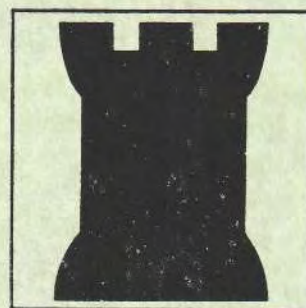


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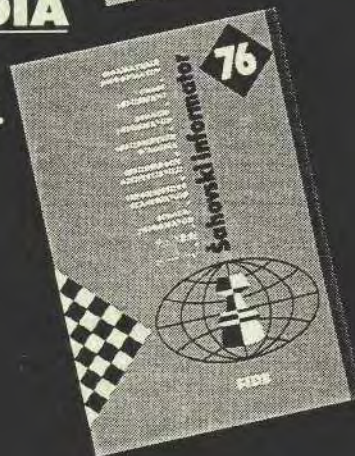
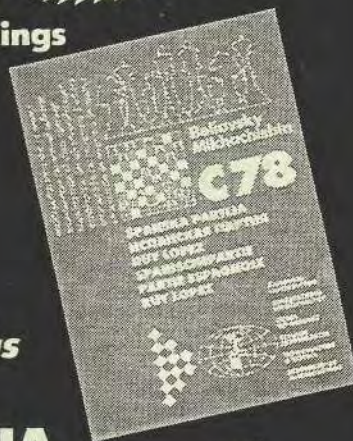
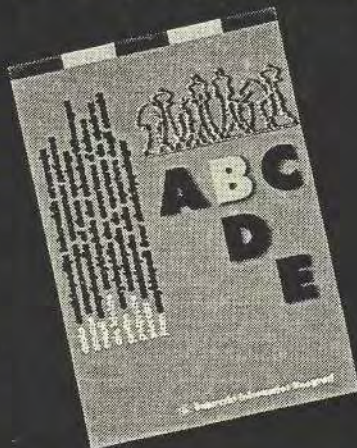
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# Editorial

by Alan Borwell

No. 67  
Autumn 1999

The summer now seems a distant memory, but here is a rather late Autumn edition, and we hope that you will enjoy it!

In this issue, we have excellent articles from some of our own members, as well as the concluding one by Carlos Almarza-Mato, on his fascinating study of Bobby Fischer. Beginning in the Winter edition, we will have a serialised book by John Knudsen on the very well-known Swedish IM, Sture Nyman, who died a few years ago. Sture is remembered as a regular visitor to ICCF Congresses, including the one held in Scotland in 1985 at Peebles Hydro.

Since our last issue, George Pyrich and I represented Scotland at the memorable ICCF Congress in Thun, Switzerland, which was attended by a record number of participants, including 6 World CC Champions! The Congress was superbly organised by our Swiss hosts and many important matters were discussed and decided. George's interesting report is on page 7, and the official Minutes can be found/downloaded from the ICCF website [www.iccf.com]. In particular, the new ICCF tournament structure (postal and Email) from 1/1/2000 should be noted. It is described on page 34, with a cut-out entry form on the following page.

In October, I was invited (as ICCF President and Scottish Team Captain) by the German Federation BdF to attend their Olympiad celebrations in Magdeburg, which was a very interesting. The German team shared the gold medal position with the combined Czech-Slovakian team (see page 25 for final table), with Canada and Scotland sharing bronze. In the next Olympiad Final XII, Joe Watson has made a great start with several wins, and Scotland is currently in fourth position, behind Lithuania, Germany and Austria.

Most SCCA domestic competitions are progressing well but the mass withdrawal of the Knight Sac team from Division I of the League was disappointing, especially as games had reached an interesting stage.

Please remember to visit our website - the URL is shown beneath the list of office-bearers on this page. The URLs for other interesting CC websites are given on page 34.

Our next issue, the Winter edition, is planned for early February 2000.

If you have not yet completed your membership/entry form for the new season, please do this as soon as possible and send it to our Secretary, Iain Sneddon.

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Life Member £75 (inc Magazine in first year); SCCA Magazine only £12 (4 editions pa); Annual Member £15 (inc Magazine); Overseas subscription £20pa (inc airmail postage)

# SCOTTISH CCA CHAMPIONSHIP 1998/99

Controller: A. Maxwell

N	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts
1	F. TEUNISSE	◆	0	½	1	½	1	-	½	0	0	3½
2	I. MACKINTOSH	1	◆	0	1	1	½	-	½	0	0	4
3	D.R.R. ELLIS	½	1	◆	1	½	1	-	0	0	1	5
4	R.F. TURNER	0	0	0	◆	0	½	-	0	0	0	½
5	J.A. FINDLAY	½	0	½	1	◆	0	-	1	1	½	4½
6	A.N. MACMILLEN	0	½	0	½	1	◆	-	0	0	0	2
7	M. HARKINS	-	-	-	-	-	-	◆	-	-	-	w/d
8	A.T. HISLOP	½	½	1	1	0	1	-	◆	½	½	5
9	I.F. REEMAN	1	1	1	1	0	1	-	½	◆	0	5½
10	S.R. GILLAM	1	1	0	1	½	1	-	½	1	◆	6

Please send games, with annotations, to the SCCA Magazine Games Editor:-  
Bernard Milligan,  
15 Bothwell Court,  
Hawick,  
Roxburghshire,  
TD9 0BA.

# SCOTTISH CCA CHAMPIONSHIP 1999/2000

Controller: A. Maxwell

N	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Pts
1	A.N. MACMILLEN	◆	1				½		½				0
2	D.R.R. ELLIS	0	◆		1	0		½	½				
3	I. MACKINTOSH			◆	1		1	1					½
4	F. TEUNISSE		0	0	◆	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	I.F. REEMAN		1		1	◆	1		1	½			½
6	A.T. HISLOP	½		0	1	0	◆	0		0	0		½
7	D.R. CUMMING		½	0	1		1	◆	0	0			
8	C.R. BEECHAM	½		½	1	0		1	◆		0	0	
9	T. THOMSON				1	½	1	1		◆	0	1	
10	C.J. LENNOX				1		1		1	1	◆	1	
11	B. MILLIGAN	1		½	1	½	½		1	0	0	◆	

# CANDIDATES 1998/99

Controller: C.R. Beecham

## Section A

No		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	G M ANDERSON	◆	½	1	0	½	0	0	-	1	3
2	A. ARMSTRONG	½	◆	1	1	1	1	A	-	0	
3	G.H. BIRD	0	0	◆	0	½	0	1	-	0	1½
4	W.M. COOK	1	0	1	◆	1	½	0	-	0	3½
5	J. COPLEY	½	0	½	0	◆	0	0	-	0	1
6	D.R. CUMMING	1	0	1	½	1	◆	½	-	0	4
7	B. GOODWIN	1	A	0	1	1	½	◆	-	0	
8	P. MacDONALD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	◆	-	w/d
9	B. MILLIGAN	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	◆	6

## Section B

No		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	C ALMARZA-MATO	◆	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	½
2	A. ARMSTRONG	1	◆	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	2½
3	A.C. BROWN	1	1	◆	1	1	1	½	0	½	6
4	D.R. CUMMING	1	1	0	◆	0	1	0	0	1	4
5	D.A. HUGHSON	1	1	0	1	◆	1	½	1	1	6½
6	S G MACKENZIE	0	½	0	0	0	◆	0	0	½	1
7	M.A. MAY	½	1	½	1	½	1	◆	½	1	6
8	B. MILLIGAN	1	1	1	1	0	1	½	◆	0	5½
9	G. SAXTON	0	0	½	0	0	½	0	1	◆	2

# CANDIDATES 1999/2000

Controller: C.R. Beecham

## Section A

No		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	D.R. CUMMING	◆	1			0		-	
2	H.S. FLOCKHART	0	◆			0		-	
3	M. JESSING			◆		½		-	
4	G. SAXTON				◆	½		-	
5	I. SNEDDON	1	1	½	½	◆		-	
6	B. THOMPSON						◆	-	
7	C. WALLACE	-	-	-	-	-	-	◆	w/d

## Section B

No		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	A.C. BROWN	◆	1		1	½	1	½	
2	W.M. COOK	0	◆					0	
3	J. COPLEY			◆					
4	S. HILTON	0			◆	½	0		
5	G. LLOYD	½			½	◆	½	½	
6	B. MILLIGAN	0			1	½	◆		
7	I. SNEDDON	½	1			½		◆	

# PREMIER TOURNAMENTS 1999 Controller: Alan Hind

## SECTION A

No		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts
1	R. BEACON	◆	1	1	1		1	0	1	
2	D.R. CUMMING	0	◆	½	1	½	1	1	0	4
3	D. HARVEY	0	½	◆	1	½	½	½	½	3½
4	A. KNOX	0	0	0	◆	0	0	0	0	0
5	G. LLOYD		½	½	1	◆			½	
6	R. MALCOLMSON	0	0	½	1		◆			
7	I. MARSHALL	1	0	½	1			◆	0	
8	I. SNEDDON	0	1	½	1	½		1	◆	

## SECTION B

No		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts
1	J. ANDERSON	◆	0				1	0		
2	A.C. BROWN	1	◆	½	1	½	1	½	½	5
3	D. CRICHTON		½	◆	1		½	0		
4	C. DOWELL		0	0	◆		1			
5	J.M. HERRIES		½			◆	1			
6	A.D. KILGARIFF	0	0	½	0	0	◆	1	0	1½
7	M. MAY	1	½	1				0	◆	½
8	B. MILLIGAN		½					1	½	◆

## SECTION C

No		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	A.W.I. CAMPBELL	◆	0	0	½			0	
2	D. EDNEY	1	◆		1	1	1		
3	G. LLOYD	1		◆	½			½	
4	T.F. McAINSH	½	0	½	◆			½	
5	G.R. McDONALD		0			◆			
6	A. WRIGHT		0				◆		
7	S.M. YOUNG	1		½	½			◆	

Have you sent in your entry to a Year 2000 tournament?!

## MAJORS 1999 Controller: Dave Savage

No	SECTION A	1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	D. HARVEY	◆	0	1	1	1	5½
2	A.G.E. BIRD	1	0	◆	1	1	
3	J. CASSIDY	0	0	0	◆	1	2
4	G.A.A. MURPHY	1½	½	1	1	◆	
5	J.R. MILNE	0	0	0	0	◆	0

No	SECTION B	1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	R. MALCOLMSON	◆	0		void	½	0
2	J. MORROW	1	◆		void	0	1
3	M. BALLAN			◆	void		
4	P. WILDIG	void	void	void	◆	void	-
5	J. McKENNA	½	1	0	void	◆	

No	SECTION C	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	S.M. YOUNG	◆	1	1	1	
2	R.B. CROSBIE	0	◆		0	
3	T.F. McAINSH	0	0	◆	1	
4	R.E. ROUGH	0	0	1	0	2

No	SECTION D	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	R. BEACON	◆	1	1	0	0
2	R. LOUGHRAN	0	0	◆	0	0
3	J.W. KILGOUR	0		◆	0	
4	G.A.A. MURPHY	1	1	1	◆	

## MINORS 1999 Controller: Steve Hilton

No	SECTION A	1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	S. NICOLL	◆	1	1	0	0	2
2	W. McCONCHIE	0	0	◆	0	0	0
3	J.M. ARMSTRONG	1	1	1	◆	0	6
4	R. ROUGH	1	1	1	0	◆	5
5	J. GRANT	1	1	1	1	0	7

No	SECTION B	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	D.W. COOPE	◆			1	1
2	C. McINTEE		◆	0	0	1
3	P. MACKENZIE		1	1	◆	1
4	C. KNOX	0	0	0	0	◆

Results of games in all tournaments should be reported to the Tournament Controller, immediately on completion of each game.

If any of the results shown against your name in the magazine are incorrect, please inform your Tournament Controller, so that a correction can be made in the next issue.

# QUARTETS 1999

Controller: Alan Armstrong

No	Postal Knight	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	D.R. CUMMING	◆	½½	0 0	1 1	3
2	S. HILTON	½½	◆	0½	0½	2
3	J. ANDERSON	1 1	1½	◆	0½	4
4	A.G.E. BIRD	0 0	1½	1½	◆	3

No	Q202	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	AWI CAMPBELL	◆	1 1	1		
2	R.B. CROSBIE	0 0	◆	1 1	1 0	
3	J.M. WALKER	0	0 0	◆	0 0	
4	S. HILTON		1 0	1 1	◆	

No	Q204	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	J. McKENNA	◆	1 1	1 0	1½	4½
2	J. CASSIDY	0 0	◆		0 0	
3	G.R. McDONALD	0 1		◆		
4	E.A. BAILEY	0½	1 1		◆	

No	Q201	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	I. SNEDDON	◆	1 1	1 1	1 1	6
2	J.W. KILGOUR	0 0	◆		0 0	
3	J. HAMILTON	0 0		◆		
4	C. McINTEE	0 0	1 1		◆	

No	Q203	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	R. LOUGHRAN	◆	1 0	0½	0 0	1½
2	P. MOIR	1 0	◆	0 0		
3	I. SNEDDON	1½	1 1	◆	1½	5
4	A. WRIGHT	1 1		0½	◆	

**MAJOR/MINOR/QUARTETS/CHALLENGE**  
 Entries can be made at any time to Iain Sneddon.  
 New pairings will be arranged when there are sufficient new players to do so.

# OPENINGS TOURNAMENTS 1999

Controller: Steve Hilton

No	Section A	1	2	3	4	Pts
1	J. CASSIDY	◆	1 0	0 0	0 0	1
2	J.T. ELLISON	0 1	◆	0 0	0 0	1
3	I. SNEDDON	1 1	1 1	◆	1	
4	M. BALLAN	1 1	1 1	0	◆	

Opening moves are : 1 e4 e5 2 ♗c4 ♜f6 3 d4 exd4  
 (Ponziani's Gambit, C24)

# Another Two Scottish Masters

[by Raymond Baxter]

In August, the SCCA Executive approved the award of the Scottish Master title to Douglas Finnie and Tom Thomson. Both players have gained the required three norms.

Douglas Finnie had ICCF grades of 2460 in 1996 and 2426 in 1998. He has now gained a third norm for his ICCF grade of 2377. Tom Thomson had an ICCF grade of 2414 in 1998, and obtained his second SCCA norm from winning a half IM norm, also in 1998. His third norm comes from his current ICCF grade of 2436. His Scottish Master title has arrived only one month ahead of his IM title.

Congratulations are offered to both Douglas and Tom for these achievements.

Scottish players with international titles are also Scottish Masters. There are now 20 Scottish Masters, listed in order of date of gaining this title. The list includes 3 Grandmasters, 2 Senior International Masters, and 6 International Masters.

- 1979 Ken McAlpine (IM 90)
- 1981 Douglas Bryson (IM 85, GM 86)
- 1983 Philip Giulian (IM 92, SIM 99)
- 1986 Alan Norris

- 1987 Graham Morrison
- 1988 Tim Wickens (IM 88)
- 1989 Richard Beecham
- 1990 Andy Muir (IM 90, GM 95)
- 1992 David Kilgour (IM 92, GM 96)
- 1993 Colin McNab (IM 94, SIM 99)
- 1993 Alan Borwell (IM 93)
- 1994 Tommy Craig
- 1995 George Pyrich (IM 95)
- 1997 Joe Watson (IM 98)
- 1997 Simon Gillam
- 1998 Raymond Baxter
- 1998 George Sprott
- 1998 Jim Stewart
- 1999 Tom Thomson (IM 99)
- 1999 Douglas Finnie

Scottish Master norms have also been achieved this year by Jonathan Lennox and Douglas Neil, and the following 13 players have norms.

- 1 Aird, CF Boyle, DH Dempster, Mrs M Inglis, DM Jenkins (2), CJ Lennox, DM Livie (2), PJ McGowan, D McKerracher, CJ Morrison, GA Morton, D Neil, JAB Stevenson (2).

The council have made a small change to the qualification rules for future norms. This change is needed because ICCF intend to publish their grading list twice a year in future.

The amended qualification rules for the Scottish Master title are as follows.

- 1 Attaining ICCF GM, SIM or IM title.
- 2 Attaining 3 norms, without limit of time; one norm for each of the following:
  - (a) SCCA or ICCF grade of 2300 or above, provided this grade is based on at least 20 results in total, and on at least 12 new results since any previous norm has been awarded for grade.
  - (b) Outright winner of the SCCA Championship Final, or joint winner with at least 75% of total points.
  - (c) Half IM norm.
  - (d) 50% or more of the points in an ICCF World Semi-Final.
  - (e) Winner of one 15-player ICCF World or European Master Class.
  - (f) Winner of two 7-player ICCF World or European Master Class.

Players must be members of the SCCA and have indicated that the SCCA is their primary CC body, when norms are achieved, and the award of the title is subject to ratification by the Executive Committee.

# CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT

[by Bernard Milligan]

The end of the season is fast approaching and results are coming through at a steady rate. Please remember that the adjudication date for the Challenge Tournament is 15/11/99, although games need not be adjudicated in the Challenge. If both players are agreeable, then the game can be continued into the following seasons. If I have not received results I will assume that the games are being carried forward.

There has been a postal strike in Edinburgh recently, which has slowed down things a bit. Hopefully all your games are now progressing smoothly and you weren't inconvenienced too much. I have had a few items of post going astray this year. Please check that all your results have appeared in the magazine. If not, please re-submit them. This is particularly important, as I have to send all results to Raymond Baxter at the end of the year for grading.

A couple of players were confused over the time controls for the Challenge in that they didn't realise that it was a two time control event. Please remember that if your opponent oversteps the time control for the first time, their total time is set back to zero and you start counting up again. Only when a player oversteps for the second time do they lose a game on time. Full details can be found in the Rules Brochure, which was sent to all members.

**Pairings** since the Summer magazine are as follows: -

## Class 1

R Beacon (155) 166,  
D R Cumming (166) 155, 264,  
G Lloyd (264) 166, 404,  
N Sapphire (Comp) 317,

## Class 2

C Almarza-Mato (317) Comp,  
A R Petrie (315) 387, 404,

## Class 3

N J Banner (387) 315,  
D E Brown (370) 261, 404,  
T F McAinsh (261) 370,  
J K Stoneman (404) 264, 315, 370,

**Results** since the Summer Magazine are as follows: -

315	A R Petrie	1	1	D G Meldrum	355	396	J T Ellison	1	0	J M Rutherford	356
108	J Cassidy	0	2	J M Rutherford	356	396	J T Ellison	½	1½	C Dowell	316
264	G Lloyd	1	0	N J Banner	387	155	R Beacon	1	0	C McIntee	391
264	G Lloyd	1	0	A R Petrie	315	315	A R Petrie	1	1	R B Crosbie	233
L02	D G McRoberts	1	1	J P Jack	L15	114	S H Hilton	1	1	C McIntee	391
379	G H Phillips	2	0	G Lloyd	264	166	D R Cumming	2	0	R B Crosbie	233
370	D E Brown	2	0	D G McRoberts	L02	166	D R Cumming	2	0	R Loughran	337
370	D E Brown	1	0	G H Phillips	379	166	D R Cumming	0	2	G H Phillips	379
317	C Almarza-Mato	1	0	T F McAinsh	261	264	G Lloyd	2	0	D G McRoberts	L02
264	G Lloyd	1½	½	R Beacon	155	337	R Loughran	2	0	D G McRoberts	L02
108	J Cassidy	0	2	G Lloyd	264	355	D G Meldrum	1	1	C R James	312
108	J Cassidy	0	2	J R Milne	361	396	J T Ellison	1	1	M Ballan	386
L02	D G McRoberts	0	1	R Beacon	155	376	R Malcolmson	2	0	D G Meldrum	355
264	G Lloyd	1	0	C Dowell	316	166	D R Cumming	1	0	I Sneddon	057
114	S H Hilton	1	0	A R Petrie	315	166	D R Cumming	2	0	C Dowell	316
317	C Almarza-Mato	0	2	N Sapphire	Comp	264	G Lloyd	2	0	R Loughran	337

## Overseas Subscribers

Subscription for one year's editions of the Scottish CCA Magazine can be obtained from the Editor for £20, or £30 for 2 years (inclusive of airmail postage). Payment in £ sterling please to the Scottish CCA.



## Address Changes?

Members are asked to advise changes of address promptly to their opponents, tournament secretary, the Scottish CCA Secretary and the Editor of the SCCA Magazine, please.

## ☆ Membership Discounts ☆

For next season, current members may claim a £2 reduction on their membership fee for introducing one new member and £2 for each further member. A "new member" is defined as someone who has not been a member in the last two years.

