

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.115

Autumn 2011

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- **CD Reviews**
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- **Pertti Lehtikoinen**
 - *Profile of the 20th ICCF World Champion*
- **International Update**
 - *George covers loads of events and games*

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Photograph from National Museums Scotland



My apologies for the late delivery of this issue. We had a few problems securing copy in good time, but we have come up with an abundance of good games and hope that you'll find all the articles entertaining and informative.

George Pyrich analyses the fourth ICCF rating list of 2011 and his work in removing inactive players means that we now have a healthy 60% activity rate in the list.

Bernard Milligan's CD/DVD Review Column features a King's Indian study by Dejan Bojkov and the launch of Fritz 13. An action-packed Games Column includes submissions from the 2nd Webserver Open final, David Cumming and Ian Jamieson.

I'm pleased to include a feature article by Panu Laine on the 20th ICCF World Champion, Pertti Lehtikoinen of Finland. This provides a superb insight into the commitment required to play CC at the highest level.

George Pyrich provides a comprehensive international round-up including games by himself, Peter Bennett and Stuart Graham. Stuart has made an excellent showing in the 35th World Championship preliminaries and his featured games are much more representative of his talent than his unfortunate howler in Bernard's Games Column!

Alan Borwell attended the ICCF Congress in Finland during July-August and we hope to feature his report in our next edition. We'll also have an update on the various ICCF Veterans' World Cup cycles which we are sponsoring.

We have made no progress as yet in recruiting a secretary to keep us in order. If you are interested in helping out, please read the advert inside and get in touch. Ruthlessly efficient candidates with iPhones, steely glares and perfect teeth are desirable, but not essential.

Mac McKenzie has asked if anyone is interested in the CC magazine collection of the late Walter Munn, former SCA President. Please get in touch if so.

Late news in sees another win in the SCCA Postal League for Perth Correspondents, this time outright. Somebody must teach these people a lesson next season...

SCCA Membership

Annual: £10/year buys you entry to all SCCA domestic events and friendly international matches, plus 4 quarterly e-magazines.

Life: £100 gets you annual membership for the rest of your days (plus a year's worth of printed magazines to try out).

Patron: £125 (+ any further donation you care to make) gets you life membership and your name on something commemorative.

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.

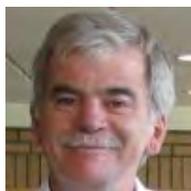
Recent 100 Club Winners

2011	1st	2nd
September	G D Pyrich	J Anderson
August	G M Anderson	K B McAlpine
July	J S Murray	M E Hardwick

SCCA Officials

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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine (enquiries), Jim Anderson (domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) pro tem.



2011/4 Grading List

By George Pyrich

The fourth ICCF grading list for 2011 has been published and the new grades are based on 3 months' results from 1 June to 31 August 2011. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 October and 31 December 2011.

Further players have been deleted from this list due to inactivity or lapsed membership. Andrew Paulin has now played sufficient games for a full rating. Andrew Macmillen joins the small band who have played 500+ rated games.

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	559	1995 ↓	419	Lees, J A	83	2055 ↔
518	Anderson, G M	193	2307 ↓	256	Lennox, C J (SM)	155	2273 ↔
121	Anderson, J	207	1735 ↓	503	Livie, G W G (IM)	194	2337 ↔
049	Armstrong, A	133	1881 ↓	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	470	2337 ↑
313	Armstrong, J McK	154	1638 ↓	337	Loughran, R	104	1555 ↔
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	340	2498 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	285	1898 ↑
599	Bell, A D	93	2363 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	497	2391 ↑
501	Bennett, P G	98	2276 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	507	1821 ↓
431	Binnie, J	27	1615 ↓ *	566	Marshall, I H	318	2094 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	769	2208 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	156	2439 ↓
427	Brooksbank, Dr K	73	1829 ↓	083	Maxwell, A	45	2183 ↔
215	Brown, Dr A C (SM)	206	2318 ↔	591	May, M A	78	2283 ↔
424	Burridge, R J	41	1830 ↓	352	McDonald, G R	79	1921 ↔
435	Cairney, J	27	2083 ↓ *	525	McKerracher, D	4	0 ↔ *
423	Calder, H	96	2055 ↔	412	McKinstry, J	52	1614 ↓
	Clark, S L	12	1968 ↑ *	401	Moir, P J	119	1668 ↑
173	Cook, W M	67	1909 ↔	598	Montgomery, R S	176	2303 ↓
364	Coope, D W	465	2111 ↑	564	Murray, J S	29	1969 ↓ *
247	Cormack, W H	55	1939 ↓	440	Neil, C	64	1673 ↓
527	Craig, T J (SM)	340	2356 ↔	453	Newton, A	24	1773 ↔ *
166	Cumming, D R	485	2291 ↓	429	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	76	1971 ↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G	60	2180 ↓	444	Paine, Dr K A	114	2261 ↑
572	Dempster, D	618	1809 ↓	1012	Paulin, A	33	2047 ↑
030	Dyer, M T	96	2094 ↔	379	Phillips, G H	215	2110 ↓
371	Edney, D	158	1948 ↓	432	Price, D	115	2035 ↑
372	Flockhart, H	25	2122 ↔ *	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	775	2191 ↓
459	Fraser, R A	42	1888 ↓	136	Reeman, I F	127	2306 ↔
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	123	2340 ↔	437	Roberts, A	146	1711 ↔
124	Goodwin, B J	141	2025 ↑	398	Rough, R E	29	1880 ↔ *
445	Graham, S (SM)	293	2316 ↓	522	Savage, D J	74	1956 ↔
399	Grant, J	26	1767 ↑ *	449	Scott, A	46	1871 ↔
327	Hammersley, C	18	1753 ↔ *	454	Sheridan, N	12	1535 ↔ *
596	Hardwick, M E	157	1369 ↓	439	Smith, M J	29	1885 ↔ *
063	Harvey, D	80	2059 ↑	1125	Spencer, E A	12	1877 ↔ *
515	Jack, J P E	27	1768 ↓ *	448	Sreeves, C	15	1918 ↔ *
447	Jamieson, I M	39	2036 ↑		Stevenson, F	14	1776 ↔ *
322	Jessing, M	27	2094 ↔ *	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	134	2114 ↓
1126	Kelly, J	12	1728 ↔	1120	Taylor, W	21	2092 ↓ *
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	292	2347 ↔	452	Toye, D T	55	1649 ↓
260	Knox, A	71	1685 ↑	530	Watson, J (IM)	141	2291 ↔
1117	Laing, D	18	2084 ↔ *	065	Young, S M	58	1772 ↔

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	82
New entrants	2
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	3
Full grades (30+ games)	63
Provisional grades (<30 games)	19
Grading increases (↑)	21
Grading decreases (↓)	28
Grading static (↔)	33

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2498	Watson, J (IM)	2291
Matheis, T (IM)	2439	May, M A	2283
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2391	Bennett, P G	2276
Bell, A D	2363	Lennox, C J (SM)	2273
Craig, T J (SM)	2356	Paine, Dr K A	2261
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2347	Borwell, A P (IM)	2208
Gillam, S R (SM)	2340	Dawson, Prof A G	2193
Livie, G W G (IM)	2337	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2191
Lloyd, G (SM)	2337	Maxwell, A	2183
Anderson, G M	2307	Stewart, Dr K W C	2114
Brown, Dr A C	2318	Coope, D W	2111
Graham, S (SM)	2316	Phillips, G H	2110
Reeman, I F	2306	Dyer, M T	2094
Montgomery, R S	2303	Marshall, I	2094
Cumming, D R	2291	Cairney, J	2083

Top 30 Games Played

Pyrich, G D (IM)	775	Phillips, G H	215
Borwell, A P (IM)	769	Anderson, J	207
Dempster, D	618	Brown, Dr A C (SM)	206
Almarza-Mato, C	559	Livie, G W G (IM)	194
MacMillen, A N	507	Anderson, G M	193
Mackintosh, I (IM)	497	Montgomery, R S	176
Cumming, D R	485	Edney, D	158
Lloyd, G (SM)	470	Hardwick, M E	157
Coope, D W	465	Matheis, T (IM)	156
Beecham, C R (SIM)	340	Lennox, C J (SM)	155
Craig, T J (SM)	340	Armstrong, J McK	154
Marshall, I H	318	Roberts, A	146
Graham, S (SM)	293	Goodwin, B J	141
Kilgour, D A (GM)	292	Watson, J (IM)	141
MacGregor, C A	285	Stewart, Dr K W C	134

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. 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.



A Modern Way to Play the King's Indian By Dejan Bojkov



The Zürich Interzonal of 1953 and the marvellous annotations of David Bronstein changed our understanding of the KID. From a second-class opening, it became one of the most aggressive and dangerous setups for the second player. Back in those days players tended to develop their queen's knight to d7. Later a more central approach came into fashion and the knight found a good square on c6.

Current practice though, has revealed that there is one more good square for that piece - the a6 one. From this new outpost the knight is heading for the centre without obstructing its own bishop. Bulgarian GM Dejan Bojkov is one of the true supporters of such a development. In this DVD you will find a repertoire based on flexible development whenever possible, and an explanation of some strategic nuances of the KID. The author shares with you a lot of novelties that he had prepared throughout his study of the lines. Video running time: 5 hours.

Fritz 13 By ChessBase



Join the community! "Let's Check" is a revolutionary new feature of Fritz 13 that will change the chess world*. With it Fritz 13 users can join a world-wide community that will put together a giant knowledge base for chess. Whenever you analyse a position to any meaningful depth with your chess engine Fritz 13 will, if you allow it, send the main line and evaluation to a central server, to be shared by all

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And the icing on the cake: six months of free premium membership to the world's largest chess server:
www.playchess.com.



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

It's been a testing time for me over the last few weeks. We had both sets of grandkids down for a holiday. On top of that My son, daughter-in-law and 4 grandkids moved in as they were getting repairs done on their house. Then I backed up/moved the files from My Documents folder to another drive as I was getting short of space on my main drive. So when I hit the time to start working on this magazine I had to hunt through all my back up drives to try and find out where I had moved everything to. Senile dementia is heading my way and It can't come quick enough so at least I have a excuse. Anyway we have some interesting games so I hope you enjoy them. Have a nice Christmas when it arrives.

2nd SCCA Webserver Open Final ICCF, 10.06.2011
White: Thomas Matheis (2442)
Black: Andrew N MacMillen (1801)

- 1.d4 d5
- 2.Nf3 Nf6
- 3.c4 e6
- 4.Nc3 Be7
- 5.Bf4 0-0
- 6.e3 c5
- 7.dxc5 Bxc5
- 8.a3 Nc6
- 9.Qc2 Qa5
- 10.Rd1



10.0-0 2nd SCCA Webserver Open Final ICCF, 10.06.2011
is more popular in GM play, but this move is at least as strong combined with k-side castling.

