

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.145

Spring 2019

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Games Column
Alastair analyses a mighty struggle in the SCCA Championship



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Welcome to the first edition of the 2019 magazine set. We have a brand new Lewis chessman image on our front cover, courtesy of artist Brigitte Wolf based in Ontario, Canada. It was painted using traditional glass enamels, then kiln-fired. Lots more lovely images to enjoy on Brigitte’s website!

Alan Borwell reveals the results of our 2018 Best Game Prize competition. One player recorded the amazing feat of occupying all three top places; read on to find out who!

Kevin Paine has analysed the second ICCF rating list of 2019 for us. A number of players have moved upwards through the grading bands, including David Cumming who is now 2400+. David and Carlos Almarza Mato continue to be our most prolific players.

Peter Bennett has provided an instructive article about why we shouldn’t make assumptions about the worth of moves made by titled players. Peter also rounds off his Christmas quiz, published last time.

John Hawkes has decided to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Scotland’s Bronze Medal success in the XI ICCF Olympiad, and provides a great selection of games featuring most of the team. Particular thanks to Andrew Muir and Colin McNab who provided annotated scores! John also provides another CC miniature for us.

We welcome back our correspondent Morten Lilleøren of Norway, who has provided a nice article about the Icelander Daði Örn Jónsson, the European Individual Champion.

Alastair Dawson provides another Games Column, this time analysing a fierce struggle from the well-contested 2017-18 SCCA Championship.

No room for an International report in this edition, but we sit 3rd in the 21st Olympiad Prelim behind Ukraine and Lithuania. Romania can equal our points total. In the ETC Semi-Final, we are joint top with Lithuania, with Switzerland 3rd. We’ll definitely make a top-3 finish. The George Pyrich Memorial is progressing smoothly, and we have started a friendly international against Panama.

Our AGM is scheduled for Sunday, May 26th at 4pm. As our officials are so widely dispersed, we’ll be using Skype to link up, so please get in touch if you wish to attend online. If any of you can spare time for some committee work, we’d be glad to hear from you!

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 has been and continues to be an important revenue-earner for our Association, with many long-standing subscribers.

However, in recent years we have lost a number of subscribers through death and replacing them has been a challenge that, as yet, we have been unable to fully meet.

Could you help us address our challenge by agreeing to take one, two, three or more units each month?

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 making contact with Gordon to sign up for some units (contact details below).

Recent 100 Club Winners

| 2019 | 1st | 2nd |
|----------|---------------|-------------|
| March | J Anderson | J Anderson |
| February | J M Armstrong | J S Murray |
| January | A P Borwell | A P Borwell |

SCCA Officials

| SCCA Officials | | | | |
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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 Semi-Finals



Gian-Maria Tani, ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner, writes to announce the start date of the Semi-Finals of the 43rd WCCC as June 20, 2019. Entries will be accepted according to ICCF Tournament Rules valid as from January 1st, 2019, to be received not later than 5th May 2019.

Member Federations Nominations (MFN) for the Semi-Finals should also be submitted not later than 5th May 2019. MFN for 2018 cannot be used for 2019 WC Cycle. Scottish players who are eligible and who are interested in playing should contact Gordon Anderson as soon as possible and before 30th April 2019.

ICCF George D Pyrich Memorial Team Tournament



Michael Millstone, ICCF General Secretary has written to announce the above team tournament in memory of the late George D Pyrich.

All ICCF Member Federations are invited to enter up to two teams to this event, which will be played on the ICCF web-server on two rounds: Preliminaries and Final.

All players in a team must be rated at <2300 on the ICCF Rating list 2019/2 or on the current FIDE List. In addition all players must be full members of the Federation they represent or be registered on the ICCF server for the county of the Federation they represent for the duration of the tournament.

The Preliminaries will start on 1st June, 2019.

There will be 6 players in each team. A maximum of 3 players may be replaced during the tournament. The right to be promoted from the preliminaries will be determined by the ICCF Non-Title Tournaments Commissioner and approved by the Executive Board at the start of the tournament. The intention will be for a 13 Team Final.

The entry fee will be at the rate of £5 per player, i.e. £30 per team. There will be no further entry fee for the Final.

Time control will be Triple Block (Duration of Tournament: 700 days; Initial Clock: 50 days; Initial Bank: 50 days; Increment: 5 days).

Scottish players who meet the ratings requirements and who wish to be considered for selection should make contact with Gordon Anderson as soon as possible but no later than 30th April 2019.

ICCF Congress 2019 Vilnius, Lithuania



This year's Congress will be held in Vilnius from 18th to 22nd August. Gordon Anderson will represent SCCA.

ICCF has opened a webserver page where Congress Proposals may be submitted by players and officials. You can see examples at: <https://www.iccf.com/Proposals.aspx?id=72>

Please feel free to submit a motion, or contact Gordon Anderson for advice. Onlilne voting on Proposals takes place during July.

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

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Chess Art

Some examples of Scottish artists using chess themes this time.



John Macdonald Aiken (1880–1961) was born in Aberdeen. He was a painter in oil and watercolour, an etcher and stained glass artist. After serving an apprenticeship as a draughtsman with the lithographer Robert Gibb RSA, he studied at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen, at the Royal College of Art in London under Gerald Moira and in Florence. This work is 'The Chess Problem'.



George Ogilvy Reid (1851–1928) was a Scottish landscape and portrait artist operating in the late 19th and early 20th century. He lived his entire life in Leith. This work is 'The Chess Players'.



Robert MacBryde (1913–66) was a still life and figurative painter and a theatre set designer. Born in Maybole, he came from a poor working class family and worked in a shoe factory before gaining a place at Glasgow School of Art. He died in 1966 in Dublin as a result of a street accident. This is 'Chess Player'.



2019/2 Grading List

By Kevin Paine

The second ICCF grading list of 2019 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 December 2018 and 28 February 2019. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 June 2019.

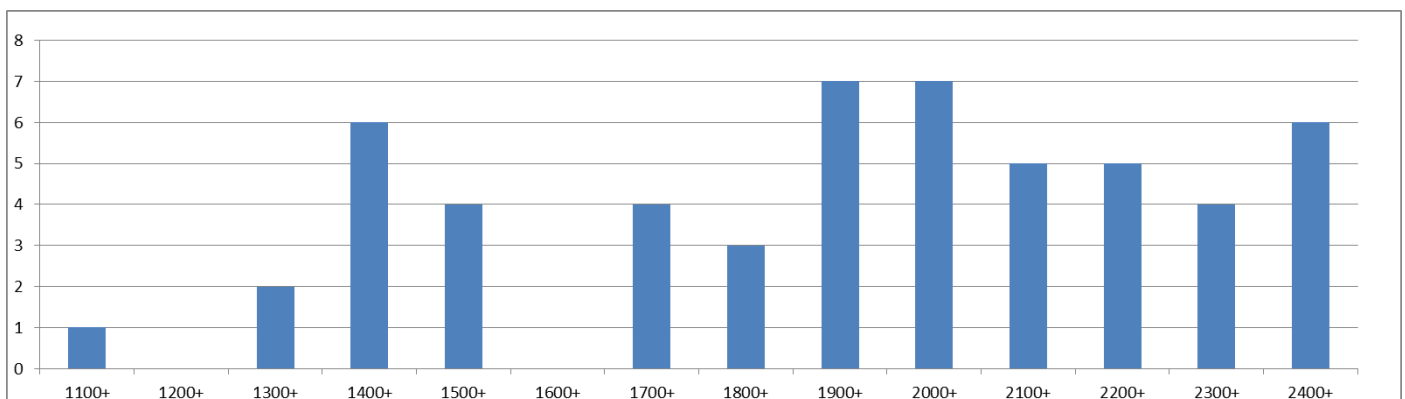
We counted one addition (Murdo MacDonald) and two deletions (Eoin Campbell and Dr Ken Stewart) in this list.

Upwards movements in grading bands were recorded by David Cumming (2400+), Carlos Almarza Mato (2100+), Raymond Burrige (2000+) and Ian Marshall (2000+) – well done all!

Two new games centurions were recorded – Carlos Almarza Mato passed 1600+ and David Cumming reached 1500+. Highest recorded games during this quarter were David Cumming (66), Carlos Almarza Mato (62), Martin Hardwick (53), and Raymond Burrige (38).

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 | 1620 | 2140 ↑ | 548 | Kilgour, D A (GM) | 350 | 2237 ↔ |
| 518 | Anderson, G M (CCE, SM) | 321 | 2332 ↓ | 260 | Knox, A | 365 | 1444 ↓ |
| 121 | Anderson, J | 296 | 1917 ↑ | 264 | Lloyd, G (CCE, SM) | 895 | 2271 ↑ |
| 049 | Armstrong, A | 209 | 1876 ↔ | | MacDonald, M | 35 | 1543 ↑ |
| 313 | Armstrong, J McK | 395 | 1496 ↑ | 584 | MacGregor, C A | 421 | 1903 ↓ |
| 511 | Beecham, C R (SIM) | 460 | 2474 ↓ | 532 | Mackintosh, I (SIM) | 740 | 2412 ↑ |
| 599 | Bell, A D (CCM, SM) | 235 | 2409 ↔ | 216 | MacMillen, A N | 1350 | 1484 ↓ |
| 501 | Bennett, P G (CCM, SM) | 425 | 2372 ↑ | 566 | Marshall, I H | 739 | 2045 ↑ |
| 481 | Beveridge, C | 424 | 2163 ↑ | 434 | Matheis, T (IM) | 236 | 2453 ↑ |
| 472 | Blake, M J (CCE) | 825 | 2345 ↑ | 867 | McEwan, N R | 39 | 1896 ↔ |
| 509 | Borwell, A P (IM) | 1074 | 2232 ↓ | | Miles, A | 41 | 1467 ↓ |
| 602 | Burrige, R J | 1356 | 2029 ↑ | 401 | Moir, P J | 199 | 1543 ↔ |
| | Clark, S L | 234 | 1969 ↑ | 598 | Montgomery, R S | 291 | 2251 ↑ |
| 364 | Coope, D W | 896 | 1837 ↔ | 474 | Murden, C (IM) | 560 | 2437 ↑ |
| 247 | Cormack, W H | 109 | 1911 ↑ | 564 | Murray, J S | 67 | 2034 ↔ |
| 166 | Cumming, D R (CCM, SM) | 1514 | 2408 ↑ | 440 | Neil, C | 315 | 1388 ↑ |
| 422 | Dawson, Prof A G (CCE) | 146 | 2184 ↓ | 603 | O'Neill-McAleenan, C | 162 | 1981 ↔ |
| 572 | Dempster, D | 807 | 1759 ↔ | 604 | Paine, Dr K A | 208 | 2351 ↔ |
| 478 | Dunn, J | 330 | 1575 ↑ | | Pettigrew, S | 124 | 1472 ↓ |
| | Dyer, M | 109 | 2059 ↔ | 432 | Price, D | 391 | 1997 ↑ |
| 371 | Edney, D | 247 | 1966 ↔ | 477 | Sedstrem, A | 84 | 1410 ↓ |
| 462 | Gilbert, R | 202 | 1751 ↓ | 439 | Smith, M J | 73 | 2076 ↑ |
| 124 | Goodwin, B J | 389 | 1719 ↓ | 057 | Sneddon, I | 135 | 2189 ↓ |
| 399 | Grant, J | 65 | 1702 ↓ | | Stewart, A G | 36 | 2170 ↔ |
| 596 | Hardwick, M E | 1183 | 1181 ↑ | 605 | Taylor, W | 101 | 2042 ↓ |
| 1013 | Hilton, S H | 179 | 1594 ↔ | | Warren, J | 30 | 2081 ↔ |
| 475 | Kearns, A | 70 | 1394 ↓ | 530 | Watson, J (IM) | 153 | 2297 ↔ |



Statistical Analysis

| | |
|---|----|
| Total listed | 54 |
| New entrants | 1 |
| Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members) | 2 |
| Full grades (30+ games) | 54 |
| Provisional grades (<30 games) | 0 |
| Grading increases (↑) | 22 |
| Grading decreases (↓) | 16 |
| Grading static (↔) | 16 |

