

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.104

Winter 2008

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Welcome to the winter edition of 2008 and a very happy and healthy New Year to you all!

This time of year is always busy for the organisers, both in rounding up the 2008 results and in making the final preparations for 2009 events to start. Jim Anderson has been labouring mightily in this regard and his 2008 summary opens this edition.

At the time of writing, almost all our domestic events have now kicked off. We had a slightly disappointing entry for the Championship, but numbers for the Premier and Open are healthy, and we have had a tremendous response for the Leagues – it looks like we will be running two divisions in both webserver and postal/email formats.

George Pyrich has contributed handsomely again, and his first article reviews progress in our tightly contested Webserver Open final. His second gives us an update on the international front, including some fine recent performances by Ian Marshall of Kirkcaldy, plus reports from NATT6, Champions League and friendly internationals.

Alan Borwell chaired the successful ICCF Congress in Bulgaria last year, and has provided a full report for us, including photographs kindly supplied by Raymond Boger and Keith Rose.

We welcome a new contributor in Carlo Pagni, a retired professor from Milan whose hobby is researching 19th century CC games. We hope to feature a number of games with a Scottish interest in coming editions.

Bernard's review section includes the new ChessBase databases, plus offerings from established tutors Martin, Shirov and King. His games column is packed as ever with games from our members. Incidentally, Bernard is handing over the Challenge tournament to a new TD this year – he's due a big vote of thanks for many years of service!

Kevin Paine reports a modest flurry of new life members which is encouraging at a time when most chess club memberships have been shrinking.

Finally, welcome back to George Livie, now recovering at home after a major heart operation, but well enough to make the 100 Club draw opposite!



Peter Woods of Airdrie advises that Chess Suppliers is back in action, operating as a mail order business, but also covering the Scottish congress circuit.

<http://www.chesssuppliers.co.uk/>

SCCA Webserver Events



<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/>

To view tables and games in the SCCA Webserver Open, Championship Cycle and Leagues, you don't need to register on the ICCF server - go to the website (above), click Tables and Results, then National Federation Events then Scotland Events.

Some games have a time delay, e.g. current position is 5 moves ahead of what you can see.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2008	1st	2nd
December	R W M Baxter	J Anderson
November	T Matheis	G D Pyrich
October	J S Murray	K B McAlpine

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SCCA Officials				
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2008 Results

By Jim Anderson

Championship

2008/2009		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	Cumming, D R	■			½	0	½	½	1½
2	Dawson, A G		■			½		½	1
3	Edney, D			■			½	0	½
4	Goodwin, B	½			■	0		0	½
5	Mackintosh, I	1	½		1	■		½	3
6	Montgomery, R S	½		½			■	½	1½
7	Reeman, I F	½	½	1	1	½	½	■	4

2007/2008		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Beecham, C R	■	1	1	1	1	½	½	1	½	6½
2	Brown, Dr A C	0	■	½	1	1	½	0	½	½	4
3	Dawson, A G	0	½	■	1	1	0	1	½	0	4
4	Goodwin, B	0	0	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Lloyd, G	0	0	0	1	■	0	½	½	0	2
6	Mackintosh, I	½	½	1	1	1	■	½	½	½	5½
7	May, M A	½	1	0	1	½	½	■	0	½	4
8	Montgomery, R S	0	½	½	1	½	½	1	■	0	4
9	Reeman, I F	½	½	1	1	1	½	½	1	■	6

The 2007-08 tournament was won by Richard Beecham, closely followed by Ian Reeman. Ian has set the early pace in the 2008-09 event, with Iain Mackintosh leading the chase.

Premier

2008 Section A		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	Armstrong, J M	■	0	0	0	0	½	0	½
2	Jamieson, I M	1	■	1	1	1	1	½	5½
3	Loughran, R	1	0	■	0	½	1	0	2½
4	Macmillen, A N	1	0	1	■	1	0	0	3
5	Morrow, J	1	0	½	0	■	½	0	2
6	Newton, A	½	0	0	1	½	■	0	2
7	Paine, Dr K A	1	½	1	1	1	1	■	5½

2008 Section B		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Burridge, R J	■	0	0	1	½	½	2
2	Cormack, W H	1	■	0	1	1	1	4
3	Cumming, D R	1	1	■	1	1	1	5
4	Knox, A	0	0	0	■	0	0	0
5	Macgregor, C A	½	0	0	1	■	½	2
6	Moir, P	½	0	0	1	½	■	2

Ian Jamieson and Kevin Paine couldn't be separated in section A, while David Cumming entered the 100% Club with 5 wins on the bounce in section B.

Open

2008 Section A		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Armstrong, J M	■	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1
2	Binnie, J	1 0	■	1 0	0 0	½ 0	½ ½	3½
3	Brooksbank, Dr K	1 1	0 1	■	0 0	½ 0	½ ½	4½
4	Coope, D W	1 1	1 1	1 1	■	1 1	1 1	10
5	Macmillen, A N	1 1	½ 1	½ 1	0 0	■	½ ½	6
6	Moir, P J	1 1	½ ½	½ ½	0 0	½ ½	■	5

2008 Section B		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Anderson, J	■	1 1	0 0	1 1	1 1	0 0	6
2	Armstrong, J M	0 0	■	0 0	1 1	1 0	0 0	3
3	Cumming, D R	1 1	1 1	■	1 1	1 1	1 ½	9½
4	Hardwick, M E	0 0	0 0	0 0	■	0 0	0 0	0
5	McIntee, C	0 0	0 1	0 0	1 1	■	0 0	3
6	Price, D	1 1	1 1	½ 0	1 1	1 1	■	8½

Section A was a triumph for Derek Coope, who entered the 100% Club with a superb 10/10. David Cumming almost emulated that in section B, but conceded a draw to Derek Price.

League Division 2

2008		White v	Black v	Game A	Game B	Pts.
A	Civil Service C					3
1	Pomeroy, R J	B1	D1	0	0	0
2	Bicknell, G D	E2	C2	0	1	1
3	Hubbuck, V	D3	B3	0	½	½
4	White, R	E4	D4	1	½	1½
5	O'Hare, A	E5	C5	0	0	0
B	Knights of the Board B					4
1	Cumming, D R	C1	A1	1	1	2
2	Burridge, R J	D2	E2	0	0	0
3	Anderson, J	A3	C3	½	0	½
4	Moir, P J	D4	C4	1	½	1½
5	Binnie, J	D5	E5	0	0	0
C	Social Roses					2½
1	Rosser, G	E1	B1	0	0	0
2	Dowell, C	A2	D2	0	0	0
3	Richardson, D	B3	E3	1	0	1
4	Ross, G	B4	E4	½	0	½
5	Gifford, M	A5	D5	1	0	1
D	Civil Service B					6½
1	Maxwell, A	A1	E1	1	0	1
2	Twitchell, N	C2	B2	1	1	2
3	Coast, P	E3	A3	0	1	1
4	Ryan, R	A4	B4	½	0	½
5	Scuffam, D	C5	B5	1	1	2
E	Knights of the Board A					9½
1	Reeman, I F	D1	C1	1	1	2
2	Gillam, S R	B2	A2	1	1	2
3	Macgregor, C A	C3	D3	1	1	2
4	Grant, J	C4	A4	1	0	1
5	Edney, D	B5	A5	1	1	2

League Division 1

2008		Opponent	Game A	Game B	Points
A	Perth Correspondents				5½
1	Mackintosh, I	E1	1	1	2
2	Borwell, A P	D2	1	0	1
3	Flockhart, H S	C3	1	½	1½
4	Paine, Dr K A	B4	0	½	½
5	Harvey, D J	F5	0	½	½
B	Black Knight				5½
1	Beecham, C R	D1	1	1	2
2	Pyrich, G D	C2	½	½	1
3	Dawson, Prof A G	F3	0	1	1
4	Lennox, C J	A4	1	½	1½
5	Hislop, A T	E5	0	0	0
C	Civil Service A				5
1	Ashby, A	F1	0	½	½
2	Duddy, C	B2	½	½	1
3	Hyde, K	A3	0	½	½
4	Bauld, R	E4	1	1	2
5	Laing, D	D5	½	½	1
D	Social Dragons				3½
1	Franks, K	B1	0	0	0
2	Dyson, J	A2	0	1	1
3	Goodwin, B	E3	0	½	½
4	Price, D	F4	½	½	1
5	Etherington, J	C5	½	½	1
E	Brutal Realism				5
1	Taylor, W	A1	0	0	0
2	Montgomery, R S	F2	½	1	1½
3	Calder, H	D3	1	½	1½
4	Thomson, D	C4	0	0	0
5	Wilby, R	B5	1	1	2
F	Social Stars				5½
1	Doye, P	C1	1	½	1½
2	Sanderson, P	E2	½	0	½
3	Pallett, R	B3	1	0	1
4	Lloyd, G	D4	½	½	1
5	Sowden, E C	A5	1	½	1½

Division 1 was the closest contest since records began. Last year's joint winners Perth Correspondents and Social Stars were joined by Black Knight in a triple tie, with Civil Service A and Brutal Realism both only half a point behind the winning total!

In Division 2 (previous page), the strong Knights of the Board team won by a clear margin.

With the league structure changing in 2009 to include webserver as well as postal/email play, we'll do our best to ensure that everybody who qualified for division 1 is placed accordingly in one or other of the new leagues.

Challengers

Bernard Milligan reports that the 2008 medal has been won by David Cumming. David was the only entrant to play the requisite number of games, but his score (+14, =2, -1) was pretty impressive also, so congratulations to him!



Webserver Open Update

By George Pyrich

After almost a full year's play in this event, just over half of the games have been completed and a tight and exciting finish is in prospect. Tom Matheis presently leads with 4½ from 7 completed games but Alan Bell is handily placed with 4 from 5. Alan Borwell is very much in the hunt with 3 from 4 whilst pre-tournament favourite David Kilgour has 2 from 3 and is doubtless gearing up for a big finish.

