

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.93

Spring 2006

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Welcome to the first edition of the 2006 set of magazines! This issue has quite a cosmopolitan flavour, and is packed with games from around the world.

First up is an interview with newly announced 17th ICCF world champion Ivar Bern of Norway. The interview was conducted by his countryman Atle Grønn in 2004, but it's all very relevant still, and a good insight into how computers are viewed by the players at the very top.

Raymond has been busy during the early spring, first by calculating this season's SCCA grades, then following up with the Scottish changes in the ICCF list. You can view the composite list here, and it's also on the website (where you can download it in pdf format).

Bernard's shelves continue to groan under the weight of ChessBase CD and DVD products, and he reviews the latest titles for us once more. His Games Column runs to a healthy seven pages, with our home-based players annotating ICCF World Semi-Final, SCCA Championship and Challengers games.

I'm playing GM Yoav Dothan of Israel in the 7th European Team Tournament just now, and he's been telling me about his new web-based column analysing CC and OTB games in considerable depth. I've plagiarised some of his early stuff to give you a flavour of what is available.

Our latest webserver friendly international against Sweden is now under way, and the reports from players using the new technology for the first time have all been favourable. An update of recent scores is given within, and we look as though we might win a match (against BCCS) for a change!

The committee is currently debating the structure of domestic events for 2007. It's likely that we'll streamline the numbers of separate tournaments on offer, and make webserver and email playing modes more widely available.

Our proposals will go out at the same time as the AGM calling notice so that you'll get a chance to respond before any decisions become final.

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Committee Member	George Livie	34 Laggan Road, Newlands, Glasgow G43 2SY	+44 (0) 141 637 0722	george.livie@scottishcca.co.uk
Games Editor	Bernard Milligan	15 Bothwell Court, Hawick TD9 7EP	+44 (0) 1450 370507	games@scottishcca.co.uk



Ivar Bern New ICCF World Champion

By Atle Grønn

[Editor's Note: the SCCA congratulates 39-year old Ivar Bern of Norway on becoming the 17th ICCF world champion in January 2006! We are grateful to Atle Grønn for allowing his article to be reproduced here.]

It first appeared in Norsk Sjakkblad (Norwegian Chess Magazine) during 2004, and was reprinted in ICCF Amici webzine 7 in December 2005. The latter publication is now edited by GM Raymond Boger, another Norwegian well known to the Scottish CC scene - he finished as runner-up in our Bernard Partridge Memorial tournament.

Parts of the article have now been superseded by events, but its prognosis turned out to be accurate! Bern's views on the use of computers in CC are candid and illuminating.]



XVII World Championship Final

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Pts	SB
1	Bern, I [GM]	2592	NOR	■	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	½	½	1	10½	74.8
2	Rohde, W [IM]	2533	GER	½	■	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	10½	72.0
3	Neumann, J [GM]	2685	GER	½	½	■	½	½	½	½	½	1	0	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	10½	70.5
4	Linna, A [IM]	2554	FIN	½	½	½	■	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	10	68.0
5	Müller, G [IM]	2469	GER	½	0	½	½	■	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	10	65.0
6	Raupp, T [GM]	2630	GER	½	1	½	½	½	■	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	8½	61.8
7	Lecroq, M [GM]	2595	FRA	0	½	½	½	½	½	■	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	8½	56.5
8	Glatt, G [IM]	2578	HUN	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	■	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	8	55.8
9	Stern, W [SM]	2552	GER	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	■	½	1	½	½	½	1	½	8	57.8	
10	Zugrav, W [IM]	2535	OST	½	½	1	0	½	1	½	½	½	■	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	8	56.8
11	Gallinnis, N [IM]	2570	GER	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	■	0	1	1	1	1	8	51.8	
12	Danek, L [GM]	2546	CZE	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	■	½	1	1	1	7	42.5	
13	Eriksson, A [IM]	2519	SVE	0	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	1	0	½	■	½	0	1	1	7	44.3
14	Voyna, A [GM]	2617	UKR	½	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	1	0	½	■	½	1	6	40.3		
15	Vukcevic, B [GM]	2543	YUG	½	½	0	½	0	½	½				0	1		■	1	1	5½	34.0	
16	Korolev, S [GM]	2615	RUS	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	■	1	2½	13.0
17	Khlusevich, S [GM]	2623	RUS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	■	½	4.0

This was the position at 7 January 2006. Ivar Bern of Norway wins on Sonnenborg-Berger score, having scored 10½/16 [65.6%]. The tournament was rated category 13, with an average grade of 2574, and norms awarded for 9½ points [GM], 7 points [SM] and 6 points [IM].



Ivar Bern from Bergen, Norway has been away from the chessboard for a while, but spends numerous hours analysing chess positions on his PC. A CC career spanning nearly 20 years is close to being crowned with the World Championship title in World Championship XVII, possibly the last Championship being played by ordinary mail.

Bern is in the lead as the smoke is beginning to clear, even though the incomplete cross table shows that in theory

someone can still catch up with him. However, the tiebreak will in all probability favour the Norwegian, and the possibility that anyone beats Bern's own 10½-point prognosis, is remote.

Whatever the final result, Bern is in the process of obtaining a world-class result, and the games in this final demonstrate a depth seldom being served to the readers of a Norwegian chess journal.

The Norwegian hope believed the tournament would end during 2005, but the Russian Khlusevitsj (2569) – the only one in the field Bern suspects is without a PC – suffers from slow mail and a worst-case scenario is that it may take several years before the winner is decided.

With such time perspectives we found it best to ask our anonymous world star to tell us about this strange form of competition, which seems rather hopelessly out of date in these days of speed chess, but at the same time being characterized by modern technology.



Before reflecting on the effect of computers on (correspondence) chess, we let Bern sum up the road to success in this branch of chess that he describes as extreme sport.

The World Championship title was my motivation for starting with CC in 1986. Through my results in the semi- and $\frac{3}{4}$ -final, I qualified for the final starting in March 2002. If this results in a World Championship title, a 20-year project will be complete. Things take time!

One of my advantages in the final was being an out-of-work part-time dad, with lots of time and energy on my hands. One of my opponents got his fourth child during the final, besides working full-time. Obviously we had completely different working conditions!

None of the top ranks are participating. But CC ratings can be misleading, because the strength of play is dependent on how much energy you put into the tournament.

In a World Championship final I assume that at the outset everyone is top motivated and consequently plays better than their rating. Personally I play much better in this final, having only 16 games to concentrate on, compared to my play in the semi-final when I also took part in several other tournaments. At most, I had 63 games running simultaneously! Such factors also influence the play of my opponents. Besides, I have a stronger PC now, even though it is a rather poor PIII 1000Mhz.

Bern's lifetime project is definitely rather original. But if you have a talent for chess, some free time and an unusually developed interest in chess analysis, you just go ahead. As it says on the website of the Norwegian Correspondence Chess Federation (www.postsjakkforbundet.no) - If your playing strength is good enough and you are patient enough, you can start in the Open Class and end up in the World Championship final.

In addition a computer and selected software are prerequisites. The first time a Norwegian reached the top of the CC world, was when Frank Hovde of Steinkjer in the 1980s chose to live alone with chess analysis, returning to the civilisation several years later with the title "European CC Champion" to his name.

Bern says he saw daylight again at the end of 2003, when 10 of the 16 games were finished. – With only 6 games remaining the workload was so reduced that Fritz had a couple of good nights' sleep, and the time had come to crawl out of the cave and get an honest job.

Very few of us can fully understand what lies behind such an achievement. Many OTB players, and some former CC players as well, have problems understanding how CC can survive the "computer death". Some are worried about chess in itself, and then CC is hanging on a very thin thread.

Bern's games in the on-going final are good news in that regard – CC at the top level today is also a demonstration of the computer programs' limitations. Bern himself is not at all worried by the future of (correspondence) chess, so what should ordinary OTB fear in the foreseeable future? But if you want to make a career in CC, you should be aware of the conditions:

CC is getting closer to perfectionism. I have always had a small scientist inside of me, and for me the use of computers is what appeals to me. I can understand that some strong OTB players do not share this fascination and therefore leave CC.

Personally, I like to think of CC as "advanced chess" – computer-assisted chess. Kasparov and his companions were involved in this some years ago, but they only played rapid games. We have all the time in the world, so the games are on a really high level.

We would probably play about even against Kasparov and his computers, because I would have invested more time and energy than he would. It is extremely hard to beat the team of Bern & Fritz. Possibly, I made 5 inaccuracies in the final, but I was never in the danger of losing a game, although obviously I had to play very exact in several positions.

I was close to losing when I made an erroneous evaluation as Black in one of my Sveshnikovs, but after a week of hard work I finally found a variation that was sufficient to draw.

My program isn't even close to playing perfect chess. The same goes for the other programs that some of my opponents use. There is a lot of work left for humans. Therefore, I have no fear of the computer death.

But it is important to leave some of the work to the computer. Fritz never rests. At night he (Bern uses "he" and not "it" about his good friend Fritz) mostly does Deep Position analysis or Blunder Check. Occasionally he works on the same position all night through Infinite Analysis.

And I always check his suggestions. Blunder Check is incredibly helpful in the openings, where Fritz unveiled many poor analyses in Informator and ECO.

In some types of positions Fritz is relatively helpless, as in the King's Indian where he believes Black must play h5-h4 (and not g5-g4). On the other hand, Fritz played surprisingly well in the Stonewall.

The best CC player is he who manages to supplement the computer programs most effectively. I am never satisfied with the conclusion “unclear” but keep on going until the computer gives preference to my position.

Bern, himself a strong OTB player, is the only FIDE-IM in the field. Deeper understanding of chess and OTB playing strength lead to a more critical attitude towards the computers.

Several of the games demonstrated that you couldn't blindly trust the computer programs. I discovered that one opponent consistently followed the computer's first choice. That gave me a belief in victory, because in reality I only had to see a bit further than the computer. Fritz alone doesn't stand a chance against Bern & Fritz!

Among many exciting games we have selected the following, featuring an opening novelty that shows the vast richness of chess compared to the computer's dull number crunching:

**Bern, Ivar (2611) - Lecroq, Michel (2602)
XVII World Championship, 2003**

King's Indian [E99]

[Notes by Ivar Bern]

**1.d4 Nf6
2.c4**

Playing White I often choose main variations where I try to squeeze as much as possible out of the initiative resulting from having the first move.

