

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.107

Autumn 2009

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Welcome to the autumn edition of 2009, edited in between stints of showing my grandson the hippo and dog video of *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* on YouTube – recommended!

Our first Webserver Open now has a winner – Alan Bell of Falkirk taking the title with David Kilgour and Tom Matheis sharing second spot. David was denied top spot by Alan Borwell who won their tense final game a short time ago. Congratulations to all!

Kevin Paine kicks off this edition with a Challengers update, and hopes that players will try to complete at least 8 games to be eligible for a medal place. Kevin will also be sending out membership renewals to everybody soon.

ICCF has published its third rating list of the year, and George Pyrich takes us through the Scottish movements – a few new entrants this time round, and enough statistics to keep a baseball fan happy!

Bernard’s CD review section includes offerings from Shirov, Davies and Martin. His games column includes a well-annotated contribution from Alan Bell in celebration of that Webserver Open win, plus some game scores from Geoff Phillips – good to see him in print too.

This year’s ICCF Congress was held in Leeds where regular attendees George Pyrich and Alan Borwell were joined for two days by Kevin Paine and myself. The industrious George has supplied a full account of proceedings, including the award of the SIM title to Richard Beecham and his own IA certificate – congratulations to both!

Post-congress duties have limited George’s international column to summary results, so I’ve filled in with some more games from Olympiad XVI.

There’s a fairly lively letters page to complete this issue, carrying yet more games and fragments.

ICCF have announced that entries are open for the European Individual Championship 68 (semi-finals). This is a stiff event (and fairly expensive), but is well worthwhile. GMs and SMs are automatically eligible, and the SCCA can also nominate a further player – contact George Pyrich if you are interested.



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

2009	1st	2nd
September	A Maxwell	G W G Livie
August	L R McKenzie	S R Mannion
July	P M Giulian	J Anderson

SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
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Challengers 2009

By Kevin Paine

Current Standings

Standings at 1st October are as follows:

2008-09 Cycle	Games	Completed	Ongoing	Points
Anderson, J	2	2	0	0
Bennett, P G	2	0	2	0
Brooksbank, Dr K	2	2	0	½
Cumming, D R	20	20	0	18
Gough, E	2	0	2	0
Hardwick, M E	2	2	0	0
Knox A	2	2	0	0
Loughran, R	2	2	0	1
McKinstry, J	2	2	0	0
Neil, C	8	8	0	1
Newton, A	4	4	0	0
Phillips, G H	4	4	0	3½
Toye, D T	4	4	0	2

2009-10 Cycle	Games	Completed	Ongoing	Points
Almarza-Mato, C	6	0	6	0
Anderson, J	8	6	2	6
Brooksbank, Dr K	6	6	0	6
Burton, C	8	7	1	3
Cumming, D R	8	0	8	0
Domnin, M	6	6	0	0
Fraser, R A	6	0	6	0
Graham, S	6	4	2	4
Hardwick, M E	4	2	2	0
Macgregor, C A	8	4	4	2
McKinstry, J	6	6	0	4
Mahony, J	12	12	0	0
Miller, S	6	6	0	6
Moir, P J	8	4	4	2
Sheridan, N	6	6	0	2
Toye, D T	4	1	3	0

Players are reminded that they can join the event at any stage during the year, and can ask for additional games at any time. Contact me at: membership@scottishcca.co.uk

To be eligible for a medal, players need to complete 8 games against 3+ different opponents during a year.

All modes of play – webserver, email and postal – are now supported, with pairings administered on the webserver.

Sample Game

MacGregor, C (1882) – Graham, S (2119) [E21]
SCCA Challengers 2009–10

[Notes by Kevin Paine]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.Nf3 b6
5.Qb3 c5
6.Bg5 Nc6

7.e3 Despite playing this, it's interesting to note that White never gets a safe chance to move the King's bishop and castle.

7... h6
8.Bh4 Na5
9.Qc2 cxd4
10.exd4 Bb7
11.Ne5 Rc8
12.Rc1 0-0
13.Qa4 Bxc3+
14.Rxc3 g5
15.Bg3 d6
16.Nd3 Ne4
17.Rc1 Qf6
18.c5 dxc5
19.dxc5 Rfd8
20.Be2



20... Nxc5!
21.Rxc5 Rxc5
22.Nxc5 Qxb2!
23.0-0 Qxe2
24.Nxb7 b5
25.Qxa5 Rd1
26.Qd8+ Rxd8
27.Nxd8 Qxa2
28.Nc6 b4!

The still uncastled king suddenly looks very fragile. Consequently, Black regains the piece and is two pawns up.

[White can't capture the pawn with 29.Nxb4 because of 29...Qc4]

0-1



2009 Grading List Autumn Update

By George Pyrich

The third ICCF grading list for 2009 has been published and the new grades are based on 3 months' results from 1 June to 31 August 2009. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 October and 31 December 2009. You need to complete 12 ICCF-eligible games to obtain a provisional rating (* below). Provisional ratings apply until 30 games have been processed. Rating changes are denoted by arrows. Email grader@scottishcca.co.uk if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
318	Almarza Mato, C	371	2016 ↓	256	Lennox, C J (SM)	151	2291 ↓
518	Anderson, G M	158	2303 ↑	503	Livie, G W G (IM)	178	2334 ↔
121	Anderson, J	162	1732 ↑	264	Lloyd, G	327	2195 ↑
049	Armstrong, A	111	1896 ↔	337	Loughran, R	58	1720 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	82	1580 ↓	441	MacCaellich-Young, Ms J	15	1517 ↔ *
015	Baxter, R W M (SM)	59	2332 ↔	433	MacDonald, M	26	1583 ↔ *
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	305	2506 ↑	367	MacDonald, P H	39	1952 ↔
599	Bell, A D	43	2332 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	213	1907 ↑
431	Binnie, J	15	1573 ↑ *	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	437	2312 ↑
022	Bird, A G E	10	0 ↔ *	216	MacMillen, A N	393	2008 ↑
520	Bird, Prof G H	47	2078 ↔	457	Mahony, J	18	1460 ↑ *
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	656	2206 ↔	566	Marshall, I H	297	2065 ↔
427	Brooksbank, Dr K	26	1901 ↑ *	434	Matheis, T (SM)	121	2420 ↑
215	Brown, Dr A C (SM)	206	2318 ↔	083	Maxwell, A	43	2181 ↔
424	Burridge, R J	20	1784 ↑ *	591	May, M A	78	2283 ↔
458	Burton, C	7	0 ↔ *	352	McDonald, G R	79	1921 ↓
435	Cairney, J	8	0 ↔ *	391	McIntee, C I	82	1716 ↔
423	Calder, H	88	2061 ↓	525	McKerracher, D	4	0 ↔ *
096	Campbell, A W I	32	1798 ↔	412	McKinstry, J	28	1559 ↑ *
038	Campbell, I S	210	1873 ↔	391	McIntee, C I	82	1716 ↓
585	Collins, S	22	1828 ↔ *	412	McKinstry, J	32	1624 ↑
173	Cook, W M	56	1973 ↓	001	McNab, Dr C A (SIM)	144	2452 ↔
364	Coope, D W	370	1945 ↑	409	Miller, S	28	1720 ↑ *
247	Cormack, W H	15	1993 ↑ *	178	Milligan, B (SM)	154	1933 ↔
527	Craig, T J (SM)	320	2374 ↑	401	Moir, P J	34	1717 ↓
332	Crawley, J	13	1912 ↔ *	438	Montgomery, J	9	0 ↔ *
166	Cumming, D R	314	2230 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S	139	2276 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G	45	2236 ↑	338	Morrow, J	10	0 ↔ *
422	Dawson, J	2	0 ↔ *	564	Murray, J S	22	1956 ↑ *
572	Dempster, D	451	1625 ↑	440	Neil, C	48	1781 ↑
430	Doherty, T	19	1706 ↔ *	453	Newton, A	15	1818 ↔ *
595	Domnin, M	6	0 ↔ *	429	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	58	1936 ↑
371	Edney, D	130	1984 ↓	444	Paine, Dr K A	54	2078 ↓
340	Finnie, D S (SIM)	193	2538 ↔	379	Phillips, G H	205	2104 ↔
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	122	2346 ↓	432	Price, D	71	1953 ↑
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)	451	2426 ↔	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	723	2256 ↑
124	Goodwin, B J	96	2035 ↓	343	Rawlinson, J	7	0 ↔ *
445	Graham, S	138	2178 ↑	136	Reeman, I F	127	2306 ↔
399	Grant, J	14	1774 ↑ *	437	Roberts, A	110	1836 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	91	1456 ↓	407	Ross, D W	26	1920 ↔ *
556	Hartford, Mrs E A	168	1912 ↔	398	Rough, R E	23	1893 ↔ *
063	Harvey, D	66	2035 ↓	522	Savage, D J	72	1966 ↓
597	Hind, A	32	2205 ↔	449	Scott, A	40	1912 ↔
510	Hislop, A T	169	1936 ↔	454	Sheridan, N	6	0 ↔ *
515	Jack, J P E	22	1794 ↓ *	439	Smith, M J	17	1820 ↔ *
447	Jamieson, I M	18	2019 ↑ *	448	Sreeves, C	9	0 ↔ *
514	Jenkins, D M	76	2232 ↔	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	119	2125 ↑
322	Jessing, M	25	2125 ↑ *	442	Swan, I	55	2394 ↔
415	Kerr, A	10	0 ↔ *	1120	Taylor, W	13	2106 ↑ *
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	274	2394 ↔	1121	Thomson, D	2	0 ↔ *
260	Knox, A	59	1674 ↔	452	Toye, D T	13	1771 ↑ *

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
1117	Laing, D	14	2101 ↑ *	065	Young, S M	44	1900 ↔
419	Lees, J A	77	2070 ↔				

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	105
New entrants	6
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Full grades (30+ games)	68
Provisional grades (<30 games)	37
Grading increases (↑)	35
Grading decreases (↓)	18
Grading static (↔)	52

Top 30 Grades

Finnie, D S (SIM)	2538	Anderson, G M	2303
Beecham, C R (SIM)	2506	Lennox, C J (SM)	2291
McNab, Dr C A (SIM)	2452	May, M A	2283
Giulian, P M (SIM)	2426	Montgomery, R S	2276
Matheis, T (SM)	2420	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2256
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2394	Dawson, Prof A G	2236
Swan, I	2394	Jenkins, D M	2232
Craig, T J (SM)	2374	Cumming, D R	2230
Gillam, S R (SM)	2346	Borwell, A P (IM)	2206
Livie, G W G (IM)	2334	Hind, A	2205
Baxter, R W M (SM)	2332	Lloyd, G	2195
Bell, A D	2322	Maxwell, A	2181
Brown, Dr A C (SM)	2318	Graham, S	2178
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2312	Jessing, M	2125
Reeman, I F	2306	Stewart, Dr K W C	2125

Top 30 Games Played

Pyrich, G D (IM)	723	Brown, Dr A C (SM)	206
Borwell, A P (IM)	656	Phillips, G H	205
Giulian, P M (SIM)	451	Finnie, D S (SIM)	193
Dempster, D	451	Livie, G W G (IM)	178
Mackintosh, I (IM)	437	Hislop, A T	169
MacMillen, A N	393	Hartford, Mrs E A	168
Coope, D W	370	Anderson, J	162
Lloyd, G	327	Anderson, G M	158
Craig, T J (SM)	320	Milligan, B (SM)	154
Cumming, D R	314	Lennox, C J (SM)	151
Beecham, C R (SIM)	305	McNab, Dr C A (SIM)	144
Marshall, I H	297	Montgomery, R S	139
Kilgour, D A (GM)	274	Graham, S	138
MacGregor, C A	213	Edney, D	130
Campbell, I S	210	Reeman, I F	127

Other Notes

This list includes a number of our members who are registered with other countries, and members who have played <12 games and have yet to receive a provisional rating. Some 34 players registered as SCO with ICCF, but who are not SCCA members, have been filtered out.