Top 30 Grades

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| Beecham, C R (SIM) | 2474 | Sneddon, I | 2189 |
| Matheis, T (IM) | 2453 | Dawson, Prof A G (CCE) | 2184 |
| Murden, C (IM) | 2437 | Stewart, A G | 2170 |
| Mackintosh, I (SIM) | 2412 | Beveridge, C | 2163 |
| Bell, A D (CCM, SM) | 2409 | Almarza Mato, C | 2140 |
| Cumming, D R (CCM, SM) | 2408 | Warren, J | 2081 |
| Bennett, P G (CCM, SM) | 2372 | Smith, M J | 2076 |
| Paine, Dr K A | 2351 | Dyer, M | 2059 |
| Anderson, G M (CCE, SM) | 2332 | Marshall, I H | 2045 |
| Blake, M J (CCE) | 2345 | Taylor, W | 2042 |
| Watson, J (IM) | 2297 | Murray, J S | 2034 |
| Lloyd, G (CCE, SM) | 2271 | Burridge, R J | 2029 |
| Montgomery, R S | 2251 | Price, D | 1997 |
| Kilgour, D A (GM) | 2237 | O'Neill-McAleenan, C | 1981 |
| Borwell, A P (IM) | 2232 | Clark, S L | 1969 |

Top 30 Rated Games

| | | | |
|------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----|
| Almarza-Mato, C | 1620 | Beveridge, C | 424 |
| Cumming, D R (CCM, SM) | 1514 | MacGregor, C A | 421 |
| Burridge, R J | 1356 | Armstrong, J McK | 395 |
| MacMillen, A N | 1350 | Price, D | 391 |
| Hardwick, M E | 1183 | Goodwin, B J | 389 |
| Borwell, A P (IM) | 1074 | Knox, A | 365 |
| Coope, D W | 896 | Kilgour, D A (GM) | 350 |
| Lloyd, G (CCE, SM) | 895 | Dunn, J | 330 |
| Blake, M J (CCE) | 825 | Anderson, G M (CCE, SM) | 321 |
| Dempster, D | 807 | Neil, C | 315 |
| Mackintosh, I (SIM) | 740 | Anderson, J | 296 |
| Marshall, I H | 739 | Montgomery, R S | 291 |
| Murden, C | 560 | Edney, D | 247 |
| Beecham, C R (SIM) | 460 | Matheis, T (IM) | 236 |
| Bennett, P G (CCM, SM) | 425 | Bell, A D (CCM, SM) | 235 |

Other Notes

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

Matheis, T (1), Murden, C (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 (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.



6th Annual SCCA Best Game Prize

By IM Alan Borwell

[Ed – once more, entries were of a very high standard, and this year's outcome was a clean sweep for Peter Bennett who enjoyed a prolific 2018! I'm most grateful to Alan for doing such a prompt and thorough job of evaluating all the submissions. The entries were judged anonymously, sans annotations – commentary was added by Peter once the final placings were announced.]

When Iain asked me to judge this year's best game, I soon realised that in my 60+ years of playing correspondence chess, I have never before been asked to carry out this awesome task!

The 10 games this year were submitted to me without any identities (of course) and without analysis and I wondered how to go about selecting the best three. I looked back at the excellent articles which were provided by previous assessors and the criteria which they had used to decide winners and found them to be very useful.

My own thoughts were to look for originality, creativity, accuracy, positional and tactical awareness and overall enjoyment. This was the easy part, but applying such criteria to the submitted games and evaluating them was far from easy!

Some games followed well-trodden book variations for 20+ moves whereas others departed quickly, with several leading to unbalanced positions with sacrifices and tricky endings and it was these to which I was most attracted.

Unwittingly, it transpired that I had selected my top three games by the same player and also one who always provides interesting and informative annotations!

Therefore, I do not think it necessary for me to add further detailed comment but just to say why I liked each game in relation to my stated selection criteria.

Third Place

Alan Borwell

The third prize game is a typical one in CC where players castle on opposite wings, leading immediately to the need to assess attacking and defensive options and priorities.

The position after 18 moves has been played before but 19. Qb6 changing direction of focus is very interesting and the ongoing vulnerability of Black's bishop becomes a major factor in the game. After 22 moves, White needs to break through and he plays a nice "zwischenzug" (temporary sacrifice) to open up Black's K-side.

After the exchange of minor pieces, Black may fleetingly have thought that he could survive the Q and R ending but White shows excellent technique in exploiting a small advantage of space and mobility with tactical threats, followed by a careful blend of attack and defence as Black fought hard as a valiant opponent.

This was a different kind of game to the first two prize winners but, nevertheless, the winner displayed energy, care and patience before achieving his success.

Peter Bennett

Some thematic ideas in chess are timeless. For example, when Black adopts a flank opening with indirect pressure on the centre (with, eg, the KID, the QID or the Modern Defence, as here), White's best option is solid occupation of the centre, which potentially provides a pivot for an attack. In this game Black defends well; so White gains neither a material advantage nor a decisive attack on the king's side. Nevertheless, the gradual and progressive weakening of the black king's field eventually gives White greater tactical opportunities.

White: Bennett, Peter (2352)

Black: Anikeev, Vasily (2275)

VWC10 pr50, 2018

Modern Defence, [B06]

[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4 g6
2.d4 Bg7
3.Nc3 d6
4.Be3 a6
5.Qd2 b5
6.h4 Nf6
7.f3

So far this is a standard theory line, although not following the most popular move order. Both players have to be alert to transpositions.

7... Nbd7
8.0-0-0 h5
9.Nh3 Bb7
10.Ng5 e6
11.Kb1 Qe7
12.a3 0-0
13.g4 Rad8
14.Bh3

14.gxh5 was played in Legrand - Korogodski, 2015; but, again, this is only a matter of move order.

14... c5
15.gxh5 Nxh5
Now we are back in the theory line.
16.Bg4 cxd4
17.Bxd4 Bxd4
18.Qxd4 Ndf6
19.Qb6!?

Here, Legrand played 19.Rd2. White's 19.Qb6 was evidently an innovation in CC play and this now leads to a different type of game.

19... Kg7
20.Ne2 e5
21.Rhf1 Nxc4
22.fxg4 Nf6
23.Rxf6!?



Not the only way forward, but this temporary exchange sacrifice begins to ask questions of Black's defence. White's strategic aim is to weaken the opposing king's field.

23... Kxf6

The point of White's 23rd move. Black cannot recapture with the queen, as this loses a bishop which, in turn, was the point of White's innovation on move 19.

24.Nh7+ Kg7

25.Nxf8 Kxf8

26.Nc3 Rd7

Defending the B with the R frees the black Q for a more active role; but the R is now temporarily committed to passive defence of the B and also the d-pawn.

27.h5 Qe6

28.Qg1 Kg7

29.Nd5 Bxd5

30.exd5 Qf6

31.g5 Qf5

32.Rf1 Qe4

33.hxg6 Qxg6

White has a clear initiative; but material is level and, from White's point of view, there is a substantial risk that the black queen will be able to create sufficient counter-play - for example against the c-pawn - to force a draw. At this stage of the game, every move requires intensive analysis and there are very few predictable move sequences.

34.Rf6 Qh5

35.b3 Qe2

When submitting these games for the BGP competition, I gave each a title. This game was called "The dance of the active queens".

36.Rf2 Qe4

37.Qf1 Qh7

The black Q must defend the vulnerable K. After 37....Qxd5??

38.Rh2! and Black has no defence to the twin threats of Rh6 and Qf6+.

38.Rf6 Qe4

39.Rh6 Qf4

40.Qg2 a5

41.Rh1 Qf5

42.Qh2



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42... Kf8

Forced - by the threat of Qh8+.

43.Qh8+ Ke7

44.Qc8 Qxg5

45.Rh8 Qg1+

46.Ka2

A key placement, to keep the K safe. 46.Kb2? simply allows ...Qd4+. So White's next task is to bring the rook to the defence of the c-pawn and free up the Q once again.

46... Qf2

47.Qf8+ Kf6

48.Qh6+ Kf5

49.Qh3+ Kf6

50.Rc8 Rb7

51.Qh6+



If, at first glance, Black's resignation looks premature this is only because we haven't factored in that both players are analysing much further ahead. For example, on deep analysis, the engines give White about +4.75 in the final position. A possible continuation is: 51.Qh6+ Kf5 52.Qxd6 a4 53.b4 Qd4 54.Rc5 Kg5 55.Qc6 Rb8 56.d6 Rd8 57.Qxb5 Qxd6 58.Rxe5+ when White's queenside pawn majority is bound to prevail in the endgame.

I regarded this game as the most difficult - to play - of all those that I won in 2018. It was the only game in our tournament group that my Russian opponent lost; and his loss to

me did not prevent his grading breaking through the 2300 barrier for the first time in that same rating period.]

1-0



Second Place

Alan Borwell

Second prize goes to a game starting as a familiar Sicilian with a Kalashnikov (Labordonnais-Lowenthal variation) for the first 10 moves. Black's 11th is not so popular but his position looks quite solid until White's creative exchange sacrifice on move 20. After 25 moves, White has more space and active piece play but the game still has to be won. The next 10 moves see White gradually increasing his stranglehold and the breaking of Black's resistance with capture of his d6 pawn. I enjoyed the positional and endgame technique, nullifying any hope of Black converting to opposite colour bishops. An excellent example of material imbalance, reducing the possible influence of chess engine assistance.

Peter Bennett

Every CC game that we play belongs to an event; and the tournament context in which the game is played may have a bearing on how the players approach the game (as here). The preliminary round (pr) of the Veterans World Cup is an exciting, but risky, tournament in which to play. There are no upper or lower grading restrictions on entry (as in, eg, the World Championships) and no pre-qualifying tournament. Your opponents may be anyone from a GM to a complete beginner!

An added pressure is that, to qualify for the next stage of the competition - the Semi-Finals - you have to play very aggressively.

Thus in this game, against a reasonably strong Ukrainian opponent, I knew that I had to play for a win, because a draw wouldn't be good enough.

White: Bennett, Peter (2352)
Black: Babychuk, Vladimir (2217)
 VWC10 pr51, 2018
 Sicilian Kalashnikov [B32]
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4 c5
 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.d4 cxd4
 4.Nxd4 e5

Even if you ultimately want a "Sicilian ...e5" formation, this is a very early stage to commit to it; and my impression of the line is that White retains a slight edge. 4...Nf6 is the logical and most popular move at this point in the game.

5.Nb5 d6
 6.N1c3 a6
 7.Na3 b5
 8.Nd5 Nf6
 9.c4 Nxd5

10.exd5 Nd4
 11.cxb5 g6
 Solid but, in my view, too slow; whereas 11...Bd7! asks more immediate questions of White's queenside activity.

12.Bd3 Bg7
 13.Be3 0-0
 14.Bxd4 exd4
 15.0-0 Qa5
 16.Qe1 Qb6
 17.Qd2 Bb7

How does Black stand? Compared to a Sicilian Dragon (where the B is also fianchettoed on g7) his kingside is rock solid and White has no attacking prospects on that wing. Black also has the bishop pair and his pawn/d4 is well supported.

So, how does White stand? For the moment, he has the extra pawn, but his pawn/d5 is vulnerable and could fall. There is also latent power in White's position: the pawn majority on the queenside!

18.Rfc1 Rfb8!?

An interesting idea - is Black preparing to play a minority attack?

19.b3 Qd8?!



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Black may have played this move to call White's bluff! Game on!

20.Rc6!

The key move of the game - an attacking positional exchange sacrifice. It is also more or less necessary. If White shies away from the challenge, it is doubtful whether his advantage in other lines is enough to win (which may have been what Black was hoping for?).

20... Bxc6

20...axb5 was also to be considered although, of course, this would leave White with two linked passed pawns on the queenside.

21.bxc6 Ra7
 22.b4 Qh4
 23.b5 axb5
 24.Nxb5 Raa8
 25.a4 Qh5

Attacking the d-pawn.

26.Qa2 Be5
 27.g3 Qf3
 28.Be2 Qf5
 29.Qc4 Qg5
 30.Ra2 Ra5
 31.h4 Qe7
 32.Qb4 Raa8
 33.Kg2 Rf8

Desperately looking for counterplay on the kingside.