**2... g6
3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0
6.Be2 e5
7.0-0 Nc6
8.d5 Ne7
9.Ne1**

[Previously I preferred 9.Nd2 but Black probably equalises after 9...a5 10.a3 c6 11.Rb1 b5. After 12.dxc6 b4 13.axb4 axb4 14.Nd5 Nxc6 the Nd2 is only standing in the way.

9.b4 Nh5 10.Re1 is quite popular these days, but I think Black is OK after 10...f5 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Bf3 c6.]

**9... Nd7
10.Be3 f5
11.f3 f4
12.Bf2 g5**

In a book by Marovic there is an interesting chapter on the historical development of this variation. With a closed centre and domination on respective flanks, we're definitely in for a race! White has constantly been forced to find faster ways of attacking on the queen-side.

13.Rc1!?

A relatively recent attempt to get things going on the queen-side. The move was first played by GM Kozul. The idea is to open the c-file with the pawn sacrifice c4-c5.

13...Ng6

[13...Rf6!/? is a radical alternative. The plan is Rh6 and Qd8-e8-h5. White should counter Qe8 with Kh1 and Bg1.]

**14.c5 Nxc5
15.b4 Na6**

An important tempo-winning point in this variation is that this knight ends up far from its usual square f6, making it harder for Black to carry out g5-g4.

16.Nd3

Piket's move. [More common is: 16.Nb5 Bd7 17.Nxa7 but after 17...Rf7 18.a4 Black can probably capture the pawn with 18...Nxb4!/?]

**16... h5
17.Nb5 Bd7
18.a4 Bh6
19.Rc3**

The rook covers the king-side if Black plays g5-g4. [The point behind 18...Bh6 is seen in the variation 19.Nxa7?! g4! 20.fxg4 f3!]

19...Rf7

[In my other King's Indian, the German Stern drew by 19...b6 20.Be1 Rf7 21.Nf2 Bc8 (Piket-Kasparov, Linares 1997, continued 21...Nh4 22.Nxd6 cxd6 23.Bxa6) 22.Ra3 Nxb4!/? 23.Bxb4 a6 24.Nxd6 cxd6 etc.]

20.Nxa7 Rg7



21.b5!!N

This is probably the most important novelty I found in this tournament. The move involves a positional piece sacrifice and definitely lives up to Marovic's thesis: to play as fast as possible. [In previous games White has backed off with 21.Nb5]

21...Nc5

[After the admission 21...Nb8 22.a5 White will have achieved a lot on the queen-side.]

**22.Nxc5 dxc5
23.Bxc5 g4**

[The point behind 21.b5 is the endgame ensuing after 23...b6 24.Nc6 Bxc6 25.dxc6 Qxd1 26.Rxd1 bxc5 27.Ra3! Black is a piece up, but the king-side pieces do very little to stop White's pawns. White can brag about his d-file and a bishop turning into a white-squared God. I believe White has a decisive advantage. My main variation was 27...Ra5 28.Bc4+ Kh7 29.Rd7 Nf8 30.Rad3!! (threatening b5-b6.) 30...Ra8 (30...Rxa4 31.Rxg7+ Bxg7 32.b6! cxb6 33.c7 Rxc4 34.c8Q) 31.Rxg7+ Bxg7 32.a5! Rc8 (32...Rxa5 33.b6) 33.a6 Bf6 34.a7 Bd8 35.Ra3 Ra8 36.Bd5 after which b5-b6 decides.]

24.fxg4

Opening the 3rd row for Rc3 is vital. [Fritz suggests 24.d6?? but White doesn't persevere 24...g3! 25.dxc7 Qh4 26.h3 Bxh3 27.gxh3 Qxh3]

24... Qg5!?

[Black can still win a piece through 24...hxg4 25.Bxg4 b6 26.Nc6 Bxc6 27.dxc6 Qxd1 28.Bxd1 bxc5 29.Bb3+ Kh7 30.Kh1±; or 24...b6 25.Nc6 Bxc6 26.dxc6 bxc5 27.Qxd8+ Rxd8 28.gxh5 Nh4 29.g3±]

25.b6

The quickest – and most natural. The c–file is opened, the d5–pawn becomes passed and Be2/Na7 gets access to the b5 square. Besides, White doesn't have to worry about b7–b6.

25... **cxb6**
26.Bxb6 **hxg4**
27.Bb5

It is natural to eliminate Bd7 which blocks the d–pawn and the 7th row, covers c8 and is attacking h3. Besides, Be2 risked to be faced with f4–f3.

27...f3

Black has other moves, but I found none that looked threatening. [For example, 27...g3 28.Bxd7 gxh2+ 29.Kxh2 Rxd7 30.Rh3±]

28.Bxd7 **Rxd7**
29.g3±

The smoke has cleared, and the game enters into a manoeuvring phase. Black's fun on the king–side has come to an end, while White enjoys an extra passed d–pawn. Qg5–h5 can now be met by h2–h4.

[Crazy Fritz suggests 29.Qc2 but White's king looks very lonely after 29...fxg2 30.Kxg2 Rf8 31.Rxf8+ Bxf8]

29... **Nf8**
30.h4!?

With a blocked king–side White can fully concentrate on the queen–side. However, I didn't quite like the idea of totally giving up the possibility to undermine the king–side by h2–h3. **30...Qg6** Black plans Nf8–h7–f6 with pressure on e4. White now has two protected passed pawns (d5 + h4), Black has f3. In an endgame Black will have trouble stopping both pawns. [White wins after 30...gxh3 31.Qxf3; or 30...Qd2 31.Qxd2 Bxd2 32.Rc2 Ba5 33.Be3]

31.Qb1

Protecting e4 and Bb6.

31... **Nh7**
32.Nc8 **Nf6**

[32...Rxa4 loses after 33.Qb5]

33.Rc4

Here the Rook covers e4, a4, and Nc8.

33...Qe8 [After 33...Bf8 I had planned 34.Bf2 Rg7 35.Qc2 followed by Rf1–b1–b5 to attack b7 and e5.; 33...Nxe4?? loses after 34.Re1]

34.Qc2 **Bf8**

[34...Nxe4?? loses after 35.Qxe4 Rxc8 36.Qxg4+]

35.Bf2 **Rg7**

Covering g4, threatening Nxe4–tricks.

36.Rc1

Extra protection of Nc8 so that Black can forever forget about Nxe4. Black can do very little, except waiting for me to improve my position.

36... **Qg6**

[36...b5? loses to 37.Rc6] **37.d6!?** The plan is to give up the d–pawn for e5; thereafter Bf2 becomes God on d4. In addition White gets an annoying rook on the 5th row. Black's king becomes very vulnerable when heavy artillery is rolling up behind the pawn chain.

37... **Qe8**
38.Qb2

From here the queen points in the direction of Black's weaknesses on b7 and e5.

38... **Ra6**

[I expected 38...Qe6 39.Rc5 Bxd6 40.Nxd6 Qxd6 41.Rxe5 I cannot for the life of me see how Black can survive this. He has weaknesses on b7 and g4, and Kg8 cannot feel safe at

all. White is a pawn up, has passed pawns on e4 and h4, Re5 is sweeping the 5th row, and Bf2 is on its way to d4.; 38...Rxa4 loses to 39.Rxa4 Qxa4 40.Qxe5 with the point 40...Nxe4? 41.Ne7+ Bxe7 42.dxe7; 38...Nxe4 is hopeless after 39.Rxe4 Rxc8 40.Rxc8 Qxc8 41.Qxe5 For example: 41...Qc1+ 42.Re1 Qc4 43.Rd1 Rd7 44.Rd4 Qc1+ 45.Kh2 Qc2 46.Rxg4+ Kh7 47.Kh3]



39.Rc7! **Rxc7**

[Or 39...Qe6 40.Rxg7+ Bxg7 41.Qxb7 Rxa4 42.Ne7+ Kh7 43.Nf5 and White wins.]

40.dxc7!!

Yet another positional piece sacrifice, and this time Black has no option but to accept.

40... **Qxc8**
41.Qxe5

White has but 2 pawns for the knight, but the c7 pawn paralyses Black. The queen is useless as a blocking piece.

41... **Bg7**

[Everything loses: 41...Kf7 42.Bd4 Ba3 43.Qf5; 41...Re6 42.Qxe6+ Qxc6 43.c8Q]

42.Qe7!

Threatens Qd8, alternatively Rc1–c5–g5.

42... **Ne8**
43.Qd8 **Ra8**

44.Qd5+ **Kh8**
45.Rc5

There is no defence. Some variations:[45.Rc5 Bf8 (45...Nf6 46.Qf7 Kh7 47.Rf5 Qf8 48.Rxf6 Qxf7 49.Rxf7 Kh6 50.Rd7 Bf6 51.e5; 45...Nxc7 46.Qf7) 46.Qd4+ Kh7 (46...Ng7 47.Rh5+ Kg8 48.Rh6 Qxc7 49.Qd5+ Qf7 50.Rh8+ Kxh8 51.Qxf7) 47.Rh5+ Bh6 48.Qb6 Ra6 49.Rxh6+ Kg7 50.Qd4+! Kxh6 51.Qh8+ Kg6 52.Qg8+ Kf6 53.Qf8+ Kg6 54.Qf5+]

1-0

Did you have any particular strategy for the World Championship final?

Before the final started, I made a principal decision to go for the initiative both with White and Black. Even though my opening repertoire was completely obsolete, I went for very sharp openings. This approach proved to require a lot of resources.

It helped that John Kvamme lent me a big bag full of Informators and Eirik Gullaksen contributed with books on the Sveshnikov and the King's Indian.

In addition, it was very valuable to have Kjetil Stokke as a second, since he is updated on most new ideas in the

opening theory. Only a couple of Stonewall games were relatively easy, particularly the following miniature:

**Linna, Asko (2577) - Bern, Ivar (2611) [A90]
XVII World Championship, 2002**

Dutch Stonewall [A90]

[Notes by Ivar Bern]

1.d4	f5
2.g3	Nf6
3.Bg2	e6
4.c4	d5
5.Nh3	c6
6.0-0	Bd6
7.Bf4	Be7
8.Nd2	



8... Qb6!

