

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.140

Winter 2017

George Pyrich

Iain and Alan pay their respects

ICCF Grading List 2018/1

Kevin analyses the Q1 statistics

The Hawkes Files

John features the games of Abram Khasin

International Update

Peter looks at the world stage

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Welcome to the final edition of the 2017 magazine set. Our festive season here was totally overshadowed by the devastating news that George Pyrich had died on December 16 after a short illness in his adopted home of Almeria in Spain. A great servant to SCCA, ICCF and OTB chess is gone. George’s funeral was held in Spain, and there was a memorial service for him in Kirkcaldy on January 4 which I attended along with Alan Borwell, his wife Moira and a good number of OTB and CC chess players from across Scotland.

Both Alan and I have penned tributes to George in this edition. Alan reminisces over friendships enjoyed with the ICCF community, and I’ve concentrated on the messages of condolence received from around the world. Both articles feature a fine game by George.

We won’t see George’s Congress report from Albena, Bulgaria now, but we do have several excellent articles for you to browse over.

Kevin Paine has analysed the first ICCF rating list of 2018 for us; another busy period with more games milestones for our active members plus some deletions due to inactivity.

John Hawkes has compiled a fascinating selection of games featuring the great Russian player Abram Khasin, whose 95th birthday is due on February 15. Abram’s endgame play in particular is highly instructive, so it’s worth playing through the lines which John provides in his analysis.

No space for a Games Column nor a round-up of 2017 Domestic Results in this edition, but we do have an International Report kindly provided by Peter Bennett, covering team and individual performances.

January means it’s time once again for our annual Best Game competition. IM Clive Murden has graciously agreed to be our judge for 2017 entries. The Notices page provides full details, but do remember to get your entries in by end of this month. Good luck if you choose to give it a try!

My best wishes to our many chess friends at home and abroad for a happy, healthy and successful 2018!

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

2017	1st	2nd
December	A P Borwell	J S Murray
November	I Mackintosh	W H Cormack
October	I Mackintosh	A P Borwell

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



ICCF 2018 World Championship Preliminaries



ICCF Title Tournaments
Commissioner Gian-Maria Tani writes to announce the Preliminaries stage of the 2018 (42nd) World Championship.

This event will be played in sections of 13 players (or 15/17 at the organisers' discretion), with entries closing on 4th February and play commencing on 20th March.

Entry must be made through national delegates and each member federation is allowed to nominate entries - SCCA is once again entitled to 3 places in the 2018 cycle (includes Preliminaries and Semi-Finals).

If you are interested, please contact Gordon Anderson on international@scottishcca.co.uk as soon as possible and before 31st January 2018.

ICCF Copa Perú IV



Gino Franco Figlio writes to advise the Peruvian Correspondence Chess League (LIPEAD) has announced the Copa Perú IV honouring SIM Alfredo Cillóniz.

This event will be played in 3 stages. Prize fund of 1,000 euros to the winner of the Final.

Preliminaries will start on 28/2/2018 and entries close on 21/2/2018. This is an ICCF rated event, groups of 7 players. Group winner advances to Semi-finals. No tie-break in Preliminaries. Multiple entries allowed.

Semifinals will start in 2020. Entries open until groups are completed.

This is an ICCF rated event with norms, and groups of 11-17 players depending on number of entries. Winner only advances to Final. ICCF tiebreak rules apply. If necessary, player with higher rating will advance.

Standard ICCF rules and Time Control of 10/50 with duplication after 20 days. No more than 2 entries per player in the Semi-finals will be allowed. Players rated 2200 or higher may register in the Semi-finals directly.

If you are interested, please contact Gordon Anderson on international@scottishcca.co.uk as soon as possible and before 14th February for Preliminaries. Entry fee for Preliminaries will be £8.00.

SCCA Annual Best Game Prize



The SCCA Best Game Prize will once again operate this year, covering games completed during 2017.

The trophy (which this time *will* look like the illustration!) will carry the inscription of its sponsor, Raymond Burridge, i.e.

The R.J. Burridge Trophy SCCA Best Game Prize 2016 (winner's name)

To recap on the rules:

- Entries are games which finish in calendar year 2017;
- Entries restricted to events organised by SCCA or ICCF;
- Only SCCA members can submit their games;
- Games may have been previously published;
- Submission period will close at the end of January 2017;
- The Committee will appoint a judge (who cannot enter!);
- The winner will be announced by end-March 2017 and we'll feature the game in a subsequent magazine;
- The winner receives a trophy miniature and certificate.

IM Clive Murden has kindly agreed to act as judge and we'll announce the winning entry by end-March.

Please send your games to Iain Mackintosh at president@scottishcca.co.uk – multiple entries are allowed – to reach him by end-January 2017.

SCCA 100 Club



Treasurer Gordon Anderson writes:

A number of members have actively subscribed to the Association's 100 club for a number of years and these contributions are very much appreciated. Recently, 3 long standing subscribers have retired and decided that they will no longer contribute to the 100 club. We urgently need some new subscribers.

If you have not been a subscriber or have previously subscribed but allowed your subscription to lapse, why not take up a unit or two or indeed three units (always happy to accept subscriptions for more units)?

If you are interested please contact Gordon on treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk for more information. The usual method of subscribing is monthly standing order which spreads the annual cost.

Fernschach 2018 CC Database



Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2018 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available since 2000
- Total 1,160,000 games (from 1991)
- Approximately 8,500 annotated
- Games from all main chess servers + post + email
- All tournaments marked correspondence so that CC games can be recognised in a larger database
- Editing improved and refined
- German letters ä, ö, ü and ß are not counted in names

The price is €13 (shipping within Germany) and €15 (shipping elsewhere).

For further details, contact Herbert at:

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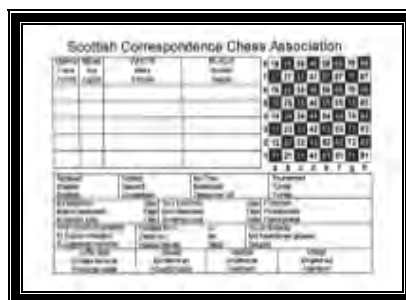
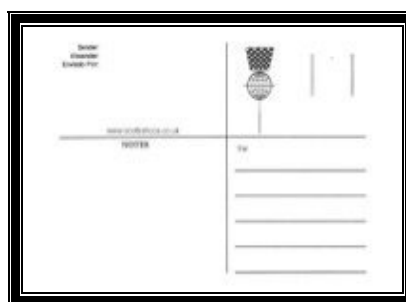
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CC Postcards



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 please. The cards are supplied at their production cost (£2.50/100) and p&p is also required. In May 2017, Royal Mail charged £2.90 for both a 100-card and 200-card parcel.

Orders and payments to Iain Mackintosh at chess@iainmack.co.uk please.

ICCF Game Archive



December and year-end updates to the Archive have now been added, and all files may be downloaded by logging into: <https://www.iccf.com/> then selecting Games Archive from the menu.



George Pyrich (1951-2017)

By Iain Mackintosh

Obituary

This was penned for the ICCF website and published on Thursday, December 21, 2017.



The world of CC was deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of George Pyrich on Saturday, December 16, 2017, just a few hours after his one of his predecessors as FD (then Treasurer), Carlos Flores Gutiérrez, who lived in Seville, Spain.

George gave dedicated service to both SCCA and ICCF over many decades and was hugely respected as an administrator and a principled individual. He was honest, worked hard, made friends everywhere, and brought a sense of humour to everything he did.

He lived latterly in Almeria, Spain and leaves behind his wife Catherine, two children and eight grandchildren. Our deepest condolences and love go to them.

George joined SCCA in 1980 and quickly demonstrated his strength as a championship level player, competing in the finals of 1982 through 1992 (and latterly 2015-17), and earning the Scottish Master title in 1995. He became Publicity & Membership Officer in 1985, followed by 6 years as Treasurer (1986-91) and 8 Years as Magazine Games Editor (1991-98). He was International Secretary from 1992-2017 and our ICCF Delegate from 1993-2017, attending most ICCF Congresses from Graz 1992 onwards. He served as Vice President from 2000-17 and Grader from 2008-17. A truly magnificent record of dedication!

On the international front, George completed a huge number of tournaments and games, gaining his IM title in 1995 (his last norm coming in a fax event if I remember correctly). His highest grade was 2426 in 2002. Administratively, he gained TD (Level 2) in 2003 and the IA title in 2009. His ICCF posts began with Qualifications Commissioner from 1996-2003, then Deputy President & Development Director from 2007-09, and finally Finance Director from 2009-17. His distinguished service was recognised by Bertl von Massow Medals (Silver in 2002, Gold in 2007) and finally by Honorary Membership of ICCF in 2016.

George was also a sports fan, enjoying NFL banter with many of his ICCF Delegate colleagues, and never shy to
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extol the virtues of Raith Rovers, the football team who play in his native Kirkcaldy.


I'm writing this with a heavy heart as I'll greatly miss George's friendship, unfailing support and good humour. Thanks for doing much more than your fair share George, and I hope you enjoy your rest.


Iain Mackintosh, SCCA President.


Appreciation


A selection of messages from round the world, taken mainly from email messages and Facebook posts:


 Carlos Leon Cranbourne
Deep sadness — feeling sad. [Carlos also posted numerous photographs.]


 Michael Freeman
A tribute to George who has very sadly left us. RIP.

 Alexandar Parushev
On behalf of the BCCF and personally in my name, I express to you in the face of the whole SCCA our sincere condolences for the loss of our chess friend George Pyrich. We met personally at the congress in Albena. Shortly afterwards he helped me in solving a problem and gave me useful information ... I'm so sorry! May he rest in peace!

 Valer Eugen Demian
May you play many games in Heaven George! Never forgotten.

 Søren R. Ottesen
Very very sad news. May he rest in peace. Condolences to family and friends.

 Andrew Dearnley
This morning I heard from ICCF that George had passed away on Saturday. I'm extremely sorry to learn this sad news and send my condolences to Catherine, the family and all friends in the Scottish Federation. I will remember with fondness many of the great times we had at many congresses and George's sense of humour when discussing many subject and issues within ICCF. We also had many conversations regarding American football every weekend. It's really hard to put into words how much George will be missed by everybody.


 Austin Lockwood
I heard this morning - very sad news; I don't think there was a more likable person in the game, George will be sadly missed. If you or anyone else from SCCA is in touch with Catherine, please add me to the list of people wishing to pass on condolences.

 Ian Pheby

This is extremely sad news. I offer my most sincere condolences on behalf of everyone at the EFCC to Catherine, the family and all friends in the Scottish Federation for the untimely passing of George. He was a good friend with whom I closely worked when I was the ICCF Direct Entry Commissioner. His advice and help when requested was always welcome. It is impossible to adequately put into words how valuable George's contribution has been to the ICCF and Scottish chess over very many years. He will be sadly missed.

 Ben Wood

I am sorry to learn about the sudden loss of George Pyrich. Please could you send my condolences to his family.

 Frank Geider

I am very, very shaken by this sad and brutal news. I have a lot of esteem and affection for George. We will miss him very much. My sincere condolences and affection to Catherine. My sincere condolences to SCCA. A great Monsieur left us!

 Eric Ruch


It is with great sadness that I have been informed that George passed away this week end. Please accept my sincere condolences on behalf of ICCF and all CC friends. My thoughts are with his family and Scottish chessfriends.

 Hans-Jürgen Isigkeit


Dear George, never I will forget you! Rest in peace!

 Joop Jansen

WHAT a News!! Condolences to all chessfriends!! AMICI SUMUS.