34.f4!

Winning Black's d-pawn.

34... Bg7
 35.Qxd6 Qxd6
 36.Nxd6 Rad8
 37.Nb7

Now also surrendering White's d-pawn, but drawing Black's rook into a positional trap....

37... Rxd5
 38.Bc4!



38... Rf5

A passive placement, but Black has nothing better. White's N and B combine beautifully to force the rook away from the middle of the board.

39.a5 d3
 40.Bxd3 Rf6

41.Bb5 Rf5
 42.Be2 Rf6
 43.Bf3 Re6
 44.Rd2 Bf6
 45.Rd7 Rc8
 46.Nd6 1-0



The final position. Black cannot resist the queening threats, e.g.

46.Nd6 Rd8
 47.Ne4 Rxd7
 48.Nxf6+ Rxf6
 49.cxd7 Rd6
 50.Bc6! Kf8
 51.a6 Ke7
 52.a7 etc.



First Place
The R.J. Burrige Trophy
2018

Alan Borwell

The winning game began rather sedately but soon diverged into unfamiliar territory around move 12, when White penetrated deep into Black's centre. Peter's observations describe the thought processes of an experienced CC player.

We certainly do not have a balanced position but one of fascinating

contrast and tactical chances are likely to abound (in a recent CC game, I played a knight to corner square and it never moved again until it was lost!).

Coaching youngsters, we point out that a centrally placed knight commands 8 squares but only 4 on the edge and only 2 in a corner! Profound insight is required when breaking such a principle!

The passage of play in moves 17-32 is instructive and worthy of more detailed study with Black securing two bishops against rook and extra pawns. The position then is double-edged with many open lines and infinite possibilities for both players but White's chances must be diminished after the Q exchange.

In these kind of material imbalance, chess engines are notoriously unreliable in position assessment and a chess player's knowledge, natural abilities and instincts are invaluable. Working together, two bishops have added value and so it proves. Two rooks working together can be dangerous but here they soon get separated. This is a superb game full of nerve and flair and worthy of being our Best Game!

Peter Bennett

In modern CC it is extremely difficult to win games even with White, virtually impossible to win with Black without a palpable error by the first player. Even so, there are timeless strategies which still sometimes favour Black. For example, in the semi-open game (especially the Sicilian and French Defences) White usually attacks on the kingside but, if his attack is successfully defended, often it is Black who eventually gets the better of the endgame by counter-attacking on the queenside.

Another theme, often associated with the Modern Defence or the KID, as well as the Advance Variation of the French Defence, is that White over-extends his centre to the extent that it is eventually dismantled, with Black ultimately breaking through directly in the centre.

This game is a kind of cross between those two counter-attacking themes. The important – and nowadays unusual – feature of this game is that BOTH players had winning chances at some stage. Early on, both players (separately) thought that White was winning. White's space advantage goes very deep into the game before it finally begins to unravel. In this sense, it is a real chess game, with many different phases. So I hope the reader will find it as instructive to play through as I found it to play!

Finally, the key theme of the game is the e-file, and what happens to the e-pawns of both players: watch their progress!

White: Jonvik, Aslak (2156)

Black: Bennett, Peter (2344)

11th European Team Champ SF, 2018

Sicilian Defence [B31]

[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4 **c5**
2.Nf3 **Nc6**
3.Bb5!?

To use a boxing analogy, first blood to White! This move promptly puts 95% of Sicilian Defence theory straight out of commission! Even the most basic research will have told White that his opponent often plays the Sicilian Defence and is likely to have prepared ideas in all the main lines. So, avoiding the usual 3.d4 is an excellent way to drag your opponent out of his comfort zone.

3... **g6**
4.Bxc6 **bxc6**
5.0-0 **Bg7**
6.Re1 **Nh6**
7.c3 **0-0**
8.h3 **f5**
9.e5!

White also wins the second round of this contest "on points"! Normally, I am a "Sicilian ...e5" player; but this is an unfamiliar variation. So I was following the main theory line and quietly assuming that there were no hidden dangers in allowing White the luxury of occupying e5....

9... **Nf7**
I have to confess, at this stage of the game, I was being lured along by three false sirens - unforgivable, I know, but true, nonetheless! *Mea culpa*.

The first "siren" was the fact that we were still "in book", which I falsely

assumed was a safe place to be. The second siren was my own engine, which consistently reassured me that the position was level, anyway. The third siren was my very friendly opponent. Late September 2017 saw the World Road Cycling Championships in Bergen, Norway. Aslak was travelling daily to Bergen to watch the races live; and I was glued to the television in Scotland. So, my concentration on the chess was being compromised by long and enjoyable discussions about the cycling....!

10.d3 **Rb8!?**

My first personal contribution to the game and also the first tinkle of an alarm bell. The standard book move was 10...a5?! but, no longer having a b-pawn, I didn't like the look of it. All White needed to do was to play Qa4 and Black would either have to commit a piece to passive defence of the pawn or abandon it and lose it.

Instead I chose to put the rook on the half-open file where it could remain active and, if necessary, defend the pawn/a7 with a later ...Rb7.

11.Nbd2 **d6!?**

Yet another move approved by both book and engine; but was it wise?

12.e6!



"Wholly sheet!!" (or something sounding a tad similar) were the words I spat at my computer screen when I saw my opponent's move. This just wasn't what White was "supposed" to play. My "book", such as it was, was recommending 12.exd6, as also apparently was Deep Fritz 14. Houdini preferred 12.Nc4, with 12.d4 as its second choice. Book and engine seemed to agree that 12.e6 represented the beginnings of over-extension, such that White's e-pawn might eventually become weak and fall. But none of this

reasoning was remotely reassuring now that Aslak had played his move.

My opponent, to his credit, was playing his own game. With his 12th move, he had won round three with a knockdown! So now, I treated myself to a standing count - in other words, I spent a whole week working out my reply. At least I had a binary choice: 12...Nh6?? would clearly be losing, so Black has a straight choice between 12...Ne5 and 12...Nh8. I had strong objections to both; so I found it profoundly irritating that both book and engine continued to claim the position as level.

On checking the "book", it finally dawned on me that the theory on this line is wholly unreliable. Most of the games must have been played OTB (to account for the 573 "visits" that this position had apparently received); but there were absolutely no CC games on the database between higher-graded players. Muggins was the only twit to have ventured this defence in as important an event at the ETC. So, I decided to treat the position as though it were "out of book", a decision I perhaps should have made several moves earlier.

Engine analysis is also misleading in a position like this. All that "equality" means is that there is no immediate tactical breakthrough for White in the next 10 to 15 moves. Indeed not, but so what? My concern was that White's strong pawn on e6 would be the pivot for a king's side mating attack in about another 25 moves (as it nearly was); and engines cannot "see" that far ahead.

After hours and hours of analysis I decided that I didn't want to play 12...Ne5? for one very clear reason: White would almost inevitably have exchanged knights on e5 and Black would then have one less piece to defend the king's field.

Black cannot quickly capture the pawn/e6; and, while the backward Black pawn on e7 is held on its starter square, Black has huge difficulty bringing reinforcements from the queenside to strengthen the king's defence, because every piece has to be filtered through a

bottleneck on e8. My forward analysis suggested to me that Black would thereafter have zero winning chances and run a very high risk of losing. Hence I concluded that retaining the knight was essential to the king's defence.

12... Nh8!
A move that defines the entire course of the game and, I thought, my best move of the game, in spite of the discussion which now follows.

Yet 12...Nh8 breaks ALL the rules of piece play; and the hardest aspect of the decision to play the very committal 12...Nh8 is that, once on h8, the knight will be stuck there for at least 15 moves (19, as it turned out).

As my grandfather used to tell me, a N in the middle of the board is always attacking 8 squares, even in closed positions, because it can jump, whereas all other pieces can have their range of movement restricted. While a N on a5 (the rim) can be trapped there by an opposing B on d5, a N on a corner square is even worse because it can only get out of the corner via one of two squares.

In this case, the N on h8 is stuck there because the White pawn/e6 is covering f7, whereas g6 is occupied by Black's own pawn. To advance the g-pawn might be to fatally weaken the king's field.

So, bearing all this in mind, how can I possibly justify playing 12...Nh8?!

In this game, White holds most of the high cards, but not all of them. The pawn/e6 is likely to last at least 15 to 20 moves on e6 (37 as it later turns out!) but it can't stay there for ever. White has no choice BUT to attack on the king's side; and against such an attack, the knight/h8 controls and defends two vital squares f7 and g6. This simple, passive defensive role both blocks White's attack and justifies the knight placement for quite a long time.

In the next part of the game, both players have a clear strategy; so let us simply watch it unfold:

13.Re2 h6
14.h4 Rf6
15.Qe1 Kh7

16.Re3 Qa5
Here the queen is just a decoy to tempt the White N over to the queenside. Once that goal is accomplished, the queen can return to its main area of responsibility - the kingside.

17.Nc4 Qd8
18.b3 Qe8
19.Rb1 f4
20.Re2 Rf5
21.Na5 g5
22.hxg5 hxg5
23.g4 fxg3
24.Nxg5+ Rxc3
25.Bxg5 Qh5
26.fxg3 Qxg5
27.Rh2+ Bh6
28.Nxc6

White has won a rook and two pawns for two minor pieces. In theory, this is material equality. In practice, it now yields the endgame advantage to Black after the forthcoming (and inevitable) exchange of Ns on f7.

28... Rb6
29.Nd8 Ba6
30.Qf2 Rb8
31.Nf7 Nxf7

Finally, the N/h8 gets to justify its existence, by seeing off what might otherwise have been a mating attack!
32.Qxf7+



A very uncomfortable position for Black; but his resources are just adequate.

32... Kh8
33.Qf3!

From White's point of view a necessary, if rather disappointing, retreat. A sweet but inadequate idea here was 33.Rxh6+ Qxh6 34.Qxe7 Rg8 35.Kg2 Bxd3 36.Rh1 (pinning the queen against the king) Be4+!! (counterpin and curtains!!). So the Black pawn/e7 survives the onslaught and the tide has now turned in Black's favour.

33... Bb7
34.Qf4 Qxf4

35.gxf4 Kg7
 36.Rh4 Rf8
 37.b4 c4
 38.Kf2 Bxf4
 39.Rg1+



White's last, grasping attempt at a kingside attack, but it isn't enough.

39... Bg5+
 40.Ke1 Rf5
 41.Rxc4 Kf6
 42.Rc7 Bf3
 43.d4 a6
 44.Ra7 Be4
 45.Ke2 Bd5
 46.Rc7 Bxa2
 47.Ra1 Bh4
 48.Rf1 Rxf1
 49.Kxf1



The exchange of rooks signals the start of the endgame; and, as the board opens up, so the advantage of the powerful bishop pair over the lone rook gets stronger and stronger.]

49... Kxe6
 50.Ke2 Kd5
 51.Kd2 Bg5+
 52.Kc2 Bc4
 53.Kb2 Bd3
 54.Kb3 e6!!

One small step for a pawn, but a giant leap in the game! (*pace* Neil Armstrong).

55.Rc8 Bf4
 56.Rd8 Bc4+
 57.Kc2 Ke4

58.Rd7 Kf3

Here, White resigned. 0-1



The final position in the game, but what might, to the reader, look like a premature resignation (even though the engines now see a forced win for Black). So let us follow the game another six moves further forward along one of the probable paths it might have taken:

59.Rc7 Bf1
 60.c4 e5!
 61.Kc3

The exchange of pawns does not help White - it merely reduces the prospect of counter-play with the magnificent queenside pawn storm which, unfortunately, he never gets time to play!

61... e4!
 62.Rc6 e3!
 63.Rxa6 e2!
 64.Ra1 Bg3



This type of position was Black's strategic target from the point at which he played 54...e6. The bishop pair has provided the perfect escort for the passed pawn.]

0-1



Concluding Note by Peter Bennett

This game was one of the two wins in the ETC11 Board 6 group which allowed me to get my first ever IM norm at the age of 72. A friend called it a "golden norm", not on account of my age, but because both wins were scored against players who also gained a title norm in the same event (contrasting with the situation where one of the "wins" which helps you to a norm is against a player who has either defaulted or played very badly against everyone else as well).

