

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.88

Winter 2004

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- Jim recounts last season's success stories
- **ChessBase CD Reviews**
- Bernard looks at recent CDs including CB9
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- Another great collection of annotated games
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- George provides a comprehensive report
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- a light-hearted round-up of chess oddities

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As usual, this edition is issued a little way into January in order to catch the final results and tables of the 2004 season. Despite thus being a little late, let me wish each and every one of you a very happy and healthy 2005!

Jim Anderson has now filed the final statistics on 2004, and the tables are set out within - many congratulations if your name appears in blue and bold as a winner!

At the time of writing, Jim is busily organising the 2005 programme of events, and you'll find these appearing on our website as soon as entries are complete.

As ever, Bernard has supplied a well-annotated Games Column and he also looks at all the recent ChessBase CDs and DVDs, including his first impressions of ChessBase 9. I'm hopeful that he'll be able to write further articles for us on this subject, as he did with CB7 and CB8.

George Pyrich provides us with a comprehensive report on the 2004 ICCF Congress held in Mumbai. ICCF seems to be in something of a confused state at present, with Josef Mrkvicka, Chris Lueers and John Knudsen all stepping down within a few days of each other. No doubt all will become clear in due course...

George is currently organising the first friendly internationals of 2005, and we'll post these on the website when pairings are finalised. Results are starting to come in now for the Douglas Livie Memorial, and you can follow progress here on the website also.

Our all-Scottish team has now started play in division 3 of the ICCF Champions League, and several individual members have entered the 14th ICCF World Cup.

We completed the transfer of SCCA development funds into a 60-day account providing respectable interest rates, so we should earn a little more money than previously.

George Livie is still looking to generate interest for a dinner to be held in the Spring. If you are interested in attending, please contact him using one of the methods below.

We are still selling copies of the ICCF Gold book (£14.99 inc p&p) - please contact George Pyrich, again using one of the methods below. It's a landmark, and great value!

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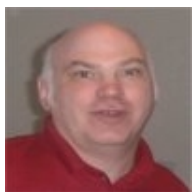
To have a look at any event, go to the site, and then click Tables and Results. If the event allows public viewing, choose a section, then click a cell in the cross-table to see the moves and position in the game(s) of your choice.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2004	1st	2nd
December	J S Murray	P J Moir
November	I Mackintosh	M A May
October	K B McAlpine	G W G Livie

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2004 Results

By Jim Anderson

Championship

2003/2004		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Pts
1	Brown, Dr A C	■	1	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	½	8½
2	Cumming, D R	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Edney, D	0	1	■	1	½	1	½	0	½	½	0	5
4	Henderson, B	0	1	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	1½
5	Lennox, C J	½	1	½	1	■	½	0	½	0	½	½	5
6	Lloyd, G	0	1	0	1	½	■	0	½	1	1	0	5
7	Mackintosh, I	½	1	½	1	1	1	■	1	1	1	0	8
8	Maxwell, A	0	1	1	1	½	½	0	■	½	½	1	6
9	May, M A	0	1	½	1	1	0	0	½	■	½	½	5
10	Norris, Rev A C	0	1	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	■	0	3½
11	Reeman, I F	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	0	½	1	■	7½

2004/2005		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Brown, Dr A C	■	1		1	½	½	1		½	4½
2	Cumming, D R	0	■	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
3	Edney, D		1	■	0	0	0	0		½	1½
4	Goodwin, B	0	1	1	■	½		½	1		4
5	Lloyd, G	½	1	1	½	■	0	½		0	3½
6	Mackintosh, I	½	1	1		1	■	1	½		5
7	May, M A	0	1	1	½	½	0	■		0	3
8	Norris, Rev A C				0		½		■	0	½
9	Reeman, I F	½	1	½		1		1	1	■	5

Alan Brown retained his title in 2004, in a very close finish from Iain Mackintosh and Ian Reeman. A strong closing run from Alistair Maxwell earned him outright fourth. Reeman and Mackintosh are setting the pace currently, with Brown and Goodwin in close pursuit.

Candidates

2003/2004		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Cumming, D R	■	0	0	0	½	0	½
2	Franks, K	1	■	1	1	1	½	4½
3	Lloyd, G	1	0	■	1	½	1	3½
4	MacDonald, P H	1	0	0	■	½	½	2
5	Thompson, B	½	0	½	½	■	½	2
6	Young, S M	1	½	0	½	½	■	2½

2004/2005		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Anderson, J	■	0			0	0	0			0
2	Bird, A G E	1	■	½	0			½	1		3
3	Cumming, D R		½	■		0		0		0	½
4	Dawson, A G		1		■	1		1	½		3½
5	Lees, J	1		1	0	■		½			2½
6	MacDonald, P H	1					■	1	½		2½
7	Ross, D W	1	½	1	0	½	0	■	0		3
8	Thompson, B		0		½		½	1	■		2
9	Young, S M									■	

Keith Franks won by a point in 2004, just missing a maximum by drawing with Stanley Young. Alastair Dawson has his nose in front of a bunched field in this year's event.

Premiers

2004		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	0	0	½	0	½	0	½	0	1½
2	Bird, A G E	1	■	½	0	1	1	½	1	½	5½
3	Cook, W M	1	½	■	0	1	1	0	1	1	5½
4	Crawley, J	½	1	1	■	1	1	1	1	½	7
5	Crichton, D	1	0	0	0	■	1	½	1	1	4½
6	Knox, A	½	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	0	½
7	Loughran, R	1	½	1	0	½	1	■	½	½	5
8	McAinsh, T F	½	0	0	0	0	1	½	■	1	3
9	Moir, P J	1	½	0	½	0	1	½	0	■	3½

John Crawley won with an unbeaten 7/8, with Alex Bird and Bill Cook in joint second place.

Majors

2004 Section A		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Kennedy, G	■	1 1	1 1	0 0	4
2	Kilgour, J W	0 0	■	0 0	0 0	0
3	Moir, P J	0 0	1 1	■	0 0	2
4	Morrow, J	1 1	1 1	1 1	■	6

2004 Section B		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	½ 0	0 0	0 0	½
2	Burridge, R J	½ 1	■	0 0	½ ½	2½
3	Cormack, W H	1 1	1 1	■	½ 1	5½
4	Dowell, C	½½	1 1	½ 0	■	3½

In Section A, Joseph Morrow joined the 100% Club with 6/6, and in Section B, Bill Cormack wasn't far behind with 5½/6.

Minors

2004 Section A		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Anderson, J	■	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	2
2	Burridge, R J	1 1	■	0 0	1 1	½ 0	1 0	5½
3	Hart, W	1 1	1 1	■	1 1	1 1	1 1	10
4	Hunter, T	1 1	0 0	0 0	■	0 0	0 0	2
5	Kennedy, G	1 1	½ 1	0 0	1 1	■	0 ½	6
6	Milne, J R	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	1 ½	■	2½

2004 Section B		1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	0 0	1 1	0 0	0 0	2
2	Dawson, J	1 1	■	1 1	0 0	1 0	5
3	Domnin, M	0 0	0 0	■	0 0	0 0	0
4	Grant, J	1 1	1 1	1 1	■	1 0	7
5	Moir, P J	1 1	0 1	1 1	0 1	■	6

Bill Hart got a perfect ten in section A, with Gordon Kennedy in second place. John Grant almost emulated that in section B, with only Pat Moir in second denying him 100%.

Quartets

2004 Q212		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Burridge, R J	■	0 ½	1 1	0 ½	3
2	Cumming, D R	1 ½	■	½ 1	1 1	5
3	Dawson, J	0 0	0 ½	■	0 1	1½
4	Moir, P J	1 ½	0 0	1 0	■	2½

David Cumming won with a little bit to spare from Raymond Burridge.

League Division 1

2004		Opponent	Game A	Game B	Points
A	Perth Correspondents				5
1	Borwell, A P	E1	1	0	1
2	Mackintosh, I	D2	1	1	2
3	Brown, Dr A C	C3	½	½	1
4	Warren, J	B4	0	0	0
5	Harvey, D J	F5	0	1	1
B	Social Stars				8
1	MacKellar, L D	D1	1	1 (adj)	2
2	Pallett, R F	C2	1	1	2
3	Price, D	F3	1	1	2
4	Lees, J	A4	1	1	2
5	Ruston, A W	E5	0	0	0
C	Black Knight				4½
1	Pyrich, G D	F1	1	½	1½
2	Marshall, I H	B2	0	0	0
3	Reeman, I F	A3	½	½	1
4	Hislop, A T	E4	0	0	0
5	May, M A	D5	1	1	2
D	Brutal Realism				2
1	Murray, J S	B1	0 (adj)	0	0
2	Almarza Mato, C	A2	0	0	0
3	Thomson, D	E3	0	0	0
4	Taylor, W	F4	1	1	2
5	Hobbs, C	C5	0	0	0
E	Five Brave Englishmen				9
1	Chambers, D	A1	0	1	1
2	Sowden, E C	F2	1	1	2
3	Rawlings, A J	D3	1	1	2
4	Barnes, D J R	C4	1	1	2
5	Robertshaw, A	B5	1	1	2
F	Knights of the Board A				1½
1	Cumming, D R	C1	0	½	½
2	Dawson, J	E2	0	0	0
3	Armstrong, A	B3	0	0	0
4	Loughran, R	D4	0	0	0
5	Norris, Rev A C	A5	1	0	1

In Division 1, 5 Brave Englishmen bowed out at the top by winning for the fifth year in succession! Social Stars ran them close, achieving last season's winning points total, but losing out in the crunch board 5 match.

League Division 2

2004		White v	Black v	Game A	Game B	Pts.
A	Knights of the Board B					4
1	Burnett, R	B1	D1	0	0	0
2	Morrow, J	E2	C2	1	1	2
3	Moir, P J	D3	B3		0	0
4	Grant, J	E4	D4	1	1	2
5	Domnin, M	E5	C5	0	0	0
B	Dreadnoughts A					8
1	Taylor, T	C1	A1	1	1	2
2	MacMillan, H	D2	E2	0	0	0
3	Ackley, P	A3	C3	1	1	2
4	Jenkins, A	D4	C4	1	1	2
5	MacKellar, L	D5	E5	1	1	2
C	Social Climbers					4
1	Dowell, C M	E1	B1		0	0
2	Rosser, G	A2	D2	0	0	0
3	Pomeroy, R	B3	E3	0	1	1
4	Gifford, M	B4	E4	0	1	1
5	Ash, G	A5	D5	1	1	2
D	Dreadnoughts B					5
1	Franks, K	A1	E1	1	1	2
2	Dyke, L	C2	B2	1	1	2
3	MacDonald, P H	E3	A3	1		1
4	Heath, P (deceased)	A4	B4	0	0	0
5	Dare, Ms L	C5	B5	0	0	0
E	Social Servants					2
1	Kennedy, G	D1	C1	0		0
2	Ross, G J S	B2	A2	1	0	1
3	Richardson, D	C3	D3	0	0	0
4	Dare, P	C4	A4	0	0	0
5	Blackwell, E	B5	A5	0	1	1

In Division 2, Dreadnoughts A won with a little bit to spare from their second team, and so secure the promotion spot. Sadly, Peter Heath of their B team passed away during the event.