To check your rating online at any time, go to the ICCF webserver site (<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/>), click on the Rating list link then complete the search boxes.

The main ICCF website (<http://www.iccf.com/>) allows you to download a free program which allows you to analyse your previous and future rating performance.

Go to ICCF Ratings on the main menu then click on the Download Eloquery link. Various zip files are available, containing the program, ratings database, historical and tournament data.



The Sicilian with 3.Bb5 By Alexei Shirov



I never Considered myself a great chess player even when I reached the Scottish Master level. It always seemed as though a great deal of hard work was involved. That said there were certain lines which I instinctively enjoyed playing and this is one of them, as well as the Najdorf and some lines of the King's Indian.

I used to spend hour upon hour reading books on the lines covered by this Shirov DVD. I don't know if reading made me tired but I do know that watching this video seemed to make things clearer. Cheebbase probably describe the DVD better:-

The Rossolimo Variation of the Sicilian Defence (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5) is always an excellent choice with White if you want to avoid the deeply analysed main lines of the Open Sicilian (3.d4), in which the analysis frequently goes deep into the middlegame or sometimes even into the endgame. For that reason the move 3.Bb5 has a firm place in the repertoire of many grandmasters where it is welcome above all as an anti-Sveshnikov weapon. Instead of getting involved in a theoretical duel, White logically aims for strategically complex positions, e.g. by exchanging on c6 and at the cost of the bishop pair degrading Black's pawn structure (doubled pawns c6/c5). This results in positions in which positional understanding is more important than knowledge of specific

their way through them. Alexei Shirov provides you with the requisite understanding of the subtleties of these positions, by annotating extensively his most important games in this variation. During his career he has played the 3.Bb5 system with both colours and he shares with you on this DVD his valuable experience in the form of video lessons which take up a total running time of more than seven hours.

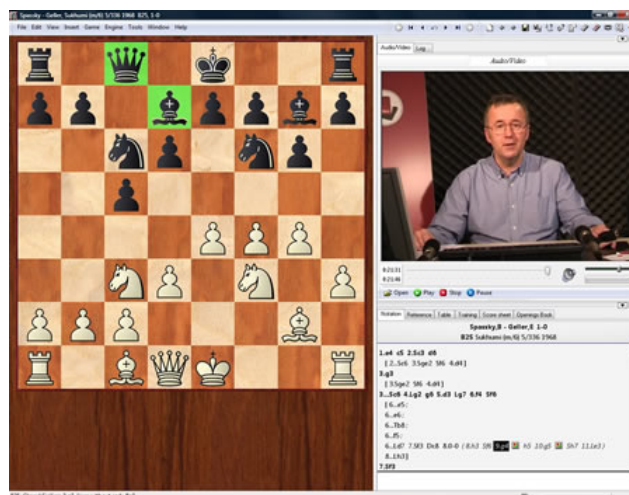
The f4 Sicilian By Nigel Davies



This DVD by Grand Master Nigel Davies tackles the various lines of the Grand Prix Attack including the positions to Bb5 as well as the sharper lines such as for example the following game which is a nice example of how to win with Black against the move 5.Bc4.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 e6 6.f5 Nge7 7.fxex6 dxe6 [7...fxex6] 8.0-0 Nd4 9.d3 Nec6 10.Bg5 [10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2] 10...Nxf3+ 11.Qxf3 Bd4+ 12.Be3 [12.Kh1 Qxg5 13.Qxf7+ Kd8] 12...Bxe3+ 13.Qxe3 Qd4 14.Qxd4 cxd4 15.Nb5 Ke7 16.Rae1 Bd7 17.Nc7 [17.e5 a6 18.Nd6 Nxe5 19.Rxe5 Kxd6] 17...Rac8 18.Nd5+ Kd6 [18...exd5 19.exd5+] 19.Nf6 Ne5 20.c3 dxc3 21.bxc3 Ba4 22.Bb3 [22.Rb1 b6] 22...Bxb3 23.axb3 Nxd3 24.Rd1 Rxc3 25.Rf3 Ke7 26.Ng4 Rd8 27.Nf2 Nxf2 28.Rxd8 Rxf3 29.gxf3 Kxd8 0-1 { EU-chT (Men) 13th Leon (1), 06.11.2001 }

GM Davies does not recommend the Bc4 move but simple suggests Bb5 but the whole game is model game of how to win with Black against it.



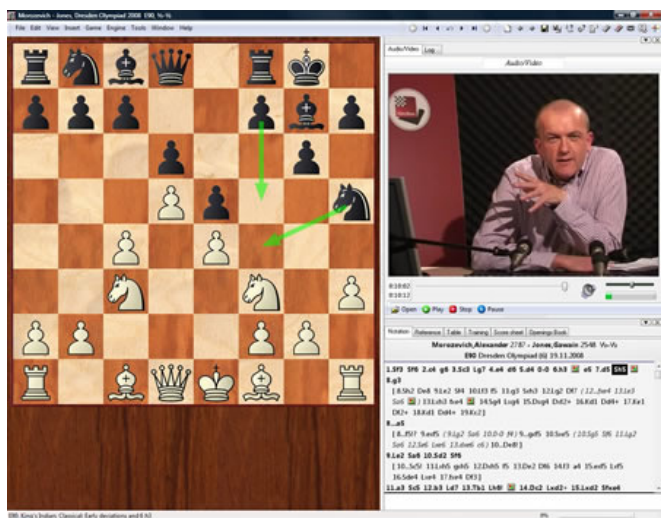
variations - meaning that only players who are aware of the general plans and typical piece manoeuvres will be able to find

Davies prefers on this DVD the move order with 2.Nc3, to avoid the gambit line 2...d5! 3.exd5 Nf6 where black gets a great deal of compensation for the pawn.

The ABC of the King's Indian By Andrew Martin



On this original and entertaining DVD, International Master Andrew Martin takes you on a guided tour of this fascinating and creative opening. Through the use of complete games, both classic and modern and some repertoire suggestions Martin paints a comprehensive picture of the current state of play and looks towards the future. In the new, expanded 2nd edition there are many recent clashes and some remarkable modern ideas are discussed. The King's Indian is as uncompromising and resilient as ever! This DVD will inspire all players and demonstrate that the King's Indian is very much alive on the modern master scene. Video running time: 5 hours.



Williams - Hebden
British Championship, 2009
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 Na6 7.Bd3 e5 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.d5 [9.Nxe5 Qxd4; 9.dxe5] 9...c6 10.0-0 Nc5 11.Bc2 cxd5 12.cxd5 b6 [12...Ne8 13.Be3 Na6 14.a3 Nd6 15.Bd3 b6 16.b4 f5] 13.b4 Nb7 [13...Na6 14.a3] 14.Bg5 Qd6 15.a3 Bd7 16.Bd3 Rfc8 17.Rc1 a5 18.Qb3 axb4 19.axb4 Nh5 20.Nb5 Qf8 [20...Bxb5 21.Bxb5 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Nd8 23.Nd2 Bf8 24.Rb1 Nf4 25.Nc4] 21.Nc7 Rab8 [21...Ra7 22.Be3 Nf4 23.Bxf4 exf4 24.e5] 22.Ba6 Nf4 [22...Qd6 23.Nb5 Bxb5 24.Bxb5 Nd8 25.Nd2] 23.Bxf4 exf4 24.e5 Bg4 [24...Nc5 25.bxc5 bxc5 26.Nb5 Rxb5 (26...Rb6 27.Bxc8 Rxb5 28.Qc4 Qxc8 29.Qxf4; 26...c4 27.Rxc4 Rc5 28.Rb4 Rb6 29.Nd6 Rxa6 30.Rb8 Bc8 31.Ne4 Rc7 32.d6) 27.Bxb5 Rb8 28.d6 Rxb5 (28...Bxb5 29.Rb1) 29.Qd5] 25.d6 Rd8 26.Ng5 Rd7 27.Rxf4 Nxd6 28.exd6 Qxd6 [28...Rxd6

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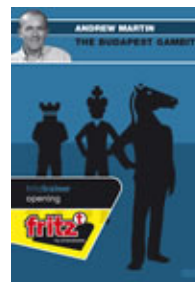
29.Rxf7] 29.Rxf7 Rxf7 30.Qxf7+ Kh8 31.Bc4 Qf6 32.Ne8 1-0

Andrew Martin explains instructively on this DVD where Hebden went wrong, yes with 12...b6 and 14...Qd6. Semko Semkov wrote in his terrific Kill KID after 9...c6:Knaak puts explanation mark to this move in his 2005 survey. It is hardly any better than the other options though. White obtains the better game with simple developing. Interesting to mention is that Semkov gives after 10.0-0 cxd5 11.cxd5 Ne8 12.Be3 Nd6 the novelty 13.Qa4! {Semkov: I have tested this novelty several times in blitz. The queen is heading for a3 from where it will pressurise d6.

The Willems - Hebden game is also published in the latest British Chess Magazine where, John Saunders writes 12...Ne8 13.Be3 Na6 14.a3 Nd6 15.Bd3 b6 16.b4 f5 17.Rc1 Nc7 18.Bg5 Qd7 Fridman - Vovk, ICC International 2009, was won by black.

As a lover of the King's Indian I found this a highly instructive DVD.

The Budapest Gambit by Andrew Martin



Most chess players are naturally talented, but do not have the time to devote to chess theory, such is the pace of modern life. Yet it is human nature to want to do things well and to achieve good results. To make the right choice of opening system is therefore of crucial importance for these players if they want to make the most of what they have.

Below master level and especially with Black, the most crucial thing is to strive for the initiative. It is absolutely no good trying to gradually equalize. Leave that to Karpov, Kramnik and the world championship matches, where we can admire the defensive technique from afar.

Try this style at club level and one ends up exhausted and frustrated. Pressurizing the opponent means getting on to the attack and this is where the fiery Budapest Gambit comes into play. After 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 Black immediately takes the fight to White at the cost of a pawn.

Active piece play is the predominant theme. Tactics abound. White can lose in a few moves if he or she does not know what they are doing. A life and death struggle is rarely what the White player wants at such an early stage of the game.

At the very least the position will be laced with interest. Study of the Budapest Gambit will place an extremely dangerous weapon into the hands of the club player. Video running time: 4 hours 20 min.