Aslak Jonvik, my opponent in this game, got a CCE norm in spite of this loss and, in any case, scored two wins of his own. If Aslak had beaten me – as I had earlier feared that he would – he would have had three wins to my one and the crosstable would have looked very different. Such are the very small margins between success and failure in a chess tournament.

My other win in this event was against the Estonian player, Peep Narusberg, who picked up the CCE title as well as a second CCM norm. I hope to feature that game in a later article on the Ruy Lopez.

Poet's Corner

Knights on the Rim

Though knights upon the rim
 Reputedly are dim
 Such rules, except a few,
 Are rarely always true.

In gambits like the King's
 The pieces love the wings
 And knights upon h5
 Are very much alive.

So each and every rule
 Is learned in life and school -
 Yet every rule and each
 Is honoured in the breach.

In chess it's just the same:
 These rules about the game
 Of which we've briefly spoken
 Can frequently be broken.

Peter Bennett



Following in the Master's Footsteps?

By Peter Bennett

The concept of the “master craftsman” – a term which need not be thought of as gender specific – is manifest in many fields of human endeavour. People develop expertise over a lifetime of experience and then pass on what they can to the next generation which, in turn, needs to be prepared to serve apprenticeships of some kind. Whether you want to become a surgeon or a bricklayer, a pilot or an artist, learning from those who are already masters of their craft is an essential part of that developmental process.

The use of the word “master” in all our CC titles except the CCE continues the master/apprentice metaphor into the world of chess; but learning is not always following. The legend of the “apprentice pillar” in Rosslyn Chapel reminds us of the dangers of leaving the trodden path too soon; but following blindly in the master’s footsteps can equally lead to disaster. The fact is that everyone, including the master, can be wrong at times. Let’s take a few examples from the world of chess.

At the height of his powers, Bobby Fischer became quite cavalier in his treatment of the Sicilian Defence, especially the Dragon Variation. Against various Sicilian systems he favoured developing his king’s bishop on c4 – as indeed he did against Bent Larsen, on move 6, in the 1970 Interzonal tournament. Up to that point, Fischer’s view of how to defeat the Sicilian was treated with reverence; so everyone followed in his – the master’s – footsteps. Gradually it dawned on the chess world that the reason that Fischer was beating everyone was not because his judgement was impeccable, but because he was, overall, a better chess player than the rest. He won the 1970 Interzonal by a huge margin – one of the greatest tournament victories of all time – but he lost that one game to Larsen and never played 6.Bc4 in the Sicilian Sozin again.

At Wijk an Zee 2005 Vladimir Kramnik played 19.Be4 in a certain variation of the Ruy Lopez and won fairly quickly against a strong opponent, Sokolov. The move promptly became standard theory and thereafter 80% of players

White: Bennett, Peter (2374)
Black: Hempel, Reinhard (2201)
VWC9 sf9, 2019
Sicilian Najdorf [B94]
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 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 |
| 10.0-0-0 | Nc5 |
| 11.Rhe1!? | |

A sideline. The main line continues with 11.f3
11... h6



(position after 17... Nxb3+)

reaching that same position followed meekly in the master’s footsteps even, surprisingly, in correspondence games. When, by chance, I ventured down the same line in a CC game in 2011 I decided to carry out a detailed analysis of the position, found the much stronger move 19.Bc2! and won with it. In fact, Kramnik’s move (probably chosen at the board, let’s face it) only draws against best play, whereas Sokolov had actually lost that game because of a subsequent inaccuracy. (Ruy specialists will find a fuller version of this story in the New in Chess Yearbook 102).

The moral of these tales is to follow the master with respect and vigilance, not blind subservience; and did I learn the lesson for myself? Well no, I didn’t!

At around that same time I was also a member of NATCOR and used to play for them on Board 2 in inter-club CC fixtures. Our Board 1, and at that time by far the strongest active player in the club, was SIM Alan Rawlings with whom I corresponded occasionally. Indeed, on a number of occasions, Alan gave me – a then untitled “apprentice” – the benefit of his advice of which, naturally, I took careful note.

Fast forward to 2018 and I found myself playing against an unfamiliar sub-variation of the Sicilian Defence adopted by a lower-graded (2201) German opponent. So I checked the openings database and found that the super-strong German SIM Adrian Schilcher (2564) had used a TN (theoretical novelty) in this same line to win a game against another SIM – guess who? – my erstwhile mentor, Alan Rawlings, no less!

My goodness, thought I: if Rawlings had lost with Black against the line, it must be winning for White! Delighted at my discovery, I was already rubbing my hands with glee at the prospect of the full point. So, without further ado (= without rechecking the lines, hence ignoring my own previously published advice), I followed meekly in the masters’ footsteps. And here is the game:

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 12.Bh4 | 0-0 |
| 13.Qe3?!N | |
| The TN. | |
| 13... | Qc7 |
| 14.Rg1 | Re8 |
| 15.g4 | Nfxe4 |
| 16.Nxe4 | Bxh4 |
| 17.f4 | Nxb3+! |

A perfectly adequate continuation for Black, rendering the earlier TN fairly worthless and certainly not an improvement on the main line. Here SIM Rawlings had played: 17...Nxe4? 18.Qxe4 Qe7 19.Nf3 and White went on to win. Black’s 17th, as I now became aware for the first time, was simply inaccurate. Oh dear!

18.axb3 d5
 19.Nc3 Be7
 20.Kb1 b5
 21.g5 hxg5
 22.fxg5 g6



And now we reach the problem position from the last (Winter) Issue.

23.Nf5!?

A crazy move to have to play in a correspondence game but White, who is now in trouble, has nothing



better. Indeed, White (muggins) has made a complete fool of himself in this game. Ugh!

There were no winners of the prize; and, while anyone looking at this sequence of moves might have thought it was a 20th century OTB skittles game between reckless juniors, it is actually a recent correspondence game between players whose average age was 82: White is a pre-senile 73 and Black is a sprightly, creative 91. Much egg on muggins' face. :-)

23... exf5!

The point of White's N-sac is that 23....gxf5?? yields a winning attack. **24.Nxd5**



Two moves later we have another problem position. There is no competition this time. The answer is given after our Games Column. The game, in fact, will be drawn two moves further on. The question this time is: what is the only move which Black can now play to secure the draw? Can you work out the answer simply by looking at the position?

Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 13

By John E. Hawkes

White: Skoptsov, A.
Black: Ivannikov, A.
 [D31]

USSR Corr., 1953
 QGD Noteboom Variation [D31]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.c4 c6
 2.Nc3 e6
 3.d4 d5
 4.Nf3 dxc4
 5.a4 Bb4
 6.Ne5

White avoids mainline play 6.e3 b5 7.Bd2 a5 8.axb5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxb5 10.b3 Bb7. Here is a perhaps surprising historical reference for you: Leon Febvret v George Hatfeild Gossip at the Vizayanagaram Tournament, London 1883, going 6. e4 b5 7. Be2 Ne7 8. O-O Bxc3 9. bxc3 Bb7 10. Qc2 O-O 11. Ba3 Re8 12. Rfd1 a6 (The full score with interesting comments is available on the chessgames.com site).

6... Bxc3+
 7.bxc3 b5
 8.e3 Nf6
 9.Ba3 Qc7

9...a6 10.Qf3 Bb7 11.Rb1 Qa5!
 (11...Qc7 12.Qg3 Nh5 (12...Rg8?
 13.Nxc4+-) 13.Qg4 g6 14.Bxc4
 bxc4 15.Nxc4+-)

10.Qf3 Bb7
 11.Qg3 Rg8
 12.Be2 Nbd7
 13.0-0 Nxe5
 14.dxe5?! Ne4
 15.Qh4 Nxc3
 16.Bf3 Nxa4?
 16...h6 was safer.
 17.Bd6 Qd8
 18.Qxh7 Kd7



19.Rxa4! bxa4
 20.Rb1 Kc8
 21.Qe4 Qd7
 22.Qxc4 g5
 23.h3

23.Qxa4 g4 24.Bxg4 a5 and Black can survive rapid disaster.

23... f5?
 23...Kd8 had to be played. The second exchange sacrifice is now decisive.

24.Rxb7! Qxb7
 24...Kxb7 25.Qb5+ Kc8 26.Bxc6+-
 25.Bxc6 Qb3
 26.Bd7+!

and mate in two.

1-0





Olympiad XI Bronze for Scotland!

20 years ago the XI ICCF Olympiad Final was drawing to an end after 7 years of snail-mailing.

Czechoslovakia and Germany were to finish top with Canada and Scotland joint-third. Russia, despite fielding world champion Sanakoev and the future world champion Umansky, finished in 5th place.

Significant factors in the surprise first-ever-final Scottish success were the heavy 4.5–1.5 defeats of both England and Hungary, and holding Russia to a 3–3 draw.

Andrew Muir on board 2 and David Kilgour on board 4 were the stars for Scotland, both scoring 9/12 points without losing any games!

The full team and individual board results can be consulted on the ICCF website

To mark this anniversary I offer you a selection of games featuring most of the Scottish players:

White: Muir, Andrew (2539)

Black: Hollis, Adrian (2546)

XI Olympiad Final, Bd.2 1992–99

English Opening [A16]

[Notes by John E Hawkes based on Andrew Muir's notes]

1.c4 Nf6
2.Nc3 g6
3.e4

In this same event Jonathan Berry (CAN) let Hollis play his pet Gruenfeld Defence: 3.d4 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Be3 c5 8.Qd2 cxd4 9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Rd1 0–0 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.Be2 Rc8 13.0–0 Bxf3 14.gxf3 e6 15.d5 exd5 16.exd5 Ne5 17.d6 Qd7 18.Kg2 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.Bg5 Rg4+! Draw agreed. If 21.Kh1 Qf5! 22.f4 Rxg5 23.fxg5 Qf3+ and a perpetual.

3... e5
4.Nf3 Nc6
5.d4 exd4

SCCA Magazine 145

6.Nxd4 Bg7
Reaching an off-beat line of the King's Indian where Black has dispensed with ... d6. The critical line is 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Ng8 but Andrew felt this might overextend, whereas natural moves like 7.Be2 Ne4! or 7.Be3 Ng4! allow Black to equalise.

7.Nc2 0-0
8.Be2 Re8
9.f3 d6

10.Bg5
Inducing a weakness.

10... h6
11.Be3 Ne5
12.Qd2 Kh7
13.0-0 Be6
14.b3 a5
15.Nd4 Bd7

16.Ndb5
Black's weakness here will be c7 and Andrew intended to follow up with Nd5

16... Bxb5
7.cxb5!

Much better than Nxb5, as White can apply pressure down the c-file.

17... Ned7
Threatened to be kicked away by 18.h3 and 19.f4, Black plans to put the knight on c5 to block the c-file.

18.Rac1 Re7
Overprotecting c7 and preparing an imaginative plan.

19.Rfd1 b6
20.Rc2 Nc5
21.Bc4 Qh8
22.a3



22... a4?
Andrew considered 22...Ra7 to be better; 22...Ne6 is also a possibility.

23.b4 Nb3?
Played with tempo, but the knight is henceforth out-of-play, dominated by the Be3.

24.Qd3 Nd7
25.Nd5 Ne5
26.Qf1! Rd7
27.Be2

Now the other knight has nowhere to go.

27... g5
28.g3!

Much better than capturing on c7.

28... Ra7
28...Rc8? 29.f4 gxf4 30.gxf4 Ng6
31.Bg4+–

29.f4
29.Qh3 would also have been considered.

29... gxf4
30.gxf4 Ng6
31.f5

A seductive variation is 31.Bg4 Rd8 32.f5 Ne5 33.f6 Bf8 (33...Nxc4 34.Qf5+ Kg8 35.Qxc4 h5 36.Ne7+ Kf8 37.fxg7+ Qxc7 38.Qxc7+ Kxc7 39.Nc6+–) 34.Qf5+ Kg8 35.Rg2 Qh7 36.Ne7+ Kh8 37.Qxe5! dxe5 38.Rxd8 Qg7 39.fxg7+ Kxc7 40.Bf5+ Kf6 41.Ng8#

31... Ne5
No time for a desperate return to the fray by 31...Nd4 because of 32.fxg6+ fxg6 33.Bh5! gxh5 34.Rxd4 Bxd4 35.Qf5+ Kg8 36.Rg2+ Rg7 37.Ne7#!

