

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.144

Winter 2018

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Gradings & International Update

Peter looks behind grades, sets a puzzle and reports from afar



Artwork by Christine Dodd of Lewis

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Welcome to the final edition of the 2018 magazine set, and with it our wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2019!

At this time, it's customary to reflect on the year just ended and, once again, we suffered sad tidings as no less than three of our members departed at the close of 2018. We pay our respects to Dr Ken Stewart, Raymond Baxter and Eoin Campbell in this edition.

On a more upbeat note, we were just in time as we went to press to catch new CCE titles for Mickey Blake and Geoff Lloyd (the latter still subject to ratification). Both players profited from good form in VWC and WCCF Invitational events, and our hearty congratulations to both of them!

I've summarised our domestic events of 2018, a year in which two Championships concluded (both in ties); the Schemers prevailed again in our League, and Jim Anderson posted an impressive 10/10 in our Open event.

Kevin Paine has analysed the first ICCF rating list of 2019 for us. The main list shows a bit of volatility through the removal of inactive members, plus some additions – good to see Iain Sneddon back in harness!

Alastair Dawson continues his Games Column, this time using one of his own games to illustrate that humans still have a role to play, and also featuring a tight encounter between Alan Borwell and Dawn Williamson in the League.

John Hawkes has been researching the play of ladies in CC, and there are some cracking games here for you to enjoy. John also supplied the images for the Chess Art section, where the brush of Igor Samsonov pays tribute to women in chess settings.

Peter Bennett shows his versatility again, firstly by taking gradings with a pinch of salt; then offering a £25 prize for a stars-barred chess puzzle, and finally by covering our International activity, particularly in the ETC where we are edging towards a berth in the Final.

It wouldn't be January without the Annual Best Game competition. IM Alan Borwell has kindly agreed to be our judge for your 2018 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!

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

2018	1st	2nd
December	P J Moir	W H Cormack
November	K B McAlpine	A P Borwell
October	L R McKenzie	J Anderson

SCCA Officials

Position	Name	Address	Contact	Email
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine (enquiries and domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) pro tem.



ICCF 2019 World Championship Preliminaries



ICCF Title Tournaments
Commissioner Gian-Maria Tani writes to announce the Preliminaries stage of the 2019 (43rd) World Championship. This event will be played in sections of 13 players (or 15/17 at the organisers' discretion), with entries closing on 6th February and play commencing on 20th March 2019.

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 2019 cycle (includes Preliminaries and Semi-Finals). If you are interested, please contact Gordon Anderson as soon as possible and before 31st January 2019.

ICCF 2019 European Championship Candidates Tournaments



Andrey Pavlikov, Zonal Director for Europe has written to announce that play will start on 20th March 2019 in the Candidates Tournament for the European Championship 2019. The top two players from each Candidates section (tiebreaks will be used if required) will qualify for the Final.

All sections will normally consist of 13 players but, conditional upon the number of entries received, the Tournament Organiser shall have the authority to change the number of players in all sections to 11, 15 or 17. The following players have the right to participate in the European Championship Candidates:

- a. players rated 2500 or over at the time of entry
- b. holders of the Grandmaster Title
- c. holders of the Senior International Master Title with a rating over 2400 at the time of entry
- d. holders of the International Master Title with a rating over 2450 at the time of entry
- e. those participants of EU Championships semi-finals 68 and 69 who achieved at least 55% scores (unless they already hold qualification under any of (a) to (d) above) and have not already used this qualification right
- f. those players who finished 1st or 2nd in a European Championship Semi-Final started after 01/01/2014

- g. participants of previous or running Finals who have scored at least 45% of the possible points, if they have not earned a higher qualification and have not already used this qualification right
- h. the participants of previous or running Candidates who have scored at least 55% of the possible points, if they have not earned a higher qualification and have not already used this qualification right

Any Scottish player, who meets the above criteria and who wishes to participate should contact Gordon Anderson as soon as possible but no later than 31st January 2019.

ICCF 10th Inter-Zonal Team Tournament



ICCF's 10th Inter-Zonal Team Tournament is primarily for those players >2200 as at 30/11/2018 (2018/4), who want to earn the ICCF titles CCE, CCM, IM and possibly SIM/GM, although entries rated between 2150 and 2199 will be

considered for the lower boards. Players with a rating above 2200 at any time during the previous twelve months will be considered for the tournament, however, the entry must indicate the qualification and date.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Board 1: 2400+ | Board 4: 2250 - 2299 |
| Board 2: 2350 - 2399 | Board 5: 2200 - 2249 |
| Board 3: 2300 - 2349 | Board 6: 2150 - 2249 |

Scottish players who wish to be considered for this event should contact Gordon Anderson as soon as possible, but no later than 12th February 2019.

BdF Invitational Tournaments



The BdF (German CC Federation) has written to extend an invitation to the SCCA to nominate players to participate in the undernoted invitational tournaments. The tournaments are scheduled start on 19 June, 2019. Rate of play will be 10/50days and each section is

- likely to consist of 11 or 13 players.
- a. 8 GM08-C - Cat.8- 1 Player ICCF Elo 2019/2 2435+
 - b. 12 GCM06-B -Cat.6-1 Player ICCF Elo 2019/2 2385+
 - c. 13 GCM06-C -Cat.6 -1 Player ICCF Elo 2019/2 2385+

- d. 16 CCM-CCE03 A -Cat.4-1 Player ICCF Elo 2019/2 2340+
- e. 22 CCM-CCE03 G Rated - 1 Player

Two clarifications:

1. Entries are based on the 2019/2 rating list - This is the one based on results up till the end of February 2019.
2. Only ICCF or FIDE ratings will be considered.

If you wish to be considered please get in touch with Gordon Anderson by 31st January 2019.

Fernschach 2019 CC Database



Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2019 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 1,300,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 100,000 new games since 2018
- Approximately 9,000 annotated (450 new)
- Games from all main chess servers + post + email
- All tournaments marked correspondence so that CC games can be recognised in a larger database
- Problem solved with the double games!
- 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:
 Herbert Bellmann
 On the Brink 11
 46399 Bocholt
 Germany

Bank details:

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 BIC: WELADED1BOH
 Purpose: FS CD 2019

Your order must contain your complete postal address!

Email: hebel57@gmx.de

Website: <http://www.fernschach.org/fs-cd/index.html>

SCCA Annual Best Game Prize



The SCCA Best Game Prize will once again operate this year, covering games completed during 2018. The trophy (pictured above) will carry the inscription of its sponsor, Raymond Burrige, i.e.

The R.J. Burrige Trophy SCCA Best Game Prize 2018 (winner's name)

To recap on the rules:

- Entries are games which finish in calendar year 2018;
- •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 2019;
- •The Committee will appoint a judge (who cannot enter!);
- •The winner will be announced by end-March 2019 and we'll feature the game in a subsequent magazine;
- •The winner receives a trophy miniature and certificate.

IM Alan Borwell 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 2019.

ICCF Games Archive

December 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.



Obituaries

By Iain Mackintosh

The last weeks of 2018 sadly saw us lose three long-standing SCCA members: Dr Ken Stewart, Raymond Baxter and Eoin Campbell.

Dr Ken Stewart



Ken Stewart died while hillwalking on November 18, aged 76.

Ken was a prodigious worker for chess in Scotland, and held committee posts in the SCA and CS organisations for over 40 years, including International Arbiter, Rules and Arbiter Director, Director of Tournaments, Congress Director and Technical Director.

As well as running premier Scottish events, Ken was the leading Scottish arbiter - he gained his IA title in 1984, and trained many of the arbiters who currently officiate at OTB events in Scotland. He was also President of Glasgow Polytechnic Chess Club.

Ken joined the SCCA as a Life Member after its inception in 1977, and played every year for Scotland in friendly international matches right up to his death. His highest CC rating of 2263 was gained in 2002 and he featured in our top 30 graded players in the most recent list.

Here's a recent example of Ken in action, representing Scotland on board 10 in a friendly match against the Netherlands.

White: Stewart, Dr Kenneth W C (2100)

Black: Smit, Frans P (2065)

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NED-SCO ICCF, 2015
Nimzo-Indian Sämisch [E25]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.f3

Seen less often than 4.e3 or; 4.Qc2, but scores more highly on the ICCF database.

4... d5
5.a3 Bxc3+
6.bxc3 c5
7.cxd5 Nxd5
8.dxc5 f5

8...Qa5 remains the fashionable move.

9.Qc2 0-0
10.e4 fxe4
11.fxe4 Qh4+?!

11...Nf4 is more circumspect. White now has a definite edge according to the ICCF database.

12.g3 Qf6
13.Bg2 Qxc3+
14.Qxc3 Nxc3
15.Bf4 Bd7
16.Ne2 Na4



17.Bd6N

Ken now demonstrates clinical technique to deny his opponent any freedom, and then administers the coup de grâce.

17... Re8
18.Rb1 Na6
19.e5 N6xc5
20.0-0 Rec8
21.Bxb7 Nxb7
22.Rxb7 Nb6
23.Nd4 h5
24.a4 Rd8

24...Bxa4? 25.Rff7!