Scandinavian The Easy Way By Andrew Martin



It's easy-to-learn and easy-to-play. Here is an opening for Black which will furnish good results in the shortest possible time. Which other opening could we be referring to apart from the Scandinavian or Centre-Counter Defence; 1 e4 d5 !

International Master Andrew Martin has written extensively on the Centre-Counter and here he turns his attention to 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd6!? Playing flat out for the win against 1 e4 is never easy, but here we encounter a variation where Black can do just that! All relevant second and third move alternatives for White are covered too!

This DVD will be a boon to all chessplayers, but particularly to the busy person with limited time for study or those who wish to incorporate a new defence into their Black repertoire with the minimum possible hassle. This really is the Scandinavian – the easy way!

Since the first edition of this DVD, the Scandinavian with 3...Qd6 has become very popular. Rightly so, because it ticks a lot of boxes for the competitive chessplayer. Important games are being played in this line frequently all over the world at all levels. In this new, updated 'Scandinavian, the easy way',

Andrew Martin casts his eye over recent trends and offers solutions for Black in the critical lines. He reworks 3...Qd6 and modernizes the variation where necessary. Black can still play 3...Qd6 with confidence! Video running time: 4 hours



Rubinstein, Akiba - Vidmar, Milan Sr [A52]
Berlin Berlin, 1918, 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Bf4 Nc6 [4...Bc5 5.e3] 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Qe7 7.Qd5 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Qa3 [8...f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Qd3 d6] 9.Rc1 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.Qd2 d6 12.Nd4 0-0 13.e3 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Ne4 15.Qc2 Qa5+ 16.Ke2 Rxf4 17.exf4 Bf5 18.Qb2 Re8 19.Kf3 Nd2+ [19...h5 20.g3 (20.h3 h4) 20...Ng5+ (20...Nd2+ 21.Kg2 Be4++) 21.fxg5 (21.Kg2 Bh3+ 22.Kg1 Nf3#) 21...Be4+ 22.Ke2 Bc2+ 23.Kf3 Qf5+ 24.Kg2 Be4+ 25.Kg1 Qf3] 20.Kg3 Ne4+ 21.Kh4 [21.Kf3 h5 22.h3 h4 23.Rd1 Ng5+ 24.fxg5 Be4+ 25.Kf4 (25.Ke3 Bc2+ 26.Kf3 Qf5#) 25...Qf5+ 26.Ke3 Qxg5+] 21...Re6 22.Be2 Rh6+ 23.Bh5 Rxh5+ 24.Kxh5 Bg6+ [24...Bg6+ 25.Kh4 Qh5#] 0-1

This encounter was the first example of the Budapest Gambit in a Master's Tournament. 8...Qa3 came as a complete shock for Rubenstein but 8...f6 is a better alternative for black, as Martin explains with instructive words on this DVD. It is important to play active chess and no dilly dolly hanging around the edges with black, move and strike back!

There is a host of possibilities for white but Andrew Martin patiently explains on this DVD, with easy to understand lines. There are not only classic beauties on this DVD but a fine balance from classic till games from today as we can see in the following blitz game:

Ivanchuk, Vassily (2781) - Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar (2742) [A52]
Moscow Tal Memorial Blitz Moscow (10), 29.08.2008
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.e3 Nc6 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Nc3 Re8 10.Rb1 a5 11.a3 d6 12.b4 axb4 13.axb4 Ba7 14.Qc2 Be6 15.Nb5 Bb8 16.Rd1 Qf6 17.Bb2 Bf5 18.e4 Bg6 19.f3 c6 20.Nc3 h5 [20...Ba7+ 21.Kh1 Qh4 22.Ra1 (22.Bf1 Rad8 23.Bc1 (23.Ne2 Be3 24.Bd4 Bxd4 25.Nxd4 d5) 23...Bh5) 22...Bf2 23.Rxa8 Rxa8] 21.Ra1 Ba7+ [21...Rxa1 22.Bxa1 Ba7+ 23.Kh1 Be3] 22.Kh1 h4 [22...Bf2! 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Bf1 Qh4 25.Ne2 Ra2 26.Qb3 Rxb2 27.Qxb2 Nxc4] 23.Rf1 [23.Qd2!] 23...Qf4 24.Bc1 Be3 25.Bxe3 Qxe3 26.Qc1 Qd4 27.Rd1 Rxa1 28.Qxa1 Qf2 29.Rf1 Qd4 30.Rd1 Qf2 31.Rf1 Qe3 32.Qc1 Qd4 33.Rd1 Qf2 34.Rf1 Qd4 35.Rd1 Qf2 36.Rf1 ½-½

As Martin explains on this DVD, it is all a matter of active play!



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

I hope this edition finds you all well and continuing to enjoy your games of chess. Once again we are hitting a dry spell with only one game being received for the games column in the last three months. Still as the season draws to an end I am sure you can all find some gems to send in. This edition has three games played on the Webserver. This seems to be one of the ways forward for the future. It would be interesting to see some more games from events played on it.

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Final ICCF, 11.02.2008

White: Alan D Bell
Black: John McBride
French Defence [C18]
[Annotator Alan D Bell]

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 1.e4 | e6 |
| 2.d4 | d5 |
| 3.Nc3 | Bb4 |
| 4.e5 | c5 |
| 5.a3 | Bxc3+ |
| 6.bxc3 | Qc7 |
| 7.Qg4 | f5 |
| 8.Qg3 | cxd4 |
| 9.cxd4 | Ne7 |
| 10.Ne2 | |



George is right to highlight this as an improvement on the main line 10.Bd2 0-0 11.Bd3 b6 12.Ne2 Ba6 I picked up this line from PTF3 and have now won several games with it. Personally I no longer trust this line for Black.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 10... | 0-0 |
| 11.c3 | b6 |
| 12.Nf4 | Qd7 |
| 13.a4 | Ba6 |
| 14.Bb5 | Bxb5 |
| 15.axb5 | a5 |

All theory so far.

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 16.h4 | Nc8 |
| 17.h5 | Qf7 |



Once the pawn gets to h6 it leaves the Black King very vulnerable. Unfortunately, trying to stop it runs into a vicious sacrifice.
17...h6 18.Nd3 Kh8 19.Bxh6 gxh6 with a sample line: 20.Qg6 Re8 21.Rh3 Rg8 22.Qxh6+ Qh7 23.Qxe6 Qd7 24.Qf6+ Qg7 25.Qxf5 Qxg2 26.Nf4 Qe4+ 27.Qxe4 dxe4 28.Ke2+- and the pawns will roll to victory.

- | | |
|-------|----|
| 18.h6 | g6 |
|-------|----|

So far Black has done little wrong but is already lost!

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 19.c4! | Ne7 |
|--------|-----|

George rightly points out that Black is lost after this - the pawns just strangle Black. However his alternative line was certainly losing and I am sure that this was why John did not play it.
19...dxc4 20.d5! George says this looks unconvincing but it is actually a killer.
20...exd5 21.Bb2



Black, though currently two pawns up, cannot blockade the e pawn successfully with the knights so badly placed; meanwhile the Queen has to guard against

a Knight sacrifice on g6 as well as trying to cover the long diagonal. A couple of sample lines: 21...Re8 (21...Ne7 22.e6 Qe8 23.Qc3 and mates) 22.0-0 Re6 (22...Qe7 23.Nxg6 hxg6 24.Qxg6+ leads to mate) 23.Nxd5 Ra7 (23...Nd7 24.Nc7) 24.Rad1 Nd7 25.Qc3 Nf8 26.Qxc4 Ne7 27.Nf4 and White has recovered the pawns with an exchange thrown in for good measure.

- | | |
|-------|----|
| 20.c5 | a4 |
|-------|----|



- | | |
|---------|------|
| 21.Ba3 | bxc5 |
| 22.dxc5 | Nd7 |
| 23.0-0 | Rfe8 |
| 24.Rfe1 | Rab8 |
| 25.Rab1 | Rbc8 |
| 26.Rbc1 | Rb8 |
| 27.c6 | Nb6 |
| 28.c7 | Rbc8 |
| 29.Nh5 | f4 |



- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 30.Qg4 | Kh8 |
| 31.Nf6 | 1-0 |



SCCA Webserver League 2009
White: Iain Mackintosh (2274)
Black: John Sargent (2154)
Scotch Game [C45]
[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

Here is a fine open game played against a very sporting opponent in division 1 of the inaugural webserver league.

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.d4 exd4
 4.Nxd4 Nf6
 5.Nxc6 bxc6
 6.e5 Qe7
 7.Qe2 Nd5
 8.c4 Ba6

8...Nb6 9.Nd2 a5 10.Qe4 g6 11.Bd3 Bg7
 12.0-0 0-0=

9.b3 Qh4



John decides attack is the best form of defence! 9...g6 and; 9...0-0-0 are more common here.

10.a3 Bc5
 11.g3 Bxf2+
 12.Qxf2 Qe4+
 13.Kd1 Qxh1
 14.Nd2 f6

14...Nc3+ 15.Kc2 Ne4 16.Nxe4 Qxe4+
 17.Bd3 Qg4 18.Bf5 Qh5 19.h4 f6 20.exf6
 gxf6 21.Bb2 0-0 22.g4 Qf7 23.Rg1 Rab8
 24.Qd4 c5 25.Qxc5 Rfe8 26.Bd3±
 Dovzik-Ganguly, 1998, Szeged, 1-0

15.e6!N



The best try for a lasting advantage, albeit with lots of complicated tactics to get through first. 15.cxd5 Bxf1 16.Qxf1 Qxh2 17.exf6 0-0 with equal chances.; 15.Kc2 fxe5 16.Bb2 Rf8 17.Qe2 Ne7 18.Re1 with

White slightly better.

15... 0-0

15...0-0 16.Qxa7 Bb7 17.exd7+ Rxd7
 18.cxd5 Qxd5 19.Qe3±

16.Kc2 dxe6
 17.Bb2

17.cxd5? Bxf1 18.Bb2 Bd3+ 19.Kxd3
 Qxd5+ 20.Kc2 e5±

17... Ne3+

Freeing his queen

18.Qxe3 Qxh2
 19.Bd3

Preparing Rh1. 19.Qxe6+?! Rf7 hands back some initiative to Black.

19... Rad8
 20.Be4 h6
 21.Rh1 Rxd2+
 22.Qxd2 Qxg3



Four connected Black passed pawns! White needs to profit from his greater spatial control.

23.Rh2

23.Bd4 Rd8 24.Rg1 Qxg1 25.Bxg1
 Rxd2+ 26.Kxd2 Bb7 27.Bxa7 should also win for White.

23... e5
 24.Rg2 Qh3
 25.Qf2 Qe6
 26.Bc3

Threatening further crossfire down the b4-f8 diagonal.

26... Bb7
 27.Qxa7 Qc8
 28.Qg1 g5
 29.Rh2 c5
 30.Bd3



Better on than off.

30... e4
 31.Be2 Qf5

31...Kg7 32.Qxc5 is no better.

