

# Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

**Magazine No.81**

**Spring 2003**

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*- another collection of annotated games*

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*- more hype from hyperspace*

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Firstly, congratulations to Dr Alan Brown who recently clinched victory in the 2002-03 Championship! It's been a steady progression for Alan - he finished 3rd in the 2000-01 event behind Richard Beecham and Mark May, and 2nd a year later behind Richard. The publication date of this issue comes a little too early for an article by the new man at the top, but happily for us, he's promised to write something for a forthcoming edition.

This issue is the first of the new season, and all the 2003 events are listed here in detail. As a footnote to 2002, the Division 2 League Champions were Superkings who got the point they needed from their last couple of games - well done to them!

As is customary at this time of year, Raymond Baxter has produced the 2003 SCCA Grading List, and this is reproduced in full here (note that it's also available as a download document from our website).

On the international side, George Pyrich reports from the autumn 2002 ICCF Congress in Seixal, Portugal. One of George's opponents in the current XV Olympiad, Jorge Esquivel of Mexico, has contributed a short story entitled "Victory". It was a pleasure to receive Jorge's writing, and I'm sure you'll derive as much enjoyment from reading it.

Equally pleasant was the receipt of an up-to-date biopic and annotated game from Richard Beecham. Richard has chosen to commentate on a tough struggle against Ted Greiner played in the Bulletin 21st Anniversary event.

Bernard has chipped in with his regular Games Column and ChessBase reviews - something of a sideline these days to his main pursuit of tormenting the medical profession in Edinburgh and the Borders.

After all this time, we still haven't been able to bring you the winner in the Bernard Partridge Memorial Tournament. The one remaining game is between Manuel Jaime Summers of Belgium and Steve Williams of England, with the players locked in a protracted ending. If Summers wins, he takes the event outright; if he draws he finishes equal first with Raymond Boger of Norway on 9 points; if he loses he will finish in second place. Third and fourth places have already been decided, and are occupied by Harry Kunz and Heiko Starke respectively, both from Germany.

The Bulletin 21st Anniversary Tournament has also got just one game to finish, but it has no bearing on the places. The final line-up on the podium is:

1st	Richard Beecham	SCO	12½/14
2nd	Stephen Tatlow	ENG	10
3rd	George Pyrich	SCO	9½
4th	Ted Greiner	USA	9

George Livie is currently looking into the possibility of starting another international event later this year.

We still have some copies of the ICCF Gold book for sale - it's great value for money, and George Pyrich will be delighted to accept your orders (£14.99 inc p&p)! Contact George directly using one of the methods below.

The website celebrated its 5th birthday in early March, after a successful switch to a new web hosting service. We had outgrown the 50Mb ceiling we had with our original supplier Globalnet, but the market has made huge strides in that time, and our new disk capacity is 600Mb! Check out the new statistics page on the site for some interesting data and histograms.

### SCCA Website Domain Name

Please note that we are now concentrating solely on:

**[www.scottishcca.co.uk](http://www.scottishcca.co.uk)**

having now dropped the .com and .org variations of the domain name. Please change any old bookmarks on your computer bearing the Globalnet service address to [www.scottishcca.co.uk](http://www.scottishcca.co.uk), and you will be automatically redirected to our new site.

### SCCA 100 Club Winners

Here are the most recent high-rollers:

<b>2003</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>
March	G McKnight	J S Murray
February	J Anderson	I Mackintosh

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## 2003 Events

By Jim Anderson

### Championship

2003/2004		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Pts
1	Brown, Dr A C	■											
2	Cumming, D R		■										
3	Edney, D			■									
4	Henderson, B				■								
5	Lennox, C J					■							
6	Lloyd, G						■						
7	Mackintosh, I							■					
8	Maxwell, A								■				
9	May, M A									■			
10	Norris, Rev A C										■		
11	Reeman, I F											■	

The Championship returns to an 11-player format this year. We welcome newcomers Brian Henderson and Alistair Maxwell, and greet the return of experienced competitors Jonathan Lennox, Bert Norris and Ian Reeman. Richard Beecham swaps controller duties with Alistair Maxwell to allow the latter to participate.

### Candidates

2003/2004		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Cumming, D R	■						
2	Franks, K		■					
3	Lloyd, G			■				
4	MacDonald, P H				■			
5	Thompson, B					■		
6	Young, S M						■	

With the election of successful players to the Championship, this year's Candidates' entry is down a little. Newcomers to this level are Keith Franks and Paul MacDonald.

### Premiers

2003 Section A		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Armstrong, J M	■				
2	Cook, W M		■			
3	Dowell, C M			■		
4	Ross, D				■	

2003 Section B		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Bird, A G E	■				
2	Lees, J		■			
3	McAinsh, T F			■		
4	Rawlinson, J				■	

Two sections again this year, albeit slightly smaller than last time. There is a good mix of established and new entrants amongst the players here also.

## Majors

2003 Section A		1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	Armstrong, J M	■					
2	Coope, D W		■				
3	Crawley, J			■			
4	Grant, J				■		
5	Miller, S					■	

2003 Section B		1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	Kilgour, J W	■					
2	Knox, A		■				
3	Loughran, R			■			
4	Moir, P				■		
5	Morrow, J					■	

Two sections again this year, with numbers as previously. Some newly promoted faces from the Minors jockeying with established competitors here!

## Minors

2003		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Armstrong, J M	■				
2	Domnin, M		■			
3	Kennedy, G			■		
4	Moir, P				■	

The Minors looks more like the Quartets than the Quartets this year

## Quartets

2003 Q211		1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	Bird, A G E	■					
2	Cumming, D R		■				
3	Lawson, J			■			
4	Loughran, R				■		
5	Moir, P					■	

For Quartet read Quintet, with 5 entrants battling it out!

## Openings

Only 3 entrants at the time of going to press, so sadly no section started yet.

## Challenge

Eight players are in the starting line-up - David Cumming, James Dawson, Chris Dowell, David Edney, Peter Jack, Richard James, Geoff Lloyd and John McKinstry. Members are reminded that entries can be made at any time during the year.

## Emails

Due to continued difficulties in finding a controller, we cannot start any Email Quartet sections at present, despite having a number of players willing to play. If you can help, please contact Jim Anderson at [secretary@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:secretary@scottishcca.co.uk)

## League Division 1

2003		Opponent	Game A	Game B	Points
<b>A</b>	<b>Black Knight</b>				
1	Pyrich, G D	E1			
2	May, M A	D2			
3	Reeman, I F	C3			
4	Hislop, A T	B4			
5	Marshall, I H	F5			
<b>B</b>	<b>Knights of the Board</b>				
1	Cumming, D R	D1			
2	Lloyd, G	C2			
3	Armstrong, A	F3			
4	Loughran, R	A4			
5	Coope, D W	E5			
<b>C</b>	<b>The Exiles</b>				
1	Franks, K	F1			
2	Ruston, A	B2			
3	Tatam, A	A3			
4	Heath, P	E4			
5	Jones, G	D5			
<b>D</b>	<b>Social Stars</b>				
1	Malbon, P	B1			
2	Doye, P	A2			
3	Price, D	E3			
4	Lees, J	F4			
5	Rosser, G C	C5			
<b>E</b>	<b>Five Brave Englishmen</b>				
1	Chambers, D	A1			
2	Sowden, E C	F2			
3	Rawlings, A J	D3			
4	Barnes, D J R	C4			
5	Robertshaw, A	B5			
<b>E</b>	<b>Perth Correspondents</b>				
1	Borwell, A P	C1			
2	Mackintosh, I	E2			
3	Brown, Dr A C	B3			
4	Harvey, D J	D4			
5	Mitchell, I W S	A5			

## League Division 2

2003		Oppt	Game A	Game B	Oppt	Game A	Game B	Points
<b>A</b>	<b>Knights of the Board</b>							
1	Stevenson, F	B1			C1			
2	Burnett, R	B2			C2			
3	Anderson, J	B3			C3			
4	Morrow, J	B4			C4			
5	Moir, P	B5			C5			
<b>B</b>	<b>Social Climbers</b>							
1	Ruston, A	A1			C1			
2	Pomeroy, R	A2			C2			
3	Richardson, D	A3			C3			
4	Draisey, J	A4			C4			
5	Ash, G	A5			C5			
<b>C</b>	<b>Brutal Realism</b>							
1	Murray, J S	A1			B1			
2	Thomson, A	A2			B2			
3	Taylor, W	A3			B3			
4	Hand, W	A4			B4			
5	James, C R	A5			B5			



## Biopic

By Richard Beecham

[Editor's note: Richard was keen to update the photograph of himself which appeared in the last issue, so he sent a recent shot which we are happy to include here (space doesn't permit the full kilted regalia which props up the beard, but there was enough of that last time!) In the hard-nosed commercial world of chess publishing, the quid pro quo of course was for him to supply some words as well as pictures, so we are doubly grateful for a short biopic and a very nicely annotated game from the Bulletin 21st Anniversary Tournament.]

I'm a Yorkshireman, born in Bridlington 56 years ago. My early childhood was spent above the cliffs at Flamborough Head before moving to Scarborough. My first memories of chess were when I was 6 or 7 years old. I found a cast metal set in a cupboard but no instruction book. The following Christmas a pocket set arrived. I was hooked. During my early teenage years we moved to Burton-on-Trent in the Midlands before moving to Scotland in 1961, when I took up chess seriously.

I formed a chess club at my school Cumnock Academy, and an article appeared in a local newspaper which was spotted by the late P.B. Anderson who was Scottish OTB Champion twice in the 1950's. He lived 2 miles outside Cumnock and once a week I would walk to his home for my chess lesson. His study was stacked high with Shakmatny Bulletins and we played on his original Staunton chess set - a real treat.

On leaving school I started work in a private Architects practice, moving to Local Government 2 years later. I studied part time at the Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art between 1970-77. During this time I found I got more enjoyment from studying chess games in depth rather than playing the superficial OTB chess so often decided in time pressure!

1971 brought marriage to Pat and we now have three adult children and one grandson. I also qualified for the SCCA Championship and have played in the event on and off for over 30 years with 5 second places and 3 third places before finally becoming Champion in 2000-01 and 2001-02 seasons. I've also taken part in Olympiad, ETC and NATT events.

In February 1977 I was invited to a meeting by the father of our Association Bernard Partridge to formalise the Constitution of the SCCA. I was asked to design a logo for the Association which we still use today: it represents the Scottish thistle!

In 1997 I took early retirement and studied for an HNC in Wildlife Habitat Surveying, since then I've worked part time for Scottish Natural Heritage carrying out surveys in South Ayrshire. Currently I'm playing in a World Semi-Final, with my ambition to play in a World Championship Final and to gain the GM title!

### Beecham, C R (2398) - Greiner, T J (2275) [A45] SCCA Bulletin 21st Anniversary, 2003

[Notes by Richard Beecham]

[Ted and I first met 11 years ago in the SCCA Magazine 10th Anniversary Invitation Tournament, where Ted finished 5th and I was in 10th place. We played a Semi-Slav and had a book draw after 20 moves. Ted and I also have another great passion: we are both Pittsburgh Steelers (American Football) fans. He sent me regular updates from the USA with magazines, newspapers and a baseball cap during our game. In return, I sent him a MacDonald tartan tie, very appropriate in the context of our game. I pointed out that the MacDonalds were massacred in Glencoe; Ted then told me his wife's name was Campbell!!]

<b>1.d4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>2.Bg5</b>	<b>Ne4</b>
<b>3.Bf4</b>	<b>c5</b>
<b>4.f3</b>	<b>Qa5+</b>
<b>5.c3</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>6.d5</b>	<b>Qb6</b>
<b>7.b3</b>	

[The most popular move here is 7.Bc1 when Black can go either 7... e6 or 7... d6. I tried 7.b3 here again as I had 3 wins with it in the 2001-02 SCCA Championship.]

