

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.83

Autumn 2003

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4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum





This magazine will be issued round about the time of the ICCF Congress in Ostrava (Czech Republic), and it's fitting that we should open by congratulating Alan Borwell and George Pyrich on their distinguished service to the world CC body as they stand down from their positions as President and Qualifications Commissioner respectively.

We have now assembled our final accounts, though a struggle of epic proportions is still going on to rescue a long-dormant deposit account from the Clydesdale Bank. Stuart presents the figures for 2002-03 inside.

ICCF brought out their autumn grading list a little earlier this year, and Raymond has analysed the changes affecting SCCA players.

A new contributor this time is the Swedish player Eric Nylander who is one of my opponents in the Silver Jubilee match v ICCF. Eric looks at the Semi-Slav for us via a nicely annotated game.

Bernard has once again supplied an excellent Games Column and looks at recent ChessBase CD releases for us.

I've reviewed Tim Harding's most recent CC book/CD "Red Letters", and we are once more blessed with a lively letters column, including some review material from Jim Schroeder.

Due to Alan's heavy workload before he stands down as ICCF president, the Bernard Partridge Memorial tournament report has had to be held over until the next issue.

Some of you will have seen David Edney captain the winning Tax team in a special series of University Challenge on tv - congratulations to them all, though I suspect it won't mellow their approach to their day jobs....

We have been asked by Alan McGowan, currently resident in Canada, to assemble a complete set of magazines for filing in the British Library - Alan Borwell and myself will tackle that job.

Hits on our website continue to be very healthy, but the volume of downloaded material suggests that the old members' password has been widely distributed!

E-mag subscribers will note a password change this time.

We still have some copies of the ICCF Gold book for sale - it's great value for money, and George Pyrich will be delighted to accept your orders (£14.99 inc p&p)! Contact George directly using one of the methods below.

Silver Jubilee Badges



Jim Anderson has now organised commemorative badges to mark our 25 years, and these will be distributed to members along with this year's membership renewal forms. All players in the SCCA v ICCF match will also receive badges.

SCCA 100 Club

Stuart Mackenzie writes:

The 100 Club is an important means of income for the SCCA, and units can be bought for £1 per month. Bank mandates are the easiest method of subscribing. Two prizes are awarded each month. To join, please get in touch with the SCCA treasurer using one of the methods below.

Recent 100 Club Winners

Here are the nouveau riche, who can now afford places in finishing school:

2003	1st	2nd
September	G W G Livie	C M Fordham-Hall
August	I Mackintosh	J W Kilgour

SCCA Officials

President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
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SCCA Accounts 2002-03

By Stuart Mackenzie

2001-02			Profit & Loss	2002-03		
Income	Expenses	Net		Income	Expenses	Net
General						
280.00			Annual Members 65@£5	325.00		
80.00			Life Members 1@£80	80.00		
134.00			Donations	119.00		
500.00			Chess Scotland Grant	500.00		
72.84			Bank Interest	81.22		
	0.00		Balances Written Off		19.00	
	10.00		Bank Charges		0.00	
	262.47		Committee Expenses		149.25	
	25.00		CS Affiliation Fee		30.00	
	42.50		ICCF Affiliation Fee		44.44	
	70.00	<u>656.87</u>	Auditor's Fee		70.00	<u>792.53</u>
Domestic Competitions						
225.00			Individual Entry Fees	240.00		
20.00			Team League Fees	34.00		
6.00			Adjudication Fees	6.00		
	7.00		Bad Debt		0.00	
	200.00		Prizes & Trophies ¹		56.00	
	4.25	<u>39.75</u>	Controllers' Expenses		49.71	<u>174.29</u>
International Competitions						
0.00			International Match Fees	0.00		
28.00			Individual Entry Fees	30.00		
	0.00		Prizes & Trophies		0.00	
	0.00	<u>28.00</u>	Controllers' Expenses		0.00	<u>30.00</u>
ICCF Competitions						
74.00			Individual Entry Fees	128.00		
	112.82	<u>-38.82</u>	Individual & Team Fees		196.45	<u>-68.45</u>
Magazine						
168.00			New Magazine Email 65@£3	198.00		
185.00			New Magazine Printed 31@£5	155.00		
100.00			Magazine Advertising Revenue	25.00		
60.00			Old Magazine Sales	10.00		
	337.70	<u>175.30</u>	Printing & Postage		364.90	<u>23.10</u>
Website						
105.74	105.74		ISP Connection Fees (Donation)	117.44	117.44	
0.00	0.00	<u>0.00</u>	Domain Registration (Donation)	6.79	6.79	<u>0.00</u>
100 Club						
795.00			Units Bought	768.00		
	420.00		Prizes		420.00	
	17.50	<u>357.50</u>	Lottery Licence		17.50	<u>330.50</u>
ICCF Books						
0.00			Sale of Books	134.94		
	0.00	<u>0.00</u>	Purchase of Books		282.22	<u>-147.28</u>

(continued)

2001-02			Profit & Loss	2002-03		
Income	Expenses	Net		Income	Expenses	Net
0.00			Other			
	0.00		Payment for Article	102.74		
	772.20	<u>-772.20</u>	Funeral Flowers		30.00	
			ICCF Delegate Travel		530.56	<u>-457.82</u>
			Silver Jubilee			
0.00			Income ²	780.00		
	0.00		Expenditure ³		937.35	<u>-157.35</u>
<u>2833.58</u>	<u>2387.18</u>	<u>446.40</u>	Surplus/Deficit	<u>3841.13</u>	<u>3321.61</u>	<u>519.52</u>

Notes

1. Includes an adjustment for previous over-provision.
2. Includes dinner and raffle receipts.
3. Includes a souvenir magazine, celebration dinner and 25 year-old malt whisky quiz prize.

Balance Sheet

Bank Summary	Opening	Payins	Withdrawn	Written Off	Transfers	Closing	2001-02
Clydesdale Deposit ¹	65.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.76	
BoS Current	1742.56	3586.84	3216.32	0.00	0.00	2113.08	
Nationwide	4671.28	23.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	4694.34	
National Giro ²	19.00	0.00	0.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	
	6498.60	3609.90	3216.32	19.00	0.00	<u>6873.18</u>	<u>6498.60</u>
Net Opening/Closing	<u>374.58</u>						
Liabilities		Creditor	Debtor				
Cheques Uncashed			54.00				
Advertising Income			25.00				
Provision for Prizes/Trophies		130.00					
Uncashed 100 Club Prizes		70.00					
Auditor's Fees		70.00					
Bernard Partridge Prizes		1350.00					
Unpaid Committee Expenses		79.49					
Prepaid 100 Club Units		55.00					
Subtotals/Net		<u>1754.49</u>	<u>79.00</u>			<u>-1675.49</u>	<u>-1820.43</u>
Net Assets at March 31, 2003						<u>5197.69</u>	<u>4678.17</u>
Capital Account							
Balances b/f						4678.17	4266.77
Prior Year Adjustment						0.00	-35.00
Surplus/Deficit						519.52	446.40
Balances c/f						<u>5197.69</u>	<u>4678.17</u>

Notes

1. The Clydesdale Bank Deposit Account may have earned additional interest in recent years, but passbooks and details were lost several years ago. The Committee are endeavouring to persuade the Clydesdale to return this account to the control of the SCCA, and anticipate being able to include updated figures for this account in the accounts for the year 2003/04.
2. Documentation for this account cannot be recovered, and the balance has been written off.



A Brush-Up on the Semi-Slav

By Eric Nylander

[Editor's note: here's another of my international CC opponents who has agreed to contribute an article for us. I'm currently playing Eric in the SCCA v ICCF Friendly, he being one of 9 Swedes in the match helping us celebrate our Silver Jubilee. Like most Scandinavians, Eric's command of English makes it easy to chat, though his command of the board is making it harder to play!]



Introduction

Eric Nylander is 47 and a father of three, having been married since 1988. He works as a school principal in the town of Örnsköldsvik. Chess is one of his many leisure time interests, and with scarce time for leisure, CC is perfect. He plays relatively little, but enjoys it enormously. CC lets him play when he can, instead of not having time when there's an opportunity to play OTB.

This Game

The game comes from a Sweden v India Friendly match, and is annotated by Eric with the friendly co-writing of his Indian opponent Kammang Lhouvum.



A little pre-study on the internet revealed that my opponent prefers closed games. So I will get mentally prepared for closed positions and head for the Slav or the Semi Slav. To be or not to be...

Kammang, L (2164) - Nylander, E (2247) [D43]
Sweden v India, 2003 [Notes by Eric Nylander]

1.d4	d5
2.c4	c6
3.Nf3	Nf6
4.Nc3	e6

Ok, the Semi-Slav it will be. Black delays playing dxc4 for a few moves and instead defends the d-pawn with another pawn and allows the kingside bishop to be developed. [4...dxc4 leads to the main-line for the Slav Defence; 4...Bf5 gives Black few possibilities after 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3]

5.Bg5

giving us the Anti-Meran System. [White has another move here: 5.e3 that leaves the queenside bishop blocked in, but without real problems for White. The game normally continues: 5...Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 This is known as the Meran Variation.]

5...

h6

This is the Moscow variation and avoids the Gambit, a favourite of Dreev and Anand. It leads to rather calm play, if not 6.Bh4. Other possibilities are:

[5...dxc4 this is the variation known as the Anti-Meran Gambit or the Botvinnik System. Black creates an immediate imbalance with a queenside majority, at the cost of the kingside. It tends to lead to attack and counterattack, with queer material imbalances. The mainline is: 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.exf6 Bb7 12.g3 Black is better off castling queenside or not at all.;

5...Nbd7 This leads to the Cambridge Springs or Classical Queen's Gambit Declined. There is a trap in the Cambridge Springs Variation for OTB players which can leave Black a piece up if White doesn't realise what is coming. In CC this is nothing to hope for;

5...Be7 Black will play h6 to chase away the White bishop, this time though after Bxf6, Black recaptures with the bishop which may be better than with the queen.]

6.Bxf6

[6.Bh4 is the Anti-Moscow Variation, offering a real gambit. Earlier considered to give Black the edge it was reconsidered in the late nineties as playable and interesting for White.]