- 10... dxc4?!
- 10...Be7 looks more solid.
- 11.Bxc4 Be7
- 12.0-0 a6

- 13.Ng5 h6
- 14.Nge4 b5?!
- 15.Ba2 b4?
- 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6
- 17.Bb1 g6
- 18.Ne4 Bxb2



Desperate measures.

- 19.Qxb2 e5
- 20.Bxh6 Rd8
- 21.Nf6+ Kh8
- 22.Qc2 Bb7
- 23.Qc4

mate is now inevitable.

- 23... Qc7
- 24.Qh4

An efficient conclusion by Tom. 1-0



2nd SCCA Webserver Open Final ICCF, 10.06.2011
White: Stuart Graham (2309)
Black: Geoffrey Lloyd (2301)

- This game featured our two most recent Scottish Masters in opposition.
- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nc3 Bb4

- 4.Qc2 0-0
- 5.a3 Bxc3+
- 6.Qxc3 b6
- 7.Bg5 Bb7
- 8.f3 h6
- 9.Bh4 d5
- 10.e3 Nbd7
- 11.cxd5 Nxd5



All established theory up to here, with Anand, Topalov, Kramnik and Kasparov having played the line.

12.Bd3??

A complete oversight - 12.Bxd8 is the only move.

12... Qxh4+

12...Qxh4+ 13.g3 Qg5 14.Qd2 Qxe3+ 15.Qxe3 Nxe3 and White drops a piece and a pawn for nothing. 0-1



Scotland vs. Romania, 2011
White: Andrei Uifelean (2226)
Black: David R Cumming (2288)
Sicilian Defence [B31]
[Annotator D R Cumming]

- 1.e4 c5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 g6
- 4.0-0 Bg7
- 5.Nc3 e5
- 6.d3 Nge7
- 7.Bc4 0-0
- 8.Bg5

8.Ne1 a6 9.a3 d6 10.Ba2 b5 11.Rb1 Rb8 12.Be3 h6 13.Qd2 Kh7 14.b4 f5 15.f3 cxb4 16.axb4 a5 17.bxa5 Qxa5 18.Rb2 f4 19.Bf2 g5 20.Nb1 b4 21.Qd1 d5 22.Nd2 Be6 Morozevich,A (2732)-Ivanchuk,V

pieces are far away on the Queenside, and will take time to come to the aid of the White King.

8...

h6

Simple prophylaxis. I didn't want White's minor pieces getting a foothold on b5 OR d5.



13.Bxe6 fxe6
14.a5±

28.Kg1 Bf4
29.Qh3+ Kg7
30.g3 Nf3+
31.Kg2 Ng5
32.Qh2 Bc1!

Highlighting the hole on b6.

This not only clears the f-file for the forthcoming assault, but it prevents the White Rook from coming to the aid of the White Kingside, so aiding Black's attack.

8...d6 9.Nd5 h6 10.Nxe7+ Nxe7 11.Bh4 Bd7 12.a4 Kh7 13.c3 a6 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Bd5 Bc6 16.a5 Bxd5 17.exd5 f5 18.Nd2 Rad8 19.Nc4 Bf6 20.Rb1 Qe8 21.Re1 Qb5 22.Ra1 Rfe8 23.Kf1 Pessoa,F (2515)-Oliveira,M (2566)/ICCF 2010/OM 2.04/1/2-1/2

9.Bxe7 Nxe7
10.h3

14... Nc6
15.Qg4 Rf6
16.Nc4 h5
17.Qg5 Kh7
18.f3?!

33.Rxc1 Qf6
34.Nb1 Qf2+
35.Kh1 Rh8
36.Qxh8+ Kxh8
37.Ncd2

Otherwise ...Nf3 leads to mate.



37... Nh3
38.Rf1 Qxg3
39.g5 Nf4

10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 d6 12.c3 Kh7 13.Nd2 Rb8 14.a4 h5 15.Rb1 Bg4 16.Qc2 Bh6 17.b4 cxb4 18.Rxb4 b6 19.Nc4 Rc8 20.a5 bxa5 21.Rb7 Rc7 22.Rfb1 Bc8 23.Rxc7 Qxc7 24.Ra1 h4 Aronian,L (2649)-Starostits,I (2431)/Lausanne - Hôtel Alpha Palmie 2003/OM 2.04/1/2-1/2

This allows Black to equalise. Better was to retreat the Queen to d2. Now White has potentially serious dark-squared weaknesses around his King. [Deep Junior 10: 18.Qd2 Bh6 19.Qe1 Rb8 20.Na4 Bf4 21.b3 h4 22.Nab6 d5 0.32/21]

Threatening mate on g2, thereby forcing White to exchange his Rook for the Knight. A strong alternative here was 39...Nf2+, also forcing White to sacrifice the exchange.

10... d6
11.a4 Be6
12.Nd2N

18... Bh6=
19.Qg3 Nd4
20.Qf2 g5
21.Qg3 Nxc2
22.Rac1 Nd4±
23.Ra1 Qe7±

40.Rxf4 exf4
41.Nf1 Qf2
42.Nbd2 Kg7
43.d4 f3



Clearing the way for Black to bring up his other Rook in support of the Kingside action.



43...f3 44.Nxf3 Qxf1+ 45.Kh2 Qf2+ 46.Kh3 Qxf3+ 47.Kh4 cxd4 48.b3 d3 49.g6 d2 50.b4 d1Q 51.b5 Qg4# 0-1



12.Re1 a6 13.Qd2 (RR 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Qd2 Rad8 15.a5 Rfe8 16.Qc1 Qc6 17.Nd2 d5 18.Bb3 Qc7 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd5 Rxd5 22.Qb1 Rd4 23.Re3 h5 24.Re2 Qc6 25.Qe1 Qb5 26.b3 f6 27.Nf3 Rb4 Mary,P (2411)-Biedermann,T (2402)/ICCF 2008/OM 2.04/1/2-1/2 (64)) 13...Qc7 14.a5 Rad8 15.Re3 Kh7 16.Qe1 Nc6 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 Nd4 19.Qd1 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 f5 21.c3 Bf6 22.Bb3 Rb8 23.Ra2 Rbe8 24.Re4 fxe4 25.Qxe4 Bg5 26.f3 Qf7 Cakl,M (1963)-Pommrich,R (2222)/ICCF 2009/OM Corr/0-1

24.Rf2 g4!
25.hxg4 hxg4
26.fxg4 Rxf2
27.Kxf2 Rf8+-+

SCCA Web League Div 2 2011
White: Ian M Jamieson
Black: Ray J Pomeroy
Sokolsky [A00]
[Notes by Ian Jamieson]



Black's pieces are well co-ordinated on the KIngside for the attack, whilst White's

The numbers in () are the numbers of days used for the move.

1.b4
2.Bb2

e5
f6 (1)

Sokolsky-Nei (1955?) Soviet Union 1.b4 e5 2.Bd2 d6 e3 f6 4.c4 g6 %Nf3 Bg7 6.dr Ne7 7.Be2 0-0 8.Nc3 Kh8 9.0-0 Be6 10.a4 Nd7 11.a5 1-0 (69) although Sokolsky noted "If Black intends to play f6 it is better to do it immediately on move 2. Master Nei probably wanted to avoid the sharp Gambit Variation, which gives White a game rich in chances. My translation of Hinlidenbrand's German translation of Sokolsky's Russian.

13.Ne1 (2)
13...
14.f4 (4)

Ng5

For the exchange variation 2...Bxb4 3.Bxe5 see my game against David Cumming in the previous magazine. (It was interesting that, having chosen the sharpest response to 1.b4 David chose to play 4...d6 rather than 0-0 or Nc6 followed by d5. I was aware of the Reimer-Wild game which David quoted. 10.Ne1 was an attempt to exchange a pair of minor pieces and improve White's chances but I misjudged the position after 15...Nxa5 after which I was always struggling to hold on)

I was still ahead in development so I didn't mind 14...exf3 e.p.

3.b5

14...

Nf7

White can also try to exploit the potential weakness on the a2-g8 diagonal by playing 3.e4!? Bxb4 4.Bc4, the so called Gambit Variation.

5.e3

Nd7

With ...g6 or ...Be6 Ray could still have transposed into Sokolsky-Nei. Now however we were on our own. I wasn't sure what Ray had in mind so I decided to simply continue to develop normally.



Ray probably correctly decided to keep the position closed. At this point I did not like my position. 15.Qc2 was the obvious move but for some reason I forgot I did not like 15...f5 16.g4. I therefore played.



6.Nf3

Nc5 (1)

7.d4 (1)



15.g4 (1)

15...

Be7!?

Ray decided not to try to defend the e-pawn and instead catch up on development.

16.Qc2 (9)

16...

0-0

17.f5 (6)

If 17.Qxe4 Nd6 and f5.

17...

Nge5 (2)

18.Qxe4 (1)

Finally White can capture the pawn.

3...

Ne7?!

3...d5 is "the strongest and by far the most popular move". Konikowski & Soszynski?1.b4 Theory and Practice of the Sokolsky Opening, Ian Jamieson - Borwell Alan P (2007)/Scottish CCA Webserver - Open Section A continued. 4.e3 Be6 5.c4 c6 6.Qb3 Nd7 7.d4 Bd6 8.Nf3 Ne7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Be2 Qe8 11.a3 Bxa3 12.Qxa3 e4 13.Nd2 f5 14.g3 g5 15.h4 g4 1/2-1/2.

Why not.

7...

Ne6

8.Be2

Ng6

9.Nc3

b6

So this was Ray's idea for his Queen's Bishop.

10.0-0

Bb7

What next? With the benefit of hindsight I should probably have continued 11.a4 or Qc2.I was concerned however by Ray's potential kingside attack - his Queen's Knight has been steadily drifting towards the kingside. I was also ahead in development - I only needed 1 move to connect my Rooks while Ray needed 3 moves. I therefore decided to play:



18...

Bd6

19.h4 (11)

If 19g2 straight away 19...Ng5 and 20...Nh3+ was annoying.

19...

Re8

20.Ng2 (2)

Heading for e6 to shield my backward e-pawn.

4.c4

d6

For what it's worth this is a new move according to my paper records. [4...Ng6 5.e3 Bb4 6.Bc3 Bxc3 7.Nxc3 0-0 8.d4 exd4 9.Qxd4 c6 10.Bd3 Qe8 11.Nge2 Qe5 12.Bxg6 hxg6 13.Qxe5 fxe5 14.Rd1 a6 15.a4 axb5 16.axb5 d5 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Nxd5 Bg4 19.f3 Be6 20.Nc7 1-0 Sues S-Zschommler (1985)/Openwald/ The Complete Encyclopedia of Chess Openings. I moved last year and my computer has been in storage since I moved so I have not been able to check my Electronic records. The only Sokolsky game where I found Black played e5, f6 and d6 (although not in that order) is

11.c5? (7)

11...bxc5? looked better as it lengthened the diagonal of Ray's Bishop on f8.