<b>7...</b>	<b>e6</b>
<b>8.e4</b>	<b>Bd6</b>

[In the SCCA Championship 2001-02, Dr Alan Brown tried 8... exd5 9.exd5 Bd6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bc4 d6 12.Ne2 Nbd7 and had fully equalised (and may have been slightly better due to my isolated QP and poorly placed Bc4).]

<b>9.Bg5</b>	<b>Be7</b>
<b>10.Na3</b>	

[Setting the little trap: if 10... Qa5 11.Nc4 Qxc3+ 12.Bd2 Qd4 13.Ne2 winning the queen!]

<b>10...</b>	<b>exd5</b>
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**11.e5!?**

[Sacrificing a pawn and obtaining a position which looks like something out of Dr Doolittle! I also like to scare myself, because that thrill, that sense of being over the edge, is what correspondence chess is all about.]

**11... Qe6**

[I spent some time looking at 11... c4!? 12.exf6 Qe6+ 13.Qe2 Bxa3 14.fxc7 Rg8 15.Rd1 Rxc7 16.Rxd5 but White is on top.]

**12.Qe2**

[The move 12.Nb5!? may have been ok: 12... Qxe5+ 13.Qe2 Qxg5 14.Nh3 Qh5 15.Nf4 Qh4+ 16.g3 Qg5 17.Nc7+ but I ended up like a blind man deprived of his stick fumbling for direction, so I gave up - it's just too unclear.]

**12... Ng8**  
**13.Bxe7 Nxe7**  
**14.Nb5**



**14... Kd8!**

[It seemed logical to play 14.. Na6 15.Nd6+ Kf8 16.g3 Nc7 17.Bh3 f5 18.f4 Ne8, but Ted's idea is much stronger as he is able to play his QN towards the centre of the action.]

**15.f4 f6**  
**16.Nf3 Nbc6**  
**17.Qe3**

[I had originally planned 17.0-0-0, but had several distressing moments when I found 17... a6 18.Nd6 Kc7 19.h4 (to prevent Ted undermining my e5 with his g5) 19... fxe5 20.fxe5 Nxe5 21.Qxe5 Qxd6 22.Qxg7 Qf4+ 23.Rd2 Qf8 and Black is well on top. At this stage, I was having an overwhelming urge to take up bee-keeping, and forget the chess!]

**17... b6**

[A major alternative was 17... Nf5 18.Qxc5 d6 19.Nxd6 Nxd6 20.Qxd6+ Qxd6 21.exd6 Kd7 22.0-0-0 Kxd6 23.Nd4 when everything is calm.]

**18.Bd3 Ba6**  
**19.a4 g5!**

[The move I feared: he's much more active now, my centre is about to go, and even short castling looks dangerous. Perhaps I could speculate with 20.Rd1 g4 21.Nd2 fxe5 22.f5 Nxf5 23.Qxg5+ Nce7 24.0-0, but no: Ted plays 24... h6!! winning. I spent hours looking for ways to avoid the bullet, but they all seemed bad, and I must bite on it with.. ]

**20.fxc5 fxe5**  
**21.0-0**

[All is not as it seems! It appears White loses a piece to 21... e4!? but with 22.Nbd4!! cxd4 23.Nxd4 Bxd3 24.Nxe6+ dxe6 25.Rf7! we have a Q v 3, and my position should hold.]

**21... Ng6**  
**22.Bxg6 hxg6**  
**23.Rae1 Re8**

[Also interesting is 23... e4 24.Qf4 d6 25.c4 Nb4 26.Nd6 Nd3 27.Nf7+ and I'm happy.]

**24.Nh4 d4**  
**25.Qe4 Qxb3**  
**26.Qxg6 Bxb5**

[The immediate snack of the c- pawn gives indigestion after 26... dxc3 27.Nf5 Bxb5 28.axb5 Nd4 29.Qf6+ Kc7 30.Qd6+ Kc8 31.Nxd4 cxd4 32.Rxe5 etc.]

**27.axb5 Qxb5**  
**28.Nf5 Qb3**  
**29.cxd4**



**29... Qd5?**

[I think this is the point where Ted misses the win, and with it the IM title. After the game, Ted said he feared 30.Nd6 Re6 31.Qg8+ Kc7 32.Qxa8 Kxd6 33.Qg8 but, after 33... Qc2 34.Rf6 d3! I thought he was winning.]

**30.dxc5 Qxc5+**  
**31.Kh1 Kc7**  
**32.Rc1 Re6**

[The only move. 32... Qd5 loses to 33.Ng7! Rf8 34.Rfd1 Qf7 35.Qd6+ etc.]

**33.Qh7 Qb4**  
**34.Ne3 Qb3**  
**35.Rc3 Qa2**  
**36.Qf7 Qe2**  
**37.g6**

[And Black resigned. After 37... Rd8 38.g7 Ree8 39.Nd5+ Kb8 40.Rxc6! Qxf1+ 41.Qxf1 dxc6 42.Nf6 wins. This is one of the few games I felt guilty about winning and the guilt lasted some weeks. I felt I had robbed a true friend of an IM title. Ted deserved to win, as he outplayed me for most of the game. If only he had played differently at move 29 - but our game is full of "if onlys"!!] **1-0**





## 2003 Grading List

By Raymond Baxter

### February and April 2003 Notes

The Grading List follows the same pattern as in the past two years. Two grades are shown for those players with provisional ICCF grades (ie grades based on less than 30 results). If you meet a player with two grades, the one that is based on the greater number of results will be used in the calculation of your SCCA grade.

The new ICCF grades are based on results up to 31 December 2002, and will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 September this year. As well as international matches and ICCF tournaments, the following Scottish events are used in ICCF grading: Championship, Candidates and Division 1 of the League. Twelve results are needed for an ICCF grade to be published. It can be seen that our ICCF list is no longer headed by grandmaster Andrew Muir. Andrew had been Scotland's highest graded player for many years, but he has not been active recently. S Donohoe and R Loughran now have published ICCF grades for the first time.

The SCCA grades shown in this list take account of all results reported to the Grading Officer by 31 December 2002. The new grades will be used for games starting in 2003. All SCCA events listed in the magazine and the website are included, except the Openings tournament. Friendly internationals are also included if the opponent's grade is known. Grades are calculated for players who have had eight or more results, provided these results were against graded players, or against ungraded players for whom it has been possible to estimate a grade.

Three new members, D C Clapham, K Franks and J McKinstry, were active in 2002, but have not yet accumulated the required eight results, and therefore have no grades. Six years ago, the SCCA grades were increased by up to 200 points to make them more consistent with the ICCF grades. This means that for those who play both correspondence and over-the-board chess, their correspondence grades may well be substantially higher than their over-the-board grades.

A provisional grade (i.e. one based on less than 30 results) is marked with an asterisk. If your name is shown incorrectly, or if you are doubtful whether your grade or the number of results is accurate, please let me know by emailing: [grader@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:grader@scottishcca.co.uk)

### Titled Players

Title	Number	Players
Grandmaster (GM)	3	Bryson, D M; Kilgour, D A; Muir, A J
Senior International Master (SIM)	4	Craig, T J; Finnie, D S; Giulian, P M; McNab, Dr C A.
International Master (IM)	8	Beecham, C R; Borwell, A P; McAlpine, K B; Pyrich, G D; Sprott, G R; Thomson, T; Watson J; Wickens, T S.
SCCA Master (SM)	24	Aird, I; Baxter, R W M; Gillam, S R; Lennox, C J; Milligan, B; Morrison, G; Neil, D; Norris, A J; Stewart, D J. (GM, SIM and IM title holders are also SCCA Masters)

### 30 Highest ICCF Grades

Grade	Name	Grade	Name
2543	Finnie, D S (SIM)	2506	Giulian, P M (SIM)
2501	Beecham, C R (IM)	2492	McNab, Dr C A (SIM)
2489	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2467	Neil, D (SM)
2424	Craig, T J (SIM)	2418	Pyrich, G D (IM)
2394	Sprott, G R (IM)	2382	Livie, G W G
2376	Aird, I (SM)	2375	Brown, Dr A C
2364	Gillam, S R (SM)	2337	Lennox, C J (SM)
2325	Stewart, D J (SM)	2321	Baxter, R W M (SM)
2290	Watson, J (IM)	2285	Borwell, A P (IM)
2262	Montgomery, R S	2238	Sneddon, I
2228	Jenkins, D M	2225	Kilpatrick, R
2217	Stewart, Dr K W C	2199	Reeman, I F
2195	Boyle, C F	2190	Anderson, G M
2184	Hind, A	2181	Thomson, T (IM)
2157	Mackintosh, I	2142	Cumming, D R

Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
004	Aird, I (SM)				58	2376	
317	Almarza-Mato, C				183	1879	
LM18	Anderson, G M				60	2190	
121	Anderson, J	100	1975		30	1998	
244	Angus, A R	55	2095				
049	Armstrong, A				83	1903	
313	Armstrong, J M	101	1775				
016	Bailey, E A	70	1995		20	2007	*
386	Ballan, Dr M				77	1848	
387	Banner, N J	9	1685	*			
015	Baxter, R W M (SM)				55	2321	
155	Beacon, R	401	2080				
LM11	Beecham, C R (IM)				234	2501	
022	Bird, A G E	149	2080				
LM20	Bird, Prof G H E				43	2064	
LM09	Borwell, A P (IM)				435	2285	
	Boyd, W J	12	1915	*			
LM87	Boyle, C F				114	2195	
LM82	Brady, S	52	2035		14	2113	*
215	Brown, Dr A C				69	2375	
370	Brown, D E	38	2060				
096	Campbell, A W I	84	1995		17	1844	*
038	Campbell, I S				194	1884	
108	Cassidy, J	221	1505				
	Clapham, R E	12	1525	*			
	Coffield, P J	72	1965				
LM85	Collins, S	23	1835	*			
331	Coltart, J I	24	1690	*			
173	Cook, W M	63	2045		25	2086	*
364	Coope, D W				189	1562	
204	Copley, J				85	1927	
LM27	Craig, T J (SIM)				262	2424	
332	Crawley, J S	26	1575	*			
LM19	Crichton, D	125	1965		16	1946	*
233	Crosbie, R B	179	1955				
166	Cumming, D R				146	2142	
388	De Sousa, O W F	9	1905	*			
345	Donohoe, S	22	1895	*	12	2099	*
316	Dowell, C M	150	1855		14	1896	*
030	Dyer, M T				95	2085	
371	Edney, D	48	2195		22	2205	*
403	Edwards, M B	10	1755	*			
396	Ellison, J T	17	1835	*			
110	Falconer, J N	48	1955		20	2013	*
284	Findlay, J A	46	2200		26	2221	*
340	Finnie, D S (SIM)				178	2543	
372	Flockhart, H S	19	1935	*	21	2057	*
219	Ford, M P	37	1840				
	Gifford, M J	15	1715	*			
086	Gillam, S R (SM)				116	2364	
LM51	Giulian, P M (IM)				408	2506	
LM86	Giulian, Mrs R A				45	1734	
124	Goodwin, B	77	2090		31	2238	
LM76	Grant, B W	63	1790				
399	Grant, J	33	1740	*			
390	Hamilton, J	16	1730	*			
299	Harkins, M G				38	2044	
LM56	Hartford, Mrs E A				156	1960	
063	Harvey, D				48	2066	

Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
406	Henderson, B	11	2230	*			
114	Hilton, S H				95	1544	
116	Hind, A				30	2184	
LM10	Hislop, A T				163	2002	
377	Holland, R	20	2005	*			
115	Hughson, D A	43	2175		15	2235	*
268	Hynd, W	32	1745				
LM15	Jack, J P E	211	1770				
312	James, C R	138	1730				
LM14	Jenkins, D M				74	2228	
322	Jessing, M	36	2110		15	2237	*
	Keen, M R	12	2130	*	20	2215	*
405	Kelly, P	10	1695	*			
408	Kennedy, G	18	1600	*			
LM77	Kilgariff, A D	99	1790				
LM48	Kilgour, D A (GM)				244	2489	
257	Kilgour, J W	82	1730				
021	Kilpatrick, R				53	2225	
274	Kleppang, D L	15	2130	*			
260	Knox, A	83	1540		22	1888	*
256	Lennox, C J (SM)				106	2337	
LM03	Livie, G W G				102	2382	
264	Lloyd, G	324	2300		30	2170	
337	Loughran, R	144	1940		12	1852	*
LM04	Lumsden, J P L				31	1947	
261	McAinsh, T F	134	1665				
LM67	McCarthur, J M	50	2040				
400	McConchie, W	12	1275	*			
352	McDonald, G R				62	1934	
367	MacDonald, P H	13	2030	*	24	1878	*
148	McEwan, N R	30	1770		31	1919	
LM84	MacGregor, C A				34	1843	
391	McIntee, C				49	1860	
	McKechnie, I	10	1955	*			
397	McKenna, J	18	1795	*			
394	MacKenzie, P L	38	1750				
172	Mackenzie, S G	51	1915		16	1889	*
LM32	Mackintosh, I				185	2157	
043	McMenemy, J	144	1665				
216	MacMillen, A N				126	1775	
001	McNab, Dr C A (IM)				127	2492	
LM02	McRoberts, D G				44	2052	
376	Malcolmson, R	98	1870				
LM38	Marks, I A				117	2162	
LM66	Marshall, I H				174	1877	
083	Maxwell, A	65	2055		19	2028	*
LM91	May, M A	110	2205		32	2261	
355	Meldrum, D G	44	1755				
178	Milligan, B (SM)				151	1927	
LM90	Milne, J R	45	1665				
LM78	Mitchell, I W S				55	1807	
401	Moir, P J	98	1920				
333	Montgomery, R S				40	2262	
338	Morrow, J	48	1945				
380	Murphy, G A A	28	1905	*			
LM64	Murray, J S	52	2085		14	1929	*
234	Murray, S A	35	2125		17	2038	*
202	Neil, D (SM)				36	2467	
383	Nicoll, S	16	1550	*			

Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
225	Norris, Rev A C				135	1868	
315	Petrie, A R	188	1570				
379	Phillips, G H				135	2258	
378	Pollock, M	13	1520	*			
	Price, D	12	2200	*	12	2032	*
LM34	Proudlar, V A	89	1735				
048	Pyrich, G D (IM)				530	2418	
343	Rawlinson, J	22	1895	*			
136	Reeman, I F				81	2199	
293	Roberts, A				55	2038	
357	Robson, A C W	44	1915				
407	Ross, D	26	2055	*			
	Ross, G J S	13	1805	*			
	Rosser, G C	14	1865	*			
398	Rough, R E	36	1430				
356	Rutherford, J F	42	1650				
LM89	Salter, D	86	1950				
LM22	Savage, D J				50	1988	
311	Saxton, G				45	1839	
300	Simpson, R J	28	1660	*			
057	Sneddon, I				103	2238	
LM65	Sprott, G R (IM)				144	2394	
294	Stewart, D J (SM)				118	2325	
LM46	Stewart, Dr K W C				74	2217	
393	Stott, K	18	2180	*			
	Tait, P	14	1610	*			
	Tait, T	24	2025	*			
	Taylor, W	13	1920	*			
336	Teunisse, Dr F	44	2050		20	1964	*
365	Thompson, B				170	1775	
168	Thomson, A C	40	1825				
	Thomson, P	8	1725	*			
LM79	Thomson, T (IM)				295	2181	
129	Turner, R F	131	2190		26	1970	*
LM31	Walker, J M	58	1665				
LM80	Watson, Joe (IM)				123	2290	
	Watson, John	89	1855				
149	Wright, A	116	1905				
	Young, J	14	1875	*			
065	Young, S M	205	2040		15	1997	*

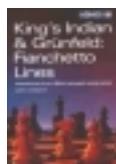


### Chess Suppliers

15 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6AQ  
[www.chess-suppliers.co.uk](http://www.chess-suppliers.co.uk)



Fritz 8 £39.95



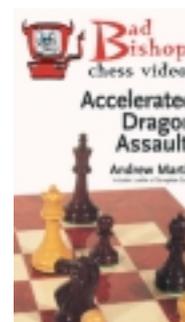
King's Indian and Grünfeld Fianchetto Lines £15.99



Bad Bishop Videos £19.99



Heroic Tales - The Best of Chess Cafe £15.99



Bad Bishop Videos £19.99



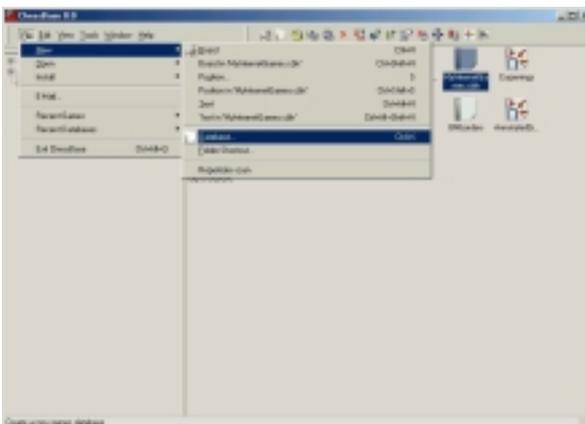
## DataBases

This article comes about after a request from one of our members regarding how to go about merging databases and whether or not this is desirable. The answer to the latter question is really a matter of taste. Some people prefer to have a number of small databases dedicated to particular openings or players or whatever. Other people prefer to have one large DataBase containing all the games they have collected, either from CD's they have bought or from games collections that they have downloaded from the web. For Correspondence play I would definitely recommend having a separate database for your own games.

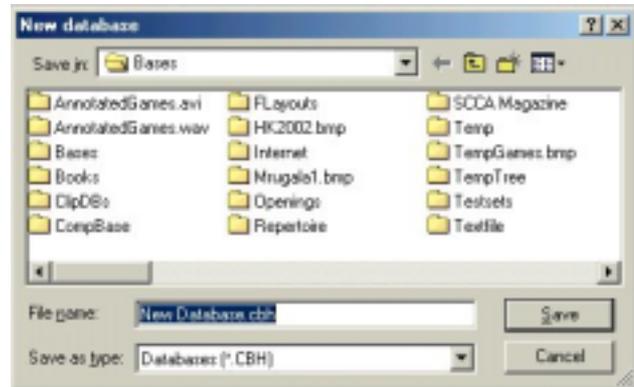
My choice varies from time to time and this is governed by the fact that I play correspondence chess. I have six main databases at present. These contain games grouped in the following manner. A00-A99 games, B00-B99 games, C00-C99 games, D00-D99 games, E00-E99 games and A00-E99 annotated games. Some of these individual databases have over a million games in them. The games have been collected over a long period of time from DataBase CD's I have and from Games collections I have downloaded from the web. From any given game position I reach in my games I will look in the appropriate database for any instances where that game position has been reached before. Of course since I am not dealing with one large database containing all the games there is always the possibility that I will miss some instances of the position being reached through transposition from another opening system. You pay your money and make your choice. I prefer a number of organised databases whereas others will prefer one huge database to guarantee finding all instances of a position having been reached. Now lets have a look at how to create and merge different Databases.

## Merging DataBases

Rather than simply merging Database I prefer to start off by creating a new DataBase where I want the games to be stored. This means that I always have the original copies of the DataBase's I began from. From the original screen which appears when you launch ChessBase 8 then to create a new database from the top of the window select **File** then from the menu which drops down select **New** then from the menu which appears next to it select **Database**.

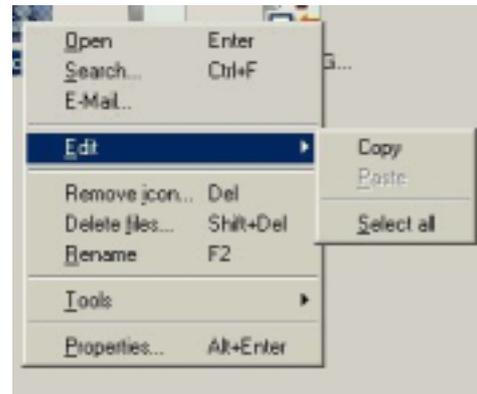


A new window appears as shown in the next illustration .

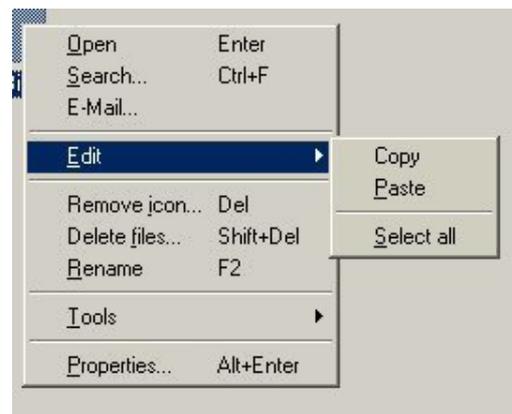


In this window you can overtype the area highlighted in blue with the name you want to give your database. The top area of this window can also be used in exactly the same way as Windows explorer to browse to a location where you wish the new DataBase to be stored on your computer.

To merge whole Databases into the DataBase I have just created is very simple. I simply move the mouse cursor over the icon for the Database from which I wish to copy the games and then right click using the right-hand mouse button. Another window appears.

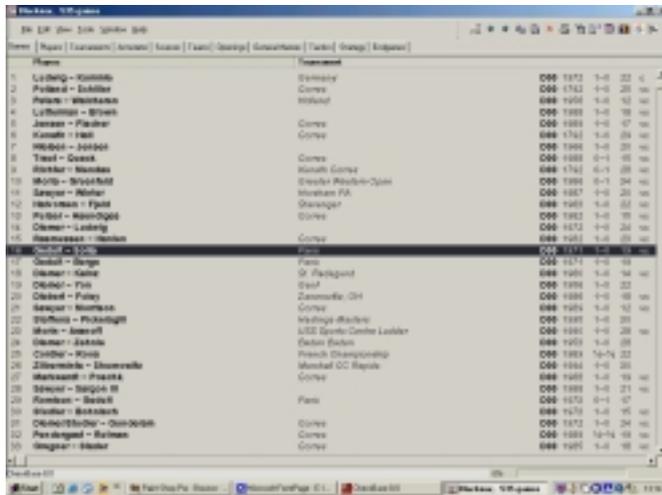


From this I select **Edit** then **Copy** All the games from that Database can now be copied to the new database.. To do this I move the mouse cursor over the DataBase where I wish to copy the games. to and once again right click the mouse button. The same window appears.

