! 40.Nf6+ Kg7 41.Ne8+! Kh8 42.Qg5 Bg7 43.Nf6 Bxf6 44.Qh6+ Kg8 *(44...Bh7 45.exf6 and mate follows.)* 45.exf6 Qf8=

33.g4 Qf8
34.Kg2 Be4

If 34...Bxf6 35.exf6 *(35.Qxf6+ Kg8 36.Rh1 Be4 37.Rxh6 Bxf3+ 38.Kh2 Qg7−+)* 35...Be4 36.Rxe4! Rxf3! *(36...dxe4 37.Ne5 Rd8 38.Rh1 Kh7 39.Nxf7 and mate follows.)* 37.Kxf3 dxe4+ 38.Kg2! a3 39.Rh1±

35.Nxe4 dxe4
36.Qxe4 Qd8

37.Rc7! Qxc7
38.Qxa8+ Kh7
39.Qe4+ Kh8
40.g5 Qd8
41.Qg4 Qg8
42.d5! Rd3

42...exd5 43.e6! fxe6 44.Rxe6 Rxf3 45.Kxf3 Qf7+ 46.Kg2 hxg5 47.Rd6 a3 and the pawn-rush fails to 48.Qh3+ Kg8 49.Rd8+ Bf8 50.Qxa3!+−

43.d6 a3

44.Qa4 Rd5
45.Qxa3 f6
46.gxf6 Bxf6+
47.Kh3! Qg6
48.exf6 Rh5+
49.Nh4! Qf5+

49...Qxf6? 50.Qa8+ and White's Q wins the R with white-square checking.

50.Kg2!
50.Kg3 Qg5+ 51.Kf3 Qd5+! draws. And 52.Ke2 Re5+ 53.Kf1 Qh1#!

50... Rxh4
You must savour this quite extraordinary variation: 50...Rg5+ 51.Kh1! *(51.Kf1 Qb5+! 52.Re2 Qb1+ 53.Re1 Qb5+ draw)* 51...Qg4 52.Qg3! Qb4 and now 53.f7!! Qxe1+ 54.Kh2 Kg7□ 55.d7 Rxg3 56.f8Q+ Kxf8 57.d8Q+ Kf7 58.Qc7+ Kf6 59.Qf4+ Ke7 60.Qxg3 and White wins comfortably.

51.Qa8+ Kh7
52.Qb7+ Kg6
53.Re3! Rg4+□
54.Kf1 Qxf6
55.d7 Qa1+
56.Ke2 Qa2+
57.Kf3 Rd4
58.Kg3 Qc4

58...Qd5 59.d8Q! Qxd8 60.Rxe6+ Kf5 61.Qf7+ Kg5 62.Re5#

59.d8Q Rxd8

60.Rf3!!
That old f7 weakness!

60... Qd4
60...e5 61.Qb6+! Kh5 62.Rf5#!; 60...Rd3 61.Qb1! wins the rook.

61.Qf7+ Kg5
62.Kh2 Qh4+
62...Qe5+ 63.Rg3+ Kh4 64.Qg6 h5□ 65.Qf7!

63.Rh3
63.Rh3 Qf4+ 64.Rg3+!

1-0

And to finish, an OTB game from the European Team Championship in 2021.

White: Morrison, Graham (2251)
Black: Hansen, Sune Berg (2543)
23rd European Team Championship
Terme Catez SLO, 2021
*QGD - Exchange Variation] [D30]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]*

1.d4 d5
2.c4 e6
3.Nf3 a6
4.cxd5 exd5
5.Nc3 Nf6
6.Bg5 Be6
7.e3 Nbd7
8.Bd3 Bd6
9.0-0 c6
10.Bf4 Qc7
11.Bxd6 Qxd6
12.h3 h6
13.Qc2 0-0
14.b4 Rfe8
15.Rab1 Nb6
16.a4 Nfd7
17.a5 Nc8
18.Na4 Qe7
19.Nc5 Nf8
20.Ne5 Nd6
21.Rbe1 Rad8
22.f4 Bc8
23.g4 f6
24.Ng6 Nxg6
25.Bxg6 Rf8
26.f5 Qc7
27.Kg2 b6
28.axb6 Qxb6
29.Qa4 Qc7
30.Qa2 Kh8
31.h4 Qe7

32.Qc2	Qc7
33.Rf2	a5
34.Qa4	axb4
35.Qxb4	Qe7
36.Qb1	Bd7
37.Rb2	Ra8
38.Rb3	Bc8
39.Qc2	Ra5
40.Kg1	Rd8
41.Qg2	Nc4
42.Nd3	Qa7
43.Qg3	Nd6
44.Nc5	Ra2
45.Reb1	Nb5

46.g5	fxg5
47.hxg5	Qe7
48.Qf4	hxg5
49.Qg4	Kg8
50.Ne6	Bxe6
51.fxe6	Qf6
52.Bf7+	Kf8
53.Rf1	Ke7

The game is over.
53...Qh6 54.Bh5+ Kg8 55.e4+−

54.Rxf6	gxf6
55.Qd1	Rda8
56.Qc1	Nd6
57.Rb2	Ra1
58.Rb1	R1a7
59.Qc5	f5
60.Qxc6	Rc8
61.Qxd5	Rc2
62.e4	Raa2
63.exf5	Nc4
64.f6+	Kxf6
65.Rf1+	

1-0

You can also view Graham on Youtube in an exciting game v John Emms.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41UEd_Et4HI

Graham at the board in 2006.