I found this move while preparing against GM Leif Erlend Johannessen some years ago. The text threatens two pawns and is any computer program's first choice. [Everyone else plays 8...0-0]

9.Qc2

[GM Jakovitsch played 9.Nb3!? against me in Bergen 2002, after thinking for one hour. The result was time trouble and a well-deserved punishment.]

9... Qxd4

Linna felt a bit deceived: "I analysed all variations but was not satisfied" was his comment on his next move.

10.Be3

½-½

Against 1.e4 I chose the Sveshnikov variation of the Sicilian, which forced me to use much time in the opening stage. The choice was taken after an email to club president Gullaksen inquiring if the Sveshnikov really was sound. The answer came promptly: "Kasparov is playing the Sveshnikov against Shirov – NOW!"

I immediately logged on to ICC, witnessed Gary's crushing victory and went for it. Four of the games turned into Sveshnikovs, completely different variations, so I got nothing for free. I had to expose lots of bad opening theory to survive the openings. Two of these sharp Sveshnikovs were played by email, which can be extra stressful, because you often get the reply immediately – no time in the post!

Are you tempted to repeat the success?

The plan is to make up status and write a book on the final. Later I may possibly go for another final (by email). There is also a commercial server where you play for high money
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prizes, with many OTB GMs participating. Obviously, this is tempting.

And what about OTB?

For the last 8 years I have mainly played league games and Bergen Chess International. I usually lose about 50 ELO points in the league games, winning most of it back during the national final (In Norway, regional leagues are played as qualifications to a final with 8 teams. Translator's note).

Probably, motivation plays a certain role... By the way, there should be a warning sign on Fritz:

"Excessive use may harm your ability to compute variations"!

In OTB I have gone for a practical/untheoretical approach, trying to avoid the worst tactical complications. It is more important to lead the games into positions I feel comfortable with, rather than finding the best move at any cost.

Even though CC is my main interest, it doesn't give the same adrenalin kick as an OTB time trouble duel. That way, CC is a rather peculiar extreme sport.

You get the biggest excitement when you pick up your mail, plug in Fritz, and away you go.... and the greatest pleasure is when the opponent reveals deep chess understanding and resigns before I had expected.

NSb (Norsk Sjakkblad – Norwegian Chess Magazine) crosses its fingers hoping the opponents will show their deep understanding during the finishing stage. Ivar has done his part of the job (only one drawish game remains). The holes in the tournament table will hopefully soon be filled through resigned and drawn games.

In what other forms of competition do you have to wait several years before uncorking the champagne?

Ivar Bern

Member of Bergens Schakklub (Bergen Chess Club)

Columnist Bergens Tidene (1987-99 + 2004 -?)

Working as psychologist within the school administration.

OTB merits:

IM 1992.

Playing for Norway in the chess Olympiads 1988, 1992 and 1994.

Approximately. 25 Norwegian Championship titles, the last being the Team Championship 2003.

CC merits:

Norwegian Champion 1988

IM 1995

GM 1997

WC-finalist 2002-05





2006 Grading List

By Raymond Baxter

March 2006 ICCF Notes

A new ICCF grading list has been published. The new grades are based on results up to 31 December 2005, and will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 September this year. International grades have been obtained for the first time by John Crawley, Keith Franks and Murdo MacDonald. A provisional grade is marked by an asterisk.

If your name is shown wrongly, or if you are doubtful whether your grade or the number of results is correct, please let me know by emailing: grader@scottishcca.co.uk. Note that correspondence grades are often substantially higher than OTB grades.

February 2006 SCCA Notes

The grading list follows the same pattern as in recent years. Two grades are shown for those players with provisional ICCF grades (i.e. grades based on less than 30 results). If you meet a player with two grades, the one that is based on the greater number of results will be used in the calculation of your SCCA grade.

The ICCF grades are those that came into force on 1 October 2005. As well as international matches and ICCF tournaments, the following Scottish events are used in the ICCF grading: Championship, Candidates, and Division 1 of the League. 12 results are needed for an ICCF grade to be published.

The SCCA grades shown in this list take account of all results which appeared on the website by early February 2006. The new grades will be used for games starting in 2006. All SCCA events listed in the magazine and the website are included, except the Openings tournament. Friendly internationals are also included if the opponent's grade is known. Grades are calculated for players who have had eight or more results, provided these results were against graded players, or against ungraded players for whom it has been possible to estimate a grade.

Four new members, K Brooksbank, H Calder, T Doherty and A Howie were active in 2005 but have not yet accumulated the required eight results, and therefore have no grades. A provisional grade (i.e. one based on less than 30 results) is marked with an asterisk. Life members are shown with membership numbers above 500.

Titled Players		
Title	Number	Players
Grandmaster (GM)	3	Bryson, D M (1986); Kilgour, D A (1996); Muir, A J (1995).
Senior International Master (SIM)	4	Craig, T J (2001); Finnie, D S (2002); Giulian, P M (1999); McNab, Dr C A (1999).
International Master (IM)	9	Beecham, C R (2002); Borwell, A P (1993); Livie, G W G (2003); McAlpine, K B (1990); Pyrich, G D (1995); Sprott, G R (2001); Thomson, T (1999); Watson J (1999); Wickens, T S (1988).
SCCA Master (SM)	27	Aird, I (2002); Baxter, R W M (1998); Brown, Dr A C (2003); Gillam, S R (1997); Lennox, C J (2001); Mackintosh, I (2004); Milligan, B (2002); Morrison, G (1987); Neil, D (2002); Norris, A J (1986); Stewart, D J (1998). (GM, SIM and IM title holders are also SCCA Masters)

30 Highest ICCF Grades					
Grade	Name	Grade	Name	Grade	Name
2548	Finnie, D S (SIM)	2521	Mackintosh, I (SM)	2497	Beecham, C R (IM)
2489	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2467	Neil, D (SM)	2452	McNab, Dr C A (SIM)
2426	Giulian, P M (SIM)	2408	Swan, I	2401	Sprott, G R (IM)
2396	Franks, K	2381	Brown, Dr A C (SM)	2376	Aird, I (SM)
2367	Craig, T J (SIM)	2360	Gillam, S R (SM)	2348	Livie, G W G (IM)
2331	Baxter, R W M (SM)	2325	Stewart, D J (SM)	2295	Lennox, C J (SM)
2281	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2280	Watson, J (IM)	2277	Reeman, I F
2264	Matheis, T	2256	Lloyd, G	2241	Anderson, G M
2238	May, M A	2238	Sneddon, I	2232	Jenkins, D M
2222	Montgomery, R S	2216	Goodwin, B J	2214	Findlay, J A

Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
004	Aird, I (SM)				58	2376	
317	Almarza-Mato, C				235	1905	
518	Anderson, G M				95	2241	
121	Anderson, J				88	1629	
244	Angus, A R	57	2085				
049	Armstrong, A				87	1890	
313	Armstrong, J M	166	1565				
	Ash, G	11	1985	*			
016	Bailey, E A	70	1995		24	2011	*
015	Baxter, R W M (SM)				58	2331	
155	Beacon, R	403	2085		12	1846	*
511	Beecham, C R (IM)				258	2497	
022	Bird, A G E	178	2050				
520	Bird, Prof G H				47	2078	
509	Borwell, A P (IM)				541	2207	
587	Boyle, C F				115	2197	
416	Briscoe, C	9	2060	*			
215	Brown, Dr A C (SM)				127	2381	
370	Brown, D E	38	2060				
	Burnett, R	16	1950	*			
424	Burrige, R J	28	1865	*			
096	Campbell, A W I				32	1798	
038	Campbell, I S				210	1873	
108	Cassidy, J	221	1505				
	Coffield, P J	72	1965				
173	Cook, W M				41	1995	
364	Coope, D W				293	1640	
247	Cormack, W H	30	1830				
527	Craig, T J (SIM)				297	2367	
332	Crawley, J S	48	1945		12	1888	*
519	Crichton, D	139	1930		16	1946	*
233	Crosbie, R B	179	1955				
166	Cumming, D R				223	1599	
	Dare, P	8	1510	*			
422	Dawson, A G	11	2240	*			
291	Dawson, J	28	1800	*			
595	Domnin, M	25	1485	*			
345	Donohoe, S	22	1895	*	12	2099	*
316	Dowell, C M	181	1770		24	1784	*
371	Edney, D				68	2187	
421	Ellis, R P	14	1705	*			
284	Findlay, J A				37	2214	
340	Finnie, D S (SIM)				193	2538	
219	Ford, M P	38	1835				
414	Franks, K	15	2290	*	37	2396	
	Gifford, M J	19	1740	*			
086	Gillam, S R (SM)				119	2363	
	Gillespie, D L				16	1764	*
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)				451	2426	
124	Goodwin, B J				49	2216	
399	Grant, J	58	1870				
420	Greene, R J T F	8	1730	*			
425	Hart, W	16	2155	*			
556	Hartford, Mrs E A				164	1940	
063	Harvey, D				62	2038	
114	Hilton, S H				95	1544	
116	Hind, A				32	2205	