32.f6 Bf8
33.Bh5!
An immaculate positional display by White, leaving Black without defensive resources e.g. 33.Bh5 Rd8 34.Qf5+ Ng6 35.Rg2 Qg8 36.Nf4 and g6 is overloaded.

1-0



Andrew Muir

White: Meleghegyi, Csaba (2606)

Black: Muir, Andrew (2539)

XI Olympiad Final, Bd 2, 1992-99
Semi-Slav, Meran System [D47]

[Notes by Andrew Muir]

1.d4 d5
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 c6
4.e3 Nf6
5.Nf3 Nbd7
6.Bd3 dxc4
7.Bxc4 b5
8.Bd3 Bb7
9.e4 b4
10.Na4 c5
11.e5 Nd5
12.dxc5 Nxc5

12...Bxc5 13.Nxc5 Nxc5 14.Bb5+
Kf8± Tukmakov-Shabalov 88

13.Bb5+ Nd7
14.Bg5 Qa5
15.Bxd7+ Kxd7
16.0-0 h6

16...Be7 is more reliable 17.b3
(17.a3 Rhc8 18.axb4 (18.Bxe7 Kxe7
19.Ng5 Nf4 20.Qd6+ (20.Qg4 Rc4
(20...Qd5 21.f3 Rc4 22.Kh1 Ng6±)
21.Nxe6 h5 22.Qxg7 Nxe6±
Dyachov-Perez 5) 20...Ke8 21.Nxh7
Ng6 22.axb4 (22.Rfe1?? Qxa4+)
22...Qxe5 Sundarajan-Pelletier 0
23.Qxe5 Nxe5 24.Nc5 Bd5 25.Rfe1
Nc6 26.Nd3 Rcb8 27.Nf4 Nxb4=)
18...Qxb4 19.Bd2 Qc4 20.Nc3 Ke8
21.Ra4 Qd3 22.Rg4 Nxc3= Pelletier-
Galkin 0) 17...h6 (17...Rhc8 18.Nb2
Ba6 19.Re1= Kunte-Erenburg 7)
18.Bxe7 Kxe7 19.Qd4 Rhd8 20.Qe4
Rab8 21.Qh7 Rh8 Yusupov-Kramnik
95 22.Qe4 Nc3 23.Qe3 Nxa4
24.bxa4 Rhc8±; 16...Bc6 17.b3 Bxa4
18.bxa4 h6 19.Be3± Balashov-
Mariotti 77

17.Be3?!N

17.Bd2 Bc6 18.b3 Qa6 (18...Bxa4
19.bxa4 Bc5 20.a3 Rhc8 21.Rb1
(21.Qb1 Qb6 22.a5 Qb5 23.axb4
Bxb4 24.Rd1 Ke7 25.Nd4±)
21...Rab8 22.Ne1 Cvitan-Kharlov 92
22...Ke7 23.Nd3 Nc3±) 19.Nb2 Bb5
20.Re1 Bc5 21.Be3 Rhc8 Kunte-
Cheparinov 4 22.Bxc5 Rxc5 23.Nd4
Ke7 24.Nxb5 Qxb5 25.Nc4 Kf8
26.Nd6 Qb6=

17... Be7=
18.a3 bxa3!

Keeping the a-pawns on the board
with more winning chances.

18...Rhc8 19.axb4 Qxb4 20.Bd2
(20.Qd3 Ke8 21.Qh7 Bc6 22.Nc3
Nxe3 23.fxe3 Qxb2 24.Ne4 Bxe4
25.Qxe4 Qc2 26.Qg4 Bc5 27.Nd4
Qg6=) 20...Qe4 21.b4 Ke8 22.Nc5

Bxc5 23.bxc5 Rxc5 24.Qb3 Nb6
25.Rxa7 Rxa7 26.Qxb6 Ra2 27.Qxc5
Rxd2 28.Qb5+ Rd7 29.Rd1 Qc6
30.Qxc6 Bxc6 31.Rxd7 Kxd7
32.Nd4=

19.bxa3?!

19.Bd2! Qa6 20.b4 Rhc8 21.Rxa3
Ke8 22.Qb3 Qb5 23.Nc5 Bxc5
24.bxc5 Rxc5 25.Qa2 Nb4 26.Qb1=

19... Rhc8±

19...Rhd8 20.Bd2 (20.Qd4 Bc6
21.Nb2 Ke8 22.Nc4 Qa6 23.Nd6+
Kf8 24.Rab1 Bxd6 25.exd6 Nxe3
26.Qxe3 Rxd6 27.Ne5 Rad8 28.Qc5
Kg8 29.Nxc6 Qxc6 30.Qxa7±)
20...Qa6 21.Rc1 Rac8 22.Qb3 Ke8
23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.Rb1 Bc6

20.Bd2

White must get his knight on a4 into
play.

20... Qa6
21.Nc3 Ke8
22.Nxd5 Bxd5
23.Bb4 Rc4?!

23...Bxb4 24.axb4 Qb7 25.Qd3
(25.Qa4+ Kf8 26.Qa3 Rc4 27.Rab1
Rac8 28.Rfc1 Kg8 29.Rxc4 Rxc4
30.h3 a6±) 25...Bc4 26.Qh7 Bxf1
27.Rxf1 Qxb4 28.Qxg7 Qf4+;
23...Qb7 24.Bxe7 Qxe7 25.Qa4+ Kf8
26.Qf4 Rc3 27.Nd4 Rac8 28.a4
R8c4±

24.Bxe7?!

24.Qd3! Rac8 25.Rfd1 Bxb4 26.axb4
Qxa1 27.Rxa1 Rc1+ 28.Qf1 Rxf1+
29.Kxf1 Rc2 30.Ke1± is probably
drawn.

24... Kxe7±
25.Qd3 Qa5

25...Rac8 26.Nd2 (26.Rac1 Qc6
27.Rcd1 Bxf3 28.gxf3 Rc3 29.Qh7
Qxf3 30.Qxg7 a5±) 26...Ra4 27.Qe3
Qb6±



26.Nd2?

26.Nd4 Rac8 (26...Qc3 27.Qxc3
Rxc3 28.Rfc1 Rac8 29.Rxc3 Rxc3
30.Nb5 Rc5 31.Nxa7 Kd7 32.Rb1=;
26...Kf8 27.Rfd1 Kg8 28.Nf5 Re4
29.Ne7+ Kh8 30.Nxd5 exd5 31.Rab1

Rxe5 32.g3 Rae8 33.Rb5=; 26...Qc5!
27.Rfd1 Kf8 28.Rab1 Kg8 29.Rb5
Qc7±) 27.Rad1 Rc3 28.Qh7±]

26... Qc3±

27.Qe2 Rd4

28.Rfd1 Rd8!

28...Qd3 29.Qh5±

29.Nf1

29.Rac1 Qxa3±

29...

Rxd1

30.Rxd1 Bc4

31.Qg4 Rxd1

32.Qxd1 Qxa3!

32...Qxe5 33.Ne3 Qc3 34.Nxc4
Qxc4 35.g3± but not very easy to
win.

33.Ne3

33.Qb1 Ba6±

33...

Bd3

34.h4 Qc3

34...Kf8

35.g3 Kf8

36.Qf3 Kg8+

Home sweet home.

37.Qa8+ Kh7

38.Qb7 a5

39.Qxf7 Be4

40.Kh2 Qxe5

41.f3 Qb2+

41...Qb2+ 42.Kh3 Qf2 43.Qxe6 Qxf3
44.Nc4 h5-+

0-1



White: Korolev, Sergei (2616)

Black: Muir, Andrew (2539)

XI Olympiad Final, Bd.2 1992-99
Sicilian, Lasker-Dunne Attack [B20]
[Notes by Andrew Muir and John E
Hawkes]

1.e4 c5
2.g3 d5
3.exd5 Qxd5
4.Nf3 Bg4
5.Bg2 Qe6+
6.Kf1 Nc6

6...Bh3 would have let Korolev play
his wing gambit speciality 7.b4 cxb4
8.a3

7.h3 Bh5

8.Nc3 Qd7

9.d3 e6

10.Be3 Nf6

10...Rd8 11.Ne5!?! 11...Bxd1

12.Nxd7 Kxd7 13.Rxd1 Nf6 14.d4±

Korolev - I.Kopylov corr 1986

11.g4 Bg6

12.Nh4 Be7

12...0-0 13.Bxc6 Qxc6 14.Qf3
Qxf3 15.Nxf3 h5 16.g5 Nd5 17.Ne5
Be7 18.h4=; 12...Nb4 13.g5
(13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.a3 Nbd5 15.Bd2

0-0-0 16.Qf3=) 13...Bh5 14.Bf3
Bxf3 15.Nxf3 Nfd5 16.Bd2 0-0-0
17.Kg2 Nc6 - AM
13.g5?!



Varying from Korolev - Nimtz in the Heitmann Memorial a couple of years before; 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.dxe4 Qc7 16.c3 0-0 17. h4 Rad8 18.Qe2 Qd6 19.Rh3 e5 20.g5 Qd3 21.Bf3 f5 22.gxf6 gxf6 23.Qxd3 Rxd3 24. Rg3 Kh7 25.Ke2 Rdd8 26.Rag1 Rg8 27.Bg4 Bf8 28.Be6 Rg7 29.Rxg6 Rxg6 30. Bf5 Ne7 31.h5 Bh6 32.hxg6+ Kg7 33.Bxc5 Rd2+ 34.Kf3 Nxf5 35.exf5 b6 36.Be3 Bxe3 37.fxe3 Rxb2 38.Rg2 1-0

13... Bh5!

Andrew's analysis of a less-promising line goes; 13...Nd5 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Qg4 Nb4 16.Rc1 Nxa2 17.Re1 d4 18.Bf4 Nb4 19.Re2 Rd8 20.Bf3 c4 21.Nxg6 hxg6 22.dxc4 d3 23.cxd3 Nxd3 24.Bg3 Kf8 25.Qxd7 Rxd7 26.h4 f6 27.Rd2 Bb4 28.Rd1 Ke7=

14.Qe1

14.Bf3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nd4 16.Bxd4 cxd4 17.gxf6 Bxf6 18.Ne4 Bxh4 - AM

14... Nd5

Other knight moves were: 14...Nb4 15.gxf6 Bxf6 16.Rc1 Bxh4 17.Bxc5 Nc6=; 14...Ng8 15.Ne4 Nd4 16.Qc3 Rc8 17.b4 (17.Ng3 - JEH) 17...b6= Shaw-Wells 94; and 14...Nd4 15.Qd2 (15.gxf6 Bxf6 16.Bxd4 cxd4 17.Nd5 Bxh4 18.Qe5 Bg6 19.Nc7+ Ke7 20.Qc5+ Qd6 21.Qxd6+ Kxd6 22.Nxa8 Rxa8 23.Ke2 Rc8) 15...Qd8! 16.Re1 0-0 17.Rg1 Nd7 - AM

15.Bxc5 Bxc5

15...Ndb4 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Bxc6+ Nxc6 18.Ne4 and equality - AM

16.Nxd5 Nd4?!

16...0-0! 17.Nf4 Bg6 18.Qd2 Rad8 19.Kg1 Qe7 - AM
17.Qe5

17.Rb1 h6 18.Qe5 0-0-0 19.b4 Nc6
20.Qxg7 Rdg8 21.Qb2 Bd4 22.Nf6 Qd6 -

17... 0-0

18.Nf6! gxf6

19.gxf6 Nxc2

Andrew analyses his option

19...Be2+ thus: 20.Kg1 Rfc8

21.Qg5+ Kf8 22.Re1 Ke8 23.c3

Bxd3 24.cxd4 Qxd4 25.Re3 Bg6

26.Bxb7 Qxb2 27.Bxa8 Bxe3

28.Qxe3 Rxa8 29.Nxg6 hxg6 30.Qc5

Qb7 31.Kh2 Rc8 32.Rb1! draw.