6... 7.e3

Qxf6



Here a lot of moves have been tried. Lhouvum's play convinced me that e3 is best, building up a very strong queenside. Other moves tend to lead to equalisation: [Qb3 dxc4 8.Qxc4 Nd7; 7.g3 Nd7 8.Bg2 dxc4 with the countermove 11.. e5!; 7.a3 dxc4 8.Ne5 c5 9.Nxc4 cxd4 which Kasparov tried against Sveshnikov 1981.; 7.Qc2 and ; 7.e4]

7... Nd7
8.a3

[I prefer 8.Bd3 which gives White more space, after: 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 g6 10.0-0 Lhouvum however had decided to go for a standard minority attack. 8.a3 aims at flexibility and prevents Black's bishop from accessing the diagonal a3-f8.]

8... g6

This was a surprise for Lhouvum and looks a bit awkward, but has its advantages over: [8...Qd8] Lhouvum exchanged pawns with:

9.cxd5

[The other alternatives were: 9.e4!? and; 9.b4 which was played by Van Wely - Gelfand (1996) with the continuation: 9...Bg7 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Bd3 0-0 12.0-0 Qe7=]

9... exd5
10.Be2 Bg7
11.0-0 0-0

and we are ready for the battle!

12.b4 Nb6



Here we leave the last game I recognise in the Semi-Slav, Copeland - McDonald (1998), where McDonald played 12... Qd6 and won after 33 moves. I prefer using the knight in the defence on the queenside where it will be quite active.

13.Qb3

and the White queen gets behind its pawns.

13... Bg4
14.a4

[Here Lhouvum points out: 14.Ne5 as an alternative, aiming at exchange but also at 15.a4 and 16.a5. I was glad not to meet 14.b5.]

14... Nc4

Voila! here's that active Black knight.

15.Ra2 Rfe8
16.Nd2

To take the Black knight out.

16... Nxd2
17.Rxd2 Bf5
18.Rc1 Qg5
19.Nd1 Rec8
20.Bd3 Bg4

Threatens an interesting lock on d1.

21.Rdc2 a6
22.Nb2 f5
23.g3

Let's see now... There is nothing better for Black than the counter-attack on the kingside, but White may have a better move - to sacrifice a pawn: [23.h3! and if: 23...Bxh3 (23... Bf3) 24.Bf1 Bg4 25.Nd3 with good defence and better attacking possibilities.]

23... Qh5
24.Bf1 f4



25.b5?

Releasing Black's rooks with the White knight still at the edge of the board. Lhouvum suggests: [25.Nd3 Bd1 (or 25...fxg3 ; but I would have chosen: 25...fxe3 like in our present game, creating the same weak spot.); I was expecting another alternative move: 25.gxf4 but Lhouvum saw the continuation: 25...Bf3 26.h3 Be4 with the idea Qf3, and saw no defence for White. Analyzing together we think: 27.Bd3! would have saved the situation for White.]

25.. fxe3
26.fxe3 axb5

27.axb5
28.h4

Qg5
Qe7



29.bxc6

[Defending the e-pawn with: 29.Rc3 might prove better, but the game is probably lost already after 25.b5?. From now on the victory for Black is just a matter of technique.]

29...
30.Rxc6

bxc6
Rxc6

31.Rxc6
32.Qd3
33.Rc2
34.Rf2
35.Rg2
36.Qxg6

Ra1
Qf8
Qf3
Qxg3+
Qh3

An act of despair. [36.Qd2 or even; 36.h5 both last longer.]

36...
37.Rf2
38.Qf7+
39.Kh2
40.Rxf1
0-1

Qxe3+
Bh3
Kh8
Bxf1
Ra3

Instead of taking a pawn, White could have given one up, to end up much better. The moral is directly from the Holy Bible, Acts of the Apostles: "Blessed are those who give more than they are given."



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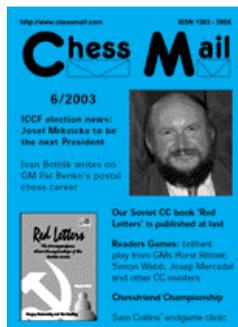
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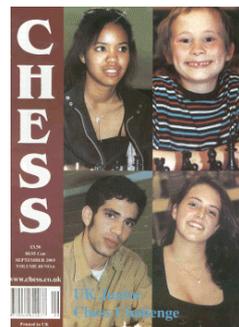
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Paul Morphy Genius and Myth By ChessBase



This is a first class CD covering the life and games of the great Paul Morphy. Morphy was head and shoulders above his contemporaries of the time and was deservedly crowned the unofficial World Champion. Morphy rose to the top very quickly and retired early adding to the mystique of the man.

The CD contains an excellent biography by Thomas Eichhorn which alone makes the CD well worth purchasing. On top of this it also contains a database of 500 of his games. Just under 100 of these games are annotated by GM Karsten Müller and Rainer Knaak.

There is also a self test database containing 90 positions where you can pit your wits against selected combinations by Morphy. These are well annotated by Karsten Müller and should keep you amused for hours. Those of you aspiring to better things will learn a lot from these tests and the annotated games in the main database. The CD comes with its own Reader so you don't need to own a copy of ChessBase.

English 1.c4 c5 By Mihail Marin



This is a bumper CD on the English from Mikhail Marin. It covers all of the 1.C4 e5 Systems giving all the material any Correspondence player should need in one handy source. I think you will be hard pressed to find significant games from any other source. There are over 69,000 games and just under 2000 of these contain notes, many of which I would describe as excellent annotations.

The author has put a great deal of work into this CD and has produced 60 database texts and annotated 330 games exclusively for the CD. The CD also pulls together other material from previous ChessBase CDs and magazines.

The CTG key is over 65 MB in size and will help you easily navigate through the myriad of variations. There is also a training database which contains 46 games. The CD comes

with its own Reader so you don't need to own a copy of ChessBase.

Here's a game I found by one of our members on the CD.

G Pyrich (2377) - H Veen (2492) [A20]

Reg Gillman mem-C corr, 1999

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 Bc5 4.Nc3 d6 5.e3 Nge7 6.Nge2 Bb6 7.d4 exd4 8.exd4 0-0 9.Be3 Re8 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Qd2 Nf5 12.Rae1 a6 13.h3 Bxe2 14.Nxe2 Nxe3 15.fxe3 Qg5 16.Rf4 Ba5 17.Nc3 Re7 18.Qf2 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Rae8 20.Rg4 Qh6 21.Rh4 Qg6 22.e4 Na5 23.Rg4 Qh6 24.Bf1 Qe6 25.e5 g6 26.Rge4 Qd7 27.Qf6 Re6 28.Qf4 Qc6 29.Qh6 Qd7 30.Qf4 Qc6 31.Qh6 1/2-1/2

Albin Counter Gambit By Luc Henris



There may not be as many games on this CD (about 3600) as the English one but nevertheless this is quite an interesting CD. The Albin Countergambit (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5) is not exactly considered sound even though it has not been refuted. You would be hard pressed to find any of the top Super GM's playing it. Strong players such as van de Wiel and Tiviakov have used it and I am sure you will find their games interesting. The Albin Countergambit produces some very playable positions which should provide you with some interesting chess.

Luc Henris has produced 29 introductory texts to give the reader a firm grasp of the opening and has annotated 95 of the games. The CD is well worth getting if only to let you spring the occasional surprise on your CC opponents and have them scurrying off to Sam Collins to try and find a book to help them out. The CD comes with its own Reader so you don't need to own a copy of ChessBase.

Here's a game I found by one of our members on the CD.

R Beacon - F Van Scheepen [D08]

CCN/ACG1/P1 CCN Email, 15.01.2002

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bf4 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Bg4 8.0-0-0 h6 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qxd4 11.Rxd4 c5 12.Rd6 Ne7 13.e4 0-0 14.h3 Be6 15.Be2 Nc6 16.Rhd1 Nd4 17.Bf1 Nc6 18.Bg3 Na5 19.b3 Nc6 20.f4 Rad8 21.Bf2 Rxd6 22.Rxd6 g5 23.f5 Bc8 24.Rxh6 Nxe5 25.Bxc5 Re8 26.Be2 Kg7 27.Rd6 b6 28.Bd4 Bb7 29.Bf3 Kg8 30.Kd2 1-0

Two Masters from Seattle By John Donaldson



This is the first ChessBase Monograph CD which doesn't feature a World Champion. With his books "Elmars Zemgalis" (GM without a Title) and "Olaf Ulvestad" (An American Original), America's International Master John Donaldson brought the lives of two masters from his home town Seattle close to broad readership. Now, both books have been captured in full on this CD, with additional content.

Both players had a strong ties to Europe. Born in Latvia, Zemgalis lived in Germany after World War II and celebrated his greatest triumphs there, before he emigrated to the USA in 1952.

Ulvestad was American by birth, yet his ancestors originated from Norway. He is best known as the inventor of the 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 b5!? Italian Game in the Two Knights Defence. His remarkable appearance on the chess scene was at the legendary match Soviet Union v USA in Moscow in 1946. Ulvestad's authentic report on this event is included on the CD. Later, he also was to live in Europe for many years.

The CD has two databases. The first is Elmars Zemgalis and contains 6 text files and 190 games. The second database is Olaf Ulvestad and contains 5 text files and 336 games. The CD comes with its own Reader so you don't need to own a copy of ChessBase.

Deadly Threats by George Renko



Before you can strike in chess, best by delivering mate, first you have to threaten something. And this is precisely the central theme of George Renko's new CD – threats. With more than 2.500 selected tactical positions, the sheer amount of material is enormous. There are no lengthy introductions; without further ado, you can immediately start solving tasks until the cows come home.

There is no better way to improve your tactical vision. The tasks are sorted according to themes, but of course you can also load one by using random selection. The solutions are very instructive. The CD comes with its own Reader so you

don't need to own a copy of ChessBase.

Hiarcs 9 By Mark Uniacke



Scoring a solid 2:2 draw against the world's number 8, super grandmaster Evgeny Bareev, the program Hiarcs has definitely re-established itself as one of the world's best chess programs. In the years of developing Hiarcs (which stands for Higher Intelligence Auto Response Chess System), its author Mark Uniacke has successfully focussed on the implementation of a maximum of chess knowledge. The Original engine from the match against Bareev is included. A chess program which can do more than calculate

The latest version 9.0 of the program has been enhanced and extended in many ways, particularly in terms of implementing concrete chess knowledge and positional learning. With the improved search function, it's now possible to assess positions using new positional criteria such as "typical pawn structures", "long term plans" and above all "safety of the king".