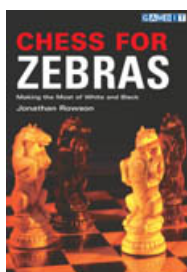
Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
510	Hislop, A T				169	1936	
426	Hunter, T	8	1775	*			
268	Hynd, W	32	1745				
515	Jack, J P E	245	1835		16	1868	*
312	James, C R	150	1685				
514	Jenkins, D M				76	2232	
322	Jessing, M	36	2110		16	2214	*
	Keen, M R	12	2130	*	20	2215	*
405	Kelly, P	10	1695	*			
408	Kennedy, G	54	1910				
415	Kerr, A	10	1890	*			
577	Kilgariff, A D	99	1790				
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)				245	2490	
257	Kilgour, J W	94	1660				
260	Knox, A	109	1475		34	1819	
417	Lawson, J	8	1785	*			
419	Lees, J A				53	2079	
256	Lennox, C J (SM)				139	2295	
503	Livie, G W G (IM)				153	2348	
264	Lloyd, G				97	2256	
337	Loughran, R J				35	1805	
504	Lumsden, J P L				31	1947	
261	McAinsh, T F	155	1725				
429	McAleenan, C				25	1715	*
352	McDonald, G R				67	1949	
433	MacDonald, M				19	1569	*
367	MacDonald, P H				39	1952	
148	McEwan, N R				33	1923	
584	MacGregor, C A				72	1914	
391	McIntee, C				58	1758	
394	MacKenzie, P L	38	1750				
172	Mackenzie, S G	51	1915		16	1889	*
412	McKinstry, J	28	1705	*			
532	Mackintosh, I (SM)				301	2521	
216	MacMillen, A N				171	1852	
001	McNab, Dr C A (IM)				144	2452	
502	McRoberts, D G				44	2052	
376	Malcolmson, R	102	1825				
566	Marshall, I H				256	1841	
434	Matheis, T				37	2264	
083	Maxwell, A				42	2183	
591	May, M A				64	2238	
409	Miller, S	16	1700	*			
178	Milligan, B (SM)				154	1933	
590	Milne, J R	54	1685				
578	Mitchell, I W S				65	1801	
401	Moir, P J	174	1800				
333	Montgomery, R S				75	2222	
338	Morrow, J	74	2075				
564	Murray, J S	56	2080		18	1909	*
234	Murray, S A	35	2125		17	2038	*
202	Neil, D (SM)				36	2467	
225	Norris, Rev A C				184	2005	
315	Petrie, A R	190	1560				
379	Phillips, G H				166	2085	
	Pomeroy, R J	8	2010	*			
	Price, D	18	2190	*	18	2069	*

Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
534	Proudler, V A	89	1735				
048	Pyrich, G D (IM)				643	2281	
343	Rawlinson, J	31	1805				
136	Reeman, I F				111	2277	
	Richardson, D	10	1770	*	18	1971	*
407	Ross, D W	39	2080		26	1920	*
	Ross, G J S	17	1835	*			
398	Rough, R E	42	1555				
	Ruston, A W	13	2005	*			
356	Rutherford, J F	42	1650				
522	Savage, D J				60	1965	
311	Saxton, G				45	1839	
057	Sneddon, I				103	2238	
565	Sprott, G R (IM)				145	2401	
	Stevenson, F C	14	1845	*			
294	Stewart, D J (SM)				118	2325	
546	Stewart, Dr K W C				99	2154	
393	Stott, K	18	2180	*			
	Swan, I				38	2408	
574	Swystun, M A	104	2135		18	2121	*
	Taylor, W	19	2035	*			
365	Thompson, B				299	2165	
168	Thomson, A C	44	1860				
579	Thomson, T (IM)				295	2181	
580	Watson, J (IM)				129	2280	
149	Wright, A	128	1785				
	Young, J	14	1875	*			
065	Young, S M	228	1930		41	1934	

Chess Suppliers



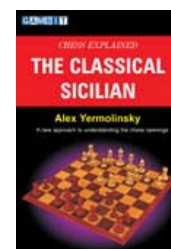
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Fritz Powerbook 2006 - DVD By ChessBase



The current openings theory with 1 million games. The Fritz Powerbook 2006 contains 18 millions opening positions, derived from 1 million highclass tournament games. Together with each position all relevant information is stored: all moves that were played in the position, by players of what average rating, with what success and performance results. The games from which the Fritz Powerbook 2006 were derived are also included on the DVD. This means that in any position of the openings tree you can load and replay the games in which the position occurred. The Fritz Powerbook 2006 represents the state of the art of current openings theory. Discover exciting and tricky new lines and practice them against Fritz. In addition the DVD has a small but very exclusive book with the strongest GM games from the past 100 years (900,000 positions).

World Champion Capablanca - CD By ChessBase



The Cuban Jose Raul Capablanca, World chess Champion 1921-1927, was considered at the height of his career to be almost unbeatable and received the nickname: „the chess machine“. Even those of his colleagues who reached the chess throne would call him a „genius“ (Alekhine) or „the greatest player in the history of chess“ (Fischer). This CD came into being as a result of the co-operation between various authors.

the main database with all available games by Capablanca, introduced by a biography. Approximately 300 of the games are annotated. The largest contribution to this database was made by Peter Schneider.
an appreciation by Dr Robert Hübner of the 1927 WCh-Match between Capablanca and Alekhine.
an endgame database by GM Mihail Marin. It contains 1 text and 14 games (or parts of games). The Romanian grandmaster

casts some light above all on the moment of the transition to the endgame.
a tactics database put together by Martin Seifert. Perhaps there are not so many brilliant combinations known from Capablanca's play, but these do exist. The author has put together a database of 103 games, in each of which a training question (or questions) allows you to test and improve your vision.
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Pentium 166, 32 MB RAM, Win98 SE, WinME, Win2000, WinXP

How To Play The Najdorf Vol 2 - DVD By Garry Kasparov



A excellent tutorial from the great Garry Kasparov covering the Najdorf Defence : 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6.Bg5 a6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4, 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Bg5 a6 7.f4 Nbd7, 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Bg5 a6 7.f4 Qc7, and 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Bg5 a6 7.f4 b5 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 10.exf6 Qe5+ 11. Be2 Qxg5.
Kasparov explains each with the aid of the latest ChessBase 9.0 reader which is included. You get over two hours of private multi media lessons frpm arguably the greatest chess player of all time!
Also included is an extra ChessBase file with around 17924 entries with 380 of these annotated. There are 23 intensive openings surveys, and an openings book. All in all an excellent product which would improve anyone's play.

The ABC of the Benko Gambit - DVD By Andrew Martin



As I have said before Andrew Martin is an excellent chess teacher. Any of his tutorials for ChessBase will improve your play and give you a thorough understanding of any opening he covers. This DVD gives you 4 hours of multimedia teaching with 22 multimedia files and 19 well analysed games

with over 1 GB of data on the DVD. There is a lot of practical advice and opening tips.

Opening Encyclopaedia 2006 - DVD By ChessBase



The ChessBase Opening Encyclopaedia 2006 features the complete coverage of all opening sectors, offering an optimal start for opening training. Many well-known specialists have made contributions in their field of expertise, such as Anand, Bareev, Dautov, Dr Huebner, Jussupow, Kortschnoj, Krasenkow, Nunn and Ribli. For each of 500 opening sectors according to ECO standard there is at least one opening survey, so that the database is the ideal tool for building up a complete opening repertoire. The game database includes 2.5 million games, about 77,000 of them with annotations. Furthermore, the DVD contains a big opening key with 109,000 singles keys and a separate directory with 221 special theory databases from the ChessBase Magazine.

More than 2.5 million games, all featuring ECO codes
More than 75,000 of them annotated
More than 4,000 opening surveys

Access to the games with the big opening key
221 special theory databases
Big tree of all games for quick overview and statistics
ChessBase 9 Reader with access to all databases
System requirements: Pentium Prozessor 300 MHz or higher,
64 MB RAM, Windows 98 SE, Windows 2000, Windows XP,
DVD-ROM drive, mouse, sound card

DVD Endgame Turbo 3 - DVD By ChessBase



The DVD Endgame Turbo consists of 9 DVDs with endgame databases (Nalimov Tablebases). With the help of the Endgame Turbo, all five- and 12 six-piece endgames (including the sophisticated and practice-oriented endgame R, P, P - R) are played with absolute perfection. Likewise, Fritz handles endgames with more than six pieces much better since the program can already access the endgame knowledge during the analysis. Definitely a must-have for correspondence players, endgame theoreticians and friends of engine matches.





Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

Well this issue sees the start of a new season's play and the first issue of this years Magazines. I had a few games left over from those received for the last games Column but will be looking for more contributions for the next issue so please sit down right after reading this Magazine and put pen to paper. There are some spectacular games this time out but I am sure you can come up with some equally worthy contributions for the next issue.

We kick off with a game from my good friend Richard Beecham who never fails to amaze me by seeing things I might never see in months of analysis. I wouldn't bet against Richard being a CC WC in the future.

World CC Semi-Final 26

White: A Cilloniz
Black: C R Beecham
French Defence[C18]
[Annotator C R Beecham]

The following game was played in my World Semi-Final against the strong Peruvian Senior I.M. Alfredo Cilloniz Razzeto who has won the Championship of Peru on 3 separate occasions. You may find this interesting the 2nd Champion, (years 1974 -77) was an Archie Milligan? Has Bernard relatives in Peru? Anyway to the game...

1.e4 e6
2.d4 d5
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.e5 c5
5.a3 Bxc3+
6.bxc3 Ne7
7.Qg4 Qc7

In Chess there's winning - nothing else. Black gives up the two Kingside pawns for a lead in development, pressure on e5 and a semi-open c-file. The decision to play unbalanced games in this tournament was not too difficult, after all most players were at least IMs so the risks had to be taken to achieve a good result.

8.Qxg7 Rg8
9.Qxh7 cxd4
10.Ne2 Nbc6
11.f4 Bd7
12.Qd3 dxc3

This is all "bog-standard" stuff in the

Winawer and now White can go in 3 major ways 13.Nxc3 or 13.Rb1 as played by Sven Teichmeister (now G.M.) against Peter Wagg in the SCCA Anniversary Invitation. That game went 13.Rb1 0-0-0 14.h3 (we shall see this move again) Nf5 15.g4 Nh4 16.Nxc3 Na5 17.Kf2 Nc4 18.Qd4 b6 19.Bxc4 dxc4 20.Ne4 Bc6 21.Qxc4 Kb8 22.Re1 1-0, or as in this game...

13.Qxc3 0-0-0

This is the most direct way to maximize Black's lead in development, also possible were 13...Nf5 or 13...Rc8. These moves will often transpose, for instance 13...Nf5 14.h4 Rc8 15.Ra2 Ncd4 was equal in Zaganovsky-Rittner 1968.