Miniature
Correspondence Masterpieces
No. 33

White: Mitchell, Graham R.
Black: Riley, Douglas E.A.
[Sicilian Najdorf, Poisoned Pawn B97]
British CC Association 1964
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Bg5	e6
7.f4	Qb6
8.Qd2	Qxb2
9.Rb1	Qa3
10.e5	dxe5
11.fxe5	Nfd7
12.Bc4	Bb4
13.Rb3	Qa5
14.a3	Bc5

15.Bxe6	Bxd4

15... fxe6 16.Nxe6 Nxe5? 17.Bd8! then if 17... b6 *(17...Bb6 18.Nxg7+ Kf7 19.Qf4+ Kxg7 20.Qf6+ Kg8 21.Rf1+−)* 18.Nc7+ Kf7 19.Rf1+ Bf2+ 20.Rxf2+ Kg8 21.Rb5! axb5 22.Qd5+ Be6 23.Qxe6+ Nf7 24.Qe8#

16.Bxd7+	Nxd7
17.Qxd4	0-0
18.0-0	Nxe5
19.Ne4	Be6
20.Rg3	Kh8
21.Nf6	Ng6

21...Rfd8 was best, and if 22.Bh6 gxh6 23.Qe3 Black has the interference sacrifice of his extra piece 23...Nf3+! 24.Qxf3 *(24.Rgxf3 Qd2μ; 24.gxf3 Qd2∓; 24.Kh1 Ng5−+)* 24...Qc5+ 25.Kh1 Qf5∓

22.Bh6! **Rfd8**
If 22...gxh6 23.Rxg6! hxg6 *(23...fxg6 24.Nd5+! Kg8 25.Ne7#)* 24.Nh5+! f6 25.Rxf6+−; and the natural 22...Rad8 is also too late; 23.Bxg7+ Kxg7 24.Ne8+! Kh6 25.Qg7+ Kh5 26.Qxh7#; therefore only 22...Rg8 would prolong the game.
23.Rxg6!!
Fabulous!

23...fxg6

And now it's forced mate.
[Other moves are: 23...hxg6 24.Qh4!
Bg4 25.Bd2+! wins the Black queen;
23...gxh6   24.Nd5+   f6   25.Qxf6#;
23...Rg8 24.Rxg7 Rxg7 25.Nh5 f6
26.Qxf6 and mate in 4 moves.]

24.Bxg7+   Kxg7

25.Ne8+!   Kh6

26.Qf4+

The final variation goes: 26.Qf4+
Qg5 27.Qf8+! Kh5 28.Nf6+ Kh4
29.Qb4+!! (easy to miss) 29...Bg4
30.Qe1#!

1-0

Inverness and Lytham St Annes – both now the poorer

Chess Art

By Iain
Mackintosh
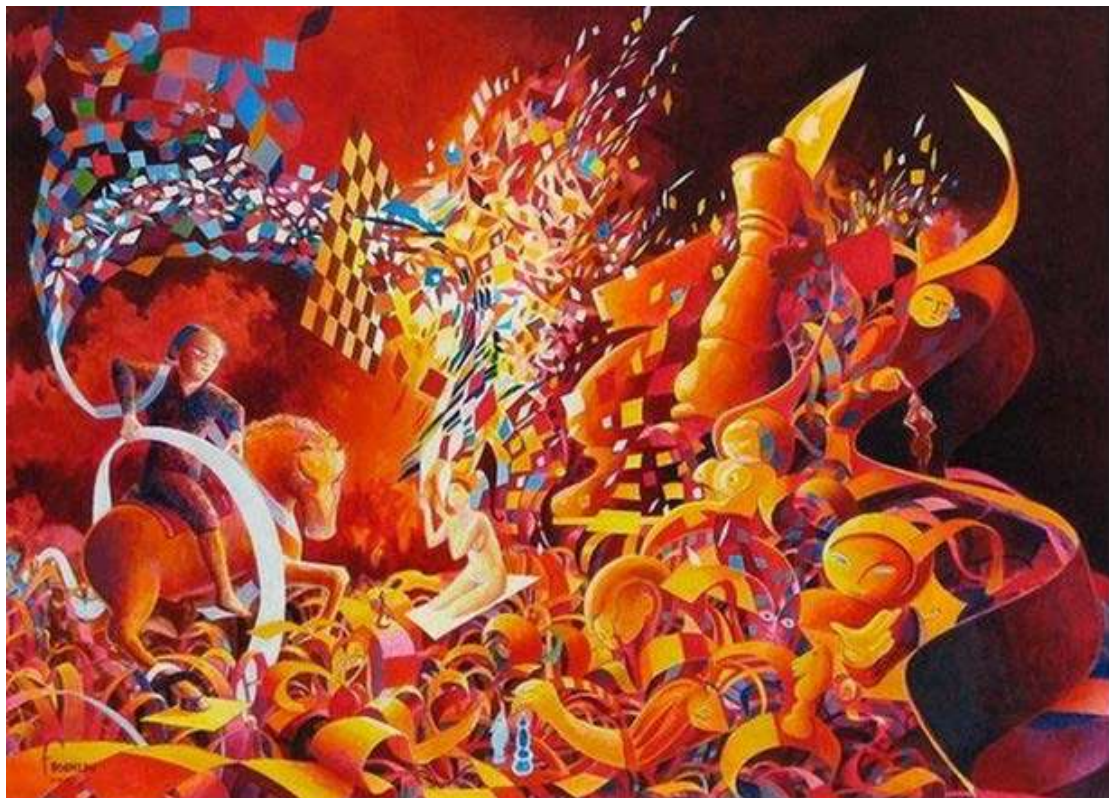
Our featured artist this time is Geraldine Bonneau (also known as Fred!), a French lady with surreal inclinations. Enjoy…