32.Rxh6 e3+
 33.Bd3

Safely avoiding 33.Kd1?? Qb1#

33... Qf2+
 34.Qxf2 exf2
 35.Rg6+



and Black lost on time. After 35.Rg6+ Kf7 36.Rxf6+ Ke7 37.Rxf8 Kxf8 38.Bf1 White picks up the f-pawn and wins the endgame 1-0



SCCA Webserver League 2009

White: Simon Gillam (2363)
Black: Iain Mackintosh (2274)
 Catalan [E01]
 [Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

Another open game from the 1st Webserver League.

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 e6
 3.g3

The Catalan - quite appropriate, as my first grandchild was born in French Catalonia shortly after the game started!

3... c5

Trying a Benoni flavour to avoid the main lines after 3.d5

4.Nf3 cxd4
5.Nxd4 d5
6.Bg2 e5

The sharpest line I could find for Black.

7.Nf3

7.Nc2 d4 8.f4 Nc6 9.fxe5 Nxe5= was an alternative.

7... d4!?

Maybe over-extending, but the d-pawn becomes a nuisance for White.

8.0-0 Nc6
9.e3 Be7
10.exd4 exd4
11.Bf4 0-0
12.Ne5 Qb6
13.Qb3 Na5
14.Qf3N



14.Qxb6 axb6 15.Nd2 Nh5 16.Nef3 Nxf4 17.gxf4 Bd6 18.Ne5 Be6 19.b3 f6 20.Nd3 Nc6 21.Ne4 Bc7 22.c5 Bf5 23.Rfd1 Rad8 24.cxb6 Bxb6 25.Nec5 Nb4 26.Nxb4 Bxc5 27.Nd3 Bxd3 28.Rxd3 Rf7 29.a3 Rc7 30.b4 Be7 31.Rad1 Ra8 32.Be4 g6 33.f5 g5 34.Kg2 Kf8 35.Rh3 Rd7 36.Rhd3 Rc7 37.Bd5 Kg7 38.h4 h6 39.h5 Ra7 40.Rf3 Rc3 41.Rxd4 Raxa3 42.Rxc3 Rxc3 43.Bxb7 Rb3 44.Rd7 Kf8 45.Rc7 Rxb4 46.Rc8+ Kg7 47.Bd5 Rg4+ 48.Kf1 Rd4 1/2-1/2 Aronian - Carlsen, Elista Russia, 2007.

14... Bf5

I didn't like the look of 14...Qxb2 15.Nd2 h6 16.Rab1 with White bossing the b-file and the h1-a8 diagonal.

15.Nd2 Rae8
16.b3 Bb4
17.Rae1 h6
18.a3!?



Deflecting the bishop in order to start a tactical sequence.

18... Bxa3

18...Bc3 19.b4 Nc6 20.Nxc6 Qxc6 21.Qxc6 bxc6 looked ok for Black, but the tactics seemed more appealing.

19.Bxh6 Bc2
20.Bg5 Bb4
21.Re2 Qe6



21...Bxd2 22.Rxd2 Rxe5 23.Bxf6 Be4 24.Qg4 Qxf6 25.Bxe4 Nxb3 26.Rd3 Nc5 27.Rxd4=

22.Rfe1 Qf5

The following piece exchanges initially look drawish, but allow the Black bishops to combine well around the d-pawn, tying the White pieces to defensive chores.

23.Qxf5 Bxf5
24.Nef3 Rxe2
25.Rxe2 Nc6
26.Bxf6



Looks plausible, but White gets no advantage from doubling the pawns.

26... gxf6
27.Re1 Bc2
28.h4 Rd8
29.Ra1 a5
30.Kf1 d3+
31.Ra4



White tries to break out of a suffocating position.

31... Re8
32.Rxb4 axb4
33.Bh3 Bd1
34.Bf5 Be2+
35.Kg2 Ra8



35...Ra8 36.Be4 Ra2 37.Bxc6 bxc6 38.Ne4 f5 39.Nc5 Ra5 40.Nd7 Ra1 41.Nde5 f6 42.Nxd3 Bf1+ 43.Kh2 Bxd3 and Black is a rook ahead. After the game, Simon commented: "I missed a few tactics, and didn't realise how bad it would be after the queens came off." 0-1



Next we have three games, from the Challenge Tournament, sent to me by Geoff Phillips back in 2004. I didn't use them for the Games Column then as they were simple game scores with no annotation Still it's always interesting to play through Geoff's games..

SCCA Challenge Tournament, 2004
White: G Phillips
Black: D R Cumming
Torre, London & Colle Systems [A48]

1.d4 Nf6

2.Nf3 g6
 3.b4 Bg7
 4.Bb2 0-0
 5.e3 d5
 6.c4 Bf5
 7.Nbd2 e6
 8.Be2 Nc6



9.a3 dxc4
 10.Bxc4 Re8
 11.h3 Qd7
 12.g4 Be4
 13.g5 Bxf3
 14.Qxf3 Nd5
 15.Ne4 a5
 16.b5 Nce7



17.h4 c6
 18.Nc5 Qc7
 19.h5 b6
 20.Ne4 Qd7
 21.hxg6 fxg6
 22.Qh3 Kf7
 23.bxc6 Nxc6
 24.Qg3 Rh8



25.Rc1 Ke7
 26.Bb5 Rac8
 27.Rh3 Rhf8
 28.Rxh7 1 0



SCCA Challenge Tournament, 2004
 White: G Phillips
 Black: D Edney
 King's Indian Defence [E90]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.Nf3 g6
 3.c4 Bg7
 4.Nc3 0-0
 5.e4 d6
 6.h3 e5
 7.d5 Na6
 8.Bg5 Qe8



9.g4 Nd7
 10.Rg1 Kh8
 11.Be2 Ndc5
 12.Qd2 f5
 13.gxf5 gxf5
 14.Bh6 Rg8
 15.Bxg7+ Rxg7
 16.Rxg7 Kxg7



17.0-0-0 f4
 18.Rg1+ Kh8
 19.h4 Qe7
 20.Qd1 Nd7
 21.Ng5 h6
 22.Ne6 Ndc5
 23.Rg6 Bxe6
 24.dxe6 Qxh4



25.Bh5 Kh7
 26.Nd5 0-1



SCCA Challenge Tournament, 2004
 White: D Edney
 Black: G Phillips
 Scandinavian Defence [B01]

1.e4 d5
 2.exd5 e6
 3.Bb5+ c6
 4.dxc6 bxc6
 5.Be2 Bc5
 6.Nf3 Nf6
 7.d4 Be7
 8.Nc3 Nbd7



9.0-0 0-0
 10.Bf4 Nh5
 11.Be3 Qc7
 12.Qd2 Bb7
 13.Rfe1 Rfd8
 14.Bg5 Bxg5
 15.Qxg5 Nf4
 16.Bc4 c5



17.Ne5 Nxe5
 18.Rxe5 Rxd4
 19.Nb5 Nh3+
 20.gxh3 Qc6
 21.f3 Rxc4
 22.Na3 Qxf3
 23.Nxc4 h6
 24.Qg3 Qh1+
 25.Kf2 Qxa1
 26.Rxc5 Rd8
 27.Rc7 Qc1
 0-1



SCCA Challenge Tournament, 15.10.2009

White: William M Cook

Black: D R Cumming

Sicilian Defence [B33]

[Annotator D R Cumming]

- 1.e4 c5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.d4 cxd4
- 4.Nxd4 Nf6
- 5.Nc3 e5
- 6.Ndb5 d6
- 7.Bg5 a6
- 8.Na3 b5
- 9.Bxf6 gxf6
- 10.Nd5 Bg7
- 11.Bd3 Ne7
- 12.Nxe7



12.Ne3 f5 13.exf5 d5 14.Qg4 Rg8 15.Qh4 Qd6 16.0-0-0 e4 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Bxe4 Bxb2+ 19.Kxb2 Qb4+

- 12... Qxe7
- 13.c3

13.0-0 0-0 14.c4 f5 15.Qe2 bxc4 16.Nxc4 Rb8 17.Rad1 (17.exf5 d5)

- 13... f5
- 14.Nc2 Qg5
- 15.Qe2



15.0-0 Bb7 16.f3 0-0 (16...fxe4 17.fxe4 0-0 18.Rf5 Qe7 19.Ne3 Bc8 20.Rf3 Be6 21.Bc2 Bh6 22.Nf5) 17.exf5 d5 18.a4 (18.Qc1; 18.f4 Qh6 19.f6 Bxf6 20.fxe5 Bxe5 21.h3 Qg7 22.Qf3 f5 23.Qf2 d4 1/2-1/2 Kokkila, T (2628)-Gonzalez Freixas, A (2477)/ICCF Email 1999/Corr 2002) 18...e4 19.Be2 Be5 (19...Qxf5 20.fxe4 Qxe4 21.Bf3)

20.Qe1 b4 (20...Qxf5 21.f4) 21.Nxb4 d4 22.cxd4 Bxd4+ 23.Kh1 Bxb2 24.Rb1 Be5 25.fxe4 Bxe4 26.Bf3 Qf4 27.Qg3+ Qxg3 28.hxg3 Bxb1 29.Bxa8 Rxa8 Leko, P (2555)-Magem Badais, J (2502)/Pamplona 1993/CBM 039/[Emst]/0-1; 15.exf5 Qxg2 16.Rf1 Bb7 17.Ne3 Qc6 18.Rg1 Bf6 19.a4 Ke7 20.Qb3 h5 21.Be2 1-0 Dikmen, A-Cortes Olivares, R/ICCF Email 2005/Corr 2006

- 15... d5



15...Qxg2 16.0-0-0; 15...Bb7 16.Bxb5+ Ke7 17.Bd3 Qxg2 1/2-1/2 Wittmann, W (2304)-Arjun, V (2394)/Budapest 2007/CBM 120 ext

- 16.exf5!?

I was actually expecting Bill to play 16/e4xd5 here, however there was nothing wrong with his actual 16th move.

- 16... e4!N

16...0-0 17.Ne3 e4 (17...Bb7 18.h4 Qe7 19.Rd1 Rfe8 (19...d4 20.cxd4 exd4 21.Ng4 Qxe2+ 22.Bxe2 Bxg2 23.Rg1) 20.Qh5 e4 21.Bc2 b4 22.0-0 bxc3 23.bxc3 Rad8 24.Ba4 Rf8 25.Bb3 Qe5 26.Ng4 Qe7 27.Ne3 Qe5 28.Rd4 Kh8 29.Rfd1 Qf4 30.g3 Qb8 31.Rb4 Velimirovic, D (2520)-Simic, R (2485)/Vmjacka Banja 1991/CBM 023/[Blatny, P]/1-0) 18.Bc2



Rd8 19.h4 Qf4 20.Rd1 Bb7 21.Bb3 Qe5 22.0-0 (22.Qh5 b4 23.cxb4 Qxb2 24.0-0 Qe5 25.Ng4 Qe7 26.Bxd5 Bxd5 27.f6 Bxf6

28.Rxd5 Rxd5 29.Qxd5 Re8 30.Qxe4 Qxe4 31.Nxf6+ Kg7 32.Nxe4 Rxe4 33.Rb1 Rxh4 34.a4 Rh6 35.b5 axb5 36.axb5 Rh4 Bronsdijk, L (2309)-Winkler, T (2390)/IECG email 1998/Corr 2004/1/2-1/2) 22...a5 23.f6 Bxf6 24.Ng4 Qe6 25.Nxf6+ Qxf6 26.f3 a4 27.Bc2 Qxh4 28.fxe4 dxe4 29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Qxb5 e3 31.Bd1 Bd5 32.Qxa4 Mannion, S (2390)-Manninen, M (2450)/Manila 1992/TD/1/2-1/2

- 17.Nd4?