 Raymond Boger

Very sad he was a good friend and a true Gentleman.

 Mariusz Wojnar

I am very surprised with that very sad news, George was just few years older than me. The more George had Polish roots! Please accept deepest condolences from Polish CC players and personally from me and forward them to Cathy since I knew both.

 Richard Beecham

This is very sad news, I had tears in my eyes and my wife Pat had to give me a hug. I will miss the gentle giant. His Raith Rovers and my Ayr United are both doing well this season, I really enjoyed our email banter. I will really miss him. I can hear his voice right now.

 Peter Bennett

I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear that George Pyrich had died, evidently quite suddenly. I heartily endorse everything you said about him in the obituary you wrote for the ICCF website; but could I add a few words of my own? We all knew George as "Mr. Correspondence Chess" but, curiously, I first met him in an OTB context. For many years George organised and directed the Glenrothes Chess Congress, in which I played on three occasions. George had that rare combination of qualities: he was quiet, welcoming, gentle, organised and efficient. He was a man of great wisdom, a very good mediator, and although he could

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exercise authority, this never spilled over into the officiousness that I have encountered at some other chess events. The Glenrothes Congress was a very well-run event, which is why I kept going back.

In the world of CC, I have lost count of the number of different issues on which I had sought George's advice over the years. His immense knowledge of the ICCF meant that he always knew the communication protocol and the best way to resolve a problem.

I had been aware for many years that George had a progressive health problem and my understanding was that his move to Spain was partly on health grounds, on the basis that the climate and air quality suited his needs much better than the winter weather in Fife. Even so, his passing is sobering (given that I was six years older than George) as well as very sad.

I think I speak for many others when I say that I will miss his contribution to the SCCA very much indeed. He was a true gentleman.

 Stuart Blyth


Really sad news and sorry for your loss.

 Andrew Burnett

I'm so sorry to hear this news Catherine. My thoughts are with you and the rest of the family. (I have posted a short notice on the Chess Scotland forum to let those who don't use Facebook know - I hope this is ok)

 Castlehill Chess Club, Dundee

I have just received the very sad news that George Pyrich died in Spain at the weekend. For all of us who have been playing chess for a long time and will have known George who was a big part of TAFCA and the Glenrothes Congress for as many years as I can remember. This is sad news indeed. A gentleman, chess player and organiser. He will be sadly missed in the chess community and by his friends,. Castlehill Chess Club Dundee send their condolences to his family.

 John Christie

Sorry for George.

 Derek Coope


Sad about George - nice guy.

 Jim Crawford

So sorry to hear that, my condolences.

 David Cumming

Just read your eulogy to George Pyrich on the ICCF server, very moving, George would have appreciated it I am sure.

 Dundee Chess Club

Such sad news to hear that George Pyrich has passed away. A big shock and condolences to his family from all at Dundee chess Club. I personally knew George for over 40 years and he was always a gentleman as well as an excellent chess player. RIP big man.

 Stuart Graham

Sad news indeed. George was a good man and I am happy to have counted him as a friend.

 John Kane

Sad to hear that news, have known George from the early 70s the chess fraternity here will miss him.

 Alan Kearns

Catherine, I am so sad to hear this. My son and I only knew George for a few years but in that time he was a good friend and an inspiration to us both. We send our thoughts and condolences to you and the family. I first met George at Glenrothes Chess Club (now Kirkcaldy Chess Club); he was a great source of help and inspiration to myself and my son. A very generous gentleman with great wit timing, and a good friend to know.

 Russell Kynoch


I'm so sorry to hear this news. I must have known George for nearly 40 years now. My thoughts are with you at what must be a very difficult time.

 Geoff Lloyd

Very sorry to learn about George - good man and always available to help.

 Neil McEwan

Every time I had dealings with him he came across as really nice guy. He'll be a hard act to follow within the SCCA.

 Colin Macgregor

I am very sorry to hear the news. My condolences to Catherine and the family. George was a very nice man, and it was a pleasure to know him.

 Stuart Mackenzie

Very sad. A very straight decent guy and a handy chess player.

 Tom Matheis

Thanks for letting us know about George's passing away. That is very sad news indeed and he will be greatly missed. George always gave his heart and soul to SCCA and ICCF and it will be very difficult to replace such a committed and dedicated person.

 Ray Noble

My condolences to you and your family at this sad time. George was a good friend and organiser of chess events (not a bad player either!) and the chess community will miss him dearly. All at Castlehill Chess Club Dundee are thinking of you and your family. R.I.P.

 Billy Reid

Condolences.

 Keith Rose

I have also known George for about 40 years and always found him to be both a gentleman and a deeply honourable man. I am pleased to have been able to count George as a friend. My condolences to you and those close to him.

 Aaron Straub

My condolences, very sorry to hear about George.

 Club de Ajedrez Reverté Minerals


[George's local Spanish team-mates and friends]

On Sunday, December 17, the team competition with the promotions ended, El Reverté Minerals A fought for the promotion to the Honor Division and the Reverté Minerals B played permanency.

The day could not start worse, this morning our partner and, above all, friend George Pyrich had passed away.


The regulation did not allow the postponement of the meetings and had to be disputed. It is not necessary to specify that the players were not in the mood, despite this we wanted to offer a victory as a posthumous homage to George. It could not be. Financial Director of ICCF (the International Correspondence Chess Federation), George Pyrich was International Master by correspondence. Great theoretician, knew many openings to perfection, playing King's India was a specialist. But the aspect that stood out most in the board was his exquisite education, he was a true gentleman inside and outside the 64 spaces.

George has left a great void to all of us who have had the good fortune to know him. The Reverté Minerals Chess Club wants to accompany George's relatives and friends in these hard moments. Until forever, friend!

 Javier Garrido Fernández

Today has been a great day in sports... but very sad also for the death of a great person. In Sports, a historic event for our club: Roquetas goes up to honor division and Roquetas B does the same to the first Andalusian. Very happy about that.

But I want to stop and pay my particular tribute to the sad news I woke up with: George Pyrich, died this morning. Pyrich, of Scottish origin, was based for a few years in the Almanzora and its bearing was a great example. A real gentleman, of whom there are very few. A great loss. A big hug for his relatives, for his club buddies and all the Chess Almeriense in general, which today is in mourning. Rest in peace the Knight of Chess Almeriense.

 Per Söderberg

I was deeply shocked by the news on iccf.com about George, my very dear friend since the Congress in Perth 1994 has passed away. We have always had a lot of discussions about ICCF and more. I will miss him so much..

 Aziz Serhat Kural

Very Sad News. I had some acquaintance with him as a delegate. May He Rest in Peace.

 John Knudsen

I was profoundly shocked to hear of George's sudden passing. What a fine gentleman he was! I have many great memories hanging out with George at the Thun Congress, and exchanging emails with him. We also played each other in the TCCMB 5 Years A tournament. I just wanted to express my sympathy in this way for this remarkable gentleman, and my thoughts today are with his family and many friends.

Game

Finally, a reminder of how good a player George was. This was published in December 1995, during his spell as

Magazine Games Editor (George always referred to our journal by its original title of Bulletin!). A fine game against a strong opponent and the annotations are particularly good.

White: Pyrich, George (2335)

Black: Klaic, Pero (2450)

XII Olympiad Prelims, 1992

QGD Exchange Variation [D36]

[Notes by George Pyrich]

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1.d4 | Nf6 |
| 2.c4 | e6 |
| 3.Nc3 | d5 |
| 4.cxd5 | exd5 |
| 5.Bg5 | c6 |
| 6.Qc2 | Be7 |
| 7.e3 | Nbd7 |
| 8.Bd3 | 0-0 |
| 9.Nge2 | h6?! [|



As in the classic game Botvinnik-Larsen, Noordwijk, 1965. Botvinnik criticised this and nowadays everyone plays the standard manoeuvre Re8/Ne8.

10.Bh4

10.h4 is certainly playable when 10...hxg5? is met with 11.hxg5 Ne4 12.Bxe4 dxe4 13.Qxe4 f5 (13...g6 14.Qh4!) 14.Qe6+ Rf7 15.g6+-

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 10... | Re8 |
| 11.f3 | c5 |
| 12.0-0 | a6 |
| 13.Rad1 | b5 |
| 14.Bf2 | Bf8 |

Improving on the aforementioned game which went 14...c4!? 15.Bf5 Nb6 16.Ng3 Bf8 17.a3 Bb7 18.e4 and 1-0 (52). With the text, Black marks time and gives White the opportunity to go wrong.

15.Nf4?!

... and I promptly oblige! The knight belongs on g3 to aim for f5.

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 15... | c4 |
| 16.Bf5 | Nb6 |
| 17.a3 | Qc7 |
| 18.Rfe1 | Bd6 |
| 19.g3 | Bb7 |

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I'd expected 19...Qc6 preparing the advance of the pawns when Black is clearly better. White's pieces are awkwardly placed and require several tempi to regroup.

20.Ng2 **g6?!**

Another surprise - why weaken the k-side?

21.Bh3 **b4**

Played to prevent White's thematic advance e4. Instead 21...Qc6 allows 22.Nh4 Kg7 23.Bg2 a5 24.e4 and White is doing well.

Also, 21...Re7 22.Nh4 Kg7 23.Bg2 Rae8 24.e4±;

And 21...Bc6 22.Nh4 Kg7 23.e4±

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 22.axb4 | Bxb4 |
| 23.Nh4 | Bc6 |
| 24.Re2 | Bxc3 |
| 25.Qxc3 | Na4 |
| 26.Qc1 | Rab8 |
| 27.e4! | |



The last ten moves or so have revolved around this - now White must play it or else be overwhelmed on the q-side. At this point I noted the possibility of Qxh6 with Nf5, thinking that I could always bale out with a draw (after gxf5, Qg5+ etc.).

27... **dxex**

28.d5!

28.Rc2 Bd5±

28... **e3?!**

I didn't consider this! Luckily it's not particularly strong. Black had three alternatives:

A. 28...Bxd5 29.Bd4!

B. 28...Nxd5 29.fxe4 Kh7!? (29...c3 30.Qxh6 cxb2 31.Nf5 gxf5 32.Qg5+ Kf8 33.Qh6+) 30.exd5 Rxe2 31.dxc6 Rxb2 (31...Rxf2!?) 32.Nf5! White's moves are easy to find - simply keep hacking! 32...gxf5 33.Bxf5+ Kg7 34.Bd4+ f6? Loses, but there's nothing better. 35.Bxb2 with Rd7+ to follow.

C. 28...exf3! 29.Rxe8+ Bxe8

30.Qxh6 Idea Nf5 (30.d6?! Qd8!

(30...Qb7? 31.Qxh6! Qb3 32.Re1

Qxb2? 33.Nxg6!+- Idea Be6+)

31.Qxh6 Bd7 32.Bxd7 Qxd7 33.Bd4

(33.Nxg6?!)) 33...f2+! 34.Kg2

(34.Kxf2?? Ng4+) 34...Qxd6+-)

30...Rb6!! 31.Nxg6 (31.Bxb6?

Qxb6+ 32.Kh1 Ne4+-) 31...fxg6

32.Be6+ Rxe6+-

29.Rxe3 **Nxb2**

30.d6!

I looked a long time at 30.Rd2 but

30...Rxe3 31.Bxe3 Nxd5 32.Bd4 c3

33.Bxc3 Nxc3 34.Qxc3 Na4 35.Qf6

Qb6+ 36.Kg2 Bb5 37.Rd6 Qc5± but

maybe 38.Be6?!

30... **Qd8**

31.Rxe8+ **Qxe8**

32.Qxh6 **Nxd1**

33.Nf5!



and wins!