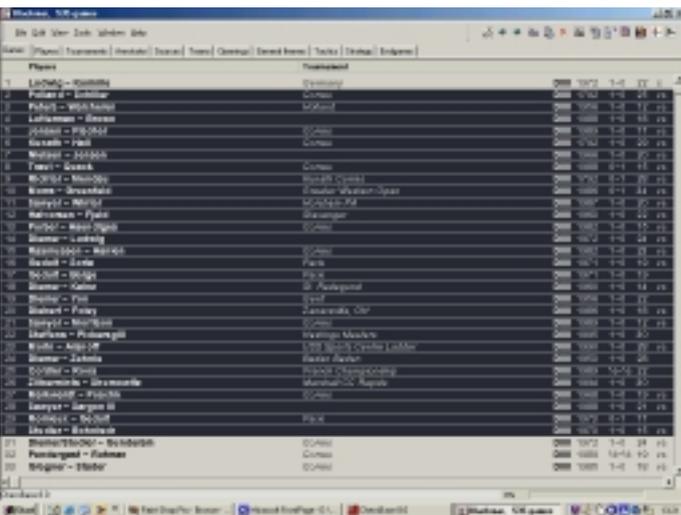


This time I select **Edit** then **Paste**.

All of the games are then copied to the new database. By using this procedure with a number of different source databases you can copy all the games from these to a single Database. I may be that you will not want to copy every single game from a database and this can be achieved in a number of ways. The simplest is perhaps to double click on a DataBase from which you wish to copy games so that the list of games appears.

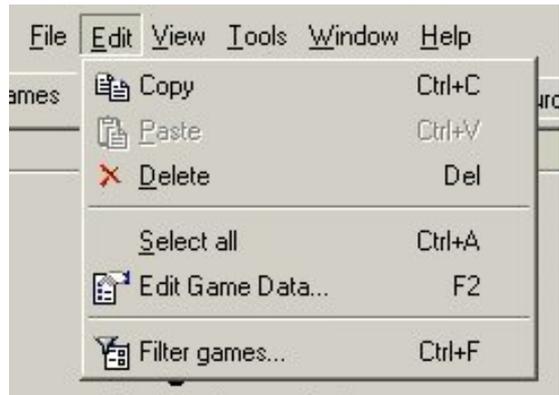


By clicking on an individual game to highlight it, then right clicking on that game you can once again select **Edit** and **Copy**. You can then click on the main ChessBase Icon in you Windows System Tray at the bottom of the screen so that you have the main ChessBase 8 window on your screen again. Once again you can paste into your destination DataBase as described before. From the list of games window you can also decide to select a range of games. To do this select the first game you wish to copy and highlight it by clicking on it. Then hold down the shift (this is the key furthest to the left of the keyboard on the second bottom row and has an arrow pointing upwards on it) key and highlight the last game which you wish to copy. All the games become highlighted.

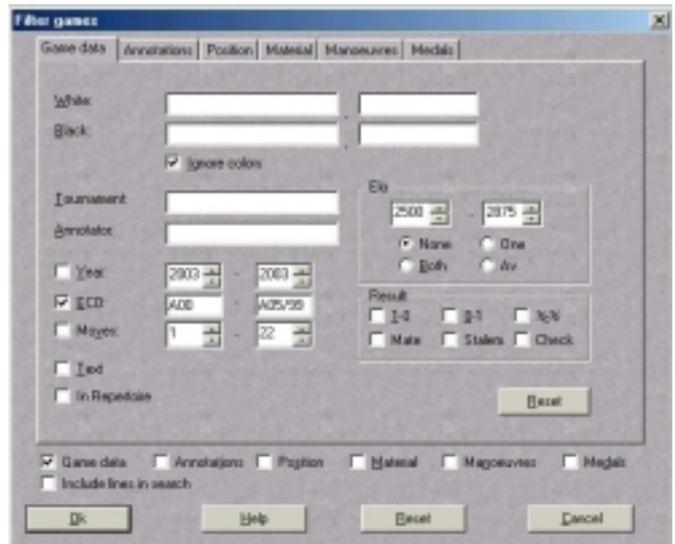


Once again you can right click on these to select **Edit** and **Copy** then Paste them into the destination DataBase as before,

From the games list you can also select **Edit** then **Filter games**.



A new window appears from which you can enter various details to allow you to select particular games.



This is basically a search window. You could choose to enter various details such as Kasparov as White to find such games. In this instance I chose to select games ranging from A00 to A05. Obviously the more details you fill in the more specific will be the result. Kasparov as white and A00 to A05 would only find games where Kasparov had played this particular range of openings as white. Once you have filled in your search criteria simply click **OK**. The games list is then updated to include only those games rather than all the games in the Database. You may be prompted to update the search booster which increases the speed of searches. if this happens simply click **OK**. From the **Edit** tab at the top you can choose **Select all** to highlight all the games. You can then right click on them as before to allow you to copy and paste as before.

One word of warning. When copying games from a number of different Databases you can end up with a DataBase which contains numerous copies of the same game. To deal with this once you have completed your new DataBase then click on its icon to highlight it. Then from the top of the window select **Tools** then **Database** then **Find Double games**. You can then select various options to define how ChessBase decides if games are the same or not. You then click **OK** and ChessBase does its stuff. Games which are deemed to be doubles are marked for deletion in the Games window. To delete them permanently you select **Tools**, **Database** then **Remove Deleted Games** from the Tabs and drop down menus at the top of the CB8 window.



## ICCF Congress – Seixal, Portugal 5th to 12th October 2002

By George Pyrich

*[Editor's note: this article was held over from the last magazine due to the late arrival of the official minutes. When George sent me an email entitled "Seixal Congress", I thought our readers were in for a real treat...]*

The 52nd ICCF Congress, in conjunction with meetings of the ICCF Presidium and numerous committees, was held at the Quinta Valenciana, Fernao Ferro (Municipality of Seixal), Portugal from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2002. The Congress was arranged by the Portuguese Federation, CNXC (Comissão Nacional de Xadrez por Correspondência). In all, a total of 73 delegates and officials, from 4 continents, as well some 20 family members, took part in the Congress.

Seixal (*pronounced Say-Chal*) is a medium sized town a few miles from Lisbon on the south bank of the Tejo river and reached from Lisbon by crossing the magnificent "Ponte de 25 Abril" bridge. Situated amongst beautiful countryside, Seixal is nowadays largely a "dormitory town" serving Lisbon, Portugal's beautiful and cosmopolitan historical capital.

Opening the Congress, the ICCF President, Alan Borwell (SCO), referred to the contribution which international correspondence chess made in generating greater friendship between peoples throughout the World and that every effort should be made to further develop and promote such ideals, to enhance the peaceful existence of all nations. He also noted that sadly since the previous Congress, ICCF had lost many friends, including ICCF Honorary President, Henk J. Mostert (NED). The President referred to the immense contribution which Mr. Mostert had made to CC in his own country and then with ICCF, including 17 years as a Vice-President, 6 years as General Secretary and 10 years as ICCF President, before his retirement in 1996, when he was elected as ICCF Honorary President.

He also paid special tributes to Karlis Vitols (LAT), who was host for the 1998 Riga Congress, Carlos Ros Miro (ESP) who had been delegate for Spain for 30 years and Editor of Mate Postal magazine since it started in 1974, and André Giraudet (FRA), who was an ICCF Vice President from 1979-83 and host for the 1982 Congress in Paris. All had died in the last year, as had Milan Jovcic (YUG), Dietmar Pillhock (NED), Dr. Franz Thannhauser (AUT) and Jack Collins (USA). Congress stood in silence, in honour of them and of all departed CC friends.

The ICCF President spoke about the rich history of correspondence chess in Portugal, which dated back for some 80 years, although CNXC was not constituted as an autonomous CC federation for Portugal, until 1983. Teams from Portugal played in the first Olympiad of European teams and then in the first CC Olympiad, achieving a creditable fourth place in the Finals of both events.

He mentioned that a player from Oporto, Alexandre Gonçalves, had achieved a famous victory over Cecil Purdy, which was one of the only two defeats that the 1<sup>st</sup> World CC Champion, ever suffered throughout his illustrious CC career. The ICCF President also referred to GM Luis Santos, who performed exceptionally well in the 13<sup>th</sup> World CC Championship and had been in the top 5 rated players of the World for some 15 years and to Portugal's other GM Álvaro Pereira, organiser of the Seixal Congress and to the significant number of other CC titleholders for a relatively small country!

The ICCF President then welcomed all new CC friends to the Congress. He referred in particular, to the FIDE Delegate, David Jarrett and his wife Valentina – the first occasion that a FIDE official had visited an ICCF Congress since Prof. Dr. Max Euwe had attended in Arnhem in 1972. The President welcomed delegates from South Africa, Kazakhstan and Mexico, the first time that these countries had been represented at an ICCF Congress, and to delegates from other continents, particularly the very good representation from Latin America. He also welcomed the many partners and families accompanying delegates.



The main business of the Congress is summarised as follows:

Membership/Secretarial – Congress approved full membership to the new Venezuelan Federation, a newly constituted body formed with the backing of the Venezuela Chess Federation. Congress also noted the report of the General Secretary, Alan Rawlings (ENG) that Malawi was inactive and that Wales and Yugoslavia had not paid their membership fees. On recommendations from the Treasurer and ICCF Presidium, it was agreed by Congress that membership of these three countries should be suspended, with immediate effect.

On a happier note, the Congress unanimously approved the proposal presented by the Deputy President (Rules), Ragnar Wikman (FIN) that ICCF Honorary Membership be awarded to Alan P. Borwell in recognition of his immense services to ICCF and international correspondence chess over a period of more than 20 years. The Congress also approved the award of Bertl von Massow medals in recognition of meritorious service to ICCF to a number of current and former officials.

Gold awards (15 years service) were presented to Carlos Ros Miró (ESP) (posthumous) and Gustavo Paz y Barriga (PER) whilst Silver awards (10 years) were presented to Sergey Grodzensky (RUS), George D. Pyrich (SCO), Lembit Vaheasaar (EST), Karlis Vitols (LAT) (posthumous) and Hector R. Zabala (ARG).

Finance – ICCF Treasurer, Carlos Flores (ESP) reported that, for the period to 31/12/2001, total income had exceeded expenditure by almost 2,000 CHF. He also referred to falling market values of investments, although they remained significantly in excess of cost. He also noted that several federations had been very late in settling their fees for 2001, causing delays in preparing the Accounts and their submission for Audit, and the application of levies for late payment could have been fully justified.

The Profit & Loss Account and Balance Sheet, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001, which was distributed to delegates is also now available at [www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com)

The ICCF President presented a financial projection for the ICCF Gold book and it was agreed that CHF 35'000 should be added to the income and expenditure projections for the year 2003. It was decided that an updated Financial Plan for the years 2003/4/5 should be produced, after the actual figures for 2002 were known, and included with the invitation and agenda documents for the 2003 ICCF Congress, and therefore would be distributed by the end of April 2003.



Rules This issue provided the main focus of the Congress. Firstly, the Congress approved new arrangements for World Championship events whereby entries could be submitted at any time and new World Championship Semi-Final and ¾ Final (now renamed Candidates) Sections could be started whenever a sufficient number of suitable entries was received. Thereafter the Congress also approved substantial changes to the Title Qualification Rules whereby in future the basic requirement for the GM, SIM and IM titles would be a minimum of 2 norms over at least 24 games, replacing the previous Rules that had different requirements for each of the 3 main Titles.

However, a decision on the requirements for the International Arbiter title was deferred until next Congress pending a more thorough review during the intervening period. It was also agreed that Zonal Tournament Rules should be developed, based on the new Tournament Rules, for adoption by the 2003 ICCF Congress. Congress also considered at length the contentious issue of withdrawals and agreed to an addition to the guidelines to the Playing Rules whereby, under certain circumstances, players could submit applications to be granted "accepted withdrawals".

Additionally, the wording of the revised Rules was designed to ensure that there would be a uniform and consistent practice among all Tournament Directors when dealing with withdrawals.

Titles and Qualifications In my Report to Congress as Qualifications Commissioner, I was able to confirm the award of new titles to 17 Grandmasters, 103 Senior International Masters (including Doug Finnie), 137 International Masters (including Richard Beecham), 5 Lady International Masters and 8 International Arbiters. Additionally, Congress gave its approval to title norms in respect of numerous new World, Continental, Team and Invitational events.