This move rather let down the show for White, better for him was 17/Nb4.

- 17... Bxd4
- 18.cxd4 Qxg2
- 19.0-0-0 Bxf5
- 20.Bxb5+?

Deep Junior 10: 20.Rdg1 Qh3 21.Rg3 Qh6+ 22.Kb1 Kd7 23.Bc2 Rac8 24.Rhg1 Rc6 25.Rg5 Rg6 26.Qe3 Rhg8 27.Rxg6 Qxe3 28.fxe3 hxg6 -0.72/19

- 20... Ke7+



Obviously NOT 20/...a6xb5?, which would fully justify White's 20th move as both of Black's pawns would be liquidated, leaving the Black King open to the 4 winds and also leave White with a powerful passed d-prawn, but instead of this, simply moving the King out of harm's way gives Black a winning advantage.

- 21.Ba4 Bg4
- 22.Qf1 Rhc8+
- 23.Kb1 Qxf1
- 24.Rdxfl Rc4
- 0-1





ICCF Congress – Leeds, England

By George Pyrich

The 2009 ICCF Congress, in conjunction with meetings of the ICCF Executive Board, took place in the Village Hotel in the Headingley area of Leeds from 13th to 19th September 2009. The Scottish CCA delegation of George Pyrich and Alan Borwell joined some 80 other delegates, officials and family members who attended the first ICCF Congress to be held in England since 1989, arranged and hosted by the British Federation for Correspondence Chess (BFCC).



Village Hotel, Headingley

The congress was opened by the English delegate and main organiser Andrew Dearnley who, after a few words passed over to distinguished Grandmaster (and Yorkshireman) Richard Hall. After some words of welcome to everyone, Richard introduced the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Judith Elliot who delivered an interesting and welcoming address, extending a warm welcome to everyone and her best wishes for a productive congress and a pleasant stay in Leeds and the surrounding area. Thereafter new ICCF President, Eric Ruch (FRA) replied to the warm welcomes of Richard and the Lord Mayor.

As a keen correspondence chess historian, Eric mentioned that England was probably the country with the longest and richest history in correspondence chess reporting that he first ever CC match between two chess clubs, had been played between London and Edinburgh Chess Club between 1824 and 1828 and that the first ever international CC match between London Chess Club and “Le Cercle de Philidor” of Paris, had taken place 175 years ago. Eric also mentioned that not only England but also Leeds had a very long tradition in CC as in 1825 Leeds had defeated the Liverpool Chess Club and at the end of the 1830’s had again been victorious in a 4 game match against the same opponents. One of the first national correspondence chess associations was founded in England in 1906 with the British Correspondence Chess Association and the British Correspondence Chess Championship has been played since 1921 without interruption. In 1952 the first British Correspondence Chess League Championship and, in 1954, the first British Correspondence Chess Team Championship were started and have been held consecutively ever since.

In 1962 the BPCF (British Postal Chess Federation) was formed as the governing body for Great Britain and since

1991 had represented England internationally. In 1999, BPCF was replaced by the BFCC (British Federation for Correspondence Chess) acknowledging that post was no longer the sole way of playing CC. British and English teams have been very successful in the ICCF Olympiads: 3rd places in Olympiad V (1965-68), Olympiad VII (1972-76) and Olympiad VIII (1977-82). In 1987, the last British team to play in an Olympiad event (afterwards separate English, Scottish and Welsh teams participated in Olympiads) won the 9th Olympiad in 1987.

In his address, the ICCF President also acknowledged the great work of the late Reg Gillman who had been delegate for the federation representing Great Britain and subsequently England and Rules Commissioner of ICCF for many years before his untimely death in 1997 and also to Alan Rawlings, who had succeeded Reg as delegate for England and had been an excellent General Secretary of ICCF from 1999-2003.

Following this, Eric then referred to all CC friends who had passed away since the last Congress and mentioned, in particular, Erik Larsson (SWE) founding member and only recipient of an ICCF Lifetime Achievement Award for 60+ years service to international CC; Robin Smith (USA), Tournament Organizer and Arbiter for many events, Alexander Alpert (RUS) and Carlo Alberto Pagni (ITA) chess historian and publisher of several books on CC History and a member of ICCF’s Historical Research Committee.

Delegates then stood in silence to the memory of these and all other departed CC friends.

Thereafter the ICCF President declared the ICCF 2009 Congress, Leeds, England duly opened and asked all to stand while the ICCF Anthem was played. There followed some lively traditional musical and dance entertainment by the Leeds Morris Dance group!



Leeds Morris Dancers

The normal business of the congress then commenced with the formal approval of the minutes of the 2008 congress held in Pleven, Bulgaria and the formal noting of voting rights and proxies held by the delegates.

Moving on membership matters, the delegates reluctantly approved the suspension from ICCF membership of the federations from Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela following non-payment of long outstanding fees. The delegates noted with interest an application for membership submitted on behalf of the Cape Verde Islands but, following consideration, decided that it should be declined as this country was not a member of FIDE. Instead, the delegates approved a motion that the Cape Verde Islands be offered membership at an Associate level, similar to that provided to affiliated clubs.

Thereafter, the delegates moved on to the presentation of the Bertl von Massow medals, awarded in gold and silver to those who had provided 15 and 10 years meritorious service respectively to ICCF. The gold award was presented to the longstanding delegate for Spain and former Finance Director, Carlos Flores Gutierrez whilst Carlos Cranbourne (ARG), J. Franklin Campbell (USA), Yoav Dothan (ISR), Artis Gaujens (LAT), Josef Mrkvicka (CZE), Tim Runting (AUS) and Guillermo F. Toro Solis de Ovando (CHI) received the silver awards. Further presentations followed with the award of the traditional World Correspondence Chess Champion's engraved Plate which was presented to the delegate for Norway for Ivar Bern, winner of World Correspondence Chess Championship XVII. Medals and certificates were also presented for the runner up in World Championship Final XIX, Frank Gerhardt (GER) and third placed Aleksey Lepikhov (UKR). Finally the ICCF President presented medals and certificates to the Norwegian team, which had won the Olympiad XV Final.



Happy Norwegians Raymond Boger and Morten Lilleøren

Moving on to financial matters, the former Finance Director Søren Peschardt (DEN) reported on his activities since the 2008 Congress until 30.01.2009 and emphasised that he had carefully implemented Congress decisions made in Mumbai 2004 and Pleven 2008.

Several inherited financial issues and problems had been solved and he reported only one remaining issue which concerned fees for "Support for Africa". Congress accepted his proposal not to charge the German Federation for fees relating to this tournament. Søren gave the reasons for his early retirement as Finance Director to Congress and expressed sincere thanks to (also retired) Auditor, Carlos Flores (ESP) for (once again) rescuing the financial status of ICCF by completing the 2008 accounts.

Following these words, the ICCF Honorary President, Alan Borwell who had audited the 2008 accounts, reported a "clean bill of health" with regard to ICCF's financial affairs.

Alan reported that there had been a surplus for 2008 of CHF 12'067.44 with bank balances CHF 142'749.35 as well as a further CHF 85'821.99 receivable from member federations at 31/12/2008 revealed a strong financial position for ICCF. Although the market value of investments at 31/12/2008 had fallen to CHF 17'260 (cost CHF 31'477), due to adverse market conditions, these had recovered to CHF 19'493 just prior to Congress. The congress accepted Alan's recommendation that a review of banking arrangements and investments be conducted by the ICCF Finance Committee and then approved unanimously the 2008 ICCF Accounts and Audit Report.

Alan then stayed on his feet and referred to the Electoral Regulations for Mid Term Executive Board vacancies which had to be used for 3 positions since the 2008 ICCF Congress in Pleven. Following the nominations processes, it had been necessary to conduct only one ballot by Email and this had taken place for ICCF President. Alan reported that there had been two excellent candidates and as the ICCF Auditor position had become vacant, he as Honorary President, assisted by two other Honorary Members had acted as scrutinisers. As a result of the ballot, Eric Ruch (FRA) had been elected by a substantial majority and thereby became ICCF President on 20th May 2009. He formally reported this outcome and Eric's appointment was generously acclaimed by Congress.

Alan then finally sat down to allow the new ICCF President to report on the appointments made by the Executive Board for the vacant positions of Services Director (effective 1/12/2008), Raymond Boger (NOR), and Finance Director (effective 1/1/2009) George Pyrich (SCO) and these were both formally approved unanimously by the Congress, with acclamation. The ICCF President then referred to the vacancy which had arisen for Marketing Director, when he had vacated that position on being elected President. Nominations had been sought before 1st September, according to the required procedure, with the election to take place at the 2009 ICCF Congress. Only one nomination had been received and Uwe Staroske (GER) was invited to address Congress with an outline of his ideas for fulfilling the marketing duties. Congress agreed that a secret ballot was not needed and Uwe Staroske was elected unanimously to the position. It was also agreed that the Marketing Committee was the forum for discussions about new marketing concepts.

Following consideration and approval of the ICCF Financial Plan for the years up to and including 2011 which was prepared and presented by Alan, the floor was given to the Direct Entry Commissioner, Michael Millstone (USA) who presented a comprehensive report which included a summary of direct entries, for the entire period since the inception of the Direct Entry scheme in April 2006. Michael reported that the average number of daily applications being processed was more than double the number of that in the first year (now averaging 2+ per day) and he also outlined the benefits to member federations in participating in the scheme, particularly in attracting new players (220 had been signed up since the scheme began).

	2006*	2007	2008	2009**
DE Applications	389	728	822	560
Average Applications per day	1.44	1.99	2.25	2.65
Open Class	174	324	313	183
Higher Class	39	56	88	102
Master Class	41	66	63	36
WCCC - Preliminary	3	6	23	5
WCCC - Semi-Final	1	2	5	0
WCCC - Candidates	1	6	11	2
Grandmaster Norm	4	6	8	5
Master Norm	9	16	22	12
Thematic	10	30	14	5
Money Prize	0	113	169	70
World Cup	46	0	0	95
Veterans World Cup II	0	0	0	28
Blitz	0	0	7	7
Rapid	0	0	4	10
2nd Webserver Open	61	0	0	0
1st Junior World Cup	0	0	6	0
Champions League		103		
3rd Webserver Open	0	0	89	0
* From 05.04.06 - 31.12.06				
** From 01.01.09 - 31.07.09				

Following his excellent presentation, Michael was thanked and commended by the President and Congress for his valuable and outstanding work for ICCF.