11...

dx5 (5)

12.d5

e4! (1)

An annoying zwischenzug.

20... Nc6 (1)
21.Qf3 (13)

I looked at other squares for my queen but I thought f3 was the best square for the Queen in view of my advanced Kingside pawns.

21... Nce5
22.Qe4 Bf8?!



Turning down the draw by repetition after 22...Nc6. I was surprised as I still thought Ray was better - my Queen was almost holding my position by herself. I thought Bf8?! however was a move backwards in more ways than one. I thought Ray should play 22...Nd7 23.Qf3 Be5 instead.

23.Rad1 (1)
23... Qd6
24.Qb1 (10)

Getting out of the way of the discovered attack from Ray's Rook and indirectly adding to the defence of the b5 pawn if Ray played ...c4.

24... Qe7
25.Nf4 (1)
25... Nd8?!

I thought Ray should play 25...Bc8 26.Ne6 Bxe6. After Nd8 Ray's light squared Bishop is a prisoner for almost the rest of the game.

26.Ne6 (5)
26... Nxe6 (2)
27.fxe6 (4)

I looked at dxc6 but I thought fxe6 was stronger. Why open the h1-a8 diagonal for Ray's Bishop and the d-file for his Rooks?

27... Rad8 (1)
28.Qf5 (2)

A multipurpose move. I thought Ray's last chance was to sacrifice his light -squared

Bishop for two pawns. I couldn't stop him doing it but I could ensure that I could exchange Queens if he did. If 28...Bxd5 29.Nxd5 Qxe6 30.Qxe6. It also made it hard for Ray to develop his dark squared Bishop and prepared g5 to undermine Ray's key defender on e5.

28... g6!?

Ray decided he has to develop his bishop anyway even at the cost of a pawn. Ray may also have planned 29. Qxf6 Qxf6 30. Rxf6 Be7 skewering the rook and the pawn on h4 but overlooked 31. g5

29.Qxf6 (1)
29... Bg7 (1)
30.Qxe7 Rxe7



At this stage I wasn't sure what I should play next. I wanted to play a4, e4 and g5 but I wasn't sure which was the most accurate order. Eventually I chose:

31.e4 (4)
31... c4?!

Ray cracked - he should probably have sat still and forced me to find a way of breaching his fortress. If the knight on e5 is in danger ...h5 was probably a better way of giving it an escape square - c4 opened the a3-f8 diagonal.

32.Bc1



Exploiting the position of Ray's Rooks to unpin the Knight.

32... h6 (2)
33.g5 (1)
33... h5

34.a4? Again the ? is for the poor quality of my analysis - it was only after I played 34. a4 that I noticed Ray's reply.

34... Nd7?



This looked good but unfortunately the move I wanted to play next on positional grounds was now very strong on tactical grounds. 34...Ree7?

35.Ba3 Nc5 (1)
36.Bxc5 bxc5
37.Rf6

Not allowing Ray any counter play with Bd4+ and judging the pawns to more than compensate for the exchange if 37...Bxf6.

37... Kh7?

Natural but I was not immediately planning to take on g6. h7 would also turn out to be a most unfortunate square for Ray's King. (If the opponent only has one Bishop it is normally it is normally safer to put one's pieces on the opposite coloured squares. Therefore 37...Kh8?

38.e5 (1)
38... Cementing the Rook in place.

38... a6 (1)
39.Bxc4 axb5 (1)
40.axb5 Bc8
41.Bd3



Exploiting 37...Kh7? {Just before I found this move New in Chess published a book "Invisible Chess Moves" by Yochanan Afek and Emmanuel Neiman. One of the

book's sub-chapters is titled "Backward attacking moves") I couldn't see any defence for Black.

41... Bxf6

41...Bxf8 returning his other Bishop to its starting square would have prolonged the game but should still have lost - my pawns were too strong.

42.gxf6 (1)



I thought about 42.exf6 undoubling my pawns but I thought 42.gxf6 was stronger - the pawn on e5 is useful to force through d6.

42... Rxe6
43.dxe6 Bxe6
44.Bxg6+

44.Kxg6 45.Rxd8 Kf7 46.Rxd5 or 45...Kf5 46.Rd7. Ray was gracious in defeat and it was a nice attack.

(Comments discarded: After 2... f6 "With this move Black assumes the obligations of a big centre and a potential weakness on the a2-g8 diagonal, which White may attempt to exploit directly by playing 3. e4!? Bxb4 4. Bc4, the so-called Gambit Variation. In addition Black's ...f6 does nothing to further his development. White's actual move eschews gambit play, hoping to undermine Black's centre by positional means." Sokolsky's note to the game Sokolsky-Kotov(1938)/Leningrad/Debut 1 b2-b4, translated by Yury Lapshun/play 1 b4!)



Scotland vs. Romania, 2011

White: Andrei Uifolean (2226)
Black: David R Cumming (2288)
Sicilian Defence [B31]
[Annotator David R Cumming]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 g6

4.0-0 Bg7
5.Nc3 e5
6.d3 Nge7
7.Bc4 0-0
8.Bg5



8.Ne1 a6 9.a3 d6 10.Ba2 b5 11.Rb1 Rb8 12.Be3 h6 13.Qd2 Kh7 14.b4 f5 15.f3 cxb4 16.axb4 a5 17.bxa5 Qxa5 18.Rb2 f4 19.Bf2 g5 20.Nb1 b4 21.Qd1 d5 22.Nd2 Be6 Morozevich,A (2732)-Ivanchuk,V (2716)/Monaco MNC 2004/OM 2.04/1-0

8... h6

8...d6 9.Nd5 h6 10.Nxe7+ Nxe7 11.Bh4 Bd7 12.a4 Kh7 13.c3 a6 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Bd5 Bc6 16.a5 Bxd5 17.exd5 f5 18.Nd2 Rad8 19.Nc4 Bf6 20.Rb1 Qe8 21.Re1 Qb5 22.Ra1 Rfe8 23.Kf1 Pessoa,F (2515)-Oliveira,M (2566)/ICCF 2010/OM 2.04/1/2-1/2

9.Bxe7 Nxe7
10.h3

10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 d6 12.c3 Kh7 13.Nd2 Rb8 14.a4 h5 15.Rb1 Bg4 16.Qc2 Bh6 17.b4 cxb4 18.Rxb4 b6 19.Nc4 Rc8 20.a5 bxa5 21.Rb7 Rc7 22.Rfb1 Bc8 23.Rxc7 Qxc7 24.Ra1 h4 Aronian,L (2649)-Starostits,I (2431)/Lausanne - Hôtel Alpha Palmie 2003/OM 2.04/1/2-1/2

10... d6
11.a4 Be6



12.Nd2N

12.Re1 a6 13.Qd2 (RR 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Qd2 Rad8 15.a5 Rfe8 16.Qc1 Qc6 17.Nd2 d5 18.Bb3 Qc7 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd5 Rxd5 22.Qb1 Rd4

23.Re3 h5 24.Re2 Qc6 25.Qe1 Qb5 26.b3 f6 27.Nf3 Rb4 Mary,P (2411)-Biedermann,T (2402)/ICCF 2008/OM 2.04/1/2-1/2 (64)) 13...Qc7 14.a5 Rad8 15.Re3 Kh7 16.Qe1 Nc6 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 Nd4 19.Qd1 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 f5 21.c3 Bf6 22.Bb3 Rb8 23.Ra2 Rbe8 24.Re4 fxe4 25.Qxe4 Bg5 26.f3 Qf7 Cakl,M (1963)-Pommrich,R (2222)/ICCF 2009/OM Corr/0-1 (35)] 12...a6 Simple prophylaxis. I didn't want White's minor pieces getting a foothold on b5 OR d5.

13.Bxe6 fxe6
14.a5±

Highlighting the hole on b6.

14... Nc6
15.Qg4 Rf6
16.Nc4 h5



17.Qg5 Kh7
18.f3?!

This allows Black to equalise. Better was to retreat the Queen to d2. Now White has potentially serious dark-squared weaknesses around his King. Deep Junior 10: 18.Qd2 Bh6 19.Qe1 Rb8 20.Na4 Bf4 21.b3 h4 22.Nab6 d5 0.32/21

18... Bh6=
19.Qg3 Nd4
20.Qf2 g5
21.Qg3 Nxc2
22.Rac1 Nd4
23.Ra1 Qe7!

Clearing the way for Black to bring up his other Rook in support of the Kingside action.



24.Rf2 g4!
 25.hxg4 hxg4
 26.fxg4 Rxf2
 27.Kxf2 Rf8+-+



Black's pieces are well co-ordinated on the Kingside for the attack, whilst White's pieces are far away on the Queenside, and will take time to come to the aid of the White King.

28.Kg1 Bf4
 29.Qh3+ Kg7
 30.g3 Nf3+
 31.Kg2 Ng5
 32.Qh2 Bc1!



This not only clears the f-file for the forthcoming assault, but it prevents the White Rook from coming to the aid of the White Kingside, so aiding Black's attack.

33.Rxc1 Qf6
 34.Nb1 Qf2+
 35.Kh1 Rh8
 36.Qxh8+ Kxh8
 37.Ncd2

Otherwise ...Nf3 leads to mate.



37... Nh3
 38.Rf1 Qxg3

39.g5 Nf4

Threatening mate on g2, thereby forcing White to exchange his Rook for the Knight. A strong alternative here was 39...Nf2+, also forcing White to sacrifice the exchange.

40.Rxf4 exf4
 41.Nf1 Qf2
 42.Nbd2 Kg7
 43.d4 f3



43...f3 44.Nxf3 Qxf1+ 45.Kh2 Qf2+
 46.Kh3 Qxf3+ 47.Kh4 cxd4 48.b3 d3
 49.g6 d2 50.b4 d1Q 51.b5 Qg4# 0-1



SCO v. ENG postal b3, 2008
White: Peter J E Ackley
Black: David R Cumming
 [D02]

1.d4 d5
 2.c4 Nc6
 3.Nf3 Bg4
 4.Nc3 e6
 5.Bf4

5...cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 (or 6.Bg5 are probably better choices for White)

5... Nf6
 6.e3 Bb4
 7.Rc1 0-0
 8.h3 Bh5

8...Bxf3 was preferred in the game Robert Montgomery v. Kjartansson, NATT 6, 2007 9.Qxf3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qe7 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bc4 Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Rad8 and 1/2 -1/2, 37

9.a3 Bxc3+
 10.Rxc3 Ne7

Black has a comfortable position with no problems

11.Bd3 h6
 12.Qc2 c6
 13.Nd2

13.Ne5 is a bit more ambitious

13... Bg6
 14.0-0 Re8
 15.Rb3 b6
 16.Rc1 Rc8
 17.Rc3 c5
 18.dxc5 bxc5
 19.Rd1 d4!

after White's rather aimless play, Black begins to assume the initiative

20.Rb3 Bxd3
 21.Qxd3 Nc6
 22.exd4 Nxd4
 23.Rb7 e5
 24.Be3 Qd6
 25.Bxd4

25.Rxa7 Qb6 26.Ra4 Qxb2 and Black is slightly better

25... Rcd8
 26.Nb3 exd4
 27.Rxa7 Re5
 28.Rb7

28.Qf3 with possibilities of Ra8 or Qb7 looked better

28... Rde8
 29.Nd2 Nh5

suddenly White is under serious pressure

30.Nf3
 30.g3?? allows 30...Nxxg3!