20.Qxc5 Qxd3+

21.Kg1 Kh8

21...Bg6 22.Qg5 Qd4 23.Nf3 Qxb2

24.Rd1 Nb4 25.Rd2 Qb1+ 26.Kh2

Qf5 27.Qxf5 Bxf5 28.Rg1 Bg6

29.Ne5 Rad8 30.Rgd1 Rxd2 31.Rxd2

Nd5 32.Bxd5 exd5 33.Rxd5= AM

22.Rc1 Nd4

23.Kh2 Qd2

24.Qe5 Rg8

25.Rhf1 Nf5

25...Be2 26.Rg1 Rad8 27.Qe3 Qxb2

28.Rb1 Qxa2 29.Be4 Nf5 30.Nxf5

exf5 31.Bxf5 Qd5 32.Be4 Qd6+

33.Kh1 Rxg1+ 34.Rxg1 Bd3 35.Rg7

Bxe4+ 36.Qxe4 Qc6 37.Qxc6 bxc6

38.Rxf7 Ra8 39.Kg2 a5 40.Re7 a4

41.f7 Rf8 42.Re4= AM

26.Nxf5 exf5

27.Rce1



And Black forces a draw quite beautifully.

27... Rxg2+!

28.Kxg2 Rg8+

29.Kh2 Bf3

30.Re3 Rg2+

31.Kh1 Qe2!

32.Rxe2

With an aesthetic discovered check by an "en-prise" 32...Rg7!

1/2-1/2



Colin McNab

White: McNab, Colin (2502)

Black: Umansky, Mikhail (2689)

XI Olympiad Final, Bd.3, 1999

Benko Gambit Reversed [A09]

[Notes by McNab / Umansky]

1.Nf3

d5

2.g3

c5

3.c4

d4

4.b4

exb4

5.a3

b3

6.a4

Nc6

7.Ba3

Nf6

8.d3

g6

9.Nbd2

Bg7

10.Bg2

0-0

11.0-0

Re8

12.Nxb3

e5

13.Nfd2

Qc7

14.Nc5

Rd8

15.Nce4

Nxe4

16.Nxe4

Rb8

At this stage I quite liked the look of my position, but was unsure how to continue. With hindsight, I do not approve of my choice.

17.a5?! f5!

Taking the pawn immediately is unwise: 17...Nxa5? 18.Bd6! but Black finds a strong counter.

18.Ng5 e4!

19.Nh3

Perhaps I should try 19.dxe4!?

although 19...h6 20.Nh3 fxe4 21.Nf4 Bf5 22.Nd5 Qd7 looks quite good for Black.

19... Nxa5

20.Nf4 b6

21.Nd5

I had hoped that the knight on d5 would provide compensation for the pawn but this is soon shown not to be the case.

21... Qf7

22.dxe4 fxe4

23.Bxe4 Nxc4

24.Ne7+ Kh8

25.Nc6 Re8!

26.Bf3

After 26.Nxb8 Rxe4 - as the twin tasks of retrieving the knight from b8 and avoiding mate on the light squares would prove too much for White.

26... Bh3
 27.Nxb8 Bxf1
 28.Nc6



28... Bh3?

As far as I can see, 28...d3! wins. Possible continuations are: 29.Qxf1 (29.exd3 Nd2! 30.Qxd2 Bxa1 31.Bb2+ Bxb2 32.Qxb2+ Kg8 33.Ne5 Bh3!!) 29...Nd2! (29...dxe2 30.Bxe2 Rxe2 31.Qxe2 Bxa1 32.Nd8 Qd7 33.Qxc4 Qxd8 34.Qf7μ) 30.Qd1 Nxf3+ 31.exf3 d2 32.Ne7 Bxa1 33.Qxa1+ Qg7 34.Qd1 (34.Bb2 d1Q+) 34...Qc3 and now 35.Bb4!? Qc1 36.Kg2 Qxd1?? 37. Bc3 mate would be a dream finish, but 36...Rxe7 provides a rude awakening.

29.Nxd4 Qd7
 29...Rd8! 30.e3 a5 is still slightly better for Black.

30.e3 Rxe3?
 31.fxe3 Nxe3
 Black has calculated that after queen moves 32...Bxd4 wins, but he has evidently missed White's riposte.

32.Nc6! Nxd1
 33.Rxd1

Black's king position means that he is unable to avoid the loss of material.

33... Qe8
 34.Rd8 Qxd8
 35.Nxd8 Bd4+
 36.Kh1 a5



Converting White's material advantage to a win is problematic, and perhaps even impossible. Black's passed pawns are dangerous, and while White is dealing with them Black may get amongst his kingside pawns.

37.Bg2 Bxg2+
 38.Kxg2 b5
 39.Nc6 Bc3
 40.Bc5 Kg7
 41.Kf3 Kf6
 42.Ke4 a4
 43.Be7+ Ke6
 44.Ba3 h5
 45.Nd4+

It appears t Black can force a draw after this, but I am not sure what else White should play.

45... Bxd4
 46.Kxd4 Kf5
 47.h3
 47.Kc3 Kg4 48.Kf2 Kh3 49.Kg1 h4=
 47... h4!
 48.g4+
 48.gxh4 Kf4 49.Bd6+ Kf3 50.Kc3 Kg2 51.Kb4 Kxh3 52.Be7 Kg4 53.Kxb5 a3=
 48... Kf4
 49.Bd6+ Kf3



50.g5
 Apparently White missed a win here by 50.Ke5 with Umansky's analysis going: 50...Kg3 51.Ke4+ (51.Kf6+ Kxh3 52.g5 Kg2 53.Kxg6 h3) 51...Kf2 (51...Kxh3 52.Kf3 b4 (52...g5 53.Be7 Kh2 54.Bxg5 b4 55.Bc1 (55.Bxh4 b3) 55...Kg1 56.g5 h3 57.Kg3 h2 58.Be3+ Kf1 59.Kxh2 b3 60.Bc1 Ke1 61.g6 Kd1 62.Ba3 Kc2 63.g7 b2 64.g8Q b1Q 65.Qg6+--)) 53.Bxb4 Kh2 54.Be7 Kg1 (54...h3 55.Kf2 Kh1 56.Kg3 h2 57.Kh3 Kg1 58.Bc5+ Kh1 59.Bd6; 54...Kh3 55.Bd6) 55.Bxh4 a3 56.Kg3 (56.Bf6 Kh2) 56...a2 57.Bf6 Kf1 58.g5 Ke2 59.Kf4 Kd3 60.Ba1 Kc2 61.Ke5+-) 52.Kf4 Kg2 53.Ke3 Kf1 54.Kf3 Kg1 (54...Ke1 55.Kf4 Kd2

56.Kg5 Kc3 57.Kxg6 b4 58.Kh5 b3 59.g5 Kc2 60.Ba3 Kb1 61.g6 Ka2 62.Bc1 Kb1 63.Bf4+-) 55.g5 Kf1 56.Kg4 Kg2 57.Kxh4 Kf3 58.Bb4 Kf4 59.Be7 Kf3 60.Bd6 Ke4 61.Kg3 Kd5 62.Be7 Kc4 63.h4 b4 64.h5+-

Umansky
 50... Kg2
 51.Ke4 Kxh3
 52.Kf3 b4
 53.Bxb4 Kh2
 54.Bc5

After 54.Bd6+ Kg1 55.Kg4 Kg2 56.Kxh4 Kf3 57.Kh3 Ke4 58.Kg4 Ke3= Black has achieved a blockade. He moves his king between e3, e4 and e5, preventing White's king from advancing. If White defends his g-pawn with the bishop and tries to play his king to the queenside, then Black can play ...Kf5 and push his a-pawn to deflect the bishop.

54... Kh1
 55.Kf2 Kh2
 56.Bd6+ Kh1
 Mutual zugzwang; Black to play would lose, but...

57.Ba3
 57.Kf1 h3 58.Kf2 h2 (58...a3 59.Bxa3 h2 60.Kg3 Kg1 61.Bc5+ Kh1 leads to stalemate.) 59.Kg3 a3 60.Bxa3 Kg1 61.Bc5+ Kh1 stalemate or repetition.

57... Kh2
 58.Bc5 Kh3!
 58...Kh1? 59.Bd6!+-
 59.Kf3 Kh2
 60.Bd6+ Kg1
 61.Kg4 Kg2

Black is drawing as explained in the note to move 54.

½-½



David Kilgour

White: du Jardin, Jan (2507)
 Black: - Kilgour, David (2490)
 XI Olympiad Final, Bd.4 1992-99
 Sicilian, Alapin Variation [B22]
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 c5
 2.c3 d5
 3.exd5 Qxd5
 4.d4 Nf6

5.Nf3 Bg4
 6.Be2 e6
 7.0-0 Nc6
 8.Be3 cxd4
 9.cxd4 Be7
 10.Nc3 Qd6
 11.h3 Bh5
 12.Rc1 0-0
 13.a3 Rac8
 14.Qa4 Rfd8
 15.Rfd1 a6
 16.g4 Bg6
 17.Ne5 Qb8
 Refusing to get involved in 17...Nxe5
 18.dxe5 Qxe5 19.Bf4 Qc5
 (19...Rxd1+? loses to the unnatural
 20.Nxd1!)
 18.Nxc6 Rxc6
 19.Bf3 Rcc8
 20.Qa5 Bd6
 21.Qb6 Rd7
 22.Kg2 h6
 23.b4 Rc4!
 24.b5 Qc8
 25.bxa6 bxa6
 26.Na4?



26... Bc2!
 27.Nc5 Bxc5
 28.dxc5 Rxd1
 29.Bxd1 Nd5!
 30.Qb2 Nxe3+
 31.fxe3 Be4+
 32.Bf3 Bxf3+
 33.Kxf3 Qxc5
 34.Qb8+ Kh7
 35.Qb1+ g6
 36.Rxc4 Qxc4
 37.Qb2 Qf1+
 38.Kg3 Qe1+
 39.Kf3 h5!
 40.gxh5
 40.g5 Qf1+ 41.Kg3 Qf5--
 40... Qd1+
 41.Kg3 Qxh5
 42.h4 Qc5
 43.Kf4 Qf5+
 44.Kg3 Qe4
 0-1



White: Stolyar, Sergey (2535)
Black: Kilgour, David (2490)
 XI Olympiad Final Bd.4 1992-99
 Kings Indian Attack [A07]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.Nf3 d5
 2.g3 Nf6
 3.Bg2 c6
 4.0-0 Bf5
 5.d3 e6
 6.Nbd2 h6
 7.b3 Be7
 8.Bb2 0-0
 9.Re1 a5
 10.e4 Bh7
 11.a4 Na6
 12.e5 Nd7
 13.Nd4 Nb4
 14.Re2 Qb6
 15.Bh3 Nc5
 16.N2f3 Qc7
 17.Ne1 Rfb8
 18.f4 b5



19.f5 bxa4
 20.bxa4 exf5
 21.Bxf5 Bxf5
 22.Nxf5 Ne6
 23.Rf2 Bf8
 24.Ng2 Na6
 25.Bc3 Nac5
 26.Qe2 Ng5
 27.Kh1 Qd7
 28.Qg4 g6
 29.h4 Nge6
 30.h5 Ng5
 31.hxg6 fxg6
 32.Nfe3 Bg7
 33.Qxd7 Nxd7
 34.Ng4 Rf8
 35.Rxf8+ Rxf8
 36.Nf4 h5
 37.Nxg6 hxg4
 38.Nxf8 Kxf8
 39.Bxa5 Bxe5
 40.Rf1+ Ke7

41.Be1 Ne6
 42.a5 Nc7
 43.Kg2 Na6
 44.Rf5 Ke6
 45.Rg5 Nf6
 46.Rg7 Kd6
 47.Bd2 d4
 48.Rg6 Ke6
 49.Bg5 Kf5
 50.Bxf6 Bxf6
 50...Kxg6? 51.Bxe5+-
 51.Rg8 Be5
 52.Ra8 Nc7

½-½



Douglas Bryson

White: Webb, Simon (2614)
Black: Bryson, Douglas (2580)
 XI Olympiad Final, Bd.1 1992-99
 Semi-Slav, Botvinnik System [D44]
[Notes by Douglas Bryson]

1.d4 d5
 2.c4 e6
 3.Nc3 c6
 4.Nf3 Nf6
 5.Bg5 dxc4
 6.e4 b5
 7.e5 h6
 8.Bh4 g5
 9.Nxg5 hxg5
 10.Bxg5 Nbd7
 11.g3 Qa5
 12.exf6 b4
 13.Ne4 Ba6
 14.b3

Rowson v Bryson in the 111th Scottish OTB Championship 2004 went; 14. Qf3 O-O-O 15. Be3 e5 16. Bg2 exd4 17. Bxd4 c3 - and then came the startling 18. O-O-O ! [JEH]
 14... 0-0-0
 I had lost an OTB game to GM Ruban at Hastings 1991-92 playing 14... Nb6. 14... 0-0-0 must be better, giving Black Ne5 tricks.
 15.Qc2 Nb6
 16.Be3 e5!
 I got this from ChessBase (copy of Correspondence Yearbook on disk) and it was news to Simon.
 17.dxe5

17.0-0-0 occurred in the ChessBase game Panman-Nooman.