Sans titre

Cases à nier

Dame, chance lente

Sub masque(s) Tour d'horizon

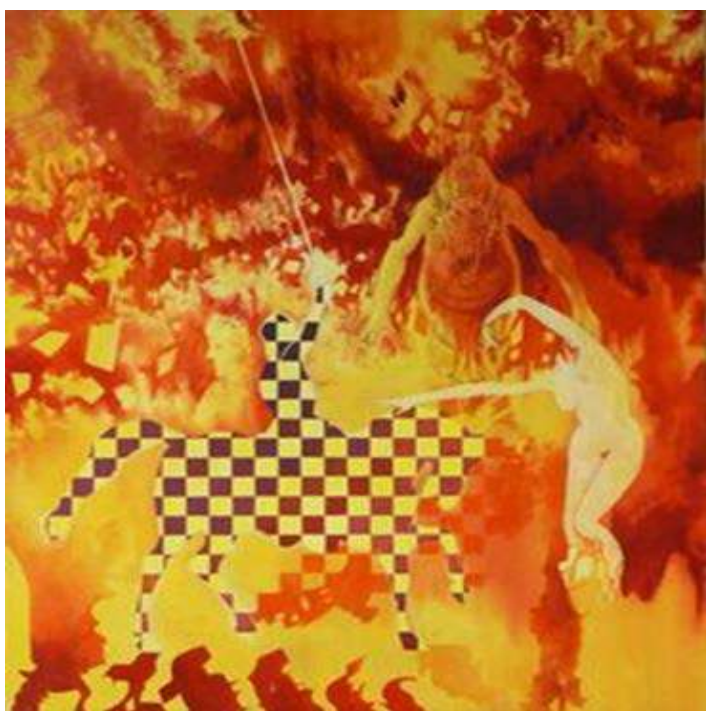Dragon-cave à l'os

Bandelettes d'ouvertures
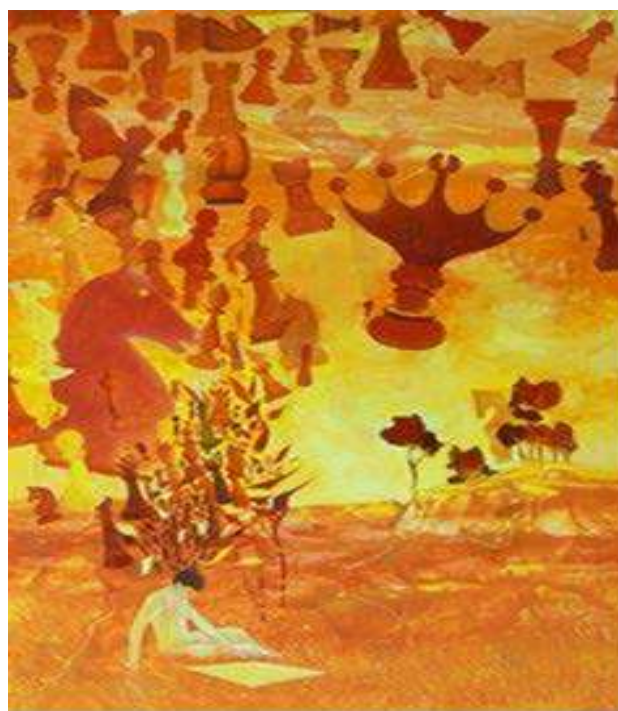

Regards de Dames

Manoeuvres

Cavalos triumphant

L'accablé à câbler

Histoire de stratagems

Pi, est-ce casé ?!

Psycho-complexo-rêve

SCO/C2023, Scottish Championship 2023/24

TD Murden, Clive (IA)

Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	620775	CCM	Buchan, Allan	2372		½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	5	2	18	0	1
2	620409	CCM	Sneddon, Iain	2370	½		½	½	½	½	½	1	1	5	2	18	0	1
3	620345	SIM	Mackintosh, Iain	2407	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	1	4.5	1	16.5	0	3
4	211024	CCE	Whittaker, Ian P.	2268	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	1	4.5	1	16.5	0	3
5	620790		Antunes, Andre	2086	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	1	4.5	1	16.5	0	3
6	620251	CCE	Morrison, Graham James	2310	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	4	0	16	0	6
7	620426	CCM	Cumming, David R.	2253	0	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	3.5	0	13.75	0	7
8	620529	CCM	Montgomery, Robert S.	2299	½	0	½	½	½	½	½		½	3.5	0	13.75	0	7
9	620789		Taylor, Andrew	1908	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	½		1.5	0	5.5	0	9

Here is the final table. Iain Sneddon won a long tussle against Robert Montgomery to join Allan Buchan in first spot.
Congratulations to both players!

SCO/C2024, Scottish Championship 2024/25

TD Murden, Clive (IA)

Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	620577		Price, Derek	2019 (90)		½	½	1	.	.	.	1†	3	2	4.25	3	1
2	620565	CCE	Taylor, Wilf	2079 (85)	½		½	½	.	.	.	1†	2.5	1	3.5	3	2
3	620704	CCM	Beveridge, Colin	2304 (77)	½	½		.	.	.	.	1†	2	1	2.75	4	3
4	211024	CCE	Whittaker, Ian P.	2315 (82)	0	½	.		½	.	.	1†	2	1	2	3	4
5	620775	CCM	Buchan, Allan	2459 (81)	.	.	.	½		.	.	1†	1.5	1	1	5	5
6	620529	CCM	Montgomery, Robert S.	2329 (90)	.	.	.	.	.		.	1†	1	1	0	6	6
7	620345	SIM	Mackintosh, Iain	2410 (92)	.	.	.	.	.	.		1†	1	1	0	6	6
8	620426	CCM	Cumming, David R.	2249 (65)	0†	0†	0†	0†	0†	0†	0†		0	0	0	0	8

Early days in this event, but a sprinkling of results already, as well as the sad demise of David Cumming.