All the games can be viewed live (but with a 5 move delay for those still in progress) at www.iccf-webchess.com

Bell,A – Calder,H (2069)

Scottish CCA Webserver Open Final, 2008

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	exd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Be2	e5
7.Nb3	Be7
8.Be3	0-0
9.g4!?	

Not as weird as it may seem and it has been played at GM level.



9...	Be6
10.g5	Nfd7

Instead Geenen v. Guizar, World Ch. 21 Candidates, 2002 went 10...Ne8 11.Qd2 a5 12.a4 Nc6 13.0-0-0 f5 and was eventually drawn.

11.Qd2	a5
12.a4	Nc6
13.0-0-0	

13.Nd5 looks playable when 13...Bxd5 14.exd5 Nb4 15.c3 Na6 is about equal.

13...	Nb4
14.Kb1	Rc8
15.f4	f5!?

15...exf4 16.Bxf4 Ne5 17.Nd4 is slightly better for White.

16.fxe5	Bxb3?!
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There doesn't seem much wrong with 16...dxe5

17.cxb3	Nxe5
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18.h4	Qe8
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Black goes after the b3 pawn but this turns out badly [simply 18...fxe4 was better].

19.Bb6	Qf7
20.Bxa5	Qxb3
21.Bxb4	Qxb4
22.exf5	Rxf5
23.Rhf1	Rxf1
24.Rxf1	Kh8



25.Rf4!

Suddenly White is clearly better.

25...	Qa5
26.Qd5	Qc7

26...Qxd5 27.Nxd5 Bf8 28.Rb4 is winning for White.

27.Bf3	Ng6
28.Rb4	b6
29.Qb7!	

... and wins – the rest is pretty gruesome for Black.

29...	Qd8
30.Bd5	Qf8
31.Ka2	Ne5
32.Rxb6	Nd3
33.Qd7	h6
34.gxh6	gxh6
35.a5	1-0



Calder,H (2069) – Matheis,T (2375)

Scottish CCA Webserver Open Final, 2008

[Notes by George Pyrich]

With apologies to Hugh, we present another of his losses.

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nf6
3.Nxe5	d6
4.Nf3	Nxe4
5.d4	d5
6.Bd3	Nc6
7.0-0	Be7
8.Re1	

Nowadays almost everyone plays 8.c4. White's choice here used to represent the main line but it fell out of favour – the course of this game provides an indication why this happened.

8... **Bg4**
9.c3 **f5**
10.Nbd2 **0-0**
11.Qb3 **Na5**

Instead Weissleder v. Beecham, GER v. SCO friendly international, 1981 went 11...Kh8 12.h3 Bh5 13.Qxb7 Rf6 14.Qb3 Rb8 15.Qd1 g5 16.Be2 Qg8 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Ne5 Be8 19.Bh5 Rh6 20.Bxc8 Qxe8 21.Nxc6 Qxc6 22.d5 Qg6 23.Qd4+ Bf6 24.Qxa7 Re8 25.f3 Rh4 26.Be3 g4 27.fxg4 fxg4 28.Bd4 gxh3 29.Bxf6+ Kg8 30.Re2 Rg4 31.Qf2 e3 32.Qf3 Rg3 33.Qf1 Rf8 34.Kh2 Rxf6 35.Qxf6 Rxd2+ 0-1]

12.Qc2 **Bd6**

Brenke v. Bross, World Ch. 20 Final, 2004 went 12...Nc6 13.b4 a6 14.a4 Bd6 15.Ba3 Kh8 16.b5 1/2 – 1/2

13.Ne5 **Bh5**
14.b4

Strautins v. Villela Velasco, LAT v. ESP, 2004 went instead 14.f3 Qh4 15.Rf1 Rac8 16.f4 c5 17.Bb5 Re7 18.Ndf3 and was eventually drawn.

14... **Nc6**
15.Ndf3 **Qe7**
16.Bb2

16.Qb3 Bxe5 17.dxe5 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nxe5! looks good for Black.

16... **Rf6**
17.Bf1

A strange choice after his previous move – 17.b5 Na5 18.c4 looks about equal.

17... **Rh6**
18.h3 **Rd8**
19.Nxc6 **bxg6**
20.Bc1 **Rg6**

Now Black's attack gathers momentum..

21.Qd3



21... **Rf8**
22.Re2 **f4**
23.Kh1 **Qf7**
24.Rb2 **Qf6**
25.a3 **Bxf3**
26.Qxf3 **Ng5**

Now it's hopeless for White.

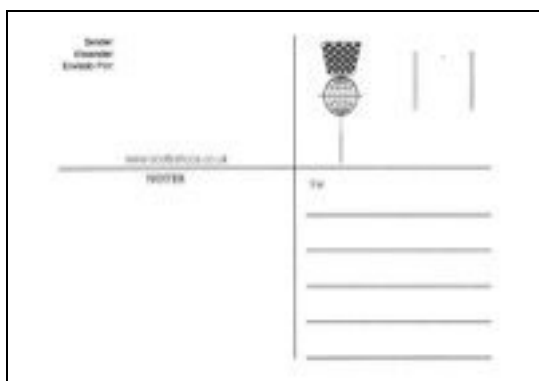
27.Qh5 **f3**
28.Be3 **fxg2+**
29.Bxg2 **Nf3**
30.Re2 **Qf7**
31.Bc1 **Nh4!**
32.Qxh4 **Rxg2**
33.Kxg2 **Qf3+**

0-1



CC Postcards

By Iain Mackintosh



The SCCA has a stock of cc postcards showing the SCCA logo and website address. They are suitable for domestic and international use (English, German and Spanish used). Orders in units of 100. The cards are supplied at their production cost (£2.50/100) and p&p is also required. As a guideline, 200 cards delivered in late 2008 cost £7.08 - £5 for the cards, and £2.08 UK second class postage. Orders to [Iain Mackintosh](mailto:Iain.Mackintosh@scca.org.uk) please.



ICCF Congress - Pleven, Bulgaria

By Alan Borwell

Less than two months before the 2008 ICCF Congress, I received a message from ICCF President Med Samraoui advising that he would be unable to travel to Bulgaria, because he had not received a German passport (following the problems he had encountered in Spain in 2007). At that time, I was not sure whether I would attend the 2008 Congress, but Scottish CCA Delegate George Pyrich also then advised that he would not be able to go to Pleven.

The ICCF President asked me if I would be willing to chair the Congress, assisted by fellow Honorary Member, Nol van 't Riet (NED) with Eric Ruch (FRA) acting as Congress Secretary. After discussed it with Moira (who said she would accompany me), I agreed to the President's request and then began to "get up to speed" with ICCF issues and make the many preparations for a Congress, including planning the meeting arrangements, seating plans etc.

Although the attendance numbers for Pleven were rather disappointing (especially the absence of EB members), most of the active Commissioners (who do much of the actual work), would be attending – which was reassuring.

So our journey to this rather unknown area of Europe (for most of us!) began with some doubts and rather limited expectations. We never imagined what was to follow in the week of 20th to 27th September.

Moira and I travelled on the Friday before Congress to be welcomed at Sofia airport by Petyo Marinov, the BCCF President and principal organiser, Prof Georgi Sapundjiev, Bulgarian Delegate and Ms Anna Evstatieva, translator, guide and to become a wonderful hostess to everyone in the coming week.



Pleven Town Hall

The 3-hour drive to Pleven (north of Sofia towards the Danube border with Romania) was interesting but uneventful and we reached the Hotel Kaylaka (which is at the entrance to the National Park) and were immediately impressed by the excellent location and its facilities.

On the Saturday morning, we were taken to the Municipal Hall in Pleven which would be the venue for the opening of the congress on the next day. Although the Hall was superb

for the opening ceremony, we decided that it would be impractical for holding the subsequent business meetings, mainly because of problems of projection and screen viewing distances.

Pleven is a very attractive city, with nice pedestrian areas, a large central paved square with trees and fountains and interesting architectural buildings, old and new. We spent a very pleasant afternoon in the city before returning to the hotel (some 5k from the centre) for the traditional reception, where friends, old and new, greeted each other.



Kaylaka National Park

So, at 9.30am on the Sunday morning, we all gathered at the Municipal Hall, where I was introduced to Bulgarian Sports Minister, Ms Vesela Lecheva (a past World and European Rifle Shooting Champion), the Governor of Pleven, Mr. Tzvetko Tzvetkov, and other dignitaries of the city. Dr. Stefan Sergiev, President of the Bulgarian OTB chess federation (an active CC player himself) also attended the opening ceremony.

Following the impressive Bulgarian National Anthem, welcoming speeches were made by our hosts and then I was presented with a very nice medal by the Sports Minister. I responded on behalf of ICCF and all delegates and after the customary silence for departed CC friends, including Gerhard Radosztics (AUT) and Witold Bielecki (POL) with whom George Pyrich and I were very close friends, I duly declared open the 2008 ICCF Congress.

After the playing of the ICCF Anthem (which was composed some years ago by Dmitry Lybin), the Belarus delegate, there was a nice short musical programme by a young local singing group.

The 2008 Congress meetings began with confirmation of proxies (I was acting as delegate for Scotland and also carried Australia and India proxies) and then the 2007 Congress Minutes were approved (one small amendment).

Under Membership matters, it was reported that quite a number of federations were in arrears with their 2006/7 fees and some were even longer overdue.

A firm decision was taken that if countries were still in arrears at 31/12/2008, then immediate sanctions would come into effect, including levies and suspensions for countries with very old debts.