25.a5 Nd5
26.a6 g6
27.h4

27.Nb3 intending Nc5 and Nxe6 also wins quickly.

27... Rac8
28.Rxa7+-
1-0

Raymond Baxter



Raymond Baxter died unexpectedly on 11 November at the age of 85.

Raymond was a leading OTB player in the 1960s and was good enough to merit selection for the Scottish team which contested the 16th FIDE Olympiad in Tel Aviv in 1964.

That team comprised William Fairhurst, James Aitken, Michael Fallone and Gerald Bonner, with Raymond and Alexander Thomson 1st and 2nd reserves. Raymond's score was a respectable +3 =4 - 7.

Raymond joined the SCCA shortly after its inception in 1977, holding membership number 15. He was an active player in both domestic and international competitions. His actuarial training helped him to serve as SCCA grading officer from 1995 until his retirement in 2008.

Here's a game we published in 1984.

White: Baxter, Raymond W M

Black: Katz, L

ICCF X Olympiad, 1983

Scotland v Zimbabwe

Scotch Game [C45]

[Notes by Raymond Baxter]

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.d4 exd4
 4.Nxd4 Bc5

From the archive comes 4...Qh4
 5.Nb5 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxe4+ 7.Be2
 Kd8 8.0-0 Bxd2 9.Nxd2 Qf5 10.f4
 Nf6 11.Nf3 Ng4 12.g3 Qf6 13.Nc3
 Re8= Vienna v London, 19th century
 CC match.

5.Nb3 Bb6
 A novelty line is 5...Bb4+ 6.Bd2 (or
 if 6.c3 Be7 7.f4 d6 8.Bd3 d5 9.e5 h5
 10.Nd4 Nxd4 11.cxd4 Nh6= Urzika-
 Romanishin, Groningen, 1973.)
 6...a5!?

6.a4 a6
 The options for Black were Qh4;
 Qf6; Nf6 and a5.

7.Nc3 Qf6
 An NCCL game, A R B Thomas v J
 E Hawkes, 1978-79, went 7...Nf6
 8.Bg5 d6 9.Be2 Be6 10.a5 Ba7 11.0-
 0 h6 12.Bd2! Quiet, but strong.
 Black should react with 12... d5.
 12...Qd7?! 13.Kh1 0-0-0 14.f4 Bg4
 15.Nd5 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 Nxd5 17.exd5
 Nd4 18.Nxd4 Bxd4 19.Qd3 Ba7
 20.b4 Rde8 21.Rab1 and the bizarre
 defensive plan of 21...Kd8?! 22.b5
 Qc8 failed to hold out.

8.Qe2 Nce7?!
 A dubious innovation.
 9.a5 Ba7
 10.Be3 Bxe3
 11.Qxe3 Nh6
 12.Be2 0-0
 13.0-0-0 d6
 14.h3



The White position has to be preferred.

14... Kh8
 15.f4 Qe6
 16.g4 f5
 This loses a pawn for nothing.
 17.Nd4 Qf7
 18.exf5 Re8
 19.Qd2 Bd7
 20.Rhe1 Nc6

21.Nxc6 bxc6
 22.Bd3 d5
 23.Na4 Rxe1
 24.Rxe1 d4
 25.Nc5 Bc8
 26.Qb4

1-0

Eoin Campbell



Eoin Campbell died unexpectedly, at home, on November 27, aged 64.

A native of Wick, Eoin lived in Edinburgh and played league chess with the Wandering Dragons club.

In addition to his OTB games, Eoin had a long and successful career as a CC player, originally as a member of the BCCA and, since 2013, with the SCCA. He was a much respected and took part in a great variety of CC events against opponents from all over the world. Eoin completed a prolific 860 games in the last six years (only eight players in the entire history of the SCCA have completed more!).

Towards the end of his CC career, Eoin came very close to achieving the ICCF title of Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE). The title requires 3 norms, of which Eoin had already gained two; and he missed the norm in a third event by a single point. His club colleagues are convinced that he would have gained the title in 2019.

Here's a nice finish from one of Eoin's games in last year's Scottish Championship.

White: Blake, Michael J. (2315)
Black: Campbell, Eoin S. (2111)
 Scottish Championship, 2018
 Modern Benoni [A65]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 g6
 3.Nc3 Bg7
 4.e4 d6
 5.Be2 0-0
 6.Bg5 c5
 7.d5 h6
 8.Be3

8.Bf4 enjoys a greater following.

8... e6

9.Qd2

9.Nf3 and; 9.dxe6 give better results for White on the ICCF database.

9... exd5

10.cxd5 Re8

This line was followed by Raymond Burrige against Anton Davis in the SCCA Challengers event of 2014: 0-1 (30).

11.f3 h5

12.a4 a6

13.a5 Nh7

14.Bf2N

14.Bd1 was Balta-Lindam, ICCF WS/M/656, 2017, drawn (21).

14... Ra7!?

Not the most obvious continuation, but Eoin has always enjoyed introducing complications with the potential for tactical play.

14...Nd7= would have played the percentage game.

15.Bd3 b5

16.axb6 Rb7

17.Nge2 Rxb6

18.0-0 Nd7

19.Ra2 h4

20.h3 Ne5

21.Bc2



White is still solid here, albeit less than fully co-ordinated.

21... Ng5

22.Bd1?

Wrong bishop! 22.Be1 covers the threats, e.g. 22...Bxh3 23.f4 Ngf3+ 24.Rxf3 Nxf3+ 25.gxf3±

22... Ngxf3+!

And the White queen is gone.

0-1



2018 Results

By Iain Mackintosh

Championship

SCO/C2018, Scottish Championship 2018/19

					TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)											Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated					1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6						6
1	✉	620345	IM Mackintosh, Iain	2386			½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	7.5	5	28	0	1
2	✉	620426	CCM Cumming, David R.	2357	½	½			½	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	7.5	5	28	0	1
3	+	210717	Blake, Michael J.	2315	½	½	½	½			0	½	1	1	1	1	6.5	4	23	0	3
4	✉	620716	Campbell, Eoin S.	2111	½	0	½	0	½	1			1	½	1	1	6	4	21	0	4
5	✉	620410	Goodwin, Brian J.	1801	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0			1	1	2.5	2	3	0	5
6	✉	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1760	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	6

The 2018-19 event finished a few days after its 2017-18 counterpart. A smaller field this time, but another tie resulted; this time between David Cumming and Iain Mackintosh, both with identical points and SB scores.

Mickey Blake again had a good tournament with 6½ points and Eoin Campbell wasn't far behind the top spots with 6.

SCO/C2017, Scottish Championship 2017/18

					TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)											Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
1	✉	30222	IM Murden, Clive	2437		½	½	½ ^A	½	1	½ ^A	½	1	1	1	7	4	30	0	1
2	✉	620426	CCE Cumming, David R.	2306	½		½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	7	4	29.5	0	2
3	✉	620345	IM Mackintosh, Iain	2366	½	½		½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	7	4	29	0	3
4	+	210717	Blake, Michael J.	2233	½ ^A	½	½		½	½	1	½	½	1	1	6.5	3	28.25	0	4
5	✉	620613	Dawson, A. G.	2113	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	1	1	1	6.5	3	27.25	0	5
6	✉	620586	Smith, Mark J.	2034	0	½	½	½	½		½ ^A	1	1	½	1	6	3	24.75	0	6
7	✉	620204	IM Pyrich, George D.	2104	½ ^A	0	½	0	½	½ ^A		½	1	½	1	5	2	20	0	7
8	✉	620716	Campbell, Eoin S.	2121	½	½	0	½	½	0	½		½	½	½	4	0	19	0	8
9	✉	620635	Burridge, Raymond John	2142	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	½		1	1	3	2	8.25	0	9
10	✉	620410	Goodwin, Brian J.	1829	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	0		1	2.5	1	8	0	10
11	✉	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1780	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0		0.5	0	2	0	11

The 2017-18 competition was the most competitive in recent years, with the final placings only settled in December 2018. The outcome was a triple tie between Messrs. Murden, Cumming and Mackintosh (SB scores don't apply under SCCA rules). The following places were also highly contested, with Mickey Blake and Professor Alastair Dawson bracketed on 6½ points, and Mark Smith just half a point behind then on 6.

Premier

SCO/P/2018, SCCA Premier 2018

				TD Murden, Clive											
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	✘ 620424	Anderson, James	1854		1	½	1	1	1	1	5.5	5	13.25	0	1
2	✘ 620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1468	0		½	1	1	1	1	4.5	4	8.75	0	2
3	✘ 210729	Coope, Derek William	1784	½	½		½	1	1	1	4.5	3	9.75	0	3
4	✘ 620713	Gilbert, Robert	1760	0	0	½		1	1	1	3.5	3	5.25	0	4
5	✘ 620603	Armstrong, John M.	1484	0	0	0	0		1	1	2	2	1	0	5
6	✘ 620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	1168	0	0	0	0	0		1	1	1	0	0	6
7	✘ 629020	Knox, Arthur	1286	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	7

One Premier section again this year, with Jim Anderson pipping Andrew MacMillen and Derek Coope for top spot.

