

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.147

Autumn 2019

ICCF Grading List 2019/4
Kevin analyses the Q4 statistics

ICCF Congress 2019
Gordon summarises proceedings in Vilnius

The Hawkes Files
John pays tribute to Pál Benkő

Celebrating the Ruy Lopez
Peter examines the Berlin Defence

International Update
Iain rounds up team and individual results

Games Column
Alastair looks at an epic Taimanov Sicilian

4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum



Painted Stained Glass by Brigitte Wolf
www.reflectionsglass.ca



Welcome to the third edition of the 2019 magazine set. Our summer turned out to be an extended training session for the coming autumn and winter. No need to pity us though. Our ginger population was spared all the melanoma angst that would have arisen from draping their lard torsos across deckchairs.

In this issue, Kevin Paine has analysed the fourth ICCF rating list of 2019 for us. The last quarter saw two new titled players in our ranks, and over 70% of our members registered games activity.

Gordon Anderson was unable to represent Scotland at the 2019 ICCF Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, during August as his wife Margaret was undergoing minor surgery (she's recovering well!). However, the resourceful Gordon has still managed to supply us with a report of the event.

John Hawkes pays tribute to the great GM Pál Benkő, who died recently. As well as a trademark Benkő Gambit, John includes lesser-known CC games played by Benkő, plus some of his problem compositions.

Peter Bennett continues his new series on the Ruy Lopez. This time he features the much-analysed Berlin Defence and how and when to adopt it for CC play.

Our International column features again, with team and individual updates across a number of events. Peter Bennett highlights some potential scheduling problems for us involving the 11th European Team Championship Final and 22nd Olympiad Preliminaries.

Alastair Dawson provides us with another engrossing Games Column, this time featuring an epic Taimanov Sicilian game played by David Cumming.

Once more, we have a number of Chess Art contributions spread over this edition which we hope you'll enjoy. The principal feature contains works by Sándor Badacsonyi, the Hungarian artist, adjacent to our Benkő tribute article.

Behind the scenes, we're busy making preparations for the 2020 ICCF Congress which will be held in Scotland. We'll keep you up to date with the details as they're confirmed.

Meantime, in view of the new 25% duty on Trick or Treat costumes, we'll just go out guising instead!

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
September	L R McKenzie	J S Murray
August	J S Murray	G M Anderson
July	K B McAlpine	A P Borwell

SCCA Officials

Post	Name	Address	Phone	Email
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
International	Gordon Anderson	63 Wellin Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AH	+44 (0) 115 923 1021	international@scottishcca.co.uk
Treasurer	Gordon Anderson	63 Wellin Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AH	+44 (0) 115 923 1021	treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk
Membership	Kevin Paine	47 Park Hill Drive, Frome BA11 2LQ	+44 (0) 1373 467585	membership@scottishcca.co.uk
Grading	Kevin Paine	47 Park Hill Drive, Frome BA11 2LQ	+44 (0) 1373 467585	grader@scottishcca.co.uk
Member	Alan Borwell	8 Wheatfield Avenue, Inchture PH14 9RX	+44 (0) 1828 686556	alan.borwell@scottishcca.co.uk
Member	Iain Sneddon	45 Fintry Place, Bourtrees Hill, Irvine KA11 1JB	+44 (0) 1294 683799	iain.sneddon@scottishcca.co.uk
Games Editor	Alastair Dawson	10 Berry Place, St Andrews KY16 8RG	+44(0) 1334 477236	games@scottishcca.co.uk

NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine, Iain Sneddon and Iain Mackintosh pro tem.



CXEB (Brazil) International Open Tournament



In celebration of its 50-year anniversary the CXEB is organizing an International Open Tournament.

This will be an ICCF Webserver Tournament in 3 stages: Preliminaries, Semifinals, and Finals.

Preliminaries

This stage will start on October 31st, 2019. Subscriptions end on October 21st. Entry fee is €10 per group, via PayPal to financeiro@cxeb.org.br (Enter #ID ICCF, name and number of groups in PayPal description).

Groups will be composed by 7 players and top two places advance to the Semifinals. Multiple entries are allowed.

Rate of play: Triple Block system for a 350 days event, with 75 days initial bank and 1 day increment for the first 50 moves is used.

Semifinals

This stage will start as soon as qualifiers are determined. Players rated 2200 or higher can sign up for the semifinals directly and pay €15 via PayPal (as above). Winners only advance to Final and will receive prize money of €15.

Rate of play: as per Preliminaries.

Final

This will start as soon as qualifiers from the Semifinals are determined. Prizes: €300 (first); €200 (second); €100 (third); money to be split evenly amongst tied players (no tiebreak will be used.).

Rate of play: Triple Block system for a 500 days event, with 50 days initial bank and 3 day increment for the first 50 moves is used.

Prizes

Monetary prizes will only be distributed through Paypal.

Norwegian NORJUB-75 Jubilee International Open Tournament



In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the Norwegian Correspondence Chess Federation is organising an International Open Tournament. Games will be played on the ICCF Webserver. Entries must be made by 20th October, with multiple entries allowed.

- To register, players should make contact with organiser Roger Løvaas (roloevaa@gmail.com)
- The tournament in 3 stages: Preliminaries, Semi-finals, and Final.
- Title norms possible in the Semi-finals and Final.
- 7-player groups in Preliminaries using Rating list 2019/4.
- Winner and runner-up of each group qualify to Semi-finals, 11-13 players in Semi-finals.
- No player is allowed to play more than two Semi-finals groups.
- Entry fee 200 NOK (20 Euro) to Paypal at: <https://www.paypal.me/Fjernsjakk>
- Players rated 2300 or above may join the Semi-finals directly by paying 200 NOK.
- The Triple Block system will apply.
- Preliminaries stage will start on 1st. November 2019 (TriBI 350)
- Semi-finals: 1st. February 2021 (TriBI 350).
- Final: 1st. April 2022 (TriBI 500).
- Prizes: Winners of the Semi-finals will receive 50€
- Prizes Final: 400€for first place; 300€for second place; 200€for third place, and medals.

ICCF 22nd Olympiad Preliminaries



The ICCF General Secretary has written to announce the 22nd Correspondence Chess Olympiad. All ICCF Member Federations (that are not currently suspended) are invited to enter their team to this event, which will be played on the ICCF web-server on two rounds: Preliminaries and Final.

Each Federation may enter only one team. The Preliminaries will start on January 13th, 2020. 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 shall be determined by the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner and approved by the Executive Board at the start of the tournament (ICCF Rule 1.2.1.7.7).

Scotland will be entering a team in this event..

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:

Stadtsparkasse Bocholt/Deutschland

Herbert BellmannIban: DE 33428500350100118801

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>

Friendly Match versus Netherlands



A brief note to advise that the start date for the server match with Netherlands has been put back to February 2020.

If you have not already contacted Gordon Anderson to indicate you wish to play in the match, please do so as soon as possible.

The Dutch have also suggested a separate match played by post. Are there any Scottish players who would like to play a Dutch opponent by post rather than server? If so, please contact Gordon Anderson by 25th October 2019.

CCM Norm and Title for Lloyd



Geoff Lloyd of Prestatyn has obtained his second ICCF Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) norm and consequently the CCM Title by scoring 8/14 whilst playing on Board 1 in the State and Regions CCC 2019 Division 2.

Geoff's first norm was obtained in July 2019 whilst playing in the North Sea Team Tournament IV on Board 3, where he scored 5.5/10. Many congratulations to Geoff!

CCE Norm and Title for Sneddon



Iain Sneddon of Irvine obtained two ICCF Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) norms in rapid succession, and with them the CCE Title.

Iain's first norm was earned in in WS/CCM/B/3. He reached the qualifying standard of 7 points with 2 games still outstanding.

Iain's second norm arrived whilst playing in the 10th Inter-Zonal Team Championship on Board 7. He reached the qualifying standard of 8 points with 2 games still unfinished. Many congratulations to Iain!

CCM Norm for Paine



Kevin Paine of Frome has obtained his first ICCF Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) norm having reached the qualifying standard of 5½ points whilst competing on Board 8 of the 11th European Team Tournament.

Kevin had already achieved a CCE norm in the same event. Many congratulations to Kevin!

[Ed: Current title and norm holders for both ICCF and SCCA awards are listed on the Grading pages.]



2019/4 Grading List

By Kevin Paine

The fourth ICCF grading list of 2019 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 June and 31 August 2019. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 October and 31 December 2019.

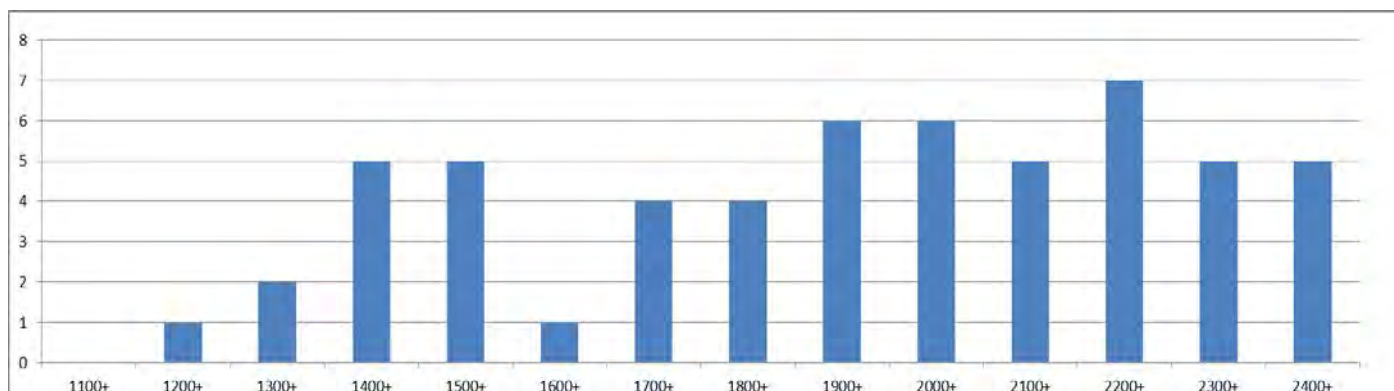
We counted one addition (Andrew Newton) and no deletions in this list. Two members have received titles in the last period – congratulations to Iain Sneddon who secured his CCE award in August, and to Geoff Lloyd who gained his second CCM norm and the title in September. I gained a CCM norm in July.