SCO/P/2024, SCCA Premier 2024

TD Paine, Kevin (IA)

Rated					1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	620393		MacGregor, Colin A.	1953 (91)			½	½	1	1	1	1	5	4	8	0	1
2	620789		Taylor, Andrew	1801 (92)	½	½			1	.	1	1	4	3	7	1	2
3	620454		MacMillen, Andrew N.	1651 (83)	0	0	.	0			1	1	2	2	0	1	3
4	620603		Armstrong, John M.	1466 (90)	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	4

Colin MacGregor setting the pace here, but Andrew Taylor can catch him.

SCO/O/2024/A, SCCA Open 2024 A

TD Paine, Kevin (IA)

Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1651 (83)			.	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	10	2	1
2	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1521 (83)	.	.			.	.	.	1	1	1	3	3	2	5	2
3	620723	Carswell, David	1584 (92)	0	0	.	.			1	.	1	1	3	3	2	3	3
4	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1466 (90)	0	0	0	.	.	0			1	1	2	2	0	2	4
5	620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	901 (93)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	5

SCO/O/2024/B, SCCA Open 2024 B

TD Paine, Kevin (IA)

Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	620393	MacGregor, Colin A.	1953 (91)			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	8	20	0	1
2	620778	Major, Benjamin	1185 (85)	0	0			.	1	1	1	1	.	4	4	8	2	2
3	620822	Deignan, Tom	1800 (250)	0	0	0	.			1	0	1	½	2.5	2	4.25	1	3
4	620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	901 (93)	0	0	0	0	1	0			0	1	2	2	4	0	4
5	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1466 (90)	0	0	.	0	½	0	0	1			1.5	1	3.25	1	5

SCO/O/2024/C, SCCA Open 2024 C

TD Paine, Kevin (IA)

Rated					1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	212273 CCE	Bruce, Robert	1822 (64)				.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	7	12	1	1
2	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1651 (83)		0	.			.	.	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	3	2
3	212404	Pettigrew, Steve	1379 (99)		0	0	.	.			.	.	1	1	2	2	0	4	3
4	620628	Dunn, John	1285 (81)		0	0	0	0	.	.			1	1	2	2	0	2	4
5	620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	901 (93)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	5

SCCA/L1/2024, SCCA League Div 1 2024

TD Murden, Clive (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	White Rose A	2308	■	1.5	1	2	0.5	5	62	2	1	8	8	1	Beckett, Phillip J.
2	England B	2269	1.5	■	0.5	2	1	5	55	1	1	9	7	2	Woodhouse, Stephen
3	England A	2416	1	0.5	■	1	0.5	3	60	1	0	5	11	3	Rhodes, John D.
4	Knights of the Board A	2254	0	1	0	■	1	2	28	-3	0	7	9	4	Whittaker, Ian P.
5	Social A	2375	0.5	1	0.5	0	■	2	40	-1	0	5	11	5	Blake, Michael J.

SCCA/L2/2024, SCCA League Div 2 2024

TD Murden, Clive (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	White Rose B	2052	■	1.5	1	2	3	2	9.5	67	5	4	14	6	1	Beckett, Phillip J.
2	Brutal Realism	1991	1.5	■	0.5	1.5	2.5	1.5	7.5	62	3	2	12	8	2	Anderson, Gordon M.
3	SCCA Claymores	2111	1	0.5	■	0.5	2.5	2	6.5	72	4	3	9	11	3	Sneddon, Iain
4	England C	2021	1	0.5	0.5	■	1.5	2	5.5	50	0	1	11	9	4	Rhodes, John D.
5	England D	1818	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	■	2	4.5	30	-6	1	15	5	5	Woodhouse, Stephen
6	Social B	1887	0	1.5	0	1	1	■	3.5	26	-6	0	13	7	6	Blake, Michael J.

SCCA/L3/2024, SCCA League Div 3 2024

TD Murden, Clive (IA)

		1	2	3	4	5	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1 England E	1628		2.5	1.5	3	3	10	76	7	6	13	3	1	Rhodes, John D.
2 Social C	1594	1.5		2	2	2	7.5	62	3	3	12	4	2	Blake, Michael J.
3 White Rose C	1602	1.5	1		1	1.5	5	41	-2	0	12	4	3	Beckett, Phillip J.
4 Knights of the Board B	1467	0	0	2		1	3	33	-3	1	9	7	4	Sneddon, Iain
5 England F	1415	0	1	1.5	0		2.5	25	-5	0	10	6	5	Woodhouse, Stephen

SCCA Challengers 2023-24

ICCF Nr.	Entrant	Name	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Pts	
620454	8	MacMillen, Andrew Neil	8	8	0	6	75%
620628	3	Dunn, John	12	12	0	6	50%
620713	4	Gilbert, Robert	16	16	0	6	38%
620603	1	Armstrong, John McKenzie	12	12	0	5	42%
211024	10	Whittaker, Ian P	4	4	0	4	100%
620819	12	Campbell, Darren	4	4	0	4	100%
620794	11	Anderson, Thomas Robb	4	4	0	4	100%
620723	2	Carswell, David	2	2	0	1	50%
620619	6	MacDonald, Murdo	2	2	0	0	0%
620393	7	MacGregor, Colin A	2	2	0	0	0%
620648	5	Hardwick, Martin Edward	6	6	0	0	0%
620814	9	Rafferty, Frey	Silent Withdrawal				0%

Members are reminded that pairings can be requested at any time of the year.

Chess Art

By Iain Mackintosh

More Geraldine Bonneau for your delectation….