The next item was a more pleasant one to deal with and it began with the presentation of the traditional World CC Championship Plates, engraved with complete cross-tables, for the XIX WCC Champion Christophe Leotard (FRA) and XXI WCC Joop van Oosterom (NED) – his second success in WCC Championships. New Ladies World CC Champion XII Mrs. Olga Sukhareva's trophy was presented to Russian delegate Sergey Grodzensky

These presentations were followed by the traditional Bertl von Massow medal awards for meritorious service for 10 (silver) and 15 (gold) years for international correspondence chess. As this year was the 25th anniversary of the introduction of these awards, Nol van 't Riet (NED) gave his reflections on the pioneering work and achievements of Bertl von Massow, especially with the European tournament office and her support for long serving ICCF President Hans-Werner von Massow. Amongst the recipients of the fourteen awards were Prof Georgi Sapundjiev (BUL), Gerhard Binder (GER) and Alan Rawlings (ENG). Many pictures of presentations can be viewed on www.iccf.com



Gerhard Binder receives his Massow Gold from Alan.

The ICCF Accounts for the year 2007 were approved and Carlos Flores (ESP) was again thanked for yet another rescue mission in preparing and completing the accounts after the sudden and unexpected resignation of Finance Director, Hans-Jurgen Isigkeit (GER), to take over some national BdF responsibilities. The ICCF finances were reported as being healthy with a small surplus for 2007, although the year had benefited from exceptional items of income (eg. 2 years' membership fees, as decided by the Benalmadena Congress to accelerate their payment).

Retiring Auditor Henk Sarink (NED) presented his report on the year 2007 and he was thanked by standing ovation for his dedication and fine auditing work for ICCF over a period of almost 20 years. He will be succeeded by Carlos Flores with effect from 1/1/2008 as ICCF Auditor.

The next items on the agenda were the election of new Executive Board members for two vacancies with Soeren Peschardt (DEN) being appointed Finance Director, and Eric Ruch (FRA) as Marketing Director. Congress also approved appointments to the Management Committee of Michael Blake (ENG) as Webmaster, Ron Langeveld (NED) as Qualifications Commissioner and Michael Millstone

(USA) as Direct Entry Commissioner (previously DE Administrator).

The afternoon of the Sunday was organised as a plenary discussion group with the arrangements for World CC Championships being the item for discussion. This meeting and subsequent meetings of Congress took place in the Conference Room of the Hotel Kayaka, which although quite small was ideal for the numbers attending (approx 40).

Contrary to impressions given by a few notable Congress absentees on the ICCF Forum, the discussion was wide ranging, thorough and very constructive with broad consensus of agreement on all WCCC aspects. The discussion was structured under three headings ie "Where are we now?", "Where do we want to be?", "How do we get there?" The conclusions can be read in the Congress Minutes and when they were voted on in Congress, there was virtual unanimity on all of the discussion group proposals.

Putting it simply, qualifiers will have to decide whether or not they wish to play in a 2009 WCCC Final (nodes et al), as decided in Benalmadena 2007. Sometimes one wonders what would happen if players in other sports could say "we are only prepared to play if rules and timescales are made to suit ourselves and our personal circumstances"! The use of nodes will enable postal players to play according to the postal rules (except for no etl concession) and webserver players will play according to the webserver rules. The rest of the arguments do become academic and irrelevant and players have to decide whether to use their WCCC Final qualifications, or to risk losing them by not participating in any of the available 2009 Finals scheduled to start with 2 at the beginning and 2 at the end of 2009.

In any event, the 2009 WCCC arrangements are only transitional to enable ICCF to move towards a better future structure whereby Finals (and Champions) should not emerge so frequently – on which there is no disagreement.

Well, we have now reached the Sunday evening when the traditional Banquet is hosted by the organising federation and this year it was certainly different!

We were told that we would be going to a cave and to wear warmer clothing and maybe anticipate the unexpected. The location was interesting, with traditional old tables/chairs at different levels in a cavern with psychedelic lighting, tireless dancers and a wide range of music and we lost count of the number of meat courses which were served!

Next morning, back to reality and on with the business, with other financial matters, including direct entries, the financial plan and whether or not the entry fee for GM norm tournaments was too high (it was decided to allow GMs and players with fixed ratings over 2600 to play free in future GM norm tournaments).

We moved on to the Qualification Commissioner's report on proposed new titles, especially those where applications were not straightforward under rules 8.4 to 8.9 (including an application for a very well known Scottish CCA player!)

After this we discussed website and webserver matters, where the main issue was to consider whether or not the main ICCF website should be merged into the webserver (as had been proposed in the Services Directors Report). However, there was no support for such a concept, for various reasons, not least of which was that "iccf.com" was considered to be the main domain for ICCF use and the webserver system had not been designed or programmed to be a shop window main website. Its purpose is to provide for playing in webserver tournaments and for locating related functions to tournaments. Ongoing policy for the ICCF Website and webserver site was defined and agreed.

The ICCF Webmaster would soon be implementing improvements to the main ICCF website and he had recently produced a new edition of ICCF Amici and ICCF telechess articles (for CBM), for which he was complimented.

The situation regarding webserver development work was not very clear from the Services Director's report and it was decided to seek clarification before releasing funds for 2009 for further enhancing the system. A substantially increased marketing budget of CHF 10,000 was agreed for the coming year.

On the Monday evening there was a 20 board chess match between Pleven Chess Club and ICCF, for whom Soeren Peschardt (DEN) was again our inspirational team captain (we lost 6-14, so his position is less secure!)

I was persuaded to play this year and found myself up against the Bulgarian President Petyo Marinov on board 8 (he was actually the second highest rated player in their team!). Our game lasted only 8 moves, with me having used only 3 minutes and Petyo 30 minutes, when he handed me a pre-prepared card offering me a draw – how could I refuse! The rather interesting moves of the game were 1.e4, e6 2. b3 d5 3.Bb2 dxe4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Qe2 Be7 6.g4, b6 7.Nxe4 Bb7 8.Bg2 Nd5! Draw Agreed! I intended 9. Nh3 when after 9...Nc6 and maybe 10. 0-0-0 0-0 11.g5 a5 it could be anyone's game! (I had a game in this opening recently in SCCA Open Final).



ICCF v Pleven

Tuesday morning saw a break with tradition when Congress delegates were given various local excursions, which included visits to the historical Panorama (depicting Russian/Turkish battles in 1877 in the Pleven area), a tour of the oldest church and other famous buildings in Pleven and a superb short classical recital, specially provided for ICCF by three fine singers and an accompanist.

In the afternoon the ICCF title awards took place and among them was an International Master title for Scottish CCA President, Iain Mackintosh (who was very involved in the initiation of the ICCF webserver system).



Nol Van't Riet (NED) accepts Iain's IM title from Alan.



George and Alan complete the handover to Iain at Dundee Congress.

Congress then dealt with proposals from the Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder (GER), the most significant of which will be to move to quarterly ratings lists by 2010. The World Tournament Director report was discussed and the main points agreed were:-

1. The next World Cup will be organised by Spain to be played solely by webserver, to start in March 2009.
2. World CC Championship half norm qualifications to Semi-Finals to be cancelled but players to be given full entry rights to a World CC Preliminary section.
3. To discontinue Email promotion, norm and WCCC tournaments.
4. To discontinue availability of conditional moves in all main ICCF webserver tournaments.
5. To further develop Arbiter qualifications to take more account of "quality".

Various invitational/open tournaments were reported as having been approved by the WTD since the last Congress and national federations were reminded of the correct procedure to be followed for the authorisation of such events.

Congress approved renewal of a free webserver tournament (up to 105 games) for each member federation in 2009.

It was expected that, although there had been some small decrease in postal entries, there was still enough support to organise them and this was especially the case for players from Germany, Italy, USA and several other countries.

Under the item concerning Non-Title Tournaments, it was reported by the DE Commissioner that there had been problems in paying prizes for Money Prize tournament winners. He was asked to try to find a solution with the new Finance Director so that winners would always receive their prizes.

The Veterans World Cup was proving very popular and it was agreed that a new VC should be started annually and organised in three stages. An offer was made by the Scottish CCA to organise and administer these tournaments.

Proposals for Champions League arrangements for the current cycle were approved and, for the future, players should only be allowed to play in one CL team and that registration should be by DE only. It was recommended that new CL cycles should be arranged at two-yearly intervals and ideally the next cycle should be started during 2009.

Rapid and Blitz tournaments (unrated initially) would be started and evaluated by the next Congress, with DE only.

The four Zonal Reports were received and it was agreed to allow Africa/Asia zone tournaments to be played free of charge on the webserver for development purposes. Other established Zonal events should pay the normal fees.



St George the Conqueror Mausoleum

In the early afternoon there was a lengthy televised press conference attended by Nol, Eric and myself and the two World Champions attending Congress, ie Fritz Baumbach and Tunc Hamarat. Indeed there was extensive media coverage of the Congress in Bulgaria, where chess is very popular.

On the Wednesday, Congress dealt with several Rules matters where it was agreed that "double time" should be reintroduced where a player has been considering a move for more than 20 days for webserver play (after 12 days for postal play). There were also some other changes and tidying up of tournament rules (see Minutes for details).

Under External Matters, it was reported that I hoped to attend the forthcoming FIDE General Assembly in Dresden and, under Internal Matters, it was agreed to increase Congress Allowances (as introduced 10 years ago) for main ICCF officials who were not national delegates.

An offer was received from the English Federation (BFCC) to host the next ICCF Congress in Leeds from 12 - 18 September 2009 and this was accepted with acclamation. No firm offers had been received for future years but some possibilities were discussed informally, including the fall-back option of ICCF itself arranging a Congress. Excellent daily reports of the Pleven Congress had been provided for the ICCF website by Neil Limbert and Andrew Dearnley (ENG) and Raymond Boger (NOR).

It was intimated it was hoped to produce a first draft of the Minutes at the Closing Banquet - and this was achieved.

As ICCF Honorary President, I thanked the host federation for a superbly arranged Congress and closed the formal meetings late on the Wednesday afternoon. The European delegates then had a meeting in the evening on matters concerning their Zone.