Just the one upwards movement in grading bands this time – well done John Armstrong who is now 1500+!

More new games centurions were recorded – Carlos Almarza Mato reached 1700+, Jim Anderson surpassed 300, while Iain Sneddon passed 200. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Martin Hardwick (56), Carlos Almarza Mato (51), David Cumming (39), Iain Sneddon (33) and Derek Coope (30).

You need to complete 12 ICCF-eligible games to obtain a provisional rating (* below). Provisional ratings apply until 30 games have been processed. Rating changes are denoted by arrows. Email grader@scottishcca.co.uk if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
317	Almarza Mato, C	1732	2121 ↓	260	Knox, A	381	1465 ↑
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	330	2344 ↔	264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	935	2274 ↑
121	Anderson, J	302	1941 ↑		MacDonald, M	49	1436 ↓
049	Armstrong, A	209	1876 ↔	584	MacGregor, C A	428	1874 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	416	1513 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	761	2413 ↓
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	467	2477 ↔	216	MacMillen, A N	1373	1525 ↑
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	244	2411 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	767	2062 ↑
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	440	2362 ↔	434	Matheis, T (IM)	244	2457 ↑
481	Beveridge, C (CCE)	474	2255 ↑	867	McEwan, N R	39	1896 ↔
472	Blake, M J (CCE)	843	2350 ↔		Miles, A	51	1440 ↓
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1091	2221 ↓	401	Moir, P J	199	1543 ↔
602	Burridge, R J	1433	2118 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S	298	2262 ↑
	Clark, S L	245	1915 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	571	2444 ↑
364	Coope, D W	941	1816 ↑	564	Murray, J S	73	2038 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	109	1911 ↔	440	Neil, C	327	1385 ↑
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1596	2372 ↓	453	Newton, A	30	1774 ↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	159	2178 ↑	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	164	1991 ↑
572	Dempster, D	807	1759 ↔	604	Paine, Dr K A (SM)	216	2347 ↓
478	Dunn, J	350	1531 ↓		Pettigrew, S	134	1454 ↑
	Dyer, M	113	2069 ↑	432	Price, D	418	1961 ↓
371	Edney, D	263	1990 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	91	1388 ↓
462	Gilbert, R	216	1731 ↓	439	Smith, M J	73	2076 ↔
124	Goodwin, B J	389	1719 ↔	057	Sneddon, I (CCE)	205	2263 ↑
399	Grant, J	69	1686 ↔		Stewart, A G	36	2170 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	1294	1261 ↑	605	Taylor, W	113	2034 ↓
1013	Hilton, S H	179	1594 ↔		Warren, J	34	2072 ↑
475	Kearns, A	87	1435 ↑	530	Watson, J (IM)	153	2297 ↔
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	351	2238 ↑	480	Whittaker, I P	68	2122 ↑



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	56
New entrants	1
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Full grades (30+ games)	56
Provisional grades (<30 games)	0
Grading increases (↑)	24
Grading decreases (↓)	16
Grading static (↔)	16

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2477	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2238
Matheis, T (IM)	2457	Borwell, A P (IM)	2221
Murden, C (IM)	2444	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2178
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2413	Stewart, A G	2170
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2411	Whittaker, I P	2122
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2372	Almarza Mato, C	2121
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2362	Burridge, R J	2118
Blake, M J (CCE)	2350	Smith, M J	2076
Paine, Dr K A (SM)	2347	Warren, J	2072
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2344	Dyer, M	2069
Watson, J (IM)	2297	Marshall, I H	2062
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2274	Murray, J S	2038
Sneddon, I (CCE)	2263	Taylor, W	2034
Montgomery, R S	2262	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	1991
Beveridge, C (CCE)	2255	Edney, D	1990

Top 30 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	1732	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	440
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1596	MacGregor, C A	428
Burridge, R J	1433	Price, D	418
MacMillen, A N	1373	Armstrong, J McK	416
Hardwick, M E	1294	Goodwin, B J	389
Borwell, A P (IM)	1091	Knox, A	381
Coope, D W	941	Kilgour, D A (GM)	351
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	935	Dunn, J	350
Blake, M J (CCE)	843	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	330
Dempster, D	807	Neil, C	327
Marshall, I H	767	Anderson, J	302
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	761	Montgomery, R S	298
Murden, C	571	Edney, D	263
Beveridge, C (CCE)	474	Clark, S L	245
Beecham, C R (SIM)	467	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	244

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:

Montgomery, R S (2)

Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:

Beveridge, C (1), Paine, K A (1)

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:

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.



48th ICCF Congress – Vilnius 2019

By Gordon Anderson

I really enjoyed preparing for attending the ICCF Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania from 18th to 22nd August 2019. Much work was required, registering to attend, booking accommodation and flights.

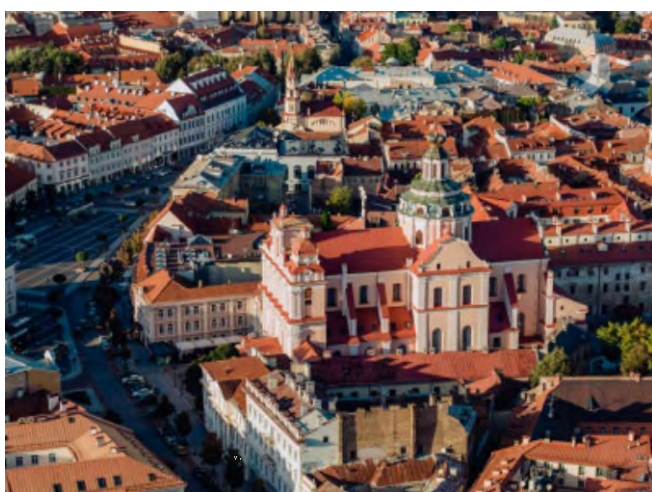


Everything was in place and the main task pre-Congress is then to read all of the proposals submitted for consideration at the event. This year there were 42 proposals, details of which can be found on the ICCF website under the Congresses tab.

Reporting to the SCCA Executive Committee in advance is important, as is listening to input from SCCA members (I seldom receive input, which is disappointing) and reading the input from other National Delegates to Congress. Our Executive Committee reflects on my input and decisions are made as to how Scotland will use its vote.

Straightforward proposals, where the decision is easy to reach, tend to have votes tendered on-line in advance of Congress, but, where issues are more complex I vote at Congress having had the benefit of guidance from our Executive Committee and the benefit of listening to discussion at Congress.

There is a cut off time to record our voting intention, usually about 3 weeks before Congress opens. Our plans were in place and our voting intentions determined, subject in some cases to how discussion at Congress developed. The reader will appreciate much effort has been put into the process but once voting intention determined the National Delegate can relax and look forward to attending Congress.



Old Town, Vilnius

Despite all the planning, my wife, Margaret and I did not travel to Vilnius as planned. Shortly before we were due to travel it was found that my wife needed surgery which took place 2 days before we were due to fly to Vilnius. Urgent plans were put in place to record votes on those proposals where we had decided to vote on at Congress. Grateful thanks to the ICCF Executive Committee who facilitated this due to the exceptional and unusual circumstance.

Of course, apart from attending Congress the National Delegate usually writes a report for our Magazine. Our President's polite email arrives. "Gordon, I know you couldn't attend but can you write up, as best you can, a report for the next Magazine?"



Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Vilnius

Congress in Vilnius was very successful and, I understand, was enjoyed by all who attended. Two of the proposed attendees, apart from Margaret and me, didn't get to Vilnius because of illness en route, these being General Secretary, Michael Millstone and the retiring Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder. We wish both a speedy recovery.

25 Countries were represented at Congress with 83 attendees, some of them winners of medals and certificates, at the opening Ceremony. The opening ceremony is always followed by the awards to various individuals and, on this occasion, awards were made to 3 GMs, 16 SIMs, 80 IMs, 4 LGMs, 7 LIM and 7 IAs. Included within the SIMs was Iain Mackintosh, our President. Scottish awards were collected on our behalf by our Welsh friends, who in turn handed over to the English Delegate who subsequently met up with the writer to deliver awards. These awards will be distributed to their recipients shortly.

2019 was the year of fresh elections to ICCF's Executive Board. Some posts were contested and votes undertaken with a second round being necessary for the role of World Tournament Director. The outcome of the voting was placed on the ICCF website and is replicated below. In effect there are no new faces on the Executive Board.

The Minutes of the previous Congress, the Financial Report and the Services Director's report were all approved, as were the various other reports-details within the Congress Minutes. It should be noted, at this stage, that for the first time in a number of years, Congress Minutes have been prepared, issued and placed on the ICCF website within a short period following completion of Congress, perhaps influenced by a proposal from Scotland to speed up the process and format.



Night Scene, Vilnius

ICCF Election Results

Executive Board Election

President: Eric Ruch (FRA)
40 votes (elected)
General Secretary: Michael Millstone (USA)
40 votes (elected)
Finance Director: Jan Vosselman (NED)
43 votes (elected)
Marketing Director: Russell Sherwood (WLS)
40 votes (elected)
Services Director: Austin Lockwood (WLS)
44 votes (elected)

(all candidates unopposed)

Auditor Election

Ferdinand Burmeister (USA): 12 votes
Paul Scott (WLS) 23 votes (elected)

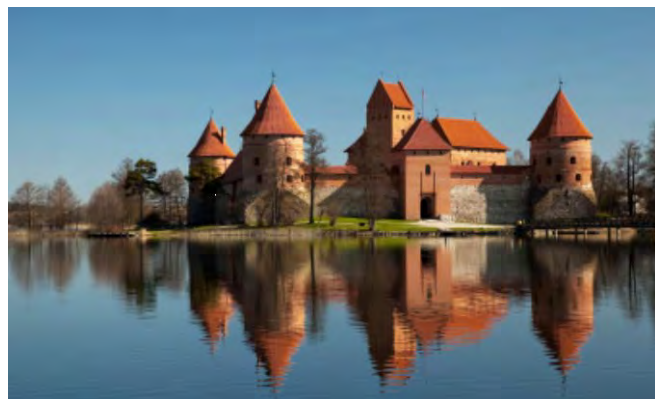
World Tournament Director Election

(First Ballot)

Jason Bokar (USA): 22 votes
Frank Geider (FRA): 23 votes
Everdinand Knol (RSA): 1 vote (withdrawn)
Olli Ylönen (FIN): 1 vote

(Second Ballot)

Jason Bokar (USA): 18 votes
Frank Geider (FRA): 28 votes (elected)
Olli Ylönen (FIN): 0 votes



Trakai Island Castle, Vilnius

A schedule of the various proposals submitted to Congress can be found within the current magazine together with the outcome of voting. Players who wish further information are asked to contact me and I will attempt to provide clarification.