Chevelure tactique III

Chevelure tactique IV ou V

International Update

By David Kilgour

Nol van't Riet Team Tournament Final

MT-Riet/ Final, Nol van't Riet Team Tournament Final

TD Daatselaar, Jan Bart van (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	🇺🇦 Ukraine 2	2245	■	3	3	3	3.5	3	3	2.5	3	3.5	3.5	4	2.5	37.5	53	5	14	70	2	1	Koshmak, Iurii
2	🇩🇪 Germany 1	2277	3	■	3	2	3	3	3	2.5	3.5	2.5	3	4	3.5	36	52	3	12	69	3	2	Schwenk, Heinrich
3	🇵🇭 Philippines Agila	2252	3	3	■	2	3	2.5	3	2.5	3	3	3.5	3.5	4	36	53	5	12	67	5	3	Perez, Brigiliano
4	🇺🇸 USA 2	2282	3	3	2	■	3	3	3	2.5	3	3.5	3	3.5	3	35.5	51	2	12	69	3	4	Bokar, Jason
5	🇸🇰 Slovakia	2301	2.5	3	3	3	■	3	3	3	2.5	2.5	3.5	3	3.5	35.5	50	1	11	70	2	5	Manduch, Milan
6	🇺🇦 Ukraine 1	2278	3	3	2.5	3	3	■	3	3	3	2.5	3	3	3	35	50	0	10	70	2	6	Sheretyuk, Andrii
7	🇵🇭 Philippines Tamaraw	2293	3	3	3	3	3	3	■	2.5	2.5	3	3.5	3	2.5	35	50	1	10	69	3	7	Simplina, Arthur
8	🇮🇹 Italia Verde	2271	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3	3	2.5	■	2.5	2	3	3.5	3	33.5	52	3	8	64	8	8	Tramacere, Salvatore
9	🇺🇸 USA 1	2310	3	2.5	3	3	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	■	2.5	2.5	3	3	33	48	-2	6	68	4	9	Relyea, Alexander
10	🇲🇽 Mexico	2275	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	2	3.5	■	3	2.5	2.5	32	50	0	5	64	8	10	Hernández Martínez, Jerónimo
11	🏴 Scotland	2268	2.5	3	2.5	3	2.5	3	2.5	3	2.5	2	■	3	2.5	32	46	-5	5	69	3	11	Anderson, Gordon M.
12	🇫🇮 Finland	2287	2	2	1.5	2.5	3	3	3	2.5	3	2.5	3	■	3	31	44	-8	6	70	2	12	Arppi, Heikki
13	🇭🇷 Croatia	2178	2.5	2.5	2	3	2.5	3	2.5	2	3	2.5	2.5	3	■	31	46	-5	4	67	5	13	Dorić, Nenad

In this event, Scotland has now dropped into the bottom 3..

Rudolf KolesnikovTournament Semi-Finals

MT-Kolesnik/SF2, Rudolf Kolesnikov Team Tournament SF2

TD Yeremenko, Andrei (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	🇵🇭 Philippines Agila	2270	■	1	0	1.5	0	0	0	2.5	62	1	0	4	68	1	Perez, Brigiliano
2	🇫🇷 France	2056	1	■	0	0	0	0	0	1	50	0	0	2	70	2	Rozier, Denis
3	🇨🇺 Cuba	2190	0	0	■	1	0	0	0	1	100	1	0	1	71	3	Menéndez Rodríguez, Giraldo
4	🏴 Scotland	2082	0.5	0	0	■	0	0	0	0.5	16	-2	0	3	69	4	Kilgour, David A.
5	🇺🇦 Ukraine 1	2285	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	5	Koshmak, Iurii
6	🇫🇮 Finland	2245	0	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	5	Salminen, Jussi
7	🇳🇴 Norway	2185	0	0	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	72	5	Sjøl, Henrik

There are 5 Semi-Final Groups in this event, with results now coming in.

NCCC Server League Championship (SLC)

Natcor have announced a new League. The Server League Championship shall be an annual event. Entry shall be open to fully paid-up members of Natcor resident in the British Isles.

The league shall consist of at least a Championship Division consisting of 7 players; 2 Candidates divisions and. additional divisions, each consisting of a maximum of 7 players, shall be created as entries allow. Each player shall play one game against each other player in the same division.

The Premier Division winner shall be known as 'The Server Champion of Natcor' and shall receive a year's free membership.

The two highest-placed players in each division shall be promoted to the division above. The two lowest-placed players in each division shall normally be relegated to the division below.

Current Friendly Internationals

SCO - USA 2024, Scotland - USA Friendly Match 2024

	Scotland Kilgour, David A.			White	Black	White	Black	USA Biedermann, Thomas		
Board 1	SIM Beecham, C. Richard	2479	(94)	.	.	.	.	IM Biedermann, Kyle	2465	(82)
Board 2	SIM Mackintosh, Iain	2431	(92)	.	.	.	.	CCM Tedesco, Matthew	2432	(84)
Board 3	CCM Sneddon, Iain	2410	(58)	.	.	.	.	IM Meiners, Edwin	2414	(100)
Board 4	CCM Beveridge, Colin	2353	(71)	.	.	.	.	CCM Ralls, Richard	2346	(59)
Board 5	CCE Whittaker, Ian P.	2317	(79)	.	.	.	.	CCM Price, Brennan	2318	(73)
Board 6	CCM Lloyd, Geoffrey	2301	(75)	.	.	.	.	CCM Relyea, Alexander	2314	(60)
Board 7	CCE Taylor, Wilf	2110	(81)	.	.	.	.	Nurmi, Ronald	2102	(103)
Board 8	Price, Derek	2063	(89)	.	.	.	.	Quirk, Michael	2056	(94)
Board 9	Murray, James S.	2021	(92)	.	.	.	.	Helmbrecht, John R.	2014	(96)
Board 10	MacGregor, Colin A.	1957	(83)	.	.	.	.	Capron, Mark	1948	(104)
Board 11	CCE Bruce, Robert	1899	(52)	.	.	.	.	Aiken, Joseph	1863	(79)
Board 12	Cormack, William H.	1820	(94)	.	.	.	.	Schoenwald, Ira	1821	(126)
Board 13	Anderson, Thomas R.	1811	(89)	.	.	.	.	Ott, Paul B.	1809	(88)
Board 14	Burridge, Raymond John	1776	(69)	.	.	.	.	Messinger, Bruce	1778	(92)
Board 15	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1736	(77)	.	.	.	.	Korman, Joseph	1708	(74)
Board 16	White, Richard	1548	(95)	.	.	.	.	Stack, James	1575	(106)
Board 17	Gilbert, Robert	1485	(85)	.	.	.	.	Braider, Christopher	1475	(72)
Board 18	Sedstrem, Alan	1327	(107)	.	.	.	.	Niemi, Greg	1360	(77)
Board 19	Dunn, John	1327	(71)	.	.	.	.	Cadarett, Joseph	1357	(105)
Board 20	Armstrong, John M.	1307	(78)	.	.	.	.	Jakubas, Ed	1321	(79)
Board 21	Hardwick, Martin E.	761	(59)	.	.	.	.	Ellis, Roscoe	782	(73)
Total:				0		0				