Open

SCO/O/2018/A, SCCA Open 2018 Section A

				TD Paine, Kevin (IA)																	
Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
1	✘ 620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1468			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	9	9	41	0	1
2	✘ 620713	Gilbert, Robert	1760	0	0			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	8	26	0	2	
3	✘ 620628	Dunn, John	1522	0	0	0	0			1	½	1	0	1	1	4.5	4	11.75	0	3	
4	✘ 620603	Armstrong, John M.	1484	0	0	0	0	½	0			1	1	1	1	4.5	4	10.25	0	4	
5	✘ 620756	Gowans, Tom	1800 ^P	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			1	1	3	3	6.5	0	5	
6	✘ 620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	1168	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1	1	9	0	6	

SCO/O/2018/B, SCCA Open 2018 Section B

				TD Paine, Kevin (IA)																
Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	✘ 620424	Anderson, James	1854			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	10	40	0	1
2	✘ 620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1468	0	0			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	8	24	0	2
3	✘ 620726	Kearns, Alan	1450	0	0	0	0			1	0	½	½	1	1	4	3	9	0	3
4	✘ 211319	Neil, Charles	1342	0	0	0	0	1	0			1	½	1	0	3.5	3	10.25	0	4
5	✘ 620719	Sedstrem, Alan	1501	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	0			1	1	3.5	2	7.75	0	5
6	✘ 620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	1168	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			1	1	3.5	0	6

Two Open sections this year, with Jim Anderson again entering the 100% Club with 10 straight wins in section B! Andrew MacMillen almost emulated this feat in section A, falling one short.

Challengers

2017-18 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J McK	10	10	0	2
Blake, M	12	12	0	11½
Burridge, R J	10	10	0	8½
Gilbert, R	10	10	0	5½
Gowans, T	4	4	0	0
Kearns, A	8	8	0	6
Knox, A	8	8	0	0
Neil, C	10	10	0	2½

2018-19 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Burridge, R J	10	10	0	8½
Fowler, D	10	10	0	4½
Gilbert, R	12	12	0	8½
Kearns, A	8	8	0	2
Knox, A	10	10	0	4
Neil, C	10	10	0	3½
Sedstrem, A	8	8	0	1
Whittaker, I P	4	4	0	4

The 2017-18 Cycle was fully completed last year. The 2018-19 Cycle was jointly won by Raymond Burridge and Robert Gilbert with 8½ points. Raymond had the better percentage score, but only points count in this competition. Newcomer Ian Whittaker managed an impressive 100% score with 4/4, but didn't play the minimum of 8 games to be considered for a medal.

Leagues

There was no Postal League due to lack of entries. Three webserver leagues were contested once more, and a total of 21 teams reflected the continuing popularity of this event. The divisional winners were Scheming Mind A, Social A and Civil Service B – congratulations to all of them!

Webserver League Division 1

SCO/L1/18, SCCA League Div 1 2018

		TD Murden, Clive							Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7								
1	SchemingMind A	2345	■	2.5	3	3	2.5	3	3	17	70	10	12	24	0	1
2	Perth Correspondents	2257	1.5	■	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	14	58	4	9	24	0	2
3	BCCA Diamonds	2249	1	2	■	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	12.5	52	1	8	24	0	3
4	Civil Service A	2224	1	1.5	2	■	2	2.5	2.5	11.5	47	-1	6	24	0	4
5	SchemingMind B	2260	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	■	2.5	2.5	11.5	47	-1	5	24	0	5
6	White Rose A	2190	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	■	2	9	37	-6	1	24	0	6
7	Knights of the Board	2201	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	■	8.5	35	-7	1	24	0	7

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
Scheming Mind A	Reyes Maldonado, C	Szerlak, A	Williamson, D L	Weber-Widmer, D A
Perth Correspondents	Mackintosh, I	Paine, K A	Borwell, A P	Warren, J
BCCA Diamonds	Sherwood, H	Sherwood, A	Norman, N	Carter, M H
Civil Service A	Yeo, G	Barber, P	Sargent, J M	Lewyk, I
Scheming Mind B	Waller, A	Elburg, J	Owens, J	Málek, M
White Rose A	Rózański, R	Graham, O	Sutton, A B	Ackley, P J E
Knights of the Board	Cumming, D R	Blake, M J	Burridge, R J	Price, D

Webserver League Division 2

SCO/L2/18, SCCA League Div 2 2018

TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	⚡ Social A	2253		3	3.5	3	3	3	4	19.5	81	15	12	24	0	1
2	⚡ BCCA Topaz	2012	1		2.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	4	17	70	10	10	24	0	2
3	⚡ BCCA Sapphires	1959	0.5	1.5		2	2.5	3.5	3.5	13.5	56	3	7	24	0	3
4	⚡ BCCA Emeralds	2019	1	0.5	2		2.5	2.5	4	12.5	52	1	7	24	0	4
5	🌈 SchemingMind C	1738	1	1.5	1.5	1.5		2	2.5	10	41	-4	3	24	0	5
6	⚡ White Rose B	2006	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	2		4	9.5	39	-5	3	24	0	6
7	⚡ Civil Service B	1886	0	0	0.5	0	1.5	0		2	8	-20	0	24	0	7

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
Social A	Vivante-Sowter, J	Ewan, R	Franks, K	Pallett, R
BCCA Topaz	Hughes, G	Weiss, L P	Douglass, P	Tymms, J D M
BCCA Sapphires	Sutton, A B	Cunningham, P J	Bradney, R	Dudeny, K
BCCA Emeralds	Beveridge, C	Campbell, E S	Cole, S	Kellett, S
Scheming Mind C	Parente, A	Gray, G	Moujan, P	Miedma, H
White Rose B	Grummit, W	Primrose, J	Beckett, P J	Wood, B
Civil Service B	Edney, D	Twitchell, N H	Bicknell, G	Pickering, P

Webserver League Division 3

SCO/L3/18, SCCA League Div 3 2018

TD Anderson, James

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	✉ Brutal Realism	1800		1.5	3	3.5	2	4	4	18	75	12	9	24	0	1
2	⚡ Social B	1864	2.5		2.5	2	2.5	4	4	17.5	72	11	11	24	0	2
3	⚡ BCCA Pearls	1531	1	1.5		2	4	3	3	14.5	60	5	7	24	0	3
4	⚡ White Rose C	1688	0.5	2	2		1.5	3.5	3	12.5	52	1	6	24	0	4
5	⚡ BCCA Rubies	1523	2	1.5	0	2.5		3.5	2.5	12	50	0	7	24	0	5
6	⚡ Social C	1520	0	0	1	0.5	0.5		3.5	5.5	22	-13	2	24	0	6
7	⚡ Civil Service C	1638	0	0	1	1	1.5	0.5		4	16	-16	0	24	0	7

Team	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4
Brutal Realism	Taylor, W	Murray, J S	Grant, J	MacMillen, A N
Social B	Lindberg, W J	Baron, M	Rosser, G C	Richardson, D
BCCA Pearls	Moujan, P	Tanner, A	Hutchings, J M	Hardwick, M E
White Rose C	White, R	Clark, M	Zigmond, A	Ward, B
BCCA Rubies	Elwood, D	Morton, P S	Honey, S I	Gosling, D C
Social C	Ash, G	Ross, G J S	Rixon, A	Neil, C
Civil Service C	Ryan, R	Sedstrem, A	Deane, P	White, R



2019/1 Grading List

By Kevin Paine

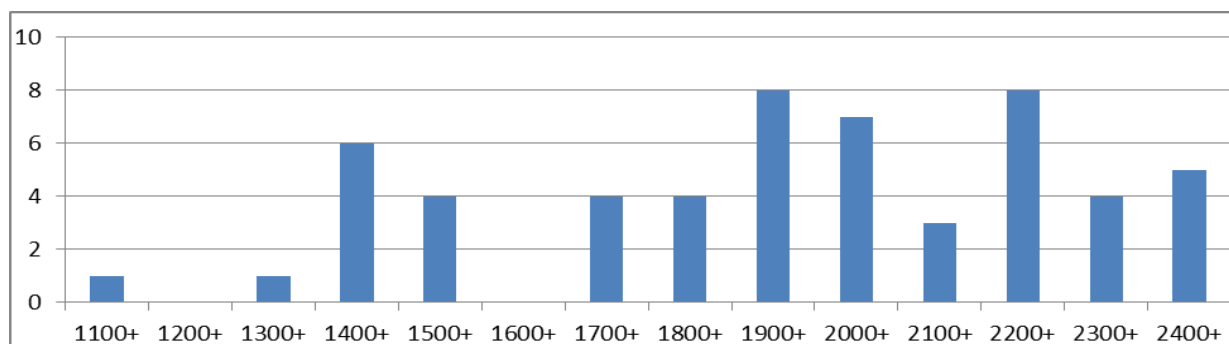
The first ICCF grading list of 2019 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 September and 30 November 2018. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 January and 31 March 2019.