30... Nf4
 31.Nxe5

more or less forced as [31.Qf1 Re2 32.b4 Qg6 looks pretty bleak for White]

31... Nxd3
 32.Nxd3 Rb8

32...Qe6 with the idea of Qe2 looks stronger but Black's position is already very strong. In the following end-game, the White R and N do not co-ordinate well as they require to guard against the Black d-pawn

33.Rxb8+ Qxb8
 34.Rd2 Qc7 35.Kf1 g5 36.Rc2 h5 37.f3 Qb6 38.Rc1 Kg7 39.Kf2 g4 40.hxg4 hxg4 41.fxg4 Qa6 42.Kf1 Qh6 43.g5 Qh7 44.Nf2 Qg6 45.a4 Qb6 46.Nd3 Qb3 and here White, rather generously resigned with the win for Black still a way off. Black will pick off the a, b and g4 pawns and then advance the K eventually forcing decisive material gain.
 0-1



GM Pertti Lehikoinen 20th ICCF World Champion

By Panu Laine

[Ed – Alan Borwell recommended this article which will appear in the forthcoming ICCF Diamond Jubilee book. I enjoyed it very much – as well as good chess, it gives an honest and revealing insight into preparation, analysis, and coping with stress at the highest level.]

Pertti very kindly allowed me to use it here and my thanks go to him and Panu Laine for the English translation. Incidentally, the picture above is Pertti rather than Panu.]

20th ICCF World Championship

The 20th World Championship final was exceptional in many ways: it was the last postal final, it took 6½ years, the last finished game decided the winner, it took 110 moves and almost 3 years longer than the second longest game. The margin between the first two was smallest ever – 0,5 Sonneborn-Berger points. Not to mention that the 21st, 22nd and 23rd World Champions were already decided. The winner made a huge amount of work and dedication to win the final. Let's have a look behind the title – who is GM Pertti Lehikoinen?

Early Days

Pertti Ilari Lehikoinen was born on 19th March 1952 in Helsinki and he has ever since lived in the Finnish capital. His background is modest, but he never let it bother his chess career.

Pertti learnt chess at the age of 7, while visiting a friend in the countryside. At the time Edit Piaf's "Milord" was a great hit and it was played several times a day at the radio. It still reminds Pertti about that distant weekend over 50 years ago, which changed his life.

During the early years Pertti played at school and joined a chess club soon after. In his first Finnish Junior Championships at the age of 14 – at the time there was only under 20 years group – he got 0/7 and the local newspaper wrote that Pertti had come 9th in the tournament – regardless there was only 8 players. Next year he was 23. out of 24, but 3 years later in 1970 he already won the Finnish Junior Championship. The title of Candidate master had been achieved a year earlier, but the master title came only in 1978 long after the chess focus had moved to correspondence chess.

First Steps in Correspondence Chess

In 1971 his friend at the chess club insisted Pertti to play a correspondence tournament – just to give it a try. It was a national event, hectic as post delivered cards within a day inside Finland, and Pertti felt it stressing. Regardless he got 4/6, which was just enough to get a national correspondence chess master title.

His first international correspondence chess tournament in 1972 was a preliminary to WCC cycle. The slower tempo in SCCA Magazine 115

playing suited perfectly to Pertti's playing style and "I got extremely excited!" He ended to 3rd place with a margin of ½ points to winners and dropped off from cycle, but the main thing was achieved: "This is my form of chess!"

International Level

Pertti was lucky to get to play in Finnish Championship on 1976 (1st with 12½/14), as the winners were promised a place in a grandmaster tournament Eino Heilimo Memorial. There Pertti achieved the IM-norm and title with 7/14. The skill had improved a lot and he got "good draws against grandmasters". That gave confidence.

The 2nd Youngest Grandmaster!

The next one was a dream come true. A GM-tournament arranged by the Macedonian federation with strong GM participation. "I won against GM Fritz Baumbach, who became World Champion a little later!" Pertti got 8½/13 and achieved GM-norm and title and became the 2nd youngest GM so far! At the time there were only 90 GM's in the world, but the number of players was significantly larger, which makes the achievement even greater. "In this tournament I realised first time, that in some fields I was already at the top GM level, but there were also areas to improve. My strongest area proved to be very stubborn defence skills."

Collapse and New Rise

Josef Bannet memorial was the worst tournament I ever played. It was also the only one, where I lost rating – only 5 points, but regardless. I learnt the hard way that it is not enough to be a GM – you must play like a GM! Other excuses included the birth of the daughter around the same time.

The next one was Alekhine Memorial, which was the 2nd strongest tournament played by then. GM Aivar Gipslis won it and I was trailing with 1 point and missed the 2nd GM-norm by ½ point. I had the title already, but at the time with 2 norms you earned a life time right to play in WCC ¾ finals. A good consolation was my win against Sanakoev and a draw against V. Zagorovski. That raised my result against world champions to 2½-½ and it has remained unchanged.

"By a very strange coincidence I happened to get moves from Canadian jubilee tournament at the same time. Involuntarily I agreed to play that tournament too at the same time after realising that it would be very difficult for them to find a GM replacement at no time." That went only reasonably and Pertti got 8½/14. But it was good exercise for the coming events, though he didn't realise it at the time.

Perfect performance!

“Milan Vidmar memorial in 1995 was the best tournament I ever played! I can say this regardless I won the WCC final later on. I won one game straight from the opening and games proceeded like a dream! I won the tournament with 11½/14, a ½ point margin to world rating no 6 and surpassed the GM-norm with 2½ points! Perhaps one reason for my superb performance was that I had previously played two tournaments at a time. It was then like running with rubber boots, and now I was running with sneakers!”

Towards the World Championship

“I had been thinking about the WCC final for the first time already in the 1970’s. The grand plan consisted about achieving the 2 GM norms to go directly to ¾ WCC finals. As a slow postal tempo was my ally, I had searched a perfect location to support my abilities. I would move to a small island along the Croatian coast for the most critical part of the WCC final to guarantee a couple of extra days per move of thinking time provided by slower postal service. This beautiful plan was, however, ruined by the unfortunate and sad happenings in the Balkan area in early 1990’s. Another driver was the increasing impact of computers in the correspondence chess, which started soon after.”

Pertti got to ¾ WCC Final right after the end of Vidmar memorial. It was a difficult tournament. He had great difficulties after the opening phase and he got through several losing positions to play, but he survived without losses. “I absolutely had to win the two last games.” Fortunately the advantages proved to be big enough that Pertti got the shared 4th place and got to the finals. From 24 places available from the cycle Pertti got the 23rd. The last one to go through was Stefan Winge from Sweden. So the ones, who were in biggest danger in the ¾ finals then shined in the final.

Preparation for the WCC Final

WCC final was expected to start already in May 2004, but it was postponed till October 2004. I started the preparations for the final already in 1.12.2002. Despite the ¾-Final was still going on, I had no reason to delay the start of preparations.

“The first months of preparation were on mental side. I planned a theme for each day, which I worked through during a 4-5 hour walk. My aim was to strengthen the weaknesses – like to play and use time better after the opening phase, where the next 5-8 moves had always been painful to play for me.

The latter part of preparation was disturbed by a plumbing work started in the house Pertti was living. It took from late 2003 till July 2004. Fortunately the start of the 20th final was also delayed from spring 2004 till 25.10.2004.

In theory there were approximately 100 players, who had the right to play in the final, so it was impossible to do preparations for certain individuals. So I concentrated to sharpen my opening weapons, like Botvinnik Slav and Najdorf. I got this phase of preparation ready in 12.10.2004 and checked, whether the players list would have been

released. It was just released! The preparation to opponents took 2 weeks and when it finished, the official starting date of the 20th WCC Final was the same day.

Start of the WCC Final, Crisis and next to Abyss

“My intuition told me that most of the players would take their vacation on December, so I took mine on November. I was right, only Zilberberg didn’t take his vacation in December. The openings went excellently and I had even some advantage as black in some games.”

“I should have understood already in June in 2005 that the dark clouds were gathering around. I had used too much thinking time to my excellent openings. From there started the worst 6 month nightmare I had ever experienced. The moves were piling up and I had enormous difficulties to get them sent back. I couldn’t analyse as deeply as I wanted.

I offered in four games draw as black – and all were rejected! I had proven my vulnerability and naturally everybody wanted to take advantage of that. I offered with white pieces to Zilberberg a draw, which he accepted after returning from his holiday. There were 13 games left. I just had to let the moves go with insufficient analysis.

My health gave the first warning signals in September 2005 and soon I had more problems. I was working 17 hours a day and developed an extreme way of saving time. I continued to analyse throughout the night to the next day as long as possible. Then I slept longer. Once, at the evening of the 2nd day I was totally exhausted, got up to make some coffee and passed out. Only for a moment but anyway. The same happened after a couple of weeks again and I finally understood that I have to ease up a little bit. I decided that by 3 A.M. I have to be at bed. My dear diary tells me that sometimes it slipped up to 6.30 A.M., but fortunately not too often.

Suddenly before the Christmas 2005 I got moves from almost all my opponents within a few days. In several games I had so little time left that I absolutely had to get them answered before Christmas. The last moves were almost lottery and I made it to the Christmas holidays.

Light at the End of the Tunnel

I started 2006 with a holiday. I was exhausted and slept. Then I forced myself to look at the positions and take them into process, if there were anything to process any more. One game was winning, but the positions had mostly slide into worse during that 6 months. Fortunately I was able to continue fighting.

I processed the moves ready to be sent out, only Winge’s move was problematic. I analysed it my whole holiday. I had to sacrifice an exchange with a compensation of a far advanced passed pawn. I made my decision at the last day before new moves started to come in.

I agreed a couple of draws and gradually got hold of the positions. During the spring 2006 my opponents made some inaccuracies. By the end of 2006 I knew that I wouldn’t lose any game.

The Final Spurt

Draws continued one after another. I had won Herbrechtsmeier earlier and I had 3 advantageous positions left. I estimated that maybe I will win one of them, which would equal to +2 result. No medal, but a tolerable result. During 2007 I gradually increased the advantage in these games and in spring 2008 after 3½ years of playing I had achieved +4 result. So I succeeded in winning all my 3 last games. I was leading, but there was one game left: the famous Winge-Toro encounter.

Winge-Toro and the Decision of the 20th WCC Final

Stefan Winge (SWE) – Guillermo Toro (CHI) continued persistently and Winge would be the World Champion, if he would win the last game. In case of a draw, Pertti Lehtikainen would have the highest laurels. Because this single game had such a great importance, ICCF started to show it on the 5 move delay on the ICCF main page.