Interesting outcomes include the decision that all events with multiple Member Federation participants require approval from the WTD (this will include our leagues) and that ICCF Rules rather than SCCA rules will apply.

Of interest is the decision to set up a working group to look into the increasing number of draws in modern CC, concern being widely expressed regarding the influence of ETLs on the award of title norms especially with the proliferation of draws in the modern game.

ICCF is planning special events to celebrate ICCF's 70th Anniversary in 2021 and announcements will be made at the 2020 Congress, which is scheduled to be held in Scotland following approval of a proposal submitted by SCCA.



Pedestrian Street, Old Town, Vilnius



ICCF Proposals

	Proposal	F	A	Result
2019-001	Approve 2018 Congress Minutes	45	2	Passed
2019-002	Approve Financial Reports and 5-year Financial Plan.	42	0	Passed
2019-003	Approve Services Committee Budget for 2020	41	0	Passed
2019-004	Defining When to Apply the at Least 50% ETL Rule	41	4	Passed
2019-005	ICCF Medal and Certificate Awards	45	1	Passed
2019-006	Additional Analysis Submission for the 3-person Panel Review	42	2	Passed
2019-007	Defining "Repeated Misbehaviour"	41	2	Passed
2019-008A	Clarifying ICCF Rules by Eliminating the Word "Should" - A	42	1	Passed
2019-008B	Clarifying ICCF Rules by Eliminating the Word "Should" - B	42	1	Passed
2019-009	ICCF Retention Policy for Sensitive Personal Information	44	1	Passed
2019-010	[Conflict] Eliminate Age and Gender Specific Events	9	35	Defeated
2019-011	ICCF Congress in 2020 (Scotland to host)	47	0	Passed
2019-012	Rules for Multiple Member Federation Participation Events	38	5	Passed
2019-013	ICCF Disciplinary Review Process	41	2	Passed
2019-014	Provisional Rating Procedure	46	0	Passed
2019-015	Clarifying the "Regulations" of the ICCF Appeal Committee	44	0	Passed
2019-016A	Limiting When Recorded Game Results can be Overturned - A	39	3	Passed
2019-016b	Limiting When Recorded Game Results Can Be Overturned - B	21	20	End of Investigation
2019-017	Applying Appeal Committee Regulations to the Arbitration Committee	44	0	Passed
2019-018	Recommendation to Congress - Hong Kong to be Dismissed from ICCF	45	0	Passed
2019-019	[Conflict] Allowing Claims Based on the 7-Piece Endgame Tablebase	43	3	Passed
2019-020	No Charge for National Postal Games	30	15	Passed
2019-021	Clarification of Request for Accepted Withdrawal	19	23	Defeated
2019-022	[Conflict] Eliminate Gender Specific Events	28	18	Passed
2019-023	[Conflict] Change the 50 Moves Rule to 100 moves and Accept Claims up to 100 Moves	10	34	Defeated
2019-024	Clarifying a Requirement for an Adjudicated Win	36	7	Passed
2019-025	Promotion of School Events	39	5	Passed
2019-026	Precedence of Conflicting Proposals	26	17	Passed
2019-027	Consultation in Team Play	29	14	Passed
2019-028	[Conflict] Eliminate the ICCF Ladies Olympiad and Ladies World Championship	18	25	Superseded by 022
2019-029	Congress Expenses for Officials	42	2	Passed
2019-030	Clarifying the Difference Between Invitational and Open Events	42	2	Passed
2019-031	Improve ICCF Congress Minutes	27	13	Passed
2019-032	Reserve Players in WCCC Stages	38	4	Passed
2019-033	2019 Tournament Fee Structure	41	3	Passed
2019-034	Calculation for Fixed Ratings	26	15	Passed
2019-035	Direct Norms for the GM - Title	21	23	Defeated
2019-036	Implement the Silli system in Large ICCF Tournaments	28	8	Passed
2019-037	Merger of Zone 4 into World Zone	19	23	Defeated
2019-038	Adjustment of GM Norm Requirements	19	23	Defeated
2019-039	Add Two Weeks of Discussion Time on Last Minute Proposals	40	4	Passed
2019-040	Eliminate the ICCF Zonal System	14	27	Defeated
2019-041	Players Should be Free to Decide if They Want to Use Linear Conditional Moves	29	15	Passed
2019-042	2/3 Majority Required for Changes to Voting Regulations	37	5	Passed

NB Details of individual Proposals can be viewed at: <https://www.iccf.com/Proposals.aspx?id=72> or navigate via Main Menu/ICCF Congresses/Vilnius/Proposals after logging in to the ICCF site.



The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

Pál Charles Benkő

July 15, 1928
August 26, 2019



Pál Benkő was a Hungarian-American chess grandmaster, openings theoretician, author and problemist.

He became Hungarian champion when he was 20 and finished in first place (or tied for first place) in eight US Championships, a record: 1961, 1964 (in that year he also won the Canadian Open Chess Championship), 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1974, and 1975.

Benko's highest achievements were playing in the Candidates Tournament with eight of the world's top players in 1959 and 1962.

He qualified for the 1970 Interzonal tournament, the leaders of which advance to the Candidates.

However, he gave up his spot in the Interzonal to Bobby Fischer, who went on to win the World Championship in 1972.

An extended tribute by Scottish columnist John Henderson can be found on the US First Move Chess website, viz:

SCCA Magazine 147

<https://firstmovechess.org/2019/09/the-best-of-pals/>

Here, we include an OTB game featuring the eponymous Benko Gambit; a selection of his lesser-known CC games and a few of his problem compositions.

White: Zaitsev, Igor A
Black: Benko, Pal C
Szolnok Hungary, 1975
Benko Gambit [A57]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 c5
3.d5 b5
4.cxb5 a6
5.Nc3 axb5
6.e4 b4
7.Nb5 d6
8.Nf3 Nbd7
9.Bf4 Nh5
10.Bg5 Nhf6
11.Qe2

11.e5 and 11.Bd3 were better options.

11... Ra5
12.e5 Ba6
13.exf6 Bxb5
14.fxe7 Bxe7
15.Bxe7 Qxe7
16.Qxe7+ Kxe7
17.Bxb5 Rxb5



18.0-0
18.0-0-0 Ra8 19.Rhe1+ Kf8
18... Nb6
19.Rfe1+ Kd7
20.a4 bxa3
21.Rxa3 Ra8
22.Rae3 Nxd5

23.Rd3 c4
23...Nf4 24.Rd2 c4 25.Kf1 Nd3
26.Rb1 Ra2-+
24.Rd4 Rc8
25.Red1 Rcc5
26.h4



26.Kf1 gave better chances of a draw e.g. 26...Rxb2 27.Rxd5 Rxd5 28.Rxd5 c3 29.Ne1

26... Rxb2!
27.Rxd5

A variation given in Benko's book "Life, Games and Compositions" is 27.Nd2 Nc3 28.Nxc4 Nxd1-+

27... Rxd5
28.Rxd5 c3
29.Nd4

Or 29.Rd4 c2 30.Ne5+ Ke6 31.Nd3 Rb1+ 32.Kh2 d5-+ as Rd1 is threatened.

29... Rd2!

0-1



I am grateful to IM Iván Bottlik, the Hungarian ICCF delegate, for providing some Benko CC games with summarised annotations. In 1952, the Hungarian Secret Police suspected that Benko was a spy because of his coded letters- these were correspondence chess games and the code was chess notation!

White: Benko, Pal (HUN)
Black: Olsen, H. (FAI)
First ICCF Olympiad Prelim Bd.6, 1947
Open Catalan [E04]

[Notes by John E Hawkes after Ivan Bottlik]

1.Nf3 d5
2.g3 Nf6
3.Bg2 c5
4.0-0 Nc6

Gedeon Barcza - Octavio Troianescu, Karlovy Vary, 1948 was awarded a Brilliancy Prize: 4...e6 5.d4 Be7 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.c4 0-0 8.Nc3 dxc4 9.Qa4 Qe7? 10.Qxc4 a6 (10...h6!) 11.Ne5 b5? (11...Nbd7!) 12.Qh4 Bb7 13.Ng4 Bxg2? 14.Bg5! Bd4 15.Rfd1! Qb7 16.Nxf6+ (16.Bxf6 Bxf6) 16...Bxf6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Rd4 Nd7 19.Rg4+ Kh8 20.Rd1 Bd5 21.Ne4!! Rg8 22.Nxf6 Rg7 23.Qh6 1-0 (23.Qh6 Rag8 24.Qxh7+ Rxh7 25.Rxg8#)

5.d4 e6
6.c4 dxc4
7.Ne5 Nxe5
8.dxe5 Qxd1
9.Rxd1 Nd5
10.Nc3

10.Na3 is a good option.