17... Qxe5
18.Rc1 Re8
19.Bg2

On my own now.

19... c3
20.f4 Qh5

Simon mentions 20... Qd5 21.Rd1 Qh5 as "I no longer have 22.Qd1".

21.Kf2 Nd5
22.Qd1 Nxe3
23.Qxh5 Rxh5
24.Kxe3 Rd5
25.Rhd1??

This misses Black's threat. 25.Kf3 Rd3+ 26.Kg4 Re3 was indicated by White as "pretty dodgy", but is not completely clear after 27.Rhe1 Be2+ 28.Kf5

25... Rxd1
26.Rxd1 Bc5+
27.Kf3



27... Bd3!!
Suddenly White is completely lost.
28.Bh3+ Kc7
29.Rxd3

Or 29.Nxc5 Be2+

29... c2
30.Nxc5 c1Q
31.Rd7+ Kb6
32.Re7 Qd1+
33.Kf2 Qd4+
34.Kg2?

34.Kf3 loses to 34...Qd5+ , e.g. 35.Kg4 (35.Ke2 Qh5+) 35...Rg8+; The most resilient is 34.Kf1 but 34...Qa1+ 35.Kf2 Qxa2+ 36.Kf1 Kxc5 37.Rxe8 Qxb3 should win.

34... Qd5+
After 35.Kf1 (35.Kg1 and 35. Kh2 fail to Qxc5+) 35... Qf3+ followed by Rxe7 and a check to win the e7 pawn.

0-1



Alan Borwell

White: Keszi, Janos (2487)

Black: Borwell, Alan (2319)

XI Olympiad Final, Bd.6 1992-99

QGD Exchange variation [D31]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Qc2 Bd6 6.Nf3 Ne7 7.Bg5 f6 8.Bd2 0-0 9.e4 Re8

9...dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nd5 11.Nxd6 Qxd6 12.0-0-0 (12.Bd3 Re8+ and White must move his king.) 12...Bg4= 10.0-0-0 Na6 11.Bxa6 bxa6 12.e5 fxe5 13.dxe5 Bf5 14.Qa4 Bc5 15.g4 Bg6 16.h4?

16.Qxa6 Bxf2 17.Rhf1 Now Black piles on the pressure.

16...Qb6 17.h5 Rab8 18.b3



18...Bd3!

Bd3 again! (c.f. Bryson) - the Scots secret weapon in this tournament!

19.Be1 Bb5 20.Nxb5 cxb5 21.Qf4 Rf8 22.Qg3 Ba3+ 23.Kb1 Rbc8 24.Nd4??

24.Bd2 Rxf3! 25.Qxf3 Qd4 26.Bc3 (26.Bc1 Rxc1+ 27.Rxc1 Qb2#)

26...Rxc3-+

24...Qxd4 25.Rxd4 Rc1#

0-1



White: Muir, Andrew (2539)

Black: Matlak, Marek (2200)

XI Olympiad Final Bd.2 1992-99

QGD Noteboom Variation [D31]

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 d5 2.e4 c6 3.Nf3 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bb4 6.e3 b5 7.Bd2 a5 8.axb5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxb5 10.b3 Bb7 11.bxc4 b4 12.Bb2 Nf6 13.Bd3 Nbd7 14.Qc2 Qc7 15.e4

Itkis - Matlak in the Polish Team Championship 1991 had gone; 16. c5 h6!? 17.e4 e5 18.dxe5 Nh5 19.Rfc1 Rfc8 20. Qd2 Nxc5 21.Bd4 Qc7 22.Rxc5 Rxc5 23.g4 Qd7! with an unclear position according to Scherbakov.

15...e5 16.0-0 0-0 17.Rfe1 Rfe8 18.c5 exd4 19.Bxd4 h6



20.e5

Now for the obvious move!

20...Nd5 21.e6 Rxe6 22.Rxe6 fxe6 23.Re1 Nf4 24.Be4 Rc8 25.g3 Nd5

Losing (Scherbakov).

25...Nh3+ 26.Kg2 Ng5

26.Bh7+ Kh8

26...Kf8 27.Rxe6 Ne7 28.Bxg7+ Kxg7 29.Rxe7+ Kf8 30.Qe2 Bxf3 31.Qe6!

27.Rxe6 N5f6 28.Nh4 Qd8?

29.Re7! Rc7 30.Rxg7! Kxg7

31.Qg6+ Kf8 32.Nf5 Ne5 33.Qxh6+ Kf7 34.Nd6+ Ke6 35.Bf5+ Kd5

36.Bxe5

And Black should resign here.

36...Kxe5 37.Qf4+ Kd5 38.Qc4+

Kc6 39.Qb5+ Kd5 40.Nxb7

40.Nxb7 Rxb7 41.Qd3+ Kxc5

42.Qxd8+-

1-0





Dadi Örn Jónsson

By Morten Lilleøren

Here is some "old" news: Below the radar, Dadi Örn Jónsson of Iceland became European champion in the 68th European Championship 2013-15. Subsequent championships have dragged on, so he is still the reigning champion at the time of writing. The fact that in 2018 he also became a grandmaster, almost makes the waiting time for this article justifiable.

First a little about Dadi (Icelanders are called by first names when they are mentioned in public): He was born in 1954 in Reykjavik and educated as a mathematician. After graduating, he began working in the IT industry. In 1981 he started his own company with some friends. They sold it in 2000 and since 2008 he has been independent. He specialises in managing large IT projects - mainly in the field of telecommunications and banking. He is married, and has four adult children and two grandchildren.

He played his first OTB game in 1972. His career was not long: When he went to university (and started a family shortly afterwards) he more or less ceased playing. Before that, he managed to win the US Junior Open in 1975. He has only played around 100 OTB tournament games. Although not active, he followed the chess scene as a spectator. He was on the board of Taflfélag Reykjavíkur (Reykjavik Chess Club), Taflfélagið Hellir and the Icelandic Chess Federation - and was president of Taflfélagið Hellir 1997-2000. He also wrote chess columns for Morgunblaðið (Iceland's biggest news-paper) for several years (1997-2004). He was on the Icelandic rating committee for 20 years and designed the Elo-based rating system that was used by the Icelandic Chess Federation until FIDE took over the rating calculations. He ran the chess web site 'Chess in Iceland' for a few years and he was a columnist on the website "The Chess Cafe" which many of us remember as a place where we could read chess articles of the highest quality. Dadi's column

was a special series on Chess OK's products, i.e. the programs Aquarium and Rybka. The column counted 65 issues and was published during the period 2006-12.

When a friend of his managed to lure him into correspondence chess in 2011, he had a number of prerequisites for doing very well. The 68th European Championship began in December 2013, and he was a clear champion in October two years later. He won with 10½/16, a full point ahead of second place. By doing this, he became the first Icelandic European Champion ever – in any sort of activity!



His success had begun before this: He got his international debut on board 8 for Iceland in the European Team Championship, scoring 9 out of 10. In the semi-finals of the 69th European Championship, which began in 2012, he won again, this time with 9/12 - 1½ points clear. In the preliminary round of the 20th Olympiad, he managed 6/8 and 1= on the final x-table – all this before he became European champion. His rating went over 2500 and he received the IM title.

In the European Team Championship final, he advanced to Iceland's top board. In this final he recorded his only non-success with: 5½/12 and no victories. However, his rapid advance meant that he started getting invitations to strong tournaments - the first being the Georgi Dimovski Memorial. It was a very smooth affair - he ended up in a 6-part first place with 8½ out of 16 - the SB made him 4th. In the Champions League 2017 he played for Chess.OK (of course). There he came second. In 2015, he began his first World Candidate tournament. The result

was a (split) second place - and thus he is now qualified for a World Championship final.

A new highlight came in the 800 Aniversario Order de Predicadores, where he is currently in a quadruple second place. The tournament is not yet finished, so the final position is not clear. What has been clear for a long time, though, is that he took his second IGM norm here. Since this was a 16-games tournament and the first GM norm was taken on 8 rounds, he became grandmaster at the 2018 ICCF Congress.

It has to be added that he is currently the Icelandic delegate in the ICCF. For the time being, he is still playing in an invitation tournament, but 2019 is otherwise set aside for play in the World Championship final.

Dadi, as mentioned, was lured into correspondence chess by a friend, but it caught his imagination - he quickly found that he liked to analyse chess positions. According to him, correspondence chess has the advantage for him that he can plan his analysis sessions and adapt them to other tasks in everyday life.

Here is his game from the 68th European Championship final against IGM Napalkov:

White: Jónsson, Dadi Örn (2519)
Black: Napalkov, Vladimir Aleksandro (2506)
EU/C68/Final ICCF, 2015
Caro-Kann Advance [B12]
[Notes by Dadi Örn Jónsson]

| | |
|--------|-----|
| 1.e4 | c6 |
| 2.d4 | d5 |
| 3.e5 | Bf5 |
| 4.Nf3 | e6 |
| 5.Be2 | Nd7 |
| 6.0-0 | h6 |
| 7.a4 | Ne7 |
| 8.a5 | Bh7 |
| 9.Na3 | b5 |
| 10.c3 | Ng6 |
| 11.Nc2 | |



While analysing this position, I started seeing the ideas that guided my play in this game. Some of the variations I looked at were fascinating and I saw the first seeds of what turned out to be the winning combination!

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 11... | Be7 |
| 12.Nfe1 | 0-0 |
| 13.f4 | Nh4 |
| 14.b4 | Qe8 |
| 15.Bd3 | Bd8 |
| 16.g3 | Nf5 |
| 17.g4 | Nh4 |
| 18.Bxh7+ | Kxh7 |
| 19.Qd3+ | Kg8 |
| 20.Qh3 | h5 |
| 21.g5 | Nf5 |
| 22.Qxh5 | g6 |



White has won a pawn, but in this closed position Black can set up a defensive barrier on the kingside which prevents White from taking advantage of the extra pawn.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 23.Qg4 | Kg7 |
| 24.Rf3 | Rh8 |
| 25.Ng2 | Be7 |
| 26.Bd2 | Rh7 |
| 27.h4 | Rh5 |

Even if Black sacrifices the rook for a knight on h5, there is still no way for White to break through. White's bishop also looks useless, so what can White do? The chess engines like White's positions, but when I looked

at the variations, they weren't making any progress. Just shifting pieces back and forth.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 28.Rh3 | Qh8 |
| 29.Nge3 | Rg8 |
| 30.Kg2 | Kf8 |
| 31.Rah1 | Rg7 |
| 32.Be1 | Ke8 |



This still looks like White is shifting pieces back and forth... but actually he had been aiming at this position for a long time!

33.c4!