Stefan Winge – Guillermo Toro 20th WCC final 25.10.2004 – 20.2.2011



This was the crucial position, where the fate of the world championship was decided.

93.Rb1??

This move leads directly to a draw. 93.Bd6 or 93.Rf3 would have maintained the advantage and practical chances to a win.

93...	Bxa3
94.Ra1	Bxb4
95.Rxa8	Ke5
96.Ra2	Kf5
97.Rg2	Be1
98.Kd5	Bh4
99.Kd4	Bf6+
100.Ke3	Bg5+
101.Kf3	

This is the only move to draw in Nalimov tablespace!

The next three Black's moves are only moves to draw.
101... Bf6 102.Rg8 h5 103.Rf8 Kg5 104.Ke4 Bc3 105.Rf5+ Kh4 106.Rf3 Bb2 107.Kf5 Bf6 108.Kg6 Bd8 109.Kf5 Bf6 110.Kxf6 stalemate. ½ -½

Winge played correctly on to a stalemate on 110 moves and the game had been decided. Winge was the first one to email Pertti the congratulations on being the World Champion! Fair play warms everybody's hearts.

Afterthoughts

“Winge-Toro was probably still winning for white at move 92 in a practical correspondence game, although I never found a straightforward plan to win. The position contains so many ideas that some of them could have broken through. Winge had also the motivation factor on his side. He had everything to win, but for Toro that game didn't have significance in a sporting sense. Perhaps the final truth will be revealed only, when we have 9 men Nalimov available ... if ever. Toro really earns a magnificent recognition on his fantastic defensive work in a very difficult position.”

WCC final was a 3½ year effort for Pertti. He made exact notes into his diary and for this reason e.g. the work spent on the final is well documented. In the initial phase of the final his working days were 11 hour long, and then they were prolonged to 17 hours a day for months. Pertti has calculated that the total hours used during the final was 14.700 – 14.800! This is an incredible amount of work for 14 games! “Roughly half of the thinking time I used in analysing with computers, another half was done in a traditional way manually at the chessboard or blindfold. The synthesis of this analytical work produced the moves on the cards.”

World Championship took off the biggest part of the itch to play again. The shorter thinking times and decision on nodes accelerated the decision. “Regardless retired from correspondence chess, my heart still beats for it and I follow it keenly. I can easily say that correspondence chess was an essential part of my life during 1975 till autumn 2009 Leeds conference”.

Text and photograph by Panu Laine based on the interview and valuable comments of Pertti Lehtikainen.



Pertti Lehtikainen (Finland) – Manfred Hafner (Germany)

**20th WCC Final
25.10.2004 – 7.4.2008**

Queens Gambit (D37)

[Notes by Pertti Lehtikainen]

This positional struggle against Manfred Hafner from Germany was my best game in the 20th Correspondence Chess World Championship Final. I was able to convert a small advantage I gained in the opening to a full point.

1.d4	d5
2.c4	e6
3.Nc3	Be7!

This move order was originated by Tigran Petrosjan in the late 50's and early 60's and he used it in 3 games in his match against Botvinnik in 1963. It found its way to the games of Victor Kortshnoi, Anatoli Lutikov, Boris Spassky, Lajos Portisch and many other top players of the time. The purpose of 3...Be7 is to avoid the worst problems of QG Exchange variation, when after 3...Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Black has some problems with his queen's bishop. The line 5...c6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Qf3 is unfavourable for Black. The idea of 3...Be7! is revealed in the variation 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 c6 7.e3 Bf5 or 7.Qc2 g6 followed by ...Bf5. In both cases Black has solved the problem of his “bad” c8 bishop and renders the exchange variation aimless for White. We

can say that 3...Be7! forces White to play Nf3 or alternatively Bf4 instead of the normal Bg5, and in both cases White doesn't have hope of opening advantage. A further interesting question is that should Black overall be afraid of the exchange variation? One answer is given in my game against Alexander Ugge in XIX ¼ final. In that game I succeeded to win my Canadian opponent and I barely made it to the WCC final instead of the Canadian. He made it to the 21st WCC Final and got silver medal right after the venerable Joop J. van Oosterom being the only player without losses.

4.Nf3

Black's 3rd move practically forced me to give up the exchange variation, so I had to invent something else.

4... Nf6
5.Bf4

I had earlier played here 5.Bg5, but my latest effort with this move ended into a draw only after 17 moves, so I wanted to try something else. 5.Bf4 shouldn't be any better for fighting for an advantage according to the opening manuals, but it is not at all that simple. Anyway White enjoys the advantage of the opening move and the White bishop on the diagonal h2-b8 is clearly more dominant than either of the Black bishops. So I was confident that I would find something to maintain a small advantage with the white pieces.

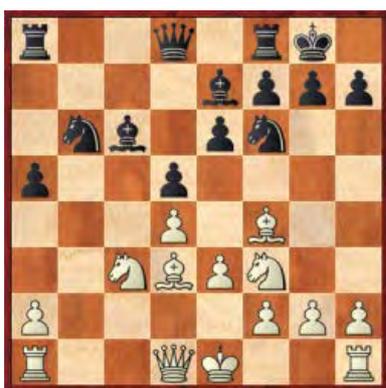
5... O-O
6.e3 Nbd7

The most usual move here is 6...c5, but also 6...b6 and 6...c6 has been played rather regularly.

7.c5 c6
8.Bd3 b6
9.b4 a5
10.b5!

This move has been played only a couple of times, but I had prepared a novelty in this variation. The usual continuation is 10.a3 Ba6 11.O-O Qc8 with equality. This was also played in Tomi Nyback-Magnus Carlsen, Dresden ol, 2008.

10... Bb7
11.cxb6 Nxb6
12.bxc6 Bxc6



13.Ne5!

This is a novelty! Earlier continuations had been 13.O-O Nfd7 14.Qc2 h6 15.Nb5 Bxb5 16.Bxb5 Nc4! 17.Bxc4 Rc8 18.Rab1 Rxc4 1/2-1/2, Peter Heine Nielsen-Kasimdzhanov, Skanderborg, 2003. Kasimdzhanov recommends instead of 15.Nb5 to play 15.Rab1Bb4 16.Rfc1 Qe7 17.Qe2 and considers it a little better for White. I also spent a lot of effort to study that game, but rejected it after realising that Black can equalise by playing simply 13...Ne4.

13... Bb4

14.O-O Bxc3
15.Nxc6 Qe8
16.Bb5 Bxa1
17.Bd6

While Black is collecting material, White is adding the steam. Now White threatens to win the Black queen with Ne7+ and black queen doesn't have any vacant squares left. Black's only alternative is to move his king to the corner, after which White may recollect the sacrificed material.

17... Kh8
18.Qxa1 Ne4
19.Bxf8 Qxf8
20.Ne5

I sent this move at the last day before overstepping the time limit.

20... Nd6
21.Rb1

After the heavy exchange of blows the material is even and the position is going into a more positional direction. White's pieces are a little better situated, but that shouldn't be significant. Instead black has one permanent weakness is a form of a-pawn. Black's future difficulties to protect it will give white a slight advantage.

21... Nbc4
22.Bxc4 dxc4

Here my opponent spent a considerable amount of time on pondering, whether to take back with a knight or pawn. I had faced the same dilemma without being able to draw any definitive conclusions. Black's choice was a slight surprise after all. After 22...Nxc4 the most probable continuation would have been 23.Nxc4 dxc4 24.Qb2! h6 25.h3 and White enjoys a slight advantage also in this continuation.

In the game continuation Black's passed c-pawn is a weakness in an ending, but in favourable circumstances it may also prove to be strength.

23.Rb6

With a simple threat of Rxd6 and Nxf7+.

23... Kg8
24.h3! Rc8

This was almost forced as 24...f6 25.Nd7 Qe7 26.Nc5 Qc7 27.Qb1 is even more advantageous for White. Even worse would have been 24...Qd8 25.Rc6 Rc8 26.Rc5 Rxc5 27.dxc5 Ne4 28.Nxc4 Nxc5 and like in a textbook example White's strong Q+N beats the Black colleagues. Namely 29.Qe5 Nb7 30.Qb5 Qa8 31.Qc6 (threatening Nd6) Qb8 32.Nb6! h6 (Luft, what else could black play?) 33.Nd7 Qa8 34.Nc5 and Black loses his knight. Of course something else like 30...Qc8 31.Nxa5 Dc1+ 32.Kh2 Qc7+ 33.f4 is better for Black, but even here Black can't take to a5 due to back rank mate. That is why White has an undisputable advantage in all variations.



25.Qc3!

I considered this move really long time, because it demanded very deep analysis, so I took my first and only allowed overstepping of the time limit here. After the game to my surprise Fritz didn't get this move even to top-6. Fritz's favourite is 25.Ra6, but when I played my analysis against Fritz, after variations 25...c3 26.Qc1 Ne4 27.Nd3 as well as 26.Rc6 f6 27.Rxc8 and 26.Nd3 c2 27.Rxa5 Qd8 28.Ra3 also Fritz admitted that the white advantage had gone to the winds. Kasparov has said that engines must be twisted even several moves towards your variation before they agree with you. Here it is perfectly true. Usually I even don't use engines in positional game, as they have very little to offer for a strong correspondence player. Instead in sharp and tactical situations engines are mandatory, as they speed up a lot the analysis work. Even then it is clear that you can't trust blindly to engines opinions. Perhaps this is a blessing for correspondence chess.

25... Qd8
26.Ra6 f6

Black has also come to a conclusion that his a-pawn is lost already. The following rather forcing variation 26...Ne4 27.Qc2 Qd5 28.Nc6 Qb5 29.Ne7+ Kf8 30.Ra7 Re8 didn't attract Black.

27.Nc6 Qd7
28.Nxa5

Now the a5-pawn has been removed from the board, but it can't be considered a win of a pawn due to added strength of the Black c-pawn.

28... Nf5

Here I expected more 28...Ne4 29.Qb4 c3 30.Nb3, but White would have a slight advantage also in this variation.

29.Qb4 c3
30.Nb3 e5

Black must try to rip the position open as much as possible to be able to support the advance of his passed c-pawn. An alternative 30...c2 31.Nc1 would lead to White advantage after Qd5 32.Qb3 Qxb3 33.axb3 e5 34.d5 e4

31.dxe5 fxe5

Naturally Black didn't like 31...c2 32.exf6 c1=Q+ 33.Nxc1 Rxc1+ 34.Kh2 Rc8 35.Qb3+ Kh8 where White has four pawns for a knight and Black's king's position remains shaky.

32.Kh2!

Finding this move caused me a lot of trouble, while I was first time analysing this position at my 25th move. I was obsessed that my king should run to fight for the Black's c-pawn. Things started to materialise after I was able to convince my thick head that White king has absolutely nothing to do in the open field with this much material on the board. The game continuation removes the White king from the future back rank checks.