10... Nxc3
 10...Nb4 11.Nb5 Rb8 (11...Na6 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Nd6+) 12.Nc7+ Ke7 13.Bg5+ f6 14.Bf4 and this variation is also better for White

11.bxc3 a6
 11...Be7 is maybe better: 12.Rb1 0-0 (12...Rb8? 13.Bc6+ Kf8 14.Bd7 here ECO's First Edition says White is better, but after 14. ... 14...b6! Black has an equal position. White now has to back off - a loss of precious tempo. 15.Bb5 Bb7 16.Rd7 (16.Bxc4 Rd8) 16...a6 17.Bxc4 b5 and followed by Ke8 later on. Because of this, better is 14. Bb5! b6 15. Bxc4 Bb7 16. Rd7 Be4 17. Bd3 Bxd3 18. exd3 and White is better.) 13.Bxb7 (13.Be3 is also good for White.)

13...Rb8 14.Be4 Rxb1 15.Bxb1 Rd8±

12.Rb1 Ra7
 12...Rb8?! 13.Bc6+ Ke7 14.Be3±

13.a4
 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Bxe7 Kxe7 15.Rb6 Rd8 16.Rdd6 Rd7 17.f4± Loginov-Brandics, Kecskemet 1990.

13... Be7
 13...a5 14.Bg5 Be7 15.Bxe7 Kxe7 16.Rb5 b6 17.Rxb6 Bd7 18.Ra1 and Black is suffering.

14.Be3 0-0
15.a5 f6

For example, if Black had simply made a waiting move like 15...h6 then: 16.Rd2 with the idea of doubling the rooks.

16.Rd2

16.exf6 is also superior for White because of 16...gxf6 (16...Rxf6? 17.Bg5+-; 16...Bxf6?? 17.Bxc5+-) 17.Rd2 and White has 3 good plans: 18. Rbd1, 18. Rdb2, or 18. Ra2, followed by 19. Ra4 and 20. Rxc4

16... Rf7?
 16...fxe5! would have been better: 17.Rbd1 (17.Be4!? Ra8 18.Bxb7 Rb8 19.Rdb2±) 17...Ra8 18.Be4 Rb8 19.Bb1 b5 20.axb6 Rxb6 21.Ba2 a5 22.Bxc4 Kf7∞ (22...Ba6! Fritz)

17.exf6 Bxf6
 17...gxf6 18.Bh6 Bf8 19.Rd8 Ra8 20.Rbd1 f5 21.Re8+-

18.Bxc5 Ra8
19.Rbd1 g6



Now Benko could have chosen simpler ways of winning like 20. Bb4, Bd4 or Bb6, but instead he played the brilliant exchange-sacrifice combination:

20.Rd8+!! Kg7
 The variations after Black accepts the sacrifice are: 20...Bxd8 21.Rxd8+ Kg7 22.Bd4+! (22.Bh3? Rd7) 22...Kh6 23.Rg8! Kh5

a) 23...Kg5 24.f4+ Kg4 25.Kf2 e5 26.Bxe5 Kh5 27.Bf3+ Kh6 28.f5 g5 29.h4 Rxf5 30.Bf4!! gxf4 31.g4 Re5 32.g5+ Rxc5 33.hxc5#;

b) 23...e5 24.Be3+ Kh5 25.h4 Kg4 (25...e4 26.Bxe4 Kg4 27.Kh2+-) 26.Kh2 Kh5 27.Bh3+-;

c) 23...g5 24.h4 e5 (24...Rf5 25.hxc5+ Kh5 26.f3 Rxc5 27.g4+ Kh6 28.Be3 e5 29.Bxc5#) 25.hxc5+ Kh5 26.Be3+-;

d) 23...Rc7 24.Be3+ g5 25.Bxc5+ Kh5 26.Bf3#; 24.h3! Kg5 (24...e5 25.Bxe5 Re7 26.g4+ Bxc4 27.hxc4+ Kxc4 28.Rxa8 Rxe5 29.Bxb7+-) 25.f4+ Kh6 26.Bf3 e5 (26...Ra7 27.g4 Rxf4 28.h4 Rxc4+ 29.Bxc4 e5 30.Be3+ g5 31.hxc5#) 27.Bxe5 Bxh3 28.Rxa8+-

21.Re8 Rc7
 21...Bxc3 22.Rdd8 Bxa5 23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.Bd4+ Kh6 25.Rxc8+-

22.Bd6 Rf7
23.h4

And Black resigned because of the threat Bh3, and if 23. ... Bxc3 then 24. Rc1 Rd7 25. Rxc3 Rxd6 26. Rxc4 wins.

23.Bh3 would also have won because of 23...Bxc3 24.Rc1 Rd7 25.Rxc3 Rxd6 26.Rxc4 Rc6 27.Rxc6 bxc6 28.Bxe6 Bb7 29.Rxa8 Bxa8 30.Bc8 and it's over. [The quite superb commentary is by Ivan Bottlik, with very minor modifications by Hawkes.]

1-0



Hoogovens Tournament, Wijk aan Zee, January 1969 (Photo: G. van der Werff/ANP)

White: Tagmann, Bruno (SUI)
Black: Benko, Pal (HUN)

CC Olympiad, Semifinals, 1947-1948

Alekhines's Defence, Four Pawns Attack [B03]

[Notes by Pal Benko/Ivan Bottlik]

GM Pal Benko: I admit that I am able to count all the correspondence games I've played in my life on my fingers. The game against the Swiss player Tagmann (the second drawn game from the six), though, was very exciting and has remained fresh in my mind over the decades. I hope you find it as interesting as I do.

1.e4 Nf6
2.e5 Nd5
3.c4 Nb6
4.d4 d6
5.f4 dxe5

6.fxe5 Nc6
 7.Be3 Bf5
 8.Nc3 e6
 9.Nf3 Qd7
 10.d5 exd5
 11.cxd5 Nb4
 12.Nd4 N6xd5
 13.Nxd5 Qxd5?!

13...Nxd5 is better.

14.Nxf5 Qxe5
 15.Rc1!!

I didn't know it at the time, of course, but this was Henneberger's analysis.

15... Qxf5

16.Rxc7 Qe6

17.Bb5+ Nc6

18.0-0!! Qxe3+

Unpleasant for Black is 18...Bd6

19.Rxb7 0-0 20.Qb3

19.Kh1 Rd8

20.Qh5

Present-day engine analysis prefers

20.Qg4! IB.

20.. g6



21.Rxc6!! bxc6

22.Bxc6+ Kc7

23.Qa5 Rd6?

23...f5!

24.Qc7+ Ke6

25.Qxf7+ Ke5

26.Bd7 Kd4

27.b4?!

The best move was 27.Bg4!

27... Qd2

28.Bg4 Bh6

29.Rd1 Qxd1+

30.Bxd1 Rc8!

31.Qxa7+ Kc3

32.Bg4?!

White should have tried 32.Qa3+ Kd2 33.Qh3! with excellent winning chances.

32... Kd2!

Now that Black's king has found shelter, his colleague begins to feel the danger. I offered a draw and sent my opponent the following line:

33.Bxc8 (33.g3 Rc2) 33... Rd1+

34.Qg1 Rxc1+ 35.Kxc1 Be3+

36.Kf1 Kxa2, and the opposite coloured bishops ensure a peaceful result.

1/2-1/2



White: Benko, Pal

Black: Heidman, ?

USA CC, 1973

Sicilian Richter-Rauzer [B65]

[Notes by Pal Benko/Ivan Bottlik]

1.e4 c5

2.Nf3 Nc6

3.d4 cxd4

4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3 d6

6.Bg5 e6

7.Qd2 Be7

8.0-0-0 0-0

9.f4 Nxd4

10.Qxd4 h6

11.Bh4 Qa5

12.Bc4 Rd8

13.Rhf1! a6

13...Bd7 is better. PB.

14.f5 b5

15.Bb3 Bd7?

15...e5 and 15...b4 are both rated higher by present-day engine analysis. IB.

16.fxe6 fxe6?

16...Bxe6 is relatively better. IB.

17.Bxf6 Bxf6



18.Rxf6! gxf6

19.Qxf6 Kh7

20.Qf7+ Kh8

21.Qg6

1-0



Pal Benko was a talented and prolific problemist. He earned his FIDE FM title for chess composition in 1990,

and his IM title in 1995. Here are some fine examples of his craft:

Study 1



Study 2



Study 3



In all cases, White is to play and win.



Solution 1

1. O-O-O Rf8
 2. Kb1 Rhg8
 3. Ka1 Rf6
 4. Rb1 1-0

Solution 2

1.Ke7 d2
 2.Rd6 c3
 3.Kf7 Kh7
 4.g4 c2
 5.g5 d1Q
 6.Rh6+ gxh6
 7.g6+ Kh8
 8.g7+ Kh7
 9.g8Q# 1-0

Solution 3

1.Kc8!
 (1.Kc7? Ke7 2.Kc6 Ke6)
 1... Kf8

(1... Ke7 2.Kc7 Ke6 3.Kd8 Kf5
 4.Nf7 Kg6 5.Ke8 Kg7 6.Ke7)
 2.Ng6+!!
 (2.Kd7? Kg7 3.Ke6 h6! (3... Kxh8
 4.Kf7) 4. g6 h5)
 2... Kf7
 (2... hxg6 3 Kd8 Kf7 4.Kd7 Kf8
 5.Ke6 Kg7 6.Ke7 Kg8 7.Kf6 Kh7
 8.Kf7)
 3.Nf4!!
 (3.Nh4? Ke8! (3... Ke6 4.Kd8 Ke5
 5.Ke7 Kf4 6.Kf6) 4.Ng2 Ke7 5.Nf4
 Kd6 6.Nh5 Ke6)
 3... h6!
 4.g6+

(4.gxh6? Kg8)
 4... Kf6
 5.Kd7 h5
 6.Ke8 Kg7
 (6... h4 7.Kf8 h3 8.g7 h2 9.Nh5+)
 7.Ke7 h4
 8.Ke6 h3
 9.Kf5 h2
 10.Nh5+ Kf8
 11.Ng3 1-0



Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 15

By John E. Hawkes

White: Vecsey, Zoltan
Black: Brilla-Banfalvi, Sandor
 Hungarian CC Championship, 1941
 English, 4 Knights [A28]
*[Notes by John E Hawkes after
 Brilla-Banfalvi]*

1.c4 e5
 2.Nc3 Nf6
 3.Nf3 Nc6
 4.d4

Modern Chess Openings published in 1946 called 4.d4 the most important variation of the Four Knights.