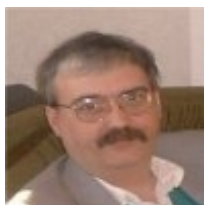
Openings

2004 Evans Gambit C51		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Brooksbank, K	■				
2	Calder, H		■			
3	Crawley, J			■		
4	Loughran, R				■	

Happily, the Openings event ran last year, but started too late (June) for any results to be recorded by year-end. We'll bring you the outcome in a later edition.

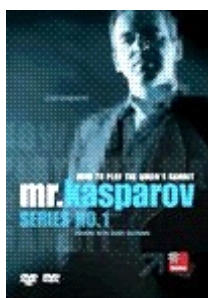
Challenge

Medal-winners for 2004 were **Geoff Phillips** and **David Edney**. David Cumming would have won one had there been more entries. Peter Jack and Robin Greene moved to class 2; Roger Ellis and John Grant to class 3; and Michael Domnin to class 5.



The majority of the disks covered in this article come on DVD rather than CD so make sure you have the appropriate disk drive in your PC before purchasing them. Most new PC's come with DVD drives as standard nowadays but even if you don't have one a DVD drive is relatively cheap and easy to install on any PC. You would simply take out your old CD drive and replace it with the DVD drive. The DVD drives also read CDs so you don't have to have both in your PC. The first two Disks from ChessBase in this issue cover openings.

How To Play The Queen's Gambit - DVD Mr. Kasparov Series No. 1 By Gary Kasparov



This DVD has the big advantage that you don't need to have any other ChessBase products to use it as it comes with its own ChessBase reader. In fact you don't even need to have a PC to use it. The DVD will play on a standard DVD player so you can view the films as a series of lectures. You simply select the chapter you wish to see from the menu which appears on your TV screen. Viewing on the TV also has the advantage that you can use subtitles, in various languages, if you find it difficult to follow Gary's accent, which I must add I didn't find a problem.

The chapters cover 1. Talking about Queen's Gambit 8:28 min, 2. Possible deviations 10:50 min, 3. Lasker defence 16:03 min, 4. Capablanca's approach 19:32 min, 5. Carlsbad structure 18:45 min, 6. Alatorsev variation 13:10 min, 7. Steinitz and 5. Bf4 19:39 min, 8. Tartakower system 14:51 min, 9. 5...h6 - a big nuance 13:02 min, 10. Look at some games 1:17 min, 11. Steinitz - Lasker 4:17 min, 12. Rubinstein - Salwe 10:14 min, 13. Capablanca - Alekhine 7:45 min, 14. Kasparov - Andersson 4:45 min, 15. Kasparov - Short 4:02 min, 16. Alekhine - Lasker 3:55 min, 17. Beliavsky - Geller 5:39 min, 18. Kortschnoj - Karpov 12:18 min, 19. Kortschnoj - Karpov 2 8:24 min and 20. Résumé 3:55 min.

As you can see the DVD contains more than three hours of first-class private tuition. At times Gary's delivery of the variations can be a bit fast to keep up with but you can always replay them. Those using a PC can follow the variation using the reader and can replay the games from the DataBase on the DVD. Selling for under £15 this has to be one of the best value DVD's around. I would hate to think what Gary would charge for a private three hour tuition booking.

PC System requirements: PC minimum 233 Mhz and 32 MB RAM. Recommended 1 Ghz, 256 MB, Windows 98 SE, ME,2000, or XP, DVD drive, Sound card, Windows Media

player 9 or higher.

The ABC Of The King's Indian - DVD By Andrew Martin



Unlike the previous DVD this one will not play on a Standard DVD/TV combination but in all other respects it uses the same format of lectures. Andrew Martin delivers the lectures at a slightly slower rate than some of the Kasparov lectures so I found this DVD much easier to follow.

The information in the lectures is divided into 22 chapters, an introduction and closing remarks with commentary on 14 games in between as well as systems. Martin aims to look at both classical and modern games to paint a picture of the current state of play in the King's Indian and look towards the future. He has put a lot of his own analysis into the presentations and does an admirable job in achieving his aims. Anyone using this DVD will come away with a sound understanding of the important strategies of the King's Indian Defence.

Right Decisions - CD By Jacob Aagaard & Esben Lund



Ok this it must be said is a mammoth work CD since it contains around 4000 test positions. They are divided into 5 chapters: - 1. Exercises to help you spot opportunities (200 positions), 2. Positions for calculation (89 positions), 3. Endgame studies (200 studies), 4. Pawn endings (75 pawn endings taken from games) and 5. Positions for playing out (30 positions you can play out against Friz8).

The user of this CD will gain the most if they are willing to put in the work and spend some time analysing each position to find the answer before looking at the authors excellent answers and comments. I can't say that the test positions are easy, in fact I would say they can be quite difficult. No pain no gain!

System requirements: PC minimum 233 Mhz and 64 MB RAM., Windows 98 SE,ME,2000, or XP, DVD drive, Sound card, Windows Media player 9 or higher.

Junior 9 - CD By Amir Ban & Shay Bushinsky



Junior9 by Amir Ban and Shay Bushinsky is the reigning computer chess world champion in all categories. Junior is different from all other programs in its search strategies and evaluation function. This gives the program a very distinctive style of play. The special strength of Junior is its understanding of compensation. This makes the program an extraordinarily effective tool for analysing sharp and dynamic positions, especially those involving the sacrifice of material. It is the program that is most likely to correctly understand the compensation involved, both in the execution of a sacrifice and the defence against it.

The CD contains a one-hour interview with the author of Junior, Amir Ban, who explains in clear and lucid terms the way his program works. Amir also tells us how a chess program is developed, and how Junior came about its unique playing style. His goal is to generate a new and better understanding of chess, not just a program that is more efficient at beating rival products.

With this CD you also get 1 years access to the ChessBase web server .

System requirements: Pentium PC and 32 MB RAM. Recommended 1 Ghz, 256 MB, Windows 98 SE,ME,2000, or XP, CD drive and Mouse.

Mega Database 2005 - DVD By ChessBase



Mega 2005 is ChessBase's flagship database of exclusive annotated material. It contains more than 2.9 millions games from 1530 to 2004 in the highest ChessBase quality standard. 57,000 games contain commentary from top players, with ChessBase opening classification with more than 100,000 key positions, direct access to players, tournaments, middlegame themes, endgames. This is the largest top-class annotated database in the world. The most recent games in the database are from the middle of November 2004. Mega 2005 also features a new edition of the playerbase. As usual, this is where most of the work was done. As the player index now contains already more than 183,000 entries, it made sense to use an adapted playerbase which includes about 179,000 names. Doing this, the photo database was extended as well to

contain 22,700 pictures now.

I can almost hear a few people saying they can get the games for free from places like TWIC. True but that means you have to import a lot of small databases and then the games wouldn't be fully indexed unless you create the indexes in you own database. You also wouldn't have the playerbase that comes with this DVD. All in all considering the work that ChessBase put into producing this database it has to be great considered value for money.

Systems requirements: Pentium PC, Win 98/ME/XP, 16 MB Ram, DVD-Rom Drive. ChessBase 9, ChessBase 8.0, ChessBase 7.0, Fritz7, Fritz 8. If you want to store everything on your hard disk drive you will also need 1 GB of space (821 Mb for the Database alone). Of course you don't need to store Mega 2005 on your hard drive as you can simple access it from your DVD drive.

ChessBase 9 - DVD By ChessBase



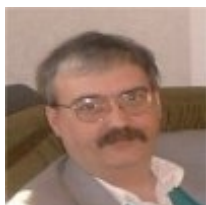
I won't spend a lot of time here on ChessBase 9 as I plan to do the usual separate articles on the DataBase Software program. The following paragraph is the announcement ChessBase made about new features. I have added a few comments in italics in brackets.

New in ChessBase 9.0 are: new database browser, hyperthreading support (*In layman's terms support to allow your Processor to do more than one task at once, more efficiently.*), integrated player index, tournament index, source index, annotator index and team Index, new opening key layout, automatic opening reference, new HEUMAS (Heuristic Move Assistant , game history (this could be really handy for Correspondence Players, fast real 3D, board supported (*The extreme 3D (X3D) Mode looks very impressive*), threat animation (*Bear in mind that the longer you take between playing through moves the longer the chess engine gets to analyse any given position and identify any threats.*), improved search, Chess Media System (teaching videos with synchronized chess boards) integrated, improved correspondence chess features and much.

Comes with subscription to the PlayChess server.

System Requirements: - Win 98, 300 Mhz, 64 Mb Ram, IE6, DVD-ROM. Recommended Win XP, 1 GHz or better, 256 Mb Ram, Windows Media Player 9, New Fast Graphics Card for fast 3D board.





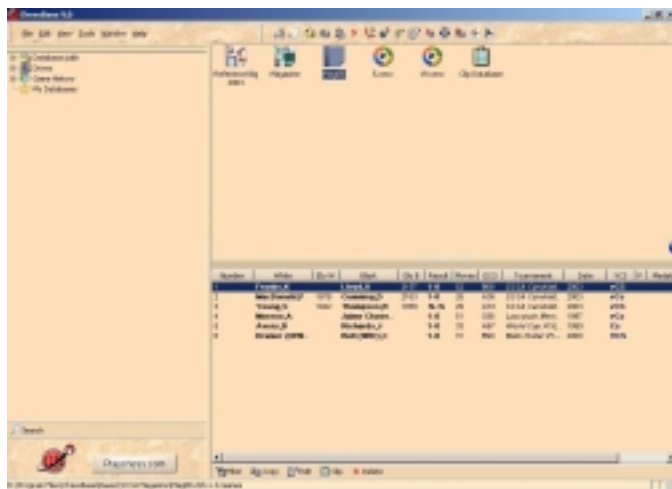
ChessBase 9 - First Impressions

by Bernard Milligan



My first impressions on the new Program is that it looks very impressive. One problem that I initially saw was that people who didn't have DVD drives on their computers wouldn't be able to install the program and perhaps it would have been a good idea for ChessBase to manufacture copies on CD's as well. That said it seems that it is not totally impossible to install the program on a computer which doesn't have a DVD ROM drive. I have a old PC, still fully functional, which doesn't have a DVD drive, so I connected it to my new computer with a data cable, put the DVD in my DVD drive and transferred all the files from the DVD to the hard disk of the old machine and installed CB9 on that machine from there. I didn't really need it on both machines but thought it might be interesting at some point in the future to compare how the program ran on two different speck machines. Of course the other option is to purchase a DVD drive for your computer, after all they are relatively cheap now. Considering the new tutorial DVD's which ChessBase are now producing it could be a worthwhile investment.

The first thing I noticed when I when I launched the program was that the interface window looked totally different from previous versions of ChessBase.



My gut reaction was OH NO. At times I can be rather old school in my thoughts. If something works fine then why change it. Once I got over the initial shock I took a closer look. Basically the main window has three panes. The left hand one looks like a standard Windows navigation pane and allows you to click through the various directories to locate whatever files you are looking for. In previous versions you would use file and open to get a new pop up window which allowed you to do the same thing. Now its right there from the start so is more readily accessible and therefore useful. To the right of this window there are two windows, one above the other. The top contains a list of the databases, or multimedia file you use or open using the left hand navigation pane. Clicking on any database produces a list of the games from that database in the window at the bottom. Very handy for a quick look at the contents and you can double click on any game to launch a new

window where you can play through the game.