32... Qc7

An alternative was 32...c2 33.Nc1, but now 33...Qd1? would have been too straightforward, because 34.Qb3+ Kf8 (34...Kh8?? 35.Rc6! and white wins) 35.Ra7 Ne7 36.Qb4 Re8 (36...Qd8 37.a4) 37.Qa3 would only lead to white advantage. Of course, instead of the weak 33...Qd1 Black may develop something quieter, but that would eventually lead to positions resembling the game continuation with a slight advantage for white, or in the best case to transpose to game continuation.

33.Qe4

This is a great post for the White queen. It controls important a8 and c2 squares, it chases the Black knight away from f5 and keeps on pressuring the e5 pawn.

33... Ne7
34.Nc1 c2

The Black pawn on c2 is really irritating for White. Without removing it, it will be impossible for White to progress. Fortunately White has an excellent solution at his disposal and it is perfect timing for that, as Black doesn't have any direct threats at the moment.

**35.a4!**

White's plan is very simple: White wants to create a competitor to Black's c-pawn by advancing the a-pawn as far as possible. At some point Black must start paying attention to it and lighten the defence of c-pawn.

35... Rf8
36.Ra8

It is time for White to exchange rooks.

36... h6

Of course Black can change rooks himself 36...Rxa8 37.Qxa8+ Kf7 38.Qe4, but both following continuations leave White on top: 38...Qc3 (38...Qc6 39.Qxc6 Nxc6 40.Kg3 Ke6 41.Kf3 Na5 with White's advantage.) 39.a5 Qd2 40.Qc4+ Kf8

37.Rxf8+ Kxf8
38.a5 Qxa5!

There is no point for Black to delay taking the pawn any more. Instead it is important for him to take control of the important d5 square for defensive purposes.

39.Qxc2 Qd5

The pain in White's flesh has been removed at last and White is a clear pawn up. On top of that Black has one isolated pawn, which defence might prove difficult in the future. The Black queen on d5 helps his defence and it is not easy to get her leave that square. Black's assets for successful defence consist of: all pawns are on the king side and queens are still on board. Here I consider that my chances to win this game compared to draw are fifty-fifty.

40.Nd3 Kf7

This move was a total surprise for me! I had imagined that the knight ending after 41.Qc4 would be winning, but things are not that clear. Fortunately the move came in just a couple of days before my vacation, so I could delve into this knight ending for a month without let my clock to tick. After a long hesitation I came to the conclusion that it would be impossible to win this knight ending. By co-incidence I saw the ending in Kivimäki-Pyshkin in Estrin Memorial, where my friend Kivimäki was able to hold a draw in a knight ending with a pawn down. My own analysis led to similar kind of position. So, I decided to keep the queens on board

for a while, although I couldn't be sure about any brighter future. That half-intuitive decision I never had to regret!

41.f3 **Kg8**
42.Qc3 **Nc6**
43.h4!

White wants to push the pawn to h5, where it would restrict even more about Black's alternatives. In that case White's long term plan could be to land his knight into g6 and threaten a mate along the back rank. If nothing else, this would force Black to give up d5 for his queen. Another aim was that in case of g7-g6 and exchange of the pawns, Black's remaining pawns would be as far as possible from each other, which would make Black's defence difficult. Naturally White needs to ensure that he can support the pawn on h5, but that is not a problem.

43... **Kh7**
44.h5 **Kh8**
45.Kg3



45... **Qe6?!**

Black's first mistake, if you don't count his opening variation a mistake, where I was able to make my novelty. Black shouldn't have given up the d5 square under any circumstances without a fight. Of course I could have gotten d5 after a long fight, but I believe it would have taken some 20 moves more. Now all this was handed to me on the plate.

A strange co-incidence happened here. A couple of times my opponent had numbered his moves incorrectly. I had bypassed those mistakes and with his next move the numbering was correct. But now something happened, which hadn't happened before: my opponent had marked my move as 45.Kh3. I was absolutely sure that I had written down to the card 45.Kg3, but I started to hesitate as my candidate moves had been 45.Kh3 and 45.Kg3.

Even more embarrassing was that my 45th move was the last move before time control and I had only one day left. If I would have made a protest and I would be wrong, I would get a five day penalty and lose on time. For a moment I was even thinking to play my 46th move normally and look at his reaction, as if my king would be on his opinion on h3 in check, he would notify me. In that case my penalty would come on move 46 and not on 45 and I would be clear.

After a lengthy pondering I came to a conclusion that I couldn't possibly have been able to write down a different move to the card and to the protocol, because I always double check them twice. So I emailed to my opponent a notification that he had written a wrong move to his card and he could naturally move something else, if he wishes. It

took three painfully long days before my opponent replied. He was sorry for his mistake and confirmed that my move had been 45.Kg3 and his move is 45...Qe6. He kept his move the same and the only conclusion is that he had genuinely made a mistake in writing the moves down. After this episode my paranoia grew to the extent that I started to take photocopies of all my cards to be able to verify that my move had been written down correctly and the card would signed.

Perhaps one more factor to take additional measurements was that at this point of the tournament I started to fight for the medals. Another decision I took was that I would never play by post any more as webserver solves all this kind of problems. Webserver's problem is that 50/10 thinking time is too quick for about half of the WCC finalists. To my opinion ICCF shouldn't push these players to play by post only because they want to play slower, as roughly 30% of the players have wished for slower playing tempo on server.

46.Qa3 **Kh7**
47.Nc5 **Qe7**

Black can't allow the exchange of the queens any more.

48.Qd3+ **Kh8**
49.Qd5

We can see now the consequences of Black giving up the d5 square for his queen. Now White queen lands there and starts to control the game.

49... **Nd8**



50.Kf2!

White king moves to e2, from where it can proceed to d3 and e4 after exchanges.

50... **Nf7**
51.Ke2 **Kg8**

I had considered my position as winning since move 50 and from here my winning plan is almost forcing. My intention is to play 52.Nd7 and to make sure that there is not any more direct winning variation I let Fritz to calculate these positions from here on. I have to admit that I have probably never before disagreed so much with the engine about the variations as I did now.

52.Nd7

Gradually White manages to paralyse Black completely. Black's next move is practically forced, because Black has great problems on his back rank.

52... **Qe8**
53.Qb5!

Surprisingly this self-evident move was only 10th on Fritz list. Fritz would prefer to play the White king back to f2 and g3 without being able to proceed after that any more. But

this is not surprising for engines. The move played in the game threatens 54.Nf6+.

53... Kh8

Alternatives were scarce. After 53...Qa8 54.Kf2 e4 55.f4 Kh8 56.Kg3 white wins rather quickly. Another alternative could be 53...Nd6 54.Qc6 and the black knight can't move due to threat Nf6+, so 54...Qe6 55.Kf2 e4 56.Qa8+ Ne8 57.Nc5

54.Qb8!

Simple and strong! Fritz prefers the tame 54.e4 and 54.Kf2.

54... Qxb8

55.Nxb8

This is an easy win for White.

55... e4

This is practically forced, because otherwise White king just marches to e4 and drops the pawn off.

56.fxe4 Ne5

57.Na6

White's knight is coming via c5 or b4 to d3 to chase the Black knight away.

57... Kg8

58.Nc5 Kf7

59.Nd3 Nc4

60.Kf3



SCCA Secretary

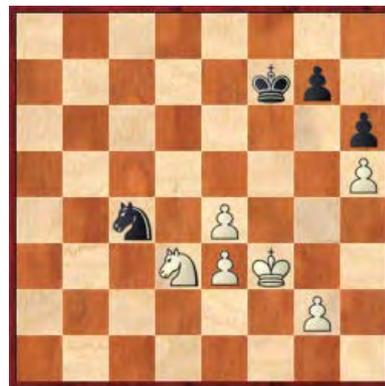
Colin Macgregor demitted office as secretary earlier this year due to his many commitments, so we are once again looking for someone to fill the vacancy. The main parts of the job are:

1. Primary contact point for outside bodies, queries, etc.
2. Organise & minute committee meetings (3 fairly fixed in Jan/Feb; May/Jun and Aug/Sep, with others as needed)
3. Organise domestic events to start in Jan; appoint & liaise with TDs; organise trophies & medals at season-end
4. Other admin as needed

The busy period is Dec/Jan which may appeal to candidates looking to avoid shopping trips and visiting relatives. The remainder of the year is fairly light.

It is possible to share some elements of the job across committee, though we do require a designated secretary to be appointed.

If you can help, please get in touch with Iain at president@scottishcca.co.uk.



60... g5
61.hxg6+ Kxg6

This is exactly the situation I was aiming by the pawn push to h5. Black king should stand behind the e pawn and simultaneously and remotely to defend the h-pawn. Impossible.

62.Kf4 Kf6

63.Nf2 Ke6

64.Ng4 h5

65.Nh2 Kf7

66.e5 1-0

This was my best game in the WCC final and it even had opening theoretical importance.



Walter Munn Magazines

Mac McKenzie of Chess Scotland has been in touch on behalf of Margaret Munn who asks if anybody would be interested in chess magazines that Walter Munn received.



Walter became President of the Scottish Chess Association in 1969, and served in that capacity for 16 years. He remained Honorary President until his death in 2001.

Among Walter's collection are CC magazines, viz:

[British Correspondence Chess Magazine](#)
Issues from Oct 1959 to Summer 2000

[Scottish Correspondence Chess Magazine](#)
Issues 1 - 62 (from Jan 1980 to Summer 1998)

Mac reckons the collections are complete between the dates mentioned.

If you are interested in obtaining these issues, please contact Mac McKenzie direct on mac@lrnckenzie.freemove.co.uk or via Iain at president@scottishcca.co.uk.



International Update

By George Pyrich

ICCF Diamond Jubilee Events

We're fairly well represented in the various ICCF Diamond World Cup events where play is just about to officially start. In World Cup 18 Preliminaries (Server), Derek Coope and Raymond Burrige are both playing in 2 sections whilst George Pyrich is in 1. In World Cup 19 Preliminaries (Postal) Ian Marshall and Raymond Burrige are both in 1 section. However, our biggest representation is in the Preliminaries of the 4th ICCF Veterans World Cup where Alan Borwell and Derek Coope are both competing in 2 sections whilst Geoff Lloyd, Peter Bennett, Brian Goodwin, Christopher Fordham-Hall and Derek Price are concentrating their efforts on 1 section.

ICCF 19th Olympiad Preliminaries

CCO19/S1		ICCF Olympiad 19 Preliminaries - Section 01										TD Flores Gutiérrez, Carlos (IA)					
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Poland	2446		3	3	1	0.5	1.5	1	3	13	64	6	0	20	36	1
2	England	2391	1		2.5	0.5	2	1.5	2.5	0	10	55	2	0	18	38	2
3	Scotland	2270	2	1.5		0.5	0	0.5	1.5	2	8	44	-2	0	18	38	3
4	Canada	2423	1	0.5	0.5		1.5	2	0.5	2	8	57	2	0	14	42	4
5	Austria	2510	0.5	1	0	2.5		0	0	0.5	4.5	50	0	0	9	47	5
6	Spain	2359	1.5	1.5	0.5	0	0		0.5	0.5	4.5	40	-2	0	11	45	6
7	Argentina	2218	0	0.5	2.5	0.5	0	0.5		0	4	40	-2	0	10	46	7
8	Italy	2297	1	0	1	1	0.5	0.5	0		4	33	-4	0	12	44	8

Our postal team in the 19th Olympiad is ticking along at just under 50% after just over 6 months play.

Europa Postal Cup

EU/PC/pr2		European Postal Cup - Preliminary Group 2								TD Hömske, Markus							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Scottish Claymores	2138		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	100	2	0	2	26	1
2	CASPA-ROV	2005	0		0	0	0	1	0	1	2	100	2	0	2	26	2
3	Dutchess	2076	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	1	100	1	0	1	27	3
4	A. D. Scacchi Rocca Priora	2247	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	1	100	1	0	1	27	3
5	Veterans	2373	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	1	100	1	0	1	27	3
6	White Rose Exiles	1879	0	0	0	0	0		0	1	1	33	-1	0	3	25	3
7	Germany B	2159	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	1	100	1	0	1	27	3
8	Arc-en-ciel / Rainbow / Regnbåge	1854	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	-7	0	7	21	8

The Scottish Claymores team in the inaugural Europa Postal Cup has recorded 2 wins in its 2 games completed to date.

European Team Championship

EU/TC9/sf2		9th European Team Championship - Semifinal 2												TD Glaser, Karel (IA)							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Switzerland	2387		1.5	1.5	1	1.5	0.5	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	8	53	1	0	15	73	1
2	Luxemburg	2311	0.5		1	1	1.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	0	0	0.5	0	7	46	-1	0	15	73	2
3	Poland	2446	1.5	1		0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1	0.5	0	0	5.5	50	0	0	11	77	3
4	Czech Republic	2429	1	1	0		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	0	5	50	0	0	10	78	4
5	Scotland	2372	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5		0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	5	50	0	0	10	78	5
6	Lithuania	2488	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		1	0.5	0	0	1	0	5	50	0	0	10	78	6
7	Romania	2420	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1		0.5	0	1	0	0	4.5	50	0	0	9	79	7
8	Belarus	2291	0	1.5	0	0.5	0	0.5	0.5		0	0.5	0	0	3.5	50	0	0	7	81	8
9	Finland	2448	0.5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	2.5	50	0	0	5	83	9
10	Russia	2350	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	1	0.5	0		0	0	2.5	50	0	0	5	83	10
11	Austria	2407	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0.5	2.5	50	0	0	5	83	11
12	Spain	2412	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5		1	50	0	0	2	86	12

Our team in the very strong 9th European Team Championship Semi-final has made a solid start to its campaign with 10 draws (!)

Thor Løvholt Memorial

MT-Løvholt /sf1		Thor Løvholt Memorial U-2300 Team Tournament SF1										TD Pheby, Ian M. (IA)							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Austria	2235		3.5	3	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	27.5	56	6	10	49	5	1
2	Poland	2216	2.5		1.5	2.5	2.5	3	2	3	5	4	26	59	8	6	44	10	2
3	France	2183	3	1.5		2	1.5	2.5	3.5	3	3.5	5	25.5	57	7	8	44	10	3
4	Czech Republic	2203	3.5	2.5	2		3	1.5	1.5	3.5	4	3.5	25	59	8	9	42	12	4
5	Spain	2239	1.5	1.5	2.5	2		3	2	3	3.5	4	23	58	7	6	39	15	5
6	Belarus	2166	3	2	2.5	1.5	2		2	3.5	3.5	3	23	52	2	6	44	10	6
7	Latvia	2211	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	1	3		1.5	2.5	4	21.5	51	1	3	42	12	7
8	Bulgaria	2184	1.5	3	2	1.5	1	1.5	3.5		4	2.5	20.5	46	-3	5	44	10	8
9	Scotland	2124	2.5	1	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1		3.5	15	32	-16	2	46	8	9
10	Cape Verde	1935	1.5	1	1	1.5	1	2	2	1.5	1.5		13	28	-20	0	46	8	10

Unfortunately our team in the Thor Løvholt Memorial event has continued to struggle and has dropped down to 9th place of 10 teams as the event nears its conclusion.

Witold Bielecki Memorial

The process of team selection is about to begin in respect of a new ICCF server team event, the “Witold Bielecki Memorial” team tournament, dedicated to the memory of the long serving ICCF delegate for Poland and Tournament Director of ICCF World Championship events. The event will be for teams of 6 players and, similar to the successful “Harro Otte Memorial” team tournament held some years ago, is restricted to players rated no higher than 2050. Entry is free and those wishing to be considered for selection should contact George Pyrich without delay.

One Member Federation v. Rest of Europe 2011

Another new event about to commence is the “One Member Federation v. Rest of Europe 2011” friendly international match being organised by ICCF’s European Zone President, Gian-Maria Tani, on the ICCF server where a team from the Ukrainian Federation is taking on a selection of players from all other European Federations. Stuart Graham and Derek Coope have been nominated to represent the Scottish CCA in this event scheduled to start on 1 December over 70 boards.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Mar 2011	20	Romania	Server	7	14		
Mar 2011	32	France	Server/Post	7½	21½		
Jan 2011	10	Hong Kong	Server	7	8		
Nov 2010	15	Cape Verde	Server	21½	5½		win
Nov 2010	30	Finland	Server/Post	17½	29½		
Sep 2010	32	Sweden	Server/Post	18½	32½		
Apr 2010	10	Lithuania	Server	8	12		loss
Mar 2010	20	Scheming Mind	Server	10½	29½		loss
Feb 2010	20	Ecuador	Server	29½	10½		win

Play continues as before in our numerous friendly international team matches where we continue to enjoy mixed fortunes against variable opposition. Two of our recent successes are annotated below:

White: George Pyrich (2255)

Black: Serge Daenen (2247)

Scotland v France

A26 Leningrad Dutch

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.c4	f5
2.g3	Nf6
3.Bg2	g6
4.Nf3	Bg7
5.0-0	0-0
6.Nc3	d6

Having had difficulty in the past against the Leningrad Dutch, I tried this slower set-up

7.d3	e5
8.Rb1	h6
9.b4	Nc6
10.b5	Ne7
11.a4	

In preference to [11.Qb3 Be6 12.Nd2 Qc8 13.Nd5 Nexd5 14.cxd5 Bf7 15.Nc4 which is hard to assess.

11...	Be6
12.Ba3	Rc8

12...Qd7 13.Nd2 Rab8 14.c5 d5 15.c6 looks good for White.

13.Nd2 **b6**
14.a5 **Qd7**

14...g5 is interesting when 15.axb6 axb6 16.Ra1 Qd7 17.Qb3 f4 18.Bb2 Bh3 19.Nde4 Nxe4 20.Nxe4 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 g4 22.Kg1 Ra8?! (22...Kh8 is obviously better 23.Ra7 f3 24.Qc2) 23.gxf4 exf4? 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Qb2+ and White is winning.

15.Ra1

15.Qb3 f4 (15...e4) 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.cxd5 Bh3 18.Ne4 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 bxa5 20.Qc4 Nxe4 21.dxe4 looks equal.

15... **Kh7?!**

I'd expected either 15...e4 16.dxe4 fxe4 17.e3 bxa5 18.Bb2 c6 19.Rxa5 d5 20.Ra6; or 15...f4 16.Nde4 Bh3 17.Nxf6+ Rxf6 18.Bb2 both of which are unclear.

16.Qb3 f4

17.Bb2 **Nf5**

Simply 17...d5!? was maybe best.

18.Nd5

18.Ncc4 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Nd4 20.Bxd4 exd4 21.axb6 axb6 22.Ra7 Bh3 23.Rfa1 is similar to the game.

18... **Nxd5?!**

18...Nd4 19.Bxd4 Bxd5 20.cxd5 exd4 21.Ne4 is equal.

19.cxd5 Bg8

20.Rfc1 h5



21.Nf3

A change of plan – the N is headed to d4!

21... **Kh8**

22.gxf4! **exf4**

23.Ra4 **Ne7**

24.Bxg7+ **Kxg7**

25.Nd4 **Rf6?!**

I'd expected 25...Qg4 when one line is 26.Qb2 Kh7 27.h3 Qg5 28.Nf3 Qf6 29.Qxf6 Rxf6 30.Rac4 Nxd5 31.Ng5+ Kh6 32.h4 Ne7 33.Rxc7 when White is winning but I suspect Black may have better somewhere.

26.axb6 **axb6**

27.Ra7 **Bf7**

Another strange choice when I'd expected either 27...Qg4 or; 27...g5 28.Qc4 Kf8 29.Rxc7 Rxc7 30.Qxc7 Qxc7 31.Rxc7 Bxd5 32.Bxd5 Nxd5 33.Rh7 h4 when the White K advances to the centre and White is winning.

28.Be4 **Qg4+**

29.Kf1 **Qh3+**

30.Ke1 **Qd7**

31.Qc4

Now the White K is safe and White can go after the pawns, starting on c7 – Black, rather generously, resigned.

1-0



White: Peter Bennett (2189)

Black: Patrice Danzanvilliers (2227)

Scotland v France

B04 Alekhine's Defence

[Notes by George Pyrich]

Peter Bennett also had a nice win in the same match.

1.e4 **Nf6**

2.e5 **Nd5**

3.d4 **d6**

4.Nf3 **g6**

This is one line where Black should be ok although the statistics in ChessBase are heavily in White's favour.

5.Bc4 **c6**

5...Nb6 is the main line here where one example is the game P. Thomson v. Alan Rawlings, ICCF Email 1997 which continued 6.Bb3 Bg7 7.Ng5 e6 8.Qf3 Qe7 9.Ne4 dxe5 10.Bg5 Qb4+ 11.c3 Qa5 12.Bf6 Bxf6 13.Qxf6 0-0 14.Qxe5 Qxe5 15.dxe5 Bd7 and Alan eventually scrambled out with a draw.

6.0-0 **dxe5**

Much more common is 6...Bg7 when Alan Borwell scored a nice win in ICCF Olympiad 15 against Luen Wah Luk after 7.h3 dxe5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nd4 Bxe5 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Qg4 Qd7 12.Nd2 0-0 13.Nf3 Bg7 14.Ng5 e5 15.Qe6+ Qxe6 16.Nxe6 Rc8 17.Rd1 Nb6 18.Bb3 Kh8 19.Nc7 N8d7 20.Nxa8 Rxa8 21.Be3 Nf6 22.c4 e6 23.Rd2 Bf8 24.Rad1 Be7 25.a4 Re8 26.a5 Nc8 27.g4 Kg8 28.Kg2 Kf7 29.g5 Ne4 30.Rd7 b6 31.Bc2 Ned6 32.c5 bxc5 33.Bxc5 Nf5 34.Bxf5 exf5 35.Rc7 Ke6 36.Rxc6+ 1-0

7.dxe5

Again, the alternative 7.Nxe5 when after 7...Bg7 8.Re1 0-0 White has a slight edge.

7... **Bg7**

8.Nc3 **Nxc3**

Instead 8...Be6 9.Ng5 Bxe5 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Qg4 looks difficult for Black.

9.Qxd8+ **Kxd8**

10.bxc3 Ke8

11.Ng5 **Bxe5**

12.Bxf7+ **Kf8**

13.Bb3! Bxc3

14.Rb1 **h6**

Decent moves are hard to find, for example [14...Kg7 15.Nf7 Re8 16.Bh6+ Kf6 17.Ng5+-]

15.Nf7 **Rh7**



16.Rd1 Nd7
 17.Nxh6 Ba5
 18.Rd3! Nf6
 19.Rf3 Kg7
 20.Nf7 Rh5
 21.Bb2 Bc7
 22.h4

Defending h2 and planning Ng5

22... Rb5

22...Rxb4 23.Re1; 22...Bf5 and 23.Re1 Re8 24.g4 are both winning.

23.Ng5 Bg4
 24.a4 Rb4

Not 24...Bxf3 25.Ne6+

25.Re3 e5
 26.Bc3 Rb6

27.Bxe5 Bxe5
 28.Rxe5 Re8
 29.Rxe8 Nxe8
 30.f3 Bc8



31.Rd1 c5
 32.a5 Ra6
 33.Bc4 Rd6
 34.Re1 Nf6
 35.Re7+

And faced with 35.... Kf8 36.Rc7, Black resigned.

1-0



ICCF 35th World Championship Preliminaries

WC35/pr09	WCCC35PR09		TD Chambers, Duncan (IA)															Score	SB	RG	Place
Category 3 SIM=11 IM=10 LGM=7 ILM=4½			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15				
1	SCO	211664	Graham, Stuart	2310	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	7.5	34	2	1
2	GER	83088	Pommrich, Rainer	2209	0	½	½	1	½	½	0	½	½	½	1	1	1	7	28.25	1	2
3	TUR	490377	Akinal, Ediz	2228	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	6	30	4	3
4	SLO	480032	Potrata, Janko	2272	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	0	1	1	1	6	30	3	4
5	GER	80433	IM Koch, Hans-Georg	2338	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6	27	1	5
6	RUS	140620	IM Stepanov, Konstantin Vasilievich	2359	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	5.5	27.75	4	6
7	ISL	300178	IM Haraldsson, Haraldur	2379	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	5.5	27.25	3	7
8	CZE	130306	SIM Teichmann, Čeněk	2409	½	1	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	5	26	3	8
9	ENG	210354	SIM Bowyer, Ken J.	2390	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	4.5	23.5	5	9
10	BRA	70113	Silva, Marcus Antonio Rolim	2372	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	4	20.75	6	10
11	USA	511280	Horwitz, Daniel M.	2352	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	4	18.75	6	11
12	POL	420546	LGM Szczepaniak, Alicja	2285	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	3	18.75	9	12
13	ITA	240652	Sparacini, Stefano	2113	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	0	½	½	2	10.5	4	13	
14	GER	83764	SIM Schmitzer, Klaus	2426	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	6.75	12	14
15	ESP	160127	IM Parés Vives, Natalia	2315	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	4.75	11	15

Last time we mentioned Stuart Graham's progress in the Preliminaries of the 35th ICCF World Championship and we can now report that, unbeaten with 7½ points from 12 completed games and 2 unfinished, Stuart has excellent prospects of progress to the next stage. Here is a selection of Stuart's games:

White: Stuart Graham (2310)
Black: Rainer Pommrich (2209)
35th World Championship Preliminaries

E97 King's Indian Defence

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 g6

3.Nc3 Bg7
 4.e4 d6
 5.Nf3 0-0
 6.Be2 e5
 7.0-0 Nc6
 8.d5 Ne7
 9.b4 Nh5
 10.Re1 f5
 11.Rb1

Infrequently seen in recent master play – 11.Ng5 is the main line – but White wants this rook on the k-side.

11... Nf4
 12.Bf1 fxe4
 13.Nxe4 h6
 14.Rb3 a6
 15.g3 Nh3+
 16.Bxh3 Bxh3



17.Nxe5! dxe5
 18.g4 Bxg4
 19.Qxg4 Qc8
 20.Qg2 Qf5
 21.Rh3 g5
 22.Rg3 Rf7
 23.d6! Nc6
 24.Be3 a5



25.Bxg5!
 25.dxc7 Rxc7 26.Bb6 also looks pretty useful for White.

25... hxg5
 26.Nxg5 Raf8
 27.Kh1 cxd6?

A bit better is 27...Qxf2 28.Qxf2 Rxf2 29.Ne6 Kf7 30.Nxf8 cxd6 31.Nh7±

28.Rg1 Qxf2
 29.Qe4+– Qf5
 30.Qd5 Kh8
 31.Qg2

and Black can't hold the position.

1-0



White: Stuart Graham (2310)
Black: Stefano Sparnacini (2113)
35th World Championship Preliminaries

C42 Petroff Defence

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 Nf6
 3.Nxe5 d6
 4.Nf3 Nxe4
 5.d4 d5
 6.Bd3 Bd6

6...Nc6 is the fashionable move in master play.

7.0-0 0-0
 8.c4 c6
 9.Re1

9.Qc2 Na6 10.a3 Bg4 is an alternative line.

9... Bf5
 10.Qc2 Na6
 11.a3 Bg6
 12.c5 Bc7
 13.Nc3 Re8

13...f5 was worth consideration here.

14.Nxe4 dxe4



15.Rxe4!

Trading the exchange for the bishop pair and a lasting positional advantage.

15... Bxe4
 16.Bxe4 h6
 17.Bh7+ Kh8
 18.Bd3 Re7

18...Qf6 19.Bd2 Rad8 looks more active for Black.

19.Qc3

Ramping up the diagonal threats.

19... Qf8
 20.b4 Rd8
 21.Bc2 Nb8

Welcome back!

22.Bd2 Kg8
 23.Qd3 g6
 24.Qb3 Qg7
 25.Rd1 Kh7

25...Nd7 was worth a look.

26.Bc3 Qf8
 27.Qb1 Qe8
 28.h4 Rd5
 29.Bb3 Rf5
 30.d5! cxd5
 31.Rxd5 Rxd5

32.Bxd5 Nc6
 33.h5 Rd7
 34.Qb3 a6?

Too passive. 34...Ne5 35.Bxb7 Nxf3+ 36.Bxf3 Be5 looks a better defence.

35.g3! Bd8
 36.a4

Tightening the screw.

36... f6
 37.hxg6+ Qxg6
 38.Be6 Rg7
 39.Qd5

Threatening Bf5. 39.Nh4 and; 39.b5 are also great moves for White.

39... Qe8
 40.b5 axb5
 41.Qe4+ Kh8
 42.axb5 Na7

Exile once more.

43.Qe3 Rg6
 44.Nh4 Rg5
 45.c6 Nxc6

Pretty well forced.

46.bxc6 bxc6
 47.Nf5 Qf8
 48.Bd2 c5
 49.Qf3

Black finally throws in the towel. A very impressive game by White – sustained pressure over 30+ moves!

1-0



White: Stuart Graham (2310)
Black: Daniel Horwitz (2352)
35th World Championship Preliminaries
 C18 French Defence
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5
 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.e5 c5
 5.a3 Bxc3+
 6.bxc3 Ne7
 7.Qg4 cxd4

A move recently gaining in popularity after being used by Grischuk.

8.Qxg7 Rg8
 9.Qxh7 Qc7
 10.Ne2 Nbc6
 11.f4 Bd7
 12.Qd3 dxc3
 13.Qxc3!

As well as being a strong move, it doesn't seem to have been faced by Grischuk in this line, so Black is denied recent analysis.

13... Nf5
 14.Rb1 d4
 15.Qc4 Qa5+
 16.Kf2!?

16.Bd2 Qxa3 17.Rxb7 was an interesting alternative.

16... b6?!

16...Rc8 was maybe better here.

17.h3 Ne3
 18.Qd3

For the next 10 moves or so, White neutralises the Black threats on the open k-side and down the a8-h1 diagonal.

18... Nxf1
 19.Rxf1 Bc8
 20.Bd2 Qd5
 21.g4 Rh8
 22.Rg1 Bb7
 23.Rg3 0-0-0
 24.Bb4 Nxb4
 25.axb4 Kb8
 26.Rd1 Rc8
 27.Nxd4

Now White aims to exchange to a winning endgame.

27... a6
 28.Ne2 Qa2



29.c4!

Enables the simplification White seeks.

29... Qxc4
 30.Qxc4 Rxc4
 31.Rd7 Rf8
 32.h4!

Exchanging material for tempi.

32... Rxb4
 33.h5 Rc4
 34.g5 b5
 35.h6 Be4
 36.Ra3 Rc6
 37.Nd4 Rb6
 38.Re3 Bd5
 39.h7 Rb7
 40.Rxb7+ Kxb7
 41.f5!

Winning outright. 41.f5 exf5 42.e6 fxe6 43.g6!

1-0



Then ICCF President Alan Borwell (SCO) presents the 10th World Championship trophy to GM Victor Palsiauskas.



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 2011-12

Theme 5/11: Latvian Gambit, C40

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5

Entries by 15 November; play starts 1 December

Theme 1/12: Tübingen Gambit, A00

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.g4 Nxg4 3.e4 d6 4.Be2 Nf6 5.d4

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 February

Webserver Events 2011-12

Theme 7/11: Sicilian, Polugaevskij Variation, B96

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5

Entries by 1 December; play starts 15 December

Theme 1/12: Amar (70th Death Anniversary) Opening, A00

1.Nh3

Entries by 1 January; play starts 15 January

Note there are no Email Events in 2011-12.

News

- ❑ Players are requested to ignore fake emails purporting to come from the ICCF Webserver, which ask for their security details.
- ❑ Mariusz Wojnar, the Polish ICCF delegate, is project co-ordinator for production of the ICCF Diamond Jubilee web book.
- ❑ The 2011 ICCF Congress was held in Järvenpää, Finland, from 31 July – 5 August. A full report will be included in our next issue.
- ❑ The Witold Bielecki Memorial Team Tournament is due to commence in Jan/Feb 2012, with entries closing on 30th November. The event will be organised along similar lines to the Harro Otte Memorial (started in 2007) and the European Team Championships.
- ❑ Witold's Friends vs RoW Match will start in March 2012, with entries closing on 1st February. The match takes the form of a large friendly international with each player having two games against their opponent(s).

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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