European Zone Zonal President Egbert Bösenberg (GER) announced that there had been another decrease in EU Class tournaments entries during 2001, but there was an improvement in the number of entries in the first nine months of 2002, due mainly to the successful introduction of Email play.

World Tournaments Schedule for new events agreed as follows:

CC Olympiad 14 Final (Email) – start 01/12/2002

CC Olympiad 15 Preliminaries (Email) – start 01/12/2002

CC Olympiad 13 Final (Postal) – planned start now late 2003

Ladies CC Olympiad 6 Final (Postal) – start 01/02/2003

World CC Championship 18 Final (email) – start 01/06/2003

World CC Championship 19 Final (email) – planned start late 2003

World CC Championship 22 Candidates (formerly ¾ Final) - planned start early 2004

Ladies WCC Final 8 Semifinal (Postal) – planned start late 2003

Congress also approved numerous new Invitation Tournaments. The continuing downward trend in all postal events, including the Thematic Tournaments, was noted. It was considered that both Master norm and GM norm tournaments should consist of 13 players and, as a guideline, there should be at least 3 SIMs in every GM norm section.

Congress noted that The Jubilee Postal Open tournament preliminary groups (with 728 participants) were progressing satisfactorily, after early problems with withdrawals etc., but the World Tournament Office Commissioner, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) expected them to be concluded towards the latter part of 2003. The Thematics Tournament Office Controller, Leonardo Madonia (ITA) reported that Email theme tournaments had been successfully introduced, and that these had compensated for a falling demand for postal groups.

The Email Tournament Office Commissioner reported that the offer of events had been increased since last Congress with the addition of Grand Master Norm tournaments and the Champions League. It was expected that 2002 would be another record-breaking year: during the first 6 months, 70 tournaments had been started (compared to 123 starts for the full year 2000 and 127 starts for the full year 2001) and to this number the quite remarkable entries to the Champions League, should also be added. The Direct Entry facility administered by John Knudsen had processed 71 entries out of a total 231 enquiries. Grateful thanks were expressed to John Knudsen and his colleagues at CC.Com, for their valuable assistance. In the Jubilee Email Open Tournament, more than 2500 entries had been received, and after processing for wrong Email addresses and early replacements, a total 2233 players were paired in 203 groups of 11 players each, with supervision by 33 Tournament Directors. One of the newly offered events, the Grand Master Norm tournaments, had seen 4 groups start in the first 6 months of 2002. The other new event, the Champions League team event, had been a great success, with 242 teams of four players each, arranged in 22 qualification groups of 11 teams each.



It was confirmed that the World Cup XI Semifinals (organised by BFCC, England), would begin on 1/3/2003. World Cup XII Email Semifinals (organised by Czech CCA) would start late 2002/early 2003, with a prize fund of CHF 2500 and CHF 2500 would also be available for World Cup Final XII Postal and for World Cup Final XIII. It was agreed that there should be flexibility with World Cup tournaments to allow postal qualifiers to switch tournaments, according to the next available postal stage to be started.

Internet and Technology The ICCF President reported on disappointing progress with an ICCF Webserver system, since the decisions of the previous Congress in Rimini, and that no report had been received from the Technical Commissioner. Although detailed discussions had taken place with one potential webserver provider, its proprietor had given late notice that he was unable to attend Congress, to make a presentation of his proposed system for ICCF. Discussions had taken place in the Working Group, where it had been concluded that the appointment of Technical Commissioner should be cancelled. The Working Group had

considered alternative ways forward and concluded that an "Expert Group" should be formed to progress the project, with terms of reference, reporting to President, General Secretary and Nol van't Riet acting as overall Steering Committee. The requirement was for an "ICCF Dedicated Webserver" system. The ongoing proposals, including Terms of Reference, were discussed with and then agreed by the Congress. Approaches had been received from several existing and projected providers of webserver facilities, but they would not be considered until the Expert Group had defined proposals that would meet the stated requirement.

The ICCF Webmaster, Evelin Radosztics (AUT) reported on the development of the "iccf.com" website and she was commended for her initiatives with enhanced services and design features of the site.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, on the proposal of the General Secretary, it was agreed by Congress that a "Friend of ICCF" award should be made to the website of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association, [www.scottishcca.co.uk](http://www.scottishcca.co.uk)

ICCF Jubilee Book The Editor-in-Chief, Pedro Hegoburu, reported that the book was nearing completion. Due to the large amount of material to be included, it would be a 376-page publication. The title had been changed to "ICCF GOLD", in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of ICCF. A printed proof was circulated during the Congress for delegates/officials, to check contents and identify errors and/or omissions. Final publication date was scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> November 2002, with distribution to federations and individual customers being organised by the ICCF President. The ICCF President provided a summary of the projected income and expenditure for the book. He indicated that orders already placed, should ensure the book would be "self-financed", with scope for further sales and use of remaining books as prizes for selected tournaments. But, most of all, he said it was a book of celebration.

Future Meetings Arrangements were confirmed as follows: 2003 – Czech Republic (anticipated dates 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October) and 2004 – India.

As always, not all of the time of the Congress is taken up with business matters. The customary schedule of social events included a blitz tournament with over 20 participants and a friendly match over some 30 boards against the members of the local Seixal chess club.

At the closing dinner, traditionally hosted by ICCF, the Congress delegates toasted the success and development of ICCF as well as the successful future of chess in Portugal, before thanking the kindness and hospitality of their gracious Portuguese hosts and bidding farewell.





**Fritz Powerbook 2003  
by ChessBase**



. The Fritz Powerbook 2003 is an openings book and database that will run with Fritz or any Fritz compatible engine (Shredder, Junior, Tiger, Nimzo, etc.). You can also use it in ChessBase 7.0 or 8.0 to conduct openings training and hone your repertoire.

The Fritz Powerbook 2003 contains 7.6 million openings positions, which were derived from 750,000 high-class tournament games. Together with each position all relevant information is stored: all moves that were played in the position, by players of what average rating, with what success and performance results. The games from which the Fritz Powerbook 2003 was derived are also included on the CD. This means that in any position of the opening tree, you can load and replay the games in which the position occurred.

The Fritz Powerbook 2003 represents the state of the art of current opening theory. It can be used to discover exciting new lines (e.g. never before played transpositions) and practice them against Fritz.

Fritz 8, Fritz 7, Fritz 6 and all other ChessBase engines under the Fritz interface can use the PowerBook 2002 as opening book, making the opening play of the programs more topical, versatile and entertaining.  
Required space for PowerBook: about 550 MB; for the database: 95 MB.

**The Franco-Benoni  
by Don Maddox**



Pioneered by GM Gideon Barcza and later revived by Danish GM Bent Larsen, the Franco Benoni is, as its name implies, a cross between the French and the Benoni based on 1...e6 and 2...c5. This resilient, spring-like pawn structures is

especially effective against unsuspecting 1. e4 players and can serve as a universal black defence against 1. e4, 1. d4. or 1. c4. Black has to be prepared to meet Benoni lines after 3. d5, but most 1. e4 players hang back from queen's pawn structures, often entering a little known Sicilian Paulsen or Alapin backwater where the black player is better prepared. The CD includes more than 13,000 games, 800 of which are annotated, a discussion of basic ideas and patterns, an Opening Tree, and 37 training positions. The CD includes a reader so there is no need to own the ChessBase program or any of the playing programs.

**White Repertoire 1.e4  
by Alexander Bangiev**



This is an interesting CD and proves that chess training can be fun: It is suitable for advanced players And has more than 600 games annotated by the author. The 8 databases have more than 60.000 games. The main focus of authors repertoire is the Grand Prix Attack of the Sicilian Defence, It features a wealth of introduction texts, playing suggestions and annotated games about this sharp attacking weapon. Yet this is only the starting point of the complete White 1.e4-repertoire which offers a playing plan against all common replies by Black. The point: the suggested lines have a lot in common, often transpose and many times lead to similar middlegame positions – an effective opening study is guaranteed. Once again a ChessBase reader is included

**World Champion William Steinitz  
by ChessBase**



This is a first class CD and I would recommend it to anyone who seriously wants to study the game. Steinitz's positional play is still more than relevant today. The CD has more than 1000 games and some excellent texts on the first World Champion, it also includes the CD reader program.



## Victory

By Jorge Esquivel

*[Editor's note: this story arrives courtesy of George Pyrich who is playing Jorge Esquivel on board 2 in the XV Email Olympiad. That encounter looks more like a Reti than the Mexican Defence to me, but you can only take poetic licence so far....]*

Some beautiful black eyes -inquisitive and deep- examined him across the chessboard. Because of the impossibility of concentrating with that look invading his thoughts he tried to gain time examining the battlefield square by square: 64 alternate coloured spaces that anxiously awaited combinations, decisions, movements.

The analysis of the first opening moves provided him with a precarious mental shelter: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6....the Mexican Defence. Or the Black Knights' Tango, as it had been re-baptised by an American master in his last analysis. GM Carlos Torre had employed it in several games without suffering one single loss.

One thing was clear: he could not let his mental processes take the wrong way. Beautiful as his opponent was she would not hesitate to punish his lack of concentration. No matter what, he should forget about the pretty face that took his breath away one moment after sitting down.

Suddenly he felt like exchanging some words with her if only to listen to her voice. Unfortunately, tournament rules strictly prohibited addressing one's adversary. Such behaviour could be misinterpreted as an effort to confuse the enemy. It would be better to finish her soon and then, in the post mortem....

By the way he did not remember having seen her before, and female chess players were scarce. Someone had told him that women, being more practical, disdained chess like something as abstract as useless.

The game was in the very beginning and the board was already surrounded by curious onlookers and habitual kibitzers ... even the chief arbiter smiled sympathetically. The monotonous sounds of the chess clocks stood out in the customary silence of a tournament atmosphere.

Movements fell one after the other with deliberated wariness. It was not advisable to rush before a scheme of which he only remembered the name and that because it had appeared to him disconcertingly poetic.

3.d5 Ne5 4.b3 e6.... Perhaps it would be better to offer her a draw. He did not like his position one bit. Only the certainty of never having shared a point with a lady stopped him. Besides, he reminded himself of an old adage: He who starts a game thinking of a draw will most probably end suffering a defeat.



He would have to evaluate the position very carefully and calculate with great preciseness. To his knowledge, beauty was not quarrelled with intelligence.

Before making his next move, he decided to pour himself a cup of coffee, at the same time taking advantage of the pause to look at the game from the other side of the board. The perfect illumination of the playroom let him admire the beautiful etching of her hair framing some edge-cut cheekbones and emphatic facial features, imbued with a wild determination. Above the table the tightened fists, the controlled breath; underneath he could only guess the long legs, the narrow waist.

A draw... offer a draw! If he could only concentrate on the game... He meditated in his movements coming apparently from nowhere, defeating his analysis attempts and forcing him to move with a strange decision.

5. Bb2 Bb4+ 6.Nd2 Ne4. In order not to lose his queen he took the bishop back to its original place: 7.Bc1. However the next black movement ended the story: 7...Qf6!! He signed his defeat with an angry bitterness that dissipated instantly at the magic of the following words: "would you like to analyse the game?"

Some beautiful black eyes - inquisitive and deep - examined him across the chessboard. The question seemed to justify the careful structuring of his memories: "Dad, how did you meet mum?"





## Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

The games column is somewhat shorter this issue. At the time of writing it only one member had sent in a game and that was our Editor. Fortunately Richard Beecham had sent me in some games of Graham McDonald's which he had annotated. The lack of quantity is well made up for by the quality and I am sure you will all enjoy playing through the games. Still it would be nice to think that you are all going to send me in at least one of your games for the next issue.