Thursday is traditionally reserved for the full-day excursion and our hosts had arranged a bus tour of historic sites to the east of the Pleven region. We first visited the famous Etera Museum (traditional folklore), then on to Trjavna for lunch and visit to an art gallery before continuing on to the old capital city of Bulgaria Veliko Tarnovo. Unfortunately, very wet weather rather dampened our day and prevented our visiting the ancient parts of the old city. We returned to the hotel weary and bedraggled but greatly appreciative of the wonderful hospitality provided by our caring hosts.

Our busy programme continued on the Friday morning with a visit to a recently opened Wine Centre (located in another cave!) and then some of us went to Pleven for a Civic Reception (and more interviews!) hosted by the City Governor. Mr. Tzvetkov presented ICCF representatives with beautiful commemorative books of the Pleven region and the ladies with flower bouquets. In the afternoon there was another Blitz tourney, which was won convincingly by one of Bulgaria's top junior players, and the evening's Closing Banquet (buffet style) was enjoyed by everyone. I was presented with a beautiful picnic hamper and presented our host with a traditional engraved Scottish quaiach.

So we said our farewells on Saturday morning to Petyo Marinov (and his family), to George and Anna and began our long journey home. Moira and I travelled back via Frankfurt where we had a five hour wait in the airport, but we put the laptop to good use and managed to complete a fully edited update of the Congress minutes. We arrived home via Edinburgh just after midnight with very happy memories of a wonderful congress and visit to Bulgaria. We had started with some reservations, but now we intend to return there at the earliest opportunity!

[Editor's note: thanks again to Norwegian GM Raymond Boger who sent a link to his photographs on Picasa.]



Forgotten Scottish CC Games

By Carlo Pagni

[Editor's note: Carlo Pagni is a retired professor of neurosurgery living in Milan. His hobby is researching CC games played in the 19th century, and he has uncovered a number of previously unpublished games with a Scottish interest. We welcome him to our magazine and look forward to reading further forgotten games!]

As anybody knows the early consultation correspondence games in history have been played between London and Edinburgh in 1824-1828. Since then there was a surge of such kinds of games all over the world.

Many of them are well known because they have been published in chess magazines or books devoted to chess correspondence, for instance *Correspondenz-Partien. Gesammelt und erläutert von L.Bledow. Zweite bedeutend vermehrte Auflage herausgegeben von Dr.M.Lange.* [Leipzig Verlag von Veit & Comp., 1872, 138 pp.].

The history of intercity correspondence games has been investigated again recently by Carlo A.Pagni [see: Pagni C.A. *Scacchi senza quartiere. Incontri per corrispondenza fra circoli nel XIX secolo.* Roma. Caissa Italia. 2004, 295 pp.; Pagni C.A. *Correspondence chess matches between clubs 1823-1899.* Vol 1. Torino. Private Edition. 1994, [2]+VIII+190, pp.; Vol 2. 1996, XIII+99 pp.; Vol.3 1997, VII+[1]+41 pp.; Vol.4 Venezia, Scacchi e Scienze Applicate. 2006, X+92 pp..].

This work is still in progress because many games, whose text had been published in local newspapers, had never been reported on in chess magazines or chess books: they remained buried in the dusty archives of ancient newspapers and non-specialised magazines sometimes for over a century.

The purpose of this paper is to report a forgotten game, played 160 years ago in Scotland, which was lacking in Lange's book 1872 and has escaped any previous research. *The Newcastle Courant*, January 4, 1878 published one game, played "some thirty years before", thus *circa* in 1848, in a two-game match between the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution Chess Club, and the Northumberland Chess Club. Ivo Fasiori assisted with the research.

The Chess Club of the Philosophical Institution, Edinburgh, appears here for the first time in the history of correspondence chess and never recurs in the 19th or 20th centuries. We did not get any information on that Chess Club: might some Scottish chess historian help us?

The Northumberland Club changed its name and in 1878 was called Newcastle and Gateshead Club. This game was not published again after 1878 and thus it is unknown to modern players and historians.

The second game Edinburgh- Northumberland CC resulted in a draw. *The Newcastle Courant* did not report either the *SCCA Magazine* 104

text of the second game or the source of the information: may be the second game is on the original source, but where? Here the first game of the match:

Northumberland CC – Edinburgh Philosophical Soc. [C54]

Inter-City Consultation, c.1848

[Notes by Northumberland Players]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.c3 Nf6 6.e5 d5 7.Bb5 Ne4 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.cxd4 Bb6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Be3 c5



12.Qc2! Giving the Northumberland players decidedly the better position. 12...Bxf3 13.dxc5 Nxc5 The best move, we believe. 14.Bxc5 Qg5 15.g3 0-0-0 16.Bxb6 axb6 17.Nd2 Bg4 18.f4 Qe7 19.Rac1 c5 20.Nf3 Bxf3 21.Rxf3 Kb7 22.Rb3 Qe6 23.Qxc5 Rc8 24.Qe3 Rxc1+ 25.Qxc1 Ra8 26.a3 Rc8 27.Rc3 Rxc3 28.Qxc3 h5 29.a4 Qf5 30.Qb3 Qe4 31.Kf2 Qh1



32.Qf3! Well played and virtually wins the game. 32...Qc1 [32...Qxh2+ 33.Qg2 Qxg2+ 34.Kxg2 and White wins by force.] 33.Qxd5+ Kb8 34.Qd8+ Kb7 35.Qd7+ Ka6 36.Qd3+ Kb7 37.Qc3 Qb1 38.Qb3 Ka6 39.Qc4+ Kb7 40.Qxf7+ Ka6 41.Qxh5 Ka5 42.e6+ Kxa4 43.Qe2 Qh7 44.e7 Qxh2+ 45.Ke1 The best method of bringing matters to a close. 45...Qxg3+ 46.Kd2 Qxf4+ 47.Kc2 1-0 [Ed - the philosophers were less good on practicalities!]



Mega Database 2009 By Chessbase



Some players think this is an expensive DVD but it represents great value for your money. You don't get the errors I have seen in some other databases and the games are already organised for you so you can find what you want easily. You will now also get automatic updates over the internet so your database will remain up to date throughout 2009.

The exclusive annotated database. Contains more than 4 millions games from 1560 to 2008 in the highest ChessBase quality standard. 62,000 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. The largest topclass annotated database in the world. The most recent games of the database are from the middle of November 2008. Mega 2009 also features a new edition of the player base. As usual, this is where most of the work was done. As the player index now contains already more than 220,000 entries, it made sense to use an adapted player base which includes about 248,000 names. Doing this, the photo database was extended as well to contain 31,000 pictures now.

NEW: Online Mega-Update! With ChessBase 10 you can download games for Mega 2009 for the whole year, a total of approximately 200,000! That means your Mega 2009 will remain up to date from January to December.

System requirements: 1 GHz Pentium PC, Windows Vista/XP, 512 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, ChessBase 10, Internet.

System requirements say that you need Chessbase 10 but the DVD has a reader program you can install and the database files are in the standard .cbh format so I don't see any reason why anyone should have any problems accessing the data.

Corr Database 2009 By Chessbase



With this database and the one above our members

should be able to locate all the games they need to research their moves against their opponents. This database is obviously dedicated to games played by correspondence so will feature many of the lines we favour. It also has the advantage that there is going to be a good chance that you will be able to see previous games played by your opponents, particularly if they are regular ICCF competitors.

Corr Database 2009 is an extensive collection of correspondence games, featuring classical correspondence games played by mail as well as email games. The CD contains 670,471 games from 1804 until 2008 including all games of the correspondence chess world championships 1-18, correspondence chess Olympics 1-15, correspondence chess european championships, national championships (AUS, CSR, DEN, GER, NED, USA) and memorials (1965 SUI jub75, 1991 FIN jub30, NED jub 25, NBC Millennium Email, ICCF 50th Jubilee Elite and ICCF 50th Jubilee World Champions). Corr 2009 also features a correspondence chess playerbase, which includes about 65,000 names. A must for every player of correspondence chess!

System requirements: Pentium PC, XP, 32 MB RAM, CD-ROM drive, ChessBase 10.0 or ChessBase 9.0, hard disk space requirements: 350 mb.

The ABC of the Leningrad Dutch by Andrew Martin



This is an ever popular opening in Correspondence chess and should be studied by all players. You will have seen it pop up regularly over the years in our games column. I found this DVD both entertaining and educational, but then again I am a great fan of Andrew Martin's teaching abilities.

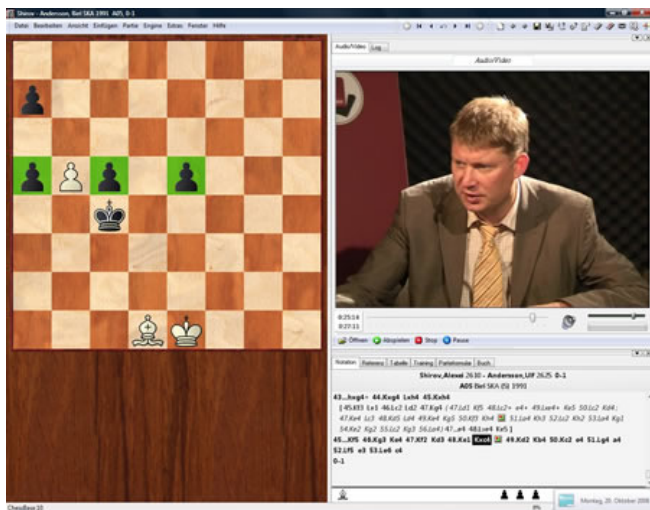
The Leningrad System of the Dutch is characterized by an early fianchetto of Black's King Bishop. Thanks to the uncompromising and controversial nature of Black's first move, 1...f5, this will always lead to sharp and difficult play. On this ChessBase DVD, International Master Andrew Martin makes a compelling case for playing the Leningrad in competitive games and demonstrates that this is the ideal opening for players willing to embrace risk and who like to WIN. Bent Larsen once famously remarked that the Dutch Defence brings out "the chicken" in a lot of opponents. Time and again on this DVD we will see what he means. Maybe Petrosian rubbed his hands with glee at the thought of facing 1...f5, but for the average player the Dutch can be a nasty shock. Video running time: 4 h 10 min.