4... exd4
 5.Nxd4 Bb4
 6.Bg5 Bxc3+
 7.bxc3 h6
 8.Bh4 d6

8...Ne5 is the variation named after Vladimir Nenasarov; 9.e3 (or immediately 9.f4) 9...Ng6 10.Bg3 Ne4 11.Qc2 Nxc3 12.hxc3 d6 13.Rd1 was Botvinnik-Nenasarov, Leningrad 1933 (13.f4!)

9.e3 Qe7
 10.Nxc6 bxc6
 11.Qf3 Qe5!?



12.Bxf6
 12.Qxc6+ Bd7 13.Qxa8+ Ke7
 14.Qxh8 Qxc3+ 15.Ke2 Qxc4+ and Black won in an IFSB championship game between Geza Nagy and Miklos Szigetzi a few years earlier.
 16.Kf3 Qg4# of course, but it may be an escape route one day.

12... gxf6
 12...Qxf6 13.Qxc6+ Bd7 14.Qe4+!
 13.Qxc6+
 13.Rc1 Bd7=
 13... Bd7
 14.Qxa8+ Ke7
 15.Qxh8 Qxc3+
 16.Ke2 Qxc4+
 17.Kd2
 17.Kf3 Qg4# again.
 17... Qb4+

18.Ke2
 18.Kc2 Ba4+ 19.Kd3 Qb2! 20.Qc8!!
 (20.Be2? Qc2+ 21.Kd4 c5+ 22.Kd5 Kd7! 23.Bg4+ f5 24.Bxf5+ Qxf5+ 25.Kc4 Qe4+ 26.Kc3 Qc2#!)

20...Qc2+ 21.Kd4 f5 22.Qb7! (22.f3? Qd2+ 23.Kc4 (23.Bd3 c5+) 23...d5+ 24.Kc5 Qc3+ 25.Kxd5 Bc6#)
 22...Bd7! 23.f3 c5+ 24.Kd5 Qd2+ and Black takes the perpetual.

18... Qb2+!!
 18...Bb5+ and the king can now slip away to safety with 19.Kf3
 19.Kf3 Bc6+
 20.Kg3!
 20.e4 Qc3+ 21.Kf4 Qe5+ 22.Ke3 Qxe4+ 23.Kd2 Qb4+ and perpetual again. The text had to be taken into account in Black's calculations, as now he can lose!

20... Qe5+
 21.f4 Qxe3+
 22.Kg4



22... Bxg2!!
 A king chase results after 22...f5+ 23.Kh5 Bf3+ 24.gxf3 Qxf3+ 25.Kxh6 Qxf4+ 26.Kh7! Qh4+ 27.Kg8 and White wins!

23.Re1!!

23.Qd8+ was another calculation to be made; 23...Kxd8 24.Bxg2 h5+ 25.Kxh5 Qxf4 26.h4 Qf5+ 27.Kh6 Qg6#; 23.Bxg2 f5+ 24.Kh5 (24.Kxf5

Qe6#) 24...Qe2+ 25.Kxh6 Qe6+ 26.Kg5 Qg6+ 27.Kh4 Qg4#

Now Black must take the draw by perpetual check:
23... Bf3+

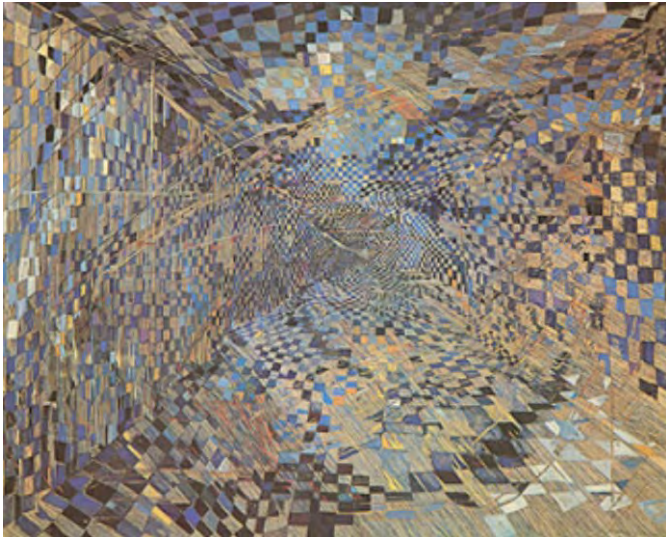
24.Kh3
25.Kg2

Be2+
Qf3+

1/2-1/2



Hungarian Gallery



Couloir Sans Limites (Corridor Without Limits)
Maria Helena Vieira da Silva (married to Hungarian artist
Arpad Szenes)



Capablanca
Sándor Badacsonyi (1949–2016)



Alvás (Sleep)
Sándor Badacsonyi (1949–2016)



Caissa and Venus
Sándor Badacsonyi (1949–2016)



Fischer Teaching
Sándor Badacsonyi (1949–2016)



Playing Chess (Eta Breuer and Leó Weiner)
Róbert Berény (1887-1953)



Encounters
Sándor Badacsonyi (1949–2016)



Napoleon Playing Chess
Sándor Badacsonyi (1949–2016)



Celebrating the Ruy Lopez Part B: the (mainline) Berlin Defence

By Peter Bennett

Opening “Theory”: an eternal conundrum

In the preface to the 10th edition of MCO, published in 1965, the editor expressed delight at having secured the services of GM Larry Evans to revise it (from the 9th edition) because “readers would benefit from the battle-seasoned judgment of a practising GM”.

At the time I was impressed; and I acknowledged in the previous article that Larry Evans had done an excellent job, within the necessary limits of the exercise. Today, however, I am much more sceptical about the editor’s claim. Why so?

There is a conundrum here which seems virtually insoluble. Unquestionably, Evans’ knowledge of the Ruy Lopez was based on the expertise which any GM develops and hones primarily through practical play. That is partly why he was able to expand the Ruy Lopez section of MCO10 to 54 pages – more than 10% of the entire volume! Did that help exponents of the Ruy Lopez win more games, say in 1966, the year after MCO10 was published, than in 1964, when Larry Evans’ treatise had not yet been available?

The answer is: only against opponents who had not studied MCO10 as thoroughly as the player who had White. The first part of the conundrum is that all published opening theory is already history. This was less of a problem in the 1960s; but nowadays, with the advent of computer databases, yesterday’s wins become part of an online database within a few weeks or months at most. The lines with which I won with White in the Ruy Lopez a year ago are now already dead, presumed extinct. An intelligent player with the Black pieces will see these lines in the online databases and avoid them. The only way I can hope to win with the Ruy in 2020 is by finding, developing and using new lines that no-one has ever tried before. Put the other way around, without innovation, my chances of winning any CC games against any strong players are completely stuffed!

The second part of the conundrum is that no “practising” chess master, whether in OTB or CC, will give away trade secrets within their own opening repertoire. Even I, as a club player, have found glaring omissions in the so-called “GM Series” of definitive books on specialist openings for super-strong players. First I thought these were oversights; now I suspect they were deliberate exclusions. Put it the other way around: if I were a practising GM, and a publisher asked me to write a chapter on one of my favourite openings, I would go out of my way to deflect readers away from all the pet lines I had been hoarding with the intent of using them in my next tournament. To share any of my current theoretical ideas would be a bit like Montgomery sending Rommel a letter detailing his entire battle-plan just before the beginning of hostilities at El Alamein.

So the best you can hope for in any book or article on opening theory is a few broad, strategic ideas. The alert reader will then ask: so why am I now writing this series of articles? What is the point of reading on, at all?

SCCA Magazine 147

There are several answers to these questions. The first is that I am only a “club” player, not a master. The second is that I am already in the process of discarding the Ruy Lopez from my own repertoire and the articles are to explain why. The third is that I am 73 years old, past my best, and no longer cherishing illusions about one day becoming a GM. The fourth and most important reason is that our online magazine has a predominantly closed readership; so I can use it hopefully to help my fellow Scottish players with the knotty question of how to develop and change the opening repertoire they currently employ, especially if it includes the Ruy Lopez, either as an attacking weapon, or as a result of playing the open game with Black.

The (mainline) Berlin Defence: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4

The Berlin Defence is one of an increasing number of chess openings, or major variations, where both its reputation and its use have diverged dramatically between OTB and CC. The first thing we need to say is that it is a genuine “defence”, in that it is Black’s choice. A second point, which has huge implications for modern Ruy theory, is that White can only avoid it by giving up the Ruy altogether. So, if you play the Ruy with White you have to be prepared to confront the Berlin Defence.

The OTB verdict, as enshrined in MCO10 (1965), my benchmark text for these articles, was essentially that the Berlin Defence is inferior to the main lines with 3...a6. According to Evans, it leads to a “tenable but cramped game always in White’s favour”. The main reason Black played the defence OTB – then and still today – was to avoid the long, classical lines, such as the Chigorin Defence, which have been analysed over 30 moves deep.

One component of this assessment, which still holds true in both OTB and CC, is that the Berlin Defence is completely unsuitable for the player who wants to retain winning chances with Black. It is a “draw at best” defence. I haven’t seen a CC win for Black in the Berlin Defence for many years now (except where White has blundered); and I doubt if I ever will again. So why on earth should anyone play it at all?

The current OTB answer to that question (except at master level) is that few players do. The defence is out of favour precisely because Black cannot usually win with it.

The CC verdict is very different, essentially because abandoning any chance of winning with Black is, in many situations, a perfectly acceptable strategy. For many CC players, the perfect result in a strong tournament is 75% - gained by getting all draws with Black and all wins with White. It rarely works out that way, but it is the goal that many CC players set themselves. Let us look at this in practice:

White: Bennett, Peter (2344)

Black: Jensson, Einar (2330)

11th European TC 2017–19

Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defence [C67]

[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 Nf6



Diagram 1

Here we have it: the Berlin Defence in a major tournament! So why has my opponent played it? This was a very important question, which required an answer; and the answer began with a second question: what did I know about my opponent, beyond the fact that his grading was 2330 and he already held the CCE title?