As this is a Scottish magazine I suppose it is quite fitting to kick off with a Scotch Gambit.

CCO/15/S1, 2003

**White:** M Spooner (2240)

**Black:** I Mackintosh (2240)

Scotch Gambit [A00]

[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

This game comes from the XV Olympiad Preliminaries (email) which started in January this year. It was the first time I'd played in such an event, so I thought I'd better do some opening preparation. I couldn't find many recently published books on my shelf, so I was left hoping that I'd get some mileage out of my review copy of Tim Harding's "Total Marshall" CD if I had to defend 1.e4

**1.e4**

Looks like I might be in luck...

**1... e5**  
**2.Nf3 Nc6**  
**3.d4**

... but then again, maybe not - ah well, no CD this time! My Hong Kong opponent has fittingly opted for a Scotch, so I poured myself a stiff one.

**3... exd4**  
**4.c3 d5**

This move was always dinned into me as necessary to free Black's game in the classical 1.e4 e5 systems, so I opted for an early invocation of it.

**5.exd5 Qxd5**

**6.cxd4**

By far the most popular White reply, with a plus score.

**6... Bg4**

The main alternative given by NCO is: 6...Nf6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Be2 Ne4 (8...0-0 9.0-0?) 9.Bd2 Bxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.0-0 Nxd2 12.Nxd2 (12.Qxd2 Bf5 13.c4 Qd6=) 12...Bf5= but I thought that mobilising the bishop was more in keeping with the spirit of 4... d5.

**7.Be2 Bb4+**

7...0-0 8.Nc3 Bb4 9.0-0<sup>2</sup> plus 7... Bb4+ is consistent with the bishop mobilisation programme outlined above.

**8.Nc3 Bxf3**

Alternatives given by NCO weren't so good: 8...Nf6 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3<sup>2</sup>; 8...0-0 9.0-0 Qa5 10.Be3<sup>2</sup>

**9.Bxf3 Qc4<sup>3</sup>**



All still according to NCO, but Black now has an edge.

**10.Qb3**

10.Bxc6+ bxc6 (10...Qxc6 11.0-0 Ne7 12.Qb3 Bd6=) 11.Qe2+ Qxe2+ 12.Kxe2 0-0-0<sup>3</sup>

**10... Qxb3**

The creation and handling of the two sets of doubled pawns now becomes pivotal to the outcome of the game.

**11.Bxc6+**

11.axb3 Nge7 12.0-0 a6 13.Ra4 Bd6<sup>3</sup>

**11... bxc6**  
**12.axb3 a5**

12...Ne7 13.0-0 (13.Ra6 Kd7) 13...Kd7 14.Be3 looked less intriguing. The moved played is the first step in fixing the White pawns and also gives the Black QR some freedom of movement.

**13.Bf4**

13.0-0 0-0-0 14.Be3 Ne7 15.Ne4 Nf5 16.Ng5 Rd7 17.Nf3 f6 led to a win for Black in 29 moves in Scheidt-Virostko, 2001 though the White player suffered from a certain handicap.

**13... 0-0-0**  
**14.0-0**



14.0-0-0 Ne7 15.Na2 Bd6 16.Bd2 Kd7 17.Nc3 Rb8 18.Kc2 Nf5 19.Be3 Rhe8 20.Rd3 Nxe3+ 21.Rxe3 Rxe3 22.fxe3 f5 23.h3 Re8 24.Kd3 g5 25.Ra1 Bb4 26. Na2 Bd6 27.Nc3 Bb4 was a draw, Jacko-Virostko, 1997. 14.0-0 was uncharted territory...

**14... Ne7**  
**15.Na2 Rhe8**

15...Rxd4 16.Be5 Re4 17.Bxg7 Re8 18. Nxb4 axb4 19.Rfe1 Nd5 20.Ra8+ Kd7 21.Rxe8 Rxe8 22.Rxe8 Kxe8 23.Bd4; 15...Nd5 16.Nxb4 both looked lesser options.

**16.Nxb4 axb4**  
**17.Rfe1 Nd5**

A knight-friendly square beckoned but, just as important, this begins the exchange of rooks, after which I fancied the knight had better chances than the

bishop.

<b>18.Bd2</b>	<b>Rxe1+</b>
<b>19.Bxe1</b>	<b>Re8</b>
<b>20.Ra8+</b>	<b>Kd7</b>
<b>21.Rxe8</b>	<b>Kxe8</b>

And now the endgame unfolds. After the deceptively simple exchanges of the bigger pieces, Black has the more mobile pawns, and his knight can hit white or black squares.

<b>22.f3</b>	<b>Kd7</b>
<b>23.g4</b>	<b>c5!</b>



This move starts to ask some awkward questions.

**24.Bf2**

24.dxc5 comes to much the same thing.

<b>24...</b>	<b>Nf4</b>
<b>25.dxc5</b>	<b>Kc6</b>

25...Nh3+ 26.Kf1 Nxf2 27.Kxf2 Kc6 28.Ke3 Kxc5 29.Ke4 Kd6µ also works.

<b>26.Kf1</b>	<b>Ne6</b>
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26...Nd3 27.Bd4 f6 28.h4 Kd5 29.Be3 Nxc5 30.Bd2 Nxb3 31.Bxb4 c5 32.Bc3<sup>3</sup> didn't look as strong.

<b>27.Ke2</b>	<b>Nxc5</b>
<b>28.Bxc5</b>	

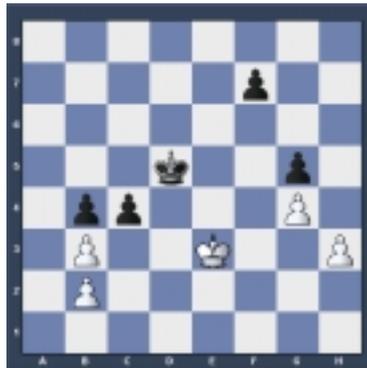
White opts to hold on to the b3 pawn, but I thought that keeping the bishop on board would have made things harder for Black.

<b>28...</b>	<b>Kxc5</b>
<b>29.Kd3</b>	<b>Kd5</b>

Now it's fairly straightforward. Black needs to stymie White's k-side pawn moves, and bring his c-pawn forward at the right moment.

<b>30.f4</b>	<b>h6</b>
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<b>31.h3</b>	<b>g6</b>
<b>32.Ke3</b>	<b>g5</b>
<b>33.fxg5</b>	<b>hxg5</b>
<b>34.Kd3</b>	<b>c5</b>
<b>35.Ke3</b>	<b>c4!</b>



35...Ke5 36.Kd3 Kf4 37.Kc4 Kg3 38.Kxc5 Kxh3 39.Kxb4 Kxg4 40.Kc3 Kf4 41.b4 Ke5 42.Kc4 g4 gets there also, but is a bit more long-winded.

<b>36.Kd2</b>	<b>cxb3</b>
<b>37.Kd3</b>	<b>f6</b>
<b>38.Ke3</b>	<b>Ke5</b>
	<b>0-1</b>

And here Michael sportingly resigned. I don't usually get as far as endgames, so I was pleased to make a good start. Looking at some of the grades of my other opponents in this event, I'll need it!



Now for the games provided by Richard.

SCCA Candidates-A, 2001  
**White:** G McDonald  
**Black:** B Thompson  
Pirc Defence [B09]  
[Annotator C R Beecham]

<b>1.e4</b>	<b>d6</b>
<b>2.d4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>3.Nc3</b>	<b>g6</b>
<b>4.f4</b>	<b>Bg7</b>
<b>5.Nf3</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>6.Bd3</b>	<b>Na6</b>
<b>7.0-0</b>	<b>c5</b>



<b>8.d5</b>	<b>Rb8</b>
<b>9.Kh1</b>	<b>Bg4</b>
<b>10.f5</b>	<b>Qc8</b>
<b>11.Be2</b>	<b>Nc7</b>
<b>12.a4</b>	<b>a6</b>
<b>13.Nh4</b>	<b>Bxe2</b>
<b>14.Qxe2</b>	<b>b5</b>
<b>15.axb5</b>	<b>axb5</b>
<b>16.g4</b>	<b>Ra8</b>
<b>17.Rxa8</b>	<b>Qxa8</b>
<b>18.g5</b>	<b>Nh5</b>
<b>19.Nd1</b>	<b>Qa1!?</b>
<b>20.Bd2</b>	

20.f6 exf6 21.gxf6 Bxf6 22.Rxf6 Nxf6 23.Bh6 Re8

<b>20...</b>	<b>Bxb2</b>
<b>21.c3!</b>	

21.Nxb2 Qxb2

<b>21...</b>	<b>Ba3</b>
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Black has an extra button, but what are his pieces doing...!? 21...b4!? 22.Qf3! bxc3 23.fxg6 cxd2

a) 23...fxg6 24.Qxf8#;  
b) 23...hxg6 24.Nxg6 fxg6 25.Qxf8+ Kh7 26.Rf7+ Ng7 27.Qxg7#; c) 23...Ng7 24.gxh7+  
c) 24.gxf7+ Kh8 25.Ng6+ hxg6 26.Qh3+ Nh5) 24...Kh8 (c) 24...Kxh7!?) 25.Ng6+ fxg6™  
c) 25...Kxh7 26.Qh3+ Kxg6 (c) 26...Kg8 27.Qh8#) 27.Qh6#) 26.Qxf8+ Kxh7 27.Nxc3 Bxc3 28.Rxa1 Bxa1; 24.gxf7+ Kh8 (24...Kg7 25.Qxh5) 25.Qxh5 Bg7 26.Ng6#

<b>22.Qf3</b>	<b>Kg7</b>
<b>23.fxg6</b>	<b>hxg6</b>
<b>24.Ne3</b>	

24.Nxg6!?! Kxg6 25.Qf5+ Kg7 26.g6 Nf6 27.gxf7 Rxf7 28.Rg1+ Kh8 29.Bg5 Rg7 30.Bxf6 exf6 31.Qxf6 (31.Qc8+ Kh7 32.Qh3+ Kg8=) 31...Ne8=

<b>24...</b>	<b>Qa2</b>
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[what else...!?!]

25.Nef5+!