33... **Nh5**

Allowing a gruesome finish.

33...gxf5 34.Qg5+ Kh8 (34...Kf8

35.Qxf6+-) 35.Qxf6+ Kg8 36.Bxf5

Idea Qg5+ 36...Qf8 37.Bd4+-;

Alternatively 33...Qf8 34.Ne7+ Qxe7

35.dxe7 Nxf2 36.Be6!!+-

34.Bd4 **Qe1+**

35.Bf1 **f6**

36.Qxg6+ **Kf8**

37.d7 **Qb4**

38.Qxh5 **Bxd7**

39.Qh8+

And it's mate in 2. Just like OTB chess, it's much easier to play when you have the initiative.

1-0



George Pyrich Reminiscences of Happy Times

By Alan Borwell

It was in the early 1970s when I first met George when he was at University in Dundee. Although from Kirkcaldy, he played for Dundee Chess Club when I was in Perth. The earliest game we played was in the TAFCA League 1974 – he won! During the next 4 decades, George represented Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes clubs and he served as the TAFCA President in 1987/8.

We each organised teams in the SCCA League from the outset for Kirkcaldy and Perth Correspondents respectively and we played each other several times. The SCCA was formed in 1977 when I became its first President and George joined the Committee in 1985 which was just after the ICCF Congress in Peebles. Thereafter, George became International Secretary and then he succeeded me as Scotland's Delegate to ICCF for the next 25 yrs!

The first ICCF Congress which George attended was in Austria in 1992 when, along with Ian Mitchell, we travelled together, flying to Munich and train via Salzburg (where we had a couple of days) and onwards to Graz. Here is a picture of the three of us at that Congress with the ICCF President, Henk Mostert and General Secretary, Paul Diaconescu.



For the next 20 years we travelled together to ICCF Congresses throughout Europe and on three other occasions further afield to Buenos Aires, Florida and Mumbai, sharing each other's company and having many memorable and enjoyable times about which I could write a book! However, I will mention a few of them in the remainder of this appreciation to provide a flavour of experiences and of happy times in George's company, with some more pictures.

Our first long distance trip was to Argentina which began in Edinburgh with a big problem with excess baggage which we whittled down from over one thousand pounds to a few hundred, with Moira taking home a full suitcase of papers for shredding! On reaching Amsterdam departure gate a helpful steward asked George if he would like him to put his heavy briefcase (containing the medals for Congress) in the hold, to which we agreed – big mistake! On arrival in Buenos Aires the case was not taken off the plane but went to on to Chile but KLM said it would be OK and would deliver them to our hotel the next day. Instead, they went back to Amsterdam! On the Monday evening, just before

midnight, George received a call from the reception saying the case had arrived (3 days late) and George had to spend several hours during the night, to prepare for the presentation in the morning. The Congress was held in the very famous Buenos Aires Chess Club where Capablanca and Alekhine played their famous 1927 World Championship match. A memory for me is playing a game on the actual chess board and set with our mutual friend Carlos Flores from Seville, who also sadly died just a few hours before George. After Congress, along with other friends, the three of us visited Cordoba and then the fantastic Iguazu Falls on the border with Brazil and Paraguay.



The following year's Congress was in Riga in Latvia and was held in probably the best ever hotel and meeting room, with an oval table so all delegates could face each other. George was accompanied by his wife Catherine for the first time and after the Congress had ended some of us went on to Estonia, visiting Paul Keres' home town of Parnu where his school gave us a musical welcome, followed a Civic Lunch and the planting of a tree near Keres' house. Then we went on to the capital Tallinn to visit the Keres Chess Club, his grave in the area for famous sportspersons in the City Cemetery and the Song Festival Grounds in Kadriorg, where Estonians had gathered in 1988 to press for independence.

We were accompanied by Ervin Liebert, the Estonian delegate, Tonu Õim, double World CC Champion and another World CC Champion, Dr Fritz Baumbach and his partner Margot.



The 1999 Congress was held in Thun, Switzerland at the other end of the Thunensee Lake to Interlaken. The scenery was magnificent and weather good, especially for the thrilling cable car trip to the top of the Shilthorn where one of the Bond movies was filmed. There was an unusual banquet on a boat on the Lake which everyone enjoyed, especially the ladies! The journey back to Geneva via mountain railway was the only disappointment as visibility was terrible and we saw very little of the scenery.

In the Millennium Year, the Congress took place in Daytona Beach, Florida when George was midway through his time as Qualifications Commissioner. It was also midway in my time as ICCF President and here is typical picture with George receiving medals and certificates for new title winners from Scotland.



Neither George nor myself was accompanied by our respective wives but we all enjoyed the Congress including a memorable visit to the Space Center, despite mosquitos! George wrote his usual very informative report for the penultimate printed edition of the SCCA Magazine (No. 71)

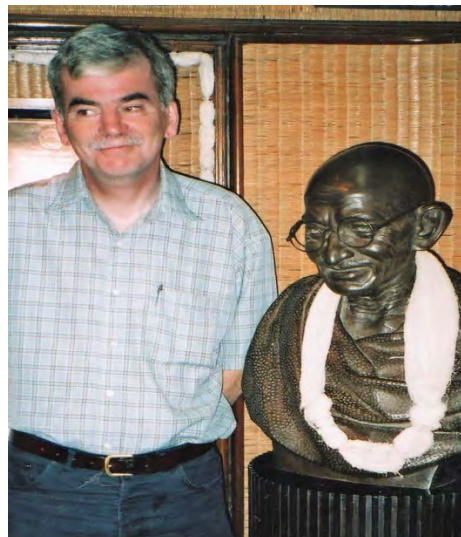
We both travelled independently to Rimini in 2001 and to Seixal, Portugal in the following year, where I had the great pleasure of presenting George with his Bertl von Massow Silver medal for 10 years of distinguished service to ICCF and to International Correspondence Chess which was richly deserved. Two important matters were agreed in Portugal, which gave me much satisfaction, firstly to be able to announce completion of the ICCF Gold book and secondly, to enable ICCF to go ahead with its own dedicated webserver facility and not sub contract.

In 2003, elections were due to be held in Ostrava and after much deliberation and discussion with George and others, I decided to retire as President, facilitating election of Josef Mrkvička to succeed me in his own country. The Ostrava Congress was very well represented from Scotland with both George and Iain Mackintosh attending as well as myself until after the new President had been elected. Iain had done great work in designing and planning the webserver and his presentation was well received and a Steering Group and budget was agreed

After being honoured by being appointed as ICCF Honorary President, I departed with Moira for a few days in Prague. Our great friend Carlos Flores also retired as Treasurer, but little were we to know of tumultuous events to come in following years!

However, travelling with George to Mumbai for the 2004 Congress was the experience of a lifetime for both of us, mostly good but unfortunately George suffered before, during and after the trip from taking anti malaria pills which made him unwell. From our arrival during the night and gaining our first impressions of the outlying areas of Mumbai, to wakening to see the beautiful hotel and grounds of The Retreat on the seafront some 20 miles from Mumbai City, the unique sounds and sights of India, including elephants and other animals on streets and an unexpected absence of wee flying beasties! Josef did very well and we all entered into the spirit and wonderful hospitality from our AICCF hosts. The day trip to Mumbai with refreshments in the famous Taj Mahal Hotel (before the terrorism) and a boat trip from The Gateway to India to Elephanta Island was superb as were two open air banquets.

Although George and I did not purchase and wear traditional Indian dress, several visiting delegates did so, including new World Champion, Tunc Hamarat and partner. George met a very famous Indian and insisted on having a picture taken with him (just joking!).



After the Congress, several delegates took the trip to the Golden Triangle but George and I remained in the hotel for a weekend before our flight home. The Indian President had acquired, via his son, two tickets for the India v Australia cricket test match for us kindly given by legendry Sachin Tendulkar! Unfortunately, the match ended before we could use them, having been concluded in just two days!

Surprisingly, the next Congress was also held in a different Continent, again in Argentina but this time in Angostura near to Bariloche in the South of that country. George decided to go a day before me via Madrid, but I booked with Air France via Paris, as did the new President elect, Med Samraoui – but neither of us made it thanks to the inefficiency of Air France failing to ensure that numerous flights from Europe arrived in Paris in time for several international inter-continental connections. Also annoying was that I missed an excursion to Chile. George had a very exhausting journey with delayed flights in Argentina but he was able to participate in most of the meetings and to provide his usual excellent report for the SCCA Magazine.

By contrast the 2006 Congress in Dresden was less eventful, although two appointees to the Finance Director position had failed to deliver and it would be left to Carlos Flores to kindly sort out accounts to restore normality with George taking on Deputy President and Development Director to become an Executive Board member for the first time. I was also able to report good progress with the webserver system with Iain having provided some excellent material for the technical presentations.

Nothing could have prepared us for the happenings in the coming years concerning the Presidency. The 2007 Congress in Benalmadena was organised by Carlos Flores & the Spanish CC Federation AEAC. It was an EB election year although there had been so many changes since 2003 it seemed rather odd to again be dealing with election to some positions!

Congress began normally with the new President, Med Samraoui opening proceedings (having been elected in his absence in Argentina) and he dealt with initial agenda items and represented ICCF at the traditional opening banquet provided by AEAC. The next morning we moved smoothly to consider financial matters with another Financial Director having been appointed earlier. However, just as we were to adjourn for coffee break, Carlos Flores came to the top table and informed us that the police had arrived and would be taking Med with his laptop with them to Madrid immediately! We had a short EB crisis meeting and decided that Congress should be continued with George taking the Chair in his capacity of Deputy President which he proceeded to carry out with calm aplomb.

When it came to Title Awards on the third day, we had the usual amusement of Dr. Baumbach trying to receive the many medals for Germany, but he brought a carrier bag to avoid the repetition of them all finishing on the floor and us on our knees before the delegates collecting scattered debris!

The 2008 Congress in Pleven, Bulgaria was a very interesting one but neither Med Samraoui nor his Deputy, George could attend so “retired” Honorary President (me!) was asked to arrange and Chair the Congress and was assisted by many other delegates and particularly Moira, in preparation of Minutes. After that Congress, Med decided to resign and Eric Ruch (FRA) was elected to be the new President by postal ballot, as was George as the Finance Director from 1/1/09, a position he has held from that time, doing a great job for ICCF with the annual accounts always ready on time. The Leeds Congress was the last one at which Minutes were prepared for the end of Congress for all the delegates to take away.

So we move on to the 2010 ICCF Congress at which both George and I attended, along with Catherine, one of her grandsons and Moira and we all enjoyed being around the pool, on the two excursions and eating together at the restaurants. The location at the seaside at Kemer near Antalya in Turkey was very good and we have very happy memories of ICCF 2010 – George was both relaxed and happy and he was great company.



George was unable to attend the 2011 Congress which was my last one as Acting Delegate (which was a less than satisfying experience) and he did not go to Pretoria the next year for understandable reasons of distance and climate. He did go to Krakow which was good with his family connections but he missed the long trip to Sydney in 2014. Despite his health conditions, he did attend the next three Congresses in Cardiff, Bremen and Albena, Bulgaria in September this year. As with all ICCF Congresses, George was well prepared to ensure Scotland was properly represented and he carried out his duties as ICCF Finance Director meticulously. In Bremen in 2016 he was made an Honorary Member of ICCF, the highest accolade and fully deserved for all he has done for ICCF and the SCCA.