Actually, quite a lot, given that I would count Einar as a “chess friend”. Beyond that, I also knew something about Einar’s reputation from other Icelandic sources. Although a strong CC player, his focus is primarily on OTB, in which he is a respected trainer and team manager. I was also told (by the President of Reykjavik Chess Club, no less) that Einar is regarded as one of Iceland’s leading authorities on opening theory; and this is in a country with the highest number of GMs per head of population of any country in world – 13, to be precise. So why did a player of his credentials adopt the Berlin Defence?

My inferences (which subsequent events have shown to be entirely correct) were these:

- (1) Einar was playing for a draw with Black, from the outset;
- (2) he was 100% confident of getting the draw as soon as he played 3...Nf6; and
- (3) if he had had any doubts whatsoever about the soundness of

SCCA Magazine 147

the Berlin Defence, he would have played 3...a6, just as most players still do in both OTB and CC.

4.0-0 Nxe4
5.d4 Nd6
6.Bxc6 dxc6
7.dxe5 Nf5
8.Qxd8+ Kxd8



Diagram 2

White can also play 9.Rd1+ (see the game Bennett – Tobor, below).

9.Nc3 Bd7

10.h3

10.Rd1 is also a standard

continuation (see Martinez – Bennett, below).

10... h6

11.b3 Kc8

12.Bb2 b6

13.Rad1

Yes, White offers the draw – on move 13! And Black happily accepts. Here is the final position:



Diagram 3

1/2–1/2

Do I hear cries of: “shame on you!” Why didn’t you play on?!

My answers to any such critics are:

- (1) My first aim in this tournament was to top the Board 6 table for Scotland, which I achieved;
- (2) My second aim was to get an IM norm, which I also did;

(3) I am a pragmatist and reckoned already, at move 13, that I had no chance of winning the game against this particular opponent, for the reasons given above;

(4) I already knew what would happen next in this line (see below), and

(5) because I also play this variation with Black.

So, dear critic, please hold your fire and read on.....

White: Tobor, Mick (2350)

Black: Bennett, Peter (2374)

9th Veterans World Cup Semi-Final, SF9, 2018

Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defence [C67]

[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 Nf6

See diagram 1, above.

4.0-0 Nxe4

5.d4 Nd6

6.Bxc6 dxc6

7.dxe5 Nf5

8.Qxd8+ Kxd8

See diagram 2, above.

9.Nc3 Bd7

10.h3 h6

11.b3 Kc8

12.Bb2 b6

13.Rad1

Refer diagram 3, above, where the previous game was drawn and from which we now continue.

13... c5

14.Nd5 a5

15.a4 Ne7

16.c4 Bf5

17.Rd2 Kb7

18.Rfd1

Stockfish 9 (at depth 50!) here

recommends 18.Nh2, but also assesses the position as 0.00 – in other words, a dead draw. So Mick tries 18.Rfd1.

18... Nxd5

19.cxd5

1/2–1/2

Black would have played 19....Be7, after which his rooks can be centralised and any threat from White’s central pawns completely neutralised, especially with the two bishops.

So why did White offer the draw?

Only because he could see there was no possibility to win from here. This was last November. Eleven months

later, Mick is still leading the tournament and has gained an IM norm. So he is an ambitious player who takes every opportunity to score points that is available; but he is also a realist and doesn't believe in "flogging a dead horse", as he explained himself in his last message about this game.

So this is also why I offered the draw in the same line to Einar in the previous game

In our "next" tournament, Mick and I found ourselves on opposite sides of the same opening:

White: Bennett, Peter (2352)
Black: Tobor, Mick (2262) [C67]
 10th Veterans World Cup, pr51, 2019
 Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defence [C67]
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	Nf6
See diagram 1, above.	
4.0-0	Nxe4
5.d4	Nd6
6.Bxc6	dx6
7.dxe5	Nf5
8.Qxd8+	Kxd8
See diagram 2, above.	
9.Rd1+	Ke8
10.Nc3	Be7
11.h3	Be6
12.b3	Rd8
13.Bb2	h5
14.Ne4	Bd5
15.Nfg5	Rh6

1/2-1/2

We have played only 15 moves in a main line; yet all the engines – Houdini, Komodo and Stockfish – in spite of their diverse algorithms, score this position as 0.00. This is yet another "dodo line" and puts the lie to the old assessment that the opening is in White's favour. It simply isn't. The continuation 16.c4 Rg6 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.f4 dxe4 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Nxe4 was possible here but yields nothing.

So, if the draw is that easy to secure with Black in CC (as it is), why don't more OTB players employ the Berlin Defence? This, in fact, is precisely where the difference between modern CC and modern OTB lies. Black gets the draw in CC but only by playing the opening with 100%

accuracy. The Berlin Defence is a very committal system; and there are many situations where the best move is also the only sensible move: one slight error and Black can be overwhelmed. This, in fact, is probably why the earlier reputation of the opening was that it favoured White.

A very good example of how Black can go awry is, unfortunately, a CC game I recently managed to lose on a clerical error:

White: Martinez, Juan (2404)
Black: Bennett, Peter (2342)
 WCCC42 Pr10, 2019
 Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defence [C67]
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	Nf6
4.0-0	Nxe4
5.d4	Nd6
6.Bxc6	dx6
7.dxe5	Nf5
8.Qxd8+	Kxd8
9.Nc3	Bd7
10.Rd1	Kc8
11.Ng5	Be8
12.b3	b6
13.Bb2	Be7
14.Nge4	Bd7
15.Rd3	Nh4
16.Ne2	a5
17.a4	Bf5
18.N2g3	Be6
19.Nh5	Rg8
20.f3	Kb7
21.Rad1	



Diagram 4

This is another standard theory position which I had seen before; and I also knew what to play in this position....

21... Rad8??

.....and this is completely the wrong move! For some reason I copied the

move incorrectly from my own notes on the game. 21...Rad8 looks like a natural developing move, which may partly explain why I failed to spot the error; but it is well known that 21...Rae8! is the only playable continuation in this position – and also secures equality. I shall give the rest of the game without further comment, as it illustrates perfectly how White can take advantage of an error by the second player.

22.Rxd8	Bxd8
23.Kf2	Be7
24.g4	b5
25.Nf4	g5
26.Nxe6	fxe6
27.Bc3	Ra8
28.Bd4	Rf8
29.Rd3	h6
30.Bc5	Bxc5+
31.Nxc5+	Kc8
32.Rc3	bxa4
33.bxa4	Rf4
34.h3	Ng6
35.Nxe6	Rxa4
36.Rxc6	Nxe5
37.Rc5	Nc4
38.Rxc7+	Kb8
39.Rh7	Ra2
40.Nd4	Na3
41.Rxh6	Nxc2
42.Nxc2	Rxc2+
43.Kg3	Kb7
44.h4	gxh4+
45.Rxh4	



Diagram 5

1-0

Conclusion

The "modern" CC assessment of the Berlin Defence is that it is becoming regarded as one of the easiest ways to secure a draw with Black. Why else would strong players adopt it, even when known to be trying to win tournaments and score as heavily as possible?

Ironically, I would love to lose a CC game with Black in this opening by being completely outplayed (rather than on a clerical error, as above) because it would at least show me how to play against it with White.

Since preparing my first draft of this article, as it happens, I have started three new games with the Berlin Defence: in two games I have adopted the Berlin with Black; and, in the third (and most recent) game, I am using the opportunity with White to test the same ideas from the other side of the board. The point is this: in none of these games has White adopted the main line, characterised by 4.0-0. This radical change of strategy by White might well be the subject of a later article..... watch this space!

In the meantime, however, I have to assume that the mainline Berlin

Defence is impossible to win against, if Black's opening play is accurate; but this very assumption has huge implications for playing the Ruy Lopez at all.

Where does this leave us? The main answer to this question is that it is no longer sensible to play the Ruy Lopez as an automatic choice with White. I would still play the Ruy against much lower-graded opponents because they would be unlikely to risk the Berlin Defence. I would also play the Ruy against a SIM or GM because they would want to keep open their chances of winning with Black and would therefore avoid the Berlin Defence on those grounds. Against middle-ranking players, say 2250 – 2400, I would first check whether they included the Berlin Defence in their repertoire; and, if so, I would avoid the Ruy in the first place. Against

such players, I might even have to give 1.d4 a try.

In a way, I would dearly like to be proved entirely wrong in what I am saying about the Berlin Defence in this article. Why? Because, if I am right, and the Berlin is soon shown to be a relatively straightforward draw with Black in CC, that is the beginning of the end of the Ruy Lopez itself, yet another nail in the coffin of the "open" game: 1.e4 e5.

[Ed: this article is one of a series of four from Peter, viz:

Part A: its changing role in modern CC – edition 146.

Part B: the (mainline) Berlin Defence (this edition)

Part C: the Marshall Attack and

Part D: a personal tribute (to follow)]

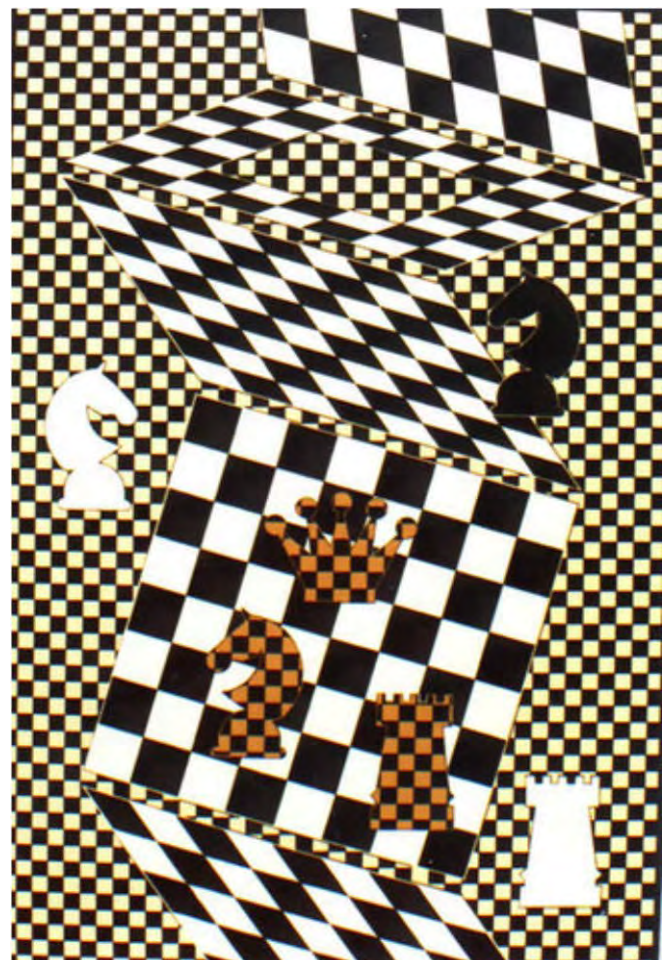
Chess Art



A couple of off-beat images for you.