There were three additions (Alan Miles, Iain Sneddon and John Warren) and seven deletions (Iain Campbell, David Carswell, Simon Gillam, John McKinstry, John Moore, Allan Petrie and Derek Ross) in this list. Eoin Campbell and Dr Ken Stewart are both listed to show their final grades, and will be removed next time.

Upwards movements in grading bands were recorded by Raymond Burrige (1900+), Alastair Dawson (2200+) and Alan Kearns (1400+) – well done all! Six new games centurions were recorded – Raymond Burrige and Andrew MacMillen both passed 1300+, Mickey Blake reached 800+, Ian Marshall surpassed 700, Colin Beveridge passed 400 and John Dunn cleared 300. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Eoin Campbell (50), Carlos Almarza Mato (47), David Cumming (46), Andrew MacMillen (34), and Raymond Burrige (33).

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
317	Almarza Mato, C	1558	2043 ↓	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	350	2237 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCE, SM)	317	2333 ↓	260	Knox, A	358	1463 ↑
121	Anderson, J	295	1914 ↔	264	Lloyd, G (CCE, SM)	877	2264 ↑
049	Armstrong, A	209	1876 ↓	584	MacGregor, C A	419	1922 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	388	1481 ↓	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	736	2410 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	450	2477 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	1333	1529 ↓
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	234	2409 ↔	566	Marshall, I H	723	1958 ↑
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	423	2371 ↔	434	Matheis, T (IM)	235	2452 ↔
481	Beveridge, C	405	2142 ↓	867	McEwan, N R	39	1896 ↔
472	Blake, M J (CCE)	810	2234 ↓		Miles, A	33	1484 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1069	2238 ↓	401	Moir, P J	199	1543 ↔
602	Burrige, R J	1318	1949 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S	290	2248 ↓
601	<i>Campbell, E S</i>	860	2114 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	543	2428 ↓
	Clark, S L	227	1964 ↑	564	Murray, J S	67	2034 ↔
364	Coope, D W	896	1837 ↔	440	Neil, C	309	1373 ↑
247	Cormack, W H	107	1894 ↔	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	162	1981 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1448	2395 ↑	604	Paine, Dr K A	208	2351 ↔
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	141	2205 ↑		Pettigrew, S	115	1475 ↓
572	Dempster, D	807	1759 ↔	432	Price, D	383	1996 ↓
478	Dunn, J	312	1529 ↓	477	Sedstrem, A	83	1416 ↑
	Dyer, M	109	2059 ↔	439	Smith, M J	71	2070 ↔
371	Edney, D	247	1966 ↓	057	Sneddon, I	111	2215 ↑
462	Gilbert, R	195	1781 ↓		Stewart, A G	36	2170 ↔
124	Goodwin, B J	371	1796 ↑	546	<i>Stewart, Dr K W C</i>	181	2089 ↓
399	Grant, J	63	1709 ↔	605	Taylor, W	97	2057 ↓
596	Hardwick, M E	1130	1161 ↓		Warren, J	30	2081 ↑
1013	Hilton, S H	179	1594 ↔	530	Watson, J (IM)	153	2297 ↔
475	Kearns, A	51	1414 ↑				



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	55
New entrants	3
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	7
Full grades (30+ games)	55
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	15
Grading decreases (↓)	22
Grading static (↔)	18

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2477	Sneddon, I	2215
Matheis, T (IM)	2452	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2205
Murden, C (IM)	2428	Stewart, A G	2170
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2410	Beveridge, C	2142
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2409	<i>Campbell, E S</i>	2114
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2395	<i>Stewart, Dr K W C</i>	2089
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2371	Warren, J	2081
Paine, Dr K A	2351	Smith, M J	2070
Anderson, G M (CCE, SM)	2333	Dyer, M	2059
Watson, J (IM)	2297	Taylor, W	2057
Lloyd, G (CCE, SM)	2264	Almarza Mato, C	2043
Montgomery, R S	2248	Murray, J S	2034
Borwell, A P (IM)	2242	Price, D	1996
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2237	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	1981
Blake, M J (CCE)	2234	Edney, D	1966

Top 30 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	1558	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	423
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1448	MacGregor, C A	419
MacMillen, A N	1333	Beveridge, C	405
Burridge, R J	1318	Armstrong, J McK	388
Hardwick, M E	1130	Price, D	383
Borwell, A P (IM)	1069	Goodwin, B J	371
Coope, D W	896	Knox, A	358
Lloyd, G (CCE, SM)	877	Kilgour, D A (GM)	350
<i>Campbell, E S</i>	860	Anderson, G M (CCE, SM)	317
Blake, M J (CCE)	810	Dunn, J	312
Dempster, D	807	Neil, C	309
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	736	Anderson, J	295
Marshall, I H	723	Montgomery, R S	290
Murden, C	543	Edney, D	247
Beecham, C R (SIM)	450	Matheis, T (IM)	235

Other Notes

Senior International Master (SIM) title norms are held by:

Matheis, T (1)

International Master (IM) title norms are held by:

Bennett, P G (1)

Scottish Master (SM) title norms are held by:

Paine, K A (3)

Montgomery, R S (2).

Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:

Anderson, G M (1)

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:

Beveridge, C (1)

Campbell, E S (2)

Montgomery, R S (2)

Paine, K A (1).

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.

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.



Games Column

games@scottishcca.co.uk

By Alastair Dawson

For this month's games collection we return to the issue of computers in CC play and how human thinking can often be the most important factor in assessing a position.

This theme is illustrated well in a match that I played in the North Sea team tournament against J Bennborn of Sweden. The issue in this instance focuses on how does a computer assess a position when material is equal but one of the minor pieces is shut out of the game completely?

Pay particular attention to the sequence of moves when White chases the Black bishop on g4. It retreats via h5 to g6 where it is completely useless and blocked out of the game by pawns. The computer flags up a near equal assessment yet the position is nothing like that. Black resolves to exchange off the bad bishop for a White knight - leaving White to recapture with the White-squared bishop and in complete command of all the White squares on the board.

So the human assessment is all about forcing such a scenario of exchanges over the board - and nothing else in the position at that point in time really matters even although the computer is flagging a whole series of (to the human) a whole series of irrelevant lines!

White: Dawson, A (2052)
Black: Bennborn, J (2253)
 NSTT 3, 2019
 English /King's Indian [A26]
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 1.Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 2.g3 | g6 |
| 3.Bg2 | Bg7 |
| 4.c4 | 0-0 |
| 5.0-0 | d6 |
| 6.Nc3 | e5 |
| 7.d3 | Nc6 |
| 8.Rb1 | a5 |
| 9.a3 | h6 |

All routine so far with White going for a space advantage on the queenside whilst holding the centre.

- | | |
|-------|------|
| 10.b4 | axb4 |
|-------|------|

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- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 11.axb4 | Be6 |
| 12.Nd2 | Qd7 |
| 13.b5 | Nd8 |

I have seen Seirawan describing this position many times on his excellent St Louis Chess Club series on YouTube!

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 14.Nd5 | Nxd5 |
| 15.cxd5 | Bg4 |
| 16.Bb2 | |

The move ..Qd7 has put the white-squared bishop very short of squares. Maybe exchanging off this bishop with ..Bh3 was to be preferred.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 16... | g5 |
| 17.f3 | Bh5 |
| 18.e4 | b6 |
| 19.Nc4 | Qxb5 |

I figured that after ...g5 I would chase the bishop into a horrible place (g6) and just completely shut it out of the game. Then the plan would be to make maximum use of the 'extra piece'.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 20.Ne3 | Qd7 |
| 21.Nf5 | Bg6 |
| 22.Bh3 | |

So now I know that if Black ever swaps off the N with ..Bf5 I will recapture with the bishop and take complete control of the white squares.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 22... | Bxf5 |
| 23.Bxf5 | Qe7 |
| 24.f4 | exf4 |
| 25.gxf4 | Bxb2 |
| 26.Rxb2 | gxf4 |
| 27.Kh1 | |



The weaknesses on the Black white squares provide White with very strong pressure on the Black kingside position.

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 27... | Kh8 |
|-------|-----|

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 28.Qc1 | Rg8 |
| 29.Qxf4 | Qf6 |
| 30.d4 | Ra7 |
| 31.Rbb1 | c6 |
| 32.Rg1 | Rg5 |
| 33.h4 | Rh5 |
| 34.Rg4 | Ra3 |
| 35.Rf1 | |

At this point when trying to find a way through I find a nice rook sacrifice - the next moves help prepare it.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 35... | cxd5 |
| 36.exd5 | Rh3+ |
| 37.Kg2 | R3xh4 |
| 38.Rg8+ | |

It is pretty simple with one advantage (the exchange) being swapped for another (queen for rooks).