George with Fritz Baumbach and Gian-Maria Tani



Of course, we have had plenty of contact since that time although I think the last occasion that we travelled together was the Oban Congress in November 2011 when we had a quick draw in the last round to get home earlier! It was not too long thereafter that he and Catherine decided to move and live in Spain but we will miss his participation in our Skype meetings or receiving his emails etc. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

We played each other many times over the board, by post, Email and webserver but I will conclude with our game from the inaugural ICCF Fax Tournament in which George went on to achieve his IM Title in 1995 against strong opponents which included 5 GMs and 5 IMs.

White: Borwell, Alan P (2360)
Black: Pyrich, George D (2256)
 ICCF Fax B Inaugural, 1994
 King's Gambit Accepted [C35]
[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.e4 e5
2.f4 exf4
3.Nf3 Be7

I've always played this - the systems with g5/d6 have always baffled me.

4.Bc4
 In the 1991/93 SCCA Ch. Final, Nick Down played the alternative 4.Nc3 when I soon came unstuck:
 4.Nc3 Bh4+ (Δ4...c6) 5.Ke2 d6 6.d4 Bg4 7.Bxf4 Nc6 8.Qd3 Nge7 9.Kd2! Bxf3 10.gxf3 Qd7 11.Rd1 0-0-0 12.Kc1 a6 13.Qe3 Kb8 14.Rg1 g6 15.Bc4± 1-0 (40).

4... Nf6
5.e5 Ng4
6.Nc3 d6
7.exd6 Qxd6
8.d4 Be6
9.Bd3

Given a ! in Gallagher's "Winning with the King's Gambit" and in preference to:

9.d5?! Bd7 10.Qe2 0-0 11.Ne4 Qb6 12.Bxf4 Bf5 (12...Qxb2? 13.0-0!) 13.Ng3 (13.h3 Bxe4!) 13...Bg6±
9... Nc6

I took a long time here - it took a while to appreciate that Black's O.K. after White's 11th.

10.Nb5
 After the game Alan was unhappy with this but I don't see anything better:
 10.0-0? Nxd4! (Not 10...0-0 11.d5! - watch out for discovered checks!

Or 10.d5? Bxd5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.Bxf4 0-0-0±
 I actually thought that 10.Ne4 was better for White, but I'm not so sure now - APB.

10... Qd7
11.Bxf4 Rc8
12.0-0
 Δ12.Nc3 Bb4□ (12...Nxd4?? 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Bb5+; 12...0-0?? 13.d5!) 13.a3 Ba5 14.b4 Bb6 15.Ne2±

12... a6
13.Nc3 Rd8
 □0-0
 13...Nxd4!? 14.h3 Bc5 15.Kh1 Nf6 16.Ne5 Qe7 17.Bg5

14.d5!?
 14.h3 Nf6 15.Ne2 Nb4 16.Ne5 Qd5 17.c4

14... Bxd5
15.Nxd5 Qxd5
16.Qe1
 16.Bxc7? Rd7 17.Bf4 (17.Bb6 Bc5+) 17...Qc5+ 18.Kh1 Nf2+±

16... 0-0
 Playing safe - riskier was:
 16...Nb4 when 17.Qg3 Nxd3 18.cxd3 Qf5 19.h3 (19.Rae1!±) 19...Nf6 20.Qxg7 Rg8 21.Qh6 Nd5 22.Bh2 Qg6=

17.Qg3 Nf6
18.Bxc7 Rc8
19.Bb6
 19.Bf4 Nb4 20.Bh6 Nh5 21.Qg4 Nxd3 22.cxd3 Rc6! 23.Bg5 Rg6±

19...Nb4
20.Rad1 Nxd3
21.Rxd3 Qe6!
 21...Qxa2? 22.Nd4,
22.Bd4 Rxc2
23.Re3 Qd7±



With both Bc5 and Qg4 in the air, Black is clearly better.

24.Ne1 Rc6
25.Rd3 Qg4
26.Qxg4 Nxg4
27.h3

No better is 27.Rg3 h5 28.h3 Bf6 29.Nf3 Rd8±

27... Nf6
28.Rb3!
 If White can liquidate all the q-side pawns, he has good drawing chances.
28... b5
29.a4 bxa4
30.Rb7 Re8!



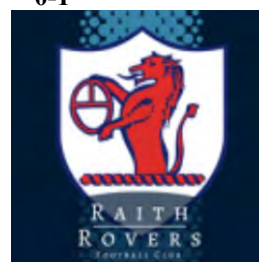
Not 30...Rd8 when after 31.Nf3 Bc5 32.Bxc5 Rxc5 33.Ra1 Rb5 34.Ra7! Rxb2 35.Rxa4 and White accomplishes his objective at move 28.

31.Nf3 Ne4
32.Re1 Bd6!
 □Ng3 or Rc7
33.Ng5?!
 33.Ne5 Nc5 34.Ra7 Rc7 35.Rxc7 Bxc7 36.Kf1 Nb3 37.Bc3 f6 38.Nd3 Rxe1+ 39.Kxe1 Kf7 leaves Black 2 pawns ahead but still with a lot of work to do.

33... Bg3
34.Rxf7 Rg6!
 Winning the exchange and forcing a won end-game.

35.Rxe4 Rxe4
36.Rxg7+ Rxg7
37.Nxe4 Rg6
38.Kf1 Kf7
39.Bc3 Bd6
40.Kf2 Be7
41.g4 Rb6
42.Kf3 a3
43.bxa3 Bxa3
44.h4 Rb3
45.Ke2 Bb4
46.Bd4 a5
47.h5 a4
48.g5 Be7
49.Kd2 a3

0-1





2018/1 Grading List

By Kevin Paine

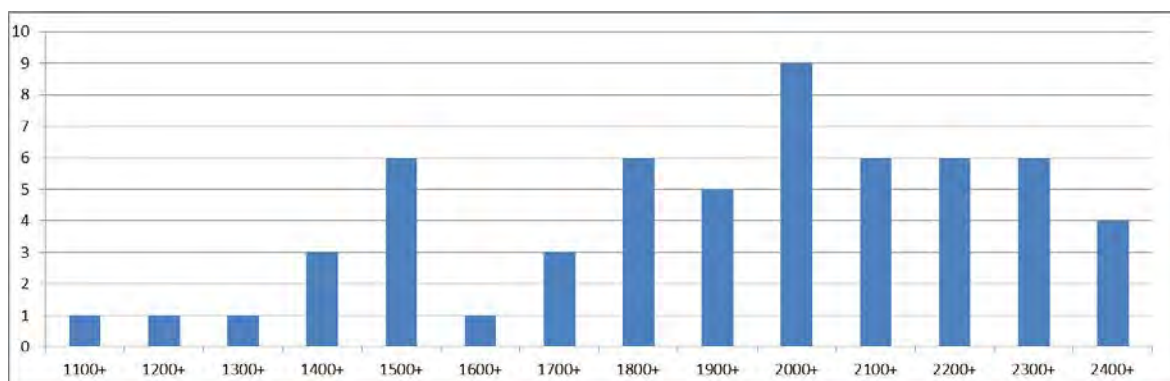
The first ICCF grading list of 2018 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 September and 30 November 2017. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 January and 31 March 2018.

Two additions were recorded in this list – Neil McEwan and Alan Sedstrem. Six players were removed due to inactivity – Jim Cairney, Tom Craig, Phil Giulian, Doug Harvey, Ian Jamieson and J Thornton. Mickey Blake climbed into the 2300+ grading band – congratulations!

Five new games centurions were recorded – Raymond BurrIDGE reached 1200+; Iain Mackintosh passed the 700 mark; Gordon Anderson and Arthur Knox notched up 300+ and Alan Armstrong is now at 200+. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Eoin Campbell (50), Andrew Macmillen (45) and David Cumming (30).

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	1379	2132 ↑	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	337	2265 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	300	2330 ↑	260	Knox, A	301	1286 ↑
121	Anderson, J	279	1854 ↔	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	831	2226 ↓
049	Armstrong, A	205	1890 ↓	471	Macgilchrist, Mrs S	52	2095 ↔
313	Armstrong, J McK	370	1484 ↓	584	MacGregor, C A	411	1908 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	428	2468 ↓	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	704	2386 ↑
599	Bell, A D (SM)	223	2405 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	1159	1468 ↓
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	397	2342 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	642	1909 ↓
	Beveridge, C	322	2163 ↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	227	2456 ↑
472	Blake, M J	738	2315 ↑		McEwan, N R	34	1931 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1048	2255 ↑	412	McKinstry, J	94	1481 ↔
602	BurrIDGE, R J	1200	2077 ↓	401	Moir, P J	192	1582 ↓
601	Campbell, E S	690	2111 ↓	598	Montgomery, R S	281	2271 ↑
038	Campbell, I S	293	1862 ↔	474	Murden, C (IM)	515	2437 ↑
	Clark, S L	195	2008 ↑	564	Murray, J S	61	2003 ↓
364	Coope, D W	833	1784 ↑	440	Neil, C	280	1342 ↑
247	Cormack, W H	107	1894 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	162	1981 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1293	2357 ↓	604	Paine, Dr K A	193	2343 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G	125	2170 ↑	315	Petrie, A	105	1511 ↔
572	Dempster, D	805	1767 ↑	432	Price, D	362	2005 ↓
	Dunn, J	275	1522 ↓	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	1029	2141 ↓
	Dyer, M	107	2073 ↔		Ross, D W	38	1886 ↔
371	Edney, D	237	1996 ↑	477	Sedstrem, A	50	1501 ↑
462	Gilbert, R	156	1760 ↓	439	Smith, M J	69	2067 ↑
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	145	2241 ↔		Stewart, A G	36	2170 ↔
124	Goodwin, B J	345	1801 ↑	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	178	2099 ↔
399	Grant, J	57	1695 ↔	1120	Taylor, W	84	2036 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	945	1168 ↓	452	Toye, D T	77	1582 ↔
1013	Hilton, S H	179	1594 ↔	530	Watson, J (IM)	153	2297 ↔



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	58
New entrants	2
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	6
Full grades (30+ games)	58
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	21
Grading decreases (↓)	20
Grading static (↔)	17

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2468	Lloyd, G (SM)	2226
Matheis, T (IM)	2456	Dawson, Prof A G	2170
Murden, C (IM)	2437	Stewart, A G	2170
Bell, A D (SM)	2405	Beveridge, C	2163
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2386	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2141
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2357	Almarza Mato, C	2132
Paine, Dr K A	2343	Campbell, E S	2111
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2342	Stewart, Dr K W C	2099
Anderson, G M (SM)	2330	Macgilchrist, Mrs S	2095
Blake, M J	2315	Burridge, R J	2077
Watson, J (IM)	2297	Dyer, M	2073
Montgomery, R S	2271	Smith, M J	2067
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2265	Taylor, W	2036
Borwell, A P (IM)	2255	Clark, S L	2008
Gillam, S R (SM)	2241	Price, D	2005

Top 30 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	1379	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	397
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1293	Armstrong, J McK	370
Burridge, R J	1200	Price, D	362
MacMillen, A N	1159	Goodwin, B J	345
Borwell, A P (IM)	1048	Kilgour, D A (GM)	337
Pyrich, G D (IM)	1029	Beveridge, C	322
Hardwick, M E	945	Knox, A	301
Coope, D W	833	Anderson, G M (SM)	300
Lloyd, G (SM)	831	Campbell, I S	293
Dempster, D	805	Montgomery, R S	281
Mackintosh, I (IM)	704	Neil, C	280
Campbell, E S	690	Anderson, J	279
Marshall, I H	642	Dunn, J	275
Beecham, C R (SIM)	428	Matheis, T	227
MacGregor, C A	411	Bell, A D	223

Other Notes

This list includes a number of our members who are registered with other countries, and may include members who have played <12 games and have yet to receive a provisional rating.