14.h3



The 64 squares of the chessboard are an oyster rich in pearls as proved by this move, which was new to me at the time. After extensive research I came up with 18 games which were worthy of study, 5 of them played by my chess friend M. Fiorito of the Netherlands. Some of these games were short but very sweet. From the diagram

The first was 14... d4 15.Qb2 Be8 16.g4 Qa5+ 17.Kf2 Qc5 18.Bg2 Nd5 19.Rb1 b6 20.Bxd5 Rxd5 21.Bd2 f6 22.exf6 e5 and White's Kside pawns proved to be better than Black's centre pawns as in M. Fiorito-J. Knudsen World Semi Final 11 1993.;

The second idea was 14... Ng6 15.Be3 d4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Nh4 18.0-0-0 b6 19.Bd2 Bc6 20.Qf2 Be4 21.Bb4 Rxd1+ 22.Kxd1 Nf5 23.Ba6+ Kb8 24.Rg1 Bxc2+ 25.Ke1 Be4 26.Qb2 Qc6 27.Bf1 Bc2 28.Be2 Qe4 29.Bd6+ Kb7 30.Qb5 Nd4 31.Qa6+ Ka8 32.Rf1 b5 Fiorito-Jansen

Netherlands c.c. Ch.24. 1994.

This looked better but White can go after; 14... Ng6 with 15.g4!? d4 16.Qb2 Nh4 17.Kf2 Be8 18.Rg1 Qe7 (18...Rg6 19.Kg3 d3 20.cxd3 Rxd3+ 21.Kf2 Rf3+ 22.Ke1 Qa5+ 23.Bd2 Qc5 24.Rb1 b6 25.Rc1 and here in Fiorito-Van der Kleij Ned.Ch.cc.1989 Black should play 25...Qf2+ 26.Kd1 Kb7 with the idea of Na5 and Ba4) 19.Rg3 f6 20.exf6 Qxf6 21.Ke1 Bg6 22.Rb3 e5!! 23.Rxb7 d3 24.Ng1 Rge8 25.Be3 Nf5!! Fiorito-Oomen Ned-ch19 cc 1989.This looked very good and even after 18.c3?! d3 19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Qc6 21.Rg1 Qf3+ 22.Ke1 Qe4+ 23.Kf2 Bc6 24.Bd2 Nf3 25.Rg3 Nxd2 26.Qxd2 Qxd4+ 0-1 in another game between M. Fiorito and Rens Ooman Ned.cc 1990 my thoughts were more positive, however in all these games Black plays his Ne7 to g6 and this square does not seem right when Nf5 can be played and is more natural; looking towards the centre, the hole on g3 and the pawn blocking square of h4. The idea of playing 14...Ng6 stuck with me for some time. After all it prevents the natural break by White of g4 and f5 as the pawn on e5 falls and the Knight can also go to h4. Finally I went with 14...Nf5 firstly because it grants Black dynamic counter play with a possible d4 and also because it was a new move to theory adding a little frisson to the game.

14. Nf5
15.g4 Nh4



Also possible was 15...d4!? when White can play
A) 16.Qd3 Nh4 17.Rg1 Ne7 18.Nxd4 Bc6 19.Be2 Be4!? 20.Qd2 (Qxe4 Qc3+ 21.Kf2 Rxd4) 20...Ng2+ 21.Kf2 Nxf4 with a good position.
B) 16.Qc4 Nh4 17.Bb2 Nf3+ 18.Kf2 Nd2

19.Qd3 Nxf1 20.Rhxf1 Rh8 21.Rad1 Rh4
22.Nxd4 Nxd4 23.Bxd4 Rdh8 24.Qc3
Qxc3 25.Bxc3 Rxh3 which looks
drawish.

16.Rg1 **Be8**
17.Rg3 **f6**
18.exf6 **d4**
19.Qc5

White had a choice of candidate moves.
Lets look at a few.

A) 19.Qb3 Bf7 20.Qb5 e5 21.c3 Rge8
22.f5 Na5! 23.Bg5 d3 24.Bxh4 d2+
25.Kf2 d1Q 26.Rxd1 Rxd1 27.Bg5 Nc4
28.Be3 Rd5 29.Qb1 e4 30.Bf4 Qc5+
31.Kg2 e3 32.Kg1 Nd2 and Black is well
on top.

B) 19.Qb2 e5 20.fxe5 Nxe5 21.Bf4 Nhg6
22.Bg5 d3 23.f7 Bxf7 24.Bxd8 Rxd8
25.cxd3 Nxd3+ 26.Rxd3 Rxd3 27.Rc1
Bc4 is unclear.

C) 19.Qc4 Bf7 20.c3 e5 21.Qb5 Rge8
22.f5 Na5 23.Bg5 Bc4 24.Qb4 d3
25.Bxh4 d2+ 26.Kf2 d1Q 27.Rxd1 Rxd1
28.Bg5 Nb3 29.Be3 b5 30.a4 a5 31.Qa3
Ra1 and Black's position is better.

19. **Bf7**
20.a4 **e5**
21.f5



Now White has 4 passed pawns, but
much more important is the fact that
Black has complete control of the centre
and the White forces are split into two
groups making co-ordination difficult.

21. **Rd5**
22.Qa3 **e4**
23.Bf4 **Qd8**

I also considered 23...Ne5 24.Rb3! Nhf3+
25.Kd1 d3 26.cxd3 Rxd3+ 27.Rxd3 exd3
28.Nc3 Qb6! 29.Nb5 Qg1! but I was
afraid I had missed something and had
fears of the Bargwhist (spectral hound)
appearing out of the mist!!

24.0-0-0

White completes his development!

24. **Qxf6**
25.Kb1 **Rgd8**
26.c3

Probably best as 26.Rc1 d3 27.Bg2 Nxb2
28.Rxb2 Ra5 29.Ng3 Bd5 does not look
very promising for White.

26. **d3**
27.Nd4

Forced as 27.Nc1? loses to 27...Nxf5!

27. **Nxd4**
28.cxd4 **Rxd4**
29.Qc5+ **Qc6**
30.Qxc6+ **bxc6**
31.Bg5 **Rh8**
32.Bf6 **Rb4+**
33.Kc1 **Rh6**
34.Bg5 **Rh7**
35.Bxh4 **Rxh4**



Another look at the position after the
liquidation reveals that Black's pieces are
more active (Whites Bishop is on the
original square) and the central pawns are
more advanced.

36.a5 **Kc7**
37.Kd2 **Kd6**
38.Re3 **c5!**

Also good was 38...Bd5 39.Ke1 Rd4 but
with 38...c5 threatening 39...c4 I was
forcing Whites next move.

39.Bxd3 **exd3**
40.Rxd3+ **Bd5**
41.Ke2 **Rd4**
42.Ke1?!

Whites best chance of a draw was
42.Rxd4 cxd4 43.Rxd4 Ke5 44.Rb4 Rxh3
45.Rb8 Rg3 46.Ra8 Hunting after Blacks
"a" pawn.

42. **Ke5**
43.Kf2 **Rxd3**
44.Rxd3 **c4**
45.Ra3 **Rh8**
46.Kg3 **Rb8**

47.Re3+ **Be4**
48.f6 **Rc8**
0-1



Next we have a couple of games
from regular, and much appreciated
contributor David Cumming. David has a
wide variety of experience over a number
of different openings so can be a
formidable opponent. Both his games this
time out are from the Challenge
Tournament which is the only tournament
we have which allows entry throughout
the year. As your game load drops off
later in the season it would be well worth
entering to get you a few extra games.

SCCA Challenge Tournament, 2005

White: J McKinstry
Black: D R Cumming
French Defence [C18]
[Annotator D R Cumming]

1.e4 **e6**
2.Nc3 **d5**
3.d4 **Bb4**
4.e5 **c5**
5.a3 **Bxc3+**
6.bxc3 **Qa5!?**



"This move which 10-15 years ago was
constantly being played by William
Hook, a Master from the Virgin Islands,
has recently begun to be adopted on the
highest level." Lev Psakhis. having
recently "discovered" this variation for
myself, it has restored my confidence in
the Black side of the Winawer French
and now I play it as often as my
opponents allow!

7.Bd2 **Qa4**
8.Qb1

"White threatens not only to check on b5
but also to improve his pawn structure by
means of Qb1-b3. Black is therefore
practically forced to close the centre." -
Lev Psakis again.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 8. | c4 |
| 9.g3 | Nc6 |
| 10.Bg2 | Nge7 |
| 11.Ne2! | 0-0 |
| 12.0-0 | Nf5 |
| 13.Qb2!? | Rb8! |
| 14.Nf4 | b5! |
| 15.Rfb1 | a5!? |



Burning my bridges with this highly committal move. With it I further pressurise the square b4, hoping to be able to play ...b4 myself at some point in the future. However, I also lock in my Queen on a4, and whilst it is reasonably safe there, also guarding b5 and pressurising a3 & notably c2, it could forseably be there for a long time. So what is White's response now? Well, he could sue for a draw, hoping against hope that I don't detonate the centre withf6, which is advantageous for Black I feel, or he could offer an interesting "gambit", which much to my opponent's credit, he does

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| 16.Qc1! | Ba6 |
| 17.Qe1!! | Qxc2!? |

Accepting the prawn, albeit I do not think that I now have much choice in the matter.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 18.Bf3! | Nh6 |
| 19.Bd1! | Qe4 |

Offering a Queen exchange.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 20.Qxe4 | dxe4 |
| 21.Be3?! | |



Simply 21.Bc2 wins back the prawn with advantage to White.

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 21. | Ne7! |
| 22.Bc2 | Nd5! |
| 23.Nxd5?? | |

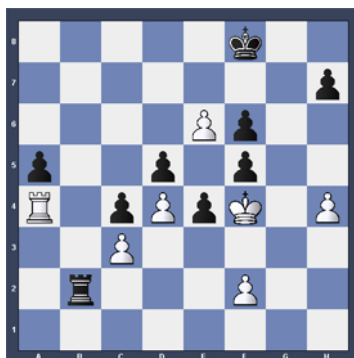
White had to bite the bullet and admit his mistake on move 21, by playing 23.Bd2 with 23.Nxd5?? White surrenders his capability of winning the prawn back, by allowing Black to establish a prawn chain protecting the prawn on e4.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 23. | exd5 |
| 24.h3 | Nf5 |
| 25.Bf4 | Bc8 |
| 26.Rb2 | Bd7 |
| 27.Rab1 | Ra8! |
| 28.Bd1 | Ne7 |
| 29.Kg2 | Ng6 |
| 30.a4? | |



Wrong idea. White would have been better off trying 30.Bg4 Nxf4+ 31.g3xf4 Bc6 although it's still advantage Black. With 30.a4 all White does is open up the b-file, ironically as it turns out for Black!