# Scottish CCA League 1999

## DIVISION 1

(Controller: Peter Jack)

### A PERTH CORRESPONDENTS

1	A.P. Borwell	v E1	1 1
2	I. Mackintosh	v D2	1 1
3	Dr. A.C. Brown	v C3	1
4	D.J. Harvey	v B4	0
5	J.N. Falconer	v F5	0 0

### B KIRKCALDY KINGS

1	G.D. Pyrich	v D1	½
2	T. Thomson	v C2	1 1
3	G. Saxton	v F3	
4	I. Marshall	v A4	1
5	S. Donohoe	v E5	1 1

### C BRUTAL REALISM

1	J.S. Murray	v F1	½ 0
2	S. Brady	v B2	0 0
3	A. Thomson	v A3	0
4	W. Taylor	v E4	1 1
5	P. Lewis	v D5	

### D FIVE BRAVE ENGLISHMEN

1	P.L. Coleman	v B1	1 ½
2	D.J.R. Barnes	v A2	0 0
3	R. Goosey	v E3	1 1
4	A.J.C. Rawlings	v F4	1 1
5	A. Robertshaw	v C5	

### E KNIGHT SAC

1	T. Tait	v A1	0 0
2	I. McKechnie	v F2	0 0
3	R. Holland	v D3	0 0
4	P. Thomson	v C4	0 0
5	P. Tait	v B5	0 0

### F BLACK KNIGHT

1	G.R. Sprott	v C1	1 ½
2	R. Kilpatrick	v E2	1 1
3	I.F. Reeman	v B3	
4	A.T. Hislop	v D4	0 0
5	I. Sneddon	v A5	1 1

## DIVISION 2

(Controller: Jim Anderson)

### A SOCIAL FALCONS

1	S.A. Murray	v E1	
2	D. Price	v D2	
3	B. Hanison	v C3	
4	J. Watson	v B4	
5	G. Rossed	v F5	

### B SOCIAL BUZZARDS

1	F. Folduary	v D1	½ 1
2	J. Vivante-Sowter	v C2	
3	P. Doye	v F3	
4	A. Rowland	v A4	
5	G.E. Wallwork	v E5	1 1

### C CASTLEHILL

1	D. Kleppang	v F1	
2	K. Ross	v B2	
3	R. Noble	v A3	
4	J. Smith	v E4	0 0
5	A. Johnson	v D5	0

### D KINGSTON

1	C. Briscoe	v B1	½ 0
2	B. Whyte	v A2	
3	J. Grant	v E3	0
4	C. Wright	v F4	1 0
5	N. Grey	v C5	1

### E BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY

1	A. Hind	v A1	
2	G. Lloyd	v F2	
3	R. Malcolmson	v D3	1
4	A.R. Petrie	v C4	1 1
5	C.R. James	v B5	0 0

### F SUPERKINGS

1	A. Armstrong	v C1	
2	B. Milligan	v E2	
3	R.B. Crosbie	v B3	
4	D.R. Cumming	v D4	0 1
5	M. Keen	v A5	

## DIVISION 3

(Controller: Jim Anderson)

### A SOCIAL EAGLES

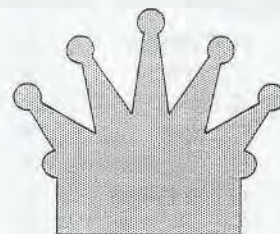
1	S. Hilton	v B1	vC1 ½ ½
2	M. Gifford	v B2	vC2
3	G. Ross	v B3	1 1 vC3 1
4	C. Dowell	v B4	vC4 1 1
5	S. Smith	v B5	vC5

### B CORRESPONDENCE KINGS

1	G.H. Phillips	v A1	vC1 1 1
2	D.G. Meldrum	v A2	vC2
3	A. Knox	v A3	0 0 vC3 0 0
4	C. McIntee	v A4	vC4
5	W. McConchie	v A5	vC5 0 0

### C CORRESPONDENCE KNIGHTS

1	A.D. Kilgariff	v A1	½ ½ vB1 0 0
2	R. Loughran	v A2	vB2
3	J. Young	v A3	0 vB3 1 1
4	R. Rough	v A4	0 0 vB4 0 0
5	P. Moir	v A5	vB5 1 1

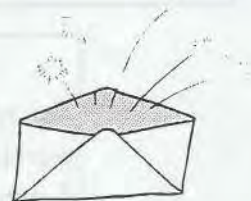


Please send results to your Controller immediately on completion of each game (whether it is a win, draw or loss!)



## Readers' Letters

We'd be pleased to hear from you, with your views and suggestions about the Association. Letters will be published in future editions of the Magazine, with appropriate responses, for the interest of all members/subscribers.





# ICCF Congress - Thun, Switzerland - 18th to 24th September 1999

## Report by George Pyrich, Scottish Delegate

The 48<sup>th</sup> ICCF Congress, in conjunction with meetings of the ICCF Presidium and numerous committees, was held at the Hotel Freienhof, Thun from 18-24 September 1999. The Congress was hosted for the third time by the Swiss Federation (SFSV - Schweizer Fernschachvereinigung). Previously the Congress had convened in Lugano in 1968 and again in 1971. It is notable that the 1968 and 1971 Congresses drew 13 and 25 participants respectively, whereas more than 120 delegates, officials, as well as family members and friends, attended this year's event! The Swiss organising committee, who impressed everyone by the efficiency of their organisation and the warmth and friendliness of their hospitality, was led by George Walker, one of the first recipients of the new Senior International Master Title, assisted by Gottardo Gottardi, one of the world's leading players, as well as a local resident.

Thun is a picturesque town of some 40,000 inhabitants, situated on the River Aare which flows from the Thunersee, one of Switzerland's largest lakes. The town dates back to the 13th century and amongst its many attractions, it boasts a magnificent mediaeval castle. The beautiful surroundings of Thun make it a popular tourist visiting spot and the Congress delegates were fortunate enough to enjoy some excellent late summer weather. Thun is part of the Canton of Bern, a German speaking area, and is situated in an area referred to as the "Bernese Oberland".

Prior to the opening address by the ICCF President, Alan Borwell, introductory speeches were made by the principal Congress organiser, George Walker, and the President of the Bernese Parliament, Mr. Neuenschwander who, in a short and witty speech, drew some appropriate similarities between correspondence chess and politics! *"Do not fight your opponent; fight his plans!"* The ICCF President then opened proceedings and formally welcomed a total of 121 participants from 30 countries, and expressed thanks to the Swiss hosts for their hospitality. In his speech, Alan stressed the joint themes of looking back at the development of the traditions and values of ICCF and looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of the new Millennium. He emphasised the theme of "Unity and Partnership" between ICCF officials and member federations and that all should work together in harmony and move forward in a disciplined, imaginary and evolutionary way. The Congress paid tribute to the memory of those who had passed away during the preceding year, including GM Itzak Vienger (ISL), husband of the Ladies CC World Champion Luba Kristol and Ortwin Sarapu (NZL).

Amongst the Congress participants, there was a very unique and distinguished gathering of 6 of the 8 living CC World Champions:- Dr. Fritz Baumbach (GER), Horst Rittner (GER), Vytas Palciauskas (USA), Grigory Sanakoev (RUS), Mikhail Umansky (RUS) and Tõnu Õim (EST) who had only recently become the first player to win the World Championship twice. For the

record, the 2 "absentees" from this exclusive "club" were Hans Berliner (USA) and Jorn Sloth (DEN).

Other distinguished delegates and visitors to the Congress included "Chess Mail" publisher Tim Harding, "Fernschach" publisher Manfred Gluth and the director of the web-site "The Correspondence Chess Place" John Knudsen. The Congress noted that the former World Champion Horst Rittner was attending his 35th ICCF Congress, a distinction he now shares with the former Swedish Delegate Erik Larssen.

The report of the General Secretary, Dr Fritz Baumbach (GER) gave the usual overview of ICCF membership throughout the world, inviting the Congress to extend a warm welcome to new members Kenya. During his address, the General Secretary referred to the continued excellent progress which had been made in establishing official Email contacts amongst member federations, of which there are now more than 60. Dr. Baumbach then confirmed that he would not be seeking re-election to his post as he had recently started a new career as a patents lawyer. The Congress gave him a very warm round of applause in recognition of his excellent work for ICCF over the years.

There followed the presentation of the Bertl von Massow medals to those who had served ICCF for at least 10 years. The recipients included the publishers of "Fernschach", Manfred Gluth (GER) and "Chess Mail", Tim Harding (IRL). The special award of Honorary Membership of ICCF was made to the ICCF Deputy President, Ragnar Wikman (FIN), in recognition of 25 years of dedicated and distinguished service to ICCF.

The ICCF Treasurer, Carlos Flores (ESP), confirmed the healthy position of ICCF's finances, and that, despite reporting a very small deficit on the Profit and Loss Account, the balance of the General Fund had increased, following a re-evaluation of assets, from CHF 146,000 to almost CHF 156,000 at 31/12/98. In view of the healthy situation of the ICCF finances, the Treasurer was able to recommend to congress that there was no need for any increase to fees for the coming year. Unfortunately, the Treasurer also had the unpleasant task of recommending to the Congress that two member Federations, Algeria and Dominican Republic, be suspended owing to non-payment of fees and that two others, Russia and Ukraine, be warned of impending suspension if arrears of fees were not met by the end of the year. Finally, the Treasurer proposed the introduction of a new scheme of four-year financial planning for ICCF which was met with the unanimous approval of the Congress.

The next item on the agenda was the election of office bearers for the 4-year period from 01.01.2000 to 31.12.2003. Before these elections could take place, the Congress approved a change to the ICCF Statutes, enabling the position of Deputy President (Development) to be replaced by a Marketing Director

on the ICCF Presidium, which would more appropriately reflect the duties of the job. The retiring Deputy President (Development), Nol van 't Riet (NLD), had earlier announced his decision to retire from the ICCF Presidium, after many years service, owing to business commitments (although he would continue to hold the position of delegate for The Netherlands). Prior to the Congress, two nominations had been received each for the positions of President and General Secretary and elections had been anticipated. However, immediately prior to the opening of the Congress, two of the candidates had announced their withdrawals with the result that nominations for the posts presented for re-election were uncontested. Congress then unanimously approved the following appointments:-

President: Alan Borwell (SCO),  
 Deputy President (Rules): Ragnar Wikman (FIN),  
 Deputy President (Tournaments): Eckhard Lüers (GER),  
 General Secretary: Alan Rawlings (ENG),  
 Treasurer: Carlos Flores (ESP)  
 Marketing Director: Pedro Hegoburu (ARG)

The 4 remaining members of the ICCF Presidium are the Zonal Directors, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA), Mohammed Samraoui (ALG), Max Zavanelli (USA) and Carlos Cranbourne (ARG), who are shortly due to stand for re-election.

Immediately after the elections to the ICCF Presidium, there followed a highly interesting and entertaining presentation by the retiring DP (Development), Nol van't Riet who offered his personal vision of correspondence chess in the new millennium, in a paper titled "CC in the Year 2010". "In the year 2010 the postal system hardly exists any more.... sitting in your easy chair, using a kind of remote control, you are moving a cursor on a kind of screen which is projected on the wall of your living room.... or study or bedroom or toilet! .... you indicate your move with a series of clicks, once you've confirmed it, it's sent automatically to your opponent via the ICCF computer which records all the moves of all the games in progress throughout the world, all the results, all the title qualifications...." Whilst much of Nol's presentation was accepted by the delegates in a spirit of good humour, the Congress understood the vital importance of ICCF successfully meeting the challenges being set by new technology and providing an attractive service to its members, especially as it was appreciated that ICCF does not hold a monopoly on Email play.

The next item on the agenda, the Report of the Deputy President (Tournaments), Eckhard Lüers (GER), took up a great deal of the Congress's time, involving much discussion of numerous important issues. Perhaps the most significant decision was to provide approval for the restructuring of World and European postal tournaments from 1 January 2000. From that date, the current First, Second and Third Class events (7 and 15 player) will be replaced by new Open Class sections of 7 players only. Additionally, Higher Class events will have sections of 7 players only, whilst all Master Class events will have 11 players. Master Norm and Thematic events will remain unchanged with sections of 11 and 6 players respectively, but World

Championship events will comprise of no more than 13 players per section. Effectively, these changes will bring postal events into line with the current arrangements for Email events.

The Congress also approved a proposed detailed schedule for new World Championship and Olympiad events for the next 3 years as follows:

Ladies World Ch. 6 Final	Postal	15/11/1999
World Ch. 24 Semi-Final	Postal	01/04/2000
Olympiad 14 Prelims.	E-Mail	01/04/2000
World Ch. 25 Semi-Final	E-Mail	01/04/2001
Olympiad 15 Prelims.	Postal	01/04/2001
Olympiad 13 Final	Postal	01/04/2001
Ladies Olympiad 7 Prelims.	Postal	01/04/2001
Ladies Olympiad 6 Final	Postal	01/04/2001
World Ch. 20 3/4 Final	E-Mail	30/06/2001
World Ch. 17 Final	Postal	30/06/2001
World Ch. 26 Semi-Final	Postal	01/04/2002
Olympiad 16 Prelims.	E-Mail	01/04/2002
Olympiad 14 Final	E-Mail	01/04/2002
World Ch. 21 3/4 Final	Postal	30/06/2002
World Ch. 18 Final	E-Mail	30/06/2002

The Congress then authorised the Czech Federation (assisted if necessary by the Slovak and Austrian Federations) to organise the next ICCF World Cup 12 event, scheduled to commence during the autumn of 2000. Some controversy arose when, contrary to the recommendation of the Presidium, the Congress decided that the entry fee for this event be reduced from 25 CHF to 15 CHF in the hope that the event would attract more entries and offset any reduction in revenue generated by the event. The Congress delegates also obliged the Presidium to reconsider a proposal to levy a new scale of rating fees on invitational and team events. Originally it was proposed to charge 1 CHF per game, with 2 CHF and 3 CHF per game in IM and GM events respectively, but a compromise of 1 CHF per game for events up to Category 7 (IM events), 2 CHF per game in team events, and 3 CHF per game in GM events (over Category 7) was finally agreed.

The Congress was very pleased to note the content of the report of the Email Tournament Office Director, Christopher Lüers (GER), when the continuing success of the ICCF Email events was confirmed. An exponential growth in player numbers had seen tournament entries increase from a total of 188 in 1996 to a total of 835 for only the first 8 months of 1999.

The report of the ICCF Web-Master, Søren Peschardt (DEN), was also very well received. Everyone acknowledged the skill and diligence of Søren's work in re-designing the web-site during the preceding year and noted that the site now contains fully comprehensive details of all ICCF's Statutes, Rules, Tournament Tables and Reports, Ratings and Titles as well as a selective games archive. The subject of the ICCF games archive was discussed and the Congress decided that in future all postal and Email games will be made available for internet downloading via the "The Correspondence Chess Place" site in conjunction with the ICCF Archivist. Those readers with internet facilities may have noted that, during the Congress, a daily report of events was posted to the ICCF web-site.

This fine work was accomplished by a small team of enthusiastic volunteers, Pedro Hegoburu, Søren Peschardt and John Knudsen, who regularly worked into the small hours to provide this new service.

The Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder (GER) reported that his work had involved the computation of the results of 28,042 games played by 7,747 players in 1,330 tournaments and 142 country matches. Presently, the Ratings database contained a main list of 6,667 players, 5,078 with fixed ratings and 925 title holders. The Ladies List held 212 players, 146 of which held fixed ratings. The databank now held details of 27,431 players of whom 1,145 are ladies. Confirmation was provided that next year there will two Ratings produced, in March and September, and these will be downloadable from the ICCF Web site. Additionally, revisions to the Ratings Rules were approved whereby in future 12 games will be sufficient for a published rating and new players (or those with less than 12 games) will be allocated assumed ratings based on the class of the tournament. Ratings for all standards of players will also be published from next year.

In my Report to Congress as Qualifications Commissioner, I was able to confirm the award of new titles to 24 Grandmasters (a record number!), 1 Lady Grandmaster, 91 Senior International Masters (including Philip Giulian and Colin McNab), 125 International Masters (including Tom Thomson), 3 International Ladies Masters and 13 International Arbiters. Additionally, Congress gave its approval to Title Norms in respect of numerous new World, Continental, Team and Invitational events.

The report to the Congress of the ICCF Development Commission focused on plans to promote ICCF activities more vigorously, providing publicity to the world-wide chess community. Detailed plans for the production and distribution of a monthly newsletter, under the supervision of the ICCF Press Officer (now Marketing Director), Pedro Hegoburu (ARG), were warmly received and unanimously approved. This newsletter will be available on the ICCF Web site and also serve as a Press release to be distributed world-wide. The Congress also acclaimed the outstanding achievement of the retiring DP (Development) in securing the sponsorship of the 1<sup>st</sup> Email World Championship by the prestigious Dutch Interchess organisation, publishers of "New in Chess" books.

In one of his other capacities, as leader of the "ICCF 2000" Project, Pedro provided a comprehensive report of his extensive activities in this area over the past year, notably the considerable progress made with preparation of the "ICCF 2000" book. Whilst a total of 42 member federations had provided contributions for the book, it was noted with some dismay that 22 others had not done so. After some discussion, it was agreed that 30 November 1999 would be the final deadline for those federations to provide their contributions. It was also decided that there would not be a compact diskette produced in conjunction with the book.

The report of the Deputy President (Rules), Ragnar Wikman (FIN), provided confirmation that at next year's Congress, a revised schedule of Tournament Rules would be presented along with measures to standardise

the various sets of Playing Rules in order that an ICCF Rule-Book may be produced. This would include topics such as the handling of tie-breaks, particularly in Championship events where, at present, some ambiguity exists.

Happily, the Congress had some rather lighter moments, notably the Awards Ceremony when all the new title-holders, as well as Championship and Team Championship prize-winners, were presented with their awards. This year a record number of such prizes were distributed, the most notable being the award to the new World Champion, Tõnu Õim (EST) who is the first player to achieve this distinction twice! (However, mention should be made of the Ladies World Champion, Luba Kristol (ISL) as she is also a "double" World Champion. Indeed, she may surpass this achievement as she is expected to participate in the next Ladies Final scheduled to commence in November). Tõnu, an extremely likeable and affable personality, delighted everyone with an impromptu "simultaneous display" whereby, following an improvised and heartfelt speech, he distributed to the Congress delegates autographed first day commemorative envelopes, with a cachet picture of himself, produced by the Estonian Post Office! Doubtless these items will become items coveted by collectors in years to come. The SCCA delegation was delighted to receive the medals awarded in recognition of our shared third place in Olympiad 11.

The Congress was a little disappointed to note the content of the report of the FIDE Liaison Officer, Gerhard Radosztics (OST). He intimated that all attempts to establish regular liaison with FIDE had been unsuccessful and there appeared little FIDE interest in CC. It was noted that nowadays FIDE is a commercial and business oriented organisation, employing salaried officials, unlike ICCF whose officials all work voluntarily in the spirit of "Amici Sumus". The Congress did note however that the ICCF President, at the invitation of FIDE, had recently contributed a section on behalf of ICCF for a planned book to mark the 75th anniversary of FIDE. The congress also noted the current situation where more than half of those countries who hold FIDE membership, have no active CC organisation. It was resolved that it would be better for ICCF member federations to seek good contacts with their own national OTB organisations and also to utilise modern communications technology to seek CC contacts in those countries without established CC organisations.

Despite the heavy agenda, the Congress delegates were still able to find time to participate in the customary schedule of social events. All the Congress participants greatly enjoyed a day's sightseeing, the main feature of which was a trip to the top of Schilthorn mountain (also known as "James Bond Mountain" as it featured prominently in the Bond film "On Her Majesty's Secret Service"), although the ride in the cable-car from the bottom in the Lauterbrunnen valley to a height of over 10,000 feet is not to be recommended to the faint-hearted! The Congress party were extremely fortunate to be able to enjoy one of approximately thirty days per year when the weather at the top of Schilthorn is sunny and free of cloud, affording clear views of the surrounding peaks.

Also included amongst the week's events was the traditional annual blitz tournament. This year's event contained a very strong field of 24 players who competed for the very generous prize fund provided by the organisers. The former World CC Champion, Mikhail Umansky (RUS), plays in a slow and almost "laid back" style and he looks almost disinterested as his pieces slowly shuffle across the board. However, his very strong moves more than compensated for any time lost and he ended the evening the convincing winner of the competition. The SCCA's representative managed to achieve some good wins and, were it not for a few careless errors, might have achieved more than his final 50% score.

Another traditional feature to be revived this year was a simultaneous display where the congress delegates took on a visiting Grandmaster.

This year's guest GM, who had also "appeared" at the 1996 Congress in Bad Neuenahr, Germany, was Vlastimil Hort, one of the world's very best players during the 70's but nowadays a successful and popular chess presenter on German television. Vlastimil faced a stronger level of opposition this year which included several players with FIDE titles and had to concede defeat in 3 of the 30 games. However, he was able to despatch the two members of the Scottish delegation without any serious difficulties! We heard that he is very interested in playing CC and is likely to appear soon in a strong postal or Email event!

At the closing dinner, traditionally hosted by ICCF, the Congress delegates toasted the future success and development of ICCF as well as the successful future of chess in Switzerland, before thanking the kindness and hospitality of their gracious Swiss hosts and bidding farewell.

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## ***ON TOP OF THE WORLD!***



**World CC Champion Tõnu Õim (EST) at the Shilthorn (12,000 feet high)  
in the Swiss Alps, near Thun**

In winning the XIV World Correspondence Chess Championship, Tõnu Õim became the first player to win two World CC Championships, having previously won the 9<sup>th</sup> Final in 1982. Tõnu was born in 1941 and therefore has plenty of time to try to achieve a hat-trick of victories! His success is a great honour for his small country and it has been officially recognised by the Government and Post Office, which has issued a special commemorative cover.

Tõnu intends to continue playing correspondence chess actively, both by post and Email, and we send him our congratulations and wish him further CC enjoyment and success in the future!