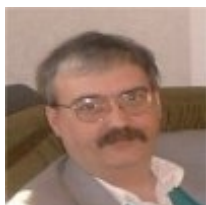
Having successfully launched a game I started playing through it and noticed that the new program had a threat engine included. From the above picture you can see that ChessBase has detected that Black's last move, Nf6, threatens Nxe4. You get various coloured arrows appearing at different points in games but I will leave the details for a future article. This threat tool is reasonably handy when you are studying games as it can help focus your mind on points of interest. Fortunately you can switch off this option if you don't want to use it when analysing your own correspondence games.

So far I have managed to deduce all of this without reading the manual. This is probably because I am pretty much used to seeing this form of interface in most modern programs so I don't really need to learn any new skills. Clearly the ChessBase developers have spent some time making sure that their users should have as easy a time as possible using the program.

Next I thought I would try having a look at one of the multi media files which came with the CB9 DVD. These were Jacob Aagaard's lectures which I covered in a previous review. At that time I had to use the Fritz 8 program to access the lecture and get the game board displaying the position and moves at the same time as the video of the lecture. It played perfectly in the new CB9 which means I now have a program which covers all my study needs. I find this much more advantageous rather than having to switch between different programs.

I think that the ChessBase developers have done the right thing by incorporating the more advanced features from the interface of their playing programs, such as Fritz 8, directly into ChessBase 9. It has produced a more rounded program which should meet the needs of even the most advanced correspondence and OTB players as they research games.

You can now even use ChessBase 9 to connect to the ChessBase playchess server to play games live on the internet against players from all over the world. Purchasing the program gets you one years free access to this service and after several hours of analysing your own games, or studying the games of others, it can be quite relaxing to pop online and play a few quick games.



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

Happy New Year to one and all. I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and are well rested and refreshed for the start of play in the new seasons games.

It was an eventful time for me as I officially became old with the arrival of my first grandchild, Andrew Robert Milligan. Who knows we may see Andrew playing in the Scottish CCA in years to come. If so I hope he becomes a better player than his Granddad. Just in case here is the face to lookout for:-



Mind you since Andrew is only 5 days old he may change a bit over the years.

On a sadder note as it came time to write this article none of our members had sent in any contributions for the Games Column. As that would have made it a rather short column I was grateful when Iain Mackintosh offered to provide some games from the Candidates which he had received.

SCCA Candidates 2003-4, 2003

White:- K Franks

Black:- G Lloyd (2157)

Pirc Defence [B08]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

This encounter is between Keith Franks, who has a provisional SCCA grading of 2265, and Geoff Lloyd, whose ICCF grade rose to 2333 during the game.

1.e4 d6
2.d4 Nf6
3.Nc3 g6
4.Nf3

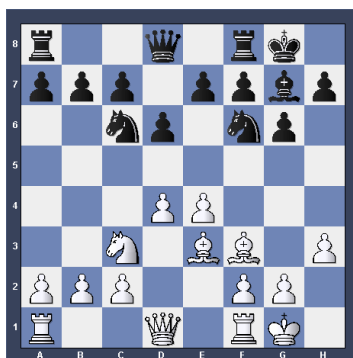
This is the Classical Pirc, where White concentrates on piece development and keeps his options open. Other possibilities include: 4.Be3 - a

fashionable move which has been scoring well for White in recent years, and; 4.f4 - the Austrian Attack, where White goes for broke and accepts counterattacking risks.

4... Bg7
5.Be2 0-0
6.0-0 Bg4
7.h3 Bxf3
8.Bxf3 Nc6

NCO gives 8...e5!? as the main line here, but the move played scores better for Black.

9.Be3



9.Ne2!? is an interesting alternative.

9... e5
10.d5

10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Ne2 Qe7 12.c3 Rfb8=

10... Ne7
11.Qd3

11.Na4 or maybe; 11.Ne2 also come into contention.

11... a6N

11...Nd7 12.Be2 f5 is the only other recorded line I could find.

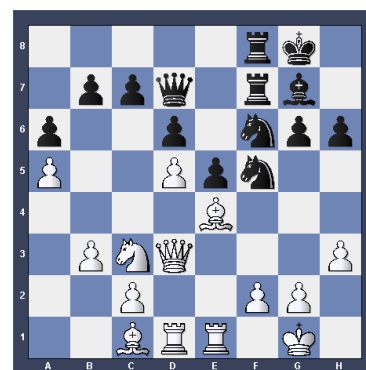
12.Be2 Nd7
13.Rae1 f5
14.a3 Kh8
15.Rd1

A little inconsistent with his 13th.

15... Nf6
16.Bf3 h6

16...fxe4 17.Bxe4 Nf5 18.Bxf5 gxf5
19.Bg5 (19.Qxf5 Nxd5=) 19...h6 20.Bd2 looks ok for Black.

17.Rfe1 fx4
18.Bxe4 Nf5
19.Bc1 Qd7
20.b3 Kg8
21.a4 Rf7
22.a5 Raf8



Up to here, both players have consolidated quietly, but now White starts to force the pace on the q-side.

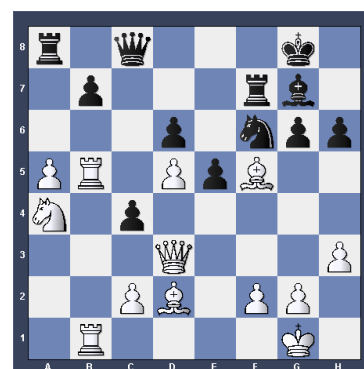
23.b4 Rc8
24.Bd2 Rcf8
25.Rb1 Ra8

This rook seems to be attached to a piece of elastic!

26.b5 axb5
27.Rxb5 c5
28.Reb1? Qc8
29.Na4?!

This isn't the best positional move, but it certainly sparks off the tactics!

29... c4
30.Bxf5!



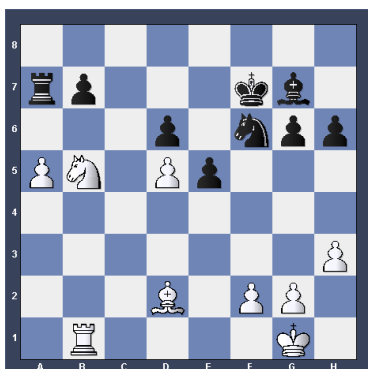
30.Qe2 Nd4μ

30... cxd3!
 30...Qxf5? 31.Qxf5 gxf5 32.Nb6+-
 31.Bxc8 dxc2
 31...Rxc8 32.cxd3 Rc2 33.R1b2±

32.Be6! cxb1Q+
 33.Rxb1 Ra7

33...Rb8? 34.a6 b6 35.Rxb6 Rxb6
 36.Nxb6+-

34.Nc3! Kf8
 35.Bxf7 Kxf7
 36.Nb5+-



The point of White's 34th.

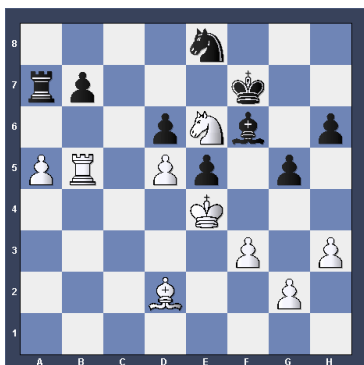
36... Ra6
 37.Nc7 Ra7
 38.Rb5 Ne8
 39.Ne6 Kg8
 40.f3

Mobilising the White king, and beginning the last phase of an entertaining game.

40... g5
 41.Kf2

41.Nd8 also looks useful hereabouts.

41... Bf6
 42.Ke2 Bg7
 43.Kd3 Bf6
 44.Ke4 Kf7



Black has no good moves.

45.Be3 Ra8
 46.Rxb7+ Be7
 47.Rb5 Nf6+
 48.Kf5 Ne8
 49.Bb6 Nf6
 50.g4

50.Nc7 was a little more direct.

50... Ne8

50...Rb8 51.a6 Nxd5 52.Rxd5 Rxb6
 53.Ra5 doesn't work either.

51.Nc7 Nxc7
 52.Bxc7

And Geoff bowed to the inevitable here.

1-0



SCCA Candidates 2003-4, 2003
 White:- P MacDonald (1878)
 Black:- D Cumming (2163)
 English Defence [A36]
 [Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

In this game, Paul MacDonald picks up useful grading points against an opponent with recent Championship experience.

1.c4 c5
 2.g3 g6
 3.Bg2 Bg7
 4.Nc3 Nc6
 5.a3

5.Nf3 is the orthodox continuation in the Symmetrical English, but the move played is a robust alternative.

5... Nf6
 6.Rb1 0-0



6...a5!? would stymie White's intended 7.b4, then 7.d3 0-0 8.e4=

7.b4 d6
 8.d3 Nd7
 9.Bd2 Bxc3?!N

9...a5 was still playable, e.g. 10.bxc5 Nxc5 11.Nf3 a4 12.0-0 Bg4 13.h3 Bd7 14.Nd5 Nb3 15.Bc3 Bxc3 16.Nxc3 Nca5 17.Kh2 Bc6 18.Ne1 Bxg2 19.Nxg2 Qd7 20.e4 Nc6 21.f4 Ncd4= was Martinez Rodriguez-Beletsky, Collado Villalba, 2002, 0-1 after 42 moves.

10.Bxc3± e5
 11.e3 f5
 12.Ne2 Qc7
 13.0-0 Rb8
 14.f4

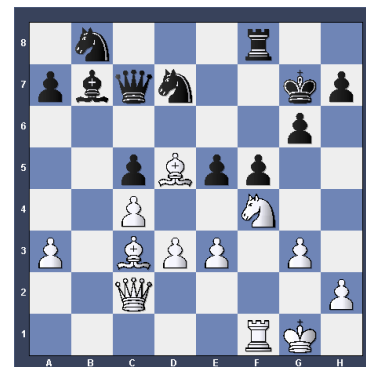


14.b5 is also good for White.

14... b6
 15.Bd5+ Kg7
 16.bxc5 bxc5
 17.Rxb8 Ncxb8
 18.Qc2 Bb7?!

White has maintained the pressure, but now Black helps by missing the most accurate defensive moves. 18...Nb6 might have been worth a try.

19.fxe5 dxe5
 20.Nf4!



Threatening a triple fork!

20... Bxd5
 21.cxd5 Re8
 22.Ne6+

Winning the exchange and the game.

22... Rxe6
 23.dxe6 Nf8
 24.g4!

Strong moves are easier to find in won positions!

- 24... Nxe6
 25.gxf5 gxf5
 26.Rxf5 Nc6
 27.Qg2+ Kh8
 28.Qd5 1-0

And David decided enough was enough.

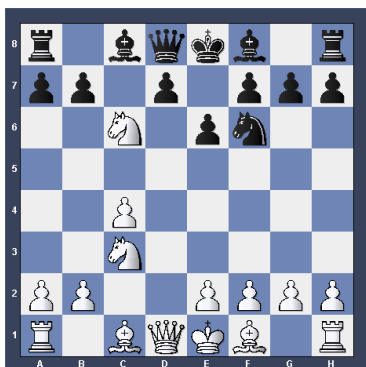


SCCA Candidates 2003-4, 2003

White:- S Young (1942)
Black:- B Thompson (1859)
 English Defence [A33]
 [Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

This is a spirited game between our latest patron member Stanley Young, and Brian Thompson who has scored well in recent seasons.