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 30. | Nxf4+ |
| 31.gxf4 | bxax4 |
| 32.Ra1 | Rab8! |
| 33.Rxb8 | Rxb8 |
| 34.Bxa4 | Bxa4 |
| 35.Rxa4 | Rb5! ♣♣ |
| 36.h4 | f6! |
| 37.Kg3 | g6 |
| 38.e6? | Kf8 |
| 39.f5? | gxf5 |
| 40.Kf4 | Rb2! |



- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 41.Ke3 | Rc2! |
| 42.Ra3 | Ke7 |
| 43.f3? | Kxe6 |
| 44.Rxa5? | Rxc3+ |
| 45.Kf2? | Rxf3+ |
| 46.Ke2 | f4! |
| 47.Ra6+ | Kf5 |
| 48.Ra5 | Rb3 |
| 49.Rxd5+ | Kg4 |
| 50.Rc5 | f3+ |
| 51.Kf2 | e3+ |
| 0-1 | |



SCCA Challenge Tournament, 2005

White: D R Cumming
Black: J McKinstry
Trompowski [D00]
[Annotator D R Cumming]

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 1.d4 | d5 |
| 2.Bg5 | Nf6 |

With Black's 1st & 2nd moves transposed, this variation of the Trompowski has a solid enough reputation, despite Black's doubled f-pawns.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 3.Bxf6 | exf6 |
|--------|------|

The alternative, 3...gxf6, is also often played.

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 4.e3 | Be7?! |
|------|-------|



"There is little doubt that d6 is the right square for the Bishop. 4...Be7?! leaves the Bishop more passive, and takes a natural square away from the major pieces too." - Peter Wells

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 5.g3 | 0-0 |
| 6.Bg2 | Na6 |
| 7.Nc3 | c6 |
| 8.Nge2 | Bf5 |
| 9.0-0 | Qa5 |
| 10.e4! | Be6?! |

The straight forward 10...dxe4 was better.

11.exd5 cxd5
12.Nf4!

This thematic move illustrates why 4...Bd6 was best for Black.

12. Nc7
13.Qh5! g6?!



A provoked weakness. I guess Black was scared of 13...R(f)d8 14.N(c)xd5? Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.c4, but this often fails to 16...g6 17.Qe2 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Bf8 and Black is a pawn for a piece up, albeit White has an unopposed d-pawn by way of compensation.

14.Qf3 Rad8
15.Rab1 Rd7
16.Rfe1 Re8
17.h3 f5
18.Qd3 Bb4
19.a3! Bxc3
20.Qxc3 Qxc3
21.bxc3 b6
22.c4!± Rd6?



...Rdd8 was better. Now the Rd6 is a target, and the Re8 is also vulnerable.

23.Nxd5!! Bxd5
24.Rxe8+ Nxe8
25.cxd5 Nf6
26.c4!± Nd7
27.Rc1 Kg7?

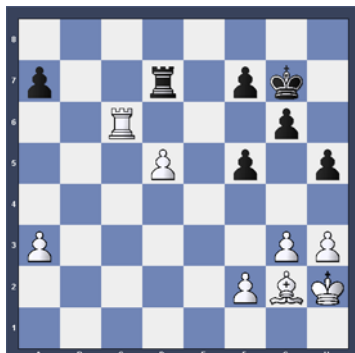
27...Kf8

28.c5! Bxc5
29.dxc5 Rf6

30.c6 Nb6
31.c7 Rd6?

Making it easier for me!

32.c8Q Nxc8
33.Rxc8 h5
34.Rc6 Rd7
35.Kh2



Getting my King out of the way of any possible back-rank checks.

35. g5
36.h4 g4
37.f4 f6
38.d6 Kf7
39.Bd5+ Kg6
40.Be6 1-0



Next a nice game sent in by Alistair Dawson which should help to provide some lessons for us all. The first would be never to take book advice at face value. The second being that sometimes, no matter how badly we feel we do in the opening, that solid careful play can bring a good result.

SCCA Championship, 2005
White: A Dawson
Black: G Lloyd
Kings Indian Attack [A04]
[Annotator A Dawson]

1.Nf3 g6
2.g3 Bg7
3.Bg2 f5
4.d3 Nf6
5.0-0 0-0
6.e4

6.e4 - of course the pawn is taboo due to Qd5+.

6. fxe4
7.dxe4 Nc6
8.Nc3

I saw this stuff recommended in book "K-

Indian Attack" by Dunnington - never again - it is not very good!

8. d6
9.h3 e5
10.Be3 Be6
11.Qd2 Qd7
12.Ng5



I played 12.Ng5 thinking that Bf7 was the only move on the board!! I had played 13.h4 followed by 14.Bh3. Imagine my shock and horror when I later noticed that 12...Bc4 was possible - the following 6-8 moves were designed as a salvage operation to get me out of the mess into which I was wallowing! A dreadful mistake!

12. Bc4
13.Rfd1 h6
14.Nf3 Kh7
15.g4

The position is still reasonably horrible with Black able to pile his pieces onto the f-file at will. I played 15.g4 in order to complicate matters!

15. g5
16.a3 Rae8
17.Nh2

So the question is - is a White Nf5 move useful more than a Black Nf4 - lets see.

17. Qf7
18.Ne2 Bxe2

I didn't expect 18...Be2 - thinking that Black's white squares would be weakened and that I might now be able to reroute the Bg2-f2-c4.

19.Qxe2 Nd4
20.Qd3 Ne6
21.Qb5

Played solely to weaken the Black Queenside pawns.

21. b6

- 22.Qc4 Nf4
 23.Qxf7 Rxf7
 24.f3

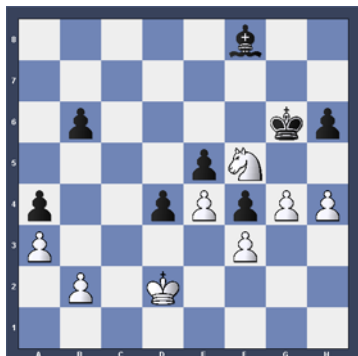


At this point I recognised that the mess had changed little - although now there was no clear cut win for Black. The Nf4 is a colossus - so imagine my amazement at Black's next move!

24. Nxc2? Rd7
 25.Kxg2 c6
 26.c4 c6
 27.Nf1 d5
 28.cxd5 cxd5
 29.Ng3 d4
 30.Bd2

But now I am happy that the position is more or less settled. My Nf5 is soon to be the colossus while Black can't achieve much on the c-file.

30. Rc8 Rc8
 31.Rac1 Rdc7
 32.Rxc7 Rxc7
 33.Rc1 Rxc1
 34.Bxc1 a5
 35.Nf5 a4
 36.Bd2 Nd7
 37.Kf2 Bf8
 38.Ke2 Nc5
 39.Be1 Ne6
 40.Bg3 Nf4+
 41.Kd2 Kg6
 42.Bxf4 gxf4
 43.h4



Position is now dead draw. The Black King has to stay home in order to stop

g5-g6 etc while the Bf8 cannot achieve much on its own.

43. b5
 44.Kd3 b4
 45.axb4 Bxb4
 46.Kc4

As long as White makes sure that ...Bc3 is never possible the position is a draw. Whew!! I will never play that rubbish opening again!

46. Bf8 Bf8
 47.Kd3 Kf6
 48.Kc4 Kg6
 1/2-1/2



Finally we round up this issue with a couple of games sent in by Mark May. If you listen to the Grandmasters there are certain openings which basically aren't that good, hence you don't often see them played at the highest levels. One of the great mysteries of life is why we can find it extremely difficult to play against these openings, even in Correspondence Chess.

SCCA Championship, 2005

White: M May
 Black: I Reeman
 Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening [A01]
 [Annotator Mark A May]

1.b3

Last time I played this opening at Correspondence Chess was in 1993 against Bernard Milligan (1-0), that was a really wild game.

1. e5 e5
 2.Bb2 Nc6
 3.e3 d5
 4.Bb5 Bd6
 5.Nf3



A bit of a delemer here. 5.f4 or 5.c4 (as in my game against Mike Ford in the 1993

SCCA Handicap which he replied 5...a6 1/2 1/2 are other popular lines, 5.Ne2 has also been played with mixed success.

5. f6 f6
 6.c4 a6
 7.cxd5 axb5
 8.dxc6 bxc6
 9.Qc2

If 9...Ne7 as expected to defend the c6 pawn and enable castling, 10.Nc3! is Raymond Keenes repost according to his book on the Larsen Attack I have (published a long time ago). Liljedahl played 10.d4? against Cooper in the Nice Olympiad in 1974 and lost after 10...e4!.

9. Ne7
 10.Nc3

Following Keenes advice.

10. Bg4N



10...0-0 11.0-0 Qe8 12.a4 Nd5 13.axb5 Rxa1 14.Rxa1 Nb4 15.Qb1 cxb5 16.Ra8 Qc6 17.Rb8 Bb7 18.Rxf8+ Bxf8 19.Qf1 Ba6 20.h3 Qe6 21.Qd1 Nd3 22.Qc2 b4 23.Na4 c5 24.Nh2 Qf5 Hall,S-Sayin,E/Los Angeles 1991/EXT 2000/0-1; 10...Bf5 11.Ne4 Ba3 12.Bxa3 Rxa3 13.0-0 Qd5 14.d3 0-0 15.Nc5 Bg4 16.Nd2 Rd8 17.Nb1 Ra7 18.b4 Qf7 19.Nc3 Ra3 20.Nb1 Ra7 21.a3 Nd5 22.Nd2 Qg6 23.Kh1 f5 24.Qb2 f4 25.e4 Markowski,T-Jung,K/Metz 1995/EXT 2001/1-0.

- 11.d3 0-0
 12.Nd2

Not sure what was best for White here, I had played d3 in a hope of playing Nd2, so as to save my Kingside pawn formation preventing Bxf3. An alternative I considered was 12.b4, Black can not take the pawn with his Bishop, and it prevents Black playing b4 himself.

12. Nd5

Preventing Nb4! looks to me to be the

priority, Nxd5 only serves to sort the Black pawns into a reasonable order, so a3, it is.