A better selection of variations provides a greater search depth, enabling Hiarcs 9 to impress by its sharp powerful play against the enemy king as well as its better understanding of endgames, even with unbalanced material.

A special asset of Hiarcs 9 is the opening book, which has been finely adjusted to the playing style of the program. This is the work of computer chess expert Eric Hallsworth, who has been developing the Hiarcs opening books for many years. For Hiarcs 9, he has compiled an optimized and many-sided repertoire with a wealth of novelties.

Developer Mark Uniacke himself says about his new program: "A major improvement is the king attack enhancements. Hiarcs' play can now be really exciting. Also the learning and the positional understanding has been clearly improved.

I suggest to you that the king attack enhancements (the play can be really exciting), learning, positional understanding (Hiarcs has a reputation as a positional player) and the overall strength are now clearly on a par with the top engines."

In addition to an excellent sparring partner, which will probably beat you more often than not, you also get 1 years free access to the ChessBase PlayChess server which allows to play chess on the Internet against players from all over the world.





2003 Grading Update

By Raymond Baxter

A new ICCF grading list has been published. The new grades are based on results up to 30 June 2003, and will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 October 2003 and 31 March 2004. The following grades have changed. If your name does not appear on this list, then either you do not have an international grade, or it is the same as that previously shown. Peter Jack and Derek Ross now have published ICCF grades for the first time. A provisional grade is marked with an asterisk.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
317	Almarza-Mato, C	195	1906	260	Knox, A	23	1877 *
518	Anderson, G M	62	2199	256	Lennox, C J	113	2343
121	Anderson, J	39	1965	LM03	Livie, G W G	112	2386
386	Ballan, M	78	1832	264	Lloyd, G	42	2274
LM11	Beecham, C R	238	2506	337	Loughran, R	15	1805 *
LM09	Borwell, A P	441	2278	352	McDonald, G R	64	1945
LM87	Boyle, C F	115	2197	367	MacDonald, P H	26	1875 *
215	Brown, Dr A C	77	2381	148	McEwan, N R	32	1927
038	Campbell, I W S	198	1890	391	McIntee, C	54	1807
173	Cook, W M	33	2056	LM32	Mackintosh, I	208	2195
364	Coope, D W	217	1560	216	Macmillen, A N	135	1805
204	Copley, J	87	1933	001	McNab, Dr C A	129	2492
LM27	Craig, T J	268	2422	LM66	Marshall, I H	193	1867
166	Cumming, D R	162	1999	LM91	May, M A	35	2256
316	Dowell, C M	16	1843 *	178	Milligan, B	152	1943
371	Edney, D	29	2193 *	LM78	Mitchell, I W S	59	1835
284	Findlay, J A	27	2243 *	333	Montgomery, R S	43	2268
340	Finnie, D S	184	2548	225	Norris, Rev A C	145	1871
086	Gillam, S R	117	2360	048	Pyrich, G D	548	2401
LM51	Giulian, P M	423	2492	136	Reeman, I F	84	2201
124	Goodwin, B J	33	2212	407	Ross, D W	14	1893 *
LM56	Hartford, Mrs E A	158	1964	LM65	Sprott, G R	145	2401
063	Harvey, D	52	2083	LM46	Stewart, Dr K W C	83	2163
LM15	Jack, J P E	12	2009 *	365	Thompson, B	198	1766
LM14	Jenkins, D M	75	2224	LM92	Young, S M	19	1978 *

Top 30 Active & Full ICCF Grades

No.	Grade	Name	No.	Grade	Name
1	2548	Finnie, DS (SIM)	16	2321	Baxter, R W M (SM)
2	2506	Beecham, C R (IM)	17	2290	Watson, Joe (IM)
3	2492	Giulian, P M (SIM)	18	2278	Borwell, A P (IM)
4	2492	McNab, Dr C A (SIM)	19	2274	Lloyd, G
5	2489	Kilgour, D A (GM)	20	2268	Montgomery, R S
6	2467	Neil, D (SM)	21	2256	May, M A
7	2422	Craig, T J (SIM)	22	2238	Sneddon, I
8	2401	Pyrich, G D (IM)	23	2225	Kilpatrick, R
9	2401	Sprott, G R (IM)	24	2224	Jenkins, D M
10	2386	Livie, G W G (IM)	25	2212	Goodwin, B J
11	2381	Brown, Dr A C (SM)	26	2201	Reeman, I F
12	2376	Aird, I (SM)	27	2199	Anderson, G M
13	2360	Gillam, S R (SM)	28	2197	Boyle, C F
14	2343	Lennox, C J (SM)	29	2195	Mackintosh, I
15	2325	Stewart, D J (SM)	30	2163	Stewart, Dr K W C



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

The Autumn issue of the Magazine sees some interesting contributions to the Games column. There are a number of games from regular contributors but I kick off with a game from long standing member Mark May. Hopefully Mark's fine game will encourage others to put pen to paper and annotate a game or two for the first time.

SCCA Championship 2003-04

White: M May (2293)
Black: I Reeman (2188)
Four Knights [C47]
[Annotator M May]

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 4.d4 | exd4 |
| 5.Nxd4 | Bb4 |
| 6.Nxc6 | bxc6 |
| 7.Bd3 | d5 |
| 8.exd5 | cxd5 |
| 9.0-0 | |



9...0-0./ 10. Bg5, c6./ 11. Na4, Qd6./ 12. Bh4 to deviate from game 19 against Reeman 2001/02 championship.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 9... | 0-0 |
| 10.Bg5 | c6 |
| 11.Na4 | |

if 11.....Qd6 then 12. Bh4

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 11... | h6 |
| 12.Bh4 | Re8 |
| 13.c4 | Bd6 |

13...Rb8 14.Rc1 Be6 15.cxd5 Bxd5 16. Bb1 Bd6 17.Bg3 Rb4 18.a3 Rb8 19.Qd4 Bxg3 20.hxg3 a5 21.Rfe1 h5 22.Rxe8+ Qxe8 23.Qd2 Qd8 24.Re1 Bb3 25. Qxd8+ Rxd8 26.Nc5 Bd5 27.Bd3 Kf8 28.f3 1/2-1/2 Milos,G- Kamsky,G/Manila

1992/TD

14.cxd5

14.Rc1 Rb8 15.b3 Be5 16.Bg3 Qd6 17. Re1 Bg4 18.Qc2 Bxg3 19.hxg3 Rbd8 20.Qc3 Ne4 21.Qd4 Bf5 22.cxd5 cxd5 23.Bxe4 dxe4 24.Qxa7 Qd2 25.Qc5 Rc8 26.Rcd1 Qg5 27.Qe3 Qf6 28.Nc5 Qb6 29.Rd5 Bg6 30.a3 Ra8 31.b4 Ra7 32. Qc3 Rae7 33.Re3 f6 34.Qd4 Bf7 35.Rd6 Qc7 36.a4 f5 37.a5 h5 38.Rc3 Qb8 39. Rb6 Qa8 40.a6 h4 41.Re3 Re5 42.Rd6 Qa7 43.Rd8 Qc7 44.Rd7 Qb6 45.f4 R5e7 46.Rxe7 Rxe7 47.gxh4 Qc7 48. Rg3 Bh5 Pedersen,N - Khruschiov,A / Bled 2002/EXT 2003/1-0

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 14... | cxd5 |
| 15.Rc1 | Rb8N |



15...Bf4 16.Rc5 (16.Rc6 Re6 17.Rxe6 Bxe6 18.Nc5 Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 Bc7 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21. Re1 Kf7 22.Qc2 g5 23.Bg6+ Kg7 24. Rxe6 gxh4 25.Be8 Ne4 26.Qc1 Nxf2+ 27.Kg1 Nh3+ 28.gxh3 Qg5+ 29.Qxg5+ hxg5 30.Kg2 Bf4 31.Kf3 a5 32.a4 Rd8 33.Bb5 Rd6 34.Rxd6 Bxd6 35.Bc6 d4 36.Bd7 Kf6 37.Ke4 Bc5 38.Bg4 Bb6 39. Kd5 d3 0-1 Golubev, M-Marin, M/ Sovata 2001/EXT 2003

16...Qd6 17.Bxf6 (17.Bg3 Bg4 18.Qc2 Rac8 19.b4 Ne4 20.Bxe4 dxe4 21.Rxc8 Bxc8 22.Rd1 e3 23.Rxd6 e2 24.Qxe2 Rxe2 25.Rd8+ Kh7 26.Kf1 Ba6 27.Nc5 Bxg3 28.Nxa6 Rxf2+ 29.Kg1 Bh4 30.Rd4 Rxa2 31. Rxh4 Rxa6 32.Rc4 Rb6 33.Rc7 a6 34. Rxf7 Rxb4 35.Ra7 Ra4 36.h3 h5 37.Kf2 h4 38.Kg1 Kg6 39.Kh2 Kf6 40.Rc7 Re4 41.Ra7 Ra4 42.Rc7 g6 43.Rc6+ Kg5 44. Rb6 a5 45.Rb5+ Kf4 46.Rc5 g5 47.Rd5 Ra2 48.Rd4+ Ke5 49.Rg4 Kf5 50.Rc4 a4 51.Rc5+ Kf4 Vokarev, S-Malaniuk, V/Bydgoszcz 1999/EXT 2000/0-1

17...Qxf6 1/2-1/2 Golubev, M-Frolov, A/ Kiev 1997/EXT 2000

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 16.b3 | Bf4 |
| 17.Rc5 | Bb7 |
| 18.Qf3 | Qd6 |
| 19.Bg3 | Bxg3 |
| 20.Qxg3 | Qxg3 |



- | | |
|---------|------|
| 21.hxg3 | Re7 |
| 22.Ra5 | Bc6 |
| 23.Rc1 | Bxa4 |
| 24.Rxa4 | g6 |
| 25.f3 | Kg7 |
| 26.Rc6 | Rbb7 |
| 27.Kf2 | h5 |

Draw agreed 1/2-1/2



Now for a fascinating game from Geoff Lloyd using the King's Indian Attack. It's not an opening I can say I have ever used, probably because I tend to like to think I am controlling the opening as White, rather than adopting a wait and see posture. Still it has its advantages and Geoff ably demonstrates them, and that my game could be improved by adopting a more flexible approach to the opening.