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

To check your rating online at any time, go to the ICCF webserver site (www.iccf.com), click on the ICCF Ratings link then complete the search boxes.

A number of useful online rating enquiry facilities are available, including a personal forecasted rating as your results come in.



The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

Abram Khasin



Source: <http://www.partner-inform.de/blogs/detail/17/3404/besedy-s-abramom-hasinym-pervye-shagi>

“I try to win all positions – although sometimes this is not possible.”

Abram Khasin

(From the interview in Tim Harding’s Chess Mail (June 1999) – a major article, and an invaluable reference in my preparation of this collection.)

It was Christmas/New Year 1963-64 and I took a train from London down to Hastings for the tournament, and found myself front-row at the old sea-front venue watching the Khasin versus Tal game – a short but interesting draw. The scene is still very fresh in my mind.



HASTINGS 1963-64

Source : Associated Press, British Movietone still

Abram Iosifovich had an OTB IM title and had played in many USSR

Championships. He took up postal chess in 1968 and soon represented the USSR in the VI Olympiad Final, the first of a run of four consecutive Olympiad appearances including his very impressive VIII Final score of 11/12 on board-3. He won all but one of the invitational Tournaments he played in, beginning with the Lenin Centennial for his GM title, then the Finjub-20, O’Kelly (2nd), Heitmann and Bartis Memorials.

We must thank him for superb chess he played during those 30 years of CC practice.

White: Khasin, Abram
Black: Angelov, Petko
 Lenin Memorial 1970–73
 Spanish, Siesta Variation [C74]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	d6
5.c3	f5
6.exf5	Bxf5
7.d4	e4
8.Ng5	d5
9.f3	e3
10.f4	Nf6
10...Bd6	11.Bxe3 Qe7
12.Qe2	Nf6
13.Bc1	0–0
14.Qxe7	Nxe7
15.0–0	h6
16.Nf3	Bd3
17.Re1	Ne4
18.Ne5	Bxe5
19.dxe5	Nc5
20.Bd1	Bb5
21.Bc2	Bd3
22.Be3	Bxc2
23.Bxc5	Rae8
24.Bxe7	Rxe7
25.g3	g5
26.fxg5	Rf5
27.gxh6	Rfxe5
28.Rxe5	Rxe5
29.Na3	Re2
30.Nxc2	Rxc2
31.Re1	Rxb2
32.g4	Rb6
33.g5	c5
34.Re8+	Kh7
35.Re7+	Kg8
36.h4	Rb1+
37.Kg2	Rb2+
38.Kg3	1–0

Salygo v Ekman corr 1960.

11.Nf3
 Angelov played a fine miniature with Black against Kvist in 1962–63:
 11.0–0 Bd6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Nf3 Ng4 14.h3 h5 15.Ne5 Qf6 16.Qe2 Bxe5 17.hxg4 hxg4 18.Qxe3 Be4 19.Nd2 Bd6 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qg3 Qf5 22.c4 0–0 23.Bd2 Be7 24.Qe3 Rxd4 25.b4 Rd3

11...	Bd6
12.Bxe3	0-0
13.0-0	Ng4

14.Qd2	Na5
15.Bb3	Nxb3
16.axb3	Be4
17.Ne5	Qh4
18.h3	Nxe3
19.Qxe3	g5
20.fxg5	Rxf1+
21.Kxf1	Bxe5
22.dxe5	Re8
23.Nd2	Rxe5
24.Nxe4	Rxe4



25.Ra4!	Rxe3
25...Rxa4	26.Qe8+
26.Rxh4	c5
27.b4	d4
28.cxd4	cxh4
29.d5	Rd3
30.Rxb4	b5
31.Ke2	Rxd5
32.h4	a5
33.Re4	Rc5
34.Kf3	b4
34...Rc2	35.b4 a4
36.Re5	Rc3+
37.Ke2	Rc2+
38.Kd3	Rc4
39.Rxb5	Rxb5
Rxb5±	
35.Re8+	Kf7
36.Ra8	b3
37.Rb8	a4
38.Rb4	Rc2
39.Rxa4	Rxb2
40.Rb4	Rb1
41.Kg4	Ke6
42.Kh5	b2
43.g3	Kf5
44.Kh6	Rc1
45.g4+	

1-0



White: Morosov, Igor
Black: Khasin, Abram
 Lenin Memorial 1970 - 73
 French, Tarrasch Variation [C03]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5
 3.Nd2 b6
 A Hungarian speciality, employed often by Khasin.
 4.e5 Qd7
 4...Ba6 5.Bxa6 Nxa6 6.c3 Qd7 7.Qe2 Nb8 8.Ngf3 Ne7 9.0-0 h5 10.Re1 Nf5 11.Nf1 Nc6 12.Ne3 Nce7 13.a4 Adorian - Forintos,Wijk 1974
 5.Ngf3 Ba6
 6.Bxa6 Nxa6
 7.0-0 c5
 8.c3 Ne7
 9.Qe2 Nc7
 10.Re1 Nc6
 11.Nf1 Be7
 12.Ng3 h5
 13.h4 g6
 14.b3?! cxd4
 15.cxd4 a5
 A strange prelude to castling long!
 16.a3 a4
 17.b4 0-0-0



18.Qd3 Kb7

19.Bg5

Advantage White.

19... Rc8

20.Rac1 Na7!

21.Bxe7 Qxe7

22.Ne2 Ncb5

Advantage White much reduced.

23.g3 Rc4

24.Nd2

24.Rxc4 dxc4 25.Qxc4 (Δ25.Qe4+

Kb8 26.Qc2 Qb7 27.Ng5 Nxa3

28.Qxa4 N3b5 29.Rc1 Rc8 30.Qa2±)

25...Nxa3≡]

24... Rxc1

25.Rxc1 Qd7

26.Nf3 Qxc8

28.Nd2 . Nxa3!

29.Qxa3 Qc2

30.Qc1

I would love to see Khasin's notes for this moment in the game, and what he had prepared for 30.Qe3

30... Qxc1+

31.Nxc1 Ka6

32.Kf1 Nc6

33.Ke2

33.Na2 Kb5 34.Nf3 Kc4 35.Ke2 Kb3

36.b5 Na7≡

33... Nxd4+

34.Kd3 Nc6

Getting the third pawn for the sacrificed knight.

35.Kc3 Nxe5

36.f4 Nc6

37.Nb1 Ne7

38.Ne2 Nf5

39.Nd2.. b5

40.Nf3 Kb6

41.Ne5 Nd6

42.Kc2 Kc7

43.Nd4 Kd8

44.Kd3 Kc7

Inviting a repetition of moves.

45.Ndf3? f6!

46.Nxg6 Nf5

47.Nd2 Kd7

47...Nxg3 48.Nb1 Nf5 49.Na3=

48.Nb1 Ke8

49.Nc3 Kf7

50.Nh8+ Kg7

51.Nxb5 Kxh8



52.Nc7

52.Na3 Nxg3 53.b5 Nf5 54.b6 Nd6

55.Kd4 Nb7+→

52... a3

53.Kc2 d4

54.Kb3 d3

54...d3 55.Nb5 Nd4+! 56.Nxd4 a2

57.Kxa2 d2 - queening - is the

beautiful final variation of an

astonishing endgame conception -

the Black king so far from the action!

0-1



White: Janosevic, Dragoljub
Black: Khasin, Abram
 Lenin Memorial 1970-73
 French,Tarrasch [C05]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5
 3.Nd2 b6
 4.Ngf3 Nf6
 5.e5 Nfd7
 6.c3 c5
 7.Bb5 Be7
 8.0-0 Ba6
 9.a4 0-0
 10.Re1 Qc8
 11.Nf1 Nc6
 12.Bg5 Re8
 13.Qd3 Bxb5
 14.axb5 Na5
 15.Bxe7 Rxe7
 16.Ng5 Nf8
 17.dxc5 Nb3
 18.Ra3 Nxc5
 19.Qe3 f6
 20.Nf3 Ng6
 21.exf6 gxf6
 22.Nd4 e5
 23.Nc6 Rg7
 24.Re1 Nf4
 25.Ng3 Qg4
 26.h3 Qg5
 27.Rxa7 Rgxa7
 28.Rxa7 Rxa7
 29.Nxa7



A queens and all four knights scenario, as in the Morosov game.

29... h5

30.h4 Qxh4

31.Ne2 Ncd3

32.Nxf4 Nxf4

33.Qxb6



33... Qg4
 34.g3 h4
 35.Qe3 hxc3
 36.fxc3 Qd1+
 37.Kf2 Nd3+
 38.Kg2 Qc2+
 39.Kf1
 39.Kf3 e4+ 40.Kg4 Qd1+ 41.Kf5
 Kf7! with mate to follow.; 39.Kh1
 Nf2+ 40.Kg1 Ne4 41.b4 Nxc3 42.b6
 Ne4 43.b7 Qb1+ 44.Kg2 Qxb4+
 39... Qb1+
 40.Kg2 Qxb2+
 41.Kg1 Qxc3
 42.Qf3 Qa1+
 43.Kh2 Qa2+
 44.Kh3 Nf2+
 45.Kh4 Qxa7
 46.Qxd5+ Kg7
 47.Kh5 Qe7
 48.g4
 48.b6 Qe8+ 49.Kh4 Qh8#
 48... Nh3
 49.Kh4 Nf4
 50.Qb3 Qb7

0-1



White: Florian, Tibor
Black: Khasin, Abram
 VII Olympiad, Bd. 3 1972–76
 QGD, Semi-Tarrasch [D42]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 e6
 3.Nf3 d5
 4.Nc3 c5
 5.cxd5 Nxd5
 6.e3 Nc6
 7.Bd3 Be7
 8.0-0 0-0
 9.a3 Nxc3
 10.bxc3 b6
 11.Qc2 h6
 12.Rd1 cxd4
 13.exd4 Bb7
 14.c4 Bf6
 15.Be3 Qe7

16.Rab1 Rad8
 17.c5 bxc5
 18.dxc5 Ba8
 19.Bf4 e5
 20.Re1 Qc7
 21.Bg3 Nd4
 22.Nxd4 Rxd4
 23.Rb4 Qa5
 24.Rc1 Bc6
 25.Rxd4 exd4
 26.Qb2 Bg5!
 27.f4
 27.Rc4 Bb5 of course; 27.Rc2 Be4!
 27... Bf6
 28.Qb4 Qd8
 29.Bb5 Qd5
 30.Bxc6 Qxc6
 31.Qc4
 Δ31.Bf2
 31... Rb8
 32.Qd3 Rb2
 33.Qf3?
 33.Rc2 Rxc2 34.Qxc2 Be7+ and the
 c5-pawn is lost.; Δ33.Bf2
 33... Qxf3
 34.gxf3 d3
 35.Bf2



35... Bd8!
 36.Bd4 Ra2
 37.c6 Rxa3
 38.Be5?
 Δ38.Kf2
 38... d2
 39.Rd1
 39.Rf1 Re3+
 39... Ra2
 40.c7 Bxc7
 41.Bxc7 Rc2
 The point: White needed to play Bf4
 and then answer Rc1 with Rxc1.
 42.Kf2 Rxc7
 43.Rxd2
 A bad ending for White, but the
 Hungarian hangs in there.
 43... a5
 44.Rd8+ Kh7
 45.Ra8 Rc5
 46.Ra6 g6
 47.Ke3 Kg7
 48.h3 Rf5

49.Ra8 Kf6
 50.Re8 Rh5
 51.Ra8 Rxb3
 52.Ra6+ Kg7
 53.Rxa5 Rh2
 54.Ra1 h5
 55.Rg1 Kf6
 56.Rg5 h4
 57.Rg4 h3
 58.Rh4 Kg7
 59.f5 g5
 60.Rh5 Kf6
 61.Rh7 Kxf5
 62.Rxf7+ Kg6
 63.Rf8 Rg2
 64.Rh8 h2
 65.Ke4 Re2+
 66.Kd4 g4!