Endgame Fireworks by Alexei Shirov



On this DVD Alexei Shirov shows that also in the endgame, it is possible to keep struggling for the full point to the very last - if you are creative and ambitious. Because even in objectively quite balanced positions, you can frequently find ways to sharpen up or complicate the fight.

For the tournament player, often all that matters is to be able to pose practical problems which his or her opponent might finally fail to solve.



Thus Shirov sees himself rather as an endgame practitioner, putting down his successes in this phase of the game less to concrete knowledge about theoretical positions than to the understanding of general principles, good intuition and exact calculation of variations.



One main emphasis of the DVD is the endgame with rooks and different coloured bishops which Shirov finds particularly interesting, analysing five examples.

Another important feature is the very complex and difficult setting with four rooks (three examples), where he works out most helpful general principles. All in all, Shirov examines 17 examples out of his own practice, among them his famous different coloured bishop ending versus Topalov which went around the whole world. Running time: 4,5 hours.

The seventeen endgame positions all taken from his own endgame experiences are handled well by Shirov and all will help develop our members skills in finishing off their own games. Another DVD well worth spending your money on.

Power Play 8 - Knights and Bishops By Daniel King



When we are starting out in chess we are told that knights and bishops both have a value of three points, but it is quite clear that in some positions a bishop is clearly superior to a knight - and vice versa. After watching this 8th Power Play DVD you'll have a better idea of how to play positions with knights and bishops – what to look for, what to avoid, and how to place your pawns.

Throughout the DVD, specially selected positions will enable you to test your understanding of the subject. The Power Play series is suitable for anyone looking to improve their chess, but also provides ready-made lessons and exercises for a trainer.

'The PowerPlay DVD series by GM Daniel King is one of the most successful chess instruction tools today.' – New In Chess.





Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you a prosperous New Year. Hopefully 2009 will bring you all you desire. The pairings for the new season should be arriving shortly so it might be a good time to annotate some of last season's games for the magazine. We have some enjoyable games this time out from Alan Borwell, George Pyrich and David Cumming.

ICCF Veterans VWC1/01, 2008

White:- J Grifoll (2435)

Black:- A Borwell (2221)

Ruy Lopez [E19]

[Annotator I Mackintosh]

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	e6
3.Nf3	b6
4.g3	Bb7
5.Bg2	Be7
6.0-0	0-0
7.Nc3	Ne4
8.Qc2	Nxc3
9.Qxc3	d6!?



Ideas in this game were drawn from Fridman-Atalik, Lake George, 2005. Atalik: 'I had to keep the game complicated against him.' [9...c5 10.Rd1 d6 11.b3 Bf6 12.Bb2 Qc7 13.Qd2 Rd8 14.dxc5 dxc5 15.Qf4 Na6= is too drawish.]

10.Qc2	f5
11.d5	e5
12.e4	

Another source of analysis was the Complete QI book page 132.

12...	Bc8
13.Ne1	Qe8N
14.Bd2	

14.f4 exf4 15.Bxf4 looks better for White.

14...	f4!
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The most direct.

15.gxf4	exf4
16.e5	Bf5
17.Qd1	g5
18.e6	Bf6
19.Qc1	



White is responding to Black's threats rather than co-ordinating his own pieces.

19...	Na6
20.Bc3	Qh5
21.Bxf6	Rxf6
22.Qd1	g4
23.Qd4	Qh6
24.Be4	Bxe4

24...Nc5 25.Bxf5 Rxf5 26.b4 Rh5
27.Qd1 Ne4++

25.Qxe4	Nc5
26.Qd4	Rf5!?
27.Ng2	f3
28.Rfe1	



28.Ne3 Re5 29.Kh1 g3 30.fxg3 Rxe3
31.Rxf3 Rxf3 32.Qg4+ Qg6 33.Qxf3 Rf8
34.Qe2 Nd3++

28...	Qh3
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28...fxg2 29.Qxg4+ Rg5 30.Qd4 also wins, but takes a bit longer.

29.Ne3	Nd3
30.Qxg4+	

30.Qxd3? Rh5 mating.

30...	Qxg4+
31.Nxg4	Rg5
0-1	



Champions League 2007 C Group 6
ICCF, 01.09.2007

White:- G Pyrich (2193)

Black:- R Schreiner (2229)

Sicilian Defence [B26]

[Annotator G Pyrich]

1.e4	c5
2.Nc3	d6
3.Nge2	Nf6
4.g3	Nc6
5.Bg2	g6
6.0-0	Bg7
7.d3	0-0
8.h3	



This set-up with the N at e2 shouldn't really offer White much but at least it avoids all the theoretical lines. However, one point here is that White's move order takes advantage of the fact that Black has the N at f6 rather than e7 (after e6) 8.Bg5 is another idea here.

8...	Rb8
9.f4	Bd7
10.Be3	b5
11.Qd2	b4
12.Nd1	a5

Maybe 12...Ne8 with 13.f5 Nd4 is better.

13.f5	a4
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13...e6 14.g4 is unclear.

14.Bh6 Bxh6

The alternative 14...a3 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.b3 Ne5 17.Ne3 is maybe slightly better for White.

15.Qxh6



15... Ne5

The N looks nice here but both 15...Nd4 16.Qd2 Qc7; and 15...a3 16.b3 Nd4 17.Qd2 (exchanging on d4 gives Black the c-file) 17...gxf5 18.exf5 Kh8 were more to the point.

16.b3 Ra8
17.Ne3 axb3
18.axb3 Bc6

I'd expected 18...Ra3 when 19.Nf4 Qa8 20.Rac1 is slightly better for White.

19.Nf4 Rxa1?!



19...Qd7 should be ok for Black after 20.g4 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Ra8 22.Rf1 Qc8 (not 22...Ra2?? 23.g5 Ne8 24.Ne6! winning) 23.g5 Nfd7 24.Nfd5 Qf8 25.Qh4 Ra2 26.Rf2 when Black should hold.

20.Rxa1 Kh8?!

Another odd move 20...Qb6 21.Nfd5 Bxd5 22.exd5 Qb7 shouldn't be a problem for Black.

21.g4 Rg8

The alternatives 21...gxf5 22.Nxf5 Rg8

23.g5; and 21...Ng8 22.Qh4 gxf5 23.Nxf5 **29.Ra1** are both better for White.

22.g5 Nfd7
23.h4 Qb8?!

Simply 23...Qf8 seems best when after 24.Qxf8 Rxf8 25.Ned5 (if 25.Ra7 then simply 25...Ra8) 25...Bxd5 26.Nxd5 Nc6 27.Ra6 Nde5 White is a bit better but any win is hard to find.

24.Kh1

a bit of a move as a good plan was hard to find amongst the numerous alternatives 24.Ned5?? falls spectacularly to 24...Ng4; whilst 24.h5 seems to lead nowhere after 24...gxf5 25.exf5 Bxg2 26.g6 Nf6; and 24.Bh3 allows 24...d5!.

24... Qb7

Again 24...Qf8 looks ok. However, whilst the Q looks good at b7, White is hardly going to allow Black to play d5].

25.Rf1!



Now Black can have the a-file

25... Qa8

Not 25...Ra8? 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.Nxg6+! Nxg6 28.Rf7 winning.

26.Bh3 Qf8

Now almost forced now that White has the B at h3. The alternative 26...Qa2? walks into 27.fxg6 fxg6 28.Be6 Rg7 29.h5! when Black is lost.

27.Qxf8 Rxf8
28.Nfd5 Re8

Now Black can't play 28...Bxd5 29.Nxd5 Nc6 as before as, with the B at h3, there's the simple 30.Nxe7 (30.fxg6 fxg6 isn't so clear although 31.Bxd7 Rxf1+ 32.Kg2 Rc1 33.Bxc6 Rxc2+ 34.Kf3 might be playable) 30...Nxe7 31.f6!

Now White's advantage is almost decisive

29... Kg7
30.Ra7 Kf8
31.f6 e6



If 31...exf6 then White has the forcing line 32.Bxd7 Nxd7 33.Nxf6 Nxf6 34.gxf6 Rd8 (34...Ra8 35.Rxa8+ Bxa8 36.Nc4 d5 37.Nb6 is winning easily for White) 35.Kg2 h5 36.Kg3 when the K marches up to f4 and the N goes to c4 and then either a5 or b6 or, depending on what Black does, White plays e5.

32.Ne7

Now, with Black's pieces now in each others way, the possibility of the sacrifice at e6 appears.

32... Bb5
33.Kg2 h5?!



Now White also has the possibility of the sacrifice at g6. If 33...Nb6 then 34.Kg3 and Ng2-f4 and Bxe6 to follow.

34.Kg3 Rb8

34...Rd8 is no better.

35.Ng2 Nb6

36.Bxe6!

36.Nf4 allowed 36...Bd7.

36... fxe6

37.Nf4 Nbd7
38.Nexg6+

38.Nxe6+ likely wins as well but the text seemed simpler.

38... Nxc6
39.Nxc6+ Kf7
40.Ne7



Now Black just runs out of moves

40...Ke8

If 40...e5 41.Nf5; or 40...Rd8 41.Rb7.

41.Kf4 Kf7
42.Rc7 Ke8

Or 42...Ra8 43.Nc8.