P C L, Campden v Ten Counties

White: G Lloyd
Black: D Richardson
King's Indian Attack [A04]
[Annotator G Lloyd]

After several years of study, trial and error, I have decided to stick with and develop my understanding of the King's Indian Attack. It has flexibility not only tactically but also strategically. Knowledge can be gained from a study of how Grandmasters handle the

opening. Hopefully making a strategic study, will take me a little further up the ladder. From the following game, you can observe the rich opportunities for tactical play that are abound. Perhaps the next game I submit will be of interest to the strategists.

1.Nf3 **g6**
2.g3 **Bg7**

Nothing special so far, however I am not sure yet just what formation Black is going to try for. The real strength of the K I A is that, it is so flexible, allowing me to make natural moves, simply changing the move order and playing a waiting game until Black shows his hand.

3.d3 **d5**
4.Bg2 **e5**

Black still has several options available to him, however I still have enough standard moves in hand to continue with the "waiting game".

5.Nbd2 **Nd7N**

The Bg4 variation is ruled out now. I have to consider if he is going to play (c5), or does he have other ideas?

6.0-0 **f5**

The Dutch variation is not so common, it looks very aggressive, however I would have expected Ne7 and 0-0 first.



7.e4 **c6**

7...dxe4 8.dxe4 Qf6 9.Re1 this is better for Black.

8.Qe2 **Qf6**

8...Ne7 9.exd5 cxd5 Again development is the better course.

9.exd5 **cxd5**
10.c4

Black is well behind with his

development, the King is in the centre and on an open file, the position calls out for attack before he can catch up with his development.

10... **d4**

10...Ne7 11.cxd5 This line gives White a good edge but at least Black can complete his development and avoid the coming attack.

11.Nxd4

Exploiting the pin on the (e file).

11... **a6**
12.f4 **Ne7**
13.fxe5 **Nxe5**
14.Ne4

Now exploiting the pin on the (f, file).

14... **Qb6**



14...Nf3+ 15.Nxf3 fxe4 16.Qxe4 Qe6 17.Qxe6 Bxe6 18.Re1 When White stands much better.

15.c5 **Qb4**
16.Nc2 **Qa4**
17.Nd6+ **Kd7**

17...Kf8 18.Bg5 N7c6 19.b3 Qa5 20.d4 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Qxc5 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 is winning for White.

18.Rf4 **Qa5**
19.d4 **Bh6**
20.Qxe5 **1-0**

... Resigns. Black was never allowed to complete his development, if now ... Bxf4 21.Bxf4 Whites attack is devastating. The "King's Indian Attack", is probably an opening that will stand the test of time.



The following game produced a relatively quick win for Simon Gillam in our excellent 25th Anniversary match

against ICCF. Don't let this fool you as it is a really interesting game. If the other games in this tournament are as interesting I hope to see a few more being sent in for publication.

SCCA v ICCF

White: R Ruuhila
Black: S Gillam
 Sokolsky [A15]
 [Annotator S Gillam]

1.b4 **Nf6**
2.Bb2 **g6**
3.e3 **Bg7**
4.Nf3 **0-0**
5.c4 **d6**
6.Be2 **e5**
7.d3 **Nbd7**
8.0-0 **Ne8**
9.e4 **f5**
10.Nbd2 **Ndf6**
11.h3



I don't think that I did much in this game. I felt that this was dubious, inviting Nh5 and Nf4.

11... **Nh5**
12.g3

This gave the pawn for nothing - allowing Nf4 was less clear.

12... **fxe4**
13.dxe4 **Bxh3**
14.Re1 **Qe7**
15.Bf1



The plan of 15.Bf1 and Bg2 allowed me

to build rapid pressure.

15... Bg4
16.Qb3 Bh6
17.Bg2 Qf6

17 Qf6 was winning more material (18 Rf1 Bxd2 19 Nxd2 Be2) But that would have been better than losing a whole piece.

18.Rad1 Bxd2
19.Rxd2 Bxf3
0-1



Next we have another couple of games sent in by our good friend Svend Erik Kramer the CC International Master from Denmark who was kind enough to send me a number games. The first game is another of my favourite King's Indian Defences. The second involves the Grunfeld Defence which I have only played a couple of times but thoroughly enjoyed. I think you will find both games entertaining and informative.

EU/FSM/63-3, 1999

White: M Breazu (ROM)
Black: S E Kramer (DEN)
King's Indian Defence [E74]
[Annotator CC-IM S.E. Kramer]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6
5.Be2 0-0
6.Bg5 c5
7.d5 h6
8.Bf4 e6
9.dxe6 Bxe6
10.Qd2



10.Bxd6 Re8 11.Nf3 Qb6 12.Bxb8 Raxb8 13.Qc2 Nh5 14.g3 Bh3 15.Nd2 f5 16.Bxh5 gxh5 17.0-0-0 fxe4 18. Ndx4 Bf5 19.f3 Qa6 20.Rd5 Bxe4 21. Nxe4 Qxa2 22.Rhd1 ÷

10... Qb6
11.Bxh6 Bxh6
12.Qxh6 Qxb2
13.Rc1 Nc6
14.h4 Nb4!N

A new and strong move, white has to play his Queen back and black has an ideal position. His pieces are well developed and he can calmly take his chances on the queenside with a pawn advance. Theory only gives 14...Ne5 15. Nh3 Rfe8 16.h5 Bxh3 17.hxg6 Nxg6 18. Rxh3 Nxe4 19.Rb1 Qc2 20.Qh7+ Kf8 21.Rxb7 Qd2+ 22.Kf1 Qc1+ 23.Nd1 Qxd1+ 24.Bxd1 Nd2+ 25.Kg1 Re1+= As in Lukacz-Hazai, 1988

15.Qd2!

15.Nf3 Nc2+ 16.Kd1 Ng4+;
15.Nd1 Qd4 16.Nf3 Qxe4+

15... Qxd2+
16.Kxd2 Nc6
17.f3!?

Not better is 17.h5 gxh5 18.Bxh5 Bxc4 19.Be2 Bxe2 20.Ngx2 b5³

17... Nh5
18.Nb5 Ng3
19.Rh2 Rac8
20.Bd3 Ne5
21.Ne2



21... Nxc4+!
22.Bxc4 Bxc4
23.Rxc4?!

Better is 23.Nxa7 Bxe2 24.Nxc8 Rxc8 25.Rh3 Nh5 26.Kxe2 Nf4+ 27.Ke3 Nxb3 28.Rb1 d5! 29.gxh3 (29.exd5? Re8+—) 29...d4+ 30.Kd3 Ra8³ or 23.Nxg3 Bxb5 24.h5 Kg7 25.h6+ Kh7³

23...Nf1+
24.Ke1 Nxb2
25.Kf2?

The decisive mistake. White try to catch

the h2-N, but had to play 25.Nxd6 Rc7 26.Nb5 Rc6 27.Nxa7 Ra6 28.Nb5 Rxa2 29.Rxc5 Rd8³

25... Rfd8μ
26.Nf4 a6
27.Na3 Re8
28.Nd5 Kg7
29.Ne3 b5
30.Rc1 f5
31.exf5 Re5!
32.fxg6 d5
33.Nac2 Rd8
34.g4 d4
35.Nf5+ Kxg6
36.Kg3



36.Rh1 Rde8 37.Kg3 Nxg4! 38.fxg4 Re2+—

36... Re2
37.h5+ Kf7
38.h6 Kg6
39.Ncxd4!? cxd4
40.Rc7 d3+—

Cool

41.h7 Rc2
42.Rg7+ Kf6
43.Kf4

43.Rg8 Nf1+ 44.Kf4 Rc4+ 45.Nd4 Rcx4#

43... Rd4+
44.Nxd4 Kxg7
0-1



14.OL, section 2, board 2, 2000
White: S E Kramer (DEN)
Black: D Szczepankiewics (POL)
Grunfeld Defence [D85]
[Annotator CC-IM S.E. Kramer]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 d5
4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nxc3

6.bxc3 Bg7
 7.Nf3 c5
 8.Rb1 0-0
 9.Be2 cxd4
 10.cxd4 Qa5+
 11.Bd2 Qxa2



One of the most frequently discussed modern Grunfeld lines. Black's extra pawn against Whites development advantage.

12.0-0 Bg4
 13.Bg5 h6
 14.Be3 Nc6
 15.d5 Na5
 16.Bc5 Bf6
 17.e5 Bxe5
 18.Rb4 Bxf3
 19.Bxf3 Rae8
 20.Be3 b6!?



Further examples of this line are 20... Bc3?! 21.Ra4 Qb2 22.Qd3! b5 23.Bc1 bxa4 24.Bxb2 Bxb2 25.Qd2 Nc4 26.Qc2 Rc8 27.Be2 Ne3 28.Qxb2 Nxf1 29.Kxf1 Rb8 30.Qa2+- V.Pankratov-D.Blair corr. 1996; 20...Nc4?! 21.Bxh6 Nd6 22.Ra4! Qb2 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.Rxa7 Rc8 Agrest-Hellers Rilton Cup 96/97 and now 25.Qe2 Qxe2 26.Bxe2+-

21.Bxh6 Bg7
 22.Bg5²

For the pawn White have great piece activity.

22... Qa3
 23.Re4 Qd6

24.Rfe1 Bf6
 25.Bh6 Bg7
 26.Bf4

26... Qd7
 27.Bg5 Bf6
 28.Bh6 Bg7
 29.Bxg7!± Kxg7
 30.Qa1+ f6
 31.Bg4 Qd8
 32.h4!

The only way to obtain an attack.

32... Rh8



33.h5!!

The winning move. White gives up a pawn to preserve his bishop, which soon will play a key role in the attack

33... gxh5
 34.Bf5 Qd6
 35.R1e3 Nb7
 36.Re6 Qd8

36...Qc7 37.Rg3+ Kf8 38.Rxf6+ exf6
 39.Qxf6+ Qf7 40.Qxh8+ Ke7 41.Qe5+

37.Rg3+ Kf8
 38.Bg6 Nc5
 39.Rc6 h4
 40.Re3 Kg7
 41.Bxe8 Rxe8
 42.Qd4!

42.Qxa7!?! Qxd5 43.Rxe7+ Kg6! 44.Rxe8 (44.Rxf6+!?! Kxf6 45.Rxe8 Qd1+ 46.Kh2 Qd6+ 47.Kh3+-) 44...Qxc6 45.Rg8+ Kf5 46.Qh7+ Ke5 47.Qxh4+-

42... Rh8
 43.d6 exd6

Only move.

44.Rxd6 Qf8
 45.Qg4+ Kf7
 46.Red3 Qe7

47.Rd7! Nxd7
 48.Rxd7 Re8
 49.Qh5+ Kf8
 50.Qh6+ 1-0

And in view of [50.Qh6+ Kg8 51.Qg6+ (51.Rxe7 Rxe7 52.Qxf6 Re1+ 53.Kh2 Re8 54.Qxh4+-) 51...Kf8 52.Rxe7 Kxe7 (52...Rxe7 53.Qxf6+ Rf7 54.Qxh4) 53.Qg7+ Kd6 54.Qxa7+- black resigned.]



Next we have a bumper crop of games from our hard working President. Iain is producing a string of good results at the moment and I can't help wondering if he is aiming for the Super GM status! Anyway it is always a pleasure to see our "boys" doing well.

CCO/15/S1, 2003

White: I Kourkonakis (2385)
 Black: I Mackintosh (2240)
 Symmetrical English [A00]
 [Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

1.Nf3

I've never much liked this "knights out first" business - it's a bit like eating your pudding before you've started your mince and tatties.

1... c5
 2.c4 Nf6
 3.Nc3 e6

3...Nc6 is the most popular reply, but I'm averse to the symmetry, and besides, White scores 60% overall in this line.

4.g3 a6

This is an unusual move, though it does have some strong adherents, notably the German Michael Bezold and the Canadian Kevin Spraggett, both 2500+ GMs. 4...b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 d6² is a more regular development route.

5.d4

This reply from Ilias takes us back towards the mainstream, with transpositional possibilities from other c-pawn and d-pawn openings. 5.Bg2 was what I expected, then: 5...Qc7 6.0-0 d6 7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Re8 looks about equal.

5... d5

This steers us doggedly back into seldom-visited territory on my database, but it really serves only to set up a load of exchanges.

6.cxd5 Nxd5
7.Bg2 cxd4
8.Nxd5 Qxd5
9.Qxd4 Qxd4
10.Nxd4 e5



Now that the dust has settled, it looks like easy equality for Black if he can catch up a little on development.

11.Nb3 Nc6
12.Bd2 Bd7
13.Rc1 Rc8
14.0-0 h5!?

This was a surprise to Ilias, who maybe had expected 14... Be7 or 14... Bd6 prior to castling. I've probably edited too many Gurtovoi columns for comfort...!

15.Rfd1 h4
16.Na5!?

And this was a little unexpected also! I was hoping for: 16.gxh4 Rxh4 17.Bd5 g5 18.e4 Be7³ but White has better options.

16... Nd4



16...hxg3 17.hxg3 Nd4 18.Rxc8+ Bxc8 19.Be3 Nxe2+ 20.Kf1 Nd4 works out much the same.

17.Rxc8+ Bxc8
18.Be3 Nxe2+

19.Kf1 Nd4
20.Bxd4 exd4
21.Nxb7 Rh6
22.Rxd4 Bxb7
23.Bxb7 Rb6
24.Bd5 hxg3
25.hxg3 Rxb2

Another great flurry of exchanges, but this time White has established a small edge as the Black a-pawn is weaker than its White equivalent.

26.Bc6+ Ke7
27.Ra4 Ke6
28.Bf3 Bc5
29.Be2 Rb1+
30.Kg2 Rb2
31.Kf3 f5
32.Rxa6+

White duly annexes the Black a-pawn, but is it enough for the win? If Black manages to centralise his king and avoid anything stupid with the k-side pawns, then the opposite coloured bishops should hold the draw.

32... Kd5
33.Rg6 Bd4
34.Rg5



Ilias decides to forsake the a-pawn.

34... Ke5
35.Rxg7 Rxa2
36.Re7+ Kf6
37.Re8 Ra3+
38.Kg2 Ra2
39.Rd8 Bc5

Only White would benefit from the exchange of bishops.

40.Rd5 Ba7
41.Kf3 Ra3+
½-½

With Black's pressure on f2 threatening to get repetitive, both parties were happy to agree a draw. Ilias kindly agreed to supply some material for the SCCA

magazine after the game, and is currently writing a book on Fischer as one of a series on the world champions.



CCO/15/S1, 2003

White: M Diotallevi (2355)
Black: I Mackintosh (2240)
Nimzo Indian Defence [A00]
[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

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

I had started some of my games with 1. d4 in this event, and found myself playing the Nimzo-Indian from both sides of the board.

4.Qc2

This is the Capablanca or Classical variation, where White plays to obtain the bishop pair without incurring the structural deformity of doubled c-pawns.

4... 0-0
5.a3 Bxc3+
6.Qxc3 h6



This was played deliberately to avoid the heavily-analysed continuations, examples of which are: 6...b6 is a very popular line, though White often seems to hold an edge as in: 7.Bg5 Bb7 8.Nh3 d6 9.f3 Nbd7 10.e4 c5 11.Be2 h6 12. Be3 Rc8 13.0-0 Ba6 14.Rfe1+- in Lautier-Piket, 1990; 6...Ne4 can be more interesting for Black, eg: 7.Qc2 f5 8.Nf3 d6 9.b4 Nd7 10.e3 a5 11.Bb2 axb4 12.axb4 Rxa1+ 13.Bxa1 c5 14.Bd3 cxb4 15.0-0 Ndf6 16.Qa4 Bd7 17.Qxb4 Bc6 18.Nd2 Qd7 19.Nxe4 fxe4 20.Be2 d5 21.c5 b5³ was Tseitlin-Savon, 1989; 6...d6 is fairly solid, with only slight advantage to White: 7.Bg5 Nbd7 8.e3 h6 9.Bh4 Re8 10.Bd3 e5 11.Ne2 exd4 12. exd4 Nf8 13.Qc2 Bg4 14.f3 Bh5 15.0-0² was Sokolov-Wilder, 1989; 6...b5! involves a pawn offer to give Black

more play: 7.cxb5 c6 8.Bg5 cxb5 9.e3 Bb7 10.Nf3 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Be2 Rc8 13.Qd3 a6 14.0-0 d6 15.Rfc1 Nd7= was Erdos-Wojtaszek, 2001

7.Nf3 b6
8.e3 Bb7
9.Bd3 d6
10.Qc2?!

Maurizio has played the strongest moves up to here, but I think this seems to lose a small tempo, and perhaps castling immediately would have been better.

10... Nbd7
11.0-0?



Having avoided c-pawn doubling, Maurizio is quite happy to incur that problem with his f-pawns in order to obtain the bishop pair and open the g-file.

11... Bxf3
12.gxf3 c5

Black has a little time to contest the centre before the g-file gets busy.

13.Kh1 cxd4
14.exd4 Kh8
15.Rg1 Rg8
16.Be3

16.b4 Qc7 17.Be3 Rac8 18.Rac1 Qc6 19.Qe2= was also possible.

16... d5
17.c5 bxc5
18.dxc5

Creating a passed pawn and a 3:1 q-side majority, so Black again looks for counterplay in the centre.

18... Ne5
19.Be2 Ng6
20.Rad1 Qc7
21.b4 Rad8
22.b5 e5



It's going to be pawn roller and bishops v pawn roller and knights!

23.Bd3 Nh4
24.Rg3 e4
25.Be2

25.fxe4 dxe4 26.Be2 Rxd1+ 27.Bxd1 Nf5 28.Rg1 Rc8 29.Qc4 Nxe3 30.fxe3 Qxc5 31.Qxf7 Rc7 32.Qb3³

25... Nf5
26.Rgg1 d4!

This gives Black a lasting initiative, and opens up all kinds of tactical possibilities.

27.fxe4 dxe3

28.Rxd8

Here, Maurizio thought for 9 days then declared that he had a "big problem".

28... Rxd8
29.exf5 exf2



29...Rd2 30.Qc4 exf2 31.Rf1 Qe5 32.Rxf2 Ne4 33.Rg2 Nxc5 34.Qxf7 Rc2 35.Bf1 Rc1 36.Rf2 Nd3 37.Qxa7 Nxf2+ 38.Qxf2 Qxb5--+ also works out well for Black.

30.Rf1

30.Rg2 Qf4 31.Bf1 Ne4 32.b6 axb6 33.cxb6 Qxf5 34.Qb2 f6 35.Qe2 Qd5--+]

30... Qe5

31.Rxf2 Ne4
32.Rg2 Qxf5
33.Kg1 Qe5
34.Bf1

34.b6 Qd4+ 35.Kh1 Nf2+ 36.Rxf2 Qxf2 37.bxa7 Re8 (Amusingly, if: 37...Ra8 38.Qb2 Re8 39.Qb5 Qe3 40.Qxe8+ Qxe8 41.Bf3 Qe1+ 42.Kg2 Qd2+ 43.Kg1= and White escapes!) 38.Qc4 Qe1+ 39.Bf1 Ra8 40.Qxf7 Rxa7 41.Qf8+ Kh7--+

34... Nxc5
35.Rf2 Ne4
36.Re2

36.Rxf7 Qd4+ 37.Kg2 Qd5 38.Bc4 Qg5+ 39.Kh1 Nd6 40.Rf1 Nxb5 41.Qa4 Nd6 42.Bb3 Qc5--+ and Black stays in control.

36... Qd4+
37.Kh1

37.Kg2 Nc3 38.Re1 Qd5+ 39.Kg1 Nxb5 40.Bxb5 Qxb5--+

37... Nd2
38.Qf5



38.Qd1 Nxf1 39.Qxf1 Qd5+ 40.Kg1 (40.Rg2 Qh5 41.Re2 Qxb5--+) 40... Qxb5--+

38... Nxf1
39.Qxf1 Qd5+
40.Kg1 Qxb5
41.Re1 Qa5
42.Qf2 Rd3

The last White q-side pawn goes; the Black f-pawn isn't significant; and it's just technique to convert, so ... 0-1



OK I'll give you a short break from Iain's skills before presenting his final game for this issue. The following game was played by our former President on the Internet. I only received

the bare moves and have avoided the temptation to annotate it myself, bar a reference to a game played by Kasparov last year. Suffice is to say that my impression was that Alan made good use of his CC experience to gain the full advantage from the opening.

On a different note, and from my point of view a sadder note, both Alan and George Pyrich are retiring from their posts with ICCF. They have both been first class ambassadors for our sport. I hope they will be around for a long time to give friendly advice to future generations of officials, but more importantly I sincerely hope that the extra free time will allow them to relax and enjoy many more games of chess.

ChessWorld.net, 2003

White: A Borwell
Black: T Gavril
Sicilian Defence [B33]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	e5
5.Nb5	Nf6
6.N1c3	d6
7.Bg5	a6
8.Na3	b5
9.Bxf6	gxf6
10.Nd5	f5
11.Bxb5	axb5
12.Nxb5	Ra4
13.b4	Qh4
14.0-0	Rg8
15.f4	Kd8
16.c3	Ra6
17.Ne3N	



17.a4 fxe4 18.f5 Bb7 19.Ra2 e3 20. Nxe3 Qe4 21.Re1 Nxb4 22.cxb4 Bh6 23.Kh1 Bxe3 24.Qe2 Rc6 25.a5 Qxb4 26.Nxd6 Rxd6 27.Qxe3 Qd4 28.Qc1 Qd5 0-1 Shirov,A-Kasparov,G/Linares ESP 2002/The Week in Chess 383

17...	Qh6
18.Nc4	Qg6
19.g3	exf4

20.Rxf4	fxe4
21.Nbxd6	Bxd6
22.Nxd6	1-0



CCO/15/S1, 2003

White: M Sheehan (2345)
Black: I Mackintosh (2240)
[A00]
[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

There's a small anecdote which prefaces this game. I've subscribed to Chess Magazine for so long that I'm one of the few people who remit by standing order rather than direct debit. Every time Chess subs go up, Malcolm Pein and his people have to plead with me to change my SO amount. Last year, they were so pleased that I was offered a free book from their remainder list. I chose the Blumenfeld Gambit by Jan Przewoznik and Malcolm himself - after my inconclusive flirtations with the Benoni and Benko, here was another "B" gambit to try...

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	e6
3.Nf3	

You can't do the Blumenfeld if White plays 3.Nc3.

3...	c5
4.d5	b5!?
5.Bg5	



This is the Gambit Declined.

5...	Qa5+
------	------

This is the favoured line of the three main variations analysed in the book. The other two are: 5...exd5 6.cxd5 where current thinking concludes that Black will be unable to retain his b5-pawn, and White will control c4; 5...h6 6.Bxf6 a controversial move, where Black tries to stop White putting pieces on c4, but in doing so loses out

positionally, especially e5-d6-d7

6.Nc3

This is the most quiet continuation, with more mayhem being available in the following: 6.Qd2 Qxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 is a very sharp line, with Black committed to attack down the b- and g-files, and having a number of tactical shots; 6. Bd2 Qb6 7.Nc3 here, White limits the scope of the Black queen, but only by misplacing the bishop, so Black has no real problems; 6.Nbd2 Ne4 this line is not fully tested at the top level, but offers Black some interesting prospects.

6...	Ne4
7.Bd2	Nxd2
8.Qxd2	b4



and the book concludes that Black will have no problems if he prepares to play d6, though not immediately. 8...bxc4 9. e4 d6 10.e5 dxe5 11.Bxc4 Ba6 12.Bxa6 Qxa6 13.0-0-0 f6 14.dxe6 Qxe6 15. Qd8+ Kf7 16.Kb1 Rg8 17.Qd3 g6 18. Nd5 Na6 19.Rhe1 with a dangerous initiative for the pawn (Akhmilovskaya-Pihajlic, 1982)

9.Ne4	Be7
10.Ng3	0-0?!
11.d6!	



Michael cashes in on my delay in playing d6 by playing it himself! This move is a real nuisance, and it takes Black a long time to eliminate this advance guard.

11... Bf6
 12.Nh5 Bd8
 13.e4 Nc6
 14.Be2 b3!?

A modest counter-nuisance.

15.0-0 Qxd2
 16.Nxd2 bxa2
 17.Rxa2 Bb7
 18.Nb3 Bb6
 19.Ra1?!



19.Ra3 here offered possibilities for doubling on the a-file or switching across the third rank.

19... f6

I was keen to bolster e5 before White's e- and f-pawns rolled forward.

20.Ng3 a5
 21.Ra3 a4
 22.Nc1 Ne5
 23.Rd1 Rfb8
 24.f4 Nf7



Slowly but surely Black is positioning his pieces to exert pressure centrally and on the a- and b-files, plus keep White's b-, c- and d-pawns disconnected.

25.Kf2 Bc6
 26.Bh5 g6
 27.Be2 Bd8
 28.Ra2 Rb4

28...Ra7 and; 28...Rb7 were also possible

29.f5!?

I thought this was White's sharpest try.

29... Rab8
 30.Rd2 R4b7

Inviting the capture on e6 rather than mixing it by exf5 or gxf5.

31.Nd3?!



This looked to me like the d-pawn being traded for some activity after a long spell of containment.

31... Nxd6

It took 20 moves to achieve this!

32.fxe6 dxe6
 33.Nf4 Nf7

I preferred this to: 33...Nxe4+ 34.Nxe4 Bxe4 35.Nxe6 Be7 36.Rxa4 which seemed to give White too many degrees of freedom

34.Nxe6 Ba5
 35.Rc2 h5

Consistent with denying White space.

36.Bf3 Ne5
 37.Nf4 Bc7

38.Nge2?!



38.Nd5 Nd3+ 39.Ke2 Nb4 40.Nxb4 Rxb4+ isn't great either, but White's pieces are so cluttered up that good

moves are hard to spot

38... g5

Now the bishop has nowhere to go.

39.Nd5 g4
 40.Nec3 gxf3
 41.gxf3 Bd6
 42.Nxa4 Ra7
 43.Nac3 Rxa2
 44.Nxa2

White looks to have held two pawns for the bishop, but Black controls the board, and the pawns just melt away.

44... Ba4
 45.Re2 Bd1
 46.Rd2 Nxc4
 47.Rxd1 Rxb2+
 48.Ke1 Rxa2
 49.Nb6 Nxb6
 50.Rxd6 Nc4
 51.Rxf6 Rxh2
 52.Rf5 Nb2

Threatening Nd3+ if the pawn is taken.

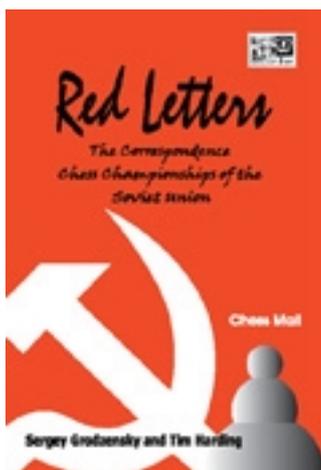
53.Kf1 Nd3
 54.e5 c4
 55.e6 Rf2+
 56.Kg1 Re2



Snuffing out the last White threat, and leading to a straightforward conclusion.

57.Rd5 Rxe6
 58.Rd8+ Kf7
 59.Rc8 Re1+
 60.Kh2 Rc1
 61.Rd8 Ne1
 62.Rh8 c3
 63.Rxh5 c2
 64.Rc5 Nxf3+
 65.Kg3 Nd4
 66.Kf2 Ke6
 67.Ke3 Nb3
 0-1





This analysis of the top 101 rated CC players comes from the ICCF list of August 2003.

23	Germany
12	Russia
5	USA, England
4	France, Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine
3	Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Poland
2	Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Hungary, Switzerland
1	Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Chile, Georgia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia

Introduction

Tim Harding has just released Red Letters, which is the story of the 21 CC Championships played under the banner of the old Soviet Union. Although the USSR ceased to exist at the end of 1991, its CC Championships continued until 2002, confirming that chess is more durable than politics!

The book is co-authored by Sergey Grodzensky, an ICCF GM, plus Tim Harding, now an ICCF SIM. Both are noted CC historians and authors, although this is Sergey's first publication in English (the translation was by Ken Neat).

Contents

The medium is book + CD. The book is rather larger than usual (16x24cm), and, pleasingly, is stitch-bound. It has 160 pages of commentary, games, cross-tables, tactical finishes, miniatures and indices, plus 8 glossy pages of players' photographs (not too many cheerful characters in there!).

The CD contains three main types of material:

- Databases - there are 1400+ Championship games, plus a further 3000+ Russian CC games, with 1100+ being annotated in some way. They are stored in Chess Assistant, ChessBase (old and new), and PGN formats.
- Russian text - Sergey's original Cyrillic, lest you doubt the authenticity of the source material!
- Miscellaneous - a collection of photographs, chess graphics, tournament cross-tables, texts in pdf format, and other reference material.

The CD has been created for Windows computers, but the files can be ported on to Apple, Unix and Linux machines.

Review

The Soviet school has dominated world chess for decades, particularly over the board, with Russians plus ex-Soviets and émigrés representing by far the biggest tranche in the FIDE rating list. Interestingly, CC rating has a different balance, with Germany being the leading nation, even when all the ex-USSR countries are tallied together.

The top-rated Russian is GM Mikhail Umansky at 2687, ranked 11th. The only other Russian to make the top 20 is GM Abram Khasim, 2651, ranked 20th.

Nonetheless, the USSR CC Finals represent a long-running feast of high quality chess. Many notable Russian players participated (including Konstantinopolsky, Estrin, Simagin and Yudovich - all USSR champions - plus Zagorovsky, Umansky, Nesis and many others, including Grodzensky, who was arbiter in Ch-15 and Ch-19, and played in Ch-21).

A feature of these events is the high playing performance from the less well known contestants, often restricted by geography or non-chess careers, but demonstrating the ability to overturn the big names via the CC medium.

Almost all the games were played by post, and without the benefit of computer analysis, so all the combinations and complications were the result of fertile minds at work! In the same spirit, the annotations are largely human rather than electronic.

The authors needed deep research to complete the history, as there was no central archive for the tournaments - Ch-16 and onwards were fully published in bulletins, but many earlier results, game scores and cross-tables had to be assembled from the contributions of individual competitors.

Sample

Here is a game from the book, featuring commentary by GM Paul Motwani, who has also assessed Estrin (the 5th CC world champion) in Chess Mail.

Estrin, Y - Sadomsky, A [C55]

5th USSR CC Championship, 1960- 63

[Notes by Paul Motwani]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bc4	Nf6
4.d4	exd4
5.e5	d5
6.Bb5	Ne4
7.Nxd4	Bd7

[Nowadays, the major alternative is 7...Bc5! after which White normally plays 8.Be3 (instead of getting into a mess with 8.Nxc6? Bxf2+ 9.Kf1 Qh4 when one unpleasant line is 10.Nd4+ c6 11.Nf3 Ng3+! 12.Kxf2 Ne4+ 13.Ke2 Qf2+ 14.Kd3 Bf5)]

8.Bxc6 **bxc6**
9.0-0 **c5**

[White's centralised knight remains imperturbable after 9...Bc5]

10.Nb3! **c6**

[10...c4 simply loses a pawn to 11.Qxd5!]