66..g4 67.fxc4 Kg5 - Another
 impeccable endgame by Khasin.

0-1



White: Khasin, Abram
Black: Dünhaupt, Hans-Werner
 VII Olympiad, Bd.3 1972–76
 Nimzoindian [E42]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 e6
 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.e3 c5
 5.Nge2 cxd4
 In Webb - Oim, X Olympiad
 Prelims, Black preferred 5...b6 and
 the continuation was 6.a3 Ba5 7.Qa4
 Na6 8.Bd2 0-0 9.Ng3 Bb7 10.f3 Qe7
 11.Bd3 when the World Champion
 played the provocative 11...Qd6 and
 drew in 35 moves.
 6.exd4 d5
 6...0-0 7.a3 Be7 8.g3 d5 9.c5 a5
 10.Na4 Nfd7 11.Bg2 b6 12.Be3 Nc6
 13.0-0 bxc5 14.dxc5 Ba6 15.Re1
 Rb8 16.Rc1 Nde5+ Khasin -
 Polugaevsky, USSR Championship
 Tallinn, 1965.
 7.a3 Be7
 8.c5 0-0
 9.Bf4 a5
 10.Nb5 Ne8
 11.Nec3 Nc6
 12.Be2 f6
 13.0-0 e5
 14.Be3 Be6
 15.Bf3 e4
 16.Bxe4 dxe4
 17.d5 Bd7
 18.dxc6 bxc6
 19.Nd6 Bxd6
 20.cxd6 f5
 21.Bc5 Rf6

22.f3 e3
 23.f4! Qb8
 24.Re1 Nxd6
 24...Qxb2 25.Rxe3 Rg6 26.Ra2!
 Rxe2+ 27.Kf1 Rf2+ 28.Ke1 wins a
 rook!
 25.Rxe3 Be8
 25...Bc8? gives rise to fascinating
 tactics: 26.Nd5! cxd5 27.Qxd5+ Kh8
 (27...Kf8 28.Rae1+-) 28.Qxd6
 (28.Bxd6 Qb6 29.Qc5 Qxc5 30.Bxc5)
 28...Qxd6 29.Bxd6+- despite ocb's.
 26.Qd4 Bg6
 27.Re7 Ne4
 28.Nxe4 fxe4
 29.f5! Bf7
 29...Bxf5 30.Rf1 (30.Rxe7+ Kxe7
 31.Be7 Qa7! 32.Bxf6+ Kg8 33.Qxa7
 Rxa7 34.Rf1?) 30...Qf8 31.Rc7 Qd8
 (31...Rd8 32.Bxf8 Rxd4 33.Bxe7+-)
 32.Qxd8+ Rxd8 33.Be7+-
 30.Qxe4 Qb5
 30...Qxb2 31.Bd4!
 31.Bd4?!
 ○31.Qc2+-
 31... Rxf5
 32.g4 Rg5
 33.Rf1 Qd5
 34.Qf4 Rf8
 35.h4 Rg6
 36.h5 Rd6
 37.Be5
 37.Rf2 set a trap: 37...Qxd4?
 38.Qxf7+ Rxf7 39.Re8+ Rf8
 40.Rexf8#
 37... Qc5+!
 38.Qf2 Qxf2+
 39.Rxf2 Rd1+
 40.Kh2 h6



Duenhaupt has defended superbly,
 and continues to do so against
 Khasin's renewed assault.

41.g5! hxg5
 42.h6 gxh6
 43.Rf6 Rd2+
 44.Kg3
 44.Kg1 Rd1+ 45.Kf2 Bc4!
 44... h5
 45.Rh6 Rd3+

46.Kh2
 46.Kg2 Bd5+ and White gets mated!
 46... Rd2+
 47.Kg1 Rd1+
 48.Kf2 Bd5+
 Black had the discovered check
 option 48...Be6+ but 49.Bf6! (49.Ke2
 Bg4+ 50.Ke3 Re1+ 51.Kd2 Re2+
 52.Kc3 Rf3+ 53.Kd4 Kf8=)
 49...Rxf6+ 50.Rxf6 Bg4 51.Ra7±
 49.Ke3 Re1+
 49...Rf3+ 50.Ke2 Kf8 51.Ra7+-
 50.Kd2 Rxe5
 51.Rg6! Kh8
 52.Rxe5 Rf2+
 53.Kc3 Rf3+
 54.Kd4 Kh7
 55.Rexg5 h4
 56.Rg7+ Kh6
 57.R5g6+ Kh5



58.Rg1! Kh6
 59.R7g6+ Kh7
 60.R6g4 Rh3
 61.Kc5 Kh6
 62.Kb6
 A very tense epic struggle nears an
 end.
 62... Kh5
 63.Rg5+ Kh6
 64.Rg6+ Kh7
 65.Kxa5 Rh2
 66.R6g4 Kh6
 67.b4

1-0



White: Khasin, Abram
 Black: de Carbonnel, Heinz
 VIII World Champ Final 1975-80
 French Winawer [C18]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5
 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.e5 c5
 5.a3 Bxc3+
 6.bxc3 Ne7
 7.Qg4 Qc7
 8.Qxg7 Rg8

9.Qxh7 cxd4
 10.Ne2 Nbc6
 11.f4 Bd7
 12.Qd3 dxc3
 13.Nxc3 a6
 14.Rb1 Na5
 15.h4 Nf5
 16.Rh3 0-0-0
 17.h5
 17.Qxf5 exf5 18.Nxd5 Qxc2
 (18...Qb8 19.Ne7+ Kc7 20.Nd5+
 Kc6 if you want to be mated!
 (20...Kc8 for a draw) 21.Rb6+ Kc5
 22.Rc3+ Kd4 23.Rd3+ Kc4 24.Be3
 and mate next move.) 19.Rc3+
 Qxc3+ 20.Nxc3 Be6 and material
 advantage for Black (Fuchs -
 Uhlmann, DDR 1967).
 17... Rg4
 18.Qf3!
 18.h6 Rh8 19.h7 Rg7 20.Rb4 Nc4
 and Suetin rated Black's chances
 better (Dueball - Uhlmann, 1969).
 18... Rdg8
 18...Rh4 maybe better (Suetin again).
 19.h6 R4g6
 A well-known 'trap' variation is:
 19...Nxe6 20.Rxe6 Rg3 21.Rh8!
 Rxf3 22.Rxe6+ Be8 23.gxf3 Qxc3+
 24.Bd2+-
 20.h7 Rh8
 21.g4
 White has a strong initiative (Suetin
 in his 1983 monograph).]



21... Ne7
 22.a4 Nc4
 23.Bd3 Rg7
 24.Qf2 Kb8
 25.Qd4 Bc8
 26.g5 Qa5
 27.Bd2
 27.Bxc4 Nf5
 27... Nxd2
 28.Kxd2 Kc7
 29.Qa7! Nc6
 30.Qa8 b6□
 31.Rb3 Nb8



- 32.Bxa6! Bxa6
 33.Qa7+ Bb7
 34.Qxa5 bxa5
 35.Nb5+ Kd7
 36.Nd6 Bc6
 37.Rxb8 Rxb8
 38.h8Q Rxh8
 39.Rxh8 Kc7
 40.Rf8 Bxa4
 41.Rxf7+ Rxf7
 42.Nxf7 Kd7
 43.Nd6

All beautifully calculated.
 43.Nd6 Ke7 44.Nb7

1-0



White: Clarke, Peter H
 Black: Khasin, Abram
 VIII Olympiad, Bd 3 1977-82
 Nimzoindian [E38]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

- 1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 e6
 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.Qc2 c5
 5.dxc5 0-0
 5...Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 Ne4 7.Qa3 Na6
 8.Be3 Qc7 9.Rc1 (9.b4!?) 9...0-0
 10.g3 Nexc5 11.b4 Qc6 12.bxc5
 Qxh1 13.Nf3± is a line given by
 Gruenfeld in his opening review in
 my precious Dyckhoff Tournament
 Book.
 6.Bf4
 ! by the same Gruenfeld.
 6... Na6
 7.Bd6 Re8
 8.a3 Qa5
 9.Rc1 Bxc3+
 10.Qxc3 Qxc3+
 11.Rxc3 Ne4
 12.Rc2 Naxc5
 13.Bxc5 Nxc5
 14.Nf3 a5
 15.Nd4 a4
 16.e3 Ra6
 17.Be2 d6

- 18.f3 Bd7
 19.Kf2 Kf8
 20.Rd1 Ke7
 21.Ke1 Rc8
 22.Bf1 Rb6
 23.g3 g5
 Playing on both flanks.
 24.g4 h5
 25.h3 Rh8
 26.Kf2
 26.Rg2 hxg4 27.hxg4 e5 28.Nb5
 Bxb5 29.cxb5 Rh1 30.Kd2 d5
 letting the other rook swing across to
 the h-file in some variations.
 26... hxg4
 27.hxg4 e5
 And now a push in the centre.
 28.Ne2 e4!
 29.Nc3 Bc6
 30.Nd5+ Bxd5
 31.cxd5 Rh2+
 32.Bg2 exf3
 33.Kxf3 Rb3
 34.Rdd2 Rh4
 35.Rc3



- 35... f5!
 36.Rxb3 axb3
 Stronger than 36...fxg4+ 37.Kg3
 axb3 38.Rf2
 37.gxf5 Kf6
 38.Bf1 Kxf5
 39.Rg2
 39.Rd4 Ke5 40.Rxh4 gxh4 41.Bc4
 b6+
 39... g4+
 40.Ke2
 40.Rxg4 Rxg4 41.Bh3 Ke5 42.Bxg4
 Nd3+ Simple technique.
 40... Rh1
 41.Rf2+ Kg5
 42.Rg2 Kh4
 42...Kh4 43.Rf2 Ne4 44.Rf7 Rh2+
 45.Kd3 Nc5+ 46.Kc3 Rc2+ 47.Kd4
 Rxb2+—

0-1



White: Khasin, Abram
 Black: Markland, Peter
 Finjub-20 1981-84
 Nimzoindian [E43]
 [Abram Khasin: abridged translation
 by JEH]

- 1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 e6
 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.e3 b6
 5.Bd3 Bb7
 6.Nf3 Ne4
 7.0-0 f5
 8.d5
 A rare sub-variation worth knowing
 is 8.Ne5 (!) 8...0-0 9.Nxe4 fxe4
 10.Bc2 d6 (10...Bd6!?) 11.a3 Ba5
 12.Qg4 Rf5 13.Bxe4 h5 14.Qxf5!+—
 Veresov - Litvinova (Minsk 1974)
 8... Bxc3
 9.bxc3 Nc5
 9...Na6 is the usual move.
 10.Re1 Nba6
 11.e4 Nxd3
 12.Qxd3 Nc5
 13.Qd4 0-0
 13...Nxe4? 14.Rxe4! fxe4 15.Bg5
 Qc8 16.Qxg7 wins.
 14.Ba3 d6
 14...fxe4 15.Bxc5 bxc5 16.Qxe4 Qf6
 17.Rab1! with advantage to White.
 15.e5 Re8
 16.Bxc5 bxc5
 17.Qf4



- 17... exd5
 18.Qxf5! Rf8
 A crucial calculation here was;
 18...h6 19.Rab1 Bc6 20.cxd5 Bxd5
 21.e6 c6 22.Qf7+ Kh8 23.Rb7 Qf6
 24.Qxf6 gxf6 25.e7 Bxa2 26.Nh4± as
 Nf5 followed by Nd6 cannot be
 prevented.
 19.Qe6+ Kh8
 20.Rab1 Bc6
 Threatening to win the queen.
 21.exd6 Qxd6
 22.Ng5 Qxe6
 23.Nxe6 Rf7



A fascinating endgame.