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 38... | Kxg8 |
| 39.Bh7+ | Kxh7 |
| 40.Qxf6 | Rg4+ |
| 41.Kf3 | Rg8 |
| 42.Ke4 | |

We enter a complicated part of the game where Black tries to keep harassing the White king. But every 3 or 4 moves Black has to expend an extra move to keep co-ordinating his rooks. The plan for White is to use these extra moves to further strengthen the White position.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 42... | b5 |
| 43.Qxd6 | Rh4+ |
| 44.Kd3 | Rh3+ |
| 45.Ke2 | Rb3 |
| 46.Rf6 | Rb2+ |
| 47.Ke3 | Rb3+ |
| 48.Kf4 | Rh3 |
| 49.Qd7 | Rh1 |
| 50.Ke3 | Re1+ |
| 51.Kd2 | Reg1 |
| 52.Qf5+ | Kg7 |
| 53.Rb6 | Rg2+ |
| 54.Kc3 | Rg6 |
| 55.Rxb5 | Rf8 |
| 56.Rb8 | f6 |
| 57.d6 | Rg3+ |
| 58.Kc4 | |

1-0



And now we have a tight tussle from the 2018 SCCA League Division 1.

White: Borwell, Alan P. IM (2255)
Black: Williamson, Dawn L. LGM (2341)
 SCCA League 2018 Bd3, 2018
 Closed Ruy Lopez [C92]
[Notes by Alan Borwell]

When the pairings arrived, I knew this would be a tough game against Lady GM who plays strongly at CC. Dawn plays the Black side of the Spanish very well.

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 Bb7
 10.d4 Re8
 11.Nbd2 Bf8
 12.a4 Na5

As in Langeveld-Bang CC 2006 1-0

13.Bc2 exd4
 14.cxd4 b4
 15.b3 g6
 16.Bb2 Rc8
 17.Bd3

17.e5 Nd7 18.Ne4 c5 is a rather wild and unclear variation.

17... d5
 18.e5 Nh5

Here I expected Nd7 but this is an interesting alternative. Now White must choose between g3, Nh2, Nf1, Bc1 or Qe2 (with idea after Black's Nf4 to play Qf1 then g3)

19.Nh2 Nf4
 20.Qf3 Ne6
 21.Ng4 Be7



This was also unexpected but very tricky, tempting Nh6+ as alternative to Nf6+ but it leads to positions favouring Black, so other moves need consideration here including Re3, Re2, Rac1, Rad1, Qd1, Qe2, h4,

g3 or Bf1 - difficult choice as none of them looked clearly best!

After 21...Bg7 22.Rac1 (22.Rad1) there follows 22...c5 23.dxc5 Nxc5 24.e6 Rxe6 25.Rxe6 fxe6 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Bxg6 hxg6 28.Qe3 Qe7 29.Qh6+ Kf7 30.Ne5+ Ke8 31.Qxg6+ Kd8 32.Qg8+ Kc7 33.Rxc5+ Qxc5 34.Qh7+ Kd6 35.Nf7+ Kc6 36.Ne5+ Kd6=

22.Rad1

22.Nh6+ Kg7 23.Nxf7 Qd7 24.Bc1 Rf8 25.Bb1 Rxf7 26.Qd3 but then what?

22... Kg7

22...Bg5 23.Bb1

23.Bb1 h5

24.Ne3 c5

25.Ndf1 c4

26.Ng3 Rh8

27.bxc4 Nxc4

28.Bc1 Nxe3

29.Bxe3 a5

Now I was fearing the worst and needed to find active play before the ending when the protected b pawn would win.

30.Bd3 Bc6

31.Ra1 h4

32.Ne2 Ng5

33.Bxg5 Bxg5

34.Ba6

I also considered 34.Nc1 Bd2;

34.Bc2 Bb7 35.Bb3 Re8 36.Qd3 Qb6

37.f4 (37.f3 Bf4 38.Nxf4)

34... Ra8

34...Rb8 35.Qb3

35.Bd3 Rf8

36.Bc2 Bb7

37.Bd3 Bc8

38.Nf4 Rb8

39.Rac1 b3

Probably premature - defending the d-pawn would restrict White counterplay.

40.Rc6 Rb6

41.Rc5 b2

42.Bb1 Rb4

43.Rxd5 Bb7

Now the game has opened up and I thought my chances of survival were better.

44.Rxd8 Bxf3

45.Rxf8 Bxf4

46.Rc8 Bd5

47.Rc2 Be6

Now a critical choice - candidates are Kf1, d5, Rf1, Re2, g4, g3 Re4 or Kh1.

48.Kf1

My entire strategy from here was to try to engineer a Bs of opposite colour ending.

48... Bc4+

49.Kg1 Bd5

50.Kf1 Kh6

Another critical decision Kg1, Rd1, g3, g4, Rc5, f3, Re2 are candidates!

51.Kg1

51.Re2 Bc1 52.Rc5 Rxa4 53.Rxd5

Ra1 54.Ke1 Rxb1 55.Kd1 Ra1

56.Rxb2 Bxb2+ 57.Kc2 Bc1

51... Be6

52.Kf1 Bc1

53.Rc5 Rxd4

54.Re4 Rxe4

55.Bxe4 Bd2

56.Bb1 Bf5

57.Rc2



57... Bxc2

After this, White is safe but Black must be careful now or could lose!

57...Bc3 58.f4 Bxc2 59.Bxc2 Bd2

(59...g5 60.fxg5+ Kxg5) 60.f5 gxf5

61.Bxf5 Kg5 62.Bd3; 57...Bd3+

58.Kg1 Bxc2 59.Bxc2 Bc3 (59...Bf4

60.Kf1 Bxe5 61.Ke2 Kg5 62.Ke3 Kf6

63.Ke4 Ke6 64.Bb1 Kd6 65.Kd3 Kc5

66.Kc2 Kb4 67.Ba2) 60.f4 Bd2 61.f5

gxf5 62.Bxf5 Kg5 63.Bd3 Kf4

58.Bxc2 Bc3

59.f4 Bd2

60.f5 gxf5

61.Bxf5 Kg5

62.Bd3 Kf4

63.Ke2 Bc3

63...Bb4 64.Kd1 Kg3 65.Kc2 Kxg2

66.Bf5 Kg3 67.Kxb2 Kf4 68.Bd7

Kxe5 69.Kc2 Ke4 70.Kd1 f6 71.Ke2

is a dead draw as White just sits on the white squares.

64.Kd1 Kxe5

65.Kc2

Neither side has any winning prospect so draw was agreed.

Interesting tussle!

½-½



Please send games submissions to:

games@scottishcca.co.uk



Queens of Correspondence Chess



Ellen Gilbert

White: Gilbert, Ellen E
Black: Berry, William J
American Correspondence USA,
1875

Ruy Lopez, Open [C80]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Bb5 | a6 |
| 4.Ba4 | Nf6 |
| 5.0-0 | Nxe4 |
| 6.Re1 | Nc5 |
| 7.Bxc6 | dx6 |

8.d4
8.Nxe5 Be7 9.d4 Ne6 10.Be3 0-0
11.Nc3 f6 12.Nd3 f5 13.Ne2 Bd6
14.f4 was one of the games between
Gilbert and Gossip on board one in
the International Postal Card match
of 1877 between USA and Great
Britain.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 8... | Ne6 |
| 9.dxe5 | |

Not the book move, but it seems
equally good - EG.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 9... | Qe7 |
| 10.Nc3 | Bd7 |
| 11.a4 | 0-0-0 |
| 12.b3 | f6 |
| 13.Qe2 | Qf7 |
| 14.Ne4 | Rg8 |
| 15.c3 | h6 |
| 16.b4 | f5 |
| 17.Ng3 | g5 |
| 18.Nd4 | Nxd4 |
| 19.cxd4 | |



- | | |
|-------|------|
| 19... | Re8? |
|-------|------|
- 19...Rg6 was best.
20.b5! cxb5?
20...a5 would have avoided the
imminent disaster.
21.axb5 Bxb5
22.e6! Qg6
22...Bxe2 23.exf7 was part of Mr
Berry's oversight, a fantastic pawn-
fork!
23.Qxb5!
This was the other part.
23... f4
23...Rxe6 24.Rxe6 Qxe6 25.Qxf5+-
24.Rxa6



Mrs Gilbert making one of her
famous mate announcements;
24.Rxa6 bxa6 25.Qxa6+ Kb8
26.Qb5+ Kc8 27.Qd7+ Kb8 28.Bxf4
gxf4 29.Qb5+ Kc8 30.Ra1 etc.