Above is Super Chess (1937) by the Swiss artist Paul Klee, who was influenced by surrealism, cubism and expressionism.

Right is The Chess Board (1935) by the Hungarian-French artist Victor Vasarely who was considered the father of Op Art.





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	█	3.5	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	29	53	4	13	54	0	4
5		Argentina	2458	3.5	2.5	3	2.5	█	3.5	3	3	4	3	28	51	2	10	54	0	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

Our third place wasn't enough to qualify for the Final. That will be contested by **Germany, Russia and Spain** (from the 20th Olympiad Final); **USA** (OLY 21 Prelims, S1); **Belarus** (OLY 21 Prelims, S2); **Austria and Netherlands** (OLY 21 Prelims, S3); **Ukraine and Lithuania** (OLY 21 Prelims, S4); **Czech Republic and Portugal** (OLY 21 Prelims, S5); plus **Luxembourg and England** (best third-placed teams in OLY 21 Prelims).

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		Lithuania	2498	█	4	4	4	4.5	4	4	4	4.5	4.5	7	44.5	56	10	14	79	1	1
2		Scotland	2390	4	█	3.5	4	4	4	4.5	5	4	5	5.5	43.5	54	7	13	80	0	2
3		Switzerland	2452	4	4.5	█	4	4	4	4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	42.5	53	6	15	79	1	3
4		Bulgaria	2423	4	4	4	█	4	4	3.5	4.5	4	4.5	5.5	42	52	4	12	80	0	4
5		Croatia	2349	3.5	4	4	4	█	4.5	4.5	4	4.5	4	4.5	41.5	51	3	13	80	0	5
6		Iceland	2411	4	4	4	4	3.5	█	4.5	4	4.5	4.5	4.5	41.5	51	3	13	80	0	6
7		Turkey	2400	4	3.5	4	4.5	3.5	3.5	█	4.5	4.5	4	4.5	40.5	50	1	11	80	0	7
8		Denmark	2346	3	3	3.5	3.5	4	4	3.5	█	4.5	5.5	5	39.5	50	0	8	79	1	8
9		Estonia	2372	3.5	4	3.5	4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	█	4	5.5	38.5	48	-2	5	79	1	9
10		Finland	2364	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	4	2.5	3	█	4.5	35	44	-9	4	79	1	10
11		Norway	2229	1	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3	2.5	3.5	█	28	35	-23	0	79	1	11

Peter Bennett writes:

My attempts (going back two issues, i.e., six months) to forecast the composition of the 11th ETC Final have come to nothing, even now. The key question is: which four nations will qualify from the 10th ETC Final? There are seven countries still in contention and there have been very few results for a long time now. Only when these qualifiers are known, can the qualifiers from the 11th ETC Semi-Finals be determined.

This won't affect Scotland, as our qualification has been secure for some time; but it may (e.g.) affect Iceland from our S/F group, since we still don't know which way Switzerland will qualify for the 11th Final.

Even three months ago, it still looked likely that the 11th ETC Final might start before the end of the year. Now it looks very unlikely that it will start before Easter, at the earliest.

When the Selection Committee carried out its team "pre-section" exercise earlier in the year, we all assumed (I think) that the 11th ETC Final would get underway first, around the year-end, with the 12th ETC S/Fs either simultaneously or soon afterwards. We also assumed (on the basis of the original published timetable) that the next Olympiad would start next July at the earliest (i.e., 2020, Q3).

All of this has now changed. I was very surprised to see that the 22nd Olympiad Prelims will now start in January and that the teams have to be determined before the end of November.

What I don't know is whether or not the respective organisers of the Olympiad and ETC will come to an arrangement to "stagger" the start dates? And, if so, would that mean that the 11th ETC Final will now start much later than originally anticipated? If the Olympiad starts in January and, say, the ETC Final in February, this might cause an overload for players involved in both.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Jun 2019	27	Sweden	Server/Postal	7	17		
Mar 2019	19	Panama	Server	11	14		
Aug 2018	23	Belgium	Server	17½	25½		loss
Dec 2017	18	Scheming Mind	Server	16½	19½		loss

Our match against Scheming Mind is now complete, and we lost heavily against Belgium. The Panama match remains fairly close, but Sweden has a healthy lead in our most recent fixture.

George Pyrich Memorial Team Tournament (ICCF)

MT-Pyrich/SF3, George D. Pyrich Memorial Team Tournament SF3

		TD Falatowicz, Piotr											Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11								
1	Switzerland 1	2221	█	2	2.5	1.5	1	2	1.5	2.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	16.5	58	5	0	28	32	1
2	Scotland	2117	1	█	1.5	3	2	1	0.5	1	1	1	2	14	46	-2	1	30	30	2
3	Russia 2	2176	1.5	1.5	█	0.5	2.5	1.5	2	0.5	1	1	2	14	50	0	0	28	32	3
4	Lithuania 1	2220	1.5	2	1.5	█	1.5	2.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	12.5	56	3	0	22	38	4
5	Brazil 1	2243	1	2	1.5	0.5	█	2	1	1.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	12	50	0	0	24	36	5
6	Indonesia	2110	1	2	1.5	1.5	1	█	1	1.5	0.5	1	1	12	46	-2	0	26	34	6
7	Italy 1	2187	1.5	1.5	2	1	1	1	█	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	11.5	54	2	0	21	39	7
8	Netherlands	2155	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	█	1	1	1	10	50	0	0	20	40	8
9	England Knights	2238	0.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	█	1	2	9	52	1	0	17	43	9
10	Romania 1	2118	1.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	█	1	9	52	1	0	17	43	10
11	Germany 2	2007	0.5	2	1	0	0.5	1	0.5	0	1	0	█	6.5	30	-8	0	21	39	11

Early days yet, but our team of Geoff Lloyd, Robert Montgomery, Iain Sneddon, Raymond BurrIDGE, Derek Price and David Edney is performing very well!

George Pyrich Memorial Tournament (SCCA)

MT-Pyrich/S14, George Pyrich Memorial Section 14

				TD Murden, Clive													Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Category 0				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
1		530226	Rozo, Richard	1867	1	.	.	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	9.5	9	41.25	2	1
2		620635	Burrige, Raymond John	1867	0	½	½	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	9.5	9	39.75	1	2
3		390170	Ferreira, Luis A. T. Frazão	1894	.	½	½	.	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	8.5	7	33	2	3
4		930269	Ruus, Rein	1770	.	.	.	½	1	1	.	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	8	8	29.5	4	4
5		249078	Pivrotto, Filiberto	1881	½	0	½	0	½	½	.A	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	7.5	6	27.5	1	5
6		279004	Shtrikman, Ronen	1772	0	0	½	0	½	½	0	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	7	6	23	0	6
7		510683	Aiken, Richard	1910	0	0	0	.	.A	1	½	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	6	6	18	3	7
8		40398	Azzoug, Samir	1585	0	0	0	0	0	0	.	½	1	½	1	1 ^D	4	3	7.5	1	8
9		620726	Kearns, Alan	1386	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	1	1	1 ^D	4	3	7.5	0	9
10		30702	de Wit, Wynand	1638	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1 ^D	3	3	4	0	10
11		620756	Gowans, Tom	1279	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	1	1 ^D	3	2	5	0	11
12		620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	1256	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1 ^D	1	1	0	0	12
13		440741	Baban, Catalin-Dumitru	1807	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0	0	0	0	13

Our best placed competitor to date is Raymond Burrige in section 14, who sits in 1st= position with Richard Rozo of Venezuela. Other Scottish standings are:

Section 1	6 th	Tom Matheis	5½/11	Leader: GM Fabian Benz (ARG) 6/12.
Section 2	11 th	Clive Murden	5/9	Leader: CCM Gareth Yeo (WLS) 7/12
Section 3	5 th	Iain Mackintosh	5½/11	Leader: IM Vyacheslav Prozorovsky (RUS) 6/10
Section 4	9 th	David Cumming	5/10	Leader: Oliver Killer (SUI) 7½/12
Section 8	6 th	Alan Borwell	5/10	Leader: CCE Jan Kratochvil (CZE) 7½/12
Section 9	7 th	Geoff Lloyd	6/12	Leader: Volodymyr Slyusar, (UKR) 7/12
Section 11	9 th	Eoin Campbell (decd.)	5½/12	Leader: Vladimir Babychuk (UKR) 7½/11
Section 12	10 th	Alastair Dawson	4/9	Leader: Mario Sena Lopes (POR) 8/11
Section 13	13 th	Derek Price	2½/10	Leader: Roberto Sayas (VEN) 8½/11

Veterans' World Cup (VWC)

VWC11 /pr 15, ICCF Veterans World Cup 11 pr 15

				TD Relyea, Alexander (IA)													Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13						
1		142879	Mikhailov, Valentin Valentinovich	2333	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	8	5	34.25	0	1
2		516926	Byrne, Michael	2276	½	½	½	0	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	8	5	34	0	2
3		629031	Lloyd, Geoffrey	2242	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	8	4	36.25	0	3
4		83146	Markus, Roland	2347	½	1	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	.	.	1	1	7.5	5	36.5	2	4
5		480290	CCE Žunkovič, Slavko	2286	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	.	1	0	1	7	4	36.25	1	5
6		420357	Kapusta, Tadeusz	2162	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	5.5	2	20.5	0	6	
7		20192	IM Deforel, Jorge Eduardo	2059	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	.	.	.	1	1	5	2	22.5	3	7	
8		780026	Ward, Richard	2131	½	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	0	½	1	1	5	2	19	0	8	
9		340040	IM Guizar, Clemente	2009	0	½	½	0	½	½	.	½	.	.	1	1	4.5	2	18.75	3	9	
10		920078	CCM Voveris, Gediminas	2415	½	½	½	.	.	½	.	1	.	½	.	1	4	2	20.25	6	10	
11		81514	Arnold, Horst	2220	0	0	½	.	0	½	.	½	.	.	1	1	3.5	2	11.25	4	11	
12		150280	Pontoppidan, Erik	1818	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.	0	½	1.5	1	7.25	1	12	
13		181491	Lamy, Odette	1614	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0.5	0	0.75	0	13	

Geoff Lloyd finished 3rd (Baumbach tie-break) in the 11th VWC Preliminaries, section 15. Well done Geoff!