43.Rc8+ Kf7
44.Rxb8 Nxb8
45.e5

Now, after the pawn exchange, the K simply moves over to the Q-side pawns - so, Black resigned 1-0



SCCA Open, 2008

White: J Anderson
Black: D R Cumming
Dutch Defence [A80]
[Annotator D R Cumming]

1.d4 f5
2.Bg5 g6
3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 fxe4
5.Nxe4 d5
6.Nc5 b6
7.Nb3 a5

7...Nf6 8.Nf3 0-0
(8...Ne4 9.Bh4 0-0 10.Be2 Qd6 11.0-0 Nd7 12.c4 c6 13.Qc2 Ndf6 14.Ne5 g5 15.Bg3 Nxc3 16.hxc3 dxc4 17.Bxc4+ e6 18.f4 g4 19.Rae1 a5 20.f5 Nd5 21.fxe6 Bxe6 22.Rxf8+ Rxf8 23.Bd3 Kursova,M

(2310)-Cmilyte,V (2466)/Dresden 2007 CBM 117 ext/1-0.)
9.Be2 Qd6
(9...Ne4 10.Be3 Nc6 11.0-0 Qd6 (11...e5 12.Bb5 Nxd4 13.Nbxd4 exd4 14.Bxd4 Bb7 15.Bxc7 Kxc7 16.Nd4 Qf6 17.f3 Nc5 18.Re1 a6 19.b4 axb5 20.bxc5 Rae8 21.Nxb5 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 Rf7 23.Qc3 bxc5 24.Re1 Qxc3 25.Nxc3 d4 26.Na4 Loeffler,B (2340)-Schumacher,H/ICCF corr 1991/Corr 2002/0-1.)
12.c4 Ba6
(12...e6 13.Rc1 Bd7 14.Bd3 Nf6 15.h3 Nb4 16.a3 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 dxc4 18.Qxc4 Nd5 19.Bg5 Rf5 20.Nbd2 a6 21.Rfe1 Bb5 22.Qb3 Raf8 23.Re4 c5 24.dxc5 bxc5 25.Nc4 Bxc4 26.Qxc4 Bxb2 27.Rce1 Verdier,P-Zavanelli,M/ICCF corr 1992/Corr 2004/1/2-1/2.)
13.Rc1 Bxc4 14.Bxc4 dxc4 15.Rxc4 b5 16.Rc1 Nb4 17.Nc5 Nxc5 18.Rxc5 c6 19.a3 Na6 20.Rc3 Rae8 21.Qc2 Nb8 22.Ne5 Hodgson,J (2565)-Onischuk,A (2646)/France 1999/EXT 2000/1/2-1/2.)
10.0-0 Nbd7 11.c4 (11.Qc1 e5 12.c3 e4 13.Bf4 exf3 14.Bxd6 fxe2 15.Re1 cxd6 16.Rxe2 Ng4 17.Qe1 Ba6 18.Re7 Ndf6 19.f3 Nh6 20.f4 Nf7 21.Qg3 Rfe8 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Re1 Kf8 24.Rxe8+ Kxe8 25.h4 Ke7 Linna,A-Peltomaa,E/Finland 1992/Corr Nr.1/1-0.)
11...e5 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.cxd5 Bb7 14.Bc4 Rae8 15.Re1 Kh8 16.Rc1 e4 17.Nfd2 Bxd5 18.Bxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxc7 Bxd4 20.Nxd4 Qxd4 21.Nf3 Qxd1 22.Rxd1 exf3 23.Rcxd7 Re2 24.Rxa7 Schiller,W (2228)-Corbacho,J(1526)/IECC 2005/Telechess CBM 109/1-0.;

8.Qd2



8.Nf3 Nh6 9.Be2
(9.Ne5 0-0 10.h4 Nf7 11.Nxf7 Rxf7 12.h5 Qd6 13.hxc6 hxc6 14.c3 Nc6 15.f4 a4 16.Nd2 e5 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Be2 Nc6 19.a3 Qc5 20.Nf3 Bf5 21.Kf1 Be4 22.Qe1 Ne7 23.Bxe7 Qxe7 Mellado Trivino,J (2462)-De la Riva Aguado,O (2528)/Spain 2003/EXT 2007/0-1.)
9...0-0 10.0-0 Nf7 11.Bh4 a4 12.Nbd2 c5

13.c3 a3 14.b3 cxd4 15.Nxd4 g5 16.Bg3 e5 17.Nb5 Bb7 18.c4 d4 19.Bf3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Na6 21.Qg4 Nc5 22.Rad1 Nh6 Moreno Ruiz,J (2426)-De la Riva Aguado,O (2549)/Burgos 2003/EXT 2004/1-0.;

8... a4
9.Nc1 Nf6
10.f3 0-0
11.Bd3 c5
12.dxc5?!

12.c3 was more sensible here.

12... Bxc5
13.c3 Nc6
14.Nge2 c4
15.Bc2 Qb6!

White has serious developmental problems here, Black has a huge spacial advantage in the centre and on the Queenside, and White cannot castle here either!

16.Rb1 e5
17.Ng3 d4!-+



18.Ne4 d3!
19.Bd1 Nxe4
20.fxe4 Nd8
21.Bf3 Nf7
22.Be3 Qc6
23.0-0 Nd6
24.a3 Nxe4

Jim proposed the following continuation (including 24/...Nxe4 and up to his 26th move), which I accepted, otherwise I might not have chosen to play my 24th, as White can have fun and games with the pin on the long light-squared diagonal!

25.Bxe4?!

Deep Junior 10: 25.Qe1 g5 26.Na2 Bb7

27.h3 Rad8 28.Nb4 Qg6 29.Rd1 h6
30.Ba7 Rf4 31.Be3 Rf6 32.Kh2 -2.54/21

25... Rxf1+
26.Kxf1 Qxe4

White has problems getting his Knight into the action, and has to send it to the edge of the board to activate his Rook, all of which takes up too much of White's time!

27.Na2 Bb7
28.Nb4 Rf8+
29.Kg1 Rf3!!
30.Re1 Bf6
31.Bf2 Qg4
32.Qd1 d2!

SCCA Championships, 2008
White: D R Cumming
Black: D Edney
King's Indian Defence [E90]
[Annotator D R Cumming]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0
6.h3 e5
7.d5 Na6
8.Bg5 h6
9.Be3 Nc5
10.Nd2 a5
11.Be2 Bd7
12.0-0



A very nice inbetween move which further disrupts White!

33.Rf1

33.Qxd2?? Rd3!! Deep Junior 10: 34.Bg3 Rxd2 35.Nc6 Bxc6 36.Re3 Bg5 37.Rf3 Rxd2+ 38.Kh1 Qxf3 39.Bf2 Rg4#

33... Bh4
34.h3 Qg5
35.Qxa4 Be4!
36.Qe8+ Kg7
37.Qe7+ Kh6
38.Qd6? Qxg2+!!

An Excellent Queen sacrifice forcing mate in a few moves as follows:-

39.Kxg2 Rxf2+
40.Kg1 Rg2+
41.Kh1 Rg5+
42.Kh2

Deep Junior 10: 42.Rf3 Bxf3+ 43.Kh2 Rg2+ 44.Kh1 Re2+ 45.Kg1 Re1+ 46.Kh2 Rh1#

42... Bg3+
43.Kg1 Bf4+
44.Kf2 Rg2#
0-1



13...Na6 14.Nf3 f5 15.Bd3 f4 16.Bd2 Ng5
17.Nxg5 Qxg5 18.Qf3 Qh4 19.Nb5 c6
20.Na3 Nc5 21.Be2 Bf6 22.Rfe1 Bd8
23.Nb1 Kg7 24.Nc3 Bb6 25.Reb1 Rf6
26.a3 a4 27.Nxa4 Nxe4 28.Nxb6
Ockeloen,B-Fedeli,L (1983)/ICCF 2005/
Corr 2006/1/2-1/2.

14.f3 f4
15.Bf2 Qg5N

15...Bf6 16.a3 Bh4 17.Qe1 Bxf2+
18.Qxf2 g5 19.b4 axb4 20.axb4 Rxa1
21.Rxa1 Na6 22.c5 Nb8 23.Ra7 Bc8
24.Ra8 Nd7 25.cxd6 cxd6 26.Nc4 Qe7
27.Nb5 Ndf6 28.Qb6 1-0 Beil,M-
Sochna,D (2223)/Moravia 2003/EXT
2006.;

15...g5 16.a3 Rf7 17.b4 Na6 18.c5 Bc8
19.Nc4 Bf8 20.cxd6 Bxd6 21.Nb5 Rg7
22.Nbxd6 cxd6 23.Nb6 Rb8 24.Qa4 Nf6
25.Nxc8 Rxc8 26.Rac1 axb4 27.axb4 Ra8
28.Ra1 h5 29.b5 Nc7 30.Qc2 Leroy,D
(2316)-Brustkern,J (2224)/Budapest 2006/
CBM 115 ext/1-0.

16.Kh2± Na6
17.a3 Rfc8?



This just loses a tempo in the forthcoming exchange.

18.b4!± axb4
19.axb4 Nxb4
20.Rxa8 Rxa8
21.Qb3 c5?!

Silly after the obvious

22.dxc6+- Nxc6
23.c5+ Kh8
24.Qxb7 Ra7
25.Qb5 dxc5
26.Nc4 Nf8
27.Rd1 Nd4
28.Qb8 Nxe2
29.Nxe2 Ra2
30.Rxd7!

Removing the important light-squared Bishop, which was attacking the White Kingside position and also was an obstacle in the way of the White Kingside

attack!

30... Rxe2
31.Nd6



Threatening the obvious 32/Nf7+, forking King & Queen.