25.Nxg6!? Kxg6 26.Qf5+ Kg7 27.g6 Nf6 (27...Qxd2 28.Qxh5 fxc6 29.Rg1 Rf6 30.Nf5+-) 28.gxf7 Rxf7 29.Rg1+ (29.Qg5+ Kf8) 29...Kf8

25... Kh7



25...gxf5 26.Nxf5+! (26.Qxh5 e6 (26...Rh8 27.Nxf5+ Kg8 28.Nxe7+ Kf8 29.Qxf7#) 27.Qh6+ Kg8 28.g6 fxc6 29.Qxg6+ Kh8 30.Rg1+-) 26...Kg6 27.Nxe7+ Kg7 28.Qxh5 Qxd2 (28...Rh8 29.Rxf7#; 28...f5 29.Qg6+ Kh8 30.Qh6#) 29.Qh6#; 25...Kh8 26.Nxe7 Qxd2 27.Nhxg6+ fxc6 (27...Kg7 28.Qxh5+-) 28.Qxf8+ Kh7 29.Qg8#

26.Nxe7! Ne6

26...Qxd2 27.Nhxg6! Qxg5 (27...Nf4 28.Nxf4!; 27...fxg6 28.Qxf8 Qxg5 29.Rf7+ Ng7 30.Qxg7#) 28.Nxf8+ Kh6 (28...Kh8 29.Nfg6+ Qxg6 (29...Kg7 30.Qxf7+ Kh6 31.Ng8#; 29...fxg6 30.Qf8+ Kh7 31.Rf7+ Ng7 32.Qxg7#) 30.Nxg6+) 29.Nf5+

27.dxe6 Qxe6  
28.Nhxg6! 1-0

28.Nhxg6 fxc6 29.Qxf8 Qxe4+ 30.Rf3 Qb1+ 31.Kg2+-



SCCA Candidates-A, 2001

White: G McDonald  
Black: D R Cumming  
Sicilian Defence [B22]  
[Annotator C R Beecham]

1.e4 c5  
2.c3 d5  
3.exd5 Qxd5  
4.d4 Nf6  
5.Nf3 Bg4  
6.Be2 e6  
7.0-0

7.h3 Bh5 8.Be3 Nc6? (8...cxd4 9.cxd4

Nc6 10.Nc3 Qd6!? (10...Bb4 11.0-0 Qa5 12.Qb3 0-0 13.a3 Bxc3 14.bxc3<sup>2</sup> -) 9.dxc5 Rd8 10.Qxd5 Rxd5 11.b4±

7... Nc6  
8.Be3 cxd4  
9.cxd4 Bb4  
10.Nc3 Qd6  
11.h3 Bh5  
12.Qb3

12.a3!? Bxc3 (12...Ba5 13.b4 Bb6 (13...Bc7 14.Nb5) 14.Nb5f) 13.bxc3 0-0±

12... 0-0  
13.Rfd1 Rfc8



13...Rac8 14.d5 Na5 15.Qa4 Bxc3 16.bxc3 b6 17.Bf4 Qe7 18.d6 Qb7 19.d7 Ra8 20.Bg5 Qc6 21.Qh4 Bg6 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Qxf6 Rad8 24.Ne5 Qxc3 25.Rac1 Qb2 26.Ba6 Qxa2 27.Rc8 1-0 Ravi,T-Livshits,R/Erevan olm 1996/EXT 96ch2 (27). ; 13...Bxc3 14.bxc3<sup>2</sup>]

14.d5 Na5  
15.Qa4 Nc4  
16.Bxc4 Rxc4  
17.a3 Rxc3

17...Bxc3 18.Qxc4

18.bxc3 Bxc3  
19.Rac1 Bb2

19...Rc8 20.Qb3

20.dxe6

20.Bc5!?!; 20.Qxa7 Rxa7 21.Rc8+ Qf8 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Bxa7 Bxa3

20... Qxe6  
21.Rb1 Bxf3  
22.gxf3 b5  
23.Qa5 Be5  
24.Rd8+

24.Rxb5 Bd6 25.Kg2 (25.Rb7 Qxh3)

24... Rxd8  
25.Qxd8+ Ne8

26.Rxb5 Bd6

26...Bc7 27.Qa8 Qxh3 28.Qxe8#

27.Rb7 Kf8

27...Bxa3 28.Rxa7

28.Qh4 Qg6+

28...h6 29.Rxa7

29.Qg4 a6  
30.Qxg6 hxg6  
31.a4 Nc7  
32.Ra7 Ke8

32...Be5 33.Bb6 Ne6 34.Rxa6 Nf4 35.h4

33.Bb6 Kd7

33...Nd5 34.Rxa6 Nxb6 35.Rxb6 Kd7 36.a5

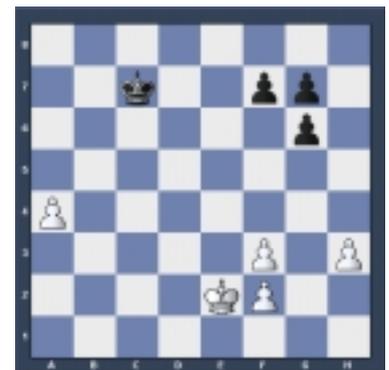
34.Bxc7 Bxc7  
35.Rxa6 Kc8  
36.Ra8+

36.Rc6 Kb7 37.Rxc7+ Kxc7 38.f4 Kb6 39.Kg2 Ka5 40.Kg3 Kxa4 41.Kg4 Kb3 42.f5 gxf5+ 43.Kxf5 Kc2 44.h4 Kd3

36... Bb8

36...Kb7 37.Rf8 f5 38.Rf7

37.Kf1 Kb7  
38.Rxb8+ Kxb8  
39.Ke2 Kc7



39...Kb7 40.Kd3 Kb6 41.Kd4 Ka5 42.Kd5 Kxa4 43.Kd6 Kb4 44.Ke7 f5 45.Kf7 Kc3 46.Kxg6 f4 47.Kxg7 Kd3 48.h4 Ke2 49.h5 Kxf2 50.h6 Kxf3 51.h7 Kg3 52.h8Q f3 53.Qh1 f2 ( 53...Kf2 54.Kg6 Ke2 55.Kf5 f2 56.Qe4+ Kd1 57.Qf3+ Ke1 58.Qe3+ Kf1 59.Kg4 Kg2 60.Qf3+ Kf1 61.Kg3) 54.Qf1

40.Kd3 g5

40...Kd6 41.Kd4

**41.Ke4 Kc6**  
 41...Kb6 42.Kf5 Ka5 43.Kxg5 Kxa4 44.f4 Kb3 45.f5 Kc2 46.f6 g6 47.Kh6 g5 48.Kg7 Kd2 49.Kxf7 Ke2 50.Kg6

**42.Kf5 Kc5**  
**43.Kxg5 1-0**

and Black resigned - not before time...!



SCCA Candidates-A, 2001  
**White:** G McDonald  
**White:** J Copley  
 Scandinavian Defence [B01]  
 [Annotator C R Beecham]

<b>1.e4</b>	<b>d5</b>
<b>2.exd5</b>	<b>Qxd5</b>
<b>3.Nc3</b>	<b>Qd8</b>
<b>4.d4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>5.Bc4</b>	<b>c6</b>
<b>6.Nf3</b>	<b>Bf5</b>
<b>7.Ne5</b>	<b>e6</b>
<b>8.g4</b>	<b>Bg6</b>
<b>9.h4</b>	<b>Bb4</b>
<b>10.Rh3</b>	<b>Nbd7</b>
<b>11.Qe2</b>	<b>Nb6</b>
<b>12.h5</b>	<b>Be4</b>
<b>13.Bf4</b>	<b>Qxd4</b>
<b>14.Rd1</b>	<b>Bd3!</b>



14...Qc5 15.a3 (15.g5 Bf5) 15...Bxc3+ 16.Rxc3 Na4 17.g5! Nxc3 18.bxc3 Nd5 19.Qxe4 Nxc3 20.Qd3 Nd5 21.Bg3±

**15.Rhxd3 Qxf4**  
**16.Rd4**

16.Nxf7? Qxc4 17.Nxh8 Ke7

**16... Qh2**  
**17.Nxf7 0-0**  
**18.Bxe6! Nbd5**

18...Rxf7 19.Rxb4 Re8 20.Rd3! Kf8 21.Re3 Qh1+ 22.Qf1 Qxf1+ 23.Kxf1 Rfe7 24.Bf5 Rxe3 25.fxe3 Rxe3

**19.Qe5! Qg2**

19...Bxc3+ 20.bxc3 Qg1+ 21.Kd2 Qxf2+ 22.Kc1 Rxf7 23.c4!; 19...Qxe5+ 20.Nxe5+ Kh8

**20.Rxb4 Nxb4**  
**21.Rd8 Raxd8**



21...Nxc2+ 22.Ke2 Qg1?? (22...Raxd8 23.Nxd8+ Kh8 24.Nf7+ Rxf7 (24...Kg8? 25.h6! Qg1 26.hxg7 Qe1+ 27.Kd3 Nb4+ 28.Kc4+-) 25.Qb8+ (25.Bxf7? Qxf2+! 26.Kd3 Ne1+ 27.Kc4 b5+ 28.Kb3 Qxb2+!-+) 25...Ng8 26.Bxf7 Nd4+ 27.Kd3 Qf3+ 28.Kxd4 Qxf2+ 29.Kd3 Qxf7 30.Qxa7 h6) 23.Qd6 Qe1+ 24.Kd3 Re8 25.Rxa8 Nb4+ 26.Kc4 1-0 Ponomariov, R-Garcia Ilundain,D/Pamplona 1996/ CBM 57 (26)

**22.Nxd8+ Kh8**  
**23.Nf7+ Rxf7**  
**24.Qb8+ Ng8**  
**25.Bxf7 Qg1+??**

25...Nxc2+™ 26.Ke2 Nd4+

**26.Ke2**

26.Kd2 Qxf2+ 27.Ne2 Qxf7

**26... Qxg4+**



When Black runs out of checks, its good night...

**27.f3! Qg2+**  
**28.Ke3 Qg5+**

28...Nxc2+ 29.Ke4+-; 28...Qg1+

**29.Kf2 Qh4+**  
 29...Qc5+ 30.Kf1+-; 29...Qd2+ 30.Ne2

**30.Kg2 1-0**

30.Kg2 Qg5+ 31.Kf1 Qc1+ 32.Kf2 Qd2+ ( 32...Qxc2+ 33.Kg3+-) 33.Ne2+-



And finally we will round this column off with an un-annotated game from the Challenge Tournament.

SCCA Challenge Tournament, 2000  
**White:** J P E Jack  
**White:** R Crosbie  
 Caro-Kann Defence [B12]

<b>1.e4</b>	<b>c6</b>
<b>2.d4</b>	<b>d5</b>
<b>3.f3</b>	<b>e6</b>
<b>4.Nc3</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>5.e5</b>	<b>Nfd7</b>
<b>6.Nce2</b>	<b>c5</b>
<b>7.c3</b>	<b>cxd4</b>
<b>8.cxd4</b>	<b>Nc6</b>
<b>9.f4</b>	<b>Be7</b>
<b>10.g3</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>11.Nf3</b>	<b>b6</b>
<b>12.Nc3</b>	<b>a6</b>
<b>13.Bd3</b>	<b>Bb7</b>
<b>14.h4</b>	<b>Rc8</b>
<b>15.Bxh7+</b>	<b>Kh8</b>
<b>16.Bb1</b>	<b>g6</b>
<b>17.h5</b>	<b>Kg7</b>
<b>18.hxg6</b>	<b>Rh8</b>
<b>19.Rh7+</b>	<b>Rxh7</b>
<b>20.gxh7</b>	<b>f5</b>
<b>21.exf6+</b>	<b>Nxf6</b>
<b>22.Ne5</b>	<b>Bd6</b>
<b>23.Qd3</b>	<b>Qe8</b>
<b>24.g4</b>	<b>Ne4</b>
<b>25.Qh3</b>	<b>Nxe5</b>
<b>26.fxe5</b>	<b>Be7</b>
<b>27.Qh6+</b>	<b>Kh8</b>
<b>28.Bxe4</b>	<b>dxe4</b>
<b>29.Be3</b>	<b>Bf8</b>
<b>30.Qh2</b>	<b>Bb4</b>
<b>31.Bg5</b>	<b>Be7</b>
<b>32.Bxe7</b>	<b>Qxe7</b>
<b>33.Ke2</b>	<b>Qxh7</b>
<b>34.Qxh7+</b>	<b>Kxh7</b>
<b>35.Rf1</b>	<b>Kg6</b>
<b>36.Rf6+</b>	<b>Kg5</b>
<b>37.Ke3</b>	<b>Re8</b>
<b>38.Nxe4+</b>	<b>Bxe4</b>
<b>39.Kxe4</b>	<b>Kxg4</b>
<b>40.d5</b>	<b>1-0</b>





## Website Reviews

By Iain Mackintosh

This column hasn't run for a while, so I thought I'd have a quick whisk round the web and see what was new (to me at any rate).