## ChessBase 7 (Part 3) : A review by by Bernard Milligan

Thanks to all who have let me know how much they have been enjoying these articles. As a result, I will be trying to produce a few more, covering various aspects of the ChessBase products. The range of quality products from ChessBase is growing so this is quite a big subject. For example, there are Endgame and Opening CDs, Training CDs such as Gambit Lexicon and Kings Indian Structure with f5-f4, and of course the playing/analysis programs Fritz532, Junior5, Nimzo732 and Hiarc732. I plan to have a look at each of these in future articles, but for the moment I want to continue on the theme of how I use the ChessBase 7 program in helping with my Correspondence games.

Obviously the program is being used throughout the year to store and update my games but at other times I find myself putting it to far greater use. For example I have just been asked to represent Scotland in the 6<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship. A great honour but a daunting task as I must be one of the weaker players involved. Past experience has taught me the importance of Opening preparation. Some openings work well for you, others don't. In addition, you may have had reasonable results with a particular opening system, yet found that a particular player always gets the better of you with it. Herein lies the first clue as to what needs to be done with ChessBase before the event even begins.

Step one is to research your opponents. Armed with the pairing list, I started to hunt through databases, of which I have a few, to try to find games that my opponents had played. The number of games that you can find is amazing. Games collections come on CD and large numbers of games can be found on the Internet. I even enlisted the help of friends, such as Tom Thomson, just in case they had some games in their databases, which I didn't. OK, I didn't manage to find games for all my opponents, but I did end up finding several hundred games and these covered most of my opponents.

With this information I can start to get a feel for how my opponents might play against me. For example, one of my opponents is Bo Jäderholm from Finland. I will have the Black pieces against Bo, so obviously I wanted to concentrate on games where he was White. One thing struck instantly was that Bo seems to exclusively play 1.e4. The next thing I noticed was that he also seems to do extremely well when his opponents play the Ruy Lopez. In fact out of 18 games he had won 15 and drawn 3. Perhaps this is an opening to avoid. This may not be the case if you like playing the Ruy Lopez and enjoy good results with it. There were also other openings, such as Sicilians, so I have plenty to help me decide what I might want to play. A word of caution here, some correspondence players tend to publish a lot of games they have won. This doesn't necessarily mean that they win most of their games with a particular opening, but may mean that few of their losses have managed to get into print because their opponents were not inclined towards annotating their games.

It is then time to get a better feel for your opponent by playing through their games. If you have a good idea what you will play, then you might want to simply concentrate on one particular opening. If you have more time, then you might want to play through all their games.

Playing through the games is very simple in ChessBase. You simply load the game and click on the forward arrow to progress through the game a move at a time. The game appears on a diagram board on the screen and you can follow the moves very easily. There are two useful ChessBase facilities, which can help your study of games. The first is to do an Editorial annotation, particularly useful if you have a good quality database such as Mega Database 99. This function will have ChessBase add games that have followed the game you are looking at, as annotations, into the loaded game. You can then instantly see what top players have played in the line you are looking at.

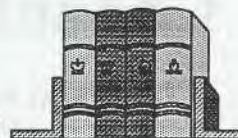
The second is to switch on one or more of the analysis engines to see what they come up with as you play through the game. One engine can even be locked at a particular position for more concentrated analysis. Whilst you continue to play through the game, another engine can continue to analyse the current position. When you return to the locked position, you will be able to see what the analysis engine has come up with after a longer think. The big advantage of using the analysis engines is that you can quickly spot where errors may have occurred. It may be that a player has won a game because of a blunder by their opponent, even though they had an inferior position. The analysis engine can help you work through openings to get a feel for what can and can't be played. The analysis may not always be perfect, there are plenty of examples of positions where a computer has totally missed the point, but if you are studying a new opening it can be very useful at times. Having had a look at your opponent's games you might then want to play through some games from your Database, on particular openings, that GMs have played.

All of this can lead to a lot of hours of study but with luck you should be better prepared for your opponent. In the past I have used ChessBase to research, for example, 1 e4 e6 2 Qe2, which hardly appears in any books. I managed to find thousands of games and as a result I felt I was better prepared than some of my opponents.

There are those who will have instantly spotted the flaw in studying an opponent's games and perhaps finding you have wasted your time if they decide to play something totally different. Oh dear! What if Bo decides to play 1.d4. Well, I happen to believe that you can't really unlearn something. Your hours of work must teach you something that will eventually be of use in some other game. ChessBase is a tool and it should be used to help you develop your skills.

# NEW BOOKS

reviewed by Alan Borwell



BATSFORD  
b

Although the future for these famous chess books still appears to be rather uncertain, we have received the following for review.

**Endgame Secrets**  
by Christopher Lutz  
175 pages, £15.99

This is the first book published after Chrysalis Books became the new owners of Batsfords. It is subtitled "How to plan in the endgame in chess" and is written by a young German GM from Cologne.

It uses 45 endgame studies to demonstrate the best way to formulate a plan to realise the maximum potential of each situation. For CC players, this kind of book can be of great benefit and undoubtedly will help you to improve your technique for this decisive phase of many games.

It is good to see a new author from another country writing under the Batsford publishing banner.

**Your Chess Questions Answered**  
by Susan Lalic  
126 pages, £10.99

This book claims to give answers to players who wish to know more about chess and chess activities.

From a CC point of view, it is poorly researched and provides little useful advice. Her bland answers to the question, "What is postal chess?" are confined to old stories about re-use of envelopes and the male player who won the British Ladies Championship, years ago! There is no guidance about Email CC - it is not even apparent that she is aware of its existence worldwide!

Sorry, Susan, but this is a poor effort from a CC player's point of view - why did you not ask someone knowledgeable for their assistance?

**Chess on the Web**  
by Sarah Hurst  
144 pages, £8.99

Another poor effort from a CC player's viewpoint. Although there are some references to CC organisations like BFCC (wrongly referred to as BPCF), they are superficial and not well researched.

For Email CC, there is some reference to IECG and IECC but the world authority for the game, ICCF, receives no specific coverage!

Thankfully, there is one good interview with John Knudsen in the Miscellaneous section towards the end of the book, in which John informs readers about CC and talks about his famous *Correspondence Chess Place* on the WWW.



## EVERYMAN CHESS

The production line for this new publisher is increasing, having taken over Cadogan Chess Books.

**English Defence**  
by Daniel King  
144 pages, £14.99

This is the first book of substance to be published on the English Defence (black plays a very early b6).

In recent years, this has been popularised by GMs like Tony Miles, Joh Speelman and others, and I remember P.N. Wallis playing it against me some 40 years ago!

Although there are dangers in allowing White to build a formidable e4/d4/c4 pawn centre, there are plenty of counter-attacking options for Black. A useful book.

**c3 Sicilian**  
by Joe Gallagher  
176 pages, £14.99

Unfortunately, the first diagram on the contents page belongs to the previously reviewed book!

However, this is the latest of rather too many recent books on this popular antidote to the Sicilian. As the author admits, he (like me) finds it annoying when his white opponents play this line, which produces positions not normally found in mainstream Sicilian lines.

Joe Gallagher is a good and reliable author who has first hand knowledge of current theory and fashionable openings. Useful.

**Bronstein on the King's Indian**  
by David Bronstein  
208 pages, £14.99

This renowned Russian expert on the King's Indian demonstrates the rich variety of possibilities and positions which can arise from this active defence.

Using 50 of his own annotated games (with a further 64 at the end of the book), he explains clearly the key strategies and typical manoeuvres.

**Chess Endings**  
by Yuri Averbach  
110 pages, £9.99

This is a reprint of the classic 1966 book in which this Russian GM covers the basic principles of endgame play. Although this is a relatively basic book with simple positions and little material remaining on the board, it is very instructive for the new player.



**The Survival Guide to Rook Endings**  
by John Emms  
160 pages, £13.99

This book is designed to provide specific knowledge and explain key concepts in rook endings. It uses positions from tournament play to demonstrate a wide range of rook and pawn configurations and includes various exercises. A nice book for serious study.

## **GAMBIT** Publications Ltd

**101 Brilliant Chess Miniatures**  
by John Nunn  
176 pages, £13.99

This is a collection of sparkling modern games to instruct and entertain. Well, this is the claim of prolific chess author John Nunn and certainly it contains some fine games. There are 3 diagrams per page and each game and notes have been fitted to either one or two pages. Therefore, it is a nice book to browse through without the need to set up a board/pieces.

**The Gambit Guide to the Torre Attack**  
by Graham Burgess  
192 pages, £14.99

This FIDE Master has endeavoured to produce a book extolling the virtues of the Torre Attack as a good choice of opening for White.

Rather interestingly, when a similar kind of book was produced some years ago, I decided to try this opening as White in a complete CC event! In all 7 games, I found that Black was able to build a very sound defensive set up and White had few opportunities for creating fluid and dynamic options. Maybe this is why it is not particularly popular with leading players who are looking to win with the White pieces.

**Secrets of Rook Endings**  
by John Nunn  
352 pages, £14.99

This is an expanded version of the Batsford's book published in 1992, produced by the master analyst/theoretician. A useful reference work.

**Gambit Guide to the English Opening 1 ... e5**  
by Carsten Hansen  
256 pages, £15.99

This is an important new book covering all of the variations of 1 c4 e5. It uses mostly selected games from the 1990s and is therefore a good update of the earlier excellent Bagirov book, covering Classical and Indian variations. Rather surprisingly, the system 2 Nc3 Bb4 covers less than 20 pages, although it is now one of the most important lines in modern OTB and CC play.

**Extreme Chess World Championships 1935, 1937 and 1972**  
by C.J.S. Purdy  
250 pages, £14.99

As would be expected from such a renowned chess writer, this book provides insight and entertainment from three famous world title matches. The contrast between the two Alekhine-Euwe matches and the Fischer-Spassky match is great, but the quality and creativity of chess is a common feature.

Although Cecil Purdy, the first World CC Champion, died over 20 years ago, his contribution to chess literature continues to live on with another superbly compiled book.

### **SIX WORLD CC CHAMPIONS AND THE ICCF PRESIDENT IN THUN**



L to R: M. Umansky (RUS), V. Palciauskas (USA), H. Rittner (GER), A.P. Borwell, T. Ōim (EST), Dr. F. Baumbach (GER), G. Sanakoev (RUS)

# Review of "Mega Corr" by Chess Mail Ltd

by John C. Knudsen © 1999

"The search for correspondence chess database perfection - and more" could be the subtitle for this superb product just released by Timothy Harding and Company, Chess Mail Limited. There is so much ground to cover in this review that I have divided it up into two sections: the database portion and the extras section. Potential producers of cc database CDs should be on notice that, unless you can exceed the very high standards of this effort, it will be a waste of your time!

## CC Game Database

The database features over 270,000 different cc games, in PGN (184 MBs!), old ChessBase (\*.cbf, \*.cbl) and new ChessBase (6.0 or higher - \*.cbh) formats. An especially nice touch is a separate directory splitting (a forerunner of) the PGN file into 34 separate files, each containing 8,000 games or less. This is particularly useful for you tightwads that are still using ChessBase Light (which has a 8K limit) or some other freeware chess database program. In the main database, over 20,000 of the games contain notes or annotations, and many of these are annotated by Grandmaster strength players, often the players themselves. Serious cc players will find the annotated games extremely valuable for their own purposes and the development of their own chess playing "muscles".

A bit of prior history of cc database CDs is interjected here to put things into perspective. ChessBase released a CD containing 100,000 cc games several years ago, which sold for a ridiculous price of \$99 or something like that. Then, a few years later, the author of these lines released "The Big CC Disc" which contained about 235,000 cc games and sold for \$30. This release was sold out in time and now the next generation is here. The reader should realise that Harding's CD contains over 20,000 games with annotations or notes. This is the radical difference between the old and the new.

It is plain that much work went into the construction of Mega Corr. Harding was assisted by a team of capable volunteers and helpers, and it shows in the quality of the end product. Has it reached the level of perfection? No, of course not. Yes, there are some over-the-board games included by mistake. There are also probably some duplicates, but I would bet a fair sum of money that the problem games are in the area of 2% or less, well under my personal standard of 5% for a database containing hundreds of thousands (or millions) of games. Those who have not "lived" with databases containing many games have no idea how difficult it is to achieve perfection in this business. Mega Corr comes closer than any product has in the past. For that reason, it sets the standard for any that might follow it.

## Extras

The intriguing thing to me about the entire Chess Mail Ltd product line is how an effort is made to give valuable extras with every offering. In some ways, these may be of more value than the game scores themselves - it depends on your point of view. Here is a quick look at the extras included in Mega Corr. Chess Mail Magazine - all issues from 1998 in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. What can I say? Chess Mail continues to be the one and only premier English language magazine devoted to correspondence chess. I like the idea of having the issues available in one place, on the CD, especially since my printed copies are all over the house.

There are two complete tournament books included in Mega Corr. The first is the CNEC 15 (Algerian Jubilee) tournament book and the second is the Bohatirchuk Memorial tournament book. They are published for the first time here. This innovative (and economical) idea of publishing correspondence chess tournament books in Adobe Acrobat electronic format is sure to catch on and the possibilities are truly exciting. The tournament books are of the highest standard - in them Harding shows off his typesetting and editing skills for the benefit of all. If this is the future of cc tournament books, there is no doubt that he will be the "Grandmaster" of correspondence chess book publishing in no time at all. Heavily annotated games, colour photographs, it is all there. And, you can print them out if you want to. Bravo - the new dawn of cc publishing is upon us! Finally, there is also issue 158-9 of APA Magazine, in Spanish and English.

One of the most worthwhile extras is the "HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) Web of 100 Classic CC Tournaments". Correspondence chess historians will have an easier time of it in the future due to this interesting feature. The "web", as Harding calls it, requires a browser to utilise it but it can all be viewed off-line, so, it is really an electronic book, or an off-line web site. In addition to the obligatory cross-tables, photographs add a nice touch here, along with links to PGN files from the tournament in question. A great research aid and interesting read which should not be missed.

## Summary

Priced at under £30, this CD is an extremely good buy and should be acquired quickly before it is sold out. No one, past or present, is even capable of achieving the high standards that Harding has set with Mega Corr. If you are a serious cc player, chess historian, or simply interested in correspondence chess, the "whether or not" you will obtain this product is a foregone conclusion - you will!

**Information on how to order Mega Corr can be found at the Chess Mail website: <http://www.chessmail.com> or from Tim Harding at Chess Mail Ltd, 26 Coolamber Park, Dublin 16, Ireland.**



# The Corresponding Difference

[by Tom Craig]

*"You will not guess what he is up to now; he has started to play my moves for me!"*

Graham Morrison was updating me on his early experiences with correspondence chess. Only the discovery of the "en passant" rule surpassed the shock value of my first encounter with the "suggested continuation" concept.

A clever suggested continuation can be a very powerful psychological weapon. However, unless your opponents' moves are forced by being the only legal moves playable, you must question carefully your reasons for offering a suggested continuation.

**J Ramos Aguilar (Espana 3) v  
Tom Craig (Scotland A)**  
Sicilian Najdorf B90  
ICCF Email Open Team Champ.  
Sec. D1 : Board One : 1998

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♕e3 e5 7 ♗b3 ♕e6 8 ♖d2 ♕e7 [8 ... ♗c6!?] 9 f3 0-0 10 0-0-0 [10.g4?! d5!] 10 ... a5?!

I always try to obtain some value from every book I buy. This strange move was strongly endorsed by Danny King in *"Winning with the Najdorf"*.

11 ♗b5! ♗c6 [11 ... ♗bd7] 12 ♖b1 [12 g4!?: 12 ♖f2] 12 ... ♖b8!?, intending ♗c8 and at some point a4; 12 ... ♗e8 intending ♗c7. 13 ♗d5! [Ouch!] 13 ... ♗xd5 14 exd5 ♗b4. [I did consider 14 ... a4!? 15 dxc6 (15 ♗c1!?) 15 ... axb3 16 cxb3 d5!?] 15 c4 b6 16 g4

White has a clear advantage. I am now left with an undesirable manoeuvring position, while White is free to time his King-side attack. If this were an OTB game I would have long forgotten how I had arrived in this position and would be concentrating on making the best of my counter-play once White opts for g6 or h6. *"Why is it more difficult in a CC game to ignore all that has gone previously?"* I thought to myself. Then I remembered that this was an Email game and there was no reason why I could not adopt my OTB attitude!

16 ... ♖c7 17 h4 ♗a6 18 h5 ♗c5 [18 ... ♗d7?! 19 h6 g6 20 f4 (20 ♗xd7 ♖xd7 21 ♗xb6 ♖fb8); 18 ... ♗e8? ties the knight to all the wrong squares; 18 ... a4? 19 ♗xa4 ♖xc4 20.Bc6±] 19 ♖c2?! [19 ♗xc5 bxc5 20 g5 ♗d7 21 g6!; 19 g5 ♗xb3 (19 ... ♗fd7) 20 axb3

♗d7 21 g6!] 19 ... ♗fd7! increasing my options against the inevitable g5. 20 ♗d2 ♖a7 21 g5 f5 22 gxf6 ♗xf6 23 ♖dg1 [23 f4? ♗g4!] 23 ... ♗d8 24 ♗e4 ♗fxe4 25 fxe4± ♖c8 26 ♖g3 ♖af7 27 ♖g2 ♖h8 28 ♖g1 ♖c7 29 ♖g4 ♗d3 30 b3 ♗f2



31 ♗e8? offering the continuation "if 6858 then 31. 5362". Not only does he miss the immediate 31 ♗xb6! but he also denies himself the chance to play this next move. 31 ... ♖xe8!? [I would have tried 31 ... ♗xg4 32 ♗xf7 a4!?] 32 ♗xf2? [32 ♗xb6!] 32 ... a4! 33 h6

White offered a draw. I would have played on, but this draw secured Scotland a place in the Final. ½-½ My notes show that I intended to continue 33 ... g6 34 ♖c1 axb3 35 axb3 ♗e7 36 ♗e3 ♖a8.

For nearly a decade, George Pyrich held the record for the longest continuation I had ever been offered in a correspondence game. His ten move suggestion came in the early stages of a Ruy Lopez. The following game has for some reason been well published in foreign magazines. Alas, the various editors were unaware that I had been offered the longest suggested

continuation I am ever likely to receive.

**Guillermo Rivas Romero (Peru) v  
Tom Craig (Scotland)**  
Caro-Kann B10  
Luis Paucar Perez Memorial 1997/8

The most obvious difference between a CC and OTB event is that all the games take place at the same time. With nearly all of my opponents as White playing 1 e4, I had to introduce some variety. I chose to vary from my normal Sicilian Defence.

1 ... c6 2 c4

When I make my contribution to "my most memorable opponent" series, it will be difficult to choose between Rev Dinwoodie and Guillermo. He was 48 years old when this game began. His telegram-style comments which accompanied his moves never failed to be uplifting or to raise a smile.

"I use to be an executive of American and network companies, but as terrorism threatened me I start to live on my principal hobby and became an advertising photographer"(sic)

2 ... d5 3 exd5 cxd5 [3 ... ♗f6!?] 4 cxd5 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 ♗xd5 6 ♗f3 ♗xc3 7 bxc3 g6 8 d4 ♗g7 9 ♗d3 ♗c6 10 0-0 0-0 11 ♖e1 ♗g4 [11 ... b6] 12 ♗e4 [12 h3] 12 ... ♖c8 13 ♗g5 ♖d7 14 h3 ♗xf3 15 ♖xf3 e6 16 ♗f6 ["if 16 ... ♗xf6 17 ♖xf6"; 16 ♖ad1] 16 ... ♗a5! 17 ♗xg7 ♖xg7 18 ♖ad1 [18 d5 ♖fe8!?] 18 ... f5! [18 ... b6 19 d5] 19 ♗1 [19 ♗c2 ♖d5!?] 19 ... b6

My notes show that I had intended to play 19 ... ♖c6?! but I wisely chose to use up a significant chunk of my accumulated time to find

something more sensible. OTB you almost will your opponent to use up his time. I am constantly amazed in CC how many opponents become irate because I choose to make full use of the time available!

20 ♖c1

"At Last! You are alive after all. Thanks to God! Here we have some political struggle to save the democracy."

20 ... ♗c6 21 ♗e2 ♖fe8 22 ♗e5+ ["if 22 ... ♗g8 23 ♗d3"] 22 ... ♗f7 23 ♗d3 ♗c4 24 ♗f4 ♗d6 25 ♗xd6 ♗xd6 26 ♗a6 ♖c7 27 c4! ♗e4 28 f3 ♗f6 29 c5 ♗d5 30 a3 ♖b8 31 ♗f2 bxc5 32 ♖xc5 ♖b2+ [32 ... ♖b6!? 33 ♗c8 ♖b2+ 34 ♖e2 (34 ♗f1)] 33 ♖e2 ♖xe2+ 34 ♗xe2 ♖b7 35 ♗b5 f4!? 36 g4

The most difficult aspect of annotating a game is avoiding criticising an opponent for playing a move I would never consider. I think we were both playing obscure moves to try and take the full point!

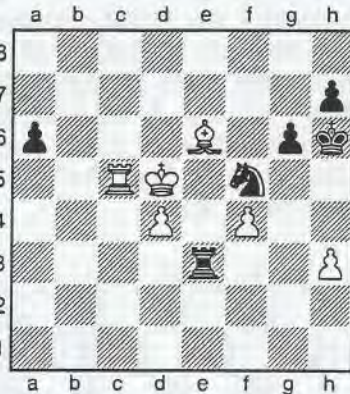
36 ... fxcg3+ 37 ♗xg3

Looking back at my notes, I see that I had begun to miscalculate my position over the next few moves. CC provides an opportunity to document exactly how you were thinking about a position, untarnished by the subsequent course of the game or by the post-mortem afterwards.