23rd Correspondence Chess Olympiad Preliminaries

CCO23/S4, ICCF Olympiad 23 Preliminaries - Section 4

TD Neves, Bianor de Oliveira (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	Denmark	2390	■	1.5	1	2	2	2	1.5	1	1.5	12.5	48	-1	0	26	22	1	Ottesen, Søren Rud
2	Switzerland	2453	1.5	■	1	1.5	2	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	12.5	50	0	0	25	23	2	Rüfenacht, Matthias
3	Iceland	2313	2	1	■	1.5	1.5	2	2	1.5	0.5	12	52	1	0	23	25	3	Jónsson, Daði Örn
4	Scotland	2442	2	1.5	1.5	■	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	11.5	50	0	0	23	25	4	Beecham, C. Richard
5	Belgium	2370	2	2	1.5	1	■	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	11	50	0	0	22	26	5	Dondelinger, Jean-Pierre
6	Peru	2445	2	2	2	1	2	■	1	0.5	0.5	11	50	0	0	22	26	6	Figlio, Gino Franco
7	Mexico	2409	1.5	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	1	■	1.5	0.5	11	50	0	0	22	26	7	Hernández Martínez, Jerónimo
8	Lithuania	2467	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	■	1.5	9.5	50	0	0	19	29	8	Chocenka, Dmitrijus
9	Türkiye	2413	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	■	8	50	0	0	16	32	9	Kural, Aziz Serhat

British Correspondence Chess Championship 2023-25

Entrants in the upcoming BCCC Championship are:

1 Wakeham, Marc R. (nominated)	9 Sherwood, Russell
2 Buchan, Allan	10 Bishop, William (nominated)
3 Jones, Ian (nominated)	11 Barber, Philip
4 Rawlings, Alan J.C. (Cand B joint 2nd)	12 Herman, Tom
5 Bailey, Matthew B. (Cand.B joint 2nd)	13 Sneddon, Iain
6 Sherwood, Helen	14 Robinson, Josh (Cand A 2nd)
7 Maguire, Gary	15 Hart, Terry (Cand A win)
8 Ellis,Les	Average rating 2403.3

Commemorating the Bicentenary of the Edinburgh - London Correspondence Chess Match

By Awani Kumar

A correspondence chess game between players has a long history. The earliest is thought to be played between the Emperor Nicephorus (760-811) and the Caliph of Baghdad, Harun al-Rachid (763-809) in the 9th century. In the 1600s, Venetian and Croatian merchants played correspondence chess. The earliest known postal game was between a Dutch army officer named Freidrich Wilhelm von Mauvillon (1774-1851) stationed at Breda, Netherlands, and one of his friends stationed at The Hague (Den Haag), Netherlands in 1804.

However the first well known correspondence chess challenge was the Edinburgh - London chess club match, from April 24, 1824 to July 31, 1828 which the former - though underdog -won by 2-1 (draws not counting). The match saw the first recorded use of the Scotch Game (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4) which strangely enough was used by the London players.

The letters (with moves) were carried a distance of nearly 400 miles by horse driven carts and received good publicity; several newspapers published the moves. It was not without controversy; London attempted to retract a move in one game, even appealing to the Postmaster (unsuccessfully)-to have their letter returned. As per the rules of the match, the losers had to provide the winners with a silver trophy to the value of £25. (Now valued at over £3000 but priceless). Edinburgh named it the Scots Gambit Cup, and it has a prominent place today in their trophy cabinet.

The author wishes to celebrate and commemorate the bicentenary of the match with interesting knight tours on 10x20 (= 200) and 2x10x10 (= 200) board. Figure 1 is a magic tour of knight on 10x20 board. Here the sum of all the rows is 2010 and that of columns is 1005. Readers are urged to look for closed magic tour.

1	196	3	194	11	192	15	188	17	184	37	164	21	176	35	178	27	168	31	172	2010
4	199	6	191	8	187	12	185	162	39	20	181	36	179	24	175	34	171	28	169	2010
197	2	195	10	193	14	189	16	183	18	163	38	165	22	177	26	167	30	173	32	2010
200	5	198	7	190	9	186	13	40	161	182	19	180	25	166	23	174	33	170	29	2010
49	52	151	154	63	42	137	160	65	72	135	126	87	78	117	120	89	96	107	110	2010
150	153	48	51	142	155	64	41	136	127	66	71	116	119	88	79	108	111	90	95	2010
53	50	143	152	43	62	159	138	73	70	125	134	77	86	121	118	97	94	109	106	2010
146	149	56	47	156	141	44	61	128	131	76	67	124	115	80	83	112	103	100	91	2010
57	54	147	144	59	46	139	158	69	74	133	130	85	82	113	122	93	98	105	102	2010
148	145	58	55	140	157	60	45	132	129	68	75	114	123	84	81	104	101	92	99	2010
1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	

Readers are well aware of knight tour in three-dimension board (view *SCCA Magazine 163* page 21). Figure 2 and Figure 3 are knight tours in three-dimension 2x10x10 board. Readers can visualise it by stacking two 10x10 boards in alphabetical order. Figure 2 is a monogram tour on 2x10x10 board with square numbers $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, ... 14^2$, namely, 1, 4, 9, ... 196 delineating letters 'E' and 'L', the first letters in Edinburgh and London respectively. Figure 3 has the square numbers delineating numbers '2' and '0', the numerals in 200.