- 1.Nf3 c5
 2.c4 Nc6
 3.d4 cxd4
 4.Nxd4 Nf6
 5.Nc3 e6
 6.Nxc6?!



This infrequent move certainly breaks the symmetry of the English, but it hasn't scored well for White over the years. 6.g3 Qb6 7.Nb3 Ne5 is the more popular Geller Variation.

- 6... bxc6
 7.e4 Bb4
 8.Bd2

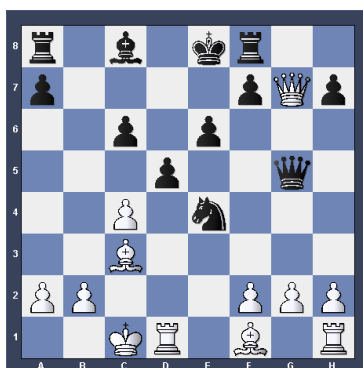
More usual is 8.Bd3 and if 8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.0-0! and White favours active development and the bishop pair over the weak c-pawns.

- 8... Bxc3
 9.Bxc3 Nxe4
 10.Qg4 d5N

10...Nxc3 11.Qxg7 Rf8 12.Qxc3 Qg5
 13.g3 f5 14.f4 Qf6 15.Qa3 Qd4 16.Be2
 Qe4 17.Kf2 Qd4+ 18.Qe3 Qxe3+

19.Kxe3 was Mueller-Klarenbeek, Biel, 1989, 1-0 after 49 moves.

- 11.Qxg7 Rf8
 12.0-0-0?! Qg5+?!



12...Qe7 looks ok for Black, and keeps the Queens on.

- 13.Qxg5 Nxc5
 14.Bd3± f5
 15.Rhe1 Bd7

15...Ne4 was also worth a try.

- 16.Bb4 Rf7
 17.f3!

Immobilising the Knight.

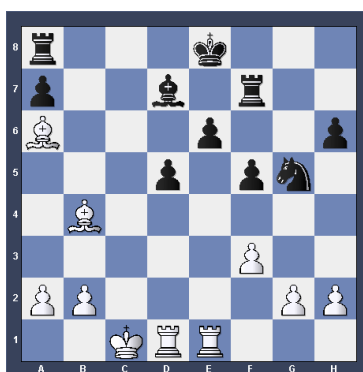
- 17... h6

... temporarily!

- 18.cxd5?!

Relaxing White's grip a little. 18.Bd2 might have maintained more pressure.

- 18... cxd5
 19.Ba6



White senses some tactical possibilities on d5.

- 19... Rb8
 20.Rd4 Rb6
 21.Bd3 Rf6
 22.Bc5 Rc6
 23.Rxd5! Kd8
 24.Rxd7+! Kxd7

- 25.Bb5 a6

Black defends well.

- 26.Rd1+ Kc7
 27.Bxc6 Kxc6
 28.Be7 Rf7
 29.Bb4 1/2-1/2

And here matters drew to a halt. With a full pawn advantage, White might have played on a while, but both players deserve some satisfaction from the game.



The next Couple of games were sent to me by Our American friend Bryce Avery.

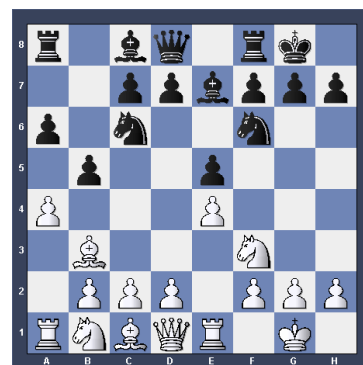
Lascurain Memorial Tournament, Cuba., 1997

White: A Moreno
Black: A Jaime Chavez
 Ruy Lopez [C88]

[Annotated by Jaime, translated by Bryce Avery]

POSTAL 'ROUND THE WORLD by Bryce Avery
 POSTAL CHESS IN CUBA. For some of us in the United States, Cuba is a relatively mysterious place because of America's long embargo. But they play postal chess in Cuba just as we do and recently regained membership in ICCF after several years out of the group due to bad international communications. The following game is from the Cuban postal magazine "Tele Jaque." The tournament where it was played was named for a long-time Argentine postal chess official who had recently passed away; the notes are by Black in a losing effort against the winner of the event.

- 1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.Bb5 a6
 4.Ba4 Nf6
 5.0-0 Be7
 6.Re1 b5
 7.Bb3 0-0
 8.a4

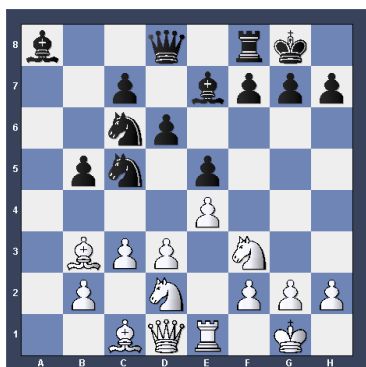


This was the first surprise, as I had hoped to play the Marshall Gambit, with which I have scored well.

8... Bb7
9.d3 d6
10.Nbd2

Less popular than 10. Nc3. When I received this move, I began searching my "Informant"-less library. I mention it is "Informant"-less because a game from "Informant" will shortly become important here - though I only found that game after this game was over. After much searching, and in an attempt to surprise my opponent, I used an old ECO continuation.

10... Nd7
11.c3 Nc5
12.axb5 axb5
13.Rxa8 Bxa8!

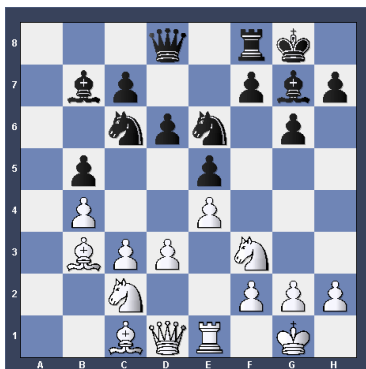


ECO gives only Wely-Malich (Budapest 1965) that continued 13...Qxa8 14.Bc2 Bf6 15.Nf1 d5= I thought it was better to take with the bishop and leave the queen on its original square. I didn't know that Short played this against Kasparov in a game from "Informant 59" and that it was considered a TN. From here on, I'm playing by ear.

14.Bc2 Bf6
15.b4 Ne6
16.Nf1 Bb7?

These moves all seemed logical to me, but it surprised me that (as I found later) we were still following Kasparov- Short. Kasparov later gave Black's 16th the ? and gave 16...d5!? as better. It seemed better to move the bishop and allow use of the open file, and I assume Short thought the same thing.

17.Ne3 g6
18.Bb3 Bg7
19.Nc2!



Kasparov played 19. h4 and eventually won, but Short missed several opportunities. Kasparov later recommended the text, which my opponent (supposing I knew the game) undoubtedly chose to avoid any of my preparations. In fact, I was playing by intuition and followed Kasparov's recommendation until move 22, when I may have found an improvement.

19... Ne7
20.d4 exd4
21.cxd4 d5
22.e5 Nf5!?

Kasparov gave 22...Bc8 23.Ne3 Nf4 24.g3 Nh3+ 25.Kg2 with advantage to White. From now on, White was also on his own. I at least was satisfied with the position and now expected 23. Qe2 c6 24. g3 Bc8.

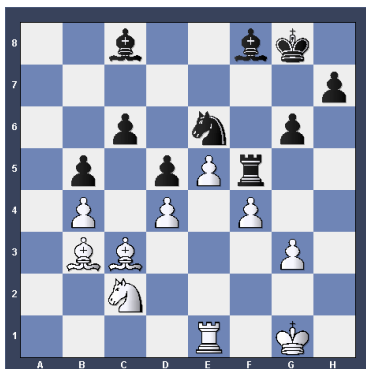
23.Qd3 c6
24.g4 Nh4
25.Nxh4 Qxh4
26.Qg3 Qxg3+

My opponent thought 26...Qe7 was better, but I thought the queenless position was about equal.

27.hxg3 Bc8
28.f4

Better than 28.g5 Nc7 29.f4 Bf5

28... f5
29.gxf5 Rxf5
30.Bb2 Bf8
31.Bc3

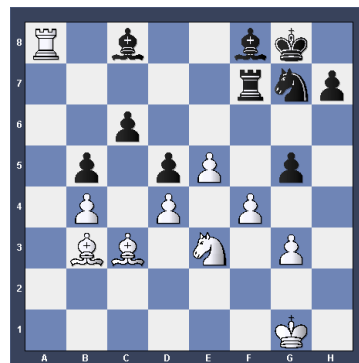


This subtle move prevents 31...g5?! 32. Ne3 Rf7 33. f5 with edge to White.

31... Rf7
32.Ne3 Ng7?!

Consistent with the ...g5 idea, but it costs Black the game. I should have kept the pawn at g6 and played 32...Nc7! and 33...Na6 to attack b4. My opponent said later that he feared this line, for he would be obliged to defend.

33.Ra1 g5
34.Ra8!



This zwischenzug escaped my analysis. I had only considered 34. fxcg5 Be7 35. Ra8 Rf8 36. Ra7 Bxg5 38. Nd1 Bh3 39. Rc7 Rf1 40. Nb2 Bd2 41. Kg2 Rb1 with equality.

34... Be6
35.Ra6 gxf4
36.gxf4 Nf5
37.Nxf5 Bxf5
38.Rxc6 Be4
39.Bd2 Rg7+
40.Kf1 Rg2
41.Be1 Rg4
42.Rf6 Be7
43.Bd1 Bd3+
44.Kf2 Rh4
45.Rb6 Rh2+
46.Kg1 Rb2
47.Bf3 Bc4
48.Rb8+ Kg7
49.f5 Bg5
50.f6+ Kg6
51.Rg8+ 1-0



World Cup X/XI, 1997-99, 1999

White: B Avery
Black: J Richards
Modern Benoni [A67]
[Annotator Bryce Avery]

THE POSTAL WARRIOR By Bryce Avery
How to Beat an Olympian For much of ICCF's history, numerical ratings for their players were verboten.

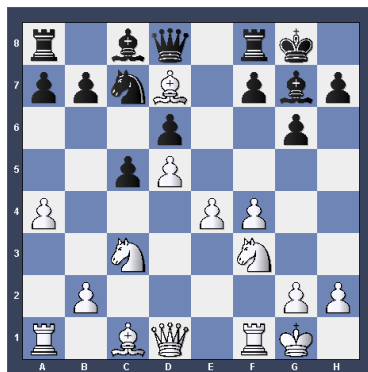
They divided their players into five classes and allowed them to move up only by winning an event in their own class. This year, the five classes have been reduced to three, and over the last decade, ICCF has realized that all postal players like Elo ratings too. They have made adjustments so that now even someone down at my level can get an ICCF rating if he wants. At first, they were pretty slow about it. When ICCF began discussing such a system in the early 1980's, they started by only rating past world-class players in past title events to the nearest five rating points. In time, they began rating all Master-level events. In the mid-90's, ICCF began rating their Higher-level events (the class below Master) as well (this is where I came in), and now even playing 12 games in their lowest-level events is enough to get a rating to the nearest point, which tends to be 150–200 points higher than your current CCLA rating. I entered several Higher Class events in the late 90's and scored about 50% in all of them. My first ICCF provisional rating was 2010; now it is about 1910. During the process of getting my ICCF rating, I formulated Avery's Law of ICCF Play: In every ICCF tournament, one player is far weaker than any of the others. If he hasn't made himself visible within 20 moves-

SURPRISE!! IT'S YOU!!