<http://www.pawnpusher.co.uk/>

Firstly, let's take a trip to Darren Jones' offbeat and funny creation, Pawnpusher.

Those of you who frequent the web will know that website designers litter their sites with keywords which they hope will match words typed into search engines (these are pieces of software which provide an indexed look-up service for web users).

Darren has selected, inter alia, the following keywords to describe his opus: [chess comedy](#), [humour](#), [sarcasm](#), [dirty tricks](#), [cheating](#), [chess players](#), [chess](#), [scumbag](#), and [tournament](#).

Darren's not kidding - the wallpaper on his home page features a Vincent Price picture (from the Pit and the Pendulum perhaps?) and the first article (*Time Trouble*) is a spoof on the Edgar Allan Poe story, "The Tell-Tale Heart", based on the insidious ticking of a chess clock!

Next up is a gallery of *Chess Congress Regulars*, including the all-too-familiar Klingon, Chess Stalker, Alcoholic, Carrier Bag Man, Demon Child and so on. And now things start to warm up nicely with *Scumbag Tricks*, which are awarded marks out of 10 for their effect on unsuspecting opponents who just came along to push wood...

The *Chess Accessories* page is a veritable armoury of irritating-to-nauseating fashion buys and bolt-on gizmos designed to keep your opponent's thoughts well away from what's happening on the board. There wasn't a shopping trolley for any of this stuff, but maybe a later release will allow online purchases.

*Notes from a Small Tournament* is a Bryson-like expose of the weekend circuit (Bill that is, not Douglas - but, then again...). The pub salad picture will be an evocative reminder for anyone who has destroyed their thinking capacity during daytime, and has then settled down to wreck their locomotive ability of an evening.

Dotted around the site are pages devoted to some of the more chaotic openings (*Scotch Gambit*, *King's Gambit*, and *Grob*) which weekenders are likely to meet, but handled instructively rather than milked for laughs. Equally, the *Pipe & Slippers* (aka Puzzles) page is pure chess.

The *Links* pages are quite factual also, and pretty comprehensive (well, SCCA is included, which always makes me praiseful).

I found the *Guide to AXA-Speak* and *Amazing & Untrue Facts* pages more offbeat than hysterical, but then I'm just a tired old CC player. Better was the *Nursery*, an eclectic collection of chess gags and anecdotes, many contributed by the numerous visitors to the site.

Now things start to tick along cheerfully again, and the *Chess Metaphor Liberation Organisation* borrows inspiration from Private Eye's Colemanballs and Neophiliacs columns in offering a series of chuckleworthy quotes from press and tv hacks.

Continuing the Private Eye association, there's a *Lookalikes* page where the captions were potentially interesting, but the photographs for some reason didn't download when I looked, so judgement had to be suspended.

*Who's The Greatest* looks to have been initiated during the 2002 World Cup Finals, with 32 famous chess players seeded and drawn just like the football teams they were allocated. Arbitrary you may argue, but just as logical as some of the debates you've no doubt participated in where people couldn't see past their own favourites.

The *Beast-o-Meter* is a simple enough device for you to profile yourself and get the next best thing to a horoscope from this site. You can also look at some of the archive material for *Chess Beast Magazine*, which was unsurprisingly edited by Darren in association with the Kingpin team.

Pawnpusher has nothing much to do with CC at all, but it is a pleasantly daft place and you should go there to stop the intellectual atrophying process immediately! You can even bring back a T-shirt for the kids.



<http://www.chessville.com/>

Next, A US offering which has been created "by and for the aspiring chess amateur" - if you belong to the "chess proletariat" rather than the titled ranks, then this is the place for you to visit.

The Chessville team has the aim of assisting players from beginners to advanced status, and the site does this by offering instruction and information in generous quantities, and by publishing a weekly newsletter, of which more later.

All this has been freely available so far, but the recent newsletter encourages subscribers to visit the *Chessville Mall* where your purchases will help offset the costs of what has grown to be a large undertaking.

Kelly Atkins kicks off the instructional section with a collection of articles under the general heading of *Chess Wisdom*, and including basic principles, openings, middle games, endings and so on. Mostly it's served up as hints and tips, plus aphorisms collected from the chess greats.

Evan Kreider carries on with *Instruction for the Beginner* which takes on more of a tutorial format, and covers chess rules and basic strategies for opening, middle and endgames. Tactical motifs are illustrated on ChessBase-generated board diagrams.

Bill Whited is next up with *Chess Strategy for the Novice*, covering positional concepts and illustrated examples of sound development, control of the centre (traditional and hypermodern), premature attacks, and exploitation of open and half-open files.

The authors then combine to offer *General Instruction* which tries to unite the basic ideas learned so far into self-study programmes of recommended reading, practice and play. Further themes are usefully explored like methods of reducing errors; how to play against weaker players, how to use CC disciplines to improve your OTB play and how to recognise recurring patterns on the board.

The *Annotated Games*, *Janitor Jim* and *Downloads* sections provide more visual material to play through or download, but I had intermittent problems getting the page(s) to fire up when I looked.

More accessible was the section written by Evan Kneider, Paul Keiser, Peter Connor and others, covering *Openings*. General articles show to learn the underlying opening objectives and properties, and what kind of repertoire to develop based on your playing style (attacking and positional being the main variants). Detailed analysis then follows on a limited number of openings, to provide what is a pretty respectable series of online monographs.

To round off the instructional sections, there is a problem-of-the-week study, with an archive. If all this free material is not enough for your appetite, Dan Heisman offers his services as a chess coach, though the one-to-one sessions might be a touch hard for you to administer.

Overall, the instructional content is an impressive effort, with a lot of research underpinning the substantial volume of material. If the *Openings* section expands further, it could widen its appeal to the average player, and perhaps threaten some of the commercial sites featuring big name authors.



The remainder of the website is packed with general information and features.

Pablo Sierra (who really ought to be called Mondeo by now) provides a *News* column, which is a miscellany of tournament headlines, issues of the hour and rating tables.

*Fantasy Chess* is offered in conjunction with TWIC. I seem to remember reviewing the TWIC service back in Magazine 75 or thereabouts, and I haven't mellowed since - try it if you will, but you probably won't find my name on the participant list!

*Chess Quotes* on the other hand is a diligently compiled archive (Kelly Atkins takes the plaudits), with a wide field of topics and sources. I have to confess to borrowing some material from here to compile last year's Silver Jubilee Quiz!

The Chessville *Online Chess League* is run in conjunction with the ICC web server, and organised on an Open, U1800 and U1500 basis in keeping with the amateur philosophy. Time controls are billed as being more relaxed than normal, but this is still OTB knockabout rather than thematic CC.

The *Book Reviews* section looks well-filled, and the authors share the burden of critique. The pages I read contained thorough research and thoughtful commentary.

I popped into their *Discussion Forum* to see if I could find out the secret of how to get recalcitrant CC players gabbing to each other online, but sadly no miracles were on view. I then drifted into the additional chat rooms provided, which included "Jesus is Waiting", "Mental Health", "Hepatitis C Support", "Jewish Q&A", and "Romantic Hearts". Maybe recalcitrance isn't such a desperate affliction after all!



Finally, a word or two about the Chessville Newsletter, which is sent out weekly by email. Some of our members have been heard to say that this is unwanted junk mail, while others are more relaxed about it.

The content is fairly harmless - there are some topical items in the newsletter itself, plus a lot of links back to the main website to encourage you to visit.

The issue is how they get your email address, and, having got it, why they send out unsolicited material. The answer to the first part is probably the Contacts page on the SCCA website, which gets scanned regularly by a number of commercial mailing list providers. The answer to the second part is that Chessville are no better or worse than any other US-based marketing organisation - the prevailing US ethos is to get in your face, and it's up to you to get them out if you don't like it.

Chessville sportingly don't sell your email address on anywhere; they have a published privacy policy; and you can unsubscribe from their mailing list at any time.

Not all junk mail senders are so sporting. If you want to dissuade them, your email provider can help by allowing you to nominate them as "spam" (ie unwanted), or you can usually write a message rule in Outlook (or equivalent) to automatically block emails from specified sources.



### General Information

Members of the Scottish CCA are eligible to play in ICCF postal and email tournaments, which cover European and World, Open (O - under 1900), Higher (H - 1900-2100) and Master (M - over 2100) classes. Entries to H or M class events for the first time require evidence of grading strength, or promotion from a lower class. O and H classes have 7 players/section, with M class having 11. It is possible to interchange between postal and email events when promotion from a class has been obtained.

New World Cup tournaments start every 2-3 years, with 11-player sections of all grading strengths, and promotion to 1/2 finals and final. Winners proceed to the Semi-Finals, and winners of these qualify for a World Cup Final. The entry fee covers all stages, and multiple entries are allowed, though Semi-Finals are restricted to 2 places per individual.

Master Norm tournaments with 11-player sections are available for strong players, using airmail or email. Entry level is fixed ICCF rating of 2300+, (2000 ladies); non-fixed ICCF 2350+ (2050 ladies); or FIDE 2350+ (2050 ladies); while medal winners (outright winners ladies) in national championships are also eligible. A player can enter only one postal section and one email section per year. Section winners who do not achieve norms receive entry to a World Championship Semi-Final.

International numeric notation is the standard for postal events, while PGN is recommended for email play. Playing rules and time limits are provided for each event, and the usual postal limit is 30 days per 10 moves, with up to 30 days leave per calendar year. To speed progress, air mail stickers should be used to Europe as well as international destinations, as the postal rates are not increased as a result. Please be aware that some patience is required, as games may take up to 3 years against opponents in countries with poor mail services. Silent withdrawal is bad etiquette! International CC postcards are recommended, and can be obtained from Chess Suppliers (Scotland). The introduction of email has speeded up many events, and made it cheaper to play. Generally, you should play less email games simultaneously than postal because of the faster play.

A prerequisite for entry via the SCCA is that the player is, and continues to be, a full member of the SCCA for the duration of the tournament. We wish you great enjoyment from your overseas games, and from making new chess friendships!

Current tournament fees are shown on the ICCF Index page of the SCCA website, and all Scottish players competing in ICCF events have bookmarks from the SCCA site to the relevant ICCF cross-table for easy checking of results. The SCCA international secretary can advise on all aspects of play, how to enter, current entry fees, etc.

### Thematic Tournaments

#### Postal Events 2003

**Theme 6** - Relfson Gambit, C44

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bb5 Bc5

Entries by 15 May; play starts 1 July

**Theme 7** - Keres Defence, D06

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Bf5 3.Nf3 e6

Entries by 15 July; play starts 1 September

#### Email Events 2003

**Theme 6** - From Gambit, A02

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3

Entries by 1 May; play starts 1 June

**Theme 7** - Elephant Gambit, C40

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5

Entries by 15 May; play starts 15 June

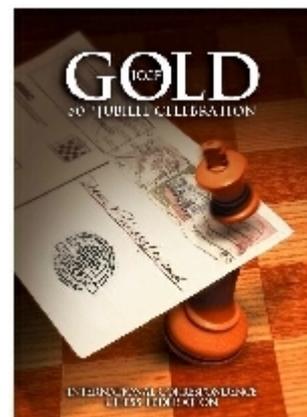
**Theme 8** - King's Indian - Sämisch variation, E80-9

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3

Entries by 1 June; play starts 1 July

### ICCF Gold

ICCF GOLD is the definitive reference book for all CC players. The 376-page book is a celebration of the first 50 years of ICCF and looks forward to a very interesting future. The UK price of ICCF Gold is £14.99, which includes p&p, and a full review of the book is included in Magazine 80.



Further details of all ICCF activities and events; entries to events, and orders for ICCF publications, may be obtained via George Pyrich at: [international@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk)