

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.122

Summer 2013

- **2013 AGM and Accounts**
 - *Iain and Gordon provide the details*
- **ICCF Grading List 2013/3**
 - *George summarises the Q3 statistics*
- **Book Review**
 - *George looks at *The Perfect Pirc-Modern**
- **Games Column**
 - *Loads of annotated games*
- **25th ICCF World Champion**
 - *Gino Figlio interviews GM Fabio Finocchiaro*
- **International Update**
 - *George reviews overseas events*

4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum



Photograph from British Museum



Scotland has bucked the UK unemployment trend again, though the main reason for the increase in jobs appeared to be the extra staff needed by melanoma clinics as temperatures soared to an unseasonal 12°C during June.

However, a small detachment of hardened chess players avoided frivolous pursuits like going outside; buttoned up their overcoats (you need a bank loan to heat your house for an hour these days), and toiled unceasingly to bring you another packed edition.

An extended Notices page brings word of more Websver Open action later this year, plus the introduction of an SCCA Annual Best Game Prize.

We recently held our AGM, and the minutes of that are included, with Gordon Anderson providing full accounts details in what was another satisfactory year.

George Pyrich analyses the third ICCF rating list of 2013 where we removed a few players due to inactivity, but gained a new Scottish Master in David Cumming.

George also contributes a first book review, looking over *The Perfect Pirc-Modern* by the Ukrainian Spanish-based GM Viktor Moskalenko. Hopefully many more reviews to follow...

A healthily-sized Games Column features members David Cumming, Geoff Lloyd, Eoin Campbell, Andrew Macmillan, Allan Petrie, Steve Murray and George Pyrich.

The feature article in this issue is kindly provided by Gino Figlio of the US, whose interview with GM Fabio Finocchiaro continues our recent coverage of ICCF World Champions.

George Pyrich supplies another chunky international update, with a couple more annotated games featuring members Raymond Burrige and Daniel Toy.

Our secretary vacancy persists, so I've decided to give up on the Mr Nice Guy approach of appealing to your consciences. Instead, I've passed our membership list to a Glasgow Debt Collection Agency, and you should be hearing from them shortly.

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 100 Club

The 100 Club is an important revenue-earner for the SCCA and it helps us to keep our fees low and/or unchanged year on year. Responsibility for the 100 Club rests with our Treasurer, Gordon Anderson.

Units cost £1 with some members taking one unit while others take as many as 10 units per month. From the Association's perspective paying by Bankers Order is most convenient.

If you don't already subscribe to the 100 club please consider if you can help the SCCA by taking out units and make contact with Gordon whose contact details are shown below.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2013	1st	2nd
June	R Heathwood	K B McAlpine
May	Mrs D Livie	R Heathwood
April	J S Murray	Mrs D Livie

SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
VP & International	George Pyrich	13 Ardgartan Court, Balfarg, Glenrothes KY7 6XB	+44 (0) 1592 749062	international@scottishcca.co.uk
Secretary *				secretary@scottishcca.co.uk
Membership	Kevin Paine	47 Park Hill Drive, Frome BA11 2LQ	+44 (0) 1373 467585	membership@scottishcca.co.uk
Treasurer	Gordon Anderson	63 Wellin Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AH	+44 (0) 115 923 1021	treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk
Member	Jim Anderson	162 Fountainbleau Drive, Dundee DD4 8BJ	+44 (0) 1382 501649	jim.anderson@scottishcca.co.uk
Member	Alan Borwell	8 Wheatfield Avenue, Inchtute PH14 9RX	+44 (0) 1828 686556	alan.borwell@scottishcca.co.uk
Games Editor	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	games@scottishcca.co.uk

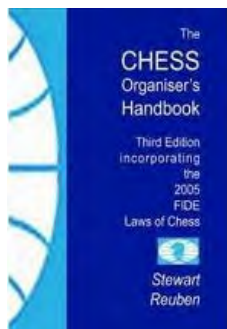
NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine (enquiries), Jim Anderson (domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) pro tem.



SCCA Secretary

This vacancy has been advertised for about a year now, so we have to conclude that the Big Society hasn't yet arrived. The main parts of the job are:

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

At present, we share elements of the job across committee members, all of whom would welcome the appointment of a designated secretary.

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

ICCF 10th European Team Championship Semi-Finals



Sergey Grodzensky writes on behalf of ICCF-Europa to announce the Semi-Finals of the 10th European Team Championship.

Previously planned to start on 18th August 2013 with the closing date for entries 30th June, the event has now been rescheduled to begin on 1st November, with entries closing in mid-September. Each Europa federation may enter one team consisting of 8 players and all games will be played on the ICCF webserver. The Final will consist of 13 teams; the Semi-Final line-up will depend on entry numbers.

For further information, please contact George Pyrich before end-August.

2nd Thor Løvholt Memorial Team Tournament



Neil Limbert writes on behalf of ICCF-Europa to announce the second Thor Løvholt Memorial Team Tournament, specially designed for medium-rated players. The event is expected to have a Preliminary Round (sections of 5 or 6 teams) and Final, and each member federation may enter one team of 6 players graded as follows:

- Boards 1-2: under 2300
- Boards 3-4; under 2250
- Boards 5-6; under 2200

Play will be on the ICCF webserver, at 10 moves in 40 days. There is no entry fee. Entries close on 15th August, so if you are interested, please contact George Pyrich before end-July.

50th SCCA e-Mag



More gush 'n' candles as we reach our 50th edition of online reading.

Not a single request to increase the font size in that time either, which makes us suspect that subscribers are printing the thing off on A0 paper, or that grandchildren up and down the country are being forced to read the contents aloud as a kind of punishment exercise.

Scottish Chess

We continue to contribute CC material to most editions of the Chess Scotland magazine, *Scottish Chess*.

If you can contribute a CC-focused article (or suggest a subject you want to see covered), please get in touch via webmaster@scottishcca.co.uk

Next SCCA Webserver Open

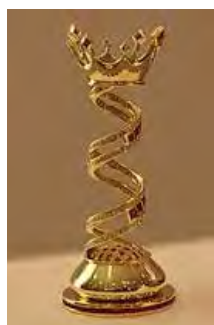
At the Executive Committee meeting held prior to our AGM on June 16th, we agreed on the following details:

Three parallel webserver events were envisaged, one by invitation and two by open entry as previously. All events would have free entry. The best start date was confirmed as late October/early November 2013. The events we hope to run are:

1. Invitation Tournament. Aimed at top Scottish OTB and CC players with ratings >2200. Depending on entries, we plan a 13- or 15-player round-robin format with possible title norms and a prize fund of up to £750.
2. Webserver Open A. Aimed at Scottish OTB & CC players with ratings 1900-2200. The number of rounds and sections will depend on entries and the prize fund will extend to £250.
3. Webserver Open B. Aimed at Scottish OTB & CC players with ratings <1900 and no computer assistance. The number of rounds and sections will depend on entries and the prize fund will extend to £250.

We envisage the marketing period will run from late August to mid-October, and we hope to use the SCCA and Chess Scotland (CS) websites, the SCCA magazine and Scottish Chess, plus direct email. We'll need to ask CS for their consent to use their website and mailing list.

SCCA Annual Best Game Prize



Raymond Burridge floated this idea, following his entitlement to a commemorative award after taking out Patron membership.

The Executive Committee is keen to proceed (while noting that the trophy may not look exactly the same as the illustration) and suggests the following method of operation:

- Entries would be games which finished in a given calendar year;
- Entries would be restricted to events organised by SCCA or ICCF;
- Only SCCA members could submit their games (wins or draws);
- The submission period would close at the end of January following the competition year;

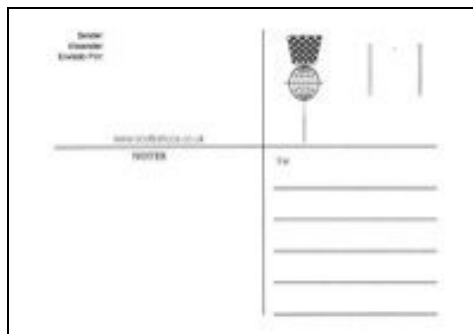
- A winner would be announced by end-March following the competition year;
- The Committee would appoint a judge each year (who couldn't submit a game!);
- A trophy miniature and certificate would be awarded to the winner each year.

Raymond has confirmed that he's agreeable to the following sample engraving on the trophy:

**The R.J. Burridge Trophy
SCCA Best Game Prize 2013
Jo(e) Chessplayer**

Let us know if you've any further ideas or suggestions, ideally before magazine 123 is published. We plan to formally invite entries for games completing during 2013 in that edition, and present the first trophy at end-March 2014.

CC Postcards



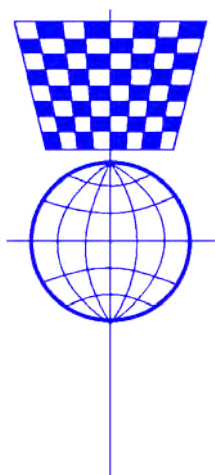
The SCCA has a stock of cc postcards showing the SCCA logo and website address. They are suitable for domestic and international use (English, German and Spanish used). Orders in units of 100.

The cards are supplied at their production cost (£2.50/100) and p&p is also required. As a guideline, 200 cards delivered recently cost £7.60 - £5 for the cards, and £2.60 UK second class postage. Orders to Iain Mackintosh at chess@iainmack.co.uk please.



AGM 2013

By Iain Mackintosh



- Meeting:** The 36th AGM of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association.
- Venue:** Sunday 16th June, 2013, 4pm at Tullylumb Terrace, Perth.
- Present:** Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Jim Anderson, Gordon Anderson, Alan Borwell, Kevin Paine and George Pyrich (all Skype).
- Apologies:** None.

Minutes of the 35th AGM

On the proposal of Jim Anderson seconded by Alan Borwell the minute of the meeting held on 10th June 2012 was accepted as an accurate record and approved.

Matters arising from the 35th AGM

None.

President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh summarised another busy and productive year for the SCCA.

On the domestic front, membership renewals were slightly down. The 2011-12 and 2012-13 Scottish Championships were both won by Iain Mackintosh. David Cumming won both 2012 Premier sections, and returning member Allan Petrie prevailed in the Open. David Cumming retained the Challengers' medal. Perth Correspondents won both the webserver and postal Leagues. The final of the 2nd Webserver Open resulted in a triple tie between Tom Matheis, Geoff Lloyd and Alan Bell. Alan Bell notched up his first IM norm in the 9th European Team Championships and David Cumming received the SM title.

Internationally, we finished 9th in the semi-final of the 9th European Team Championship, and we remain active in the 20th Olympiad and the 5th Champions League. New friendly matches were started against Denmark, Peru, Australia, Germany and Spain. Through Alan Borwell, we continue to organise and sponsor the ICCF Veterans' World Cup, with cycles 2-4 all proceeding to schedule and the first trophies from cycle 2 expected in 2014. Individual entries into ICCF events remained high, and a number of players are participating in the preliminary and semi-final stages of the World Championship.

Once again the SCCA has been indebted to its hard-working committee members and event controllers, all of whom deserve thanks for their efforts and commitment. The work done by those assisting in the ICCF Veterans' World Cups should ensure several IA title awards during 2014.

Alan Borwell proposed a vote of thanks to Iain Mackintosh for his work as president, webmaster and magazine editor, which was unanimously agreed.

Secretary's Report

No secretary's report had been received. Annual membership renewals were down slightly while life and patron memberships remained steady. All domestic events were proceeding smoothly.

Treasurer's Report

Gordon Anderson presented a full set of accounts and once again expressed his thanks to Alan Hind for an efficient audit. We ended the year to 31st March 2012 showing a surplus of £323 and net assets of £10,340.

Income was fairly flat again, and although we waived our grant from Chess Scotland, we compensated by new patron memberships and increased donations. Expenditure increased sharply as a result of making a £500 donation to Chess Scotland plus increased ICCF fees.

Our overall financial position remains very acceptable. Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon which was unanimously agreed. George Pyrich moved adoption of Gordon's report, seconded by Jim Anderson and unanimously agreed.

International Secretary's Report

George Pyrich reported that the Association continues to be highly active in team and individual events. Five new friendly matches, 5th Champions League, 20th Olympiad, and the Europa Postal Cup all had Scottish teams participating.

Individual entries to ICCF events remained high, including World Championship semi-final (Tom Craig and Philip Giulian) and preliminary (George Pyrich) stages. Cycle 2 of the Veterans' World Cup had reached the final stage, while cycles 3 and 4 are contesting the semi-final stage. All VWC cycles are holding to published schedules.

The 2013 ICCF Congress will be held in Krakow, Poland from 20th to 27th July.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to George which was unanimously agreed. Alan Borwell moved adoption of George's report, seconded by Kevin Paine and unanimously agreed.

Election of Office Bearers

The following were elected to office for 2013-14:

Office	Name	Proposer	Secunder
President	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Borwell	Gordon Anderson
Vice President	George Pyrich	Iain Mackintosh	Kevin Paine
International Secretary	George Pyrich	Iain Mackintosh	Kevin Paine
Secretary	See note *		
Membership Officer	Kevin Paine	Alan Borwell	Jim Anderson
Treasurer	Gordon Anderson	Iain Mackintosh	George Pyrich
Committee Members	Alan Borwell Jim Anderson	Gordon Anderson Iain Mackintosh	Kevin Paine George Pyrich

* No nomination received. Kevin Paine (enquiries), Jim Anderson (domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) will continue to provide interim cover.

Appointment of Auditor

Alan Hind was proposed by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Alan Borwell, and duly reappointed.

Subscriptions

Gordon Anderson proposed no change to domestic membership and entry fees for 2013-14. This was seconded by Alan Borwell and unanimously agreed. A proposal to reduce ICCF fees is expected to be agreed at this year's Congress, probably taking effect from January 2014.

AOB

None.

If you were unable to attend the AGM, but would like to help in some way, then please get in touch with any of the committee members. You don't have to hold an official position to help - maybe you can do some part-time things like controlling an event, helping with administration or publicity, or backing up somebody who is otherwise very busy!



SCCA Accounts 2012-13

By Gordon Anderson

2011-12			Profit & Loss	2012-13		
Income	Expenses	Net		Income	Expenses	Net
			General			
224.00			Annual Members (@£7)	210.00		
0.00			Life Members (@£100)	0.00		
0.00			Patron Members (@£125)	250.00		
184.00			Donations	305.00		
560.00			Chess Scotland Grant/Donation	0.00	500.00	
75.25			Bank Interest	147.73		
	190.79		Committee Expenses		139.00	
	40.00		Chess Scotland Affiliation Fee		40.00	
	62.89		ICCF Affiliation Fee		64.33	
	70.00	<u>679.57</u>	Auditor's Fee		70.00	<u>99.40</u>
			Domestic Competitions			
45.00			Individual Entry Fees	39.00		
84.00			Team League Fees	80.00		
	59.87		ICCF Webserver Fees		50.95	
	338.00		Prizes & Trophies (incl VWC)		283.50	
	0.00	<u>-268.87</u>	Controllers' Expenses		0.00	<u>-215.45</u>
			International Competitions			
0.00		<u>0.00</u>	International Match Fees	0.00		<u>0.00</u>
			ICCF Competitions			
455.50	335.72		Individual & Team Fees	562.50	609.19	
	9.50	<u>110.28</u>	Bank Transfer Fees		9.50	<u>-56.19</u>
			Magazine			
96.00			New Magazine Email (@£3)	90.00		
95.00			New Magazine Printed (@£5)	126.00		
	181.84	<u>9.16</u>	Printing & Postage		186.00	<u>30.00</u>
			Website			
56.88	56.88	<u>0.00</u>	ISP Connection Fees (Donation)	57.48	57.48	
			Domain Registration (Donation)	8.38	8.38	<u>0.00</u>
			100 Club			
1070.00			Units Bought	1006.00		
	540.00		Prizes		540.00	
	0.00	<u>530.00</u>	Repayment of Units		0.00	<u>466.00</u>
			Other			
0.00	34.00		Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	
	0.00	<u>-34.00</u>	ICCF Delegate Travel		0.00	<u>0.00</u>
<u>2945.63</u>	<u>1919.49</u>	<u>1026.14</u>	Surplus/Deficit	<u>2882.09</u>	<u>2558.33</u>	<u>323.76</u>

Balance Sheet 2012-13

Bank Summary	Opening	Payins	Withdrawn	Written Off	Transfers	Closing	2011-12
BoS Current	3219.49	1656.00	2303.76	0.00	0.00	2571.73	
Barclays	7988.61	147.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	8136.34	
	11208.10	1803.73	2306.76	0.00	0.00	<u>10708.07</u>	<u>11208.10</u>

Net Opening/Closing **-500.03**

Liabilities	Creditor	Debtor		
Accrued Prizes – ICCF VWC2	250.00			
Accrued Prizes – ICCF VWC3	250.00			
Accrued Prizes – ICCF VWC4	250.00			
Cheque 10473 Unpresented	135.00			
Cheque 10474 Unpresented	40.00			
100 Club Prizes Uncashed	135.00			
Cheque 10481 Unpresented	73.50			
100 Club Cash for 2013-14	88.00			
Cheque 10457 Unpresented	70.00			
Deposits not yet in Account		923.50		
Subtotals/Net	<u>1291.50</u>	<u>923.50</u>		
			<u>-368.00</u>	<u>-1191.79</u>

Net Assets at March 31, 2013 **10340.07** **10016.31**

Capital Account

Balances b/f	9016.31	7990.17
Surplus/Deficit	323.76	1026.14
Subtotal	<u>9340.07</u>	<u>9016.31</u>
Less Allocation to Development Account	0.00	0.00
Balances c/f	<u>9340.07</u>	<u>9016.31</u>

Development Account

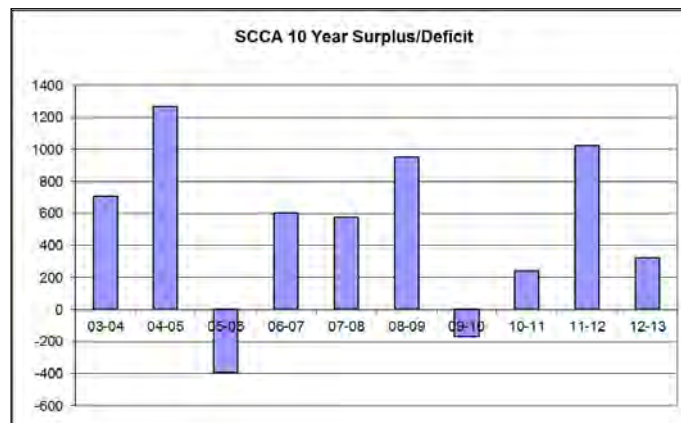
Balance b/f	1000.00	1000.00
Allocation from Capital Account	0.00	0.00
	<u>1000.00</u>	<u>1000.00</u>

Account Totals **10340.07** **10016.31**

Auditor's Report

I have examined the foregoing accounts and have obtained such explanations as I considered necessary. In my opinion these accounts have been properly prepared from the accounting records of the Association and are in agreement therewith.

Alan Hind, May 2013





2013/3 Grading List

By George Pyrich

The third ICCF grading list of 2013 has been published and the new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 March and 31 May 2013. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 July and 30 September 2013.

David Cumming secured the Scottish Master (SM) title with four consecutive grading norms of 2300+ in lists 2012/2 to 2013/1 inclusive – many congratulations to him!

With the publication of this ICCF rating list, Stephen Clark, Peter Smith and Wilf Taylor have all passed the 30-game mark and now have full grades – well done to them!

Games junkies Martin Harwick (42) and Raymond Burrige (38) lead the way once more in terms of games played during the last period, with Raymond also passing 300 games in total. Carlos Almarza Mato has passed the 700-game mark, while both Brian Goodwin and Derek Price exceeded the 200-game threshold.

Nine players have been removed from this list due to inactivity for two or more years.

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	714	2148 ↑	447	Jamieson, I M	53	2013 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	241	2299 ↑	322	Jessing, M	29	2083 ↑ *
121	Anderson, J	225	1736 ↓	1126	Kelly, J	12	1728 ↔
049	Armstrong, A	153	1907 ↓	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	304	2334 ↑
313	Armstrong, J McK	215	1552 ↓	260	Knox, A	119	1584 ↓
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	368	2461 ↓	1117	Laing, D	21	2087 ↓ *
599	Bell, A D (SM)	128	2408 ↑	256	Lennox, C J (SM)	157	2278 ↔
501	Bennett, P G	175	2345 ↑	503	Livie, G W G (IM)	194	2337 ↔
431	Binnie, J	28	1626 ↔ *	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	584	2275 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	873	2251 ↑	337	Loughran, R J	116	1564 ↔
427	Brooksbank, Dr K	75	1820 ↔	433	MacDonald, M	30	1564 ↔
424	Burrige, R J	336	1921 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	332	1887 ↑
435	Cairney, J	40	1973 ↓	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	562	2445 ↑
	Clark, S L	30	1996 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	576	1847 ↑
173	Cook, W M	69	1926 ↔	566	Marshall, I H	393	2011 ↓
364	Coope, D W	578	1958 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	178	2435 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	71	1921 ↔	412	McKinstry, J	69	1572 ↓
527	Craig, T J (SM)	347	2369 ↑	401	Moir, P J	153	1620 ↓
166	Cumming, D R (SM)	659	2274 ↓	598	Montgomery, R S	213	2314 ↔
422	Dawson, Prof A G	74	2105 ↓	564	Murray, J S	34	2012 ↔
572	Dempster, D	721	1699 ↓	440	Neil, C	89	1632 ↓
030	Dyer, M T	99	2089 ↔	429	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	93	1947 ↑
371	Edney, D	170	1971 ↑	444	Paine, Dr K A	138	2276 ↓
372	Flockhart, H	27	2133 ↔ *	1012	Paulin, A	40	2008 ↔
459	Fraser, R A	60	1853 ↔	315	Petrie, A	55	1596 ↓
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	132	2299 ↑	432	Price, D	201	2073 ↓
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)	461	2400 ↓	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	861	2204 ↓
124	Goodwin, B J	204	1895 ↓	439	Smith, M J	33	1907 ↑
445	Graham, S (SM)	354	2202 ↔	463	Smith, P R	37	1719 ↓
399	Grant, J	33	1769 ↓	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	150	2097 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	263	1491 ↑	1120	Taylor, W	30	2073 ↓
063	Harvey, D	87	2061 ↓	452	Toye, D T	75	1569 ↔
1013	Hilton, S H	121	1610 ↓	530	Watson, J (IM)	145	2302 ↔
515	Jack, J P E	28	1766 ↔ *				

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	67
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	9
Full grades (30+ games)	62
Provisional grades (<30 games)	5
Grading increases (↑)	19
Grading decreases (↓)	28
Grading static (↔)	20

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2461	Lloyd, G (SM)	2275
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2445	Cumming, D R (SM)	2274
Matheis, T (IM)	2435	Borwell, A P (IM)	2251
Bell, A D (SM)	2408	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2204
Giulian, P M (SIM)	2400	Graham, S (SM)	2202
Craig, T J (SM)	2369	Almarza Mato, C	2148
Bennett, P G	2345	Dawson, Prof A G	2105
Livie, G W G (IM)	2337	Stewart, Dr K W C	2097
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2334	Dyer, M T	2089
Montgomery, R S	2314	Price, D	2073
Watson, J (IM)	2302	Harvey, D	2061
Anderson, G M (SM)	2299	Jamieson, I	2013
Gillam, S R (SM)	2299	Murray, J S	2012
Lennox, C J (SM)	2278	Marshall, I	2011
Paine, Dr K A	2276	Paulin, A	2008

Top 30 Games Played

Borwell, A P (IM)	873	MacGregor, C A	332
Pyrich, G D (IM)	861	Kilgour, D A (GM)	304
Dempster, D	721	Hardwick, M E	263
Almarza-Mato, C	714	Anderson, G M (SM)	241
Cumming, D R (SM)	659	Anderson, J	225
Lloyd, G (SM)	584	Armstrong, J McK	215
Coope, D W	578	Montgomery, R S	213
MacMillen, A N	576	Goodwin, B J	204
Mackintosh, I (IM)	562	Price, D	201
Giulian, P M (SIM)	461	Livie, G W G (IM)	194
Marshall, I H	393	Matheis, T (IM)	178
Beecham, C R (SIM)	368	Edney, D	170
Graham, S (SM)	354	Lennox, C J (SM)	157
Craig, T J (SM)	347	Armstrong, A	153
Burridge, R J	336	Moir, P J	153

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 (www.iccf-webchess.com), click on the Rating list link then complete the search boxes.

Note that ICCF (Gerhard Binder) has now discontinued support for the Eloquary program, previously available for download from www.iccf.com

The Eloquary software is now incompatible with 64-bit versions of the Windows operating system.

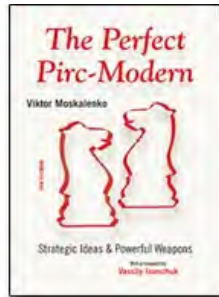
A number of useful online rating enquiry facilities are available at www.iccf-webchess.com



Book Review

By George Pyrich

Good day! In this issue I'm starting what hopefully will become a regular series of book reviews. Whilst I'm maybe not the best qualified person to provide this, I remain something of a technophobe and so I do buy lots of chess books, spending quite a lot of time browsing through them. So, despite my shortcomings, I shall happily share my opinions on some of these!



My first selection is the fairly recent "The Perfect Pirc-Modern" by the Ukrainian Spanish-based GM Viktor Moskalenko (pictured opposite); New in Chess, 2013 – another openings book, I hear you groan!

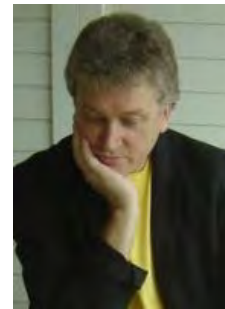
The book's contents are what it says on the tin – a survey of these 2 closely related opening complexes, the Pirc 1.e4 Nf6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 and the Modern 1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 Both are dynamic combative openings leading to lively complex middle-games – those seeking a quiet life should look elsewhere. Moskalenko is the accomplished author of the widely acclaimed "The Flexible French", "Revolutionize your Chess" and "The Wonderful Winawer" and the book follows the welcome modern trend of providing a selection of heavily annotated games containing lucid explanations of ideas, plans and pitfalls for both sides rather than the old style of simply presenting a huge myriad of variations with little in the way of explanation (the phrase "database dump" comes to mind).

Moskalenko has a relaxed easy-to read style, interspersing his annotations with short highlighted sections titled either "Trick" or "Weapon" which help explain what's going on. For me the book is almost like visiting an old friend as I regularly employed this opening complex in over-the-board play in the 70's and 80's and, whilst the book doesn't claim to be an exhaustive study of the openings, it does provide an excellent review of selective lines.

Almost as expected, the book presents the main lines from White's perspective in a series of chapters (seven in all) in its 240 or so pages. Rather surprisingly two chapters and almost half of the book are devoted to the so-called "Austrian Attack" popularised by Fischer where White plays 4.f4 in search of a quick knock-out. I say surprising as the Austrian is not nearly as popular as it once was – provided Black knows what he's about there are several lines which, although dangerous, offer good counter attacking chances.

The author provides in-depth cover of all Black's options including my favourite, the rather risky 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Bd3 Na6!?

The popularity of the Austrian declined gradually from the 80's onwards as players began to appreciate that, rather than permit Black counter-chances, it was safer and more effective for White to simply develop pieces behind the d4 and e4 pawns and await developments – Karpov's successes with this plan were also influential!



Here the author provides detailed coverage of Black's options after the main line 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 O-O 6.O-O but omits the liveliest line with 6... c6 concentrating instead on the solid 6... Bg4 and the quiet 6... Nc6 Other chapters are devoted to White's other main options, the dangerous 4.Bg5, the quiet 4.g3 and the currently very popular 4.Be3 which often leads to the so-called "150 Attack" where White often follows up with Bd3, Nf3 and Qd2. Here the author presents a strong case for Kramnik's favourite 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 a6!/? but omits any mention of the line used very successfully by Colin McNab for whom the Pirc/Modern has been the mainstay of his repertoire throughout his entire career 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Nf3 c6 6.Qd2 Qa5

My only possible criticism of this book is that maybe less space should have been devoted to the Austrian (half the book!) and more to the alternatives Black may have to face. In the Pirc, White's attacking 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 barely gets a mention and I could find nothing at all on the dangerous (I know this to my cost!) 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be2 Bg7 5.h4!/? Similarly in the Modern the line 1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.c3 has scant coverage whilst those wondering about the alternative here of 3.c4 are advised to refer to another book by another author!

However, any serious criticism of this work in which the author's enthusiasm and energy are transparent would be unwarranted. For some reason both the Pirc (barely 1% of the games in my corr. database of some 1.25 million games) and the Modern (2.5%) have never been popular in correspondence play.

Hopefully this book, which I warmly recommend, will go at least a little way towards rectifying the situation!



[Ed – still doing Patrick Swayze impersonations here...]

David Cumming cheered himself up recently by qualifying for the SM title. First to congratulate him was Amazon, whose UK income stream is sustained by David's insatiable appetite for chess books. The new Amazon depository at Dunfermline was built principally to reduce their freight costs to Inverness. Here's a game from a friendly international which is still in progress.

White: Cumming, David. R. (2319)
Black: Rivas Maceda, Jorge (2326)
Scotland v Peru, 2012
Sicilian Morra Gambit [B21]
[Notes by David Cumming]

- 1.e4 c5
2.d4 cxd4
3.c3 dxc3
4.Nxc3 Nc6
5.Nf3 g6
6.Bc4 Bg7
7.e5! Qa5?

This error is not discussed in Esserman's book but is covered in Hannes Langrock's 2nd Edition of his book on the Morra Gambit. Langrock says:- "A very risky attempt; Black grabs a second pawn and opens up the e-file for White's attack. It seems that with best play, White can get a clear advantage and good chances of a quick victory."

- 8.0-0! Nxe5
9.Nxe5 Bxe5
10.Nb5
[RR 10.Nd5 d6 11.Bd2 Qd8 12.Rc1 Kf8 13.Qf3 Bf6 14.Nxf6 Nxf6 15.Bh6+ Kg8 16.Bg5 Kg7 17.Rfd1 Bf5 18.Bxf6+ exf6 19.Qxb7 Rf8 20.Bb3 Qb8 21.Qxb8 Raxb8 22.Rxd6 Rfe8 23.h3 Rb7 24.Rdc6 Be6 Lehtimaki, T (1901)-Jarvenpaa, J (2090)/Jyvaskyla 2008/OM 2.04/1/2-1/2 (93)]

- 10... e6N
[RR 10...Nf6 11.Re1 Bb8 12.Bh6 d5 (RR 12...Qb6 13.Qe2 e5 14.Be3 Qc6 15.Rac1 d5 16.Bxd5 Qd7 17.Bb3 0-0 18.Red1 Qf5 19.Bc5 Re8 20.Bd6 Qe4 21.Qd2 Rd8 22.Qg5 Qf5 23.Qh4 g5 24.Qc4 Be6 25.Qe2 Bxb3 26.axb3 a6 27.Bxb8 Kreuscher, W (2055)-

- Recktenwald, T/Dudweiler 1995/OM 2.04/0-1) 13.Bg7 dxc4 14.Qd4 Be6 15.Rxe6 fxe6 16.Bxf6 0-0 17.Bxe7 Qxb5 18.Bxf8 Be5 19.Qc5 Qxb2 20.Re1 Bd4 0-1 Miskulin, R-Wikner, A (2280)/Vaxjo 1992/OM 2.04; RR 10...a6 11.Bxf7+ Kf8 12.Bxg8 Qxb5 13.Bb3 Kg7 14.a4 Qb6 15.Be3 Qf6 16.f4 Bxb2 17.Rb1 Qc3 18.Rf3 e5 19.fxe5 Rf8 20.Bh6+ Kxh6 21.Rxc3 1-0 Rodriguez-Acosta, A (2340)/Aceimar op 1995/OM 2.04]
11.Re1± Bb8



- 12.b4! Qd8
12...Qxb4?? Houdini 2.0b w32:
13.Ba3 Qxa3 14.Nxa3 Ne7 15.Nb5 0-0 16.Nd6 Bc7 17.Rc1 Nc6 18.Be2 Ba5 19.Rf1 Bd8 20.Qd2 Bf6 21.Rfd1 Kg7 22.Qe3 Rd8 23.Bf3 h6 24.Be4 Bg5 25.f4 Bf6 26.Rc2 a6 27.a3 Kg8 28.Rcd2 Ne7 6.17/25
13.Bb2 f6
14.Rc1 a6
15.Nd6+ Bxd6
16.Qxd6 Qe7
17.Qc7 Nh6
18.Bb3 Rf8
19.Qf4 Nf5
20.Rc7 Qd6
21.Qc1 Kd8
22.Rc5 Qb6
23.a4 e5?

White has nearly overwhelming pressure on the undeveloped Black position, so such a move as played, liberating though it may seem, actually is too loosening, White's bishops & rooks dominate the diagonals and files.

- 24.Qc4 Qe6
25.Qc2+- Qd6
26.Rd1 Qb8
27.Be6 Nd4
28.Bxd4 exd4
29.Bb3 b6

- 30.Rc4 Qe5
31.Rcxd4 Re8
32.g3
Prophylaxis. Creating luft for my king, as a precaution against back rank mating threats.
32... Ra7
33.Rd5 Qe4
34.Qc3 Rc7
35.Qxf6+ Re7
36.R5d4 Rc6
37.Qh8+ Re8
38.Qxh7 Qe7
39.Qh6 Rf6
40.Qc1 Bb7
41.a5 b5



Black is hoping against hope for a slip up enabling him to escape without losing the game. Fat chance!
42.Qc3 d6
The Black king needs air to breathe, unfortunately this also loosens the light squares further.

- 43.R4d3 Qe5
44.Qd2 Kd7
45.Bd5 Bxd5
46.Rxd5 Qe6
47.Qd4 Ke7
48.Qb6 Qe2
49.R5d2 Qe5
50.Qxa6 Kf8
51.Qc6 Qf5
52.a6 Re7
53.Qb6

The pressure is too great on the Black position. In order to prevent the promotion of the a-pawn Black must shed yet more material.

1-0



It's not every week you get to be an SM, so here's another offering from

David, taken from last year's SCCA Championship.

White: Price, Derek (2047)

Black: Cumming, David. R. (2298)

SCCA Championship 2012–13

English / King's Indian [A26]

[Notes by David Cumming]

1.c4 f5
2.g3 Nf6
3.Bg2 g6
4.Nf3 Bg7
5.0-0 d6
6.Nc3 0-0
7.d3 e5
8.Rb1 Nc6
9.b4 h6
10.b5 Ne7
11.a4 Be6
12.Ba3

[RR 12.a5 Rc8 13.Nd2 b6 14.Bb2 g5 15.axb6 axb6 16.e3 Qd7 17.f4 Ng6 18.Nd5 Ng4 19.h3 Nf6 20.Qe2 Nxd5 21.cxd5 Bf7 22.Nc4 Rce8 23.Qf2 exf4 24.exf4 gxf4 25.gxf4 Bxb2 26.Rxb2 Kh7 Eljanov,P (2742)-Radjabov,T (2744)/Moscow RUS 2010/OM 2.04/0–1 (51); RR 12.Nd2 d5 13.Ba3 Re8 14.Nb3 b6 15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.Qc2 a5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.e4 fxe4 19.Bxe4 Qf6 20.Nd2 Rad8 21.Nc4 Qf7 22.Rbc1 Kh7 23.Rfe1 Rd7 24.Qe2 Bf5 25.Qf3 Be6 26.Qxf7 Bxf7 Smit,F (2148)-Gilbert,C (2170)/ICCF 2010/OM Corr/½–½ (53)]

12... Rc8

13.Nd2

[RR 13.c5 Nfd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.Rc1 Qd7 16.Qd2 f4 17.Qb4 Rcd8 18.Rc2 Be6 19.Rfc1 Nd5 20.Qe1 a6 21.Rb1 axb5 22.axb5 Ra8 23.Bb2 g5 24.Nd2 Ra5 25.cxd6 cxd6 26.Nc4 Rxb5 27.Ba3 Rxb1 Niemi,M (2238)-Kivijarvi,J (2231)/Finland FIN 2010/OM 2.04/1–0 (68)]

13... b6

Leaving me weak on the queenside light squares; whilst White had ambitions on the queenside, I was angling for a kingside/central initiative...

14.a5

[RR 14.e3 g5 15.d4 exd4 16.exd4 f4 17.Re1 (RR 17.Qe2 Bf5 18.Rbe1 Re8 19.Qf3 g4 20.Qxf4 Bd3 21.Nde4 Nxe4 22.Rxe4 Qd7 23.Nd5 Bxe4 24.Bxe4 Rf8 25.Nxe7+ Qxe7 26.Qxg4 Qf6 27.Bd5+ Kh8 28.Be6 Rce8 29.d5 Qf3 30.Qxf3 Rxf3 31.Bb4 Rb3 Zorn Jean-Jacques (FRA) (2330)-Spitz,P (2548)/OM Corr/½–½ (45); RR 17.c5 dxc5 18.dxc5 Ng4

19.Qe2 Ne5 20.Rbd1 Qe8 21.Rfe1 g4 22.Qe4 fxxg3 23.fxxg3 Rd8 24.cxb6 cxb6 25.Ndb1 Rf7 26.Rxd8 Qxd8 27.Rd1 Qc8 28.Bd6 Nf3+ 29.Kh1 Bb3 30.Rc1 Qf5 31.Qxf5 Nxf5 Billsborough,J (1800)-Vaassen,J (2195)/IECG 2002/OM Corr/0–1 (52)] 17...Bg4 18.Qc1 Qd7 19.Bb2 Rce8 20.a5 Nf5 21.Bc6 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 Qf7 23.Nd5 Bh3 24.f3 Kh8 25.g4 Nxxg4 26.fxxg4 Nxd4 27.Qf2 Nxc6 28.bxc6 Bxxg4 Pott,B (1869)-Aguilar,S (1740)/LSS 2007/OM Corr/1–0 (36)]

14... Qd7N

[RR 14...g5 15.axb6 (RR 15.Qb3 f4 16.Nce4 Nh5 17.g4 Bxxg4 18.c5+ d5 19.cxb6 cxb6 20.axb6 axb6 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Qxd5+ Kh8 23.Rfe1 f3 24.Nxf3 Nf4 25.Qd6 Qxd6 ½–½ Costello,C (2080)-Soh,E (1872)/Hampstead 1998/OM 2.04) 15...axb6 16.Qb3 (RR 16.e3 Qe8 17.d4 f4 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.exf4 exf4 20.Re1 Qf7 21.Qe2 Ng4 22.Qxe6 fxxg3 23.hxxg3 Bxc3 24.Bxe7 Bxd2 25.Bxf8 Bxe1 26.Bd5 Bxf2+ 27.Kh1 Qxe6 28.Bxe6+ Kxf8 29.Bxc8 Ne3 30.g4 Ke7 Jobava,B (2614)-Herraiz Hidalgo,H (2492)/Internet Chess Club INT 2006/OM 2.04/1–0 (44)) 16...h5 17.Nd5 h4 18.gxxh4 gxxh4 19.Kh1 h3 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Bxxh3 Nh5 22.e3 Qh4 23.Nf3 Qxxh3 24.Ng5 Qh4 25.Nxe6 Rf6 26.Nxxg7 Kxxg7 27.Rg1+ Kh7 28.Qd1 Rh6 29.Rg2 Zuelle,B (2112)-Drechsler,C (2142)/Germany 2004/OM 2.04/1–0 (36)]

15.Ra1 Kh7±

16.Qb3 f4



The dreaded Dutch lance!

17.Bb2 Nf5
18.Nd5 Nxd5
19.cxd5 Bf7
20.Rfc1 Be8
21.axb6 axb6
22.Bh3 g5
23.Ra7 Bh5
24.Nc4 fxxg3
25.fxxg3 g4
26.Bg2 Nd4
27.Bxd4 exd4=



The pawn on d4, supported by my dark squared bishop on g7, is going to be a serious thorn in White's centre. It splits the White board in 2, leaving Black with oodles of space in the centre and on the kingside. Most of White's pieces are on the queenside half of the board, from where the White initiative is looking increasingly misplaced.

28.Qb1

The timing is not right for the optically appealing 28.Nxb6?? because this leaves the Rc1 exposed, therefore if White were to take the queen on d7 he would get mated! Houdini 2.0b w32: 28...cxb6 29.Rxc8 (29.Rxd7 Rxc1+ 30.Qd1 Rxd1+ 31.Bf1 Rdxfl+ 32.Kg2 R8f2#) 29...Qxc8 30.Qd1 Bg6 31.Qa1 Kg8 32.Qb1 Qf5 33.Kh1 Qf2 34.Ra2 Qe3 35.Qd1 Rf2 36.Rd2 Kh7 37.Rc2 h5 38.Rd2 Bf5 39.Qc2 Kg6 40.Qb2 h4 41.gxxh4 Be5 42.Rc2 Qf4 -3.66/21

28...

29.Qc2 Qd8!

30.Rd1 Bg6

31.Qb1 h5

32.Rf1 Qf6±

33.Re1 Qe7

h4!±

Threatening to suffocate the White king with a subsequent ...h3, and despite the presence of the light squared bishop, White is in fact very weak on his kingside light squares.

34.Be4 Rf7

35.Rf1 Rcf8+

36.Rxf7 Qxf7

37.Qe1 Bxe4

38.dxe4 d3!



Threatening to play on the dark squares with a subsequent ...Bd4+, this in tandem with Black's domination of the f-file, and White's rook is just not relevant at this stage of the game.

39.e5 dxe5
40.exd3 e4!
 Houdini 2.0b w32: 40...e4 41.Ne5 Bxe5 42.Qxe4+ Kh6 43.Qe3+ Kg6 44.Qe4+ Qf5 45.Qxf5+ Rxf5 46.gxh4 Kh5 47.Kg2 Bd6 48.Ra8 Kxh4 49.Ra4 Kh5 50.Ra2 Rxd5 51.h3 gxh3+ 52.Kxh3 Rxd3+ 53.Kg2 Rb3 54.Kf2 Rxb5 55.Ke3 Ra5 56.Rg2 -6.15/21

0-1



Geoff Lloyd collected his SM title two years before David Cumming, and his appetite for Master class events is undiminished. Here he takes on an American opponent.

White: Grout, Stephen (2239)

Black: Lloyd, Geoffrey (2287)

[C95]

ICCF WS/M/411, 2012

Ruy Lopez, Breyer Variation [C95]

[Notes by Geoff Lloyd]

The Breyer defence is becoming more popular nowadays at grandmaster level. Adams, Carlsen and Anand have employed it to name just a few.

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

Preventing the bishop pinning the knight after d2-d4.

9... Nb8

The key move in Breyer's defence, heading for d7 to defend the pawn on e5.

10.d4 Nbd7
11.Nbd2 Bb7
12.Bc2 Re8
13.a4 Bf8
14.Bd3 c6
15.b3 g6
16.Qc2 Rc8



16...Qb6 17.Bb2 Bg7 18.b4 c5 19.bxc5 dxc5 20.dxe5 Nh5 21.axb5 axb5 22.Rxa8 Bxa8 23.c4 b4 24.Ra1 Bc6 25.Nf1 Nxe5 26.Nxe5 Bxe5 27.Bxe5 Rxe5 28.Nh2? Nf4 29.Ng4 Re6 30.Qb2? Nxd3 31.Nh6+ Stefansson,H (2395)-Carlhammar,M (2245)/ Stockholm 1988/ CBM 11/0-1 (41); 16...Bg7 17.Bb2 (17.Ba3 Qc7 18.b4 Nh5 19.Bb2 Nb6 20.axb5 cxb5 21.c4 bxc4 22.Nxc4 Rac8 23.Rac1 Nf4 24.Bf1 d5 25.exd5 Bxd5 26.Nfxe5 Bxe5 27.dxe5 Nxc4 28.Bxc4 Qxc4 29.Qd2 Qb3 30.Re3 Rxc1+ 31.Bxc1 Qc4 Lenier,J (2016)-Venkataramanan,T (2287) /Crawley ENG 2012/ The Week in Chess 929/0-1 (32)) 17...Nh5 18.Bf1 Qb6 19.b4 Nf4 20.dxe5 Nxe5 21.Nxe5 dxe5 22.c4 Rad8 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra5 Bf8 25.Bc3 Ne6 26.Nf3 Nd4 27.Bxd4 exd4 28.c5 Qc7 29.Ra7 Qb8 30.Qa2 d3 31.Ra3 Karpov,A (2715)-Beliaevsky, A (2595)/Biel 1992/CBM 31/1-0 (39)

17.Ba3

17.Bb2 Nh5 18.Bf1 exd4 19.Nxd4 Nhf6 20.N4f3 Bg7 21.c4 b4 22.g3 c5 23.Bg2 Qc7 24.Nh2 Re7 25.Re3 1/2-1/2, Alekseev Evgeny (RUS) 2716 - Roiz Michael (ISR) 2630 , Crete 11/3/2007 Ch Europe (team) **17... Nh5** 17...Qb6 18.Bf1 Nh5 19.g3 exd4 20.cxd4 c5 21.axb5 axb5 22.Qd3 Ba6 23.Bb2 d5 24.dxc5 Nxc5 25.Qd4 Bg7 26.e5 Qb7 27.Rec1 Ne6 28.Rxc8 Rxc8 29.Qe3 Bf8 30.Nd4 Nxd4 31.Bxd4 Ng7 32.Nf3 Ne6 33.h4 Nxd4 34.Nxd4 Bc5 35.b4 Bxb4 36.e6 Re8 37.Qb3 ...1-0, Svidler Peter (RUS) 2739 - Harikrishna P (IND) 2679 , Gibraltar 2/5/2009 It (open) "Gibtelecom Masters"; 17...Qc7 18.Rad1 Qb8 19.Bf1 Bg7 20.Bb2 Rcd8 21.b4 d5 22.Nxe5 Nxe5 23.dxe5 Nxe4 24.Nxe4 dxe4 25.Rxd8 Qxd8 26.c4 Bxe5 27.cxb5 cxb5 28.axb5 Bxb2 29.Qxb2 axb5 30.Bxb5 Re7 31.Qf6 Rd7 32.Qxd8+ Rxd8 33.Rc1 Rd5 34.Bc4 Rd7 35.Ra1 Rd4 36.Ra7 Rxc4 37.Rxb7 ...1/2-1/2, David

Alberto (LUX) 2565 - Sriram Jha (IND) 2459 , Paris 7/8/2009 Ch Paris (open)]

18.Bf1

18.g3 Ng7 19.Bf1 Ne6 20.Rad1 Qb6 21.Qa2 exd4 22.cxd4 Bg7 23.Bxd6 Nxd4 24.a5 Qa7 25.Nxd4 Bxd4 26.Nf3 Bg7 27.b4 c5 28.Bf4 Bxe4 29.Ng5 Nf6 30.Be3 Ba8 31.bxc5 Qb7 32.c6 Qxc6 33.Qxf7+ Kh8 34.f3 h6 35.Rc1 Qd7 36.Qxd7 Nxd7 37.Nf7+ Kh7 ... 1/2-1/2, Shabalov Alexander (USA) 2580 - Navara David (CZE) 2687 , Khanty Mansyisk 11/26/2009 Cup World (play-off)

18...

exd4

Back to the main game. 18...Nf4 19.Rad1 Qb6 20.b4 Qc7 21.c4 exd4 22.cxb5 d3 23.Bxd3 cxb5 24.Qxc7 Rxc7 25.Bf1 bxa4 26.g3 Nh5 27.Nc4 Nhf6 28.Nxd6 Bxd6 29.Rxd6 Nxe4 30.Rd4 Kg7 31.Bb2 f6 32.Rc1 Rec8 33.b5 axb5 34.Rxc7 Rxc7 35.Bxb5 Nb6 36.Bxa4 Nc3 37.Bxc3 Bxf3 38.Bd2 ...0-1, Rasmussen Allan Stig (DEN) 2536 - Avrukh Boris (ISR) 2641 , Helsingor 7/24/2009 It (open) "Politiken Cup"

19.cxd4



19... Nf4

20.Rac1 a5

21.g3

21.axb5 cxb5 22.Qa2 Qb6 23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.g3 Ne6 25.d5 Nec5 With equal chances.

21...

b4

22.Bb2 Ne6

23.Qd3 Bh6

24.h4 d5

25.exd5 cxd5

26.Qb5 Rb8

27.Rc2 Re7

28.Bh3 f5

29.Bg2 Nf6

30.Ne5 Rc8

31.Rec1 Ra8

White has a decent position here, doubled rooks on the c file and a strong knight on e5.

32.f4 Ba6

33.Qc6 Bb7

34.Qb5 Ba6
35.Qc6

Draw agreed or it's forced by repetition. I have looked at a few of Carlsen's games and I like the way he transfers his queenside knight to the kingside and looks for tactical ideas. I intend to keep playing this variation with some optimism.

1/2-1/2



Geoff was telling me he has at last mastered the technique of creating a small pgn file from a database of games – good news for Games Editors trying to avoid work! Here's another tight Master class game, this time against a Russian opponent.

White: Popov, Vladimir V (2276)
Black: Lloyd, Geoffrey (2129)
 ICCF WS/M/426 ICCF, 2013
 Ruy Lopez, Breyer Variation [C94]
[Notes by Geoff Lloyd]

I have found many Grand masters have tried this defence including Magnus Carlsen, so why not give it a try?

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 a6
4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7
6.Re1 b5
7.Bb3 0-0
8.c3 d6
9.h3 Nb8
10.a4 Bb7=
11.Bc2



11.d3 Nbd7 12.Nbd2 Nc5 13.Bc2 Nxa4 14.Bxa4 bxa4 15.Qxa4 Nd7 16.Qc2 Ra7 17.d4 Qa8 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Nf1 a5 20.Ng3 Rb8 21.Be3 c5 22.Nh2 Bc6 23.Be1 g6 24.Ng4 h5 25.Nh6+ Kf8 26.Qe2 Nf6 27.Qf3 h4 28.Bg5 hxg3 29.Bxf6 Rxb2 30.fxg3 Qd8 ...1-0, Kuzmin Gennadi P (UKR) 2528 - Khruschiov Alexey

(MDA) 2402 , Ohrid 2001 Ch Europe.

11... Nbd7
 11...Re8 12.d4 Bf8 13.Nbd2 Nbd7 14.Bd3 c6 15.b4 Rc8 16.Bb2 Nb6 17.Bc2 exd4 18.cxd4 Nxa4 19.Bxa4 bxa4 20.Rxa4 Nd7 21.Bc3 g6 22.Nb3 Bg7 23.Na5 Ba8 24.Qd3 Nf6 25.Nb3 c5 26.dxc5 Bxe4 27.Bxf6 Bxd3 28.Bxd8 Rxd8 29.Ra5 Bc4 30.Re3 Rb8 31.Nbd2 ...0-1, Petrovski Igor (MKD) 2215 - Zaja Ivan (CRO) 2483 , Bosnjaci 1/4/2011 It (open)
12.Qe2



12.d4 Re8 13.Bd3 c6 14.Nbd2 Bf8 15.b3 g6 16.Bb2 Nh5 17.Bf1 Nf4 18.g3 Ne6 19.h4 Bg7 20.axb5 1/2-1/2, Huebner Robert Dr (GER) 2625 - Gabriel Christian (GER) 2569 , Switzerland 2002 Ch Switzerland (team) 2002

12... c5
13.d3 h6
14.axb5 axb5
15.Rxa8 Qxa8
16.Nh4 Rb8
17.Na3 Bc6
18.Nf5 Bf8
19.c4 bxc4
20.Nxc4 d5
21.exd5 Bxd5
22.Nfe3 Be6
23.Bd2 Nd5
24.Bd1

Draw agreed. My opponent offered me a draw here, though there is still a lot of play left. However I am studying the endgame whenever I get the chance to and perhaps after another 6 months of study I will play on in most of my games and try for a win.

1/2-1/2



Eoin Campbell is a newcomer to SCCA, and here is one of his early games from this year's Premier event. I particularly liked the finish.

White: Campbell, Eoin (1800)
Black: Macmillen, Andrew (1794)
 SCCA Premier B, 2013
 QGD Exchange Variation [D35]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 d5
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Be7
4.exd5 exd5
5.Bf4 Nf6
6.e3 0-0
7.Bd3 Re8
8.Nge2 c6
9.Qc2 Nbd7
10.0-0-0

Up to here, it's been a relatively untravelling line, though certainly known at master level.



10... Qa5N
 Andrew's reply doesn't appear on the databases, but looks playable and the position is pretty equal hereabouts.
11.f3 Nf8
 11...b5 now and on Black's next looks the best way for Black to get some q-side activity.
12.g4
 Eoin decides to get active on the other wing.
12... Ng6
13.h4
 13.Bxg6 also seems a good try for White.
13... Nxf4
14.Nxf4 Bd6
15.g5 Bxf4
 15...Rxe3!? 16.gxf6 Bxf4 17.Bxh7+ Kh8 18.fxg7+ Kxg7 19.Rdg1+ Kf6 20.Kb1 Qb4 and Black can just about survive if the White h-pawn is negated.
16.exf4 Nh5
17.Bxh7+ Kh8
18.Bg6 Nxf4
 18...fxg6 19.Qxg6 Bg4 20.fxg4 Nxf4 21.Qc2 Qc7 and Black is still just about hanging in there, albeit those White k-side pawns are looking to rumble...
19.Bxf7 Re7

19...Rf8 is preferable.

20.g6 Nh5?

Better is 20...Qb4 - reinforcements were needed on the k-side...

21.Rde1

21.Qg2 or; 21.Qd2 also look very strong this move and next.

21... Qd8

21...Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Bd7 is a little less painful for Black, though White remains in control.

22.Re5 Rxe5

23.dxe5 d4?

This just activates the White knight, but Black doesn't have much by way of choice.

24.Ne4 Bf5

25.Qd2 Bxe4

26.fxe4 Ng3

27.Rh3 Nxe4



28.Qg5!

A lovely move to finish, with the threat of Qh5#.

28.Qg5 Nxg5 29.hxg5#;

28.Qg5 Qxg5+ 29.hxg5#

1-0



Andrew Macmillen works his games into a busy travelling schedule, but he still manages to play decent chess. Here he takes on Allan Petrie, who has returned to CC after a period of absence. Both players miss some tactics (no computers!), but the game is well-contested and enjoyable.

White: Petrie, Allan (1697)

Black: Macmillen, Andrew (1794)

SCCA Open A, 2013

1.d4 d5 Unusual Lines [D00]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 d5

2.e4 dxe4

3.Nc3 Nf6

4.f3 exf3

5.Nxf3 Bg4

6.Bc4!?

This offbeat QP line was a favourite of Norwegian CC player Arild Haugen, e.g. 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 c6 8.g4 Qxd4 9.Be3 Qb4 10.0-0 e6 11.g5 Nd5 12.Bd4 Nd7 13.h4 Qd6 14.Kb1 0-0-0 15.Bg2 Qf4 16.Qh3 N7b6 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.b3 Qc7 19.Rhf1 Kb8 20.Rf3 Nc8 21.Rc3 Qd6 22.Qe3 Qd7 23.Be5+ Nd6 24.Bh3 Qb5 25.a4 Qe8 26.Rcd3 h6 27.gxh6 Rxh6 28.c4 Rxh4 29.cxd5 f5 30.dxe6 Qxe6 31.Qg5 Be7 32.Qxf5 Qxf5 33.Bxf5 Rh5 34.Rxd6 ½-½ Haugen, A (2556)-Weisskohl, J (2522)/ICCF email 2008/Corr 2011

6... e6

7.0-0 c6

8.Be3 Be7

9.h3 Bxf3

10.Qxf3 0-0

11.Bg5?

11.Bd3=

11... Nbd7?

Both players miss 11...Qxd4+!

12.Kh1 Qxc4

12.Rad1 Nd5

13.Bxe7 Qxe7

14.Bd3 N7f6

14...Nxc3 15.bxc3 Nf6+ is also good for Black.

15.Ne4 Nxe4



16.Bxe4

16.Qxe4 gives White a little more play.

16... Nf6

17.c3 Nxe4

18.Qxe4 Rad8

19.Rf4 Rd5

19...c5 also looks a try for Black.

20.Rh4 h6

20...f5! 21.Qf4 c5 looks very strong for Black.

21.Re1 Rg5

22.Rg4? Rxc4?

Both players miss 22...f5! 23.Qxe6+ Qxe6 24.Rxe6 fxg4 which wins for Black.

23.Qxg4 Rd8

24.Re3 Rd5

25.Qg3 a6

26.Re5 f6

27.Rxd5 exd5

28.Qb8+

Kh7



29.Qa7?

29.Qc8 gives White some hope of saving the draw.

29... Qe3+

30.Kh2 Qf4+

And Black guzzles pawns faster than his opponent.

0-1



Steve Murray did his rating no harm by overcoming a German opponent in last year's SCCA Webserver League.

White: Brühan, Wolfgang (2014)

Black: Murray, J Steve (1979)

SCCA Webserver League 2, 2012

Open Catalan [E05]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.c4 Nf6

2.g3 e6

3.Bg2 d5

4.Nf3 Be7

5.0-0 0-0

6.d4 dxc4

7.Qc2 a6

8.Qxc4 b5

9.Qc2 Bb7

10.Bd2 Be4

11.Qc1



11... Qc8!?

11.Nc6 seems the natural move, but this is ok and it turns out to be the sting in the tail...

12.Bg5 Nbd7

13.Nbd2 Bb7
 14.Nb3 a5
 15.Rd1 Bd5
 16.Ne5 Bxg2
 17.Kxg2 a4
 18.Nc5 Bxc5
 19.Nxd7 Nxd7
 20.dxc5 f6
 21.Be3 Rd8
 22.f3 Ne5
 23.Qc3 Rd5
 24.Bf4 Ng6
 25.Rxd5 Nxf4+
 26.gxf4 exd5



27.e4?

Presumably played in haste.

27... dxe4

Wolfgang probably recoiled at 27...dxe4 28.fxe4 Qg4+ 29.Qg3 Qe2+ 30.Qf2 Qxe4+ 31.Qf3 Qc2+ 32.Qf2 Qc4+ where Black is winning...;

...but maybe gave up too soon on 27...dxe4 28.Re1 Qe6 29.Rxe4 Qxa2 30.Qd2 h6 31.Qe2 f5 where Steve has the advantage, but still has to work hard to convert it.

0-1



Finally, George Pyrich contributes an entertaining game, again from the SCCA Webserver League, but this year's vintage. George has held the IM title since 1995, in the days when high-tech was a fax machine. Sit back and enjoy...

White: Pyrich, George D (2197)

Black: Twitchell, Neville H (1947)

SCCA Webserver League 2, 2013

QG, Chigorin Defence [D07]

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.d4 d5
 2.c4 Nc6
 3.Nf3 Bg4
 4.Nc3 e6
 5.cxd5 exd5
 6.Bf4

My only ever attempt as Black in this opening was against GM Jason Bokar in the 2010 ICCF NFL Challenge event (Cleveland Browns v. Green Bay Packers) which went 6.Qb3!? Bb4 7.a3!? not given in MegaBase 2010 7...Bxc3+ 8.Qxc3 Nge7 9.Bf4 b6?! (9...Ng6 isn't easy for Black either after 10.Bg3 0-0 11.h4!?) 10.e3 Bxf3 11.gxf3 0-0 12.h4 Na5 13.Qc2 c5 14.Bd3 h6 15.Ke2 and White soon had a crushing k-side attack although I did hold out until move 33.

6... Bxf3

The immediate 6...Bd6 was seen in the well-known Kramnik v. Short at the 2008 Dresden Olympiad 7.Bg3 Nge7 8.e3 Qd7 9.a3 0-0 10.Bd3 a6 11.Bxd6 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Qxd6 13.Qg3 Rfd8 14.b4 g6 15.Na4 Nc8 16.Rc1 when Vlad went on to deliver an end-game master class and win on move 47.

7.gxf3 Bd6

8.Bg3 Nge7

9.e3



9... h5!?

Maybe instead 9...Qd7 when 10.Bd3 f5 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.f4 should be a wee bit better for White.

10.Qb3

More accurate was 10.Bxd6 eliminating Black's Bb4 possibility 10...Qxd6 11.f4 and, whilst the machine disagrees, White has some advantage.

10... Na5

10...Bb4!? is quite testing for White as suddenly the g3 B is under threat and 11.a3 (11.Bd3 h4 12.Bf4 f6 13.h3 is unconvincing also) 11...Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 h4 13.Bf4 Ng6 is obviously no good for White.

11.Qa4+ Nac6

12.Rc1 h4

13.Bxd6 Qxd6

14.f4 Kf8

15.Rg1 Rh6

16.Bd3 Nc8

This merely encourages the White Q to a better square. However both

[16...Qe6 17.Qd1 Qh3 18.Qg4 Qxg4 19.Rxg4 Re8 20.Na4; and 16...Re8 17.Kf1 Qd7 18.Rg5 Qh3+ 19.Kg1 f6 20.Rg2 are good for White.

17.Qd1 Nb6

18.Qg4 Qf6

19.f5

19.Ne2 likely comes to the same.

19... Re8

20.Ne2 Kg8

21.a3 h3



22.Kf1

Obviously not 22.Nf4?? ; and

22.b4?! invites complications after

22...Nc4 23.Bxc4 dxc4 24.Rxc4 Rh4

22... Rh4

23.Qg3 Re7

24.b4 Kh7?

Simply setting up White's combination by placing his king against the bishop. However, decent moves for Black were hard to find - if 24...a6?! else White has b5 and Rxc7 25.Bxa6! bxa6 26.Rxc6 and Black collapses.

25.b5

25.Qxg7+ also wins after 25...Qxg7

26.f6+ Kh8 27.Rxg7

25... Na5

26.Qxg7+ Qxg7

27.f6+ Ree4

27...Qg6 is little better after

28.Bxg6+ fxg6 29.fxe7 Re4 30.Rxc7

28.Rxg7+ Kh8

29.Bxe4 dxe4

30.Rxc7 Rh6

31.Rcx7 Rxf6

32.Rh7+ Kg8

33.Rfg7+ Kf8

34.Nf4 Nbc4

35.Nh5 Nxe3+

36.Ke2

And Black finally called it a day.

1-0





25th ICCF World Champion

By Gino Figlio

[Ed – Following our coverage of GM Marjan Šemrl's victory in the 24th World Championship (edition 120), I'm pleased to include coverage of the 25th Champion here.

Many thanks to Gino Figlio for giving permission to publish this article – he replied to my entreaty: "I would be honored to see the article published in your magazine, thank you". Gino's picture is in the banner above, while the subject of his interview, GM Fabio Finocchiaro of Italy, is pictured below.]




Fabio Finocchiaro (ITA)
25th ICCF World Champion

Dear Mr. Finocchiaro, thanks for the opportunity to interview you for the ICCF. I would like to congratulate you for a wonderful performance and obtaining the title of World Correspondence Chess Champion. Please tell us little bit about yourself.

Here is a brief profile of my chess career. I started playing chess at age 14 and soon became the strongest player of my town.

When I was 18, I had to leave chess because of personal reasons and family concerns. Subsequently in 1968 I got acquainted with a correspondence chess player and became very fond of this discipline.

I obtained the Italian championship title, then dedicated myself to international tournaments, reaching eventually the ICCF GM title in the ASIGC 2000 tournament.

In the World Championship final # 15 I finished in 6th place one point behind Van Oosterom.

Later on, I won two Candidates tournaments. (21st and 26th World Championship cycles).

Would you please tell us how a World Champion prepares to play an important tournament?

I study the games of my opponents.

When you study your opponents' games, do you use a database for opening reference, which one? Any commercially available databases?. What chess engines do you use for opening analysis? Do you use the program Aquarium or IDeA for opening analysis?

I use Chessbase 11, Megadatabase 2012 and Corr database 2012.

What were the most challenging games?

My games with Ninov, Brooks, Akesson, Mielke and Hall.

Would you please share a position in those challenging games and some of your analysis?

White: "Finocchiaro, Fabio (ITA) [2581]

Black: "Ninov, Nikolai (BUL) [2600]

ICCF WCCC Final 25, 2009-13

QGD Semi-Slav [D31]

[Notes by Fabio Finocchiaro]

1.d4	d5
2.c4	e6
3.Nc3	Bb4
4.e3	c5
5.a3	Bxc3+
6.bxc3	Ne7
7.cxd5	exd5
8.Bd3	Bf5
9.Bxf5	Nxf5
10.Qb3	Qd7
11.Rb1	cxd4
12.cxd4	b6
13.Ne2	Nc6
14.Nf4	Nce7
15.a4	O-O
16.Qb5	Qd6
17.Bd2	Qd8
18.O-O	g5
19.Nh5	Nd6
20.Qb3	f5
21.Bb4	Nc4
22.h4	h6
23. hxc5	hxc5
24. e4!	fxe4
25. Qh3	Rf7
26. Qe6	Qc8
27. Qh6	Qc6
28. Qxc5+	



28... Qg6
 If 28... Ng6 29.f4 Kh7 (29... exf3 30.Rb3 Rc8 31.Rbxf3)
 30.f5 Nh8 31.f6 Rg8 32.Ng7 Rgxg7 33.Qh5+ Kg8 34.fxg7
 29.Bxe7 Qxg5
 30.Bxg5 Rf5
 31.Nf6+ Kg7
 32.Bh4 Rh8
 33.g3 Rxh4
 34.Ne8+ Kf8
 35.gxh4 Kxe8
 36.Rfc1 Rh5
 37.Kg2 Rxh4
 38.Rb5 Rh5

43.Rb3 Rg5+
 44.Rg3 Nd2
 45.Rxg5 Nf3+
 46.Kf1 Nxe5
 47.Ke2 Nf3
 48.Ke3 Ne1
 49.Rg7 Ke8
 50.Kd2 Nf3+
 51.Kc3 b5
 52.Rh7 b4+
 53.Kxb4 Nxd4
 54.Kc5 Nc2
 55.Kxd5 e3
 56.fxe3 Nxe3+
 57.Ke6 Kf8
 58.Rc7 Ng4
 59.Rf7+ Kg8
 60.Rf4 Nh6
 61.Kf6

61.Kf6 Nf7 62.Rd4 Kf8 63.Rd7 wins.
 1-0



Did the withdrawal of Mr. Toro influence your strategy in the tournament?

The withdrawal of Toro was a drawback for me because I was White in this game.

Postal nodes were available in this event, did you use a node and if you did, would you use one again in the future?

I began the games with node and postcard but after 3 months and due to the protest of some players, I continued with node and email.

Who protested about your use of postal nodes? This was considered in the tournament rules, I wonder why you felt you wanted to switch to node and email if the rules allowed node and post. Did the protest of some players affect your performance in the event or distracted you in any way?

The Tournament Director after 3 months of play advised me to play by email, due to the protest of some player. I accepted.

Why do you want to play webserver only now? Do you think that using nodes was not a good idea or complicated things for you? What would you say to future final players that are considering the use of nodes?

After this experience, I prefer webserver. The game with postal node is longer than the webserver and I think that the webserver is the best way to play.

Do you have any suggestions about the tournament format for future finals?

Now I prefer that games are played with the webserver.



39.a5
 If 39.Rxc4? a6
 39... Nxa5
 40.Rc7 Nc4
 41.Rxa7 Rf5
 42.Kg1



42... Kd8
 Now if 42... e3 43.fxe3 Nxe3 44.Rxb6

Will you participate in a future Final?

by gfiglio@bresnan.net

I wish to take part in the final 28 and 29 of the World Championship.

Thank you Mr. Finocchiaro, I wish you the best in your future events. We appreciate your time answering the questions and your perspective about future WC Finals.



Final Cross-Table

WC25/final, World Championship 25 Final

Category 14 GM=8 SIM=6 IM=5						TD Flores Gutiérrez, Carlos (IA)												Score	SB	RG	Place						
						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
1	ITA	240090	GM	Finocchiaro, Fabio	2581		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	-C	10	70.25	0	1	
2	ENG	210773	GM	Hall, Richard V. M.	2619	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	-C	9	66.25	0	2
3	ITA	249221	GM	Vassia, Elio	2611	½	½		½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	-C	9	65	0	3	
4	ITA	240384	GM	Giuliani, Sante	2630	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	-C	9	64.5	0	4	
5	SLO	480101	SIM	Brunšek, Iztok	2595	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	-C	8.5	61.25	0	5	
6	GER	84844	GM	Reppmann, Dieter	2590	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	-C	8.5	61	0	6	
7	GER	82274	GM	Schröder, Frank	2556	½	½	0	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	-C	8.5	59.25	0	7	
8	GER	86189	SIM	Stephan, Prof. Dr. Jürgen	2546	½	0	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	-C	8.5	59.25	0	7	
9	ENG	210408	GM	Brooks, Dr. Ian S.	2581	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	1	½	½	½	½	-C	7.5	54	0	9	
10	SWE	450306	SIM	Åkesson, Ralf	2578	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	1	½	½	-C	7.5	54	0	9	
11	RUS	141241	GM	Turkov, Vladimir Sergeevich	2533	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	1	½	-C	7	50.25	0	11	
12	GER	82198	GM	Rohde, Wolfgang	2591	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	½	½		1	1	0	1	-C	6	40.25	0	12	
13	SVK	950042	SIM	Prívar, Dr. Igor	2523	0	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	0	½	½	0		½	½	½	-C	5.5	41.25	0	13	
14	NED	370351	GM	Gouw, Carol-Peter Th.	2591	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	0	½	0	½	0	½		1	½	-C	5.5	40.25	0	14	
15	BUL	50167	GM	Ninov, Nikolai	2600	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	0		½	-C	5.5	40.25	0	15		
16	GER	80923	SIM	Mielke, Klaus	2560	0	½	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	½	½	0	½	½	½		-C	4.5	32.5	0	16	
17	CHI	110025	GM	Toro Solís de Ovando, Guillermo F.	2579	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C	-C		0	0	0	17	

Congratulations also to GM Richard Hall (ENG) on finishing 2nd to Fabio on SB count!



il giuoco degli scacchi (the game of chess)



International Update

By George Pyrich

5th ICCF Champions League

CL/2012/C1, Champions League 2012 C1

TD Vugt, Wim H. van

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	Chess Club Travertin 2	2337	█	1	1.5	2	2.5	1.5	1	2.5	2	1.5	1.5	2	3.5	22.5	57	6	9	39	9	1
2	Golden King	2157	2	█	1	1.5	2.5	1.5	0.5	2	3	1.5	2	1	1.5	20	58	6	7	34	14	2
3	Black Sea	2337	1.5	1	█	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	2	2.5	2	1.5	1	2.5	18.5	68	10	7	27	21	3
4	Old Friends Team	2439	2	1.5	1.5	█	1.5	0.5	1	1.5	1.5	1	2.5	2	2	18.5	57	5	5	32	16	4
5	The Lewis Chessmen	2293	1.5	1.5	1	0.5	█	1.5	1	0.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	2	2	17	51	1	4	33	15	5
6	Grupo de Xadrez do Porto B	2052	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	█	1.5	1	2.5	1.5	2	1	0.5	16.5	56	4	3	29	19	6
7	Fenix I	2200	1	1.5	0.5	1	1	1.5	█	0	2	1	2.5	2	1	15	68	8	4	22	26	7
8	All the King's Men	2236	1.5	2	1	1.5	0.5	1	0	█	2	0.5	1.5	2	1	14.5	48	-1	3	30	18	8
9	Latvian Knights	2068	0	1	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	1	2	█	2	2.5	0.5	1	14	40	-7	4	35	13	9
10	DEMC 2	2266	2.5	0.5	0	1	1.5	1.5	0	0.5	1	█	1.5	2	1	13	44	-3	3	29	19	10
11	BCCA Rooks	2198	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	█	1.5	1.5	13	39	-7	0	33	15	11
12	CCI 1	2247	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0.5	1	0.5	█	1	8	30	-10	0	26	22	12
13	Czech Black & White Team	2156	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.5	1	█	6.5	25	-12	0	25	23	13

CL/2012/C7, Champions League 2012 C7

TD Kracht, Jörg (IA)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	Zugzwang Bocholt 1	2266	█	1.5	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	0.5	2	2.5	19.5	62	8	8	31	17	1
2	Vityaz 2012	2213	1.5	█	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	0.5	2	3.5	3	19.5	60	7	7	32	16	2
3	Chess.com - Russia	2303	2	1	█	1.5	0.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	1	1	1.5	2.5	3	19.5	62	8	7	31	17	3
4	Anunnaki IV	2193	1	1	1.5	█	3	2	1.5	0.5	0	1	1	3	3	18.5	59	6	7	31	17	4
5	Brazilian Chessfriends	2387	1	2	0.5	1	█	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	2	2	17.5	56	4	5	31	17	5
6	DEMC 3	2138	1	2	1.5	2	1.5	█	1	1	1	2	0.5	1	1.5	16	44	-4	3	36	12	6
7	Torres Quevedo	2253	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	█	1.5	1	1	0.5	2	0.5	15	51	1	2	29	19	7
8	CSM Cluj Napoca 1	2344	1	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	2	1.5	█	0	1	0.5	1.5	3.5	14.5	55	3	3	26	22	8
9	Le Palamède	2327	1	1	1	0	1.5	1	1	0	█	0.5	1	1.5	2	11.5	54	2	1	21	27	9
10	A.D.A. MÓSTOLES	2191	0	0.5	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	█	0.5	2.5	1.5	11	50	0	2	22	26	10
11	Scottish Claymores	2315	0.5	1	0.5	1	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	█	1	1	10.5	52	1	0	20	28	11
12	Kylee	2167	1	0.5	0.5	0	0	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	0	█	2	9.5	29	-13	2	32	16	12
13	Rochade 5171 Chessmates	2015	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	█	2.5	8	-23	0	28	20	13

Since last time the Lewis Chessmen in Division C1 have improved their position and now hold 5th place with 17 points from 33 completed games and can be optimistic of further improvement. Unfortunately the Scottish Claymores in Division C7 have been unable to sustain their earlier fine start and have slipped down from plus 6 to plus 1 with 10½/20, sufficient for 11th place.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
May 2013	22	Spain	Server	5½	4½		
Apr 2013	22	Germany	Server	2½	5½		
Dec 2012	20	Australia	Server	11½	17½		
Oct 2012	20	Peru	Server	13	10		
Oct 2012	24	Denmark	Server	23	14		
May 2012	20	Italy	Server	8	30		loss
Feb 2012	30	Netherlands	Server/Post	23	37		loss

Our new matches against Germany and Spain are now under way as our earlier matches against Peru, Denmark, Australia, and Italy continue. The Netherlands match is now complete.

Europa Postal Cup

EU/PC/pr2, European Postal Cup - Preliminary Group 2

TD Hömske, Markus (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	A. D. Scacchi Rocca Priora	2247		2	2	3	2	2.5	4	4	19.5	81	15	11	24	4	1
2	Veterans	2310	1		2.5	2.5	3	1.5	3	3.5	17	73	11	10	23	5	2
3	Germany B	2159	1	1.5		2.5	2	2	4	4	17	68	9	8	25	3	3
4	Scottish Claymores	2110	1	0.5	1.5		2.5	3	4	4	16.5	61	6	8	27	1	4
5	CASPA-ROV	2039	1	1	1	1.5		3	3	4	14.5	57	4	6	25	3	5
6	Dutchess	2076	0.5	0.5	1	1	1		4	4	12	50	0	4	24	4	6
7	White Rose Exiles	1879	0	0	0	0	0	0		3	3	11	-19	2	25	3	7
8	Arc-en-ciel / Rainbow / Regnbåge	1854	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0		0.5	1	-26	0	27	1	8

With only 1 game to finish our team, the Scottish Claymores, seems destined to finish in 4th place, just outside the qualifying spots barring a complete collapse the German team presently in 3rd place.

9th European Team Championship

EU/TC9/sf2, 9th European Team Championship - Semifinal 2

TD Glaser, Karel (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Russia	2350		4.5	4.5	5	5.5	4	5.5	5	7	5.5	5.5	5	57	66	28	21	86	2	1
2	Romania	2420	2.5		3.5	4	4.5	4	4	5	5.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	46.5	54	7	15	86	2	2
3	Austria	2407	3.5	4.5		3	4.5	4.5	4	4.5	5	3.5	4.5	4.5	46	53	6	15	86	2	3
4	Lithuania	2488	3	4	4		3.5	4	4.5	4	5.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	46	54	8	14	84	4	4
5	Finland	2448	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.5		4	4	4	4	5.5	4.5	5.5	44.5	51	2	10	87	1	5
6	Switzerland	2387	4	4	3.5	3	4		4	4.5	4	4	3.5	5	43.5	50	0	10	87	1	6
7	Czech Republic	2429	1.5	3	4	3.5	4	4		4.5	4.5	4	4.5	4.5	42	49	-1	12	85	3	7
8	Belarus	2291	3	3	3.5	4	4	3.5	3.5		3.5	3.5	5	4.5	41	46	-6	6	88	0	8
9	Scotland	2358	1	2.5	3	2.5	4	4	3.5	4.5		5.5	4.5	3.5	38.5	43	-11	8	88	0	9
10	Spain	2412	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	4	3.5	4.5	2.5		5	4	38	44	-10	6	86	2	10
11	Poland	2452	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	4.5	3	3	3.5	3		4.5	38	43	-11	4	87	1	11
12	Luxemburg	2311	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	3	3.5	3.5	4.5	4	3.5		38	43	-12	3	88	0	12

Our team still holds 9th place in this event but has now completed all its games (the last game was lost completing a 1-7 drubbing by Russia). Presently Poland and Spain occupy 10th and 11th places but have a couple of unfinished games and so may overtake us. However, Luxembourg is assured of the wooden spoon as they have also completed all their games.

Witold Bielecki Memorial Team Tournament

MT-Bielecki/pr1, Memorial "Witold Bielecki" - Preliminary 1

TD Wojnar, Mariusz

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Belarus	1845		4	3	4	4	4.5	6	25.5	70	15	11	36	0	1
2	Austria	1927	2		3.5	4.5	3.5	5.5	4.5	23.5	69	13	10	34	2	2
3	Finland	1930	3	1.5		3	2.5	3.5	5.5	19	54	3	6	35	1	3
4	Germany	1864	2	1.5	3		3	4	4.5	18	50	0	6	36	0	4
5	Portugal	1969	2	1.5	3.5	3		4	3	17	48	-1	6	35	1	5
6	England	1986	1.5	0.5	2.5	2	2		3.5	12	33	-12	2	36	0	6
7	Scotland	1891	0	1.5	0.5	1.5	3	2.5		9	25	-18	1	36	0	7

Our team has now completed all its games and, as feared, has finished in last place in the section of 7 teams.

20th Olympiad Preliminaries

CCO20/S2, ICCF Olympiad 20 Preliminaries - Section 02

TD Pheby, Ian M. (IA)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	Switzerland	2428	█	2	2.5	1.5	2.5	0.5	1	0	1	11	57	3	0	19	29	1
2	Ukraine	2465	1	█	2.5	1.5	1	2.5	0.5	0.5	10	55	2	0	18	30	2	
3	Luxembourg	2272	1.5	1.5	█	1	1	1.5	1	1	9.5	43	-3	0	22	26	3	
4	Spain	2440	1.5	1.5	1	█	0	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	8	53	1	0	15	33	4
5	France	2432	1.5	1	1	0	█	1.5	1	1	0	7	53	1	0	13	35	5
6	Hong Kong	2244	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	█	1	0.5	0.5	6.5	40	-3	0	16	32	6
7	Norway	2404	1	0.5	0	0.5	1	1	█	1	0	5	45	-1	0	11	37	7
8	Scotland	2379	0	0.5	2	0.5	0	0.5	1	█	0.5	5	45	-1	0	11	37	8
9	Germany	2518	1	0.5	2	0.5	0	0.5	0	0.5	█	5	55	1	0	9	39	9

Despite losing another couple of games since our last report, our team's position has actually improved slightly. As it is still early days we can still hope for further improvement!

1st Thor Løvholt Memorial Team Tournament

MT-Løvholt /sf1, Thor Løvholt Memorial U-2300 Team Tournament SF1

TD Pheby, Ian M. (IA)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
1	France	2183	█	3	4	3	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	4.5	5	33	61	12	15	54	0	1
2	Poland	2216	3	█	3	2.5	3	4	3	3	5	5	31.5	58	9	11	54	0	2
3	Czech Republic	2203	2	3	█	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	2.5	4.5	4.5	31	57	8	13	54	0	3
4	Austria	2235	3	3.5	2.5	█	3.5	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	4.5	30.5	56	7	14	54	0	4
5	Bulgaria	2184	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	█	2.5	2.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	29	53	4	7	54	0	5
6	Spain	2239	3	2	2	2.5	3.5	█	3	4	4.5	4	28.5	52	3	10	54	0	6
7	Belarus	2166	2.5	3	2.5	3	3.5	3	█	2.5	4.5	3.5	28	51	2	9	54	0	7
8	Latvia	2211	2.5	3	3.5	2.5	1.5	2	3.5	█	4	4	26.5	49	-1	9	54	0	8
9	Scotland	2124	1.5	1	1.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	█	3.5	16.5	30	-21	2	54	0	9
10	Cape Verde	1935	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	2	2.5	█	15.5	28	-23	0	54	0	10

Play has finally ended in this event where our team had a rather difficult time, narrowly avoiding last place in a Preliminary Section of 10 teams. The second Thor Løvholt event is now open for entries – see our Notices page earlier.

ICCF World Cup 20

Details for this new event have yet to be confirmed and no official announcement has yet been made but this event is expected to start in November.

ICCF Veterans World Cup 6

Thus far we have submitted 10 entries for this annual event which is scheduled to start on 1st September. As entries close on 1st August, there is still time for a few more!

ICCF Individual Events

These continue to prove popular amongst our members and a full list of available events and entry fees is available at our web site www.scottishcca.co.uk

We filled 2 of our 3 allocated places in the 2013 cycle of new 37th World Championship events. However, Tom Craig used up a qualification entitlement gained in an earlier

cycle to join Philip Giulian in the recently started Semi-Final sections whilst George Pyrich continues in a Preliminary Section.

ICCF Congress 2013

This year's event is scheduled to be held from 21st to 26th July in Krakow, Poland and George Pyrich will be representing our Association.

Amongst numerous items on the Congress agenda will be proposals to amend a number of ICCF Rules including Conditional Moves and Ratings Calculations. There also will be a proposal to substantially reduce entry fees for all ICCF events. As it is very likely that this proposal will be adopted, our members may look forward to similar fees reduction.

The Congress is becoming more cosmopolitan these days as Sydney, Australia is confirmed as the venue for 2014 and there is a possibility that the 2015 Congress may be in the USA.

White: Claus, Roland (1872)
Black: Burrige Raymond (1781)
 EU/O/125 (Postal), 2012
 Closed Ruy Lopez [C84]
 [Notes by George Pyrich]

Our busiest player by far is Aberdonian Raymond Burrige who has amassed the astonishing total of 295 results since the start of 2012. Raymond provides a recent win against German opposition from a European Postal event - annotations are based upon Raymond's comments.

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.Bb5 a6
 4.Ba4 Nf6

5.d4
 The Centre Attack whose popularity has waned in recent times.

5... exd4
 6.0-0 Be7
 7.e5 Ne4
 8.Nxd4 0-0

Other options are 8...Nc5 9.Nf5 0-0 10.Qg4 g6 11.Qg3; and 8...Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Nc5 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Bg5 Bxg5 12.Qxc5 Be7 where White is marginally better in both.

9.Bxc6 dxc6
 10.Re1 f5
 11.c3

Instead 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Bf4 Bd6 13.Bxd6 cxd6 14.Ne6 Bxe6 15.Rxe6 is about equal.

11... Qd5
 12.f3 Nc5
 13.Qc2 Ne6



14.Nxf5?

At first sight White has won a pawn but Black's position has latent potential!

14... Rxf5!
 15.Qxf5 Nd4
 16.Qd3 Bf5
 17.Qe3?

He had to go for 17.Qxd4 Bc5 18.Be3 Bxd4 19.cxd4 when Black is better but White is still in the game.

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17... Nc2
 18.c4 Qxc4
 19.Qf4 Bc5+
 20.Kh1 Qxf4
 21.Bxf4 Nxe1
 22.Nc3 Nd3
 23.g4 Bxg4
 24.fxg4 Nxf4
 25.Rf1 Ne6
 26.Kg2 Rf8
 27.Rxf8+ Kxf8
 28.Ne2 Nd4
 29.Nf4 Ke7
 30.h3 Ne6

White could have resigned well before now - instead he continues for quite some time, doubtless wasting a lot of stamps in the process.

31.Nd3 Bd4
 32.b4 c5
 33.bxc5 Nxc5
 34.Nxc5 Bxc5
 35.Kf3 Ke6
 36.Ke4 Ba3
 37.Kd4 Bb2+
 38.Ke4 Bxe5
 39.Kd3 Kd5
 40.Ke3 c5
 41.Kd2 b5
 42.Ke3 b4

Finally and not well before time, White resigned.

0-1



White: Toye, Daniel (1641)
Black: Burrige, Raymond (1845)
 [C63]

SCCA Challengers 2012-13, 2013
 Ruy Lopez, Schliemann [C63]
 [George Pyrich]

Another of Raymond's games, this time featuring his favourite Schliemann Variation.

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.Bb5 f5
 4.Nc3

Considered to be the main line for White. In Bulletin 119 we featured another game by Raymond against Massimo Parente (ITA) in the 5th ICCF Webserver Open which went 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 fxe4 6.Nxe5 Qh4!? and Raymond won a lively game on move 20.; 4.d4!? and; 4.d3 are White's other options.

4... Nf6

5.d3 Bb4

6.Bxc6?!
 6.0-0 is better.

6... Bxc3+
 More usual is 6...dxc6 but Raymond goes his own way. 7.0-0 0-0 8.exf5 with chances for both sides.

7.bxc3 dxc6
 8.exf5 e4!?

9.dxe4?
 Both 9.Qe2 ; and 9.Nh4!? are better.

9... Qxd1+
 10.Kxd1 Nxe4
 11.Re1 Bxf5



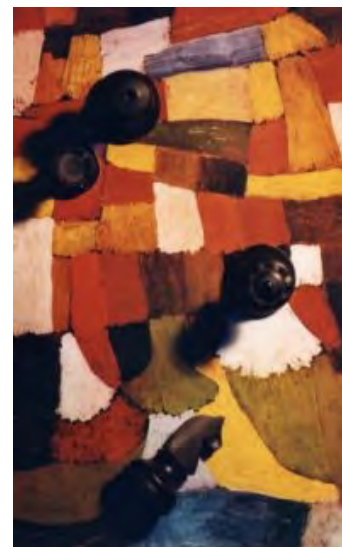
White is not winning a piece as the continuation shows!

12.g4? 0-0-0+!
 13.Bd2 Bxg4
 14.Re3

14.Rxe4 Bxf3+ 15.Re2 Rhe8 and Black wins easily.

14... Nxd2
 And White threw in the towel as 15.Ke2 Nxf3 is hopeless.

0-1



l'arte degli scacchi, gli scacchi nell'arte
 (the art of chess, chess in art)



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 2013

Theme 4/13: Sicilian, Moscow Variation, B51-2

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

Theme 5/13: Chigorin Defence, D07

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6

Entries by 15 November; plays starts 1 December

Webserver Events 2013

Theme 5/13: Larsen Opening, A01

1.b3

Entries by 1 September; plays starts 15 September

Theme 6/13: Nimzoindian, Rubinstein System, E53-9

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.0-0

Entries by 15 October; play starts 1 November

Note there are no Email Events in 2013.

News

- ❑ The ICCF webserver continues to be updated by ICCF's regular contractor, Martin Bennedik, under the direction of ICCF Services Director Austin Lockwood. Spanish language translation has now been implemented. An 'observer' status has been introduced for administrators. Players can now be issued with certificates in pdf format to reward placings in certain events.
- ❑ The 28th World Championship final has now started play. Finalists include the defending champion, GM Fabio Finocchiaro of Italy.
- ❑ The 2013 ICCF Congress will be held in Kraków, Poland, from 20-27 July. Full details are available at: <http://kszgk.com/iccfcongress2013>
- ❑ The 2014 ICCF Congress will be held in Sydney, Australia, from 11-18 October, 2014.
- ❑ The ICCF Games Archivist, GM Ron Langeveld (NLD), has added new games downloads to the website in June.

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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