My rating increased slightly after my recent World Cup X/XI section finished. You may well ask, "How does your rating go up with a score of 3.5-6.5?" But if you take out my forfeit win and the results against unrated players, I did draw with players rated 2356 and 2396, and that slightly more than canceled out the games I lost. One of those games reflects the title of this column. Soon after this game was over, I noticed that Board 6 of the Maltese team in the preliminary of ICCF Olympiad XIII is named J. Richards. Though I never actually asked my opponent in the following game if he made the Olympiad team, I figure (in mathematical terms) that only one person can be at the intersection of sets A, B and C, where A is "postal chess players", B is "the population of Malta", and C is "people named J. Richards."

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1.d4 | Nf6 |
| 2.c4 | c5 |
| 3.d5 | e6 |
| 4.Nc3 | exd5 |
| 5.cxd5 | d6 |

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 6.e4 | g6 |
| 7.f4 | Bg7 |
| 8.Bb5+ | Nfd7 |
| 9.a4 | 0-0 |
| 10.Nf3 | Na6 |
| 11.0-0 | Nc7 |
| 12.Bxd7 | |



Though this is not the usual move here, this piece exchange is often made in Benoni positions.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 12... | Bxd7 |
| 13.Qd3 | a6 |
| 14.Bd2 | b5 |
| 15.Qc2 | bx a4 |
| 16.Nxa4 | Nb5 |
| 17.e5 | Bf5 |

Both sides have now achieved their desired Benoni pawn breaks (e5 and ...b5).

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 18.Qc4 | Re8 |
| 19.Rfe1 | Qc7 |
| 20.Nc3 | Bd7?! |

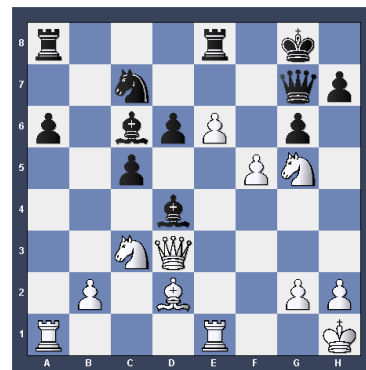


Allows White to get a passed pawn moving.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 21.e6 | fxe6 |
| 22.dxe6 | Bc6 |
| 23.Ng5 | Qe7 |
| 24.Qd3 | Nc7 |
| 25.f5 | Bd4+ |
| 26.Kh1 | Qg7 |

I suddenly see that Black threatens ...gxf5 and ...h6!, either mating at g2 or getting White's knight. After a few choice thoughts, I played the only move

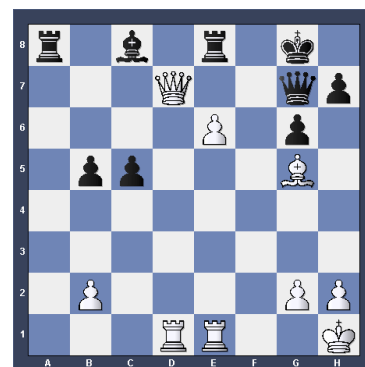
I could.



- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 27.f6 | Bxf6 |
| 28.Qxd6 | Bxg5 |
| 29.Bxg5 | Bb7 |
| 30.Rad1 | |

Perhaps one reason my rating isn't higher is because I don't finish developing my rooks until move 30.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 30... | Nb5 |
| 31.Nxb5 | axb5 |
| 32.Qd7 | Bc8?? |



You say, "Bryce, I can't believe you publish a game that ends like this!" Hey, I expected 32...Ba6 33. e7, followed by Qd5+ and Qxa8! Does that help any?

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 33.Qxe8+ | 1-0 |
|-----------------|------------|
- ♔♔♔♔♔

I round off this issue with the final game 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.

Mate Postal 25 - A, 2000
White:- C Kramer (DEN)
Black:- C Boll (NED)
 [B90]
 [Annotated by CC-IM S.E. Kramer]

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1.e4 | c5 |
| 2.Nf3 | d6 |
| 3.d4 | cx d4 |
| 4.Nxd4 | Nf6 |

5.Nc3 a6
 6.f3 e6
 7.Be3 b5
 8.g4 Bb7
 9.Qd2 Nc6
 10.Nxc6



10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.Bd3 Be7 12.Kb1 Nxd4
 13.Bxd4=

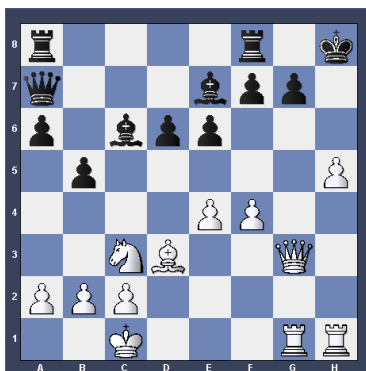
10... Bxc6
 11.g5 Nd7
 12.0-0-0 Be7

12...Qc7 13.h4 b4 14.Ne2 d5 15.Nd4
 Bb7÷

13.h4 0-0

14.h5 Qb8?
 A New move, but not good, Barbelescu-Browne Thessalonika 1984 continued
 14...Ne5 15.f4 Ng4 16.Bh3 Nxe3
 17.Qxe3 b4 18.h6! g6 19.Ne2 e5 20.Kb1
 Qa5 21.f5² 1-0

15.g6! Ne5
 16.f4 Ng4
 17.gxh7+ Kxh7
 18.Bd3 Nxe3
 19.Qxe3 Qa7
 20.Qg3 Kh8
 21.Rdg1



21... Rg8

21...Qd4 is not better 22.e5! Rg8 23.Ne2

Qd5 24.Rh3 dxe5 (24...Qxa2 25.Qg6
 Qa1+ 26.Kd2 Qa5+ 27.c3+-) 25.fxe5
 Qxa2 26.Qg6! Qa1+ 27.Kd2+-

22.Nd5!!

Black might as well accept this sacrifice,
 otherwise White has a massive position
 at no cost.

22... exd5

22...Bd8 23.Qg6! with the idea e5

23.exd5 Bxd5
 24.Qg6 Qe3+
 25.Kb1 Qxg1+
 26.Qxg1 Bxh1
 27.Qxh1 Rae8
 28.Qe4 g6
 29.hxg6 fxg6
 30.a3 Kh7
 31.Qe6 1-0

Black resigned in view of [31.Qe6 Kh6
 32.Ka2‡ Zugzwang.



Chess Suppliers



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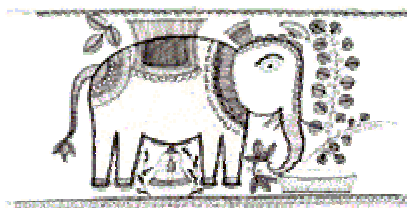


ICCF Congress – Mumbai, India

By George Pyrich

The 54th ICCF Congress, in conjunction with meetings of the ICCF Executive Board and numerous committees, was held at the Hotel Retreat, Mumbai, India from 31st October to 6th November 2004. The Congress, held for the first time in Asia, was hosted by the All India Correspondence Chess Federation (AICCF) and was generously supported by numerous local businesses. A sizeable group of AICCF members, led by its President Prasad Dalvi and Vice-President Ambar Chatterjee, were on hand throughout to ensure the smooth running of the Congress. The Hotel Retreat, a large hotel situated on the sea front of Mumbai, provided excellent facilities, and its kind and helpful staff were greatly appreciated by all who attended. A total of 45 delegates and officials from 4 continents, as well as some 15 family members, took part. ICCF Honorary President Alan Borwell and myself represented the SCCA.

Mumbai (formerly Bombay) is India's second city (after Delhi) and is its main business and industrial centre. The city is situated in the north west of India and surrounds on 3 sides a large bay (hence the name Bombay (good bay) given by the Portuguese, the first European settlers in the 15th century. The Portuguese were later to donate the city to the English as part of a wedding dowry to the English king Charles II. The city had been first founded some 1,000 years earlier by a native group of fishermen, known as the Mumbas (native language for fishermen) and hence the original name, reverted to officially some 10 years ago by the city's authorities. Nowadays the city is a vast metropolis of 17 million souls, the largest in India and the world's 5th most populous centre. Noise and bustle are commonplace to any large city but the sights and sounds of Mumbai are surely unique as (sacred) cows and the occasional elephant can be found meandering along the main thoroughfares.



Opening the Congress for the first time, the new ICCF President Josef Mrkvička (CZE) delivered an impressive keynote speech. Covering a wide range of issues, he emphasised that for the first time in the ICCF history, the ICCF Congress was being hosted in the Asian continent, and he expressed heartiest thanks, also in the Hindi language, to the AICCF for inviting ICCF to their country. In his opening address, he remembered the late Mr. Haresh J. Samtani, past President of AICCF, who had attended the ICCF Congress at Rimini 2001, Italy and was the spiritual father of the idea to organise the ICCF Congress in India and expressed sadness that, because of his unexpected death two years ago, he could not see how his ideas had been realised. He also highlighted some achievements of the AICCF in the years since the affiliation of AICCF to ICCF in 1997, in particular

their excellent Bulletin published quarterly, regular national championships, friendly international matches with many other ICCF national federations, Indian participation in the CC Olympiads, as well as a participation of AICCF players in ICCF events, including Afro-Asian tournaments. He also acknowledged the significant contribution of Dr. Ambar Chatterjee to the ICCF Webserver Project.

The President then paid tribute to the memories of all CC friends who had died since the Ostrava 2003 Congress, including the CC GMs Csaba Melegyegehi (HUN) and Alexey Tsvetkov (RUS), long serving TD Poul Rasmussen (DEN), CC IMs Dr. Simon Fitzpatrick (AUS) and Michael Valvo (USA), IA and Captain of the winning Czechoslovak Olympiad team, Stanislav Foglar (CZE), national TD and chess publisher Gerd Giebel (BRA), chess journalist and Honorary Member of LADAC Luciano Camara (ARG), Jose Fumero Sánchez (ESP). He also remembered the hundreds of people who had died in Spain and Russia as a result of merciless and cold-blooded terrorist attacks. Delegates stood in two minutes silence to the memory of all departed CC friends, as well as fellow citizens of Spain, Russia and the rest of the world whose lives were ended or shattered during the past year.



The ICCF President recalled the big changes in CC over the past five years. Most of Nol van't Riet's visions as presented to the 1999 Congress in Switzerland about the future of correspondence chess in 2010, had already come true. The implementation of email and webserver transmission of moves had greatly speeded up games and events, with what in the past had taken many years, nowadays completed in months or weeks. Internet connection was no longer a privilege of those in highly developed countries, but was now available literally in all countries. He emphasised that the ICCF Statutes should reflect such developments.