13.a3 b4

Black is now attacking White's pawn on a3 with pawn, Bishop and Rook, so what are White's options. 1. Na4, cutting out one of the attackers. I don't really want to play this, I can always remember when I was young being taught 'Knight on the rim, the future looks grim' and it has sort of stuck with me; 2. Ncb1, providing another defender, but somehow sending the Knight back to its starting point and blocking in the Rook; 3. Nxd5, a move White avoided on move 13 because of strengthening Black's pawn formation even further; or axb4, which would leave White in some trouble after Black retakes with his Knight. I feel I'm in a lot of trouble here. After much deliberation here I decided on...

14.Ncb1 Qe8

This move is not played to defend the pawn on c6, I believe the Queen is heading for g6.

15.0-0 Qg6



No shock there then. Although it would be nice to drive the strong Black Knight away with e4, 16...Bh3 would win the game for Black. Ne4 followed by Ng3 looks OK. But I think I'll play Qxc6 because after Qcd3 I can play Qc4 and hopefully swap off Queens.

16.Qxc6 Qxd3
17.Qc4 Qxc4
18.Nxc4 Rfd8
19.h3 Be2
20.Rc1

Still looking pretty poor with little to no counterplay.

20. bxa3
21.Bxa3 Bb4

22.Nbd2 Bc3

Bb2 & Ra2 are the only moves to consider here. I'd feel happier if I could swap as many pieces off as I could, so I think I will encourage Black to exchange.

23.Bb2 Rxa1
24.Bxa1 Bb4
25.Bb2 Bxd2
26.Nxd2 Nxe3
27.fxe3 Rxd2



Leaving White a pawn down, but with the Bishops of opposite colour White still has good drawing possibilities.

28.Bc3 Rd6
29.Kf2 Bb5

Surely now if I can exchange the Rooks I will get the draw.

30.Bb4

And with this I offered a draw.

30. Rd7

Which was rejected.

31.Rc2 Bd3
32.Rd2 e4
33.Bc5 Kf7
34.b4 Ke6
35.Kg3 h6
36.Kh4 f5
37.Rf2 Rd5
38.g4 g5+
39.Kg3 Bb5
 1/2-1/2

Black offered a draw which White happily accepted.



SCCA Championship, 2005

White: M May
Black: I Mackintosh
 Reti Opening [A06]
 [Annotator Mark A May]

1.b3 d5
2.Bb2 Bg4
3.Nf3 Nd7
4.e3 e5

4...c6 5.h3 Bh5 6.d3 e6 7.Nbd2 h6 8.g3 Ngf6 9.Bg2 a5 10.a3 Bd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qe1 Qb6 13.e4 Bxf3 14.Nxf3 e5 15.Nd2 Rfe8 16.Rb1 Rad8 17.Qe2 Qc7 18.Rbe1 b5 19.Kh2 Salov,V-Bareev,E/Tilburg 1994/CBM 44/1-0.

5.Be2 Bd6
6.c4

6.Nc3 c6 7.d3 Ngf6 8.e4 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 Qa5 11.Nh4 Be6 12.h3 Rfd8 13.Bg4 Nxe4 14.hxg4 Bb4 15.Na2 dxe4 16.dxe4 Nf6 17.Qf3 Bxe4 18.Qg3 Bd6 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.exf5 e4 Pimentel,W-Coelho,L/Brasilia 2002/CBM 89 ext/0-1.

6. Ngf6N



My ChessBase commentary has given this a 'N', I don't see much wrong with this move. [6...c6 7.cxd5 (7.Nc3 Ngf6 8.d3 0-0 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 d4 11.Ne2 Bb4+ 12.Kf1 dxe3 13.fxe3 Re8 14.Ng3 Bc5 15.d4 exd4 16.exd4 Bb4 17.Qc2 Qc7 18.Kf2 Qf4 19.Rhd1 Bd6 20.Nf1 Ne4+ 21.Kg1 Ng5 Sandklef,A-Svensson,L/Linkoping 2001/EXT 2002/1-0.) 7...cxd5 8.Nc3 Ne7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nb5 Bb8 11.Ba3 a6 12.Nc3 e4 13.Nd4 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nf6 15.f3 Be5 16.fxe4 Bxd4 17.exd4 dxe4 18.d5 Re8 19.Rxf6 gxf6 20.Rf1 Nxd5 21.Qg4+ Strezwilk,D-Kaufman,L/Philadelphia 200/CBM 79 ext/0-1.

(Note - BM - ChessBase will mark a move as a novelty (N) when the game reaches a position where that move has not been played in any of the games in the DataBase currently in use. In fact the move may have been played many times in the past but none of those games are contained in the users DataBase.)

7.d3 e4
8.Nd4 Ne5
9.dxe4 Bxe2

10.Qxe2 dx e4
11.0-0

Avoiding the check.

11. Qd7

Quite a few moves for White to consider, Nc3, Nd2 & f3 all look OK to me.

12.Nc3 0-0

Looks logical for me to seize the open file with a Rook.

13.Rad1 a6
14.f4 exf3



15.Nxf3 has some merit as it begins to open the a1-h8 diagonal for the White Bishop to exploit, gives double attack on

the useful Black Knight on e5, keeps open the f-file for the Rook and keeps the White King in relative safety. 15.gxf3 however will open the g-file and give White two connected central pawns making the e pawn less vulnerable. White now has three pawn islands to Black's two which is rarely an advantage.

15.gxf3 Rad8
16.Kh1 c5
17.Nc2 Ng6

Plenty for White to consider here, a little concerned that all the Black pieces are pointing towards the White King which is a little exposed. Nd5 looks to be quite aggressive to me and is a possibility. Also what about pushing one of the pawns on e3 or f3? Another option is to start lining up on the g-file with Rook & Queen.

18.f4 Rfe8
19.f5 Qc6+
20.Nd5 Ne5
21.e4 Nxd5
22.Rxd5 f6
23.Ne3

How I would like to put my Knight on e6!

23. Rd7
24.Qd2 Kf8

25.Qg2 Rde7
26.Rg1 Rf7
27.Rdd1



Freeing the d5 square for the Knight.

27. Bc7
28.Nd5 b5
29.Rdf1 Rd8
30.Rf4 Ke8
31.Rh4 h6
32.Bxe5 Bxe5
33.Rg4 Rdd7
34.Qe2 1/2-1/2

I don't see this game going anywhere. I offered a draw, which was accepted by Iain.



Friendly Internationals Update

Boards	Versus	Mode	For	Against	Void	O/S	Result
28	Sweden	Web/Post				56	
27	Denmark	Web/Post	4½	15½		34	
21	Australia	Web/Post	17	9		16	
24	Netherlands	Post/Email	12	14	2	20	
20	BCCS	Post/Email	16	3	8	13	
20	Romania	Email	11	27		2	Lost
23	Finland	Post/Email	14½	29½	2	0	Lost
24	Canada	Post/Email	13½	32½	2	0	Lost



In-Depth CC Analysis

By Yoav Dothan

[Editor's Note: Yoav Dothan is a CC GM and the Israeli delegate to ICCF. He has recently started a web-based column located on the [iccf-europa](http://iccf-europa.com) site, containing many interesting games, with his own analysis.

You can find the column at:
www.iccf-europa.com/games/dot/dotindex.htm

You can send games and ideas to Yoav at:
yoavchess@gmail.com

Here are some examples of the site content to whet your appetite!]



The Value of Analysis

I would like to show in this column beautiful ideas, some of them deeply hidden in moves that never happened but were prepared and fragments of art that will please you.

I believe that the basis for seeing such pearls is a good analysis of the game, unless, of course, it is a game that you played and spent many hours in contemplating every position.

As an outsider, playing over a game I will spend a maximum of a few hours on each game, trying to understand and maybe to learn from it. I am sure that most of us do the same.

In an ordinary CC game, that lasts about 40 moves, each of us usually spends more than 100 hours in analysis. If you have a game with a nice idea, that you are proud of it, please send it to me with an analysis of your idea, so that it can be published with your comments. I will play it over and may add some comments of my own. Why keep it hidden? The chance that anyone else will find your nice ideas and enjoy your work is almost nil.

I think that those games prove that with a deep analysis using the wonderful tools that we have today, like the ChessBase that saves a lot of writing, enables us to encompass the wide variety of possibilities of moves and with a methodical pass to find the best variations.

I hope to have enough examples of interesting examples of CC games, but I will also include nice ideas from OTB games.

I hope that you will enjoy this effort!

Purdy, C - Balogh, J

First World CC Championship, 1950

[C97] Closed Ruy Lopez: Chigorin Defence: 11 d4 Qc7, Sidelines

I spent a few evenings analysing a game of Purdy v Balogh from the first CC World Championship.

I found a very cautious player, which can be understandable in the world champion to be (maybe he knew already that in other games he has superior positions?), playing strategically and avoiding closing the position with 14. d5 as played before in a Bogoljubow game that he surely had. The position is balanced but white has a little more space.

The problem in analysing such a game appears at move 29. By then Purdy must have known the importance of this game but missed (or probably checked and believed it to be inferior to g4) Qd2. I am not sure why he picked this move, as immediately his position deteriorates.

We get to another mystery in move 32.Re3 draw. Why did Dr. Balogh agree to a draw, when the simple continuation that I give seems to give him a clear advantage? Maybe one of the readers could solve this question.

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	Nf6
5.0-0	Be7
6.Re1	b5
7.Bb3	d6
8.c3	0-0
9.h3	

[9.d4 Bg4 (9...exd4 10.cxd4 Bg4 11.Be3 Na5 12.Bc2 Nc4 13.Nc3!± Lasker) 10.Be3 (10.d5 Na5 11.Bc2 c6 12.dxc6 Nxc6) 10...Re8 (10...Nxe4 11.Bd5 Qd7 Capablanca-Lasker,Ed/London/1914) 11.Nbd2 d5!]

9...	Na5
10.Bc2	c5
11.d4	Qc7
12.Bg5	h6
13.Bh4	Nc6

The only game that I found prior to this game continued d5, so is the other game that I have dated 1992.