1-0

"Batgirl" has compiled a superb
article on Ellen Gilbert that includes
many correspondence and otb games.
<https://www.chess.com/article/view/ellen-gilbert-queen-of-chess>



Rhoda Bowles

White: Bowles, Rhoda A.
Black: Welby, H.
Correspondence, 1902
Ruy Lopez, Open Defence [C80]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

- | | |
|-------|------|
| 1.e4 | e5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.Bb5 | a6 |
| 4.Ba4 | Nf6 |
| 5.0-0 | Nxe4 |
| 6.d4 | b5 |
| 7.Bb3 | d5 |
| 8.a4 | b4 |

Tchigorin - Miasnikov, corr. 1876
went; 8...Bb7 9.axb5 axb5 10.Rxa8
Bxa8 11.dxe5 Ne7 12.Re1 Nc5
13.Nd4 Nxb3 14.cxb3 Ng6 15.Qe2
c6 16.e6 f6 17.Bd2 Be7 18.Nf5 0-0
19.Qg4 Kh8 20.Re3 (as Rh3 would
follow), 1-0.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 9.a5 | Nxd4 |
| 10.Nxd4 | exd4 |
| 11.Qxd4 | c6 |
| 12.Nd2 | Ng5 |
| 13.Ba4 | Qd7? |

Pillsbury - Tarrasch at the great
Vienna 1898 tournament was a
contemporary reference; 13...Bd7
14.Re1+ Ne6 15.Nf3 Be7 16.Qg4 0-0
17.Ne5 Qc7 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Bg3 f5
and one must prefer Black.

14.Nb3
14.Nc4 dxc4 15.Qxc4 was an
interesting option.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 14... | Ne6 |
| 15.Re1 | Be7 |
| 16.Qb6 | Bb7 |
| 17.Bd2 | 0-0 |

18.f4 **Bd6**
 18...Rae8 19.f5 Nd8 was somewhat better.
19.f5 **Nd8**
20.Nc5 **Qc8**
21.Nxb7 **Bc7**
22.Qf2 **Qxb7**
23.Qc5 **Bb8**
24.Kh1 **Qc7**
25.g3
 25.Qxf8+ would have won the exchange.
25... **Ba7?**



25...Qd6 26.Bxb4 Nb7 would have avoided immediate disaster, but now White's queen sacrifice ends the game.
26.Qxf8+!
 26.Qxf8+! Kxf8 27.Bxb4+ c5
 28.Re8#
1-0

For much more on Mrs Bowles and her founding of the London Ladies Chess Club refer to Batgirl's extensive coverage at:
<https://www.chess.com/blog/batgirl/ladies-enry-into-the-chess-world>



Olga Rubtsova

White: Rubtsova, Olga (SU)
Black: Milovanovic, M (YUG) .
 First Ladies CC World Ch Final 1968-72
 Ruy Lopez, Steinitz Deferred [C75]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 **e5**
2.Nf3 **Nc6**
3.Bb5 **a6**
4.Ba4 **d6**
5.0-0 **Bd7**
6.c3 **Nge7**
7.d4 **Ng6**
8.Nbd2 **Be7**
9.Re1 **0-0**
10.Nf1 **Bg4**
11.Bxc6 **Nh4**



12.N1d2
 12.Bxb7 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Qd7 14.Kh1
 (14.Bxa8? Qh3 15.Ne3 Bg5! 16.f4™
 exf4 17.f3 Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3 Qxf3
 19.Rf1 Qh3 20.Ng2 f3+ Verica
 Nedeljkovic against Tatiana
 Zatulovskaya, 1961 Vrnjaska Banja
 Ladies Candidates.) 14...Qh3 15.Ne3
 Nxf3 (15...Bg5 would now have met
 the more-than-adequate defence
 16.Rg1 Nxf3 17.Rg2 Bf4 18.Ng4+)
 16.Nf1 Nh4 and a draw by repetition.
12... **bxg6**
13.h3 **Nxf3+**
14.Nxf3 **Bxf3**
15.Qxf3 **exd4**
 Matanovic - Petrosin in the
 Yugoslavia v USSR match 1957 had
 gone; 15...Bf6 and a draw concluded
 a few moves later.
16.cxd4 **d5**
17.Bf4 **Rb8**
18.b3 **Ba3**
19.Qg3 **Rb7**
20.e5 **Kh8**
21.e6 **Qe7**
22.Bg5 **f6**
23.Bc1 **Bd6**
24.Bf4 **Ba3**
25.Re2 **a5**
26.Qc3 **c5**
27.Qxa5 **Bb4**
28.Qa6 **Rb6**
29.Qd3 **cxg4**
30.Qxd4 **Rd8**
31.Qd3 **c5**
32.a3 **Ba5**
33.Rc1 **Rb7**

33...Rxe6 34.Rxe6 Qxe6 35.Rxc5+
34.Qa6! **Bb6**



34...Ra7 would have got the same response]
35.Bd6! **Rxd6**
36.Qxb7 **Qxb7**
37.e7
 The amazing point: Black must return the queen and, the exchange down, lose the endgame.
37... **Qxe7**
38.Rxe7 **h6**
39.Rce1 **Bd8**
40.R7e6 **Rd7**
41.Rc6 **Be7**
42.a4 **d4**
43.a5

1-0



Anna Jurczynska

White: Rubtsova, Olga (SU)
Black: Jurczynska, Anna (POL)
 I Ladies Olympiad Final Board.1
 1974-79
 Scotch, Potter Variation [C45]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 **e5**

2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.d4 exd4
 4.Nxd4 Bc5
 5.Nb3 Bb6
 6.a4 Qf6
 7.Qe2 Nge7
 8.a5 Nd4
 9.Nxd4 Bxd4
 10.c3 Be5
 11.g3 c6
 12.Bg2 0-0
 13.0-0 d5
 14.Nd2

The ladies had been following a 1966 CC game Barczay - Grechkin, continuing 14.a6 bxa6 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Nd2±

14... Bc7
 15.Re1 Bd7
 16.f4 Rfe8
 17.e5 Qg6
 18.Nf3 Qh5
 19.Qf1 Nf5
 20.Nd4 f6
 21.Nxf5 Bxf5
 22.c4 Be4
 23.Bxe4 dxe4
 24.Rxe4 Rad8
 25.Be3 Qf5
 26.Qf3 fxe5
 27.g4



27.Bxa7 exf4 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Bf2 Qf6̄
 27... Qxe4!
 28.Qxe4 exf4
 29.Qxe8+
 29.Qf3 instead of returning the queen could be followed by 29...Rxe3
 30.Qf2 Be5 then ...Rb3
 29... Rxe8
 30.Bxa7 Ra8
 31.Bd4 Rxa5
 32.Rxa5 Bxa5
 33.Kf2 Kf7



34.h4? Bd8
 35.h5
 Or 35.g5 h6 36.gxh6 Bxh4+ 37.Kf3 gxh6 38.Kxf4 Bf6 and an easy win for Black.
 35... Bf6
 36.Bb6 Bxb2
 37.Kf3 Be5
 38.Ke4 Ke6
 39.Kf3 g6
 40.hxg6 hxg6
 41.Ke4 Bd6
 42.c5 Be7!

0-1



White: Rubtsova, Olga (SU)
 Black: Schoisswohl, Gertrude (AUT)

1st Ladies CC World Championship Final 1968-72
 King's Indian., Saemisch [E80]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 g6
 3.Nc3
 William Winter v Vera Menchik at Canterbury in 1930 resulted in a very quick win for the strongest lady player of the pre-war era: 3.f3 c5 4.d5 Bg7 5.e4 d6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Be3 Qa5 8.Qd2 Rd8!/? ! 9.Nge2 a6 10.Nf4 e5 11.dxe6 fxe6 12.g4? Nc6 13.h4 Nd4 14.Qf2 e5 15.Nfd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Rf8 0-1

3... Bg7
 4.e4 d6
 5.f3 Nbd7
 6.Be3 c5
 7.d5 a6
 8.Qd2 0-0
 9.Nh3 Ne5
 10.Nf2 Bd7
 11.Be2 Qa5



12.a4?! Qb4
 13.Ncd1 a5
 14.Qxb4 axb4
 15.b3



15... Nxc4!
 16.Bxc4 b5
 17.Bxb5 Bxb5
 18.Rb1 Ba6
 19.Bc1
 19.Nb2 Rfb8 20.Kd2 seems a plausible line for White.
 19... Rfe8
 20.Ne3 e6
 21.Bb2?
 Or 21.dxe6 fxe6 22.Bb2 Rad8̄
 21... Nxd5!
 22.exd5 exd5
 23.Nfg4
 23.Kd2 Bc3+ wins.
 23... d4
 24.Kf2 f5
 25.Rhe1 fxg4
 26.Nd5 Bb7
 27.Nc7 Rxe1
 28.Rxe1 Rc8

29.Ne6 Bh6

After 29...Bh6 30.f4 Bd5 it is hopeless for White, who nevertheless became the 1st Ladies CC World Champion a half-point ahead of the Austrian representative who lost her game against the formidable Lora Yakovleva. The Silver medal remained a superb result for Gertrude Schoisswohl.

0-1



Ludmila Belavenets

White: Orlova, Nina (USSR)

Black: Belavenets, Ludmila (USSR)

IV Women's World Ch. Final 1984-92

Sicilian Scheveningen [B85]

[Notes by Belavenets in Fernschach]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	e6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nc6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Be2	Qc7
7.0-0	d6
8.f4	Nf6
9.Be3	Be7
10.Qe1	0-0
11.Qg3	Nxd4
12.Bxd4	b5
13.a3	Bb7
14.Kh1	Bc6
15.Rad1	Rac8
16.Rfe1	g6
17.Bf3	Qb7
18.Rd3	a5
19.Qh3	b4
20.axb4	axb4
21.Nd1?!	