24.Re5! dxc4
 24...Re7 25.cxd5 Bxd5 26.Rxd5
 Rxe6 27.Rxc5±; and worse, 24...Re8
 25.cxd5! Bxd5?? 26.Rxd5 wins a
 piece.

25.Rxc5 Be4
26.Re1 Bg6
27.Nxc7 Raf8

On 27...Rc8 probably 28.Nb5!?

28.Ne6 Re7 [The pin 28...Re8 is
 answered by 29.Re3 Rfe7 (29...Bd3
 30.Rc7±) 30.Nf4!? Rxc3 31.fxc3
 Rxc3? 32.Rc8+ Be8 33.Nd5! wins a
 piece.]

29.Re3 Rb8
30.h4 Kg8!
31.Rxc4 Bf7
32.Rce4 Rb1+
33.Kh2 Rb2
34.Ng5 Rxe4
35.Rxe4



35... h6!?
 35...Rxf2 36.Nxf7 Kxf7 37.Ra4 as in
 the game.; 35...Rxa2 36.Rb4! Re2!
 37.Rb8+ Re8 (37...Be8 38.f3! Re7
 39.Ne4 Re6 40.Ra8 a6 41.Nc5+–)
 38.Rb7 with a winning position.

36.Nxf7 Kxf7
37.Ra4 Rxf2
38.Rxa7+ Kf6
39.Kg3 Rc2
40.Ra3 Ke5



Black has active pieces: White's rook
 is tied to defending the q-side pawns
 and his king to those on the other
 flank. The instructive winning
 procedure for White had been
 worked out back at the 36th move.

41.Kf3 g6
42.g3 h5
43.Ke3 Rg2
44.Ra5+! Kf6
45.Kf4 Rf2+
46.Ke4 Re2+
47.Kd3! Rg2
48.Rg5 Rxa2
49.Kc4

White has activated his pieces, but
 Black's next is best defence, freeing
 his king from defending the g-pawn.

49... Ra6!
50.Kb5 Re6
51.c4 Ke7
52.Rd5!
 The g-pawn is sacrificed.
52... Re3
53.c5 Rxc3
54.c6 Rb3+
55.Ka6

The concluding variations are:
 55.Ka6 Rc3 56.Kb6 Rb3+ 57.Rb5
 Rc3 (57...Rxb5+ 58.Kxb5 g5 59.c7
 Kd7 60.Kb6 Kc8 61.hxc5+–) 58.Kb7
 Kd6! 59.Rb1! Rc2 (59...Rc4
 60.Rd1+ Ke7 61.c7 Rb4+ 62.Kc6
 Rc4+ 63.Kb6 Rb4+ 64.Kc5 Rb2
 65.Rd8 Rc2+ 66.Kb6 Rb2+
 67.Ka5+– Black running out of
 checks.) 60.Rd1+ Ke7 61.c7 Rb2+
 62.Kc8 Rb3 63.Re1+ Kf7 64.Re4
 and the bridge-building technique
 wins.

1-0



White: Khasin, Abram
Black: Sapundiev, Georgi
 European Team Tournament 1988–
 92
 QGD [D53]

[Notes by Abram Khasin: abridged
 translation by JEH]

1.d4 d5
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Nf6
4.Bg5 Be7
5.e3 0-0
6.Qc2 c5
7.dxc5 dxc4
8.Bxc4 Qa5
9.Nf3 Qxc5
10.Bd3 h6
11.Bh4 Bd7
12.0-0 Bc6
13.Nd4!
 13.e4 Nbd7! (13...e5 14.b4 Qxb4
 15.Nxe5) 14.a3 a5
13... Nd5
14.Nxc6 Nxc6
15.Nxd5 Qxd5
16.Bh7+! Kh8
17.Be4! Qa5
18.Bxe7 Nxe7
19.Bxb7 Rab8
20.Bf3 Rfc8
21.Qe2 Rd8!
22.a3! Rb3
 22...Rd2 23.b4 Rxe2 24.bxa5±
23.Rfd1 Rdb8
24.Rd2 Qe5



25.Ra2!!
 25.Rb1 Rxa3
25... Nf5
26.g3
 26.Bc6 Nxe3 27.Ra1+– (Not 27.fxc3
 Rxe3+–)
26... Nxe3?
 26...Nd6 27.Bc6 (The plan involving
 Ba4 is now a good one) 27...Ne4
 28.Rc2±
27.Rc2!!
 Prevents Nc4 unpinning and
 counterattacks! 27.fxc3? Rxe3
 28.Qf2 Rxf3 29.Qxf3 Qe1+ 30.Qf1
 Qxd2 31.Qxf7 Rc8 and Black wins
 was the Bulgarian's dream.
27... Qf5
28.fxe3 Rxe3

29.Qxe3 Qxc2
 30.Be4 Qd1+
 31.Kg2 Rb3
 32.Qf2

32.Qf2 f5 33.Bc2 Qd5+ 34.Kg1
 Rxc3+ 35.Qxc3 Qxa2 36.Qc3 and
 Black can soldier on. So a last
 finesse would be 33.Qc2! – JEH.
1-0



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Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 8

By John E. Hawkes

White: Khasin, Abram
Black: Engel, Klaus (BRD)
 Finjub-20 1981–84
 French Defence, Winawer [C19]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

14.exf6 gxf6
 15.Nd2 Nf4
 16.Bxc4 Nxc2+
 17.Kf1 Nf4
 18.Rg1+ Kh8

23.c4 Bd7
 24.Rc1 Raf8
 25.Ne4 Be8
 26.Kg1
 Keeps the queens on the board.
 26... Bg6

1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5
 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.e5 c5
 5.a3 Bxc3+

Khasin-Kaganovsky, a consultation
 training game, provides an example
 of Black's option; 5...Ba5 6.b4 cxd4
 7.Qg4 Ne7 8.bxa5 dxc3 9.Qxg7 Rg8
 10.Qxh7 Nbc6 11.f4 Qxa5 12.Nf3
 Bd7 13.Ng5 Nd8 14.Be2 Bb5 15.Bh5
 Rf8 16.a4 Bc4 17.Qg7 Nf5 18.Nh7!
 Qc5 19.Qxf8+ Qxf8 20.Nf6+ and
 mate follows 1–0



6.bxc3 Ne7
 7.Nf3 Qa5
 8.Bd2 Nbc6
 9.Be2 Qa4

A decade after the Finjub-20
 tournament Morgado-Khasin in the
 Bartis Memorial would go; 9...Bd7
 10.0–0 Qc7 11.Re1 f6 12.exf6 gxf6
 13.dxc5 e5 14.c4 dxc4 15.Bxc4 0–0
 0 with a very complex game ending
 in a win for Black in 65 moves.

10.dxc5 Ng6
 11.c4 dxc4
 12.Bc3 0-0
 13.Qc1 f6

19.Bxf6+!
 19.Qb2 was also good e.g. 19...e5
 20.Bb5 Bh3+ 21.Ke1 Rg8 22.Rxcg8+
 Rxc8 23.Bxa4 Rg1+ 24.Nf1 Rxf1+
 25.Kd2 Rxf2+ 26.Kd1 Rf1+ 27.Be1
 Nd4 28.Qxb7 Nf3 29.Kc1! Rxe1+
 30.Kb2+– Black just misses his mate
 and must resign.

19... Rxf6
 20.Qb2 Nd5
 20...Nh5 21.Rg5+–
 21.Rg3
 21.Bxd5 Qd4!
 21...Nce7
 22.Bxd5 Nxd5



27.c6! e5
 27...bxc6 28.Nc5 Qa5 29.cxd5
 Threatening Nd7 and Nxe6.;
 27...Qxc6 28.cxd5 Qxc1+ 29.Qxc1
 Bxe4 30.d6+–; 27...b6 28.cxd5 Qxe4
 29.c7+–
 28.cxb7
1-0



Abram Khasin
 "Honoured Trainer of USSR"



...with students in Moscow.



Introduction

Since the advent of the webserver it has become as easy to play CC in international, as opposed to domestic, events. Yet in Scotland, in the last few years, only 19 players have entered international events as individuals (team events are slightly different, that is for another article). In fact, there are tournaments available for players of any level of playing strength in the ICCF international portfolio. In contrast to those who only play in domestic competitions, I believe I may be the only currently active Scottish player who participates exclusively in international events. With one exception (the Scottish Webserver Championship) I haven't participated in any domestic Scottish (or British) events in the last six years. Why not?

There is one simple "chess" reason for this decision. Winning games, at least occasionally, is what motivates me to keep playing. When, a few years ago, I carried out an analysis of how and where I managed to win games one statistic stood out: in my particular style of play, I am much more likely to win games against opponents I am meeting for the first time. When I am paired against the same opponent for the second, third and fourth time – as frequently occurs in domestic competitions – the player

concerned will have worked out how to play against me and be much more likely to secure at least a draw. International competitions are supported by a vast pool of players, so there are likely to be a lot of new opponents in every event you play in. It is as simple as that!

There are other reasons, too. My 18 current opponents hail from 4 different continents and some, at least, are very friendly and willing to "chat" through the messaging system. So, this week, I have been discussing cricket with my Australian opponent near Brisbane and Donald Trump's political style with my American opponent living near Chicago. Over the years I have made friends with players from six different continents and learned a great deal in the process.

Enough of the benefits of international play. Next, I will review Scottish progress in a range of international events. If I have missed out any names, please let me know; and please also feel free to submit your own review (direct to the Editor) of any other competitions which I have not been able to cover in this article. In this issue I will focus mainly on the on the European Team Championship and the VWC.

ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries

CCO21/S4, ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries - Section 04

TD Millstone, Michael (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Ukraine	2434	█	2	3	3	3	3.5	2.5	5	3.5	3.5	29	60	10	11	48	6	1
2	Lithuania	2511	3	█	3	2.5	3	2.5	2	3.5	3.5	4	27	56	6	9	48	6	2
3	Scotland	2393	3	3	█	3	2.5	3	3	2	3.5	4	27	52	3	9	51	3	3
4	Wales	2348	2	2.5	3	█	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3	25	51	1	6	49	5	4
5	Brazil	2376	2	3	2.5	2.5	█	3	3	2.5	3.5	3	25	49	-1	6	51	3	5
6	Romania	2445	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	3	█	2	2.5	3	3.5	24.5	51	1	5	48	6	6
7	Argentina	2458	2.5	2	3	3.5	3	2	█	1.5	3	2.5	23	53	3	5	43	11	7
8	Norway	2380	1	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	█	3.5	3.5	21.5	47	-2	4	45	9	8
9	Hong Kong	2301	1.5	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	█	4	21	41	-8	2	50	4	9
10	South Africa	2245	1.5	2	2	2	3	2.5	1.5	1.5	2	█	18	36	-13	1	49	5	10

The team has thus far scored 27 points from 51 completed games (3 wins and 48 draws!) and currently sits in third place. Alan Bell on Bd 3 has 1 win and Gordon Anderson on Bd 6 has 2 – well done both!