14.Nbd2

[14.d5 Nd8 (14...Na7 15.Nbd2 Nh5 16.Nf1 Qd8 17.Bg3 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Bd7 19.Ne3 g6 20.Rf1 Nc8 21.Qe2 Bf6 22.Rf2 Bg7 23.Raf1 Nb6 24.h4 Be8 25.h5 Nd7 26.Ng4 Nf6 27.Nxf6+ Bxf6 28.Nh2 Bg7 29.Ng4 Bd7 30.Nf6+ Bxf6 31.Rxf6 Bf5 32.Rxd6 Qxd6 33.exf5 gxf5 34.Rxf5 Ra7 35.Rxe5 f6 36.Qg4+ Kh8 37.Rf5 Rg7 38.Qf4 Qxf4 39.gxf4 Rd7 40.Kf2 Kg7 41.Be4 Re8 42.Bf3 Rd6 43.g4 Re7 44.g5 Re8 45.gxh6+ Kxh6 46.Be2 Re7 47.a3 Re8 48.Bd3 Re7 49.Be2 Re8 50.Kf3 Re7 51.Kf2 Re8 ½-½ Romanishin, O-Thipsay, P/Manila 1992/TD (51))

15.Nbd2 Rb8 16.Nf1 c4 17.Ne3 Nb7 18.g4 (18.Nf5?! Bxf5 19.exf5±) 18...g6 19.Qd2 Nc5 20.Ng2 Kg7 21.Nh2 g5 22.Bg3 Qb6 23.Kh1 Bd7 24.f3 Rh8 25.Ne3 h5 26.Nf5+ Bxf5 27.gxf5 h4 28.Bf2 (28.Qxg5+ Kf8 29.Bxh4 (29.Bf2 Nfxe4±) 29...Nxd5±) 28...Nh5 29.Ng4 Nf4 30.Kh2 Qc7 31.Be3 f6 32.b4 Ncd3 33.Rg1 Rhc8 34.Bxd3 cxd3 (34...Nxd3? 35.Bxg5 (35.Nxf6 Nf4 (35...Bxf6 36.Bxg5+-; 35...Kxf6 36.Bb6!+-) 36.Bxf4 exf4 37.Rxg5+ Kf7 38.Nh7 Bxg5 39.Nxg5+ Kg8) 35...fxg5 36.f6+!) 35.Bxf4 exf4 36.Rac1 Qa7 37.Qxd3 Rc4 38.Rc2 Rbc8 39.Nf2 Bd8 40.Rge1

a) 40.e5! dxe5 41.Ne4 Qb6! (41...Bb6 42.Rgg2 Qd7 43.Nxg5 fxe5 44.Rxg5+ Kf8 (44...Kh8? 45.Rh5+ Kg8 46.Rg2+) 45.Rcg2) 42.Rd1 a5 43.a3=;

b) 40.Nd1!?!; 40...Rxc3 41.Rxc3 (41.Qe2 Rxc2 42.Rxc2 Rxc2 43.Qxc2 Qe3 44.Kg2 Bb6+) 41...Qxf2+ 42.Kh1 Rxc3 43.Rxc3 (43.Qxc3 Qg3! 44.Qc2 Qxh3+ 45.Qh2 Qxf3+ 46.Qg2 Qe3 47.Rf1) 43...Qe1+ 44.Kg2 Bb6 0-1 Smorodsky, A–Bogoljubow, E/Moscow 1924/URS–ch/[Ftacnik] (44)

14... Nh5
15.Bxe7 Nxe7
16.Nf1 Nf4
17.Ne3 Bb7
18.g3 cxd4

[18...Nxb3+ 19.Kg2 Ng5 (19...cxd4 20.cxd4 exd4 21.Qxd4 Ng5 22.Nxg5 hxg5 23.Rad1 and again seems to be equal) 20.Nxg5 hxg5 21.Qh5 Purdy writes that the attack is well worth a pawn. For example: 21...cxd4 22.cxd4 exd4 23.Rh1 f6 24.Bb3+ d5 25.Qh7+ Kf7 26.Ng4]

19.cxd4 Nfg6

[19...exd4 20.Qxd4 Nxb3+ 21.Kg2 Ng5 seems better than the actual move]

20.Rc1±



20... Rac8
21.h4

[21.d5 Qd7 22.Kg2 Rc7 23.Qd2 Rfc8±]

21... Rfe8

[21...exd4 22.Nxd4 Rfe8 23.Ndf5 Nxf5 24.Nxf5=]

22.h5± Nf8

23.d5

[23.dxe5 dxe5 24.Bb3 Qb8±]

23... Qd7

24.Nh4 Nh7

25.a4

[25.Nef5 Nxf5 26.Nxf5 Nf6 27.Qd2 (27.Qf3 Kh7 Seems to be better than the actual move) 27...Rc5]

25... Rc7

26.axb5?

[26.Nef5 Nf6 27.axb5 axb5 28.Bd3 Rxc1 29.Qxc1 Nxf5 30.Nxf5 With a better position than in the actual game;

26.Ra1 Rec8 27.Bd3 Here Purdy gives a move for Black that does not seem to be best: 27...bxa4 28.Qxa4 (28.Rxa4?? Rc1+) 28...Qxa4 29.Rxa4 Rc1 30.Ra1 Maybe Rc1 is better (30.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 31.Kg2 and I think that Purdy could win from this position)]

26... Qxb5

27.b3

[27.Nhf5 Nxf5 28.Nxf5 Qb4±]

27... Bc8

28.Ra1 Rc3

29.g4

[29.Qd2!? Rc7 (29...Qc5 30.Rec1) 30.Bd3±; 29.Nc4 Qc5 30.Rc3 (30.Kg2 Bh3+! 31.Kxh3 Qxf2-+)]

29... Bd7

30.Kg2

[30.Nc4 Qb4±]

30... Rec8±



31.Nc4 Qb4

32.Re3

[32.Rb1 Nf6 33.f3 Bb5±; 32.Re3 Rxe3 33.Nxe3 a5 34.Nc4 (34.Bd3 Rc3 35.Nc2 Qc5; 34.Qc1 Rc3 35.Ra2; 34.Ra2 Ng5 35.f3 g6 36.Qe2; 34.Nf3 Nf6 35.Nd2 Nxg4; 34.f3 a4 35.bxa4 Rc3 36.Kf2 Qd4 and again black is better) 34...a4 35.Qe1 (35.Nd2 Bxg4-+) 35...Qxe1 36.Rxe1 Bxg4 37.Ra1 Bxh5 38.Rxa4 Be2



½-½

Carlsen, M - Beliavsky, A

Corus 2006,

[C78] Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences

To those that did not see this game earlier this year, I offer this 20 moves win by Carlsen over Beliavsky rated 2626.

GM Beliavsky chose an opening that yields difficult positions, and played a new move 11.Bc8. I am sure that after playing 16.O-O Beliavsky felt safe, but it took Magnus only 4 moves to demolish his position... He probably should have played 17... h6 but did not estimate how near is the end. A beautiful combination by Magnus!

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	Nf6
5.0-0	b5
6.Bb3	Bb7
7.d3	Bc5
8.Nc3	d6
9.a4	Na5
10.Ba2	b4
11.Ne2	



I have seven games in my database that reached this position: in four white won and three were drawn

11...	Bc8
12.c3	bxc3
13.bxc3	Bb6
14.Ng3	Be6
15.d4	Bxa2
16.Rxa2	0-0
17.Bg5	exd4
18.Nh5	dx3
19.Nh4	Kh8
20.Nf5	

[16...exd4 17.cxd4 0-0 18.Bg5 h6]



1-0



Yoav Dothan

Turkov, V - Eliseev, Y
FKR-1/4, 1999
[B22]

This game features SM Vladimir Turkov against Yevgeny Eliseev. Turkov is trying to achieve his final GM norm. The game begins with a strange novelty by Black: in all the games in my database black played 12... Nb5 but here Black chose Nd5. His 15th move O-O-O gives White the strong 16. Rc1+ and a stable advantage. The nicest move in the game is 21.Rhd1, finishing the game with style!

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.c3	Nf6
4.e5	Nd5
5.d4	cx4
6.cxd4	d6
7.Nc3	dx5
8.dxe5	Ndb4
9.a3	Qxd1+
10.Kxd1	Na6
11.b4	Nc7
12.Nb5	Nd5?

Better is Nxb5

13.Bc4	Bg4
14.Bg5!	



14... Nxe5

[14...Bxf3+ 15.gxf3 a6 16.Bxd5 axb5 17.Kc2 e6 18.Be4±; 14...0-0-0 15.Nd6+ exd6 16.Bxd8 Nf4 17.Bg5 Nxb2 18.Be2 dx5 19.Rg1±]

15.Bxd5 0-0-0
 16.Rc1+ Kb8
 17.Kc2 Rxd5
 18.Nxe5 Rxb5
 19.Nxf7 Rg8
 20.Bf4+ Ka8
 21.Rhd1!



25.a4!



25... Rc5+
 26.Kb3 b6
 27.Nd7 Ra5
 28.Be3 Kb7
 29.Rb8+ Kc6
 30.Nxf8 Kc7
 31.Re8 Kc6

[27...Rf5 28.Be3 Kb7 29.g4 Rf7 30.Kxb4 e6+ 31.Kb5+-]

[21.h3!/?±]

21... Bxd1+
 22.Rxd1 a5
 23.Rd8+ Ka7
 24.Ne5 axb4

[22...b6 23.Rd8+ Kb7 24.Rd7+ Kc6 25.Rd3 Kb7 26.Nd8+ Kc8 27.Ne6 a5 28.Rd8+-]

1-0



Picture Gallery



A chess variation of Russian Roulette.

Captures are consumed!





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 2006

Theme 4/06: Philidor Larsen, C41

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3
Entries by 15 March; play starts 1 May

Theme 5/06: King's Indian, E70

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Ne2
Entries by 1 April; play starts 15 May

Theme 6/06: Ruy Lopez Bird Variation, C61

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4
Entries by 15 May; play starts 1 July

Email Events 2006

Theme 6/06: Slav Noteboom System, D31

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4
Entries by 15 April; play starts 15 May

Theme 7/06: Ruy Lopez Zaitsev Variation, C92

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5
7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Bb7 10.d4 0-0 11.a4 h6 12.Nbd2
Entries by 15 May; play starts 15 June

Theme 8/06: Myers Opening, A10

1.c4 g5
Entries by 1 June; play starts 1 July

Webserver Events 2006

Theme 3/06: Sokolsky, A00

1.b4
Entries by 15 August; play starts 1 September

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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