Next up, the ICCF Services Director, Raymond Boger (NOR) presented his Webserver report and detailed the main changes to the Webserver which had occurred over the past year, and problems which had arisen. There was a suggestion that ICCF should look into a safer/better backup solution using two hard drives and it was agreed to make arrangements. Raymond reported that the Email address for the Webserver Help Desk would be moved to a host outside the Email facility on the server and that 467 queries had been submitted to the Help Desk during the last 10 months, a decrease from the 723 queries received in the previous 12 months. Raymond also reported that he had received excellent back-up from Dr. Jason Bokar (USA) and that the system programmer, Martin Bennedik had once again been most helpful and efficient with all Webserver matters. Finally, Raymond reported that there had been 155 free unrated 2-game matches organised in the last 10 months (214 in previous year). Many players had requested several free matches, but the limit was set at 4 free matches and the congress agreed that this should be continued.

Following on from this, Alan Borwell, Chairman of the Webserver Development Steering Committee (WDSC) reported that the period since the last Congress had been used to complete already agreed enhancements to the system (listed in WDSC Report). Alan also reported that with changes in Services Director, President and Finance

Director, it had been considered to be prudent to have a pause in making new development plans and the WDSC meeting preceding the Congress had discussed important ongoing matters relating to Webserver sustainability, improving screen designs/flexibility and inter-relationship with the new website. As the main development phase with the Webserver could now be considered to have been successfully completed, Alan recommended that the WDSC should be replaced with a co-ordinated Services Committee, under the ICCF Service Director's chairmanship, to deal with future operations and enhancements of the Webserver, in accordance with the principles decided by the 2008 ICCF Congress. This plan was supported by the President and agreed by Congress.

The Services Director, Raymond Boger (NOR) then presented the website report on behalf of the ICCF Webmaster, Michael Blake (ENG). Michael had been asked to produce a new ICCF website by December 2008 but unfortunately due to a number of reasons, work on the new website was still in progress. It was reported by several delegates that basic information about ICCF office bearers, delegates etc. had not been properly updated and two year's title awards had not been added and it was emphasised that Senior ICCF officers held responsibility for ensuring that basic website information was kept up to date. As it was felt that any ICCF webmaster could not be expected to carry out all information updating and that it was essential to have important ICCF information updated on the current website, so it would be correct on transfer to the new website, it was agreed unanimously that the General Secretary should be required to arrange this before 15th October 2009.

Next, the ICCF Games Archivist, George Pyrich, reported that work had continued throughout the year to provide game scores from postal and server events for download via www.iccf.com and also games databases for Telechess articles for ChessBase Magazine, as ICCF sponsor. However, it was again reported that no progress had been made since the last Congress on a revised Games Archive, which would provide an indexed Archive of all games as completed on the ICCF Webserver, and therefore the Games Archivists had limited their activities to extracting and providing non-archived files containing game scores from server events. Congress expressed its grateful thanks for the dedicated work of George Pyrich (SCO) and Laurent Tinture (FRA). Following his election as Finance Director, George Pyrich asked to be replaced in his responsibilities as Games Archives and Ron Langeveld (NED) agreed to succeed him as ICCF Games Archivist, primarily dealing with Webserver games.

The congress then moved on to consider matters relating to marketing, publicity and publications. Eric, as the outgoing Marketing Director, reported on developments in the past year which had included the preparation of a marketing portfolio intended for new sponsors, an ICCF Brochure (to be sent to potential new Member Federations), and an ICCF leaflet (produced with the help of Alan Borwell (SCO) and Pierre Ruiz Vidal (FRA) and kindly printed by the BdF) distributed to the FIDE Delegates during the FIDE 2008 Olympiads in Dresden 2008. Eric stressed the vital necessity of good communication between ICCF officials in order to maximize publicity opportunities. Congress was advised that ICCF Telechess articles had been published in ChessBase Magazines in November 2008 and January 2009. Eric offered thanks to Michael Blake (ENG) and Laurent Tinture (FRA) for producing articles and collecting games and announced that a future objective would be to publish ICCF Telechess on a regular basis in the bi-monthly ChessBase Magazines. The Congress approved unanimously a budget allocation of CHF 15,000 for 2009/10, as shown in the Financial Plan. The newly elected Marketing Director Uwe Staroske (GER) presented his ideas for marketing actions for the coming year.



George picks up Richard Beecham's SIM certificate...

The Qualifications Commissioner, Ron Langeveld (NED) presented his report which proposed awards to 24 new Grandmasters, 58 Senior International Masters, 61

International Masters, 2 Lady Grandmasters, 1 Lady International Master and 8 International Arbiters. The actual presentation of the awards which follows the Report of the Qualifications Commissioner is one of most enjoyable features of the congress and this year's was no exception. Happily, the Scottish CCA had some involvement in this year's event with the presentation of the awards of the title of Senior International Master to Richard Beecham and International Arbiter to George Pyrich.



...and receives his own IA award from President Eric Ruch

Another important part of the Congress agenda was the presentation of the World Tournament Director, Frank Geider (FRA), presented in his absence by the Title Tournaments Commissioner, Marco Caressa (ITA). Marco referred to the Tournament Plan, designed in order to avoid clashes and overlaps of important events, to be posted on the ICCF website and up-dated regularly. The congress approved proposals that regular Webchess Opens should be started in alternating years from ICCF World Cups and also approved renewal of previous Congress decisions whereby each member federation is eligible for one free tournament (up to 105 games) starting on Webserver before the 2010 Congress. With regard to Title Tournaments, Marco outlined plans for the Final of the 16th Olympiad to be played by post. The congress also approved Marco's proposal that the Preliminary of the 19th Olympiad (Postal) should begin 6 to 9 months after the start of the 16th Final, providing that at least 18 teams apply to participate.

The Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder (GER), presented a report of the future organisation of the World Championship cycle. Following discussion, the congress approved a number of significant amendments including plans whereby new Championship cycles would still commence annually but where all sections at each level would in future start simultaneously on a prescribed date instead of the current arrangement whereby new sections commenced whenever there were sufficient suitable qualifiers available. Additionally the congress approved plans to streamline the qualification process and also a detailed timetable for new World Championship Finals until 2013.

The Report of ICCF Non Title Tournaments Commissioner, Valer Eugen Demian (CAN) was received and progress with Webchess Opens and World Cups were described. It was reported by Alan Borwell that the Second Veterans World Cup, organised by the Scottish CCA, had begun on 1st

September, with 273 players in 21 groups. Detailed proposals for the Champions League were discussed and some modifications were agreed unanimously by the Congress (registration to be open from 1/10/2009 until 15/12/2009, games to start early January 2010 with closing date 31st October 2011, with the next cycle to start early January 2012 and with two yearly cycles thereafter). Rapid and Blitz Tournament entries were discussed and it was decided to discontinue them in their current format. However Fast Money Prize Tournaments (direct entry only) would be introduced immediately, with a rate of play of 10 moves per 15 days. These tournaments would be organised by DE Commissioner, Michael Millstone (USA).

Andrew Dearnley (ENG) reported on the successful completion of the four prototype Schools Tournaments and that the participating schools and pupils had enjoyed them. Options for further and more extensive schools tournaments for consulting teams of pupils were discussed, including hemispherical issues, and it was agreed that Alan Borwell and Andrew Dearnley would design and issue a circular to all member federations containing tournament proposals. It would be important to work closely with the Marketing Director in the promotion of schools, junior and university correspondence chess, using the benefits of Webserver play to encourage younger players to become CC players.

The congress then moved on to consider the report of the Rules Commissioner, Per Soderberg (SWE) and gave approval to amendments to the wordings (clarifications) to two of the Webserver rules, firstly Rule 3(b) with regard to players using more than 35 days to play a move and also Rule 6 which describes conditions for the recording of reflection times on the Webserver.

The ICCF Liaison Officer to FIDE, Alan Borwell (SCO) reported on the FIDE Congress and Olympiad, Dresden 2008 and mentioned some points which had arisen during the 3 days at which he attended plenary Congress meetings. New ICCF titles had been sent to FIDE according to normal practice and had been noted by FIDE in the usual way. Amongst the interesting points was a decision to restrict new countries/organisations as Olympiad participants only to countries which had full IOC status. Therefore any ideas of an ICCF team participating would be a non starter. However, there were opportunities to work more closely with FIDE on matters of mutual interest, including schools/junior chess, marketing in collaboration with Global Chess and ICCF gaining more member countries via FIDE members.



Austin Lockwood (ENG), Iain Mackintosh and Kevin Paine (SCO)

Austin Lockwood of Schemingmind.com then gave a very interesting slide presentation about his organisation, its

relationships within BFCC and outlined ways whereby closer relationships with ICCF might be mutually beneficial.

The Congress then gave consideration to plans to provide a suitable tribute to honour the memory of Erik Larsson, the only recipient of the ICCF Lifetime Achievement Award. The Swedish Correspondence Chess Federation, SSKK, and ICCF decided to jointly organise Erik Larsson Memorial invitation tournaments planned to include Memorial A, an elite 13 player event with a category as high as possible, played on the Webserver and Memorial B, also with 13 players, at category 12 and also played on the Webserver. Memorial C also with 13 players and at category 12 will be played by post and there will also be Open groups open to friends of Erik Larsson (arranged by rating strength) Congress also approved ICCF's funding of a 15,000 Euros prize fund for these events and noted that SSKK will look for sponsors in order to seek to increase the prize funds.

Next on the agenda were plans to commemorate the 60th (Diamond) Anniversary of ICCF in 2011. Congress approved the creation of a Working Group which should present proposals for celebration tournaments to the 2010 Congress. Additionally the Congress accepted a proposal for a web book (possibly with a CD/DVD) to be developed located on "iccf.com" based on the ICCF Gold Book but updated for the Diamond Year and ideally thereafter, to provide a comprehensive ongoing history of ICCF tournaments, games, memorabilia, CC personalities (national and international) etc.

Finally the congress received a very interesting and informative illustrated presentation made by Kuvay Sanli (TUR) on behalf of the Turkish Chess Federation and CC organisation with an offer to host the 2010 ICCF Congress in Antalya, Turkey from 2nd to 9th October 2010 which was approved unanimously by the congress.



Alan Borwell relaxes at the opening dinner

As usual, there were a number of social events and the Congress delegates enjoyed a day's excursion following the end of the Congress to the nearby city of York. The traditional blitz tournament was won by the Czech delegate Petr Buchniecek ahead of a strong field and a 20 board match was held against members of the local Leeds chess club (resulting in a heavy loss for the ICCF team).