7	18	11	2	5	52	159	56	125	60
12	3	6	53	10	55	124	59	160	57
19	8	17	4	1	162	51	158	61	126
34	13	26	9	54	123	152	161	58	181
27	20	35	16	81	50	179	182	127	134
14	33	28	25	122	151	136	133	180	69
21	24	15	36	49	82	65	128	135	114
32	29	40	23	44	105	48	111	68	85
39	22	31	42	37	46	83	66	113	110
30	41	38	45	106	43	112	47	84	67 A

166	171	148	199	164	79	156	77	94	91
147	198	165	170	149	200	153	92	155	76
172	167	196	163	80	157	78	95	90	93
197	146	169	184	143	150	119	154	75	96
168	173	144	195	120	183	130	97	62	89
145	194	121	142	185	98	63	118	131	74
174	141	100	193	64	129	178	73	88	109
101	190	139	188	99	186	137	132	117	70
140	175	192	103	138	177	72	87	108	115
191	102	189	176	187	104	107	116	71	86 B

31	28	5	2	33	58	75	88	71	56	
6	3	32	29	76	89	72	57	74	87	
27	30	1	4	59	34	109	86	55	70	
10	7	38	77	36	61	90	73	116	113	
39	26	9	60	63	110	35	114	69	54	
8	11	16	37	24	91	62	97	112	115	
17	40	25	64	49	96	111	92	53	68	
12	15	20	43	46	23	48	95	132	93	
41	18	13	22	65	50	45	134	67	52	
14	21	42	19	44	47	66	51	94	133	A

182	103	80	119	82	105	178	171	84	107	
79	120	183	104	179	118	83	106	177	172	
102	181	168	81	184	151	170	199	108	85	
167	78	121	180	169	198	117	152	173	176	
122	101	196	185	144	157	150	175	200	153	
195	166	187	100	197	98	143	156	149	174	
188	123	194	165	186	145	158	147	154	129	
193	164	191	160	99	142	155	130	137	148	
124	189	162	141	126	159	146	139	128	135	
163	192	125	190	161	140	127	136	131	138	B

THE SCOTS GAMBIT CUP

The Edinburgh Chess Club reenacted the match to celebrate its bicentenary and fielded 24 players across 42 boards. The London team, eyeing revenge, mustered a full 42 players, almost twice the number. It is often said, "History repeats itself". It did. The smaller games load of the London players made no difference and the Edinburgh team won by 56-28 with 38 games ending in draws.   Full details are in SCCA magazines 164 and 165.

'Richard Beecham is one of Scotland's top Correspondence Chess players. Recently he won a classic game against one of England's top Correspondence Chess players - SIM Ian Pheby. We reproduce the game here together with Richard's notes that he has kindly provided to us. It is a King's Indian with Richard having the White pieces. Enjoy.

White: Beecham, C. Richard (2377)
Black: Pheby, Ian (2391)
EFCC 60 Ruby/Diamond, 2022
King's Indian Classical [E94]
[Notes by Richard Beecham]

My opponent, Ian Pheby, is a legend in his own lifetime and a thoroughly nice chap. Ian could have been a GM if he hadn't played so many games and events in recent seasons. For example, he played in 8 events in 2023, 15 in 2022 and 24 in 2021. He has even had a chess tournament named after him!

The English Correspondence Chess Federation has also honoured him for his long and dedicated service. Ian has held several posts with the ICCF having started in 2006 as a tournament director and then later as a tournament organiser. Ian became an International Arbiter in 2009.

In 2010, he was involved in the administration of special leave while in 2011 he became Direct Entry Commisioner for a six year period.

He is also a member of the Tournament Directors Committee having taken on that role during 2014.

Ian has also been tournament organiser of the Veterans World Cups 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. He also received the Bertl von Massow Silver Medal in 2015 and the Gold Medal in 2021 for his services to the ICCF. In England with the EFCC,

since 2017. Ian also regularly finds time to play correspondence chess at a high level and was awarded his SIM title in 2004. At that time his rating was 2602 having reached a maximum of 2621.

Our game here was played in the Diamond/Ruby English Federation for Correspondence Chess event to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the EFCC which was formed on December 1st, 1962.

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	d6
3.Nc3	Nbd7

I always enjoy the first few moves, it's the sort of bottom-sniffing, getting to know your period of the game before the serious stuff starts! I got the impression that Ian was the sort of person who would have played for the first XV at rugby and have been good at physics!

4.e4	e5
5.Nf3	g6
6.Be2	Bg7
7.0-0	0-0
8.Be3	Qe7
9.Qc2	c6
10.d5	

I was unsure about this move at the time. The move 10. Rd1 is recommended in an old King's Inidan book from Russia but I went into other reference books, kicked some twigs around the garden and racked my brains for the correct move to play. In the end, I tossed a coin!

10...	h6N.

The English GM, Gawain Jones, who

is an expert in the Kings Indian, has played this position many times. As an example, he played 10..c5 in the PRO League KO stage (Amsterdam Mosquitos - London Towers) against Loek van Wely (2668). After 10..c5 11.Ne1 Ne8 12 Nd3 f5 13.ef5 gf5 14.f4 Nef6 15 fe5 Ne5 16 Ne5 de5 17.Bg5 Qe8 18 Nb5 the position is equal. Another possibility is 10.. Ng4 which turned out badly for Black from the game between Gabriel Sagissian (2677) and Jaime Santos Latoso (2549) cf. 10...Ng4 11.Bg5 f6 12.Bd2 c5 13 Nb5 Nb8 14 b4 Na6 15.Ne1 cb4 16.f3 Nh6 17.Nd3 f5 18.c5 de5 19.de6 and White is winning.