11.c4!

Effectively fixing Black's c-pawns where they stand, so that they can later be attacked and (very possibly) won.

11... **dx c4**

[11...d4 12.f3 Ng5 13.f4 Ne6 14.f5 is horrible for Black.]

12.N3d2 **Nxd2**
13.Nxd2 **Be6**
14.Qa4 **Qb6**
15.Qc2!

[15.Nxc4? would throw away White's positional advantage, because Black then has 15...Qb5]

15... **Qa6**
16.Ne4 **0-0-0**
17.Be3 **Qb5**
18.Ng5 **Bd5**



19.Nxf7!

A perfectly timed tactical shot from Esrtin.

19... **Bxf7**
20.Qf5+ **Rd7**
21.e6 **Rd5**
22.Qxf7 **Qb7**
23.Qe8+ **Rd8**

24.Qh5 **Be7**

[If 24...Rd5 25.Qg4 then White simultaneously threatens 26.Qxc4 or 26.e7+.]

25.Qg4 **g6**
26.Qxc4

The first of Black's three weaklings drops off on the c-file.

26... **Qb5**
27.Qc3

Maintaining the pressure.

27... **Rhg8**

[27...Rd3 28.Qxh8+]

28.Rad1 **Rd5**
29.Rxd5 **cx d5**
30.Rc1

Simple, strong chess.

30... **Kb7**
31.Bxc5 **Bxc5**
32.Qxc5 **Qxc5**
33.Rxc5 **Re8**
34.Rxd5 **Rxe6**
35.g3 **Kc6**
36.Ra5 **1-0**

Black lost on time according to Shakmatny Byulleten 5/1962, but of course his two-pawn deficit would have been fatal in any case.

Conclusion

I found this book a very satisfying combination of historical anecdotes and fascinating chess. The authors are to be warmly commended for their painstaking research and re-assembly of the cross-tables and game scores.

The material assembled on the CD is an extra bonus, with something like 4500 extra CC games for your database! I think the complete package represents really good value.

Red Letters sells at £15.99, or 25 euros. With p&p, this becomes £16.99 or 27 euros. In addition, there are a number of combined purchases available from Chess Mail, featuring combinations of Red Letters, Megacorr 3 and/or 64 Great Chess Games.

Red Letters is available from September 30, and handily timed for the Christmas market - it's definitely a potential present for the chess enthusiast!

You can find out more at <http://www.chessmail.com/> or write to Chess Mail at 26 Coolamber Park, Dublin 16, Ireland. Other stockists are also selling the book - you should quote ISBN 0-9538536-5-9.



International Update

By George Pyrich

Olympiad XV Preliminaries Section 1				Hong Kong	Lithuania	Ireland	Netherlands	Greece	South Africa	Brazil	Romania	Mexico	Iceland	Italy	Total Points	Percentage
1	Philip Giulian	2511	SIM	½				½		½	½				2	50.0
2	George Pyrich	2426	IM		½					0	½			½	1½	37.5
3	Tom Craig	2414	SIM					1							1	100
4	George Livie	2323	IM	½				½		0		½	1	½	3	50.0
5	Alan Borwell	2283	IM		0									0	0	0
6	Iain Mackintosh	2240		1	½	1		½		½				1	4½	75.0
Team Total				2	1	1		2½		1	1	½	1	2	12	52.2

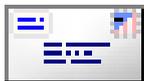
Leaders at the beginning of October are Lithuania (74.2%), followed by Netherlands (69.2%), Brazil (69.0%), Ireland (61.9%), Italy (59.7%) then Scotland in 6th place with 52.2%.

2nd North Sea Team Tournament			Netherlands	Norway II	Sweden	Iceland	Germany	England	Norway I	Denmark	France	Belgium	Total Points	Percentage
1	Dr Alan Brown		½	½					0	1			2	50.0
2	Robert Montgomery								½	1			1½	75.0
3	Dr Ken Stewart		0	½				½	½	½	0	0	2	28.6
4	John Findlay		½		0								½	25.0
5	Gordon Anderson		½		1			½					2	66.7
6	David Edney		½	0	½			½	½	½	½		3	42.9
Team Total			2	1	1½			1½	1½	3	½	0	11	44.0

Leaders at the beginning of October are France (71%), followed by Norway I (63%), Germany (58%), Denmark (55%), England (54%), Iceland (47%) then Scotland in joint 7th place alongside Sweden with 44%.

Current Friendly Internationals						
Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void
Jul 2003	23	Finland	Mixed	½	½	
Jun 2003	24	Canada	Mixed	1½	½	
Dec 2002	129	ICCF	Mixed	39	68	4
Jun 2002	20	Catalonia	Mixed	2	14	2
Feb 2002	21	Norway	Mixed	8½	26½	

Full details of all competitions can be found on the SCCA website: <http://www.scotishcca.co.uk>



Letters to the Editor



In the last edition, we published extracts from James Schroeder's review of "Bobby Fischer - From Chess Genius to Legend" by Eduard Gufeld, which featured a contribution from Carlos Almarza-Mato. Carlos now writes:

Many thanks for your kind letter enclosing another one from Mr Schroeder (USA).

Nevertheless, this is a strange story: I guess that Gufeld's book on Fischer with my article is now published. But I had told Mr Borwell to tell the editors that they should send two complimentary copies of the book to me. So far, I have received nothing....

In any case, I have written to Mr Schroeder and, let me say, I am very glad to know that, in some way or another, I have contributed to extend the name of the SCCA.

Correspondence Chess is a wonderful but mysterious world. Strange links are established but we never know each other. Be this as it may, thank you very much indeed. Long live the SCCA!

Yours as ever,
Carlos A-M

Thanks again to Carlos, a loyal supporter! (I hope your bookcase now features Gufeld's opus....)

Confidential Chess Lessons
© James Schroeder

No sooner had I received Carlos' letter, than I was opening one from Jim Schroeder! Jim had some follow-up comments on game copyright which I've replied to separately, and he also enclosed some back numbers of his CCL newsletter, offering me the chance to reprint his book reviews. I jumped at that, and have included one below.

First, some background on Jim. He's a veteran US master who once won fifty consecutive USCF rated tournament Games, which may be a record. He was Ohio Champion in 1950 and 1985 (tied).

Since 1970 he has been donating chess sets, boards, clocks and books to prison chess programmes all over the USA.

Nowadays, he makes a living by writing, selling books and teaching chess. He offers a package whereby developing players send him a few dollars and get 40 pages of Chess Lessons, their games fully annotated, and a subscription to the CCL newsletter. This is a great deal, especially if the players don't have easy access to a trainer.

It's when Jim sits down at his battered typewriter to review the work of others that he is transformed from chess fanatic into ranting polemicist. He is a rich source of collectable insults - here are a few published by Chessville:

"Today, any professional chess player who isn't deaf, dumb and blind, and is NOT a Grandmaster, must be an idiot."

"Moron Of The Year. An early Candidate is Andy Soltis who wasted almost 1½ pages in Chess Life to advocate that a stalemate should not be the same as a draw. Such stupidity is not even worth commenting upon, except to state that his 'reasons' for it are asinine."

"Seirawan is a blithering idiot who isn't capable of intelligent analysis because he wears out his feeble mind trying to think of cute things to say, such as oops and whoops."

"Lifetime Moron Award goes to Yasser Seirawan who continues to be the most putrid writer in the history of chess."

Here is Jim's review of Hugh Myers' book "A Chess Explorer", reprinted from CCL 2003, pp M129-131. I really love his writing style!

Published 2002. 240pp. Limp cover. Algebraic. Very small diagrams.

Atrociously poor publication in every aspect. Insane margin of 2½ inches on the left, wasting an enormous amount of space. Game scores in paragraph form, crowded with analysis, variations, and sub-variations which are a mess. I did that *once*, and a week later couldn't follow my analysis. Probably not a bad idea with Myers' trash. Much of the print is so tiny it can't be read without a magnifying glass.

The "Search for Truth" does not exist in Myers: his purpose for writing this junk is to glorify himself. Who is he? Not an International Master, but a *patzer* who wrote a lot of horrible books and magazines.

Continually he writes: "I had a won game". Myers is so inane that he thinks he is a great player because of the number of "won games" he had, but exactly the opposite is true. By losing so many of these games, he proves that he is a very poor player. Common sense and reality are unknown to Myers.

"Elo or Harkness ratings. A mathematical system for rating chess players, invented by Harkness. Then appropriated and made more inscrutable by Arpad Elo."

WRONG! Elo's system has not the slightest relevance to the idiotic system invented by Harkness. Elo uses simple mathematical formulas and only an absolute moron would call it "inscrutable".

"My opinion is that the organisers of US Swiss system tournaments take home more dollars than the first prize winners do."

Why shouldn't they? Contrarywise, most organisers of Swiss tournaments when Myers played in them often made no money at all!

130 games (*in the book*). Most of them of such low quality that they should never have been published. I think the average rating of the players in games Myers wins is around Class A.

"My subjective opinion is that the games in this book compare well with most "Master" games collections. Of course a Grandmaster's frequency of error is much lower than mine."

Thanks. I needed a good laugh. That egotistical, conceited claim was made by an idiot who wrote that he was better than Kasparov because he "played more publishable games".

Once I played Myers in a tournament and he won a pawn. While I was thinking, he asked me to resign, stating that he was supposed to meet his mother who was coming to town on a bus. Gentleman that I am, I resigned.

That's part of Myers' problem. He thinks that getting an advantage proves that he is a great player, but doing so in main-line openings was too difficult, so he played junk and often got an advantage because his opponents were surprised.

More often he believed he had an advantage when he did not. 1.e4 c5 2.a4 g6 3.h4 and White "threatens" Ra3-h3. See! There is a point to Myers' weird moves. Myers is devoid of positional judgement.

Only players with great knowledge of the middle game and endings have the ability to judge openings. For example: 1.e4 Nc6 (Myers claims to be the world's leading authority on this opening, but he knows less about it than I do, and that's almost nothing.) 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Ne2 e6 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.f4 Nb4! and *not* the move Myers recommended 6... Qh4.