Better was 21.e5 dxe5 22.fxe5 Nd7
23.Bxc6 Qxc6 24.Ne4 with a good White position. LB

21...	Nd7
21...Nxe4??	22.Bxe4 Bxe4
23.Qxh7+!!	and Black gets mated.

22.f5	e5
23.Bf2	Rcd8
24.Bh4	g5!?
25.f6?	Bxf6
26.Bf2	Bg7!
27.Rxd6	Nf6
28.Bc5	Rxd6
29.Bxd6	Re8
30.Nf2	Bd7
31.Qg3	Qb6
32.Rd1	Re6
33.Bxe5	Rxe5
34.Qxe5	Ng4
35.Nxg4	Bxe5
36.Nxe5	Be6



37.h3	Qc7
38.Nd3	Qg3!
39.Rf1	b3
40.cxb3	h5
41.e5	g4
42.Be4	Qc3
43.Re1	Qd2
44.Rf1	Bxb3
45.hxg4	hxg4
46.Rf4	Bd1!
47.Kh2	Be2
48.b4	Qe3
49.Bf5	g3+!
50.Kh3	Bxd3
51.Rg4+	Kf8
52.Bxd3	Qxd3
53.Kh4	

53.Rxg3 Qf5+ 54.Kh2 Qxe5 and the pin cannot be broken; 55.Kh3 Qh5#

53... Qe3

0-1



Olita Rause

Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 12

By John E. Hawkes

White: Rause, Olita (LAT)
Black: Sorgo, Roberto (IT)
VI/VII World Cup Semi-Final, 1990
Alekhine Defence [B04]
[Notes by John E Hawkes based on the winner's]

1.e4	Nf6
2.e5	Nd5
3.d4	d6
4.Nf3	g6
5.Bc4	Nb6

5...c6 6.h3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.a4 dxe5
9.dxe5 Bf5 10.Qe2 Nd7 11.Bxd5

cxd5 12.Nc3 Qa5 13.Bf4 Rfd8
14.Nd4 Nf8 15.Nxf5 gxf5 16.Qd3 e6
17.Nb5 Rd7 18.Bd2 Qd8 19.f4 Ng6
20.Nd4 Rc8 21.c3= Rause -
Safranska, Simferopol 1992.
6.Bb3 Nc6
Spassky - Fischer, Reykjavik (m13)
went : 6...Bg7 7.Nbd2

7.a4	dxg5?!
□ 7...a5	
8.a5	Nd5

8...Nd7 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Ng5+ Kf6?
and White mates in 5 moves.

9.dxe5 Ndb4
 10.0-0 Qxd1
 11.Rxd1 Bg4
 12.a6!
 Already winning for White - Rause.
 12... Nxa6



13.Rxa6! bxa6
 14.Ba4 Bd7
 15.Rxd7 Kxd7
 16.Nd4 Kc8
 16...Rb8 17.Nxc6 Rb6 18.Na3! Rxc6
 19.Nc4 Bg7 20.Na5 Bxe5 21.Nxc6±
 17.Nxc6

A double exchange sacrifice without queens on the board is always special.

17... Kb7
 18.Nc3 e6
 18...Bg7 19.Na5+ Kb6? and White mates in 5 moves beginning 20.Bc6!
 19.Bc3 h6
 20.Ne4 Bg7?



Letting White finish the game most elegantly.
 21.Nc5+ Kc8

22.Ne7+



22.Ne7+ Kd8 (22...Kb8 23.Nd7+ Kb7 24.Bc6#) 23.Nb7+! Kxe7
 24.Bc5#

1-0



Chess Art Igor Samsonov

By Iain Mackintosh

Chess Mates / Two Women Sitting

A Game



A Man's Life



Trojan Defence





When Gradings need to be taken with a wee Pinch of Salt

By Peter Bennett

On the ICCF news pages very recently there was a very frank and clearly heartfelt obituary, written by his close friends, to the late Romanian player, GM Gheorghe Rotariu. One sentence which caught my attention was this: "...for such a great chess lover, the pleasure of playing against younger and rising opponents ... (has) always (been) more important than the rating."

Hats off to the writers for being so honest. Let me put some very rough figures on this. In his mature years, Rotariu was still a "2440" level player, but his actual grading hovered around "2325"; and his friends attribute this to his enthusiastic participation in events which other stronger players typically avoid, because of the potential damage to their grading.

We all know that this kind of thing happens. For example, how many 2600+ players actually turned out to represent their countries on Board 1 in the Final of the 10th European Team Championship? Actually, none at all; and you can see why. One of them, the Ukrainian player Bubir (currently graded 2601) didn't get the chance because he lost a game in the Semi-Final to our very own Tom Matheis; and that little setback left the Ukraine in fourth place, so they didn't even qualify for the Final.

In no sense am I criticising the grading system which is sophisticated and well-designed. That is not the issue. Nor do I deny that, other things being equal, the more games you play, the more likely your grading is to be reasonably accurate. After all, it is a measure of historical performance: the better you play the higher your grading rises; and, if you don't play so well, it comes down. Simple as that....

.....except that, the "other things" I just referred to are not always equal, as the Romanians pointed out in the Rotariu obituary.

The basics of what I might call "grading management" are much more straightforward, however. If the reader takes a moment to look at my own ICCF webpage, they will see that my grading, for many years, was hovering around the 2150 mark. Then, within a relatively short space of time, it rose to the 2350 level where it has been ever since (give or take 30 points or so). Does this mean that I suddenly improved that much, as a player?

The answer is "no". I certainly have improved steadily over that period but this does not begin to explain a rise of 200 grading points (which is quite a lot). The real explanation is actually very mundane. Before 2010 (the year in which I retired, at 65) I had never really taken any interest in my grading, which was entirely neglected. About this time, however, I became aware that there were much more interesting tournaments I could get to play in, if only I could improve my grading. So, for the first time, I started to look after it. For example, I stopped wasting time on unrated tournaments; and I set out to do my best in every rated event that I played in. Prior to 2010, if I wasn't enjoying a

tournament, I would sometimes just resign a few games in level positions and not worry about the consequences. After 2010, in essence, I started to work much more on my game and to try to play all events with the same consistency of effort.

Even so, looking after your grading only takes you so far. In my case, I got my grading up to its truer level of 2350; but it was care, not talent, that generated the change. Put another way, I know of at least one Scottish player whose grading is 100 points below mine, but who is just as strong a player as I am. The difference is that I look after my grading, and he doesn't pay much attention to his. Just that; no rocket science at all.

So what do I do next? How do I get my grading up to 2400? The answer to that may merely be that I am not a good enough chess player. There is, however, one more thing I can certainly do – and could have done 8 years ago – which might have made the difference: do more to "protect" my grading. This is the darker territory to which the Romanians were referring.

What events do I play in? In the main, I choose them carefully, much more carefully than I used to in the pre-2010 period of my chess career. Unfortunately, the weak link in my event management is that I have consistently supported the Veterans World Cup. In fact, I am the only Scottish player with a 2300+ grading who, as far as I am aware, plays in the VWC at all; and, to protect my grading, I should probably stop playing in the VWC myself.

Why is the VWC a problem? There are several reasons. The first is that the preliminary round is open to all and there is no direct entry system to the second stage. The second is that virtually every preliminary group contains at least four players whose gradings are below 2000; and the third issue is that, in addition to those with fixed lower grading, there are a good number of players with no grading at all.

The players with no grading are given "provisional" gradings, such as 1900 (which is arbitrary). Sometimes the provisional grading is reasonably accurate; but often it is not. I have known cases where a "1900" player later turns out to have a playing strength of 2300 (which, as an opponent, I had realised much earlier). So, we have a close game, which is drawn; and the result costs me about 5 grading points. This kind of thing has happened to me at least 15 times over the years.

When I had a little moan about this, one friend said: "but surely, Peter, you have been quite successful in the VWC? So your grading won't have been damaged much?" He was right about the first point and wrong about the second. Yes, I have played in 9 VWCpr, a total of about 95 games; and I have finished in the top three and qualified for a semi-final on seven occasions. But no, this does not mean that my grading is undamaged.

The galling truth is that, even when I “do well” in VWCprs, an average of at least five draws in each group takes its toll. From the 2016/4 grading list to the 2017/1 list, for instance, my grading went down 21 points from 2353 to 2332, on the basis of 17 new results. So did I lose some games? No! All 17 new results were draws; and most of the damage was done by the results of games played in VWCprs.

My problem is that I like the whole concept of the Veterans World Cup. Correspondence chess (but not OTB chess) is one of very few sporting activities where participants can actually sometimes reach their peak performance level beyond retirement age.



New Year Teaser Prize Competition

By Peter Bennett

After the seasonal festivities, are we all ready for the challenges of 2019?