31... Qf6
32.Rf7

32.Rf7 Rb2 (32...Qg5?? 33.Rxf8+ Kh7 34.Rh8+ Bxh8 35.Qc7+ Bg7 36.Ne8 Qg3+ 37.Bxg3 f3g3+ 38.Kxg3 R3g2+ 39.Kxg2 g5 40.Qxg7#) 33.Qxb2 Qxd6 34.Qb5 Deep Junior 10: 34...Qe6 35.Qb7 Qa2 36.Bh4 Ne6 37.Qb8+ Kh7 38.Ra7 Qc2 39.Qxe5 Qa4 40.Qxg7+ Nxg7 41.Rxa4 g5 42.Bf2 Ne6 43.Ra5 c4 7.71/21. 1-0



SCCA Challenge Tournament, 2008
White: D R Cumming
Black: J McKinstry
Ruy Lopez [C86]
[Annotator D R Cumming]

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 a6
- 4.Ba4 Nf6
- 5.Qe2 b5
- 6.Bb3 Be7
- 7.0-0 0-0
- 8.c3 d5
- 9.d3 dxe4



9...Be6 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Qxe5 Bd6 13.Qe4 Re8 14.Qf3 a5 15.Nd2 a4 16.Bc2 Rf8 17.Qe4 Re8 18.Qf3 Qd7 19.h3 f5 20.Qd1 Bf7 21.Nf3

Bh5 22.a3 Bf4 23.d4 Bxc1 24.Rxc1 14.axb5
Strikovic,A (2557)-Sargissian,G (2658)/ 15.Na3
Zafra 2007cbm 117 EXT/0-1.;
9...h6 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.Re1 Be6 12.Nf1
d4 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.cxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4
Qxd4 16.Be3 Qd6 17.Rac1 Nd7 18.Rc2
Rac8 19.Rec1 c6 20.b4 Bd8 21.Qh5 Rf8
22.Bxh6 gxh6 23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.Qxh6+
Cimmino,P-Frederiks,R/ICCF corr 1994/
Corr 2002/1/2-1/2..

10.dxe4= Nd7N



10...h6 11.Rd1 Qe8 12.Nbd2 Bd6 13.a4 Na5 14.axb5 axb5 15.Nf1 Qc6 16.Bc2 Be6 17.Ng3 Bc4 18.Qe1 Nb3 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Be3 Ra2 21.Nf5 Rxb2 22.Rxd6 Qa8 23.Rxf6 Rxc2 24.Rxh6 gxh6 25.h3 Thoenes-Bodenstein,H/Hamburg 1910/ext 1999/1-0.;
10...Bc5 11.Bg5 Qe7 12.Nbd2 Nd8 13.Bh4 Rb8 14.Bg3 Bg4 15.Rfd1 Nh5 16.Nf1 Ne6 17.Bxe6 1/2-1/2. hEINZ, T (2261)-Hisler,T (2216)/Nancy 2006/CBM 110 ext.;
10...Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Bg5 Ne8 13.Bxe7 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Nxe7 15.Rd1 Nd6 16.Nd2 c6 17.Nf1 Qc7 18.a4 Rad8 19.Ng3 Nec8 20.axb5 axb5 21.Nf5 Nb6 22.Qe3 Nxf5 23.exf5 c5 24.f6 gxf6 25.Qh6 Alekhine,A-Junge,K/Poland 1942/ EXT 2001/1-0.

11.a4 Nc5?
12.Bd5!± Bb7
13.Rd1!



Another tempo-grabbing move, pressurising the d-file and x-raying the Black Queen on d8, threatening 14/Bxf7+ with the discovered attack on the Queen!

13... Bd6

axb5



This simply invites

- 15... Na5?
- 16.b4!+- Nab3
- 17.Bg5! Qc8?
- 18.bxc5 Bxd5
- 19.cxd6 Bc6?
- 20.Rab1 Qe6
- 21.Nxb5 Bxb5
- 22.Qxb5 f6
- 23.dxc7 h6
- 24.Rxb3 hxg5



- 25.Qd5 Kf7
- 26.c8Q!! Qxd5
- 27.Qc7+ Kg6
- 28.exd5 Rf7
- 29.Nxe5+

And faced with a catastrophic loss of material, Black bowed to the inevitable and resigned at this point!

1-0





International Update

By George Pyrich

Ian Marshall Successes

One of our longest standing members, Ian Marshall from Kirkcaldy, has enjoyed some considerable successes recently. Ian, a postal diehard, has recently clinched 1st place in ICCF World Higher Class postal event no. 1069 with the excellent score of 5 points from 6 games, thereby earning promotion to Master Class. Ian starts play very soon in his

first Master Class event WT/M/1069 against some strong opposition.

Ian has also enjoyed success in the postal events organised by our colleagues in the British Correspondence Chess Association and only recently has earned a place in the BCCA Championship Final following an excellent 6½/7 score in a Candidates section.

WT/H/1069				TD Brobakken, Bjørn											
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	SB	R	Place	
1	GER	80694	Jakobi, Wilfried	1715	█	½	0	½	½	½	0	2	5.25	0	6
2	GER	88411	Kolczykiewicz, Thomas	1835	½	█	1	½	½	1	½	4	11.5	0	2
3	FIN	460232	Rantanen, Veikko	2004	1	0	█	1	1	½	0	3.5	7.25	0	3
4	SLO	480051	Gacnik, Ljubomir	2002	½	½	0	█	1	½	½	3	7.75	0	4
5	USA	510182	Chace, Ernest F.	2007	½	½	0	0	█	0	0	1	3	0	7
6	USA	511000	Hayden, Michael V.	1956	½	0	½	½	1	█	0	2.5	5.25	0	5
7	SCO	620353	Marshall, Ian H.	1875	1	½	1	½	1	1	█	5	12.5	0	1

Marshall,I (1875) – Jakobi (GER),W (1715) [C41]

WT/H/1069, 30.11.2006

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 d6
 3.d4 exd4
 4.Nxd4 Nf6
 5.Nc3 Be7
 6.Bf4 0-0
 7.Be2 Bd7?!

Better is 7...Nc6

8.g4 h6?!

Better was 8...Nc6 when 9.g5 Ne8 10.h4 is unclear.

9.Rg1! g5?

After this Black is just lost – 9...Nc6 or even 9...d5 had to be tried.

10.Be3 Nc6

11.Nf5

11.h4 also looks good.

11... Bxf5

12.gxf5 Nh7

13.Qd2



13... f6
 14.h4 Kf7
 15.Bh5+ Kg7
 16.Nd5 Ne5
 17.Nf4 Kh8
 18.Ng6+ Kg7

18...Nxc6 simply loses a piece after 19.fxc6

19.Nxf8 Kxf8

20.f4

Wins as White's attack plays itself.

20... Nf7

21.Qd5 Nh8

22.fxc6 fxc6

23.Qc6 Kg7

24.e5 dxe5

25.f6+ Bxf6

26.Rd1 1-0



Hayden (USA),M (1956) – Marshall,I (1875) [E18]

WT/H/1069, 30.11.2006

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.d4 Nf6

2.c4 e6

3.Nf3 b6

4.g3 Bb7

5.Bg2 Be7

6.0-0 0-0

7.Nc3 Ne4

8.Nxe4 Bxe4

9.Ne1

9.Bf4 is probably a better try for an advantage.

9... Bxg2

10.Nxc2 d5

11...Qd7 either here or on the next move is also playable.
12.Be3 **Nd7**
13.Rfd1
 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Nf4 looks a better try for White.
13... **cxd4**
14.Rxd4 **Nf6**
15.Rdd1 **Qc7**
16.Rac1
 16.cxd5 Nxd5 is also comfortable for Black.
16... **Qe5**



17.Rc2 **Rfd8**
18.Bd4 **Qg5**
19.Be3 **Qf5**
20.f3?

A blunder although Black already stood well.

20... **dx4!**
21.Rxd8+ **Rxd8**
22.Qxc4??

And this makes it even worse.

22... **Rd1+**
23.Kf2 **Ng4+**
24.Qxg4 **Qxc2**
25.Bd4 **Rxd4!**
26.Ne3 **Qxb2**

0-1



Kolczykiewicz (GER),T (1835) – Marshall,I (1875)

[C68]

WT/H/1069, 30.11.2006

[Notes by George Pyrich]

In this game some resolute defence brings a vital draw against the 2nd place finisher and clinches Ian's win in the event

1.e4 **e5**
2.Nf3 **Nc6**
3.Bb5 **a6**
4.Bxc6 **dx6**
5.0-0 **Bg4**
6.h3 **Bxf3**

The main line here is 6...h5 but there's nothing wrong with Ian's choice.

7.Qxf3 **Qd7**
8.Qg3 **f6**
9.d3 **Bd6**
10.Nc3 **g5**

11.a3

Maybe the immediate 11.Rb1 with idea of b4 without delay is better – the pattern of the game is set – White will go for it on the Q-side whilst Black will charge down the other side – White's 8th left the Q a target for the Black pawns and wasn't best.

11... **h5**
12.b3 **0-0-0**
13.Bb2 **Nh6**
14.Nd1 **Rdg8**

Better was 14...h4 when after 15.Qe3 Kb8 Black has both g4 and f5 in the air.

15.Qe3 **c5**
16.b4 **b6**
17.Nc3 **Qg7**
18.Na4

18.Nd5 also looks strong.

18... **Qd7**
19.bxc5 **Be7**



20.Nxb6+!?

Objectively this shouldn't be good but it's not so easy to defend against.

20... **cx6**
21.cxb6 **Qc6**
22.d4 **Qxb6**
23.Qc3+ **Kd7?!**

Asking for trouble with the K in the centre. 23...Kb8 24.Rab1 Ka7 was better although difficult after 25.dxe5

24.dxe5 **Rc8**
25.Qd3+ **Ke8**
26.exf6 **Bxf6**
27.e5 **Qxb2**
28.Qxa6

Okay but 28.Qg6+ was crushing.

28... **Qc3**
29.Qxf6 **Nf7**
30.Rad1 **Rh6**
31.Qf5 **Qc6**
32.f4 **gxf4**
33.Qxf4 **Rc7**
34.Rb1 **Rb7**
35.Rb3 **Re6**
36.Rg3 **Kd8**
37.Qh4+ **Kc8**
38.Rg8+ **Re8**
39.Rxe8+ **Qxe8**
40.Qxh5

Here 40.Qc4+ with 40...Kb8 41.c6 was decisive. Now Black manages to wriggle out.

40... Qxe5
 41.Qg4+ Kb8
 42.Qf4 Qxf4
 43.Rxf4 Rc7
 44.h4 Ne5
 45.h5 Rxc2
 46.a4 Kc7



47.h6

Better was 47.g4 although the win is now not at all easy for White.