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



The Taimanov Sicilian is a highly respectable and dynamic opening. It is an opening of choice for many of the world's elite players since it gives scope for innovation, tactics abound and it allows the stronger player to win most times.

In correspondence chess, the circumstances are different, players are able to reflect on specific moves for long periods of time - and positional considerations count hugely.

The game for this issue is an epic 110 move encounter. It was played in the Russia versus Rest of the World match in 2018. And it involves one of our own - David Cumming.

Games like this one below tend to have clearly defined phases of play. This one is no exception. We see clearly how the players enter the middle game, there follows a tense Q and N ending that subsequently transforms into a N and P ending that finally resolves in Black's favour.

There is much to learn from the opening also, as White deviates from more established moves at quite an early stage in an attempt to wrongfoot his opponent. Enjoy.

White: Goncharov, Igor Vladimirovich (2364)
Black: Cumming, David R (2357)
RUS-ROW 2018 ICCF, 2018 Sicilian Taimanov [B48]
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Nc3	e6
4.d4	cxd4
5.Nxd4	Qc7
6.Be3	a6

We have reached what is often referred to as the 'Sharp' variation of the Taimanov. Readers wishing to explore the ideas behind this variation should get a copy of 'The Taimanov Sicilian' by James Rizzitano in the 'Gambit' series, the original edition published in 2006. All the main material is discussed beautifully in Chapter 5.

7.a3	
7...	Nf6
8.f4	d6
9.Be2	Be7

The move 10. g4 is the 'sharpest' of all and has been played by the likes of Bologan and Ivanov.

10.Qd3	
10...	Bd7

And 11. Qd2 is more common here. Perhaps David's Russian opponent knew more here but the natural move in this position of 10...0-0 has scored very well for White. David takes us into uncharted territory with only 4 games played with this nuance.

11.0-0	b5
12.Nb3	



And with this move Black has more or less equalised. All his minor pieces are developed, the ...b5 break has been secured. In one sense Black has taken advantage of the well-trodden idea of not castling in the first 10 moves just for the sake of it. Instead the latter move has been replaced by a developmental move - and only now that minor piece development plus ..b5 has been achieved can he sit down now and consider when best to castle.

12...	0-0
13.Bf3	b4
14.axb4	Nxb4
15.Qd2	

But now there is a tempo gain on the White queen.

15...	e5
16.Rfd1	Rab8
17.Kh1	Rfd8
18.Qf2	

More 'sharpness'. Normally once ...e5 has been played Black plans to exchange on f4 and put a N on the e5 square - but this cannot happen here immediately. As far as White is concerned, he now has a long-term target on the backward pawn on d6.

18...	Be6
19.fxe5	dxex

And now the d6 weakness has gone and with the position reset Black is again fully equal. Oddly enough it is the Nc3 that is the problem piece for White - where can it go without compromising the position?

20.Rxd8+	Qxd8
21.Rd1	Qc8
22.Bc5	Bxc5
23.Nxc5	a5
24.N3a4	

And now we see what White has in mind for the Nc3 - but c2 is still weak.

24...	Bg4
25.Rd6	Bxf3
26.gxf3	h6
27.Rd2	Nc6
28.Qg3	Qe8
29.Nd3	Qe7
30.Nc3	



And now the N jumps back to c3. For Black now there is a juicy square on f4 for a N if it can ever get there, the immediate g5 to secure the square leaves the Black K somewhat vulnerable to attacks down the g- and h-files.

30... Rd8
 31.Qf2 Nd4
 32.Rd1 Kh7
 33.Qg3 Nc6
 34.Qf2 Nb4
 35.Nxb4 Rxd1+
 36.Nxd1 Qxb4

And here if we return to the long-term themes, Black has pressure on both b2 and c2 and, although the Rs are long gone, the Black Q is doing a fine job.

37.c3 Qb5
 38.Ne3 Qd3
 39.Kg1 Nd7
 40.Kg2 Nf8
 41.Nd5 Ng6
 42.Kg3 h5
 43.Qe1 Qc2
 44.Qf2 Qc1
 45.Qe2

The Black Q still continues to threaten White while that weak f4 square is giving White additional headaches.

45... a4
 46.Kh3 Qg1
 47.Qg2 Qa1
 48.Qf2 Qa2
 49.Kg2 h4
 50.h3 Kg8
 51.Kg1

With a timely advance of the h-pawn, the f4 weakness has led to a new weakness on g3.

51... Qb1+
 52.Kg2 Qc1
 53.Kh2 Qh6
 54.Qe1 Nf8
 55.Qf2 Ne6
 56.Qe2 Nc5
 57.Qf2 Nd3
 58.Qe2 Nc5
 59.Qf2

The next set of moves continues this manoeuvring. Black has to build up the pressure further if he is to get the breakthrough. White is completely tied down and the Nd5 cannot move without an ensuing disaster.

59... Nd3
 60.Qe2 Nc1
 61.Qg2 Nb3
 62.Qf2 Qg5
 63.Kh1 Qc1+
 64.Kg2



And now the crunch move causing White to flail around with his N.

64... Nd2
 65.Ne7+ Kf8
 66.Nd5 f6
 67.Qc5+ Kf7
 68.Qb5 Kg6
 69.Kf2 Qh1
 70.Qd3 Qh2+
 71.Ke1 Nb3
 72.Ne7+ Kg5
 73.Qe3+ Kh5
 74.Nf5 Qxb2
 75.Nxg7+ Kg6
 76.Nf5 Qc1+

And here after the Q exchanges Black has a clearly winning ending, but he still has a lot to do to secure the win.

77.Qxc1 Nxc1
 78.Kd2 Nb3+
 79.Kc2 Kg5
 80.c4 Nc5
 81.Kc3 a3
 82.Kc2 Kf4
 83.Nxh4 Kg3
 84.Nf5+ Kxf3
 85.h4 Kxe4
 86.Ng3+ Kf3
 87.h5



87... Nd3
 A nice inter-mezzo.
 88.Kb3 Kxg3
 89.h6 Nf4
 90.h7 Ng6
 91.c5 e4

92.c6 e3
 93.c7 e2
 94.c8Q e1Q
 95.Qg8 Qd1+
 96.Kxa3 Qg4
 97.Qb8+ Kf3
 98.Qb3+ Kf4
 99.Qb4+ Kg5
 100.Qd2+ Kh5
 101.Qh2+ Qh4
 102.Qb8 Qh3+
 103.Kb2 Qg2+
 104.Kc3 Qf3+
 105.Kd2 Qf2+
 106.Kc3 Qe3+
 107.Kc2 Qe4+
 108.Kc1 f5
 109.Qh2+ Qh4
 110.Qd6 f4

0-1



You can help by submitting your own games, or anything of note you've come across in your travels. We're happy to publish all grading standards and lengths of games as long as there's some interesting play to enjoy!

games@scottishcca.co.uk



The Art of Chess, Chess in Art 3
 by Manetti Francesca
 Firenze



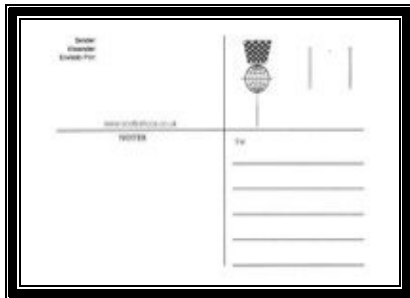
General Information

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.

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. As a guide, Royal Mail charge approx. £3 for both a 100-card and 200-card parcel.

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

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2019-20

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

Theme 1/20: Larsen Opening, A01

1.b3

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 February

Webserver Events 2019-20

Theme 6/19 – Soller Gambit, A40

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 f6

Entries by 15 October; play starts 1 November

Theme 7/19 - Sicilian, Accelerated Dragon, B27

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7

Entries by 30 November; play starts 15 December

News

- ❑ The 30th Individual World Championship has now completed, and the new World Champion is Andrey Leonidovich Kochemasov (RUS) – congratulations! There was a three-way tie for 2nd between Enver Mikhailovich Efendiyev (RUS), Detlef Buse (GER), and Fred Kunzelmann (GER).
- ❑ The 71st European Individual Championship has now completed, with a clean sweep for Russia. Joint Champions are Aleksandr Pavlovich Batrakov and Igor Viktorovich Telepnev. Equal third were Evgeny Vasilievich Lobanov, and Denis Vladimirovich Zuev.
- ❑ The results of ICCF Regional Director voting were:
Zone 1: Andrey Nikolaevich Pavlikov (RUS)
Zone 4: Everdinand Knol (RSA)
World Zone: Gino Franco Figlio (PER)
- ❑ The Semifinals of World Cup 22 have now started, involving 135 entrants, 109 of whom carry ICCF titles! There are 1 GM, 2 LGM, 9 SIM, 14 IM, 60 CCM and 23 CCE, so it will be well-contested!
- ❑ The ICCF Games Archive is now available up to September 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