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Bg5	Nbd7
7.Bc4	Qb6
8.Bb3	e6
9.Qd2	Be7
10.O-O-O	Nc5
11.Rhe1	h6
12.Bh4	O-O
13.Qe3	Qc7
14.Rg1	Re8
15.g4	Nfxe4
16.Nxe4	Bxh4
17.f4	Nxb3+
18.axb3	d5
19.Nc3	Be7
20.Kb1	b5
21.g5	hxg5
22.fxg5	g6

After the above moves, we reach the following position:



White to play...

Without reference to databases, and without using an engine, study the position for a minute or two using your own chess brain. Then try to answer the following questions:

1. In what code was the game played? (CC/OTB/Allegro)?
2. In what century was it played? (19th/20th/21st)?
3. How old were the participants? (Junior/Adult/Senior)?
4. What should White now play?
5. How might the game go?
6. What eventual result would you expect?

£25 prize for best answer from players with an ICCF rating under 2100 submitted to the editor before 31st January.

There is no perfect answer, but answers will be compared to the actual game.



Chess Art Igor Samsonov

By Iain Mackintosh

Igor Samsonov is an artist from St. Petersburg. Born in Voronezh in 1963, he began to draw at the age of ten. In 1980 he graduated with honours from the School of Art and, in 1996, from the I.E. Repin State Academic Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture in St. Petersburg.



After graduating, Samsonov searched for his own style, that, by his own admission, he found only in 2003. He is greatly influenced by late Gothic art, and mixes modern techniques with those of the Renaissance. His rich imagination, refined embodiment of images and exquisite color schemes make his works unique.



21st Olympiad 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	█	2.5	3	3.5	2.5	3.5	4	5	4.5	4.5	33	61	12	13	54	0	1
2	Lithuania	2511	3.5	█	3	3	3.5	3.5	3	3.5	4	4	31	57	8	15	54	0	2
3	Scotland	2393	3	3	█	3	3	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	29.5	54	5	13	54	0	3
4	Romania	2445	2.5	3	3	█	3	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	28.5	53	4	12	53	1	4
5	Argentina	2458	3.5	2.5	3	2	█	3.5	3	3	4	3	27.5	51	2	10	53	1	5
6	Wales	2348	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	█	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	27.5	50	1	9	54	0	6
7	Brazil	2376	2	3	2.5	3	3	2.5	█	3	3.5	3	25.5	47	-3	7	54	0	7
8	Norway	2380	1	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	3	█	3.5	4	24.5	45	-5	6	54	0	8
9	Hong Kong	2301	1.5	2	2.5	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	█	4	22	40	-10	2	54	0	9
10	South Africa	2245	1.5	2	2	2.5	3	2	3	2	2	█	20	37	-14	2	54	0	10

Scotland has completed all its games, and the team will finish 3rd or 3rd equal (Romania can still catch us). We are unlikely to qualify for the Final however, as there are 5 preliminary sections rather than the 3 in the ETC.

11th European Team Championship (ETC)

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	Scotland	2390	█	4	3.5	4	4	3.5	5	4.5	4	5	5	42.5	54	7	12	78	2	1
2	Lithuania	2498	4	█	4	4	4	4.5	4	3.5	3.5	4	7	42.5	55	9	10	76	4	2
3	Switzerland	2452	4.5	4	█	4	4	4	4.5	4	4.5	4.5	3.5	41.5	53	5	13	78	2	3
4	Iceland	2411	4	4	4	█	4	3.5	4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	41.5	52	4	13	79	1	4
5	Bulgaria	2423	4	4	4	4	█	4	4.5	3.5	4	4	4.5	40.5	51	3	11	78	2	5
6	Croatia	2349	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	4	█	4	4.5	4	4	4.5	39.5	51	2	9	77	3	6
7	Denmark	2346	3	3	3.5	4	3.5	4	█	3.5	4.5	5.5	5	39.5	50	0	8	79	1	7
8	Turkey	2400	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	4.5	3.5	4.5	█	4	4	4	39	50	1	8	77	3	8
9	Estonia	2372	4	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	3	3.5	3	█	4	5.5	37.5	49	-1	5	76	4	9
10	Finland	2364	3	3	3.5	3.5	3	4	2.5	4	3	█	4.5	34	44	-9	4	77	3	10
11	Norway	2229	2	1	2.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	3	3	2.5	3.5	█	27	36	-21	0	75	5	11

Scotland is now on the verge of recording our best international team performance for many years. As long as we get draws in our remaining two games (where we have a slight advantage in both), then we can finish no lower than 3rd, just behind the very strong teams from Lithuania and Switzerland. So we are virtually guaranteed a qualification for the Final, which is expected to start later in the year.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Aug 2018	23	Belgium	Server	11	15		
Dec 2017	18	Scheming Mind	Server	15½	16½		
Jul 2017	21	Australia	Server	22½	18½		win
Apr 2017	21	Finland	Server	13½	28½		loss
Dec 2016	8	Indonesia	Server	9	6		win

We are trailing in our match against Belgium and continue our tight match against Scheming Mind. The matches against Australia and Finland are fully complete, and one tie stubbornly remains against Indonesia. New matches against Panama (March) and Sweden (June) will start in the near future.

The Veterans' World Cup (VWC)

There isn't a lot to report this time.

The highlight is that, in VWC11, Geoff Lloyd is leading his preliminary group (VC11pr15) with the fine early score of 5.0/7.0. Well done, Geoff!

Peter Bennett gained a "wild card" entry to a VWC9 Semi-Final (after finishing 3rd in his preliminary group last year) but has only had one result (a draw) so far.

(If I have accidentally omitted to mention anyone who would like to have received a mention, please let the Editor know and I will make sure to include them next time)

NATT 7

In NATT 7, Scotland sits in bottom place with 33/87. Iceland has 34 with all games completed, so we may avoid the wooden spoon if we win our final game.

NSTT 3

In NSTT 3, Scotland has finished in second-bottom place with a score of 23½/60. The event is now fully finished.

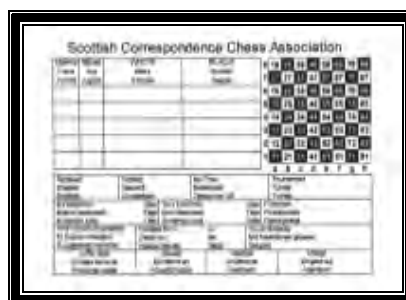
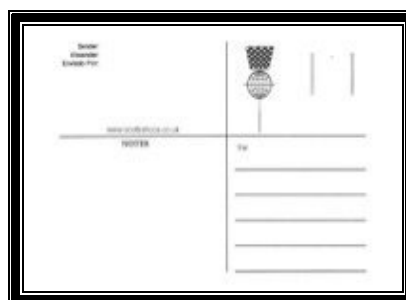
Esko Nuutilainen Memorial Team Tournament

The team has now scored 26/57 and sits in 9th place, a point behind Denmark. Both teams have 3 games to finish. The 10th and 11th places are occupied by Indonesia and Portugal, neither of whom can catch us.

General

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

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 June 2018, Royal Mail charged £2.95 for a 200-card parcel.

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

New CCE Title Holders!

Just as we went to press, notification was received that Mickey Blake of Castle Douglas and Geoff Lloyd of Prestatyn had both qualified for the CCE title. Mickey's award is available immediately, while Geoff needs to wait a little longer for the ICCF Qualifications Commissioner to ratify. Mickey's norms were achieved in VWC9 and the WCCF 5th Invitational. Geoff's were gained in VWC9, the Esko Nuutilainen Team Tournament and the WCCF Congress Invitational. Many congratulations to both players!



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 Entry 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 Magazine is sponsored by Mackintosh Independent.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2019

Theme 2/19: Dutch, Leningrad Variation, A89

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 O-O 6.O-O d6 7.Nc3 Nc6

Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

Theme 3/19: Grünfeld, Seville Gambit, D87

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 O-O 10.O-O Bg4 11.f3 Na5 12.Bxf7+

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

Webserver Events 2019

Theme 2/19 – French, Teisha Gambit, C02

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 f5 4.exf6

Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 March

Theme 3/19 – Pirc, Austrian Attack, B09

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4

Entries by 31 March; play starts 15 April

News

- ❑ The 8th Chess 960 World Cup is open for registrations until 28th February and play will start on 15th March. You can apply for more than one preliminary group.
- ❑ Following the Llandudno Congress, a new structure of norm tournaments has been created, covering GM, SIM, IM, CCM and CCE titles. Full details are now on the New Events menu option of the Webserver.
- ❑ Following IA Thomas Biedermann's resignation, IA Valer-Eugen Demian (CAN), becomes the new TDC (Tournament Director's Committee) Chairman.
- ❑ Following IA Neil Limbert's resignation, IA Jörg Kracht (GER) becomes the new Non-Title Tournament Commissioner (NTTC).
- ❑ GM Gheorghe Rotariu, the first Romanian ICCF grandmaster, died in December at the age of 85. A passionate chess lover, he latterly forsook high ratings for the pleasure of passing his experience on to younger and rising players.
- ❑ 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 Gordon Anderson at: international@scottishcca.co.uk