11th European Team Championship (ETC)

Overall, we hadn't done very well in the 10th ETC, partly because of the unavailability of certain key players; so George Pyrich and his selection committee of Richard Beecham and Tom Matheis succeeded in putting out what is probably the strongest ever 8-man Scottish CC team: Bd 1: Tom Matheis; Bd 2: Richard Beecham; Bd 3: Clive Murden; Bd 4: Alan Bell; B 5: Iain Mackintosh; Bd 6: Peter Bennett; Bd 7: Gordon Anderson; Bd 8: Kevin Paine.

EU/TC11/sf1, 11th European Team Championship - Semifinal 1

			TD Glaser, Karel (IA)																	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Estonia	2372	█	2.5	2.5	2	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	1	2.5	2	22	51	1	0	43	37	1
2	Iceland	2411	2.5	█	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	2	2.5	1	22	50	0	0	44	36	2
3	Bulgaria	2423	2.5	2.5	█	2.5	2.5	2	2	1.5	2.5	1	2	21	50	0	0	42	38	3
4	Scotland	2390	2	2.5	2.5	█	2	3.5	1.5	2.5	1	1.5	2	21	52	2	0	40	40	4
5	Denmark	2346	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	█	1.5	3.5	2	1.5	2	0.5	20.5	51	1	0	40	40	5
6	Switzerland	2440	2	2	2	3.5	1.5	█	2	1	2	2	2	20	50	0	0	40	40	6
7	Croatia	2349	2.5	2	2	1.5	2.5	2	█	2	2	1.5	0	18	48	-1	0	37	43	7
8	Norway	2229	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	2	1	2	█	1	1	1	16	47	-2	0	34	46	8
9	Lithuania	2498	1	2	2.5	1	1.5	2	2	2	█	0	1	15	51	1	0	29	51	9
10	Finland	2364	2.5	2.5	1	1.5	1	2	1.5	1	0	█	0	13	48	-1	0	27	53	10
11	Turkey	2400	1	1	2	1	1.5	2	0	1	1	0	█	10.5	47	-1	0	22	58	11

The one notable absentee from the team among Scotland’s strongest players is David Cumming whose grading, unfortunately, had a taken a bit of downturn just as the team was being selected. David’s grading has now recovered and his ranking is back up from 9th to 6th. So, by the next cycle, I am sure he will be back in the team. Although there are already quite a few results in, the draws tend to come first in these events, with the decisive games emerging a bit later on. Even so, Scotland is already well-placed. At the time of writing our overall score is P40 W2 D38 L0. So, we have a +2 score of 21/40. One of the wins – for Clive Murden – was actually a technical default on time on just move 17. The other was a genuine chess win for Iain Mackintosh in a fine short game where the threat of mate would have led to a winning endgame. I will update this report in subsequent issues of the magazine; so, if any team members have observations on their progress which they feel able to share, please let me know!

European Server Championship (ESC)

Scotland is reasonably well represented in the ESC. Current and recent participants have included: David Cumming, Geoff Lloyd, Eoin Campbell, Ian Marshall, Colin McGregor, Derek Coope, Andrew MacMillen and myself. I will report in more detail on the ESC in the next issue.

Current Friendly Internationals

GB/TriNat/2017, British Tri-Nations 2017

			TD Sitorus, Yosua											
			1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place		
1	England	2034	█	10	16.5	26.5	69	15	2	38	10	1		
2	Wales	1957	7	█	11	18	48	-1	0	37	11	2		
3	Scotland	1973	4.5	9	█	13.5	32	-14	0	41	7	3		

Our team is destined to finish at the foot of the table.

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Dec 2017	18	Scheming Mind	Server	7½	3½		
Jul 2017	21	Australia	Server	16	8		
Apr 2017	21	Finland	Server	11	21		
Dec 2016	24	Italy	Server	11	36		loss
Dec 2016	8	Indonesia	Server	9	5		win
Nov 2016	26	Canada	Server	26½	24½		win
Oct 2015	25	Australia	Server	27½	22½		win

Our comeback against Canada was sealed with a memorable win (one result remaining). We have established early leads in our matches against Scheming Mind and Australia, but are being beaten by a distance in the fixtures against Finland and Italy.

NATT 7 / NSTT 3

In NATT 7, Scotland sits in the penultimate place with a score of 31½/82 and 6 games yet to finish.

In NSTT 3, Scotland also sits in second-bottom place with a score of 21½/50 and 10 games still to finish.

Esko Nuutilanen Memorial Team Tournament

The team has now scored 11½/22 and sits in 8th place.

The Veterans' World Cup (VWC)

Scotland's original participant in the VWC was Alan Borwell. Indeed, Alan used to write this review. Since Alan stopped playing actively in the VWC, I have probably been the most consistent participant, having entered VWC preliminary groups in seven consecutive seasons, from VWC4 to VWC10 (which started recently).

The only formal criterion you have to meet to play in the VWC is that you must be over 60; but since more than 50% of active CC players are believed to be over 60, this includes a great many of us! VWC10 attracted over 700 entries which means that the tournament has virtually doubled in size in 6 years.

The way I see it, the VWC is the ideal tournament for middle-ranking players graded, say, between 2000 and 2300. Because players of all strengths are mixed up together in the preliminary groups (currently 11 players, with 10 games to play) most of us are likely to win some games as well as lose some; but at least they won't all be draws (as can happen in many other competitions).

Players graded under 2000, who want the experience and really don't mind losing more games than they win will also find that the VWC is a great place to improve your chess. Players graded above 2300 will find that their grading takes a hammering every time they play in a preliminary round of the VWC. There are usually a couple of ungraded or under-graded players in each section who turn out to have master-strength ability and against whom we struggle to get a draw. This is perhaps why I am the only 2300+ player from Scotland currently supporting the VWC.

So why do I still do it? Three reasons: first, for the social reasons already discussed; second, because there are decent chances of qualifying to play in a Semi-Final, which is excellent territory for gaining title norms; and, third, because I have never failed to win at least two games in a VWC preliminary round. When you have had 13 draws out of 14 games in events such as the WCCC or the European Server Championships, it is really good to know that you can fall back on a competition where winning a game or two is almost guaranteed!

Scotland's star player in VWC9pr34 was Geoff Lloyd who played brilliantly, won six games and finished with the impressive score of 8.0/10.0, technically second but with the same score as the winner. So Geoff will be Scotland's only representative in a VWC9 Semi-Final starting in about August 2018. We all wish him luck when the time comes.

We have slightly better representation in the preliminary rounds of VWC10. Brian Goodwin is playing in VWC10pr16 and Eoin Campbell in VWC10pr15. Geoff Lloyd is playing once again in VWC10pr55 and is currently leading the group, although he has had too many draws to repeat his exceptional score in the previous cycle. Both Derek Coope and I are playing in two sections each. Derek has been struggling a bit in his groups and it is too soon to say anything about mine.

World Correspondence Chess Championship (WCCC)

WCCC42 is about to start soon and anyone interested can, in principle, request a Scottish nomination to take part. A word of warning however: the opposition will be very strong from the beginning and I wouldn't advise anyone to take this on unless they have a grading of at least 2240.

I played in WCCC36 and again in WCCC38. Gordon Anderson finished a very creditable 5th in WCCC39pr05 with a plus score, 6.5/12.0, which would have gained him a CCM norm if the titles had been introduced in time! Clive Murden is the only Scottish player in recent years (maybe ever?) to reach the Semi-Final stage, in WCCC40sf05, but has a minus score at the moment. Geoff Lloyd is also struggling in WCCC41pr11. It's tough at the top!

Webserver Open Tournament (WOT)

The WOT is what it sounds like: a worldwide tournament which absolutely anyone can enter and which anyone, in principle, can win. It is also very popular. The seventh running of the event, WOT7 in which Scotland is well represented, started earlier in 2017.

Our star player in this tournament is David Cumming, who is currently playing in two Semi-Finals of WOT6. He seems to have an outside chance of further progression in one of them. He is also playing in three preliminary sections of WOT7 and has already qualified for one Semi-Final – well done, David! Geoff Lloyd has a plus score in his section which may not, however, be quite sufficient to progress further. Derek Coope is also playing in two sections and, sad to say, is having a bit of a rough time in both of them. Eoin Campbell's section has also finished, with Eoin on 2.5/6.0. He must be kicking himself, however, as he got a good draw with the black pieces against the group winner, while his only loss was to the player who came last!

Colin Beveridge has started very brightly in his group with 3.0/4.0 and, presumably, chances of progression. I understand the SCCA is considering changing his name officially to Colin Beverage as his portrait for the ICCF website shows him presenting to the camera not his opponent's queen but what looks to me like a pint of heavy. :-). Sorry, Colin, couldn't resist that one!

General

A full list of available individual events and entry fees is available at our web site www.scottishcca.co.uk



General Information

ICCF is the International Correspondence Chess Federation. ICCF was founded in 1951 as a reincarnation of the ICCA (International Correspondence Chess Association), itself founded in 1945 as successor to the IFSB (Internationaler Fernschachbund), founded in 1928.

ICCF organises a huge variety of tournaments for individual and team play; operates a worldwide rating system and awards GM, SIM and IM titles to male and female players to recognise strength and performance. Most play is based now on the ICCF webserver, with a residue of postal and email events. Principal tournaments are:

World Individual (www.iccf-webchess.com)

- World Championship. Annual cycles progress through preliminary, semi-final, candidate and final stages.
- World Cups. These include Adult, Junior and the highly popular Veterans events.
- Norm Tournaments. For aspiring IM, SIM and GM players, categorised by rating strength.
- Promotion Tournaments. For middle-strong players, spanning Open, Higher and Master classes.
- Aspirer Tournaments. For beginners and lower-graded players.
- Thematic Tournaments. Organised by opening variations (see opposite).

World Team (www.iccf-webchess.com)

- Olympiads. National team event, 6-player teams, played to a very high standard.
- Champions League. National, cross-national and scratch 4-player teams, several divisions.

European Zone (www.iccf-europa.com)

- European Individual Championship.
- European National Team Championship.

Other

- Friendly Internationals. ICCF member organisations play team events, usually 2 games per player.
- Invitation/Memorial Events. To commemorate anniversaries and deceased officials and players.
- Chess 960. New events featuring Fischer/Random chess opening positions.

SCCA members are eligible to enter all ICCF events, though Scottish nationality is required for national representation.

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.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2018

Theme 2/18: Ruy Lopez, Archangelsk Variation, C78
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7
Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

Theme 3/18: King's Indian, Storm Attack, E76

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4
Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

Webserver Events 2018

Theme 2/18 – Barcza/Reti Gambit, A11
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 dxc4
Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 March

Theme 3/18 – Centre Game, C22

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe3
Entries by 31 March; play starts 15 April

Note there are no Email Events in 2017.

News

- ❑ Finance Director George Pyrich (SCO) died after a short illness on December 16. Full tributes are included in this edition.
- ❑ Former ICCF Treasurer Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP) died on December 15 after a long battle with cancer. Carlos was a strong player (SIM), administrator (IA), co-founder of the Spanish CC Association (AEAC), ICCF Delegate for Spain and became an Honorary ICCF Member in 2014. Alan Borwell has written a Reminiscences article for the ICCF website.
- ❑ A new World Zone has been created and replaces Zone 2 (CADAP) and Zone 3 (NAPZ). It comprises countries in North, South and Central America, plus Japan, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Any country or federation may apply to join it.
- ❑ The ICCF Games Archive is now available up to December 2017 and can be downloaded from: <https://www.iccf.com/> Note that you need to login first.

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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