IM's Title Part 2

By Iain Mackintosh

ICCF Olympiad 16 Preliminaries - Section 03 board 2				TD Flores Gutiérrez, Carlos																
Category 9 GM=6½ SIM=5½ IM=4½ LGM=3 LM=1½				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	SB	Place			
1	SVK	950035	SM	Marczell, Ing. Peter	2603		Slovakia	1	½	½	1	½	-	½	½	1	1	6.5	25.75	1
2	CRO	900010	SM	Krecak, Dr. Zvonko	2409		Croatia	0	½	1	½	1	½	-	1	1	1	6.5	23.75	2
3	GER	80870	SM	Hase, Werner	2540		Germany	½	½	½	½	1	½	-	½	1	1	6	22.75	3
4	SCO	620345		Mackintosh, Iain	2450		Scotland	½	0	½	½	½	1	-	1	1	1	6	19.5	4
5	USA	511551	SM	Weisskohl, Jerry	2522		U.S.A.	0	½	½	½	½	1	-	½	1	1	5.5	18.25	5
6	LAT	910071		Auzinš, Maris	2450		Latvia	½	0	0	½	½	1	-	1	½	1	5	16	6
7	SWE	450373	IM	Hammar, Bengt	2514		Sweden	-	½	½	0	0	0	-	-	0	1	2	7.25	7
8	SWE	450566	SM	Blomstrand, Gunnar	2442		Sweden	½	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1.5	6.25	7
9	BUL	50317		Penev, Todor	2413		Bulgaria	½	0	½	0	½	0	-	0	1	½	3	11.5	8
10	BEL	40119		Ottevaere, Herman	2334		Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	-	0	½	2	5	9
11	AUS	30102		Barber, Haydn J.	2278		Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	½	½	1	2.5	10

In the first part of this article I reckoned my placing in Olympiad XVI owed as much to luck and perseverance than to any dazzling play. Here are a few more games which consolidated my earlier good fortune.

The first was against Werner Hase, the second highest rated player in the group. I've never done that well against German opposition and I wasn't too optimistic at the outset.

Mackintosh, I (2450) – Hase, W (2540) [B30]

OLY/16/P03-2, 2006

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	e6
4.0-0	Nge7
5.Re1	Nd4
6.Nxd4	cxd4
7.c4	Ng6
8.d3	Be7
9.Nd2	0-0
10.a3?!N	

Black has equalised without difficulty, so I was looking for something novel – though this is a bit bland. [10.Ba4 e5 11.Rb1 d6 12.b4 Kh8 13.Nf1 Bg5 was Bellini-Moiseenko, Moscow, 2004, 0-1 after 20 moves.]

10...	d6
11.b4	e5
12.Ba4	Be6
13.h3?!	

More anodyne stuff.

13...	Bg5
14.Rb1	Rc8
15.Qf3	Qe7
16.Bb3	b5
17.a4	bxç4
18.Bxc4	Bxd2
19.Bxd2	Bxc4
20.dxc4	Rxc4

Black consolidates his advantage after fairly aimless play from White.



21.b5	Rc2
22.Qd3	

The best defence, offering some salvage hopes.

22...	Rfc8
23.Rc1	Rxc1+
24.Rxc1	Rxc1+
25.Bxc1	Qc7
26.Bd2	Nf8
27.f3	Nd7
28.a5	Kf8
29.Qb3	Ke7
30.Bb4	h5



31.Qd5!

Squeezing Black's space and inclining him to advance his k-side pawns.

31... h4
32.Kh2 g5
33.Bd2 f6
34.Qg8

Here I offered the draw which Werner accepted – definitely a game of two halves! [34.Qg8 Qc2 35.Bb4 Qc1 36.Qg7+ Kd8 37.Bxd6 Qf4+ 38.Kg1 Qc1+ with repetition.]

½-½



Weisskohl, Jerry (2522) – Mackintosh, Iain (2450) [C68]

OLY/16/P03-2, 2007

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 a6
4.Bxc6

Jerry had previously beaten me with an exchange Lopez in NATT 5.

4... dxc6
5.0-0 Bd6
6.d4 exd4
7.Qxd4 f6
8.Be3 Be6
9.Nbd2 Qe7
10.Rfd1 Qf7
11.Qc3

The game between Braga-van Riemsdijk, Curitiba, 1992, was agreed drawn at this juncture.



11... Ne7N
12.Nd4 0-0-0
13.Nxe6 Qxe6
14.Qc4 Qg4
15.h3 Qh5
16.Qe6+ Kb8
17.Nc4 Nc8
18.Qg4 Qxg4
19.hxg4

I felt happy that the position was drawn here, but there was still some tricky manoeuvring to negotiate.

19... Rhe8
20.f3 Bg3
21.Rd3!? Nd6!?

The rook exchange was better.

22.Rad1 Kc8
23.Nxd6+ cxd6
24.c4 b5
25.b3 Rd7
26.Bd2 g5
27.Bb4 bxc4
28.bxc4 Re6
29.Kf1 h6
30.Ke2 Be5
31.a3 Bg3
32.Rh1 Rh7
33.Kd2 Be5
34.Kc2 c5
35.Bc3 Kb7
36.Ba5 Kc8
37.Rb3 Ree7
38.a4



38.Rb6 Rb7 39.Rxb7 (39.Rxa6?? Rb2+ 40.Kd3 Kb7 and the White rook is trapped.) 39...Kxb7 is ok for Black.

38... Rb7
39.Bb6 Kd7
40.a5 Ke7
41.Rh5 Kf8
42.Rb1 Kf7
43.Kd2 Kg6
44.Rbh1

And here we agreed the draw. White has the space advantage, but Black holds out against the threats.

½-½



Mackintosh, I (2450) – Auzins, M (2450) [C54]

OLY/16/P03-2, 2007

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 e5
2.Bc4 Nf6
3.d3 Bc5
4.Nf3 d6
5.0-0 Nc6
6.c3 a6
7.a4 0-0
8.b4 Ba7
9.Qc2N
9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be6 11.Nbd2=
9... Ne7
10.Bg5 Ng6

9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be6 11.Nbd2=

11.d4 h6
 12.Be3 Qe7
 13.Nbd2 Ng4
 14.a5 Kh8



15.Rad1?!

Once again, indifferent opening play presents Black with an opportunity to seize the initiative.

15... f5!
 16.exf5 Bxf5
 17.Bd3 Nxe3
 18.fxe3 Bxd3
 19.Qxd3 Qe6
 20.Kh1 Rae8
 21.e4 Nf4
 22.Qc2 Qg4
 23.Nb3

[23.g3? Nh3 24.Qd3 h5 25.Qe2 h4 and things are getting sticky for White.]

23... Rf6
 24.dxe5 dxe5
 25.c4 Rg6
 26.g3 Nh5
 27.Nh4

[27.Qg2 Qe6 28.Nh4 Rf6 29.Nd2=]

27...Rd6
 28.c5 Rxd1

29.Rxd1 Rf8
 30.Kg1

[30.Rd2?? Nxg3+ 31.hxg3 Qh3+ 32.Rh2 Qf1#]
 30...b6?!

This lets White level the game. [30...Nf4!? 31.Rf1 Nh3+ 32.Kg2 Rxf1 33.Kxf1 though White survives.]

31.axb6 cxb6



32.Rd6! Nf4!

Other moves lose for Black, e.g. [32...bxc5? 33.Ng6+-]

33.cxb6 Bxb6+
 34.Rxb6 Nh3+
 35.Kg2 Nf4+
 36.Kg1 Nh3+
 37.Kg2 Nf4+
 38.Kg1

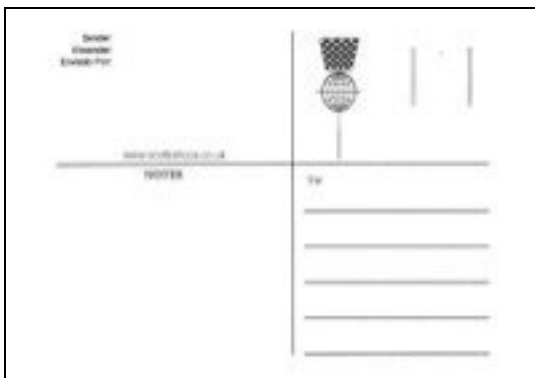
and we agreed the draw in view of the repetition.

1/2-1/2

More dogged than inspired, but still hanging in with 3 1/2/6 and three games to go...



CC Postcards



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](#) please.



International Update

By George Pyrich

Olympiad XVI

ICCF Olympiad 16 Preliminaries - Section 03		TD Flores Gutiérrez, Carlos																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	Team results	B1	B2	B3	B4	Place
1	Germany		2.5	3	2.5	2.5	3.5	3	3	3.5	3.5	27	75	18	6.5	6	7	7.5	1
2	Sweden	1.5		2.5	2	3	2	2.5	3.5	2	4	23	63	13	5.5	3.5	7	7	2
3	Slovakia	1	1.5		1.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	3	20.5	58	10	5	6.5	4	5	3
4	U.S.A.	1.5	2	1.5		2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	19.5	55	12	3.5	5.5	7	3.5	4
5	Scotland	1.5	1	2.5	1.5		1.5	1.5	2.5	4	3.5	19.5	54	8	5	6	4	4.5	5
6	Latvia	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	2.5		1	2.5	2	2	15.5	46	7	4	5	4.5	2	6
7	Croatia	1	1.5	0.5	1.5	2.5	1		1.5	2.5	2.5	14.5	43	6	4	6.5	1.5	2.5	7
8	Australia	1	0.5	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	1.5		2.5	2.5	13.5	38	5	5	1	3	4.5	8
9	Belgium	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	0	2	1.5	1.5		1	11.5	31	2	5	2	2.5	2	9
10	Bulgaria	0.5	0	1	1.5	0.5	1	1.5	1.5	3		10.5	30	2	1.5	3	2.5	3.5	10

NATT VI

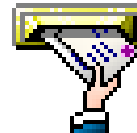
North Atlantic Team Tournament VI		TD Ruch, Eric																						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	%	Team results	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	Place
1	Spain-Fortuna		3	4	3.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	4.5	4	6	42.5	58	13	5.5	5.5	5	4.5	5.5	5.5	6	5	1
2	Portugal	4		3.5	4	4.5	3.5	5	4.5	4	4	5.5	42.5	57	12	5	6	5	5	5.5	5	6	5	2
3	England	4	3.5		3	4	5	4	3	5	4.5	5.5	41.5	54	11	5	4.5	4.5	4	5	4.5	6.5	7.5	3
4	Iceland	3.5	4	5		4	3	4	5	3.5	4	5	41	55	10	3	4	5	5	6	6	6.5	5.5	4
5	Spain-Coraje	2.5	2.5	4	4		4.5	4	3.5	5	3.5	5.5	39	52	9	4.5	3.5	6	6	4.5	6	4	4.5	5
6	United States	2.5	4.5	3	3	3.5		3.5	4.5	4.5	3	5.5	37.5	50	8	3	4.5	4	5	3.5	4	5.5	8	6
7	France	2.5	3	4	3	3	3.5		5	3.5	5	4.5	37	48	7	6	5	5	3.5	6	2	6	3.5	7
8	Norway	3	3.5	4	3	3.5	3.5	3		2	4.5	4.5	34.5	46	5	5	3	1	4.5	5	5.5	6	4.5	8
9	Canada	3.5	2	3	2.5	3	2.5	4.5	4		4	5	34	46	6	3	3	4.5	6.5	5	4.5	3.5	4	9
10	Scotland	3	3	2.5	4	2.5	4	3	3.5	4		4.5	34	46	5	5	3.5	4	4	5.5	3.5	5	3.5	10
11	Ireland	2	2.5	1.5	3	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.5	3	2.5		25.5	33	0	5	4.5	7	6	0.5	2.5	0	0	11

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
May 2009	25	Australia	Server/Post	7	14		
Oct 2008	21	USA	Server/Post	17	16		
Oct 2008	28	England	Server/Post	14	35		
May 2008	50	Rest of World	Server/Post	38½	54½		
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	36½		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



Letters to the Editor



Dr Val Nye (*Dorian Gray* below) writes from Reading:



Re: Games Column, Edition 106

The English Opening line in the game on page 11 (**Dawson v Cumming**) is not quite as obscure as professor Dawson seems to think.