He also emphasised that ICCF was currently facing strong competition from dozens of email and webserver chess clubs which, whilst they could not offer international CC titles, did provide play free of charge and a whole range of tournaments, some worldwide. The President stressed that, although ICCF was the only international CC organisation whose titles were universally recognised, and also acknowledged by FIDE, it must not underestimate competition and it needed to be ready to accept the challenge. ICCF must continually monitor overall developments, be flexible and react quickly and ICCF and National Federations must provide good service to all CC players, otherwise they could lose them to competitors.

The ICCF President declared that in the year 2004, ICCF had entered a new era of its history –webserver chess. He briefly referred to the initial steps of system development and reported on the fulfilment of the task given to the Webserver Steering Group. Since the 2003 Congress in Ostrava, it had taken just 8 months of hard work until the first test tournament had been started in July 2004. Since then, ICCF has introduced all class tournaments to the server, including GM and Master Norm tournaments, and is able to host individual and team tournaments organised either by ICCF or National Federations. He then cordially thanked all ICCF volunteers who had contributed to this excellent achievement, especially the first Project Manager Iain Mackintosh. He reminded all National Delegates that they should feel committed to support “their” webserver system and to promote it enthusiastically within their federations

He also pointed out that ICCF finance was another hot topic for the Congress, and emphasised that current revenue and expense methodology was acceptable only when the majority of ICCF games had been played by post. With the change to email play and the coming change to webserver play, the timing of transactions was no longer logical or acceptable. ICCF incurred and must pay many of its expenses on a quarterly or monthly basis. Therefore, like with any other business, the timing of ICCF revenue inflow must be adjusted to match its expense outflow.

Finally, Josef proposed that Congress should focus on the overall ICCF "volunteer culture". Thus far, all ICCF Officials had been volunteers, including the President and all other Executive Board (EB) members, but, because of work and family commitments, they all had only a limited number of hours available for ICCF work. Consequently, it was not correct to "shout" at active volunteers to work harder, if they had not enough time. With the webserver system implemented, it had become obvious that the present volunteer culture and web chess could be in conflict. In particular, administration and support of the webserver needed to work round the clock. ICCF had recruited many new volunteers for this work but, despite all efforts, it had not succeeded to cover key roles like Webserver Commissioner or Marketing Commissioner. Even if ICCF could recruit volunteers into these roles, ICCF could not insist that they work fixed hours or contracted periods, and there would always be times where other parts of their lives would take greater priority. Therefore, the President recommended Congress to consider whether some key jobs in the marketing and webserver areas, might require some degree of professional and remunerated day-to-day work.



The main business of the Congress was:

Membership/Secretarial

Pedro Hegoburu (ARG) reported that applications for membership had been received from Indonesia and Tunisia.

It was agreed unanimously that both countries should be admitted to ICCF membership.

The President proposed that Honorary Membership be awarded to Gerhard Radosztics (AUT), longstanding delegate for Austria and presently Rules Commissioner, in recognition of his substantial contributions to ICCF and to international CC over a period of more than 20 years. Congress carried the proposal unanimously.

Thereafter the President presented an engraved plate, gold medal and certificate to the 16th World CC Championship Final winner Tunc Hamarat (AUT) who was attending Congress for the first time. Silver and bronze medals and diplomas for the 2nd and 3rd placed players, Ruud Maliangkay (NED) and Igor Samarin (RUS) were also presented. Also, before the prize giving, it was unanimously decided by Congress to also award an additional bronze medal for Achim Soltau (GER) who had tied for 3rd place, but with a lesser SB score. An engraved cup and diploma was also presented for the winner of the 10th World Cup Final, Frank Schröder (GER) and diplomas for players in 2nd and 3rd places, Hans-Paul Ollmann (GER) and Christian Sender (GER), respectively.

The Congress also approved the award of Bertl von Massow medals in recognition of meritorious service to ICCF to a number of current and former officials. Gold awards (15 years service) were presented to Manfred Gluth (GER), Tim Harding (IRL) and Ulrich Wagner (GER) whilst Silver awards (10 years service) were presented to Jaromír Canibal (CZE), Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP), Ilja Hristov (BUL), Thórhallur Olafsson (ISD), Achim Soltau (GER), Per Söderberg (SWE) and Uldis Strautins (LAT).

Finance

The ICCF Accounts for the year to 31.12.2003 were compiled by Treasurer Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP) and presented to the Congress for approval. Carlos had officially retired from his post at the 2003 ICCF Congress but had continued his work until the end of the financial year.

Carlos reported that overall income had exceeded expenditure for the period to 31.12.2003 by CHF 7,463.48 (some £3,500), a sharp fall from the surplus of CHF 41,834.92 recorded during the previous year. He stressed however that the absence during the year 2003 of new starts in important events such as Olympiads, Champions League and the World Cup had drastically reduced recorded Income during the year and also that Income from Membership Fees had been inexorably decreasing every year. Also, Income derived from “direct entries” for non-federated players had decreased in 2003, producing a total income of CHF 317 as compared with the CHF 1,513 received in 2002. Finally, Carlos’s proposal to the Congress that the surplus achieved by the European Zone in 2003 (CHF 1.061,68) should be allocated to the European Zone as its opening balance at 1.1.2004 was unanimously approved. He also reported that ICCF Investments had been recorded, as usual, at their cost price of CHF 64,196 but that the market value at 31.12.03 was CHF 84,990 (which was CHF 20,794 in excess of cost and CHF 12,513 more than market value at 31.12.2002) and that Investments had further increased in market value during the first part of this year and at 30.06.2004 were valued at CHF 87,093.

The Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet, for the year ended 31st December 2003, which was distributed to delegates is also now available at www.iccf.com

In the absence of the ICCF Auditor, Hendrik B. Sarink (NED), the Auditor's Report was presented in writing and delivered to Congress by the ICCF President Josef Mrkvička (CZE). The Auditor confirmed in his Report that he had verified the Accounts and all supporting documents provided by the Treasurer, and he considered the financial position of ICCF at 31.12.2003, had been represented correctly. The ICCF Congress accepted the Auditor's Report unanimously and formally and unanimously adopted the Audited Accounts for the financial year 2003.

Thereafter, the previous ICCF President Alan Borwell (SCO) asked to address the Congress. He mentioned that although he had relinquished the ICCF Presidency during the Ostrava Congress in October 2003, most of the year 2003 had been under his stewardship. He said that it was a unique situation, as a new structure was being introduced and new officers had to be appointed to new positions in the EB and Management Committees, as well as there being a change in the ICCF Presidency. He mentioned various projects that had been initiated, including the ICCF Webserver system, the ICCF web magazine concept, the Code of Conduct Guidelines, establishment of the three ICCF Appeals Commissions, the Arbiter Review and various rules and tournament issues and other ideas. These projects were handed over to the new President and EB members to take forward immediately in Ostrava, so that there would be no serious interruption. He expressed his warm thanks to everyone who had worked so well and voluntarily for ICCF during the 20 years whilst he was a member of the ICCF Presidium, first as Treasurer, then Deputy President and finally as ICCF President. In particular, he appreciated the work of Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP) as long serving ICCF Treasurer and of Iain Mackintosh (SCO) as Webserver Project Manager.



The current ICCF President then informed Congress that after discharging his responsibilities for the financial year 2003, Carlos Flores would cease to be a co-opted EB member. He warmly thanked him for his excellent work throughout the nine years as Treasurer and expressed his hope that Carlos would continue as ICCF Delegate for Spain and as a TD. Congress showed its great appreciation of Carlos' excellent work, with a warm round of applause.

Thereafter, the Congress gave consideration to the Financial Plan. In his written Report, the Finance Director, Grayling Hill (USA) stressed that the current revenue and expense methodology was acceptable when the majority of games were played by post. With the changeover to email play and the emergence of webserver play, the timing of transactions was no longer logical or acceptable. ICCF now incurred and

must pay many of its expenses on a quarterly or monthly basis, and thus, the timing of revenue inflow must begin to match the outflow of expenses. Congress approved by a substantial majority that, effective from 1.1.2005: (i) all invoices from the ICCF to member federations must be payable within 30 days (ii) ICCF would start billing member federations half-yearly (at 30th June and 31st December, respectively), with invoices payable within 30 days (iii) the current year's membership fee should be paid with the first invoice issued for that year (i.e. at 30th June of the current year) and should be remitted, with all necessary details required by the Finance Director, not later than 31st July of the current year (iv) any fees which were not paid within 30 days from the date of invoice would be considered to be "overdue" and a levy would be charged (in lieu of lost revenue), becoming payable immediately.

The Congress then, following very lengthy discussion, amended proposals submitted by the Finance Director for increases to fees as being too high and instead gave its approval to a revised schedule of fees and charges:

Event Type	CHF	
	Old	New
Olympiad Team Preliminaries (per player)	15	25
Champions League (per team and cycle)	40	60
World Individual Candidates	20	25
World Individual Semi-final	40	50
World Individual Ladies Semi-final	20	25
World Individual Tourneys 7-player	6	8
World Individual Tourneys 11-player	10	13
World Cup	20	20
Thematic Tourneys	10	13
Master Norm Tourneys	30	40
Grand Master Norm Tourneys	50	60
Direct Entries (Champions League) (credit)	(20)	(30)
Direct Entries (Individual) 7-player (credit)	(3)	(3)
Direct Entries (Individual) 11-player (credit)	(3)	(4)
Invitationals Category I-III (per game)		2
Invitationals Category IV-VI (per game)	1	4
Invitationals Category VII-XIII (per game)	2	5
Invitationals Category XIV+ (per game)	3	6
Invitational Team Tourneys (per player)	2	4
International Open Tourneys (per entry)	2	4

These increases were deemed to be necessary in order that adequate funding may be available for the Webserver and other projects and also in consideration of the situation that, for a number of events, the revenue raised through entry fees was insufficient to meet the costs for those events.

(Note: the SCCA Executive Committee will consider these increases at its next meeting scheduled to be held 6th February and may decide to adjust entry fees for ICCF events accordingly.)

Technology and Webserver

The Congress was delighted to receive news from the ICCF President that since the last Congress ICCF had developed a fully functional web server, which at the very least was equal to any correspondence chess web server and superior to most of those which were available. This had been achieved in only 8 months following the approval of the Webserver Project by the ICCF Congress 2003 in Ostrava, within both the planned timescale for Phase 1 of the Project and also the budgeted amount approved by the Ostrava

Congress. Congress highly appreciated the results achieved by the Webservice Steering Group and, in particular, the excellent work of Project Manager Iain Mackintosh (SCO).

In its written Report, the Webservice Steering Group recommended Congress to move forward with Phase 2 of the Project and it envisaged that the ICCF Webservice system would eventually provide a fully comprehensive range of services including automatic calculation of ratings and titles qualifications, games archives, message board, player details and multiple languages. After a long discussion, and by substantial majority voting, Congress decided that: (i) Further development of the ICCF Webservice should be continued, after ongoing priorities had been established, with the work spread over several years, depending on development funding available for system enhancement (ii) Phase 1 progress should be reviewed and priorities agreed and specified for Phase 2 and thereafter (iii) The Development Fund allocation for Phase 2 would be CHF 15,000 for year 2005 and resource allocations would be discussed again at the Congress in 2005, for the year 2006.