37 ... ♗e7 38 ♗f4 ♗f6 39 ♗e4 ♗f5 40 a4 a6 41 ♗c4! [41 ♗xa6 ♖b4] 41 ... ♖b4 42 a5! [42 ♖c6 ♖xa4 43 ♖xe6+ ♗f7] 42 ... ♖a4!? [42 ... ♗d6+ 43 ♗d3 ♗xc4 44 ♖xc4 ♖b3+ 45 ♖c3] 43 ♖c6 ♗g5 44 ♗e5?

"It looks like a better final for you." It is now! 44.Bxe6 Nxd4; 44.Bb3.

44 ... ♖xa5+ 45 ♖c5 ♖a3 46 f4+ ♗h6 [46 ... ♗h4 47 ♗xe6 ♖e3+ 48 ♗f6 ♗xd4] 47 ♗xe6 ♖e3+ 48 ♗d5



Guillermo now gives the longest conditional reply I have ever been offered. 15 Moves! I took ten days' reflection time to carefully choose the best point to vary from his suggested continuation.

48 ... ♗xd4 49 ♗g4 ♗e2 50 ♖c4 a5 51 ♗c5 ♗g1 52 h4 ♗f3 53 ♗b5 ♗xh4 54 ♗xa5 ♖b3!

The offered variation had continued 54 ... ♗g7 55 ♗b6 h5 56 ♗d7 ♗f3 57 ♗c5 h4 58 ♖a4 ♖c3+ 59 ♗d5 ♗d2 60 ♗g4 h3 61 ♖a7+ ♗h8 62 ♖a8+

55 ♖d4 ♗f5 56 ♖d2 ♖g3 57 ♗xf5 [57 ♗e2? ♖g2!; 57 ♗d1 ♗e3; 57 ♖h2+ ♗g7] 57 ... gxf5 58 ♖h2+ ♗g6 59 ♖d2 ♖g4 60 ♖f2 h5, 0-1



### Grading Amendment

In the previous magazine, Douglas Harvey was incorrectly shown as DJ Harvey with an international grade. In fact Douglas has no middle initial, and his international results have been confused with those of a US player, Donald J Harvey.

Douglas does not currently qualify for an international grade. His Scottish grade has now been recalculated as 1980, from 143 results.

[by Raymond Baxter]

## ICCF Email Team Tournament Final

No	Board 1 : Tom Craig	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Felber, R Austria-2 2369	◆			½				½		
2	Esses, M CAPA2/ARG 2350	◆							½		
3	Leko, P Szeged/HUN 2694		◆								
4	Alvarez Villar, H CITEFA/ARG 2321			◆							
5	de Groot, A NBC-1/NLD 2454	½			◆				½		
6	Craig, TJ Scotland-A 2425					◆					
7	Pankratov, V Russia-1 2500						◆				
8	Wang, Mong Lin Singapore 2511	½							◆		
9	Brueckner, J Rochade/GER 2442	½		½						◆	

No	Board 3 : Doug Finnie	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Schmidt, W Austria-2 2308	◆	½			0	0	0	0	½	
2	Frank, M CAPA2/ARG 2315	◆							½		
3	Berecz, A Szeged/HUN 2405	½	◆						½		
4	Fernandez, JH CITEFA/ARG 2317			◆							
5	van Wieringen, C NBC-1/NLD 2411	1			◆				½		
6	Finnie, DS Scotland-A 2377	1				◆					
7	Romanov, S Russia-1 2529	1					◆	½			
8	Tay, J Singapore 2200	1	½	½	½	½	½	◆	½		
9	Wrba, K Rochade/GER 2423	½							½	◆	

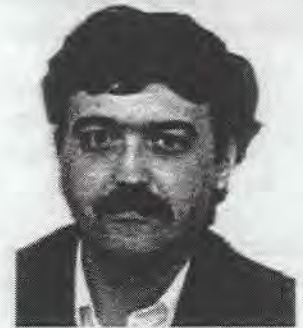
No	Board 2 : Philip Giulian	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Patocka, F Austria-2 2371	◆									
2	Taboada, P CAPA2/ARG 2441	◆									
3	Gyimesi, Z Szeged/HUN 2529		◆								
4	Gimenez, DM CITEFA/ARG 2385			◆							
5	Eveleens, W NBC-1/NLD 2411				◆						
6	Giulian, PM Scotland-A 2394					◆					
7	Pankratov, A Russia-1 2551						◆				
8	Kivisto, M Singapore 2296							◆			
9	Moessle, H Rochade/GER 2417									◆	

No	Board 4 : George Pyrich	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Haika, G Austria-2 2200	◆	½			½					
2	Domancich, E CAPA2/ARG 2290	½	◆				½				
3	Blazsik, Z Szeged/HUN 2245			◆		½					
4	Lamas, DG CITEFA/ARG 2200				◆						
5	Pommerel, W NBC-1/NLD 2394	½	½			◆					
6	Pyrich, GD Scotland-A 2377	½					◆				
7	Dolgov, IM Russia-1 2276							◆			
8	Livelo, JD Singapore 2200								◆		
9	Schreiner, R Rochade/GER 2200									◆	



# GAMES SECTION

Selected by GAMES EDITOR Bernard Milligan,  
15 Bothwell Court,  
Hawick.  
TD9 7EP.



Thanks to all of you who sent in games for this column. I am still short of games so a lot more would be appreciated. A couple of players did send in some interesting games which unfortunately had no annotations. It is always possible that I might find the time to annotate games myself but this is unlikely. To have a good chance of seeing your games in print, please take the extra time to annotate the games yourself before sending them in. Invariably those who took part in the game have a better insight into what was going on than myself.

We kick off this time out with a couple of games sent in by Arthur Knox. Arthur actually sent me a copy of all his games from this tournament but I've only selected two to leave space for games from other players. Arthur did very well by winning all but one of his games in this event to gain promotion to Class 1.

ICCF EU/III/1153

**White:** A Knox

**Black:** M Spackova

Ruy Lopez [C62]

[Annotator A Knox]

I am giving this game first as it was my only loss in the tournament. My opponent played the Steinitz Defence to my Ruy Lopez. As it has a rather passive reputation, I was immediately seized with an insane confidence that I was destined to win this game. It doesn't pay to be too cocky!!

1	e4	e5
2	♘f3	♘c6
3	♗b5	d6
4	d4	♗d7
5	d5	

At this point I got the idea referred to in my introductory remarks that my opponent was going to play a cautious and defensive game. This made me feel pretty good, as I said.

5	...	♘ce7
6	♙e2	a6
7	♗xd7+	♙xd7
8	c4	c5

Either locking the centre for the moment or giving herself the choice (after dxc6) of a central break with d5 at some point.

9	0-0	g6
10	♗d2	a5
11	♘c3	h6
12	♙d1	♘c8



The start of some complicated (to me!) and patient manoeuvring. The Knight has access to better squares from d7 than from a7.

13 ♙a4

I don't know why an exchange of Queens seemed good at this point.

13	...	♘b6
14	♙xd7+	♘xd7
15	b3	♗e7

Unexpected after preparing to fianchetto on g7. Still the Bishop

can support K-side pawn advances better from e7.

16	♗fb1	b6
17	♘e1	♘gf6
18	f3	



Establishing a very aesthetic looking pawn chain didn't you think?

18	...	g5
19	♘c2	♘f8
20	a3	

Preparing to push b4 and try to seize an open file.

20 ... ♘g6

She's not worried by the prospect of b4.

21	b4	a4
22	bxc5	bxc5
23	♗b7	0-0
24	♗ab1	g4?

Losing the h-pawn.

25 ♗xh6

I have won a pawn, am attacking her Rook and have doubled my own Rooks. I'm feeling pretty good about now!

25	...	♗fd8
26	♗1b6	

The start of an attempt to double Rooks on the seventh rank.

26 ... ♖d7  
27 ♖c6 gxf3  
28 gxf3 ♖h7  
29 ♗d2

Thinking there might be a use for the Bishop on the e1-a5 diagonal.

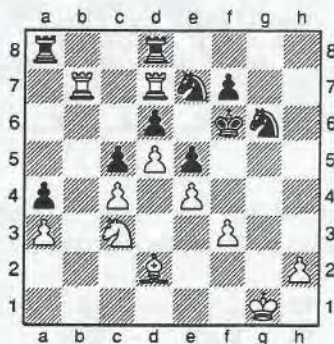
29 ... ♔g7  
30 ♖cc7 ♗f6  
31 ♗e3 ♗g8

Defending the Bishop again.

32 ♗f5+ ♖f6

Now the Bishop is adequately defended.

33 ♗xe7 ♗8xe7  
34 ♖d7



Hoping for a Rook exchange and the win of the d pawn.

34 ... ♖xd7  
35 ♖xd7 ♖a6  
36 ♗b5 ♗c8

Defending the d-pawn.

37 ♗c7 ♗f8  
38 ♗xa6 ♗xd7

Getting rid of the annoying Rook.

39 ♗c7 ♗db6

Attacking the c-pawn.

40 ♗b5 ♔e7  
41 ♖g2

Now I start trying to Queen the h pawn hoping the Knight will keep the King tied to the d-pawn and the black Knights won't get across in

time. The Bishop might be able to help too.

41 ... ♗xc4

Now material is level and Black has a passed pawn of her own.

42 ♗c1 ♗a5  
43 ♖g3 ♗b3  
44 ♗e3 ♗d4  
45 ♗xd4 exd4



The Knight exchange was a very good idea. Black now has two connected passed pawns against my one.

46 ♗d2 ♗b6  
47 ♖f2 c4

The pawn roller rolls!

48 ♖e2

The only chance now is to try to exchange the Bishop for the two passed pawns.

48 ... ♗d7  
49 ♗c1 ♗c5  
50 ♗f4 ♗d3  
51 ♗d2 ♗b2  
52 h4 c3

If ♗xc3, the King can't approach to get the second pawn and will be tied down to guarding it from queening. This will leave the h-pawn at the black King's mercy.

53 f4 f6  
54 h5 cxd2  
55 ♖xd2 ♗c4+

Forking King and pawn.

56 ♖d3 ♗xa3  
57 ♖xd4 ♗b5+  
58 ♖c4 a3

If 59 ♖b3 a2 60 ♖xa2 ♗c3 and the pawns fall. 0-1



ICCF EU/III/1153

White: A Knox

Black: R Rapp

Nimzovitch Defence. [B00]

[Annotator A Knox]

1 e4 ♗c6

A Nimzovitch Defence.

2 d4 d5  
3 ♗c3 e5  
4 exd5 ♗xd4

No pawn centres in this game. Who needs them?

5 ♗f3 ♗g4  
6 ♗e2 ♗xf3+  
7 ♗xf3 ♗xf3  
8 ♖xf3 ♗b4  
9 ♗d2 ♗f6  
10 0-0-0 0-0

I quite fancy White's chances here.

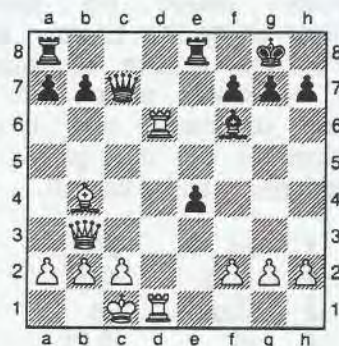
11 ♗e4 ♗e7  
12 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6  
13 ♗b4

Intending d6.

13 ... ♖e8

Intending e4 in return.

14 d6 e4  
15 ♖b3 cxd6  
16 ♖xd6 ♖c7  
17 ♖hd1



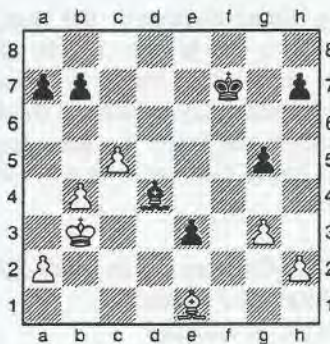
Doubling Rooks.

17 ... ♖ad8  
18 ♖d5 ♖xd6

19 ♔xd6 ♖c8  
 20 ♔xc7 ♖xc7  
 21 ♖e1 ♖c4  
 22 c3 ♗g5+  
 23 ♖d1 f5  
 24 b3 ♖c8  
 25 c4 ♗f4  
 26 g3 ♗g5  
 27 ♖e2 ♖d8  
 28 ♖d1 ♖xd1  
 29 ♖xd1 ♗f6  
 30 ♖c2 ♗d4  
 31 ♗e1 ♖f7

Now the endgame manoeuvring begins.

32 b4 g5  
 33 ♖b3 f4  
 34 c5 e3  
 35 fxe3 fxe3



Can anything be made of this passed pawn? That's the question.

36 ♖c4 ♗b2  
 37 ♖d5 ♗c1  
 38 ♗c3 ♗d2  
 39 ♖d4

The King's come back just in time. It was nearly a square too far away if it had continued to attack the a and b pawns.

39 ... ♗c1  
 40 ♖d3 g4  
 41 ♗d4 a6  
 42 a4 ♗d2  
 43 b5 axb5  
 44 axb5 ♖e6

Coming towards the potential passed pawn.

45 ♗xe3 ♗a5  
 46 ♖e4

Keeping his opposite number out of d5 and f5.

46 ... ♗b4  
 47 c6 bxc6  
 48 bxc6 ♖d6  
 49 ♖f5 ♖xc6  
 50 ♖xg4 ♖d5  
 51 ♖f5 ♗d6  
 52 ♗f4



Simon Gillam proved his pedigree by winning the Scottish Championship and has delighted us with his games over the years. I am sure he won't mind my including one of his few losses. Dave's play reminds us all that even Champions can be beaten so perhaps there is hope for us all.

Scottish Championship 1999

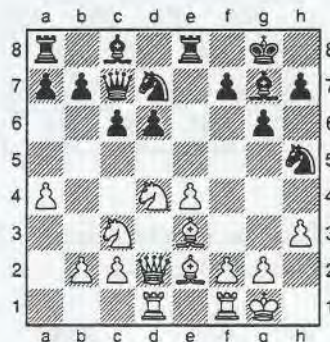
White: D Ellis  
 Black: S R Gillam

Pirc Defence [B08]  
 [Annotator Dave Ellis]

1 e4

This is my first attempt at annotating a game and I feel nervous about my analysis, especially with Simon being the new champion!

1 ... g6  
 2 d4 ♗g7  
 3 ♗f3 d6  
 4 ♗c3 ♗f6  
 5 ♗e2 0-0  
 6 0-0 c6  
 7 h3 ♖c7  
 8 ♗f4 ♗h5  
 9 ♗e3 e5  
 10 ♖d2 ♗d7  
 11 a4 ♖e8  
 12 ♖ad1 exd4  
 13 ♗xd4

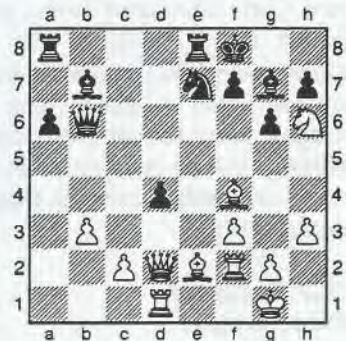


13 ... ♗hf6

14 f3 a6  
 15 ♖f2 d5  
 16 exd5 ♗xd5  
 17 ♗xd5 cxd5  
 18 a5 ♗e5  
 19 ♗f4 b5  
 20 axb6 ♖xb6  
 21 b3 ♗b7  
 22 ♗e3 ♗c6

Until here, I thought the position was equal, but after 22 ... ♗c6 things slowly go downhill for Black. Better was 22 ... ♖c7 23 f4 ♗c6 24 ♗xc6 ♖xc6 25 ♗f3 ♖c7.

23 ♗f5 d4  
 24 ♗h6+ ♖f8  
 25 ♗f4 ♗e7



If 25 ... d3 then 26 ♗xd3 ♗d4 27 ♗d6+ ♗e7 28 ♗c4 ♗e3 29 ♖c3 is good for White.

26 ♗g4 ♗d5  
 27 ♗h6 ♗c3

Black might try 27 ... f5 28 ♗h2 ♗c3 29 ♖e1 ♖e3 30 ♗xg7+.

28 ♖e1 ♗xe2+

Better for Black is 28 ... ♗xh6 29 ♖xh6+ ♖g8 30 ♖d2.

29 ♖exe2 ♖xe2  
 30 ♖xe2 ♖d8  
 31 ♖h1 ♗c8

An improvement for Black is 31 ... d3 32 cxd3 ♖d6 33 ♖b2 ♖d4 34 ♖a3+.

32 ♖g5 ♗xg4  
 33 ♖e5

After this, Black's position is hard to defend with many threatening checks against the exposed king.

33 ... ♗e6  
 34 ♖xg7+ ♜e8  
 35 ♜d2 ♜d5  
 36 ♖xh7 ♜d7  
 37 ♖h8 ♖b4  
 38 h4 ♖d6  
 39 ♗g5 ♜c6  
 40 ♗f6 ♖f4  
 41 ♖a8+ ♜b6  
 42 ♗d8+ ♜c5  
 43 ♜d1 ♖d6  
 44 ♗a5 ♖c6  
 45 ♖b8

1 0  
 ♔♔♔♔♔

Geoff Lloyd provided the following encounter against Chris Dowell. Considering the fact that I have just blundered two games against Geoff Lloyd in the team league, Geoff can consider himself fortunate that I don't bear any grudges. And for all those plotting revenge, please remember that my losses are strictly banned from the magazine!!!!

SCCA Challenge  
 White: G Lloyd  
 Black: C Dowell

Polish Defence [A05]  
 [Annotator G Lloyd]

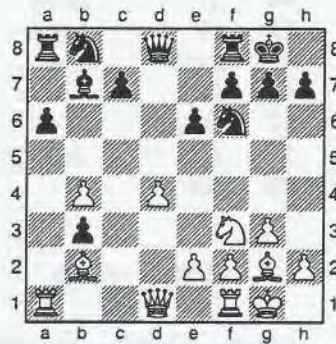
**TROUBLE DOWNT MILL**

1 ♜f3 ♜f6  
 2 g3 b5  
 3 ♗g2 ♗b7  
 4 0-0 e6  
 5 b3 ♗d6  
 6 d4 0-0  
 7 ♗a3 a6

Prevents any ideas White may have about b5.

8 c4 bxc4  
 9 ♗xc4 ♗b4  
 10 ♗b2 d5  
 11 a3 dxc4  
 12 axb4 cxb3

Please send games, preferably annotated, to the SCCA Magazine Games Editor:  
 Bernard Milligan,  
 15 Bothwell Court,  
 Hawick,  
 Roxburghshire,  
 TD9 OBA.



Don't under-estimate that pawn.

13 ♖xb3 ♖d6  
 14 ♜fc1 ♗c6

Attacks the isolani on b4.

15 ♖c4

White is in command.

15 ... ♗d5

Increasing the pressure on the isolated pawn on b4.

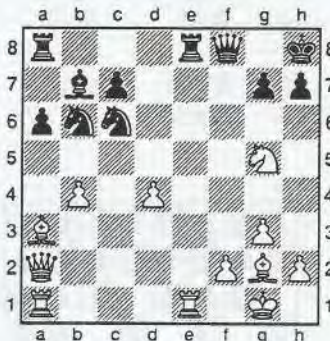
16 ♗a3 ♜fd8  
 17 ♗g5 f5±

17 ... ♖d7±

18 e4 fxe4  
 19 ♗xe4 ♖f8  
 20 ♜e1 ♗b6+-

20 ... ♖f5!±

21 ♖xe6+ ♜h8  
 22 ♗g5 ♜e8  
 23 ♖a2



23 ♗xc6 is clearly weaker. 23 ... ♜xe6 24 ♗xe6 ♖c8=.

23 ... ♜xe1+  
 24 ♜xe1 g6

25 ♖e6 ♗d8

25 ... ♖f5 doesn't make things any easier. 26 ♗xc6 ♖xe6 27 ♜xe6 (27 ♗xe6?! ♗xc6 28 ♜c1 ♗b5+-) 27 ... ♗xc6 28 ♜xc6+-.

26 ♖e5+

There's TROUBLE DOWN AT MILL Mr ARKWRIGHT.

26 ... ♖g7  
 27 ♖e8+ ♖g8  
 28 ♗xb7  
 1 0

28 ♗xb7 ♜b8 29 ♗f3+-.

♔♔♔♔♔

OK so I lied about not letting my losses appear in the magazine, but who can blame me for allowing the odd loss through when my opponents play so well. I think most readers will enjoy the way Jonathan put me to the sword in the following game.

SCCA Championship 1999-2000  
 White: C J Lennox  
 Black: B Milligan

Reversed Benko [A09]  
 [Annotator Jonathan Lennox]

1 ♗f3 d5  
 2 c4 d4  
 3 g3 c5  
 4 b4 cxb4  
 5 a3 e6

A reversed Benko. Personally I wouldn't dream of letting my opponent play such a critical variation with an extra tempo, but Bernard's play is nothing if not optimistic! [BM: Actually, my opponents will testify to the fact that I play some weird and wonderful opening variations! Somehow I seem to get some enjoyable games even if the results suffer!]

6 ♗g2 ♗c6  
 7 0-0 ♗f6  
 8 ♗b2 bxa3  
 9 ♗xa3 ♗c5  
 10 ♗e1! e5  
 11 ♗d3 ♗d6



A better chance than either 26 ... h1=♖ 27 ♖xh1 ♖xh1 28 ♖f8+ or 26 ... ♖d8 27 ♖xc8!

27 ♖e4+ ♖e6  
28 ♖xc7 h1=♖

The h-pawn has done all that could be expected of it, but...

29 ♖e7+ ♖d8  
30 ♖xh1

I don't recall ever capturing two queens in three moves before!

30 ... ♖xh1  
31 ♖d4+ ♖c8  
32 ♖e8+ ♖c7  
33 ♖xa8 ♖h5  
34 ♖e8  
1 0

34 ... b5 35 ♖e7+ ♖c6 36 ♖d6# would be a fitting finish to the attack on the black squares! [BM: What can you say but thanks for an enjoyable game? Jonathan taught me a valuable lesson, which somehow I doubt I will benefit from as I tend to make the same errors again and again!]



Regular contributor David Cumming provides the next two games from his Candidates matches.

SCCA Candidates

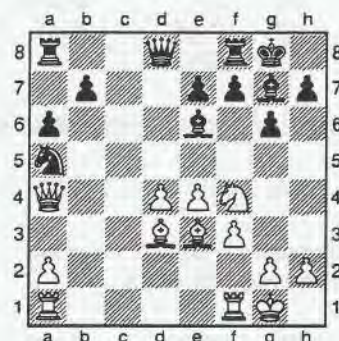
White: G H Bird

Black: D R Cumming

Grunfeld Defence [D89]

[Annotator *D R Cumming*]

1 d4 ♖f6  
2 c4 g6  
3 ♖c3 d5  
4 cxd5 ♖xd5  
5 e4 ♖xc3  
6 bxc3 ♖g7  
7 ♖c4 0-0  
8 ♖e2 c5  
9 ♖e3 ♖c6  
10 0-0 ♖g4  
11 f3 ♖a5  
12 ♖d3 cxd4  
13 cxd4 ♖e6  
14 ♖a4 a6  
15 ♖f4?!



My own opinion, not theory's!

15 ... b5!  
16 ♖xe6 fxe6  
17 ♖a3 ♖xd4  
18 ♖xd4 ♖xd4+  
19 ♖h1 ♖c6

With a slight advantage to Black, as in Ji Y vs Deng k, China 1989.

20 ♖ad1 ♖b6  
21 ♖b3 ♖d4  
22 ♖b2 ♖fd8  
23 e5 ♖ac8  
24 ♖d2 ♖c5

Planning to pressurise the pawn on e5, hoping that White will feel obliged to open the king-side up with f4 and ultimately g3.

25 ♖fd1 ♖c6  
26 f4 ♖e3  
27 g3 ♖f3+  
28 ♖g1 ♖d4  
29 ♖f1?!

29 ♖xb5 was much better.

29 ... ♖xd1  
30 ♖xd1 ♖f3+  
31 ♖f2 ♖xd1  
32 ♖xf3



Otherwise I was threatening the Rook fork from d2.

Black makes the critical decision to allow the capture of the black-squared bishop. 11 ... ♖e7 would of course permit White to regain his pawn by 12 ♖xc6+, but it would by no means clearly be good to do so.

12 ♖b5 e4  
13 ♖xd6+ ♖xd6  
14 ♖a3 ♖e6  
15 ♖f4 ♖e5

15 ... ♖xc4 16 d3 is awkward for Black. Now, my original intention was also 16 d3, but after rejecting that and 16 ♖b1, I fortunately settled on a strong move.

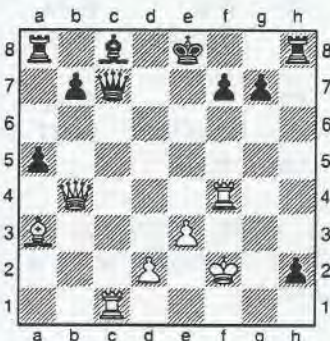
16 ♖b1! h5

Watch this pawn!

17 ♖d5 ♖xd5  
18 cxd5 ♖xd5  
19 ♖xe4 ♖e6  
20 e3 dxe3  
21 fxe3 h4

Now I had planned 22 ♖f5 ♖h6 23 ♖xc8 hxg3 24 ♖d7+! but when I noticed that Black could play 22 ... ♖d5 instead, I looked for something better.

22 ♖f4! hxg3  
23 ♖xc6+ ♖xc6  
24 ♖b4 gxh2+  
25 ♖f2 ♖c7  
26 ♖c1 a5



32 ... ♖xf1+  
 33 ♔g2 ♖d1  
 34 ♔h3

Apparent safety for the white King.

34 ... ♔f7

Because White was now threatening 35 ♖b3.

35 ♖e2 ♖cd8  
 36 ♖b2 ♖8d2  
 37 ♖a3 h5!?

Instead of defending my queen-side pawns, I decided to create mating threats to White's "safe" King.

38 ♖f3 ♖a1  
 39 ♖e4 ♖axa2  
 40 ♔h4

Otherwise 40 ... ♖xh2 is +mate! But now if I play 40 ... ♖xh2, White plays 41 ♔g5 and the position looks extremely promising for White, so...

40 ... ♖e2!  
 41 ♖d3 ♖ad2!  
 42 ♖b1 ♖xh2+  
 43 ♔g5 ♖c2!

Blocking the white Queen's attack on the g6 pawn.

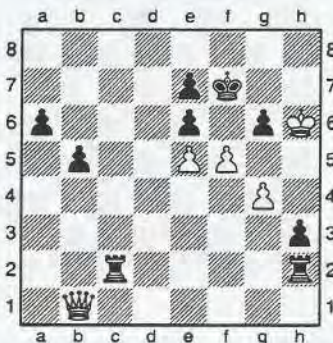
44 ♔h6 h4!  
 45 g4

45 gxh4?? ♖cg2 and very soon White gets mated!

45 ... h3

Now it's an advanced passed pawn with a strong threat of promotion.

46 f5



White's last card; he opens up the position around the Black King in order to be able to do some damage with his Queen, winning a few pawns, hoping for a blunder with a route to mate or failing that a perpetual check.

46 ... gxf5  
 47 gxf5 exf5  
 48 ♖b3+ e6  
 49 ♖e3 ♖hd2

I considered c2 and d2 the best squares for my two Rooks, preventing the white Queen from having access to the c-file and planning to block a future check with my d2 Rook.

50 ♖g5

Of course not 50 ♖xh3?? ♖h2 and it's a simple win for Black.

50 ... h2  
 51 ♖f6+ ♔e8  
 52 ♖xe6+ ♔d8  
 53 ♖b6+ ♔d7  
 54 e6+ ♔e7  
 55 ♖b7+ ♔xe6  
 56 ♖xa6+ ♖d6  
 57 ♖a1 b4  
 58 ♖b1 ♖g2  
 59 ♔h5??

A blunder in a lost position.

59 ... ♖d8  
 60 ♖e1+ ♔f7

It's mate in 3. White cannot prevent both ... ♖h8+ and h1=♖+. He can only stop one of those moves from mating (if, for example, he plays 61 ♖a1) thereafter the other move will give mate. 61 ♖g3 ♖xg3 62 ♔h4 ♖dg8 63 ♔h5 and I have a choice between h1=♖+ mate and ♖h3+ mate and ♖h8+ mate. Alternatively he could play 61 ♖e6/7/8 check, but this only prolongs the game for one more move and it's still mate on the next move, hence Graham's resignation.

0 1



SCCA Candidates  
 White: D R Cumming  
 Black: S G Mackenzie

Evans Gambit [C51]  
 [Annotator D R Cumming]

1 e4 e5  
 2 ♘f3 ♘c6  
 3 ♙c4 ♙c5  
 4 b4 ♙xb4  
 5 c3 ♙c5  
 6 d4 exd4  
 7 cxd4

7 0-0 was the main line, but the text immediately creates a strong pawn centre and steers the game away from better known lines.

7 ... ♙b4+

7 ... ♙b6 was the alternative.

8 ♙d2

"This move is relatively unanalysed but has given good results so far," - Tim Harding.

8 ... ♙f6



I was expecting 8 ... ♙xd2+. The text takes me out of theory altogether so I was now playing chess.

9 e5 ♖e7  
 10 0-0 ♘e4  
 11 ♙xb4 ♖xb4  
 12 ♖e2 h6  
 13 a3 ♖a4  
 14 ♙xf7+ ♔xf7  
 15 ♖xe4

Thus, White regains his pawn and possibly emerges with a slight advantage.

15 ... ♖e8  
 16 ♖d5+ ♔f8



17 ♖c3 ♗e7  
 18 ♜b5 ♜xb5  
 19 ♖xb5 ♗d5  
 20 ♖ac1 c6



An unavoidable positional concession, leaving White a nice knight outpost on d6.

21 ♖d6! ♖e6  
 22 ♖fe1 b6  
 23 ♖d2 ♗a6  
 24 ♖2c4 ♗xc4  
 25 ♖xc4 b5  
 26 ♖c5 ♖b8  
 27 f3

To make space for the white King to enter the fray.

27 ... g5  
 28 ♔f2 ♖g6  
 29 ♖e4 ♔e7  
 30 h4 ♗f4

Threatening 31 ... ♖d3+ forking King and Rook so ...

31 ♖c2 ♔e6  
 32 g3 ♖d5  
 33 h5 ♖g7  
 34 f4?!

Perhaps this was mistaken, opening the g-file where Black's Rooks could quickly take advantage.

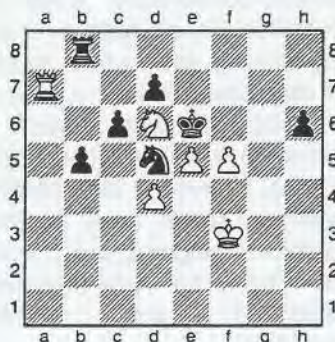
34 ... gxf4  
 35 gxf4 ♖e7

Guarding against 36 f5+.

36 ♔f3 ♖bg8  
 37 ♖ee2 ♖g3+  
 38 ♔f2 ♖xa3?

Greedy. This was opening the a-file to White's advantage! Preferable was ... ♖h3 intending 39 ... ♖xh5.

39 ♖a2 ♖h3  
 40 ♖xa7 ♖xh5  
 41 ♖e4 ♖h2+  
 42 ♔e1 ♖xe2+  
 43 ♔xe2 ♖d8  
 44 ♖c5+ ♔f5  
 45 ♔f3 ♖d5  
 46 ♖b7! ♖b8  
 47 ♖d6+ ♔e6  
 48 f5+!



At last this long awaited move can be played with gain of tempo too!

48 ... ♔e7  
 49 ♖e4 b4

Black vainly seeks counterplay by pushing his protected passed pawn, but ...

50 f6+ ♔f8  
 51 ♖c5! ♖b6  
 52 e6! b3  
 53 exd7  
 1 0

One possible finish could be 53 exd7 b2 54 d8= ♖+ ♖xd8 55 ♖e6+ ♔g8 56 f7+ ♔h8 57 ♖xd8 ♔g7 58 ♖e6+ ♔f6 59 f8= ♖+ ♔xe6 60 ♖e7+ ♔f5 61 ♖e5+ ♔g6 62 ♖g7#, thus proving that Black's b-pawn had become irrelevant.



Finally, a neat little miniature from Dr Frank Teunisse in another SCCA Championship game. It never ceases to amaze me the diversity of Openings which crop up in this competition.

SCCA Championship, 1999

White: F Teunisse

Black: A N Macmillan

Reversed Slav Exchange [A00]  
 [Annotator Dr Frank Teunisse]

1 d3 c5  
 2 c3 ♖c6  
 3 d4 cxd4  
 4 cxd4 d5

A Slav Exchange variation with colours reversed. According to BCO2, this takes the fun out of playing the Slav. Does it...?!

5 e4!

Thanks to Black having played ♖c6 before ♖f6, it is possible to play this gambit

5 ... dxe4  
 6 d5 ♖e5!?

Although at the time of the game I thought 6 ... ♖a5+ would lose to 7 b4! I am not so sure now, and think this may win for Black

7 ♖a4+ ♖d7  
 8 ♖c3 ♖gf6  
 9 ♗f4 g6  
 10 ♖b5! ♖xd5



I looked here at 11 ♖xe4. Now 11 ... ♖xf4 and 11 ... ♖5f6 both lose to 12 ♖d6#. If 11 ... e6, then 12 0-0-0 seems fine for White. But 11 ... ♖7f6 solves all Black's problems! So...

11 ♗e5!

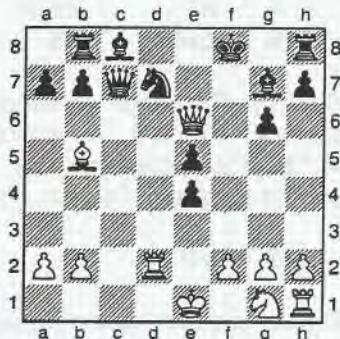
The bishop cannot be taken because of ♖c7#.

11 ... f6  
 12 ♖d1 fxe5  
 13 ♖xd5 ♗g7?

Better was 13 ... e6.

14 ♖c4! e6  
 15 ♖c7+ ♔e7  
 16 ♖d2 ♖b8

17 ♔xe6+ ♕f8  
18 ♖b5! ♔xc7



What else? If 18 ... ♔f6 19 ♔e8#, or 18 ... ♔e7 19 ♖xd7.

19 ♖c4

The clue to 18 ♖b5!

19 ... ♔xc4  
20 ♔xc4 b5  
21 ♔c7 ♕e7  
22 ♖h3 ♖d8?  
23 ♔d6+  
1 0

Black resigns in view of 23 ... ♕f7 24 ♖g5+ ♕g8 25 ♔e6+ ♕h8 26 ♖f7+ ♕g8 27 ♖h6++ ♕h8 28 ♔g8+ ♖xg8 29 ♖f7#. A nice 19th century knockabout!

Please send games, preferably annotated, to the SCCA Magazine Games Editor: Bernard Milligan, 15 Bothwell Court, Hawick, Roxburghshire, TD9 0BA.



Whilst on holiday in Corfu, Alan took some time out to annotate a recent game with some theoretical interest.

For nearly 40 years, I have participated as a member of the York Chess Club Correspondence Team in the British CC Championships. Before moving to Scotland in 1965, I started this team and was captain/organiser for my old chess club, of which I am still a Vice-President. Only a small number of my old friends are still playing but it is good to keep in touch with them in this way.

This season, York are playing in the the British Correspondence Chess League Championship and I was on top board against a strong opponent

from the Mensa Club. This is one of our very interesting games; the other has been sent for adjudication. [I have just heard it was a draw - Ed.]

I decided to employ a rather unusual line against the French which is designed to take the black player into an open and tactical position, in which he might not be entirely comfortable. It also has the considerable advantage of gambiting an early pawn which, in the days of computers, is quite a good way of avoiding positions where piece valuation is an important factor. Of course, I have no idea whether my opponent might have access to a computer program, but I rather like the idea of an early departure into uncharted and unbalanced positions.

White: A.P. Borwell (York)  
Black: P.C. Doye (Mensa)

French Defence (C00)

1 e4 e6  
2 b3

This move is much better than its reputation, for the reasons I have already given above.

2 ..... d5  
3 ♖b2 dxe4

Black is better to take the pawn because 3 ... ♖f6 4 exd5 exd5 5 ♔e2+!? ♖e6 6 ♖f3 ♖e7 7 ♖g5 is promising for White.

4 ♖c3 ♖f6  
5 ♔e2 ♖b4

If 5 ... ♖e7 6 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 7 ♔xe4 ♖f6 8 d4 ♔d5 9 ♔e3 0-0 10 0-0-0 ♖c6 11 ♖f3 is good for White. Totsky-Rapport, Minsk 1996, saw White winning in 16 moves!

6 0-0-0 ♖xc3

Here 6 ... ♔e7 is playable but 7 ♖xe4 or 7 ♕b1 both give White excellent chances.

7 dxc3! ♔e7  
8 g4

White has two bishops, an advantage in development and a tactical initiative!

8 ..... ♔c5

This was unexpected, but 8 ... h6 9 ♖g2 e5 10 h3 ♖d7 11 ♔e3! ♖c6 12 c4 ♖bd7 13 ♖e2 0-0 14 ♖g3 is promising for White. I think that 8 ... ♔c5 is better and requires White to play strongly for advantage.

9 h4 h6  
10 ♖g2 ♖c6  
11 ♖xe4

I was a little reluctant to exchange one of my bishops for a knight but White must open up lines quickly.

11 ..... h5  
12 g5 ♖xe4  
13 ♔xe4 ♔xf2

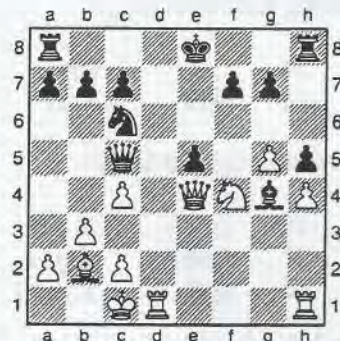


Here a computer would probably give a favourable assessment to Black but the position is clearly better for White.

14 ♖h3 ♔c5

If 14 ... ♔f5, then 15 ♔xf5 exf5 16 ♖he1+ ♖e6 17 ♖f4 ♖d8 18 ♖xd8+ ♔xd8 19 c4 ♖g8 20 ♖xh5 g6 21 ♖f6 ♖h8 22 h5 gxh5 23 g6 fxg6 24 ♖xe6 h4 25 ♖d5 ♖g8 26 ♕d2 and White's extra piece and greater activity will decide.

15 c4 e5  
16 ♖f4 ♖g4



17 ♖g6!!

Much better than 17 ♖d2 0-0! 18 ♗d5 ♜e7 when if White captures on e5, the pin after ♖e8 is a real nuisance. If 17 ♖d5 ♜e7 18 ♗xe5 0-0 19 ♖e1, then Black has several plausible moves. White's position may look menacing but there is a lack of piece cohesion for attacking purposes.

The move played is much more dynamic and forcing.

17 ..... ♗xd1  
18 ♖xd1 fxg6?

Better is 18 ... ♖d8 19 ♖xd8 ♗xd8 20 ♗xh8+ ♜g1+ 21 ♗d2 ♜f2+ 22 ♗d1 when Black may even escape with a draw. However, White could have a better continuation! The finish now is rather elegant.



19 ♜xg6+ ♖f8  
20 ♖f1+ ♖g8  
21 ♜e6+ ♖h7  
22 g6+ ♖h6  
23 ♖b1 ♜e3

The only move to stop mate.

24 ♗c1 ♜xc1+  
25 ♖xc1 ♖hf8



It looks as though Black may have escaped from immediate disaster and could still have some chances, despite the material, but . . .

26 ♖xf8 ♖xf8  
27 ♜f7!!

If the black rook moves to another file, White mates the trapped king via f5/g5. Capture of the queen simply allows White to convert the pawn into another one - so it's all over!

1 0



## CC OLYMPIAD - FINAL XI

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts	%
1= Czechoslovakia	◆	3	4	3½	4½	3½	4	3	3½	6	4	2½	4	45½	63
Germany	3	◆	3	3	3	3½	2½	4½	4	5	3½	6	4½	45½	63
3= Canada	2	3	◆	3	2½	3½	3½	4	3½	3½	4	3	4½	40	56
Scotland	2½	3	3	◆	3	3	3	4½	3½	4½	3½	3½	3	40	56
5 Russia	1½	3	3½	3	◆	2½	4	3½	3½	3½	4	3	4	39	54
6 Poland	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	◆	3½	4	2	3½	2½	5½	3½	38½	53
7 Sweden	2	3½	2½	3	2	2½	◆	3½	4	3	4	3½	3	36½	51
8= England	3	1½	2	1½	2½	2	2½	◆	3	4½	4½	3½	4	34½	48
Netherlands	2½	2	2½	2½	2½	4	2	3	◆	2	4	4½	3	34½	48
10 Hungary	0	1	2½	1½	2½	2½	3	1½	4	◆	3½	4	4	30	42
11 Denmark	2	2½	2	2½	2	3½	2	1½	2	2½	◆	3	4	29½	41
12 USA	3½	0	3	2½	3	½	2½	2½	1½	2	3	◆	3½	27½	38
13 Romania	2	1½	1½	3	2	2½	3	2	3	2	2	2½	◆	27	38

Gold medals were awarded to the teams of Czecho-slovakia and Germany and Bronze medals to Canada and Scotland at the ICCF Congress in Thun, Switzerland on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1999.

These four teams also re-qualified for Olympiad Final XII along with Brazil, Qatar, Latvia, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and Lithuania, in which play began in May 1998.

# Bobby Fischer

## An Attempt at Analysis

### Concluding Part

[by Carlos Almarza-Mato]

#### Positional Transformations: Switching Advantages

Some authors have written *passim* about this matter, saying that Fischer was a master at switching advantages, etc. Most of what has been written for over 30 years now reflects the truth, BUT lacks the necessary integrated vision. Fischer's craftsmanship at switching advantages and carrying out positional transformations is well-known. We can define the matter of positional transformations as the strategical alterations in the position in search of capitalizing a positional advantage. It is an intrinsically dynamic process, since if it is not carried out, the opponent may be able to defend his position successfully. The process itself is made up of two different stages: (1) the obtention of the advantages; (2) the transformation (very often through heavy exchange of pieces, but also through an exchange sacrifice) of the advantage (static) into a dynamic development. We are not speaking of combinative solutions, although we have to admit that a combination is but a drastic example of transformation. Nevertheless, let's consider the matter in a purely strategical mode.

The ways in which the struggle may be transformed, as it has been said, are different, but somehow standard. The point which reflects Fischer's craftsmanship and genius lies in two facts :-

1. How he was able to obtain advantage in his games, and
2. How he realised the key points of the game so as to carry out the process.

Fischer was able to steer his games into advantageous positions, thanks to different features: he knew the openings he used deeply and after a profound analytical home effort. This is why some of his victories

came out right after the book moves where he had found a hole at home.

On the other hand, his tactical insight, his strategical intuition, his machine-like way of calculating variations and also his will to win, provided him with a terrible weapon to use against all his rivals.

The perfect link between the process of getting the advantage and the precise timing to switch one advantage for another so as to liquidate each position into a winning technical process eliminating what was an accessory in a Capablanca fashion and jumping at the opponent in an Alekhinian way is what turned him into a chess genius.

Books about Fischer are full of brilliancies: combinations, quick attacks, etc. Nevertheless, I would like to stress that in Fischer "all that glitters is not (only) tactics." If one wants to understand this genius, one must be ready to admit that Fischer was a perfect positional player too. The matter is that when confronted with such a chess-player, most of his rivals were simply unable to understand his ideas and withstand the terrible strategical pressure on the board, so committing mistakes that Bobby was ready to punish tactically.

Fischer was years ahead of most of his contemporaries, and perhaps only the Russians with their enormous machinery working (for example, these are some of the names from that period: Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Keres, Geller, Korchnoi, Stein, Botvinnik, Taimanov, Kotov, etc. And what about the Jugoslavs? Gligoric, Matanovic, Matulovic, Ivkov. The Hungarians with Portisch on top, etc.) were the ones who could match, sometimes hamper but having to give in at last, to Fischer.

#### How can Fischer's style be understood?

Fischer himself defined his chess style as "eclectic", that is, one that integrates the best characteristics from different and not always related sources. Let's labour a bit about all this.

Generally speaking, Fischer is regarded as a "classical" chess-player. We have been using this word for many years and labelling with it the style of different players but I wonder what the meaning of it is. So we could try to define Fischer's style following a "negative path." Fischer is not a bizarre (Nimzowitsch-like) player. Fischer is not a speculative player (like Tal, for instance). Fischer is not like Reti, Spielman, Lasker or Alekhine. In fact, Fischer is in a class by himself. His strategical approach to the game is that of Capablanca and Steinitz: subtle, smooth, unrelenting. But Fischer developed himself as a player with the games, theoretical articles and influences of the so-called Soviet Chess School. He is a positional player with all the implications concerning the theoretical background. But Nature and work gave him the deadliest of weapons in the hands of a strategist: an overwhelming tactical (combinative and analytical) ability. And most annotators confronted with his tactical masterpieces forget that tactics in Fischer are but the peak of an enormous strategical iceberg. In my opinion, he was the first in developing the concept of dynamic strategy, for his style is dynamism in itself. He found new methods to deal with the problem of fighting for the initiative or defend actively, always keeping the game alive and burning. This has not been invented by Kasparov or Suba. In the matter of the openings, I am ready to accept that Kasparov is the best, but in the

middle-game and all the processes involved, Fischer is light years ahead. Today's Russian trainers know a lot about it. But "Cold War" and "propaganda" had their own rules.

### Fischer's influences and a psychological approach

All chess-players, even those who have been considered as geniuses, have learnt from their predecessors. They have their own preferred idols from the past and have extracted the best from them, blending all that with their modern approach to the game, so improving themselves and making chess advance with new ideas.

Several authors have written about Fischer's influences. As a genuine loner, he devoted all his energy to chess, creating a world of his own where nobody else could enter and damage him. He strove to depend only on him, trying to dismiss any sort of chance, anything depending on good or bad luck. Fischer, simply, could not bear an imperfect and unjust world. He needed a perfect world and all he did was aimed at obtaining that goal. It is very easy to put adjectives before his name and smile in the belief that those who do not accept the world are "mad" while the sheepish crowd moving in a robot-like fashion, without ideas, are "right." I beg to differ . . . Fischer's "sin" was to keep himself aloof from an imperfect world trying to find his own way without accepting the hypocritical decrees of a cynical society. When a single individual does that, he is immediately labelled as "loner," "mad," "unsociable," etc. The madding crowd will never accept one of its members becoming the voice of its conscience.

Fischer soon learnt that when you laugh the world laughs with you, but that when you cry, you are left alone. He simply chose to be left alone from the beginning. He took refuge in chess (which is a whole universe in itself) and sought the self-affirmation of which he had lacked as a child. Chess was perfect: an absolutely just game where deception has no room, where only those who remain true to themselves and abide by its universal rules can get success. He made of it his one and only target.

All things considered, it is not difficult to understand why his main influences were Morphy, Steinitz and Capablanca. Some authors have also mentioned Lasker, Alekhine and Nimzowitsch, but I do not agree (in an interview where he was asked about the ten best players, he did not bother to mention Lasker, among others). Of course, Fischer may have showed some minute characteristics from those players, but I think to Fischer's mind Nimzowitsch was too bizarre and indirect, Lasker too pragmatic, if not superficial. (We must not forget that Bobby only wanted to produce the very best move in every position, disregarding the fact of whom his opponent was, never adapting his play to the rival, always looking for the imposition of his own tempo and his own hallmark.) Alekhine was too speculative (a view shared by many others in spite of the Soviet hagiographic view of their chess giant).

So, from Steinitz, he learned the same he could have learned from Nimzowitsch but in a more scientific and pure way. From Morphy he learned the directness, alertness and aggressiveness of the 19<sup>th</sup> century chess prodigy, and from Capablanca, the technical virtuosity and the crystal-clear way of formulating strategical concepts (apart from many other strategical and positional devices). Blend all this and you will have a formidable chess-player, adding of course his own geniality.

This is why in Fischer's games everything is smooth (Morphy, Capablanca), everything is scientific in both attack and defence (Steinitz) and everything has the precise components and the most economical means (Capablanca). Fischer himself has defined his style as "eclectic". Of course, he was not perfect. No human being is, and competitive chess with a time limit is full of difficulties. But the most important thing is to realise that what really matters, what really makes us advance, is to accept that we can fight to get as near as possible to that ideal concept of "perfection". And the only way in which we can learn from those who have gone farther and further in that path is by understanding their virtues,

avoiding their defects and trying to imitate the good things in them, even learning from their mistakes.

### Ultimate Approach

Apart from what has been said, there is still a question. Where does Bobby Fischer's secret lie? In my opinion, there are two distinct facts:

- ◇ His tactical insight that allows him to calculate variations like a machine and within this his unsurpassed ability "to see" intermediate moves.
- ◇ His ability to provoke tactical situations where his pieces develop a series of different functions creating a minefield over the whole board in which the positions are full of occult tactical ambushes.

It must be explained that "tactical ambushes" flow naturally from the position due to different causes: election of active openings, dynamic interpretation of strategical motifs, tendency to fight for the initiative from the very opening, tendency to employ active devices when defending, never resorting to passive methods, etc.

All this implies an overwhelming degree of technical skill.

Fischer was able to become what he was because he devoted his entire life and his mind only to chess, in a part of the world where he had to fight alone and not always on the chessboard and against the Russians.

Fischer's games are like the famous "Horn of Abundance" for they are full of tactical, strategical and technical subtleties.

With this article I would like to pay homage and show my gratitude to a man who devoted his life to chess, who taught me the secrets of chess and that with his example made most of us happier and wiser.

### Final Considerations

1972 will remain forever as a sort of chess milestone. The Russians, the Soviet School, had been dominating the chess world since 1948, winning tournaments, team events, chess olympiads, etc. The task was admirable: an enormous basis with children being taught chess at

school and in the pride of the Soviet organisation, the Pioneers' Palaces. Names like Botvinnik, Levenfish, Boleslavsky, Bondarevsky, Furman, Ragozin, Keres, Geller, Korchnoi, Holmov, Stein, Polugaevsky, Taimanov, Bronstein, Smyslov, Tal, Kotov, Petrosian and so on. And against this whole machinery, a man alone . . . Robert James Fischer.

After a lot of adventures starting in 1958 at the Portoroz Interzonal, he had reached the 1970 Palma de Mallorca Interzonal. He won the tournament with 18½ points, 3½ points ahead of Larsen, Geller and Hübner, and 4½ points ahead of Taimanov and Uhlmann.

His first rival in the Candidates Matches was Taimanov. When the dust of the battle settled and the smoke dispersed, the chess world could not believe it . . . +6 -0 =0 for Fischer. Taimanov and his seconds had under-estimated Fischer, or perhaps they had not accurately assessed Bobby's strength. Larsen came next. The great optimist, one of the Western hopes (like Reshevsky, Gligoric, even Uhlmann). Unbelievably, another 6-0 for the American. This surpassed all expectations defying even the laws of logic. Petrosian was the last opponent and the only one who could provoke another match between Russians, so keeping the previous title within Soviet borders. The pragmatic Petrosian had never been an easy rival for Fischer. Despite losing in the first game, "Iron Tigran" stopped Fischer's victorious race, defeating him in the second game. The next three games ended in draws. Would Fischer fail again? Would the Russians be, in fact, unbeatable? The last four games of the match dispelled any doubts: +4 -0 =0 for the American, with an overall result of +5 -1 =3. The road was clear.

After many difficulties, delays, negotiations and problems, the Spassky-Fischer match staged in Reykjavik (Iceland) commenced. Spassky, a classical chess-player who mastered all phases of the game, was a genuine representative of the Soviet Chess School. More books about this match have been written than about any other match. Fischer won by 12½ to 8½ (+7 -3 +11). What had happened? Apart

from all the psychological warfare provoked by Fischer's exigencies, the second game awarded to Spassky after Fischer's refusal to play, etc., we could conclude that either the Russians and Spassky himself under-estimated "the man alone" or the Russians were labouring under the delusion that it could not be possible to defeat one Russian player after another and reach the end by beating the last link, the Russian World Champion. Some things seem clear: the Russians mistakenly thought that Fischer was not going to be able to improve and excel himself and also be able to become a versatile chess-player, changing at will his chess concepts and even his time-honoured whole set of openings. Spassky even failed to appreciate some crucial points, and even thought that Fischer was inferior to him at assessing the key turning points in every game of chess. Spassky also thought that the American's style was too straightforward and easy to predict. The result was that Fischer imposed his technical skill in simple positions and when the Russian tried to complicate matters, he fell prey to Bobby's lethal tactical ability, which proved overwhelming. In the end, Fischer succeeded in achieving the one and only goal of his whole life. The world received the legacy of his genius manifested in his games of chess.

After 1972, Fischer retired from chess and vanished, creating a legend. In 1992, he suddenly reappeared and played again against Spassky, but that is another story . . .



A few more games for your enjoyment

#### Byrne - Fischer Sousse (ITZ), 1967

A wild game with both sides creating and parrying threats. In the end, Fischer manages to impose his proverbial tactical ability always finding, time after time, the best of moves.

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♗c4

A spoonful of his own medicine: this was also Fischer's pet line as White. Byrne plays a psychological trump.

6 ... e6 7 ♗b3 b5 8 f4 ♗b7 9 f5 e5 10 ♗de2 ♗bd7 11 ♗g5 ♗e7 12 ♗g3 ♗c8 13 0-0

13 ♗h5!? would have been better. In this type of position, in which both sides are pursuing the initiative, one has always to choose the most forceful lines.

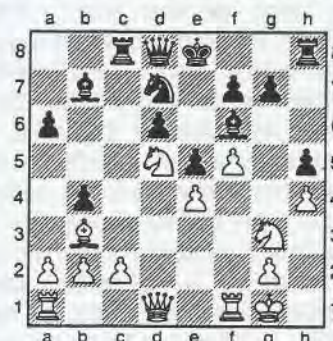
13 ... h5!

Jumping at it: Fischer prevents all sorts of active plans on White's part based upon ♗h5 and starts his own attack on the King's side trying to force matters, driving the game into a blow-by-blow fight, setting himself the "tempo" of the struggle.

14 h4

14 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 15 ♗d5 h4!

14 ... b4 15 ♗xf6 ♗xf6! 16 ♗d5



The key turning point. It is very important for the player to realise where the turning points of the games are: where he has to defend passively, start a counter-attack, start an attack, provoke a massive exchange of pieces to make hidden factors appear, provoke a cramped position, etc. Fischer has allowed his rival to occupy d5 and has decided to keep his king in the centre. Now he will have to show what he has planned to obtain in exchange. Deep calculation and tactical insight are called for.

16 ... ♗xh4 17 ♗xh5?!

17 f6!? ♗xf6 18 ♗f5 ♗xd5 19 ♗xd5 0-0. Byrne accepts playing with fire.

17 ... ♖g5 18 f6! g6!

18 ... ♖xh5? 19 fxg7; 18 ... ♗xh5? 19 fxg7; 18 ... ♗xf6 19 ♗hxf6 gxf6

20 ♖xf6 with too many threats. Moreover, 18 ... ♗xd5 is no solution since 19 ♖xd5 plus the x-ray threat of White's ♖f1 are very dangerous.

19 ♗g7+ ♘d8 20 ♖f3 ♗g3 21 ♖d3 ♗h2 22 ♘f1 ♗c5 23 ♖h3?! ♖h4!!

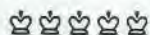
23 ... ♗xd3 24 ♖xh8 ♘d7 25 ♗a4 would give White some chances, though little hope. In any case, Fischer always chooses (1) the most destructive blow, (2) the most restrictive move for the opponent to prevent any sort of counterplay.

With the text Fischer also provokes a positional transformation of the tension (here threat against counter-threat) into a winning position, eliminating all traces of White's activity through a massive exchange of pieces.

24 ♖f3 (24 ♖xh4 ♖xh4 25 ♖f3 ♗xe4).

24 ... ♗xb3 25 axb3 ♖xh3 26 ♖xh3 ♗xd5 27 exd5 ♖xf6 28 ♘e1 ♖f4, White resigns.

Incidentally, here we have a recurrent feature in Fischer's approach to chess: it is typical of him NEVER to allow his pieces to interfere with each other. He is always looking for, if not creating, empty spaces for them.



**Saidy - Fischer**

US Championship 1965-66

- ◊ Prevention of counterplay reducing opponent's options.
- ◊ Deep tactical insight to detect all intermediate moves.
- ◊ Preventive thinking
- ◊ Switching of advantages to reduce the opponent's options.
- ◊ Liquidation into an advantageous endgame.
- ◊ Utilization of the resource of the "ambush" as it is understood by problem composers.

1 c4 ♗f6 2 ♗c3 e6 3 d4 ♗b4 4 e3 b6

Fischer's Variation in the Nimzo-Indian.

5 ♗ge2 ♗a6 6 ♗g3 ♗xc3+ 7 bxc3 d5 8 ♖f3

8 ♗a3 ♗xc4 9 ♗xc4 dxc4 10 0-0 ♖d5 11 e4 ♖b5 12 ♖f3 ♗bd7 13

♖fe1 is one of the modern possibilities too.

8 ... 0-0 9 e4 (9 cxd5) dxc4!?

In Portisch-Fischer, Santa Monica 1966, Fischer played 9 ... dxe4 and won a beautiful game in 35 moves.

10 ♗g5 (threatening 11 e5) h6 11 ♗d2?! (11 h4 hxg5 12 hxg5 ♖e8 13 gxf6. But perhaps 11 h4 ♗b7.)

11 ... ♗bd7 12 e5 (12 ♗e2) ♗d5 13 ♗f5 exf5 14 ♖xd5

White recovers the pawn threatening both ♖c6 and ♖f3. But once again Fischer has the situation under control. This is a recurrent feature in Fischer's games - which I somehow associate with the concept of "ambush" as is used by problem composers. His opponents seem to have the best of both worlds when in fact they are about to fall between two stools.

14 ... ♖e8! 15 ♗xc4

15 ♖f3 ♖c8 16 ♖xf5 ♗xe5; 15 ♖c6 ♗xe5 16 dxe5 ♖xe5 17 ♗e2 ♖e8 18 ♖xe8 ♖axe8 19 ♗e3 f4; 15 0-0-0 c5 ♖. Fischer is always able to parry threats, leaving his rivals with no counterplay after having enticed them into apparent activity.



15 ... ♗xe5!! 16 ♖xd8 (16 dxe5? ♖xd5 17 ♗xd5 ♖xe5 -+) 16 ... ♗c4+ 17 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8+ 18 ♘d1 ♗xd2 19 ♘d2 ♖e2+ 20 ♘c1

Fischer has sacrificed the exchange for pawns and a more active position. Now comes the technical realisation of his advantage (= initiative). This is the difference between Fischer and the rest. The initiative is something intangible, but in Fischer's hands it is like a battering ram.

20 ... ♖xf2 21 g3 ♗b7 22 ♖e1 ♗e4 23 ♖e3 ♖xh2 24 a4 h5 25

♖a3 g5 26 ♖b3 f6! 27 a5 h4 28 axb6 axb6 29 gxh4 ♖xh4 30 ♖a3 ♖h7 31 ♖a7 ♖e7 32 d5 ♘f7 33 ♘d2 f4 34 ♖e1 f5! (34 ... f3? 35 d6!) 35 c4 g4 36 ♖b7 g3 37 d6 cxd6 38 ♖xb6 f3 White resigns.



**Bertok - Fischer**  
Vinkovci 1968

- ◊ Overall perception and integrated vision
- ◊ Strategy + tactics / defence + attack
- ◊ Attack on the whole board reaching a multi-potential position with a variety of threats which forces the opponent to uncoordinate his pieces.
- ◊ Liquidation into a superior endgame.

1 d4 ♗f6 2 ♗f3 c5 3 c4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 e6 5 e3?! (too passive) ♗c6 6 ♗e2 ♗b4+ 7 ♗d2 ♗c5 8 ♗b3 ♗b6 9 ♗c3 d5 10 cxd5 exd5 11 ♗b5 0-0 12 0-0 ♗e4 13 ♖c1 ♖g5! 14 ♗c3 ♖e8! 15 ♗d4

Black threatened 15 ... ♗xf2. If 16 ♖xf2 ♖xe3 17 ♗d4 ♗xd4 18 ♗5xd4 ♖e4! 19 ♖c3 ♖d4.

15 ... ♗xd4 16 ♗5xd4 (16 ♗3xd4 ♖e5) a5 17 ♗b5?! (17 ♗f3!? If 17 a4 ♗h3 18 ♗f3 ♗d7 19 ♗d5 ♗b5 20 axb5 ♗xf2). 17 ... ♗h3 18 ♖f3 ♗g4 19 h4 (19 ♖f4 ♖xf4 20 exf4 a4). 19 ... ♖xh4 20 ♖f4 g5!

The famous "Fischer move!" It is not easy to explain why Fischer has always had a strong predilection for this move (both as White and as Black), but he has always seemed ready to use it as a sort of battering ram in key moments during his games, and not always with flying success. A psychological factor? Anyway here it does work, due to concrete aspects in the position.



21 ♖h2 ♗xh2 22 ♘h2 ♚ed8 23 f3 a4 24 fxe4 (24 ♖a1 ♖d6 25 fxg4 ♗d4 winning) 24 ... axb3 25 axb3 ♚a5 26 ♗d3 dxe4 27 ♗xe4 ♗xd4 28 exd4 ♚xd4.

White is strategically lost.

29 ♗xb7 ♗e6 30 ♗c8 ♗xb3 31 ♚c3 ♚b5 32 ♚f2 ♚db4 33 ♗a6 ♚b6 34 ♗c8 ♘g7 35 ♗f5? ♚f6 36 ♘g1 (36 ♚cf3 ♗d5) 36 ... ♗e6 37 ♚cf3 ♚xf5 38 ♚xf5 ♗xf5 39 ♚xf5 ♘g6 40 ♚f2 h5, White resigns.

If 41 ... h4 42 ♚f2 f5 43 ♚c2 g4 44 ♘h2 ♘g5 45 ♚d2 ♚e4.

♘♘♘♘♘

### Fischer-Barcza Stockholm 1962

- ◇ Positional attack
- ◇ Creation of weaknesses on different sectors of the board
- ◇ Deep calculation of variations always submitted to strategical plans
- ◇ Strategical masterpiece
- ◇ Pressure with pieces alone
- ◇ Switching of advantages; liquidation to better exploit the weaknesses
- ◇ Prevention of counterplay
- ◇ Maintenance of the positional tension

1 e4 c6 2 ♖c3 d5 3 ♖f3 dxe4 4 ♖xe4 ♖f6 5 ♖xf6 exf6 6 d4 ♗d6 7 ♗c4

The line is similar to another one: 1 e4 c5 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 dxe4 4 ♖xe4 ♖f6 5 ♖xf6 exf6 6 ♗c4 ♗d6, but here 7 ♗e2.

7 ... 0-0 8 0-0 ♚e8 9 ♗b3 ♖d7 10 ♖h4 ♖f8

Fischer's concrete thinking is admirable. Black has to cover g6 from the threat ♗h5 and plans like c3-♗c2-♗d3.

11 ♗d3!

11 ... ♖g6 12 ♖xg6 hxg6 - the f-pawn is pinned - 13 ♗xg6, the theme mentioned above.

11 ... ♗c7 12 ♗e3 ♗e7 (12 ... ♗d6 13 f4 or g3) 13 ♖f5 ♗e4.

The key decision. Barcza resorts to radical methods to reduce White's activity in the belief that in a queenless positional game, he will be able to hold his position.

14 ♗xe4! ♚xe4 15 ♖g3 ♚e8 16 d5!!

Starting a positional attack combined with piece pressure.

16 ... cxd5 (16 ... ♗b6?! 17 ♗xb6 axb6 18 ♚fe1 ♗d7 19 ♖e4 ±) 17 ♗xd5 ♗b6?!

Creating himself a chronic weakness. Annotators offer 17 ... ♖d7 18 b3 ± which then is no solution either. But what about 17 ... ♗e6? If 18 ♗xb7 ♚b8 19 ♗e4 ♚xb2 20 ♗xa7 ♚xa2.

18 ♗xb6 axb6 19 a3 ♚a5 20 ♚ad1

Activates the rook, forces Black to fight for the central files to provoke a liquidation so as to exploit the weakened queen-side, although it will not be still enough to win.

20 ... ♚c5 21 c3 ♚c7 22 ♗f3 ♚d7 (22 ... ♚e6 23 ♚d8) 23 ♚xd7 ♖xd7 24 ♖f5 ♖c5 (24 ... ♖e5 25 ♖d6 ♖xf3 26 gxh3 ♚d8 27 ♖xc8 ♚xc8 28 ♚d1 ♘f8 29 ♚d7) 25 ♖d6

Provoking Fischer's favourite endgame - a Bishop vs a Knight.

25 ... ♚d8 26 ♖xc8 ♚xc8 27 ♚d1!!

Apparently 27 ♚e1 seems more logical, but what Fischer wants is to prevent, firstly, any counterplay on Black's part - d3/a4 squares for the knight. A remarkable concept. White's rook gets to the queen-side anyway.

27 ... ♘f8 28 ♚d4 (28 ♚d6 ♖a4) 28 ... ♚c7 29 h3 f5

29 ... ♘e7 30 ♚b4 ♖d7 31 ♗d5 and White's king marches over to the queen-side deciding the game.

30 ♚b4 ♖d7 31 ♘f1

The king goes to the centre and threatens to help in the attack on the queen-side. But Black's king hurries to help in the defence. So, to win the game, a second front will be necessary, two places to attack. Fischer will have to force matters on the king-side too. The game is very involved strategically: long-range strategical plans with short-range myriads of variations.

31 ... ♘e7 32 ♘e2 ♘d8 33 ♚b5! g6 34 ♘e3 ♘c8 35 ♘d4 ♘b8 36 ♘d5?!

36 ♗d5 would be more accurate starting immediately to touch Black's king-side to create weaknesses there.

36 ... ♚c6 37 ♘d4 ♚e6 38 a4 ♘c7 39 a5! ♚d6+ 40 ♗d5!

Fischer starts to attack the king-side following the positional principle of the "two weaknesses."

40 ... ♘c8 (40 ... ♖f6 41 axb6 ♘d7 42 ♘e5) 41 axb6 f6 (or 41 ... ♖xb6 but Black is totally deprived of activity) 42 ♘e3 ♖xb6 43 ♗g8 ♘c7 44 ♚c5+.

44 ♗xh7 is premature in view of 44 ... ♘c6 45 ♚b3 ♖c4 and ... ♚d2. Once again, Fischer stops his offensive to prevent his rival's counterplay. Instructive chess at its best!

44 ... ♘b8 45 ♗xh7 ♖d5+ 46 ♘f3 ♖e7 47 h4 b6 48 ♚b5 ♘b7 49 h5 ♘a6 50 c4 gxh5 51 ♗xf5 ♚d4 52 b3 ♖c6

52 ... ♖f5 53 ♚xf5 ♚d3 54 ♘e4 ♚xb3 55 ♚h5 and ♚f5-g6 winning.

53 ♘e3 ♚d8 54 ♗e4 ♖a5 55 ♗c2 h4 56 ♚h5 ♚e8+ 57 ♘d2 ♚g8 58 ♚xh4 b5

58 ... ♚xg2 59 ♚f4 ±±. Black desperately tries to reduce the number of weaknesses but Fischer holds a strong grip on the game, maintaining the positional tension with alternate attacks.

59 ♚f4 bxc4 60 bxc4 ♚xg2 61 ♚xf6+ ♘a7 62 ♘c3 ♚g4 63 f4 ♖b7 64 ♘b4, Black resigns.

A masterpiece of positional chess, with Fischer dominating all fields of strategy and mounting an attack in an open position.



[Our sincere thanks to Carlos for a superb series of articles  
- Editor]



# Return of the son of the database article XII

[by Tom Thomson]

A leap up the ladder of success can be gained by buying a computer and a database of games. This can be expensive, but every serious CC player should have this goal. In the Autumn of 1996, I bought a computer and ChessBase soon after. Eighteen months later my rating had gone up 144 points! When you have a database of over 1 million quality games and regularly update it with all the latest tournament games from the Internet, you will rarely be faced with a completely new move. Even if you are faced with a move that has only been played 2 or 3 times and has been a success for the opposition, you will have 2 or 3 good examples of how not to play the position!

When I receive the start list for a tournament I look for the games of my opponents and see what openings they play and which variations they favour. If I find they play a defence I am not keen on against d4, I will play e4. If you have time you can look for weaknesses in their games; tactical mistakes are unlikely to be repeated but some weaknesses stay for a long time and must be worked on.

I have become some kind of database addict over the last couple of years and have developed my preparation around it. I use the Fritz 5 analysis module and check games I may want to follow for blunders. This saves me from potentially repeating them! This is something you cannot do with a book. The amount of times I have followed poor analysis in a book is beyond a joke, and I still do! I did it again in this year's Championship against Jonathan Lennox! I followed a line given in "The Najdorf for the Tournament Player" . . . . .

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 ♗f6 4 ♖c3 cxd4 5 ♗xd4 a6 6 ♗g5 e6 7 f4 ♗b6 8 ♗d2 ♗xb2 9 ♖b1 ♗a3 10 ♗e2 ♗e7 11 0-0 ♗bd7 12 e5 dxe5

13 fxe5 ♗xe5 14 ♗xf6 gxf6 15 ♗e4 f5 16 ♖b3 ♗a4 17 ♗xf5 exf5 18 ♗d6 ♗xd6 19 ♗xd6 ♗e4 20 ♖e1 ♗c6 21 ♗f1 ♗e6 22 ♗f3? (♗h5 should be played) 22 ... ♖ad8! 0-1

This move is not given in the book but was found by the computer in seconds! Because I did not have a game with this line to check over in my database, I just followed the book to save myself time. Now I am not knocking books! The Grandmaster analysis is usually superior to the program used for blunder checking and books give a better understanding of the openings, but we should still check the books with our computers! The following game is an example of my database helping me out at the end of last year in the 1st North Sea Team Tournament. I was faced with what was a new move to me on move 6 in the Najdorf Sicilian. 6 ♖g1 has been played frequently for over a year now but had not made an appearance in any of my books. When I first saw the move I thought it was a clerical error! But what else could he be intending? So I searched the games in ChessBase and it came up with lots of games from 1998 with this position. I was able to look through some games and choose a solid defence, leaving White with little chance of gaining the full point.

White: Ali Oomen IM (NLD) 2382

Black: T. Thomson 2414

Sicilian B90

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♖g1?! e5

There are other playable alternatives here e.g. ♗c6 and g6!? but I preferred not to take any chances on this occasion.

7 ♗b3 ♗e6  
8 g4 d5  
9 exd5 ♗xd5

9 ... ♗xd5?! (A) 10 ♗xd5?! ♗xd5 (10 ... ♗xd5 11 ♗g2 ♗b4 12 ♗xb7 ♗xd1 13 ♗xd1+=) 11 ♗e2 ♗c6 12 g5 ♗d7 13 ♗g2 ♗d6 14 ♗e3 ♖d8=; (B) 10 g5 ♗xb3 11 ♗xd8 (11 axb3 ♗xd1 12 ♗xd1 ♗fd7=; 11 cxb3 ♗xd1 12 ♗xd1 ♗fd7=) 11 ... ♗xd8 12 gxf6 (12 axb3 or 12 cxb3 allow ♗e8=) 12 ... ♗xc2 13 fxg7 ♗xg7 14 ♖xg7+-.

10 ♗xd5 ♗xd5  
11 ♗e3

After 11 ♗g5?! ♗c6 12 ♗g2 ♗c4 White's development looks dysfunctional. 11 ♗d2?! I do not trust this move as the white King can easily be left in the centre, e.g. 11 ... ♗c6 12 ♗e2 ♗e7 13 ♗c3 ♗d4 14 ♗xd4 exd4 15 ♖d1 0-0=

11 ..... ♗c6

11 ... ♗xd1+ would leave White's King in the centre but a lead in development and the Queens off it is not so important. 12 ♖xd1 ♗c6 13 ♗g2 ♖d8 14 ♖xd8 ♗xd8 15 ♗e4 ♗e7=.

12 ♗xd5 ♗xd5  
13 0-0-0 0-0-0 N

13 ... ♗e6 had been played previously.

14 ♗e2 ♗xb3  
15 ♖xd8+ ♗xd8

15 ... ♗xd8 is also playable.

16 ♖d1+ ♗c7  
17 axb3 ♗d6  
18 h4 g6  
½ ½

I could see no winning chances for either side so I offered a draw. I was not really disappointed at not having winning chances myself.

Sometimes this is an unfortunate side effect of a solid defensive plan.

After all this praise for databases I have recently had an unfortunate experience. In the current SCCA Championship, I have just won against Allan Hislop very quickly due to my efficient use of Chessbase. I have played Allan a few times through the years and have enjoyed every game, even the defeats (he has a plus score against me!).

Allan has as very individual style of adventurous creative play that is simply a pleasure to play against, so after our first couple of games I have looked forward to every game thereafter. This time I was able to prepare using my database so I called up his games and searched through them, looking for weaknesses or mistakes. I found a game he had played with J. Stevenson in an earlier Championship in which he plays a dodgy looking sac. I devoted some time to this opening and decided that I could take him on. I worked out that I could grab the material before I even played my first move!

All I had to hope for was that he would repeat his favoured way to handle the opening.

White: A. Hislop, 2171  
Black: T. Thomson, 2414  
Benko A57

1	d4	♘f6
2	c4	c5
3	d5	b5
4	cx b5	a6
5	e3	ax b5
6	♙xb5	♖a5
7	♗c3	♙b7
8	♗ge2	♙xd5
9	b4	

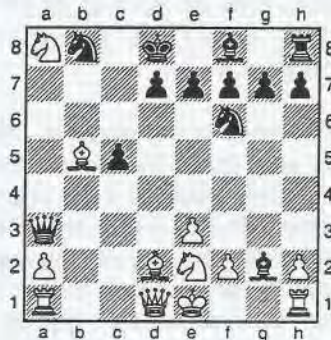
This move was first played in T.G. Herestadt v K.V. Shanthram 1991

9	.....	♖xb4
10	♙d2	♙xg2

This is the move that springs to mind immediately and I decided to spend some time analysing it. It is a very obvious choice and the pawn may be untouchable so some lengthy study time is required. 10 ... ♖g4 was chosen in the original

game and by Jim Stevenson in his game with Allan which ended in a draw after a very sharp game. I was thinking that if 10 ... ♙xg2 can be made to work it should be winning. Also, why had no masters used 9 b4 since the original try?

11	♙d5	♖a3
12	♙c7	♗d8
13	♙xa8	



13	.....	♙xh1
14	♙a4?	

14 ♙b6?! This is the move I spent most time looking at earlier and it was also suggested by Allan after the game. After Allan's move this game is easy to play for Black.

14	.....	♙xa8
15	♗b1	♙c6
16	♗b3	

16 ♖c2 ♙b4 17 ♙xb4 cxb4 -+

16	.....	♖xa4
17	♗b8	♙c7
18	♖xa4	♙xb8

This position is now won for Black because White does not have enough activity to stop the development of the opposing pieces

19	♖b3	♙b7
20	♙c3	e6
21	♙b5	d5
22	f3	♙e7
23	♙f2	♗d8
24	♖a4	e5
25	♖b3	c4
26	♖a4	♙d7
27	♖c2	g6
0		1

While I believe that using a database is essential when playing important tournaments, I regret doing that, I did not get my game with Allan this year!

Another downside of having a computer is the temptation to use it to play your games. The temptation can be very strong and I had to face it very quickly in the following game which had started only a couple of months before I bought a computer.

I made a mistake in the opening and lost a pawn after 16 g5, a blunder which the computer only needs 2 seconds to figure out! After his move came back and I realised what was happening, one of my first reactions was to think of the computer and that if I had used it to check for tactical mistakes then this would not have happened!

However, after I calmed down and gave it some thought, I decided against that course of action. The main reason for me declining the services of the computer is that I enjoy CC so much! Where would the enjoyment be in just filling out cards for the computer? Then there is the cost . . . I spend £20-£30 per month on CC. I do not want to fork out the cash just to let the machine play. Ultimately, using the computer must be self-defeating but there are some players who will give in to the temptation. I do not think the problem is as big as the "computers in CC" debate suggests. There is a lot of paranoia in thoughts like "Will CC survive in the 21st century?" Of course it will! The majority of players are playing below master class and will largely remain unaffected because all computers will be too strong for those levels. Only CC at the top level will be affected a significant amount as all the computer users will be there playing each other. Possibly one day someone will be the first to use a computer to win the CC world championship, which will be a sad day for CC. Would anyone want that dubious honour?

My game with Dr. Peters is one that I am especially pleased with, after my over ambitious 16th move I was struggling for activity rather than equality by playing practical chess. Practical chess has a role to play in CC games as well as OTB games and realising this was another step forward for me in my development as a CC player.

I always look for the correct move when all is going well but when the chips are down I want active play. My moves in this game may not be accurate but they are as aggressive as I can manage and eventually I save the game.

White: T.Thomson, 2235  
Black: Dr. M.Peters, 2340

Sicilian B97

- |    |       |       |
|----|-------|-------|
| 1  | e4    | c5    |
| 2  | ♘f3   | d6    |
| 3  | d4    | cx d4 |
| 4  | ♙xd4  | ♙f6   |
| 5  | ♙c3   | a6    |
| 6  | ♙g5   | e6    |
| 7  | f4    | ♖b6   |
| 8  | ♙b3   | ♙bd7  |
| 9  | ♖f3   | ♙e7   |
| 10 | 0-0-0 | ♖c7   |
| 11 | g4    | b5    |
| 12 | ♙g2 N |       |

12 ♙xf6 gxf6 13 f5 ♙e5 14 ♖h3 ♙d7 15 ♙d4 b4 16 ♙ce2 ♖a5 17 ♙b1. This would be a more typical way of conducting the opening.

- |    |       |      |
|----|-------|------|
| 12 | ..... | ♙b7  |
| 13 | a3    | 0-0  |
| 14 | ♙h4   | ♙fc8 |
| 15 | ♖e2   | ♙b6  |
| 16 | g5?   | ♙xe4 |

Oh no, here we go again.

- |    |      |  |
|----|------|--|
| 17 | ♙xe4 |  |
|----|------|--|

17 ♙xe4 d5 18 ♙xh7 ♙xh7 19 g6 fxg6 [19 ... ♙xg6? 20 ♙xe7 ♖xe7 21 ♙dg1 ♙h6 22 ♖e3 ♙xc3 23 ♖xc3+-] 20 bxe7 ♖xe7=.

- |    |       |      |
|----|-------|------|
| 17 | ..... | d5   |
| 18 | g6!   | ♙xh4 |

18 ... dxe4 19 ♙xe7 ♖xe7 20 gxh7+ ♙xh7 21 ♙xe4 ♙xe4 22 ♖xe4 ♙g8 23 ♙hg1=. Or 18 ... ♖xf4 19 ♙ed2 ♖xh4 20 gxf7+ ♙xf7 21 ♙de1 ♙c6 22 ♙hf1 ♙f6 23 ♙a5 ♙ac8 24 ♙xc6 ♙xc6 25 ♙f3 ♖f4 26 ♙b1 ♙c4 27 c3 and all is not lost for White.

- |    |       |      |
|----|-------|------|
| 19 | gxf7+ | Qxf7 |
|----|-------|------|

19 ... ♙xf7? 20 ♙ec5 ♙g8 21 ♙xb7 ♖xb7 22 ♖xe6 ♙h8 23 ♙xd5 ♙xd5 24 ♙xd5+=.

- |    |      |     |
|----|------|-----|
| 20 | ♙ec5 | ♙e8 |
| 21 | ♙d4  |     |

I want to bring this piece into play and now is as good a time as any as I can also increase the pressure on the backward pawn. The f-pawn is left hanging in the hope that my opponent will be greedy.

- |    |       |     |
|----|-------|-----|
| 21 | ..... | ♙c8 |
|----|-------|-----|

21 ... ♖xf4 22 ♙b1 ♙c8 23 ♙hf1 ♖d6 [23 ... ♖xh2? 24 ♙h1] 24 ♖h5 g6 25 ♖xh4 ♖xc5 26 ♙f7 ♙xf7 27 ♖xh7 ♙f6 28 ♙f1 ♙e5 29 ♖f7 ♙d6 30 ♙b3 ♖c6 31 ♙a5 ♖d7 32 ♖f4+=.

- |    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 22 | ♙d3 | ♙f6 |
|----|-----|-----|

22 ... ♙c4 23 ♙hf1 ♙f6 24 ♙e5 ♙xe5 25 fxe5 ♖c7. With this line Black could have maintained a good advantage, but my opponent has seen how to win a pawn, a poisoned pawn, of course. After the h-file is opened, I will have a good attack for the two pawns and more hope that the practical play will reap rewards.

- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 23 | ♙e5  | ♙xe5 |
| 24 | fxe5 | ♖f4  |
| 25 | ♙b1  | ♙c4  |
| 26 | ♙hf1 | ♖xh2 |

Not 26 ... ♖xe5 27 ♖xe5 ♙xe5 28 ♙fe1=.

- |    |     |  |
|----|-----|--|
| 27 | ♖f2 |  |
|----|-----|--|

27 ♙h1 ♖xe5 28 ♖xe5 ♙xe5 29 ♙de1 allows Black to maintain an advantage.

- |    |       |     |
|----|-------|-----|
| 27 | ..... | ♖h5 |
|----|-------|-----|

27 ... ♙xe5? 28 ♙h1 ♙g4 29 ♖e2+=.

- |    |      |  |
|----|------|--|
| 28 | ♙d3! |  |
|----|------|--|

Michael commented after the game that he now realised capturing on h2 was a mistake.

- |    |       |     |
|----|-------|-----|
| 28 | ..... | ♙d7 |
|----|-------|-----|

This is preferred over 28 ... ♙xe5 29 ♙h3 ♖g6 30 ♖h4 ♙g4 [30 ... ♙f7 31 ♙c6 ♙d7 32 ♙e7 ♙xe7 33 ♖xe7 ♙xe7 34 ♙f2 Black is still ahead in material but White has compensation in space and the initiative] 31 ♙g3 h5 32 ♙f3 ♙f8

33 ♙fg1 ♖h6 34 ♙c6 ♙f7 35 ♙xg4 hxg4 36 ♖d8 ♙h7 37 ♙xg4. The threat of ♙h4 and the bad bishop is making this position difficult for Black.

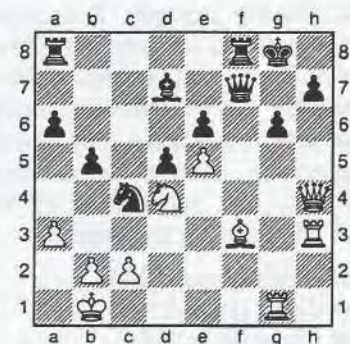
- |    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 29 | ♙h3 | ♖g6 |
|----|-----|-----|

29 ... ♖xe5?? 30 ♖f7 ♙h8 31 ♙xh7 ♙xh7 32 ♙h1 ♖h5 33 ♙xh5#.

- |    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 30 | ♙f3 | ♙f8 |
|----|-----|-----|

30 ... ♙xe5? 31 ♙h5 ♖e4 32 ♙xe8 ♙xe8 33 ♙g3+-.

- |    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 31 | ♙g1 | ♖f7 |
| 32 | ♖h4 | g6  |



- |    |      |     |
|----|------|-----|
| 33 | ♙f5! | ♙d2 |
|----|------|-----|

33 ... exf5?? 34 ♙xd5 ♙h8 35 ♙xf7 ♙xf7 36 ♙xg6.

- |    |       |      |
|----|-------|------|
| 34 | ♙c1   | ♙xf3 |
| 35 | ♙e7+  | ♙h8  |
| 36 | ♙xf3  | ♖xf3 |
| 37 | ♙xg6+ | ♙g8  |
| 38 | ♙xf8+ | ♙xf8 |
| 39 | ♙g4   | ♙e8  |
| 40 | ♙f4+  | ♖xf4 |
| 41 | ♖xf4  | ♙f7  |
| 42 | ♖b4+  | ♙g7  |
| 43 | ♖e7   | h5   |
| 44 | ♖f6+  |      |
|    | ½     | ½    |

I decided a draw was good enough after all.

Because the use of computers is not prohibited in CC, how much help a player takes from them is entirely up to each individual. I will not become upset if I think an opponent is using one to generate moves, at least I am getting my game!





## INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS

Members of the Scottish CCA are eligible to play in ICCF Postal and Email tournaments. These events are structured to encourage participation by CC players of all standards. Members can choose between World and European promotion tournaments ranging upwards from Open Class, Higher class and Master class. Entries to Higher or Master class tournaments for the first time, require evidence of CC playing strength, if a player has not qualified for promotion from either an Open class or Higher class tournament. The following rating groups are for guidance only and do not preclude entry to a different class with the agreement of the SCCA International Secretary:

- O Class (under 1900),
- H Class (1900-2100)
- M Class (over 2100).

Below Master Class, all promotion tournaments are organised in 7-player sections, with 11 players in M-Class sections. You can play simultaneously at any one level until you win promotion and it is possible to interchange between Postal/Email tournaments, e.g. winning a Postal Open Class could be used to play in an Email Higher Class, etc.

New World Cup tournaments begin every three years. Sections are comprised of 11 players of all strengths. Winners proceed to the Semi-Finals and winners of these qualify for a World Cup Final. The entry fee covers participation in all stages and players may make multiple entries, but only two qualifications to the Semi-Final round are permitted. (The next cycle is due to be announced in Spring 2000).

Openings thematic tournaments are also available and more details of these are published in the SCCA Magazine, Fernschach, Chess Mail and on the ICCF website.

Master Norm tournaments of 11 players are available for strong players, by both airmail and Email. A fixed ICCF rating of 2300 (2000 for ladies) or non-fixed rating of at least 2350 (2050 for ladies) is normally required, or else (for players not rated by ICCF) a current FIDE-rating of at least 2350 (2050 for ladies). Players who have taken a medal place (1 to 3) in a national championship, (or won a national championship for ladies) can also enter. A player can enter only one postal section and one Email section each calendar year. Section winners, who do not reach the norm result, will instead receive a qualification for a World Championship Semi-Final.

For postal play, the International Numeric notation is normally used and full details of this simple system, along with ICCF Rules, are sent to each new entrant along with the receipt for his/her entry fee. The time limit is 30 days for every 10 moves and one exceeding of the time limit is permitted. A period of 30 days' leave is also allowed each calendar year. To speed progress, air mail stickers should be used to Europe as well as elsewhere as the international rate for postcards is not increased by this service.

Please be aware that some patience is required, as a game can take about 3 years against an opponent from a country with a poor postal service, and silent withdrawal is bad etiquette. It is recommended that players use International CC postcards, these being available along with other postal chess supplies, from Chess and Bridge Suppliers (Scotland). It is also permitted to use Email, by mutual agreement with opponents, if this could be beneficial for speeding up slow moving games in postal CC events.

For Email tournaments, PGN notation (algebraic) is recommended and the rate of play is 10 moves in every 40 days. International Email promotion tournaments are structured in the same way as postal tournaments, ranging upwards from Open class to Higher class and Master class. ICCF Email rules are downloadable from the ICCF website.

A point to be borne in mind in deciding how many games to play, is that, compared with postal, the rate of play via Email is much quicker. Therefore, it is better to play fewer Email games simultaneously but, as these will be completed sooner, you can enter new tournaments more frequently!

A prerequisite for entry via the SCCA to all ICCF events is that the player is and continues to be a full member of the SCCA for the duration of the tournament.

We wish you great enjoyment from your overseas games and making new friends either by post or Email!

An entry form for ICCF tournaments is included on page 35 of this magazine.

### Web pages to watch!

Information about ICCF events, news and activities are featured on the following WWW sites:-

#### ICCF

<http://www.iccf.com>

#### Chess Mail

<http://www.chessmail.com>

#### The Correspondence Chess Place

<http://www.correspondencechess.com>

This site provides a facility for downloading CC Email and postal games! It also contains the lively TCCMB (message board) where you can read a very diverse range of opinions about CC connected topics!

# Friendly Internationals

[Report by Tom Thomson]



**Results** reported since the last issue of the Magazine

## Scotland (6) v Argentina (7)

Bd 6 I Mackintosh 2-0 C J Gonçalves  
Bd 12 I Sneddon 0-2 L Montaner

## Scotland (16½) v Social C.C.A. (11½)

Bd 5 I Mackintosh 0-2 F. Foldvary  
Bd 10 Mrs EA Hartford 0-1 S Taylor  
Bd 15 G McCoy 0-2 D Price

## Scotland (6½) v Denmark (11½)

Bd 13 D R Cumming 0-1 C Andreassen  
Bd 16 I Sneddon ½-½ F Karlsen

## Scotland (2½) v Italy (1½)

Bd 1 T. Thomson 1-0 A. Diblio

## Scotland (10½) v ASPCC (13½)

Bd 7 D R Cumming ½-½ J P Hopfer  
Bd 16 C A Macgregor 0-2 S Evans

## Scotland (12) v Japan (1)

Bd 6 I Sneddon 1-1 N Kubo

## Scotland (15) v Peru (3)

Bd 12 J M MacArthur ½-½ E Manrique Arce

## Scotland (22) v Sweden (30) (Match complete)

Bd 2 A P Borwell 0-1 C Thornros  
Bd 16 D E Brown 1-0 R Lindberg  
Bd 18 M Harkins 1-0 M Edmark  
Bd 19 I Sneddon ½-1½ J Vrabec

## Final Result

	Scotland		Sweden
1	G.D. Pyrich	½-½	C. Persson
2	A.P. Borwell	0-2	C. Thornros
3	T. Thomson	2-0	N-A Malmdin
4	K.W.C. Stewart	½-1½	I. Lundgren
5	A. Hind	½-1½	U. Norevall
6	C.R. Beecham	½-1½	J. Sandberg
7	I. Mackintosh	2-0	N. Stenqvist
8	D.R. Cumming	½-1½	E.M. Svensson
9	E. Sowden	1-1	K. Hallberg
10	A. Dearnley	2-0	L.H. Andersson
11	A. Armstrong	1½-½	L. Ekenlov
12	Rev.A.C. Norris	½-½	F. Jacobsson
13	D.J. Savage	0-2	E. Nylander
14	D.G. McRoberts	1-1	C. Johansson
15	I.H. Marshall	0-2	A. Thomassen
16	D.E. Brown	1½-½	R. Lindberg
17	G.M. Anderson	1-1	N-A Nilsson
18	M. Harkins	2-0	M. Edmark
19	I. Sneddon	½-1½	J. Vrabec
20	J.P.E. Jack	½-1½	S. Lovkvist
21	B. Milligan	1½-½	G. Franzon
22	A.D. Crawford	0-2	L. Hagman
23	C. Dowell	1-1	T. Pettersson
24	G. McDonald	0-2	M. Skogsmo
25	G. McCoy	0-2	P. Olsson
26	F. Teunisse (Fax)	½-1½	P-G Hogborg
	<b>Final Result</b>	<b>22-30</b>	



## INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

### Entry form for Scottish CCA members for ICCF Individual Tournaments

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Email address (where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Rating (ICCF, SCCA or OTB) \_\_\_\_\_ Date entry sent to SCCA \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Tournaments	Fee	No. of players	World (W) or Europe(E)	Postal (P) or Email (EM)	No of Groups	Amount £
Open Class	£6	7				
Higher Class	£6	7				
Master Class	£8	11				
Master Norm	£15	11				
Thematic *	£6	7	World only	Code:		
World Cup	£8	11	World only			
ICCF Badge	£2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
						<b>Total £</b>

\* See Scottish CCA Magazine for Openings details/codes - Postal only

Please send entries (with cheque payable to the "Scottish Correspondence Chess Association") to:  
Mr. George D. Pyrich, SCCA International Secretary, 13 Ardgartan Court, Balfarg, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 6XB.

# ICCF INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS

(by George Pyrich)



Only 7 more new entries to report this time (numbers 13 to 19 below) since last time. Also listed are those unallocated from our last issue (Nos. 9, 11 and 12).

No	Name	Tourney Class/Players	Tourney Ref	Method
1999				
9	S.H. Hilton	European 1 <sup>st</sup>	7 EU/H/GT/273	Corr
11	D.J. Stewart	Master Norm	11 MN/76	Corr
12	S.H. Hilton	Email Cup	7 EM/C/A085	Email
13	S.H. Hilton	Email Cup	7 EM/C/A087	Email
14	B. Thompson	World Higher	15	Corr
15	B. Thompson	Thematic	6 TT/13/99	Corr
16	B. Thompson	Thematic	6 TT/13/99	Corr
17	B. Thompson	Thematic	6 TT/15/99	Corr
18	B. Thompson	Thematic	6 TT/15/99	Corr
19	J.W. Kilgour	Email Open	7 EM/O/013	Email

## Results

Name	Tournament Class	Final Place	Score
D. Neil	EU/M/1128	1=	5/6
A. Macmillan	EU/I/1858	4=	2½/6
I. Sneddon	EU/I/GT/322	8	7½/14
D.S. Finnie	EM/M/A047	1=	3½/6
R.S. Montgomery	WT/H/GT/47	1	11½/13

## ICCF THEMATIC TOURNAMENTS

Sections of 5-7 players, two games against each opponent. Top two players qualify for each Final.

### Entries by 15/12/99, start 1/2/2000

#### 1 Sicilian Defence, B49

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be3 a6 7 Be2

#### 2 Budapest Gambit, A51-52

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5

### Entries by 15/1/2000, start 15/3/2000

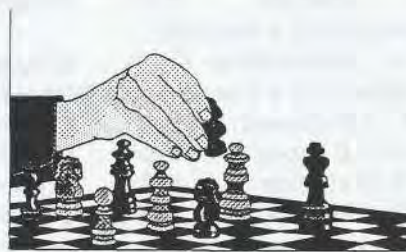
#### 3 Ruy Lopez - Open Variation, C80-C83

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Nxe4

#### 4 Semi-Slav Defence - Botvinnik Var., D44

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e4 b5

Entry Fee is £6 per group (payable to Scottish CCA) to :-  
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Play has begun in VI European Team Championship Preliminaries.

Our team in Section 1 is:

Board 1	Colin McNab
Board 2	Joe Watson
Board 3	Tom Craig
Board 4	Philip Giulian
Board 5	George Pyrich
Board 6	Doug Finnie
Board 7	Jonathan Lennox
Board 8	Ian Aird
Board 9	Rev. Bert Norris
Board 10	Robert Montgomery
Board 11	John Findlay
Board 12	Bernard Milligan

The other teams in our section are Russia, Norway, Ireland, Croatia, Spain, Slovakia, Poland, Switzerland, Lithuania and Finland.

Full details and pairings will be given in the next Magazine.

# ICCF OLYMPIAD XII FINAL

Board 1 - David A. Kilgour				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts
1	Portilho	GF	2430	BRS	◆											
2	Zapletal	J IM	2525	CZE		◆		½								
3	Al-Thani	MK IM	2630	QTR			◆		½							
4	Vitomskis	J IM	2590	LAT				◆								
5	Neumann	J IM	2695	GER		½			◆	0		½				
6	Maliangkay	RJ GM	2605	NLD			½		◆	½	½					
7	Hamarat	T GM	2595	OST					1	½	◆				½	
8	Andersson	U (GM)	(2635)	SVE								◆				
9	Knobel	R	2545	SWZ					½			◆				
10	Kilgour	DA GM	2610	SCO				½					◆			
11	Greig	G	2470	CAN										◆		
12	Normantas	V GM	2625	LIT						½					◆	

Board 2 - Colin A. McNab				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts
1	de Cresce	SH IM	2475	BRS	◆											
2	Mraz	M IM	2525	CZE		◆					1					
3	Al-Modaikhi	M	2085	QTR			◆									
4	Saksis	J IM	2525	LAT				◆					½			
5	Nimt	M IM	2605	GER					◆				½			
6	Gouw	C-P IM	2460	NLD						◆		½				
7	Neuschmied	S	2540	OST							◆	½	½			
8	Carlsson	I	2500	SVE		0				½	◆	1				
9	Rüfenacht	M GM	2555	SWZ					½		0	◆				
10	McNab	CA IM	2505	SCO			½	½	½				◆		½	
11	Deidun Sr.	J	2435	CAN										◆		
12	Gefenas	V IM	2575	LIT								½			◆	

Board 3 - Philip M. Giulian				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts
1	Felicio	C IM	2435	BRS	◆											
2	Sevecek	R IM	2575	CZE		◆						½				
3	Shardarevian	M	2200	QTR			◆		0					1		
4	Strautins	U IM	2515	LAT				◆	½							
5	Anton	V-M GM	2625	GER			1	½	◆							
6	v.d. Plaasche	B	2520	NLD						◆	½	½	0	½	0	
7	Wohlfahrt	H	2530	OST						½	◆					
8	Johansson	I IM	2530	SVE						½		◆	0		0	
9	Bhend	E IM	2490	SWZ		½				1	1	◆	½			
10	Giulian	PM IM	2445	SCO						½			◆			
11	Demian	E	2390	CAN			0			1	1			◆		
12	Rumiancevas	B GM	2515	LIT											◆	

Board 4 - George D. Pyrich				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts
1	Joao	N	2485	BRS	◆											
2	Danek	L IM	2495	CZE		◆				0						
3	Mousa	EAH	2200	QTR			◆									
4	Dauga	Z IM	2500	LAT				◆								
5	Kreuzer	M GM	2615	GER					◆				½			
6	Nienhuis	K IM	2410	NLD						◆	0	½		½	½	
7	Teichmeister	S IM	2515	OST		1				1	◆	½	½	1		
8	Holmberg	R IM	2560	SVE						½		◆				0
9	Issler	C IM	2555	SWZ							½	◆	1	1		
10	Pyrich	GD IM	2375	SCO					½	½	½		0	◆	1	
11	Cody	PC	2350	CAN						½	0		0	0	◆	0
12	Sutkus	R GM	2535	LIT								1			1	◆

## Early placings:

1 Lithuania 75%; 2 Czech Republic 61%; 3 Austria 59%; 4 Scotland 57%; 5 Germany 53%; 6= Latvia 50%; 6= Brazil 50%; 8 Switzerland 48%; 9 Sweden 47.5%; 10 Netherlands 42%; 11 Qatar 30%; 12 Canada 29%

# ICCF OLYMPIAD XII FINAL contd

Board 5 - Tom Craig				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts
1	Amorim	GS	2430	BRS	◆					½			½			
2	Teichmann	C IM	2450	CZE		◆			½	½	½	½				
3	Al-Khateeb	A	2505	QTR			◆									
4	Strautins	V IM	2465	LAT				◆	½		½	1				
5	Busemann	S GM	2585	GER					◆	1	0	½		½		
6	van Perlo	G GM	2440	NLD		½		½		◆	½	½	½			
7	Mayr	K IM	2465	OST	½	½			0	½	◆		½			
8	Hjelm	N	2375	SVE		½		½	1	½		◆	½	1	1	½
9	Klügel	J-U	2535	SWZ		½		0	½	½	½	½	◆	½	½	
10	Craig	TJ	2385	SCO	½					½		0	½	◆	½	½
11	Mrugala	A	2335	CAN					½			0	½	½	◆	0
12	Slekys	E	2350	LIT								½		½	1	◆

Board 6 - Joe Watson				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts
1	Barata	HAG	2285	BRS	◆											
2	Pribyl	J	2420	CZE		◆	1			0		½				
3	Al-Hitmi	MM	2200	QTR		0	◆			½					0	
4	Kazoks	A IM	2415	LAT				◆	½	½	½	½	½	0		
5	Maeder	K-H GM	2575	GER				½	◆	½	1	1	0			
6	Frederiks	R	2505	NLD				½		◆						
7	Thannhauser	F	2465	OST	1	½	½	½		◆	½	½	½			
8	Andersson	M	2290	SVE				½	0		½	◆				½
9	Giertz	N IM	2325	SWZ		½		½	0		½		◆	0		0
10	Watson	J IM	2425	SCO				1	1		½		1	◆	1	
11	Leskowsky	Z IM	2225	CAN										0	◆	
12	Sutkus	V	2280	LIT			1					½	1			◆

# ICCF OLYMPIAD XIII PRELIMINARIES

Board 1 - D.A. Kilgour				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts
1	Dronov	A	2200	RUS	◆												
2	Camilleri	H	2340	MLT		◆			0								
3	Fabri	F IM	2500	HUN			◆										
4	De Mauro	J IM	2520	USA				◆									
5	Mooij	W IM	2505	NLD		1			◆		½				½		
6	Ponelis	A	2315	RSA						◆							
7	Krivosovs	V	2475	LAT				½			◆			½			
8	Jovcic	M GM	2455	YUG								◆					
9	Lecroq	M IM	2570	FRA									◆				
10	Davila	M	2200	URU						½				◆	½		½
11	Halldorsson	J A	2475	ISD					½					½	◆		
12	Kilgour	D A GM	2610	SCO												◆	½
13	Volchok	A S GM	2605	UKR										½		½	◆

Board 2 - A.P. Borwell				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts
1	Makarov	A	2535	RUS	◆					1							
2	Camilleri	S	2275	MLT		◆											
3	Mihalkó	J	2530	HUN			◆										
4	Edwards	J	2550	USA				◆									
5	Plomp	M	2440	NLD					◆						1		
6	Knol	D	2285	RSA	0					◆							
7	Batakovs	O IM	2460	LAT							◆						
8	Milovanovic	M IM	2430	YUG								◆					
9	Boissel	B	2630	FRA									◆				
10	Ruzo	D	2200	URU										◆			½
11	Kárason	A O IM	2460	ISD				0							◆		
12	Borwell	A P IM	2370	SCO												◆	0
13	Kamenets	A V IM	2540	UKR										½		1	◆



# ICCF OLYMPIAD XIII PRELIMINARIES contd

Board 3 - S.R. Gillam				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts	
1	Pinkovetsky	S	IM	2380	RUS	◆												
2	Vincenti	D	C	2200	MLT		◆	½										
3	Janosi	E	IM	2415	HUN		½	◆	½	½		½	1		½			
4	Kubach	G	IM	2510	USA			½	◆									
5	Pillhock	D		2495	NLD			½		◆	1				½			
6	Knipe	J		2200	RSA						◆							
7	Viksna	T		2470	LAT			½	0		◆		1	½				
8	Konjevic	D		2470	YUG							◆						
9	Herb	P		2540	FRA			0			0		◆		0			
10	Betancurt	J		2200	URU						½			◆				
11	Pálsson	J A	IM	2425	ISD			½		½			1		◆			
12	Gillam	S R		2385	SCO												◆	
13	Lepikhov	A G	IM	2575	UKR													◆

Board 4 - T. Thomson				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts	
1	Shemagonov	V		2320	RUS	◆												
2	Sammut	R		2185	MLT		◆	0										
3	Timár	Z		2425	HUN			◆	½				½		½			
4	Maillard	B	IM	2470	USA		1	½	◆			½						
5	van Egmond	R	IM	2430	NLD					◆								
6	Terblanche	D J		2150	RSA						◆	0						
7	Volaks	B		2465	LAT				½	1	◆					½		
8	Mirkovic	S		2200	YUG							◆						
9	Léotard	C		2575	FRA			½					◆			½		
10	Luzardo	J		2315	URU									◆				
11	Vigfússon	V		2395	ISD			½							◆	0		
12	Thomson	T		2270	SCO						½	½			1	◆		
13	Kashljuk	V I		2520	UKR													◆

Board 5 - G.R. Spratt				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts	
1	Khromov	S		2440	RUS	◆	1				1							
2	Grillage	A		2200	MLT	0	◆			½						0		
3	Keszi, J / Soreghy			2430	HUN			◆					0					
4	Timm	J		2535	USA				◆				0					
5	Sprenger	E	IM	2445	NLD		½			◆						½		
6	Benade	J T		2200	RSA	0					◆	0						
7	Gaujens	A		2395	LAT						1	◆				1		
8	Somborski	N		2435	YUG							◆						
9	Vinot	S	IM	2510	FRA			1	1				◆			½		
10	Berrutti	G		2200	URU									◆				
11	Elison	K		2240	ISD										◆			
12	Spratt	G R		2285	SCO		1			½	0	½				◆		
13	Kuznetzov	S	IM	2505	UKR													◆

Board 6 - D. Neil				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts	
1	Lyukmanov	V		2290	RUS	◆			1		1			½				
2	Richards	J		2200	MLT		◆				1					0		
3	Dobsa	S		2340	HUN			◆		0	1	½				0		
4	Fleetwood	D		2495	USA	0			◆		1							
5	vd Langenberg	C		2475	NLD				1	◆	1		½					
6	van Greuning	T		2200	RSA	0	0	0	0	0	◆	0	0	0	0		0	
7	Salminš	G		2330	LAT			½			1	◆	½					
8	Erdeljan	M		2410	YUG							◆						
9	Spitz	P		2510	FRA				½	1	½		◆					
10	Ramini	E		2030	URU	½					1			◆				
11	Gunnlaugsson	G		2335	ISD						1				◆			
12	Neil	D		2200	SCO		1	1								◆		
13	Terelya	I M		2475	UKR						1							◆



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