11.h3	c5
12.g3	Kh8
13.Kg2	

The idea of 12.g3 and 13.Kg2 followed by Rh1 came from playing through many games of Alpha Zero who has had numerous wins against Stockfish with this plan.

13...	Ng8
14.Bd3	Ndf6
15.a4	

Now that the threat of f5 has gone I can take a look at the queenside and gain more space with ..a5 etc.

15...	a5

I was expecting 15 ..b6 16.a5 ba5 17.Ra5 a6 18.Rb1 with nice play on the queenside.

16.Rae1

With the centre closed the precise move order is not critical since there is very little that Ian can do to prevent me from carrying out my long-term plan.

16...	Bd7
17.Bd2	Rae8
18.Qc1	

Leela suggests 18. Rh1 Nh7 19. Rh2 Bf6 20. Qc1 b6 21. Rg1 Rd8 22. Kf1which is an interesting concept.

18...	Nh7
19.Rh1	b6
20.Nb5	Bc8

Um, he said stroking his chin, I am not terribly impressed with 20.. Bc8. Ian plays rather slowly due to the number of games he plays and at this point I discover horse-like qualities and manage to fall asleep standing up waiting for a move!

1.Rh2 **Qd8**
22.Kh1 **Bd7**
23.Rg1
I spent some time on 23.g4 g5 24. Nd6 Bg4 25. hg4 Qd6 but I put my sensible trousers back on and went for 23. Rg1. White must not play 23. Nd6 due to the moves 23. Qf6 24.Ne8 Qf3+ 25.Kg1 when a) 25..Qd3; b) 25. ..Be8 or c) .. Re8 are all favourable to Black.
23... **Bxb5**
24.axb5 **Re7**
25.g4 **Qe8**
What wizardry is being woven here? I cannot figure out what Ian is up to. What is his plan? After a lot of head scratching, I came up with....
26.Be2 **Ra7**

27.g5!
A game changer. A ripsnorter of a move. This is the point when I said to myself, '..this game is a win..'. Sometimes you feel you couldn't pull a greased stick out of a pig's bottom yet there are other times when you could tell the dog to go to the bread bin and make me a sandwich - well this was that moment!
27... **h5**
28.Nh4 **Ne7**
29.Qc3
'I love it when a plan comes together' (Hannibal Smith from the A-team).
29... **Kg8**
30.Rhg2 **Qd7**
31.Bd1 **Re8**
32.b3
Preventing counterplay with ..a4 etc.
32... **Kh8**
33.Qg3 **Qd8**
34.Bc2 **Rg8**

35.Nf5
This is a interesting position. Stockfish gives 35.f4 ef4 36 Bf4 Nc8 37.Nf3 Re8 38.e5 and evaluates the position as +–3.58. If you play through my line in the game to move 38, Stockfish gives +–4.80. Which Stockfish is correct? By the way, Leela, Stoofvlees, Berserk and Komodo all suggest 35.Nf5.
35... **Nf8**
Both 35. Nf5 36.ef5 e4 37 Be4 Bd4 38.Bc3 and 35. .. gf5 36.ef5 e4 37.Be4 Bd4 38.Qf3 end in lost positions, as does 35 ..Qf8 when the simple 36 Ng7 Qg7 37.f4 wins.
36.Bc3 **Qc7**
37.Qh4
White is looking at plans of Bd1 and sacrificing on h5.
37... **Kh7**
38.f4 **Nc8**
39.Bd1
Also good was 39. Ng3 Rh8 40. f5 Nd7 41. f6 Bf8 42. Nh5!
39... **Rh8**
40.Rf1 **Qd8**
41.Nxg7 **Kxg7**
42.fxe5 **dxe5**
43.Bxe5+ **Kg8**
44.Bf6 **Qe8**
45.e5 **Rh7**
46.d6 **Rd7**
47.Rd2
Black resigns. This win gave me 1st= place in the tournament and now the hardest decision of all.. is it to be a bottle of Chateau Margaux or a bottle of Dauissat Chablis to celebrate - I chose the Chablis..!
1-0

Diamond/Ruby, EFCC 60 Ruby/Diamond

Category 7					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	GM	SIM	IM	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	🇳🇱	371210	CCM	Vliet, Erik van	2400		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	7	6½	5½	5.5	1	27	0	1
2	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁳󠁣󠁴󠁿	620184	SIM	Beecham, C. Richard	2477	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1				5.5	1	26.75	0	2
3	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿	211229	IM	Ellis, Les	2401	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	7	6½		5.5	1	26.75	0	2
4	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁳󠁣󠁴󠁿	620588	IM	Matheis, Thomas	2458	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½		6½		5	0	25	0	4
5	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿	210854	IM	Thompson, Brian	2376	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	7	6½		5	0	25	0	4
6	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿	210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2329	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	7			5	0	25	0	4
7	🇳🇱	370216	CCM	Elburg, John	2322	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	7	6	5½	5	0	25	0	4
8	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁳󠁣󠁴󠁿	620345	SIM	Mackintosh, Iain	2411	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	7			5	0	25	0	4
9	🇦🇺	30529	SIM	Dunlop, Gordon	2507	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½				5	0	25	0	4
10	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁷󠁬󠁳󠁿	810161	CCM	Sherwood, Russell	2380	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	7	6½	5½	4.5	0	22.5	0	10
11	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿	210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	2391	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		7			4	0	20	0	11