47... Rc1+
 48.Kh2 Rc6!
 49.Rh4 Rxh6!
 50.Rxh6 Ng4+
 51.Kg3 Nxb6
 52.a5 1/2-1/2



NATT 6

Barely 6 months have passed since the start of the 6th North Atlantic Team Tournament and already the Scots team has completed more than 40% of its games! Thus far the team collectively has 3 wins, 3 losses and 28 draws! With a 50% score it's hardly surprising that the team is presently mid-table. However, with such a high proportion of draws, it is also hardly surprising that the Icelandic team who currently lead the field have "only" a 58% score!

Anderson,G (2292) – Brandhorst,W (2430)

North Atlantic Team Tournament VI, 2008

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 e6
 3.g3 d5
 4.Bg2 dxc4
 5.Nf3 Nc6
 6.0-0 Rb8
 7.Nc3 a6
 8.e4 Be7

The main line here is 8...b5 when Umansky v. Palciauskas, ICCF World Champions Jubilee Tournament, 2001 continued 9.d5 Nb4 10.b3 cxb3 11.Qxb3 c5 12.dxc6 and later drawn]

9.d5

9.Qe2!? was played in Umansky v. Franzen, von Massow Memorial, 1996 9...Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Rd1 Qc5 12.e5 Nd7 13.Bf4 0-0 14.Rac1 and eventually drawn.

9... exd5
 10.exd5 Nb4
 11.Ne5 Bf5
 12.a3 Nd3
 13.Nxc4 0-0
 14.b4 Re8

14...Nxc1 is better here.

15.Be3 Qd7
 16.Ra2 Ng4
 17.Ne4 Nde5
 18.Nxe5 Nxe5
 19.Bd4



19... Nc4?!

Maybe 19...Bf8

20.Re1 b5
 21.Bc3 Bh3
 22.Qd4 f6
 23.Bxh3 Qxh3
 24.Rae2 Ne5
 25.Ng5!

Suddenly White has some strong pressure.

25... Qd7
 26.f4 h6
 27.fxe5 hxg5
 28.e6 Qd6
 29.Qe4 c6
 30.Qg6 cxd5
 31.Qf7+

And, with no effective defence to g4 and Re3– h3+, Black resigned.

1-0



Champions League

The 3rd cycle of the ICCF Champions League is now nearing conclusion. In Division C6, the Lewis Chessmen (Iain Mackintosh, George Livie, George Pyrich & Alan Borwell) have managed to improve a little since last time and, presently in 6th place, should finish in mid-table.

Satici,A (2335) – Mackintosh,I (2377) [A14]

Champions League CL/2007/C6, 2008

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.c4 Nf6
2.g3 e6
3.Bg2 d5
4.Nf3 Be7
5.0-0 0-0

5...c5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nc3 Nc6 is the Keres Defence, the other main alternative.

6.Qc2

Avoiding the main lines of 6.d4 and 6.b3.

6... d4

...but allowing this, which remains an irritation throughout.

7.d3 Nc6

8.a3 a5

9.e3 e5

10.exd4 exd4N

10...Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Be3 Qg4 13.Nc3 c6 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.dxe4 Qh5 16.Rad1 Be6 17.Bb6 a4 18.Qc3 f6 19.Rd2 c5 20.Rfd1 Rfc8 21.f4 Bg4 22.Rd7 Qe8 23.Qd3 Qxd7 24.Qxd7 Bxd7 25.Rxd7 Bd8 26.Rxb7 Bxb6 27.Rxb6 Rab8 28.Rb5 Rxb5 29.cxb5 c4 30.Bf1 Kf8 31.Kf2 c3 0-1 Bykhovsky,A-Iljin,A/Plovdiv BUL 2008, published on TWIC, arrived too late to be of any use!

11.Re1 Re8

12.Nbd2 h6

Black's basic idea is to cramp White's mobility.

13.Ne4 Nd7

14.b3 f5

15.Ned2 Bf6

16.Rb1 g5

17.Rxe8+ Qxe8

18.Kf1 Qe7

19.Bb2 Nc5

20.Ng1 Qd6

21.Ne2 Be6

22.Nf3

22.Bxc6?! Qxc6 23.Nxd4 Qh1+ 24.Ke2 Qg2 25.N4f3 Re8+ and White's king is exposed.

22... Bf7

23.Bc1 Ne6

24.Qd2 b6



25.b4

White starts to contest the blocked spaces.

25... Re8

26.h4 Bh5

27.hxg5 hxg5

28.b5 Ne5

29.Nxe5 Qxe5

30.Bd5 Kg7

31.Bb2?!

32.Qxe2

33.Kxe2

34.Kd2

35.Bc6

Bxe2+

Qxe2+

Nc5+

g4



35...

Re7

Black maintains spatial control.

36.Rg1?!

No good moves available.

36...

Na4!

The winning sequence.

37.Ba1

Nc3

38.Bxc3

Forced as 38.Re1 loses immediately to 38...Bg5+

38...

dx3+

39.Kd1

Bd4

40.Rg2

c2+!

40...a4 and going after the a3 pawn is also winning for Black but the text is much more incisive. White can do nothing to defend the f2 and g3 pawns.

41.Kxc2

Re2+

42.Kc1

Rxf2

42...Ra2 also finishes off.

0-1



In Division D6 promotion is now very much on the cards for the Scottish Claymores (Gordon Anderson, Alan Bell, Geoff Lloyd (who replaced Stuart Graham who had to retire due to ill-health) & Kevin Paine) with only a handful of games remaining. On board 1, Gordon Anderson has finished with an excellent 6 from 9 whilst on board 2 Alan Bell presently has an equally excellent unbeaten 6 from 8.

Geoff Lloyd has won 2 and drawn 4 games taking the team's score on board 3 to 5 from 9 whilst thus far Kevin Paine on board 4 has scored an excellent 5½ from 8. Overall the team now has 22½ from 34 and much will depend on the last 2 games still in progress!

Bohm,D (2041) – Lloyd,G (2235)

Champions League 2007 D Group 6 ICCF, 01.09.2007

[Notes by George Pyrich]

Here we see an incisive attack from Geoff.

1.e4

e5

2.Nf3

Nc6

3.Bb5 a6
 4.Ba4 Nf6
 5.0-0 Be7
 6.Re1 b5
 7.Bb3 d6
 8.d4 0-0
 9.c3 Bg4
 10.d5

10.Be3 is the other option here.

10... Na5
 11.Bc2 c6
 12.dxc6 Nxc6
 13.h3 Bd7
 14.Nbd2 Qc7
 15.Nf1 Rfc8
 16.Ng3 h6
 17.Be3 Rd8
 18.Qe2 Be6
 19.Bb3



19... d5!

Black is already a little better.

20.exd5 Nxd5
 21.Ne4? f5
 22.Nc5 Bf7

Now, with a 4 to 3 pawn majority on the K-side, Black simply advances.

23.Rad1 e4
 24.Nh2 Ne5
 25.Bxd5 Rxd5
 26.Rxd5 Bxd5
 27.Nb3 Nd3!
 28.Rd1 Bd6
 29.Nf1 f4
 30.Bd4 f3
 31.Qc2

31.gxf3 Nf4 is crushing.

31... fxe2
 32.Ng3 Qd7
 33.Kh2 Nf4

And White threw in the towel.

0-1



Olympiad XVI

Only a handful of games remain unfinished in Olympiad XVI Preliminaries which began in July 2005. Since our last issue, the USA team have moved up to 18½ with 3 games still to complete with the Slovak team now on 17½ with 5 games outstanding.

As reported last time, the Scots team of Richard Beecham, Iain Mackintosh, Alan Brown and Alan Borwell have finished all their games with a score of 19½ from 36 and so it now seems likely that our team will lose out in the battle for the 3rd qualification place. 2 games are still in progress in the USA v. Slovakia match.



Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Oct 2008	21	USA	Server/Post	2	1		
Oct 2008	28	England	Server/Post	1½	4½		
May 2008	50	Rest of World	Server/Post	18½	38½		
Oct 2007	20	Spain	Server	14½	23½		L
Jun 2007	14	Spain	Post	6	17		L
Apr 2007	20	Slovenia	Server	5½	31½		L
Apr 2007	20	Poland	Server	8	32		L
Nov 2006	28	Germany	Server/Post	19½	33½		L
Mar 2006	28	Sweden	Server/Post	17	39		L
Sep 2005	27	Denmark	Server/Post	16½	37½		L
Jul 2005	21	Australia	Server/Post	24	18		W
Mar 2005	24	Netherlands	Post/Email	16½	25½	2	L
Feb 2005	20	BCCS	Post/Email	18½	5½	16	W



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 2008-09

Theme 2/09: Ruy Lopez Breyer Variation, C94-5

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 Nb8

Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 March

Theme 3/09: Martens Snake Benoni, A60

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6

Entries by 1 April; play starts 15 April

Webserver Events 2008-09

Theme 2/09: French Defence Reti Variation, C00

1.e4 e6 2.b3

Entries by 1 March; play starts 15 March

Theme 3/09: Kings Indian Sämisch Variation, E80-9

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3

Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

Note there are no Email Events in 2009.

News

- ❑ GM Raymond Boger (NOR) is the new Services Director, taking over from Gino Figlio (PER).
- ❑ Josep Mercadal (SPA) has been appointed as Tournament Rules Commissioner.
- ❑ ChessBase has agreed to sponsor prizes for the new Rapid and Blitz events.
- ❑ Chesspublishing will sponsor World Cup 17.
- ❑ Opening Master has agreed to sponsor Promotion class and Thematics (2009-10), World Championship preliminaries and semi-finals (2010).
- ❑ 1000 special ICCF brochures were distributed at the FIDE Olympiad in Dresden.
- ❑ Webserver events starting 1st January 2009 or later will include a new time calculation rule – if you haven't moved for 20 days, subsequent days will count double.

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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