This (impossible move) is the start of a deep combination. My opponent can't be blamed for not seeing this breakthrough as none of the top engines at the time could find it. This is an example of how good ideas can trump even the strongest engines. I briefly checked Stockfish 10 (released in Nov. 2018) and it's still clueless.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 33... | bx c4 |
| 34.Qf3 | |
| A nice quiet move. | |
| 34... | Rgh7 |

35.b5

White sacrifices another pawn.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 35... | cx b5 |
| 36.Nxf5 | gx f5 |

White has sacrificed a pawn, but Black's centre looks strong and he has two connected passed pawns! So what is White's plan?

37.Ne3

Now the cracks in Black's position start to show. His centre is not as strong as it looked and all his heavy pieces are locked out of play on the kingside.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 37... | Nf8 |
| 38.Nxd5 | ex d5 |
| 39.Qxd5 | |



White only has one pawn for a knight, but Black's position is hopeless.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 39... | Ne6 |
| 40.Qa8+ | Kd7 |
| 41.Qxa7+ | Nc7 |
| 42.d5 | Qa8 |
| 43.Qxa8 | Nxa8 |
| 44.d6 | Bd8 |

Even if Black managed to exchange queens, his pieces are scattered randomly over the board and White doesn't give him any time to set up a meaningful defence.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 45.Bc3 | Ke6 |
| 46.Kg3 | Kd5 |
| 47.Rd1+ | Kc6 |
| 48.Rh2 | Kd7 |
| 49.Bb4 | Kc6 |
| 50.d7 | Kb7 |
| 51.Rd6 | Rh8 |
| 52.e6 | fxe6 |
| 53.Bc3 | b4 |
| 54.a6+ | Kc7 |
| 55.Be5 | c3 |
| 56.Rd4+ | Kc6 |
| 57.Rxb4 | Ba5 |
| 58.Bxh8 | Rxh8 |
| 59.Rd4 | e5 |
| 60.fxe5 | Bc7 |
| 61.Re2 | Nb6 |
| 62.Rd3 | |

1-0





To the outsider, correspondence chess might seem a very quiet pursuit. Sitting at home, making dull move after dull move, then doing so for months for a single game, and then agreeing a draw.

The game that we have this month is the opposite. It involved two players slugging it out. White starts with some pretty dull and uninspiring moves. Black then takes the initiative and threatens to wipe White off the map with a fierce attack. White hangs on and manages by exchanging Queens to enter a middle-game then end-game where he has a fighting chance of survival.

With Black threatening to simply win the endgame as a matter of technique, White generates some counterplay. Somehow he manages to hold on and lives to fight another day! Who says correspondence chess is dull!

White: Dawson, Alastair G (2113)

Black: Mackintosh, Iain (2366)

SCO/C2017-18

King's Indian Attack [A04]

[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.Nf3 c5

Iain and I have played many times and one thing is guaranteed - his opponents always have a hard time hanging on. In this game I do so by the skin of my teeth.

2.g3 Nc6

3.d4 cxd4

4.Nxd4 g6

5.Bg2 Bg7

Tensions are already rising across the middle of the board. Many would argue that by Black exchanging his c-pawn for White's d-pawn that Black already has a slight edge. For sure, Black also has a half-open c-file to work with - but it is early days.

6.Nb3 d6

7.0-0 Nf6N

New to CC. 7...Be6 was Sprenger, Dr Ernst (2442) v Sváček, Pavel (2454), ICCF WC21, 2002, 0-1 (46).

8.c3

Far too passive and White soon loses space because of this move. White

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has also given Black a narrative of where both the Nb1 and the Bc1 might end up - thus making Black's plans easier to define.

8... Bd7

9.e4 h5

And of course such passive play allows Black to generate some sharp counterplay straight away. The move ..h5 is often a good plan for Black when White has already committed to castling but Black has not.

10.Bg5 Nh7

11.Be3 h4

And already White is thinking aloud how best to cope with the Black onslaught.

12.g4 h3

13.Bf3 Qc8

14.Be2 Ne5

Here White needs no reminding of Seirawan's concept of counting pieces - at this point in the game White has 4 pieces developed from the original squares but Black has 5.

15.f3

A horrible move to make but it holds everything together - but White is now committed to passivity and hanging on rather than moving forward in any way.

15... f5

16.gxf5 gxf5

17.N1d2 fxe4

18.Nxe4

White is being torn apart but just about hanging on.

18... Nf6

19.Nd4 Nxe4

20.fxe4 Bf6



It is hard to define the ebbs and flood tides in this game. The White king at this point is horribly exposed but Black has no simple way of getting

at it. One thing has changed however in the position. A few moves ago, White was dreadfully cramped by the triangle of pawns on g4, f3 and e4. The bishop on e2 was doing nothing except help defend g4. But now the pawns that were cramping the White position have disappeared and in their place have arrived quite a healthy N on d4 plus 2 bishops that now have some range. Furthermore Black has a decision to make in respect of what to do with his king and how to get the Ra8 into the game. These latter thoughts dictate what happens next.

21.Kh1 b6

22.Nf5 Qb7

Black has found an effective solution by making space and disentangling his pieces on the Q-side in such a way as to also put long-term pressure on the e4 pawn.

23.Qd5

This offer of an exchange seems to be the only satisfactory way for White to hold on. The pawn on e4 and the king on h1 both sit on a very vulnerable diagonal. With the Qs on the board, this issue could decide the game in Black's favour - so the Qs have to come off to relieve the pressure. But Black still has a slight edge.

23... Bc6

24.Bb5 0-0-0

25.Bxc6 Qxc6

26.a4 Kd7

27.Bd4 Qxd5

28.exd5

And now after some manoeuvring they are gone. Black has enduring pressure. White is still pinned back - and he has been regretting for a long time now why on earth did he play such a passive opening!

28... Rhf8

29.a5 Ra8

30.Ng3 bxa5

31.Rxa5



As the pieces come off there is some evaluating to do. White's king is dreadfully located in the corner and hemmed in by a super-aggressive pawn on h3; his pawn on d5 is on a White square and cannot be supported by a Black-squared bishop unfortunately. If it has to be defended it with be by c4 but this in turn places another pawn on a White square. My plan at this point was to exchange off some some minor pieces so that it might make it harder for Black to defend the pawn on h3 - if this fell, possibly by a rook capture, White might be able to breathe a little.

31... Nc4
32.Rxa7+ Rxa7
33.Bxa7

One pair of rooks gone!

33... Ra8
34.Bg1

Retreating the bishop to free the rook for a moment.

34... Nxb2
35.Ne4 Bg7

36.Rf3

The position still does not feel good but at least the h-pawn is going now.

36... Ra4
37.Nf2 Ra5

The d-pawn was always going to fall, leaving Black with 2 connected central pawns. But Black now has a passed pawn of his own now on the h-file. My task now (and White's only decent plan) was to tie up as many of the Black pieces as I could in making sure that this pawn is not allowed to get anywhere near the queening square.

38.Rg3 Be5
39.Rxh3 Rxd5
40.Ng4 Bg7
41.Rg3 Bh8
42.Rh3 Bg7
43.Rg3 Rf5
44.Kg2 Rf4
45.h4

And here we go!

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45... Bxc3

46.h5 Nd3

47.h6

And this is about as far as it can get without being fatally lost. The big differences in the position now are the kings - the White king is performing a useful defensive role for the White minor pieces, the Black king is potentially a game-changer but it is still stuck back on d7.

47... Bh8
48.Be3 Ne1+
49.Kh2 Rf7
50.Rh3 Kf6
51.h7 Kd5

And now Black counters in the centre. At some point the h7 pawn is going to have to be jettisoned, but at the point that it does disappear White has to ensure that there is sufficient minor piece activity against the Black king such that the central Black pawns don't get dangerous.

52.Bb6 Nf3+
53.Kg2 Ne1+
54.Kh2 Kc4
55.Kg3 Nd3
56.Rh5



Just little moves like this one are priceless in holding up the advance of the Black pawns by briefly isolating the Black K from its pawns.

56... Rg7
57.Kf3 Rf7+
58.Kg3 Nf4
59.Rh6 Kd5
60.Nf2 e5

The Black P finally moved forward but now the White rook is active - at least significantly more active than when it was on f1 10-20 moves ago.

61.Ng4 Ne2+
62.Kg2 Nc3
63.Rh4 Kc6
64.Bd8 Nd5
65.Rh6

By making lateral threats from the 4th, 5th and now 6th ranks Black is

sufficiently tied down so that his central pawns cannot advance.

65... Kc5

66.Kh3 e4

67.Bg5 Rf3+

Draw agreed. Thankfully the plan of advancing the h-pawn worked well, mostly by tying down a minor piece (in this case the Black bishop) such that the central pawns could not cause the damage to the White position that Black intended. Needless to say I will not be playing such a passive opening again against such a dangerous opponent!

½-½



Master's Footsteps Solution

24... f4!
25.Nxc7 fxe3

Draw agreed. Luckily for White, the exchange advantage now (just!) cancels out the threats from Black's e-pawn. The following moves were a possible continuation: 26.Nxe8 e2 27.Rde1 Bb7 28.Nf6+ Bxf6 29.gxf6 Bf3 30.Ka2 Rd8 31.Ka3 Rd4 32.Rg3 Bh5 33.Re3 and even deep engine analysis can find nothing in this line for either player. A very useful defence from the nonagenarian!

½-½

Postscript

The basis on which I had chosen to play this "novelty" line was the assumption that SIM Alan Rawlings would have found the best defence in the earlier game. My assumption was wrong, but arose from ascribing him "master" status uncritically. My own game against Hempel began in July 2018. Only after the game finished, and I was preparing these annotations, did I notice the curious irony that SIM Rawlings' grading (2317) had already dipped 57 points below mine (2374) before my game against Hempel had even started; and it is still lower than my own a year later.... So, you might ask, why was I putting his judgement on a "pedestal" in the first place?



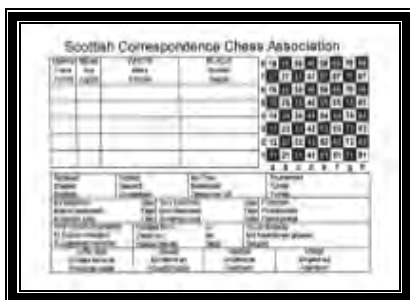
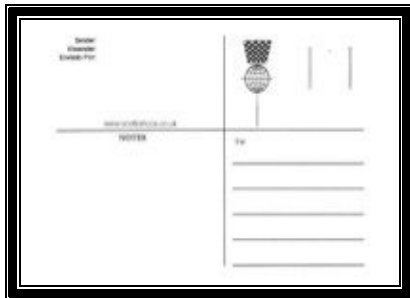
General Information

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, IM, CCM and CCE titles to recognise strength and performance. Most play is based now on the ICCF webserver, with a residue of postal and email events.

ICCF organises a vast range of tournaments on its main world site (www.iccf-webchess.com) and its European Zone site (www.iccf-europa.com). 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.

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Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2019

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

Theme 4/19: King's Indian, Four Pawns, E76

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5

Entries by 15 November; play starts 1 December

Webserver Events 2019

Theme 4/19 – Semi-Slav, Botvinnik Variation, D44

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5

Entries by 15 May; play starts 1 June

Theme 5/19 – Falkbeer Counter-Gambit, C31

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5

Entries by 31 August; play starts 15 September

News

- ❑ The second season of the States and Regions Correspondence Chess Championship, organised by the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation, will start on 15th April 2019.
- ❑ Entries to ICCF Norm Tournaments are now limited to 1 per quarter-year – full details at: <https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1234>
- ❑ The 5th WebChess Open Final has now completed, and was won by IM Aleksandr Viktorovich Chamaev (RUS) with 8/12. Second was SIM Thomas Biedermann (USA) with 7½; third was CCM Oleg Borisovich Seryakov (RUS) with 7; and fourth was CCM Aleksey Romanovich Talnis (RUS) with 6½.
- ❑ IA Ivan Anatolevich Panitevsky (RUS) has moved office and the new ICCF Free Match Organiser (FMO) is IA Bianor de Oliveira Neves (BRA).
- ❑ IA Jörg Kracht (GER) has demitted office and the new ICCF Promotional Tournaments Server Organiser (PTSO) is IA Ivan Anatolevich Panitevsky (RUS).
- ❑ The ICCF Games Archive is now available up to March 2019 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