Additionally, and very significantly, following lengthy discussion, the Congress empowered the EB to hire professional assistance (individual or a company) to perform system administration of the Webservice, should this be necessary. Operating costs for the system administration should be covered by increased tournament and rating fees, which had been approved earlier by the Congress. The Congress then unanimously appointed Clive Murden (AUS) as the new Webservice Project Manager. Finally, the Congress delegated the development work for Phase 2 to a new Webservice Development Steering Committee (WDSC) and unanimously appointed Alan Borwell (SCO) as Chairman of the Committee with Gerhard Binder (GER), Ambar Chatterjee (IND), Clive Murden (AUS) and Nol van 't Riet (NED) serving as Committee members.



ICCF Statutes

As requested by the previous congress, the President's Commission presented an extensive list of proposed revisions to the ICCF Statutes. Following lengthy (and somewhat heated!) discussion, the Congress approved a number of revisions to the ICCF Statutes as follows: (i) the seat of ICCF should remain the residence of the President, but further investigations should be made regarding the possibility of establishing a permanent seat/office in one particular country (ii) enhanced Direct Entry facilities (whereby players from countries who are not ICCF members and also players from countries who are but who do not hold membership of their National Federation (NF) may enter directly to ICCF events. Under the old Direct Entry scheme, NFs held a right of "veto" over players from their countries using this facility – under the new enhanced scheme, this right of "veto" is removed) should not be a part of the Statutes or be mandatory for all NFs, but that it should be offered to NFs on a voluntary basis, from 1.4.2005 (it is

for NFs to determine whether they wish to join the enhanced scheme. (*Again, this will be considered at the forthcoming SCCA Executive Committee Meeting*) (iii) players' eligibility provisions should not be a part of the Statutes, but should be added to the ICCF Tournament Rules, as a separate chapter (iv) internal procedures of the particular Appeals Commissions should not be part of the ICCF Statutes, but issued as separate regulations by each Appeals Commission, with as much similarity as possible (v) in future every NF should have only one vote in the Congress, regardless of the number of their members (previously the German Federation had held 2 votes as it had held more than 5,000 (!) members) (vi) disputes on matters which did not fall within the jurisdiction of any of the ICCF Appeals Commissions should be decided by a Tribunal, comprising the Chairmen of the three Appeals Commissions.



Marketing and Publications

The Deputy President and Development Director, Max Zavanelli (USA), informed Congress that a promotional leaflet had been printed and distributed by ICCF-US to their local CC organisations, and also to all the ICCF member Federations, with great success. The contents had been edited from the draft ICCF brochure presented to the Ostrava Congress in 2003. It was also reported that a short introductory brochure had been produced in all five ICCF official languages, in .pdf format, but unfortunately it had not been yet made available at the ICCF website. An update of the information would be needed and publication was requested as soon as possible. Additionally, the ICCF electronic publication "ICCF Amici" was freely available for anyone to download or read online at www.iccf.com

On the ICCF President's proposal, it was then unanimously decided to appoint Mohammed Samraoui (ALG) as Chairman of the Marketing Commission. Congress authorised him to recruit new members for the Commission and to elaborate a Marketing & PR plan for the year 2005, as soon as possible. The ICCF President also reported on his visits to ChessBase (February 2004) and New In Chess (September 2004). ChessBase had been very helpful with some aspects of the ICCF Webservice project, and both companies had expressed their desire to continue sponsoring different ICCF events. Congress expressed its satisfaction to continuing, mutually beneficial, relationships.

Titles and Qualifications

The Qualifications Commissioner, Eric Ruch (FRA), confirmed the award of new titles to 23 Grandmasters, 46 Senior International Masters, 47 International Masters, 3 Lady Grandmasters, 1 Lady International Master and 3 International Arbiters. Unfortunately there were no new Scottish titleholders this year. Additionally, Congress gave its approval to title norms in respect of numerous new World, Continental, Team and Invitational events.

Title Tournaments

The Congress noted that throughout the year 2004, the Title Tournaments Commissioner, Daniel Finkelstein (ARG), had started many sections, most notably WCCC Finals 19 and 20. Also, the Congress was informed that it been intimated to players that WCCC Final 21 was scheduled to start after mid-2005. Although it was not ideal to have so many Finals running at the same time (Finals 17, 18, 19 and 20), it was also noted that there were many qualifiers with unused participation rights, and it was unfair to have qualified players waiting too long to use their acquired right to participate in a WCCC Final. Differences in tournament categories of these finals, as well as the number of players, were explained. It had been impossible to accurately predict qualifiers for the WCCC Finals, with players using postal or email transmission and it had resulted in different categories for Finals. In addition, the previously agreed criteria of 13 players for Email Final 19, as decided by the 1998 Congress, had to be applied.

The TTC also reported on the forthcoming CC Olympiad cycle and on the next Ladies CC Olympiad - Olympiad Final 13 (by post) was scheduled to begin on November 1 2004, with 11 teams participating and Olympiad 16 Preliminaries would be played by post, with 4-player teams, and was scheduled to begin on May 1, 2005. The Ladies CC Olympiad 7 Preliminaries had been announced, and the TTC was waiting for feedback from member federations, but so far the response had been very poor (*with an insufficient number of lady members the SCCA is unable to enter a team*). Finally, the TTC's report also mentioned the inexorable downward trend of postal sections and upward trend of email sections. During the period September 2003 to September 2004, the TTC had started 6 postal sections for events under his jurisdiction, whilst in the same period a total of 40 similar sections had been started for email play. It was unnecessary to repeat that ICCF would continue to support postal events, but it was noted that if postal players did not enter in enough numbers, it would be impossible to predict whether more postal sections could be started - and then "postal players would be killing postal CC!"

Non-Title Tournaments

The report of the Non-Title Tournaments Commissioner, Eugen Demian (CAN) mentioned that the Class events (Open, High and Master) were continuing normally. Email and Postal Jubilee tournaments were advancing well, with the Email Jubilee Open being at the Quarter Finals stage and Postal Jubilee approaching the end of its Preliminary stage. He also reported that World Cup 14 was being organised by CCLA (AUS) and the starting date for postal, email and web server sections would be December 2004. The inaugural ICCF Web Server Open Tournament had also been announced and was scheduled to commence at the end of 2004. Finally, the Congress also noted that good progress had been made for the first regular season of the popular Champions League team event. The 1st qualification cycle had been completed and new sections would begin in November 2004. Much work had been done to renew interest in the event, especially through a new web site with completely new cross tables. Additionally, on the proposal of the President, the Congress unanimously approved the total prize fund of CHF 2,000 (1st place 1,000, 2nd place 600, 3rd place 400) for event ICCF World Cup 14 scheduled to

start December 2004 (*this started on schedule with 3 entrants from the SCCA*).

Postal & Thematic Tournaments

In his Report to Congress, the Postal Tournaments Officer, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA), again mentioned the continuing declining rate of entries to postal events, which for the second consecutive year had fallen by a further 12%. Another recurring and concerning problem was the source of entries, with 88% coming from Europe and the remaining 12% from the North America/Pacific Zone and with no entries whatever being received from Latin America or Asia / Africa. In the absence of the Thematic Tournament Officer Leonardo Madonia (ITA), Gian-Maria also presented this Report to the Congress, advising that overall the number of players had increased, both in postal and email sections. The themes for 2005 were included in his report, which had been distributed prior to Congress. (Details of these are now available at www.scottishcca.co.uk). Four Fischer random events (by email) had been started in 2004, but due possibly to a lack of follow-up publicity by member Federations, it had been several months since any new entry had been received. The Congress approved Mr. Madonia's suggestion that no fees should be charged for the email Thematic events during 2005.



European Zone

The Zonal Director, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) reported to the Congress that the European Zone had begun a restructuring after the 2003 Congress in Ostrava following a period of inactivity during the last year in office of the previous Zonal President. The European Zone now had a new and informative website located at www.iccf-europa.com, created by Maurizio Sampieri and Giorgio Ruggeri-Laderchi (both ITA), and assisted by Juraj Václav (CZE). Laurent Tinture (FRA) was the new Games Archivist for the Zone. A separate meeting of European delegates was held immediately after the end of the Congress to consider the scheduling of future European individual and team events. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Preliminaries of the 7th European Team Championship would be played by email over 8 boards and would commence on 15 October 2005. The meeting also approved plans for the start of the 63rd and 64th European Individual Championships Finals on 15 April 2005 with one Final to be played by post and the other by email. Additionally approval was given to plans to commence the Preliminaries of the 66th and 67th European Individual Championships (each member federation could provide 1 nomination to each event and other places would be allocated to qualifiers from the European Class events – each event would have a maximum of 78 players in 6 section of 13 players) on 15 March 2005 with postal and email sections in each event. Finally, the meeting agreed that the possibility of playing new European Individual and Team events on the new ICCF Webserver be pursued.

Rules

Surprisingly, the Congress found sufficient time to consider detailed reviews of postal and email playing rules, plus a new set of rules and guidelines for webserver, submitted by the Rules Commissioner, Gerhard Radosztics (AUT). These were the fruit of many months of work undertaken by the Rules Commission. Whilst very minor changes to the Postal Rules were considered (and approved), there was one very significant change approved in respect of the Email Rules. The current situation whereby players may record date of receipt as being the day following the date on which the move was sent by the opponent is not applicable in new events scheduled to start after 1 January 2005. Instead a move received before 8 p.m. (the players' local time) must be declared as being received on that day, whilst a move received after 8 p.m. (the players' local time) may be declared as received on the next immediate day. The Congress also approved the merging of both individual and team rules into one set of rules, with different fonts denoting the relevance of each rule. Congress also approved a new set of webserver rules. *(Full details of the revised and new Rules (and Guidelines) for postal, email and webserver events are contained the Minutes for the Congress now available for download at www.iccf.com.)*

Congress approved a significant change to Guideline 9 to the Playing Rules, which now states that, in cases of an Accepted Withdrawal, if the withdrawing player has completed any games or if an average of 25 (*previously 10*) or more moves have been played in his or her games then these games will be adjudicated. If this average of 25 moves has not been fulfilled then the withdrawing players games will be cancelled. Uniquely, this somewhat contentious proposal was approved only through the President's casting vote, as there was a tie in votes cast by Delegates.

Ratings

The Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder (GER), reported on the successful conclusion of the new Rating Lists since the last Congress, with the most recent one being valid from 1.10.2004. Whilst no changes to the Rating Rules were proposed, Gerhard provided a very interesting and detailed planned schedule whereby all the features currently available within the Eloquetry Ratings Database may be incorporated within the new webserver facility.

External Matters

The ICCF President reported on his investigation into possible ICCF membership of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF). Marijonas Rocius (LTU) and Anil Kumar (IND) explained to Congress that some benefits could be derived from membership in GAISF, particularly in the area of state support of CC activities. However, any ICCF application would probably need to be supported by FIDE, as the International Olympic Committee recognised FIDE as the international federation for the entire domain of chess. Congress then decided unanimously that the President and the EB should continue their investigations and report to the ICCF Congress 2005.