Myers also said that Kasparov was *not* an attacking player. Can you imagine reading a book of opinions by such a moron?

Myers is not a Grandmaster or even a Master, so why would anyone want to read his memoirs or see his games? The same reason you would visit someone in an insane asylum.

"I got on a roller-coaster and sat next to the notorious James Schroeder of Cleveland."

That's a lie. In 1955, I was not notorious but practically unknown. Another lie:

"I gave \$5.00 to Jim Schroeder so he could eat while hitch-hiking back to Cleveland (from Long Beach, 1955 US Open)."

Myers *never* gave me any money because I did *not* need any, and I did *not* hitch-hike to *Columbus*, I rode in a car driven by a player returning to New York.

The truth is that Myers "borrowed" \$20.00 from me. Of course he never paid it back. I have a history of loaning \$20.00 to "friends" who never pay me back.

WARNING! Myers writes many such anecdotes which he uses to try to degrade and demean other persons. Don't believe it! Inane comment:

"Fischer's skill was largely a result of intensive book study."

As if the only reason Myers was not World Champion is that he did not study books. The only thing Myers has in common with Fischer is that they are paranoid. Myers is so crazy he thinks Kasparov tried to have him killed in 1986!

White: A nitwit who was a FIDE Master.

Black: Myers

1.Nf3 h6 2.b3? b5 3.g3 Bb7 4.Bg2 e6 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.0-0 c5 7.d3 d5

If I could get such positions as Black I would play 1... h6 every time! Did Myers win? NO! He could only draw and had the gall to publish the game to prove what a rotten player he is. No wonder Myers thinks his insane openings are good: his opponents play like imbeciles!

Myers says he was paid to be a proof-reader for Ken Smith. I remember seeing many typographical errors in the books where Myers was listed as proof-reader.

Former FIDE President Florencio Campomanes was a liar, thief and swindler, and was recently arrested in the Philippines. He played in a Swiss tournament in 1988 and claimed to be a Class B player in order to win the \$5,000 rating prize. He had played in the FIDE Team Tournament and was almost an International Master.

"Keene, Kasparov and their whole crew are greedy liars, therefore I supported Campomanes."

In 1984, Karpov defended his title in a World Championship match with Kasparov, and the player who won six games would win the match. Karpov won early, but then slowed and won game 24 to lead 5-0. Just one more win! Never happened! After Kasparov won game 48 he trailed 3-5. Myers' account of why the match was cancelled is *wrong!*

The officials of the USSR Chess Federation decided to end the farce because it was becoming too difficult to go on indefinitely. You can't hire an auditorium with room for spectators, TV cameras, and press corps (who will want computers, telephones, etc), on a day-to-day basis. It looked as though the match would continue another 48 days - that's all there was to it.

In 1985, a match was held with a limit of 24 games and Kasparov won. As a curiosity, Karpov won the first game of that match. It would have been number six!

Myers perpetual stupidity is astonishing!

"Most of my losses to Grandmasters have been won by me in the opening, then thrown away by blunders. They shouldn't be proud of their play in those games - but they won."

Proud?? Myers is such an imbecile that he actually believes that! Grandmasters assumed Myers was an idiot, played against him as if he were an idiot, and Myers proved they were correct. From 1968:

White: Myers

Black Gligoric

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.f4 Nxe4 5.Nf3 Nd6??

Myers asinine comment: "It was difficult to get a won game against Gligoric in the opening." It looks easy to me! 6.Bd5

"Recommended by Weaver Adams."

6... exf4 7.d4 Be7 8.Bxf4 0-0 9.0-0 Ne8 10.Ne5 Nf6 11.Nxf7 Rxf7 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7 13.d5 Nb4 14.a3 Na6 15.d6 cxd6 16.Nd5 Nc5

Instead of the obvious 17.Bg5 with an easy win, Myers makes his first "original" move.

17.Nxe7?? Qxe7 and Black won in 28 moves.

"My first book 'New Strategy in the Chess Openings' had been published by James Schroeder. It was a crude production. I was most annoyed to discover this gratuitous opinion of Schroeder: 'I can't believe that 1.c4 g5 is good for Black. There is no need even give reasons for my opinion: the move 1... g5 violates the chess principles as I learned them.'"

I have not seen any games between Grandmasters where Black wins, or even draws, after 1.c4 g5. It was only a pamphlet, not nearly enough for a book, and I don't know what Myers means by "crude". Certainly not as crude or as unreadable as "A Chess Explorer". At least you could follow the moves and the analysis. Myers is an ugly writer. Note this gratuitous insult:

"Donald Byrne, in my opinion, is a stronger player and better person than his GM brother."

WRONG! Robert Byrne was definitely the stronger player. As to the "better person", that would be impossible as Robert is a gentleman. Robert doesn't need me to defend him, but someone should tell Myers he is an obnoxious ass. It is torture to try to read this mundane and stupefyingly dull trash.

"One night I walked up eight flights of stairs, discovered I had forgotten my key, and had to walk the round trip once more."

An unforgettable experience! But not as exciting as a roller-coaster ride! I spare the reader by not giving more horrible examples of Myers' love lives, illnesses and other degenerate trivia. This book is ROTTEN throughout, and much worse than I have indicated.

"The view was great."

The book is full of crap like that. Inane comment:

"Without time trouble, I might have played better."

Myers mentions me four times, and I am flattered to be worthy of so much attention from a great person. As to his lies about me: it is better to be damned by a fool than praised by one.

In 1977, I asked Myers what Black should play after: 1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qxd4 5.Be3 Qxd1+ 6.Rxd1

Later, in his magazine, he claimed I had stated that this "refuted Black's play". That is insane! But so is Myers. When I wrote to him complaining that he had committed libel against me, he did not have the intelligence to apologise, but responded in his typical ignorant, antagonistic, belligerent manner, because he's a completely self-centred egomaniac.

Myers complains about being misquoted and considers it a crime, but when he misquotes someone else it is not so important. How could this book be worse? He adds games played against computers which are atrocious.

I think Myers hates himself. He knows that his games and analysis are crap, and so he deliberately uses a layout and format that makes them unreadable. He uses type which is between 1 and 2 centimetres high.

Myers claims "I have printed insults against him for 40 years". I don't believe you can insult anyone by telling the truth about them.

I have supported Myers with money for many years. The last time I sent Myers \$100 it made him so angry he quit writing me.



Finally, I received an email from Lars Balzer of Germany telling me his website has moved to:

<http://www.chessgameslinks.lars-balzer.info>

If you haven't visited this site yet, it's definitely worth a look - Lars has amassed a huge collection of games download links, which give you access to literally millions of published games.

They are cross-indexed by type (eg openings, endgames, CC, computer, by person, etc), and also by country, with commentary as to the frequency of updates.

If you don't want to do all the downloads yourself, he can provide you with 3 CDs containing 2000Mb of games data, all for 40 euros if mailed to European addresses.



General Information

Members of the Scottish CCA are eligible to play in ICCF postal and email tournaments, which cover European and World, Open (O - under 1900), Higher (H - 1900-2100) and Master (M - over 2100) classes. Entries to H or M class events for the first time require evidence of grading strength, or promotion from a lower class. O and H classes have 7 players/section, with M class having 11. It is possible to interchange between postal and email events when promotion from a class has been obtained.

New World Cup tournaments start every 2-3 years, with 11-player sections of all grading strengths, and promotion to 1/2 finals and final. Winners proceed to the Semi-Finals, and winners of these qualify for a World Cup Final. The entry fee covers all stages, and multiple entries are allowed, though Semi-Finals are restricted to 2 places per individual.

Master Norm tournaments with 11-player sections are available for strong players, using airmail or email. Entry level is fixed ICCF rating of 2300+, (2000 ladies); non-fixed ICCF 2350+ (2050 ladies); or FIDE 2350+ (2050 ladies); while medal winners (outright winners ladies) in national championships are also eligible. A player can enter only one postal section and one email section per year. Section winners who do not achieve norms receive entry to a World Championship Semi-Final.

International numeric notation is the standard for postal events, while PGN is recommended for email play. Playing rules and time limits are provided for each event, and the usual postal limit is 30 days per 10 moves, with up to 30 days leave per calendar year. To speed progress, air mail stickers should be used to Europe as well as international destinations, as the postal rates are not increased as a result. Please be aware that some patience is required, as games may take up to 3 years against opponents in countries with poor mail services. Silent withdrawal is bad etiquette! International CC postcards are recommended, and can be obtained from Chess Suppliers (Scotland). The introduction of email has speeded up many events, and made it cheaper to play. Generally, you should play less email games simultaneously than postal because of the faster play.

A prerequisite for entry via the SCCA 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 from making new chess friendships!

Current tournament fees are shown on the ICCF Index page of the SCCA website, and all Scottish players competing in ICCF events have bookmarks from the SCCA site to the relevant ICCF cross-table for easy checking of results. The SCCA international secretary can advise on all aspects of play, how to enter, current entry fees, etc.

New ICCF Office Bearers

The ICCF Congress meeting in Ostrava from October 11-18 has, inter alia, elected a new President and Qualifications Commissioner following the decisions by Alan Borwell and George Pyrich to stand down from these posts. We thank them on behalf of all SCCA members for their long and distinguished service to the international federation, and hope that their successors will carry on their excellent work!

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2003

Theme 10 - Slejpnar, A00

1.Nc3,d5 2.e4,d4

Entries by 15 October; play starts 1 December

Email Events 2003

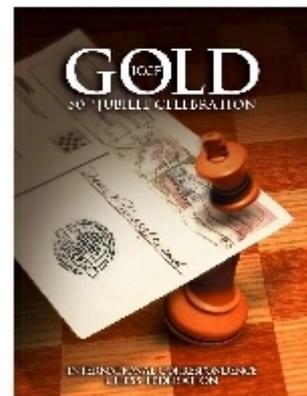
Theme 12 - Scandinavian Defence, B01

1.e4,d5 2.exd5

Entries by 1 November; play starts 1 December

ICCF Gold

ICCF GOLD is the definitive reference book for all CC players. The 376-page book is a celebration of the first 50 years of ICCF and looks forward to a very interesting future. The UK price of ICCF Gold is £14.99, which includes p&p, and a full review of the book is included in Magazine 80.



Further details of all ICCF activities and events; entries to events, and orders for ICCF publications, may be obtained via George Pyrich at: international@scottishcca.co.uk

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