I recall playing it myself OTB as Black in my teens and twenties. This was before White's annoying **f4** became well known. Without a relatively early **f4** by White my thinking was that Black has good prospects.

Two games collections in which the line is played are Botvinnik's book *One Hundred Selected Games*, and Korchnoi's *400 Best Games*, which was published in 1978. In an old paperback copy (volume XXVI 1979) of the Chess Informant this line and its variants come under the heading R 45. Nowadays it is a subset of the "A games" in computer databases. I think that I had also seen it elsewhere in a chess magazine accompanied by lengthy analysis.



Position after: 1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nc7

[Editor: I checked my database and a Kirillov–Botvinnik game in 1931 followed the same first 5 moves, but then went **6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 e5**, finishing 0-1 after 32 moves. Korchnoi played **6.f4** against Suetin in 1953 and Balanel in 1954 (both 1-0). Dawson-Cumming went **6.d3 e5 7.f4**, and when I looked that up, the first recorded game is Tal-Gipslis in 1954, ½-½ (59). Uhlmann-Baum, DDR-ch 24th Stralsund (17), 1975, went: **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 c5 5.Bg2 Nc7 6.d3 e5 7.f4 exf4 8.Bxf4 Bd6 9.Qa4+ Bd7 10.Qe4+ Be6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Qxb7 0-0 13.Nf3 Nba6 14.Ng5 Rab8 15.Qe4 f5 16.Qf4 Qd7 17.b3 Rb4 18.Qd2 Bd5 19.Nxd5 Nxd5 20.0-0 f4 21.Bh3 Qb7 22.e4 1-0**]

Anyway, after the moves **1 c4 c5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 g3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5**, White has to make a decision whether or not he wants to play an early **d4**. If, sooner rather than later, he plays **d4** the game can transpose into a game which could arise in some lines of the Queen's Gambit or even the Queen's Indian if Black fianchettoes his white-squared bishop.

However, if White plays an early **d3** and Black plays an

early **e5**, depending on the order in which moves are made the game can resemble a King's Indian Reversed, i.e. the roles of White and Black interchanged.

There is, though, a distinct (English Opening) line after an early **d3** by White and an early **e5** by Black if Black plays **Nc7**. (This retreat is virtually obligatory if White plays **Bg2** before **Nf3**. **Nb6** is ruled out because he may need to play **b6** to defend the **c** pawn. **Nf6** is also ruled out because he may need to play **f6** to defend the **e** pawn.) An excellent example of this line is the Kirillov–Botvinnik game.

My reason for these comments is to give an indication of what Black has to take into account if he wishes to go in for this particular line of the English Opening.

On page 16, **Armstrong v Moir** became a Steinitz Defence deferred by a most curious transposition of moves. There is also no doubt that the two knight mating position is most interesting.

[Editor: note that we managed to transpose the colours of the players! Patrick Moir is White and John Armstrong Black.]



Position after: 19... Ne8

To satisfy my curiosity, can you tell me what Black was intending if his opponent had played **20.e5** instead of **20. f5** as played in the game? It seems to me that, superficially at least, White thereby wins a pawn. What compensation would Black then have? Freer play for his pieces? A positional advantage, especially if White tries to hang on to the pawn? A tactical trick which I may have missed by not looking too deeply into the position?

[Editor: I asked John Armstrong what his response would have been – here's his reply plus other comments:]

20.f5 (if **20.e5 d5** Safer than any other. Lose the pawn if the queen swap was on.) **Bf6 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.Qd5 Rb8 23.Be3 Be7 24.Ng5 Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1 Bxg5 26.Bxg5 Ngf6 27.Qf7** (I regretted not going **Qc7** here.) **Qd7 28.Qf8+ Ng8 29.Bf6+ Nexf6 30.Qxb8 Kg7 31.Qxb6 Ng4 32.Qxa6 h5 33.Rd1 N8f6 34.Rxd6 Qe7 35.Re6 Qd8 36.Qa7+ Kh6 37.Qxc5 h4**

38.Nf1 (After this move, I first thought about the knights trapping the White king.) **Nh5 39.Qb4?** (The White queen is now out of play.) **Nf4** (This steals the White rook or the game if Pat missed the attack.) **40.Rd6** (I expected 40.Qc4 to take my knight and block the king attack.) **Ne2+ 41.Kh1 Nf2# # 0-1**

This game shows why you never throw the towel in, even when being overrun. You never know when you can steal a win from the jaws of defeat - although I have managed to lose when looking at victory. *[Editor: aye, we've all been there!]*



David Cumming writes from Inverness:

I've decided to reply to the snide remarks made about me by Richard Beecham in the Games Column. Initially I let them pass, but they have become childish and warrant a reply.

Back in 1988, I was new to CC and entered the 2nd Scottish Open where one of my opponents was Richard Beecham. He seemed very friendly in his letters to me and sent me a few old chess magazines which were gratefully received. We corresponded by letter, but when I telephoned him, I clearly heard him abuse me at the end of the call. I wrote a letter of complaint to him, but he denied the abuse and threatened to ostracise me from CC. I copied the controller but no official action was taken. Since then our relationship has been distinctly frosty.

I was an OTB player before I took up CC, but illness and unemployment severely restricted me after 1990. I played some local friendly games against George McRobert but didn't rejoin the Inverness Club until 2005. CC provided a lot of pleasure and many pen-friends over this period. I aimed to learn openings, middle games and tactics to improve my play when I returned to OTB. After the death of my mother in 2007, I was able to buy a desktop computer and chess software to help my analysis.

One of Richard Beecham's allegations is that I can't play in my own right and just switch on the silicon monster to make my moves. Here are a couple of games played at the Inverness Club in 2007. The first is against Andrew Newton, currently club blitz champion and who I understand has recently been selected to play in for Scotland in the World Youth Championships in Turkey during November.

[Editor: in the interests of space and general diplomacy I've made these game scores a computer analysis and prawn-free zone. Exclamation marks have been seasonally pruned back.]

White: Newton, A
Black: Cumming, D R
B26 Closed Sicilian , Inverness, 21 Nov 2007
[Abbreviated notes by David Cumming]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 d6 4.d3 Nf6 5.h3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.Be3 Nd4 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Nce2 e5 10.c3 Ne6 11.Bh6N Rb8 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.g4?! Wrong pawn, wrong idea and easily countered. h6= 14.f3?! d5 15.h4 dxe4 16.g5?! hxg5 17.hxg5 Nh5 18.fxe4 Qxg5 Energetic and strong. 19.Bf3 Qxd2+ Leading to a superior endgame for Black. 20.Kxd2 Nef4 21.Rf1 Be6 22.Nxf4 Nxf4 23.Ne2 Nxe2 24.Bxe2 a6 Threatens Bxa2 and a pawn push, plus limits the White bishop. 25.a3 Rbd8 26.Rh2?! e4 27.Ke3 cxd3 28.Bxd3 Rd6 29.Rfh1 Rfd8 30.Rh7+ Kf6 31.Rf1+ Ke7 32.Be2 Rd2 33.Bg4?? R8d3#

White: Cumming, D R
Black: Blair, G
E70 King's Indian , Inverness, 28 Nov 2007
[Abbreviated notes by David Cumming]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Nf3 c6 6.e5 Ne8 7.d5!?N cxd5 8.cxd5 d6 9.Bf4 Bg4 10.exd6 Nxd6 11.Be2= Ne8? Wastes tempii. 12.0-0 Nf6 13.Qb3 Qd7?! 14.Ne5! Gains tempo. 14...Qc8 15.Nxg4 Nxg4 16.Bxg4 Qxg4 17.Qxb7 Nd7 18.Bg3 Nc5? 19.Qxe7 Nd3 20.Qa3 Rfb8?! A deliberate exchange sac in order to counter-attack. 21.Bxb8 Rxb8 22.Qxa7 Rxb2 23.Qa8+ Bf8 24.Rad1 Nf4 25.d6 A handy double - stops mate and advances the passed pawn. 25...Nh3+ 26.Kh1 Nxf2+ 27.Rxf2 Rxf2 28.Kg1 [28.d7?? Qxd1+ 29.Nxd1 Rf1#] 28...Rc2 29.d7 Kg7 30.d8Q Bc5+ 31.Kh1 1-0

My OTB chess rating suffers from my sleep regimen. I take sleeping pills at 1am, get to sleep about 4am and rise in the early afternoon. I don't attend congresses and club matches involving daytime play, as my concentration level then is poor. My play in the evenings is much better as opponents at the Inverness Club can testify! If I can regain full time employment then I will have to adjust my medication and sleep regimen accordingly.

These days, most strong CC players use computers in some form or other and I am no different. Personally, I don't have a problem with an opponent who wishes to use computers to aid their CC play - there are no enforceable rules to prohibit this and you must always be prepared to face strong moves. I use computers, chess engines, databases, et al to benefit both my CC and OTB play. If I choose to share my research by annotating games for the SCCA magazine, then that is not something I am ashamed of or embarrassed about!

I've never beaten Richard Beecham in postal play, so I cannot respond to his digs by annotating a win against him. Although I haven't played him for a few years now, I've always been outmatched by him in the past.

However, I wonder if he can reach a 2500+ grade and achieve an SIM title without some computer assistance? If he does it all unaided, then good luck to him. However, if he does 'consult the oracle' then isn't it a bit hypocritical to lambast others for doing the same thing?





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 the SCCA. 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 Fees 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 2009

Theme 6/09: Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, A45

1.d4 Nf6 2.f3 d5 3.e4 dxe4

Entries by 15 October; play starts 1 November

Theme 7/09: Kochrane Attack, C42

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Ne5 d6 4.Nxf7

Entries by 1 December; play starts 15 December

Webserver Events 2009

Theme 6/09: King's Gambit Hungarian Defence, C39

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ne5 d6

Entries by 1 November; play starts 15 November

Theme 7/09: Queen's Indian, E12

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3

Entries by 1 December; play starts 15 December

Note there are no Email Events in 2009.

News

- ❑ This year's ICCF Congress was held in Leeds from September 12-19.
- ❑ The SIM title was awarded to Richard Beecham and the IA title to George Pyrich at the Congress.
- ❑ Uwe Staroske (GER) was appointed Marketing Director and Josef Mrkvicka (CZE) elected Auditor.
- ❑ Duncan Chambers (ENG) was confirmed as chairman of the Tournament Rules Commission.
- ❑ Neil Limbert (ENG) was appointed Qualifications Commissioner to succeed Ron Langeveld (NED).
- ❑ The new World Championship structure proposed by Gerhard Binder (GER) was accepted.
- ❑ Webchess Open tournaments will now alternate with World Cups.

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

The SCCA Magazine is sponsored by Mackintosh Independent.