The President then reported on relations between ICCF and FIDE since the Ostrava Congress. Because of a clash in dates, the ICCF President was unable to attend the FIDE Congress in Mallorca. Consequently, Georg Walker (SUI) and the President of the Spanish CCF, Josep Mercadal Benejam, had been entrusted to represent ICCF at this

Congress. Their main goal would be to contact FIDE Delegates of countries that were not yet an ICCF member and to hand them a personal letter from the President inviting membership. Thanks to the kind assistance of Sergey Grodzensky (RUS), the delegates of the former Republics of the Soviet Union would receive this letter not only in English, but also in the Russian language.

The LADAC Vice-President, Claudio J. Gonçalves (ARG), had visited China and South Korea in September 2004 and had delivered invitation letters encouraging affiliation to ICCF to the Chinese and South Korean Chess Federations. Chess officials in China had received him very well and their official answer was awaited.

Internal Matters

The Congress listened with interest to a recording of the music of the proposed ICCF anthem composed by Dmitry Lybin (BLR), ICCF Delegate for Belarus and a composer and musician. Honorary President Alan Borwell (SCO) had written some lyrics to the anthem in English and he asked that the EB should consider whether these were acceptable. National Delegates would then be asked to help with their translation into the other official ICCF languages. After a short discussion, Congress decided unanimously to continue the project of the ICCF anthem, with the aim to approve a final version at the ICCF Congress 2005.



As always, not all of the time of the Congress is taken up with business matters. Local FIDE GM P. Thipsay took on some 20 Congress participants in a simultaneous exhibition, conceding only 1 loss and also inflicting a crushing defeat upon your scribe. Thereafter it was left to Alan to uphold the honour of the SCCA in the traditional blitz tournament, a task he accomplished with some considerable flair achieving some dashing victories over highly rated (and considerably younger) players. The event was finally won by Konstantin Sanakojev (USA), son of former ICCF World Champion Gennady. Delegates were also provided with an interesting and enjoyable excursion around the numerous fascinating sights of Mumbai. Finally, the members of the SCCA delegation hoped to attend the final day's play of the 4th cricket Test Match between India and Australia, which coincided with the Congress as one of our gracious Indian hosts, Prasad Dalvi, had secured through his son-in-law match tickets from Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar. Unfortunately, a sudden and dramatic turn of events during the penultimate days play when 18 wickets fell had seen the Indian team pull off a sensational and unlikely victory and deny us the opportunity of witnessing the last days play!

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



Christmas Music

This might be a bit late to send as a present, but those of you who got record tokens could still be interested.... The album is 'Have a Merry Chess Christmas' and the label of course is Chess, popularised by Chuck Berry in the 60s. Can't say I remember any of the others though...



- Run Rudolph Run - Chuck Berry
- Hey Santa Claus - The Moonglows
- Merry Christmas Baby - Chuck Berry
- Love for Christmas - The Gems
- Christmas Means Love - The Soul Stirrers
- Christmas Ain't Christmas without the One You Love - The O'Jays
- Blue Christmas - The Meditation Singers
- Santa Claus is coming to Town - The Ramsey Lewis Trio
- Merry Christmas to You - The Salem Travellers
- Christmas Love - Rotary Connection

Chess Is Better Than Sex.



This is Fischer's assertion, supported by an internet column written by Larry Evans. He quotes a reader, tongue planted firmly in cheek, who submitted 22 reasons why Fischer was right. The reader failed to point out, however, that both pastimes are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

- 1. A good game can last seven hours or more and be enjoyed any time without stopping.

- 2. As soon as you finish a game, you're ready for another one.
- 3. There are billions of mating positions. Always new!
- 4. You can play chess on the internet and find new partners any time you like.
- 5. You can't catch a disease from chess. The worse than can happen to you from sitting for too long is a sore rump.
- 6. You don't have to chat up your opponents and send chocolates or roses before they agree to play.
- 7. Children can play chess well. (Probably not meant in a sinister way, but you can never be sure with the net - Ed)
- 8. You can perform for a long time and still play chess well in old age.
- 9. Ugly players still get to mate.
- 10. Ugly opponents don't put you off your game.
- 11. Good players can take on hundreds of opponents at once.
- 12. You usually know what your next move should be in chess.
- 13. You can drink, smoke, and play chess simultaneously.
- 14. In chess, the kings and queens can directly mix.
- 15. No one ever complains that you're moving too fast.
- 16. In chess -- but not in sex -- short games are highly valued.
- 17. In chess your opponent has to make a move after your move.
- 18. Misplacing your pieces on a chessboard is inconvenient; in the bedroom, it may be illegal.
- 19. You don't have to kiss or hug your opponent after a game.
- 20. In chess a quickie is often more satisfying than a long game.
- 21. You can play chess with your clothes on. And in public too.
- 22. Size does not matter. Most players are satisfied with average chessboards.

Opening Repertoire



The famous chess player Savielly Tartakower had a weakness for experimenting with bizarre openings. "A chess game is divided into three stages," he once remarked. "The first, when you hope you have the advantage, the second when you believe you have an advantage, and the third... when you know you're going to lose!"

"There are only two kinds of moves in the opening," Tartakower once remarked. "Moves which are wrong and moves which could be wrong."

Smoke Gets In Your Sacrifice



During a tournament one day, Latvian chess master Aron Nimzowitsch complained that his opponent had laid an unlit cigar on the table beside the board. The director pointed out that the man was not in fact smoking. "Yes," replied Nimzowitsch, "but he is *threatening* to smoke, and any fool knows that the threat is more powerful than the execution!"

Think Like A GM - Part 35



Serbian chess grandmaster Maria Manakova fell in love with her ex-husband, Yugoslavian grandmaster Miroslav Tomic, when she played against him as a teenager: "I made a series of rash moves with my king and surrendered myself to him," Manakova later recalled. "He liked that."

Maria Manakova posed in the nude for glossy magazines and once turned up for a tournament dressed in a skimpy blouse and high heels.

Mediaeval Chess Wakes



The sorts of things that people might have done to entertain themselves at Christmas apart from eating is succinctly summarized in a letter written by Margaret Paston on Christmas Eve 1459 after she had inquired how her Norfolk neighbour, Lady Morley, had conducted her household in

mourning the previous Christmas, just after Lady Morley had been widowed:

"...there were no disguisings [acting], nor harping, luting or singing, nor any lewd sports, but just playing at the tables [backgammon] and chess and cards. Such sports she gave her folk leave to play and no other."

Chess Recipes



Southern US cuisine contains a lot of references to chess, especially home baking. Here is one you can try next time your favourite opponent drops in for a game:

Chocolate Chess Pie

Submitted to the internet by no less than Lola, here is a recipe for a rich chocolate pie with pecans, passed down from her mother and grandmother.

Ingredients:

- 1 (9 inch) pastry for a 9 inch single crust pie
- 1½ cups white sugar
- 3½ tablespoons cocoa
- ½cup butter, melted
- 1 (5 ounce) can evaporated milk
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¾ cup chopped pecans

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C) Mix together sugar, cocoa, and melted butter. Stir in evaporated milk, beaten eggs, vanilla, and chopped pecans. Pour nut mixture into unbaked pie shell. Bake for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C) and bake for 30 minutes.

Black Is OK



During an exhibition in Edinburgh in 1937, US chess grandmaster Charles Koltanowski, a renowned showman and promoter, entered the *Guinness Book of Records* by playing 34 boards simultaneously while blindfolded. He won 24 outright and didn't lose a single game.

Bernstein Defence



In 1918, because he was a legal advisor to bankers, the famous Hungarian chess player Ossip Bernstein was arrested in Odessa by the Cheka and scheduled for execution. As the firing squad lined up, a superior officer asked to see the list of prisoners' names and, seeing Bernstein's name, demanded whether he was the International Grandmaster of the same name. When Bernstein replied in the affirmative, the sceptical officer challenged him to a game. Unless the prisoner won the game outright, he would be shot. Bernstein won with ease. Having literally won his freedom, he promptly fled on a British ship and settled in Paris.

Phone A Friend



In October 2003, former world chess champion Ruslan Ponomarev appeared in a Ukraine-Sweden match at the European Team Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Ponomarev, celebrating his birthday, was presented with gifts by tournament organisers at the start of his game. Shortly thereafter, however, Toncho Demirev disqualified Ponomarev, quoting article 13.4 of the Laws of Chess, making him the first player ever disqualified at a major event. The problem? His cell phone had rung during the match.

Which Rook To Move?



"Whenever you have to make a rook move and both rooks are available," the famous Grandmaster Oscar Panno once remarked, "you should evaluate which rook to move and, once you have made up your mind, move the other one!"

Pawn & Finger



About 40 players were watching an online broadcast of a major match. One of the players was a pawn down, and there was some argument as to how much compensation the other had. One of the masters present quoted Fine, 'As Reuben Fine said, I'd rather have a pawn than a finger.'

In one version of the story, GM Roman Dzindzichashvili replied: "It all depends: which pawn and which finger!"

Blind Date



Q. What is the difference between a chess player and a couple on a blind date?
A. The chess player mates then chats.

Quotable Quotes

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'O'Sullivan's play was rather worse than his score.'
Harry Golombek, 1947, about a tournament where O'Sullivan scored ½ out of 13.

'Colonel Moreau is perhaps stronger than his score would indicate.'
The Monte Carlo 1903 tournament book, about Moreau's 0 out of 26.

'The passion for playing chess is one of the most unaccountable in the world. It slaps the theory of natural selection in the face. It is the most absorbing of occupations. The least satisfying of desires. A nameless excrescence upon life. It annihilates a man. You have, let us say, a promising politician, a rising artist that you wish to destroy. Dagger or bomb are archaic and unreliable - but teach him, inoculate him with chess.'
H.G. Wells, 'Certain Personal Matters', 1898.



General Information

Members of the Scottish CCA are eligible to play in ICCF postal, email and webserver 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 usually possible to interchange between playing modes 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 and GM Norm tournaments with 13-player sections are available for strong players. Master 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. GM entry levels are 150 rating points higher. A player can enter only one section per playing mode 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 normal for email and webserver play. Playing rules and time limits are provided for each event, and the usual postal limit is 30 days per 10 moves, with 60 days for 10 moves in email and webserver. Players may take up to 30 days leave per calendar year.

Use air mail stickers to all destinations to speed postal play, and 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). Email and webserver have speeded up many events, and made it cheaper to play. Generally, you play less email/webserver games simultaneously than postal because of the faster play.

A prerequisite for entry via the SCCA is that the player remains 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.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2005

Theme 2/05: Sicilian Paulsen System, B41-3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 March

Theme 3/05: French Defence, C17

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 cxd4

Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 April

Email Events 2005

Theme 2/05: Sokolsky, A00

1.b4

Entries by 1 January; play starts 1 February

Theme 3/05: French Defence Chatard-Alekhine Attack, C13

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4

Entries by 1 February; play starts 1 March

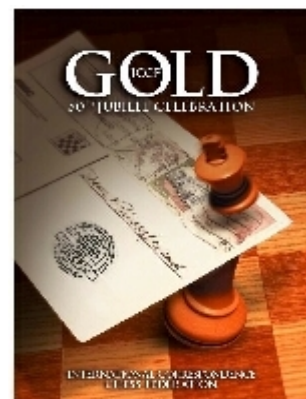
Theme 4/05: Benoni, A43

1.d4 c5 2.dxc5 Qa5 3.Bd2 Qc5

Entries by 1 March; play starts 1 April

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