

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.89

Spring 2005

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Welcome to the first edition of the 2005 set! I hope you all had a restful Easter, even if the weather conspired to keep you indoors.

Jim Anderson has now completed organising the 2005 programme of events, and you'll find these on our website - space doesn't permit their reproduction here!

Both the SCCA and ICCF ratings systems have produced new numbers in recent months, and Raymond Baxter brings you a complete combined list in this edition.

As ever, Bernard has supplied a well-annotated Games Column and he also looks at all the recent ChessBase CDs and DVDs, including further impressions of ChessBase 9.

Per Söderberg and Alan Borwell spent some time together on board a flight to Mumbai last autumn, and the result is an interview which first appeared in the Swedish CC magazine Korrschack, plus a nice game from Alan.

Richard Beecham has struck up a friendship with the 2003 French CC Champion, Robert Serradimigni. Robert has kindly provided some personal background, and a number of finely annotated games, the first of which you can read here.

George Pyrich has organised the first friendly internationals of 2005, and we are now off and running against BCCS and Netherlands. You can follow the results from these, plus the Douglas Livie Memorial, here and on our website.

Our all-Scottish team has now started play in division 3 of the ICCF Champions League, and several individual members have entered the 14th ICCF World Cup. We have cross-links from our website to the ICCF web pages carrying these results.

George Livie was unable to generate sufficient interest for a separate spring dinner, so we will probably organise a meal on the day of our AGM instead - 5th June, in Stirling (to be confirmed).

Stop Press: English CC GM Simon Webb is dead, apparently stabbed by his son after a quarrel in their Swedish home. Simon was well known to a generation of Scottish CC and OTB players, and was an accomplished author and commentator. Shocking news.

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Recent 100 Club Winners

Table with 3 columns: Year, 1st, 2nd. Rows: 2005 March (Mrs D M Livie, I Mackintosh), February (G D Pyrich, A Grant), January (G D Pyrich, M A May)

SCCA Officials

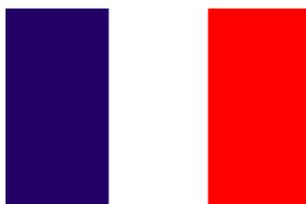
Table with 5 columns: Position, Name, Address, Phone, Email. Rows: President (Iain Mackintosh), VP & International (George Pyrich), Secretary (Jim Anderson), Treasurer (Stuart Mackenzie), Grader (Raymond Baxter), Committee Member (Alan Borwell), Committee Member (George Livie), Games Editor (Bernard Milligan)



How to Play the French

By Robert Serradimigni

[Editor's note: thanks to Richard Beecham for encouraging Robert to send us his biopic and a well-annotated selection of his games. The two players are currently contesting the postal section of the John Jordan Memorial, along with other recent correspondents Mike Donnelly and Per Söderberg.]



Introduction

"Who that says they understand Chess does not understand anything!" [Robert Hubner]

Here I am France Champion 2003... a true surprise for me! It is a dedication to which I would have never dared to dream of when I started CC in the fourth division [The fourth division now does not exist anymore, but it used to correspond to the lowest category of French tournaments] in 1987. After those first AJEC tournaments, I turned upon international play through the Team tournaments, leaving national play only for "matchs défis" [Challenge matches between two players] against my friend Frédéric Simon and for "Coupe de France" [French Cup] (I have just qualified for the semi-finals after 15 years!!!). So I gradually climbed the rungs one by one until reaching the final stage of this prestigious competition.

The names and prize-lists of the competitors were high enough to incline myself to modesty and caution (4 players with an ELO rating greater than mine, 2 having won the 3 last France Champion titles, 1 player qualified for the World Championship semi-finals and also my friend Pierre Le Bled that I highly stood in fear because of the particular psychological context [I had just beat him in a national tournament]).

Therefore, I started this tournament without a clear aim, being only happy to be at last among the 13 pretenders. Then, the first results arriving one after the other, I realized I would have a chance to fight for the first places and so I invested more and more in my games and, with some outcome, I won the title.

Outside CC, I played a huge amount of blitz and semi-rapid tournaments with my friends Frédéric Simon and Thierry Delbo. These countless games enabled me to multiply the opening tries and to identify my weaknesses in all stages of the game. Thus I had been able to make progress by working to fill the gaps. My other key strengths unquestionably are patience and obstinacy, but I hate the defeat and it spurs me when I am in troubles.

My preferred players are Alexander Alekhine and Bobby Fischer.

My preferred openings are King's Gambit and French Defence.

My preferred books are: "The Art of Playing Pawns" [The original German title is: "Die Kunst der Bauernführung"] of Hans Kmoch and "Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy" of John Watson.

Oh, I was going to forget to introduce myself deeper!

I was born in Marseille a bit more than 41 years ago, I still live here and joyfully I practise my wonderful profession, general practitioner.

Outside chess, my other hobbies are classical music, opera, and literature but also gardening, gastronomy and oenology and of course, "la pétanque" (French bowls)...

Of course, like all the Italians, I have a passion for football and like all the native of Marseilles, I am fond of "OM"! [Marseilles' football team = "Olympique de Marseille"].

"Only the great player knows how much he plays poorly." [Savielly Tartakower]

**Thimognier, Dominique (2401) - Serradimigni, Robert (2354) [A08]
Championship de France 2003**

Dominique was rated around 2400 Elo. This was surely my toughest game in this France Championship, because I had been under pressure since move 10 and had a tremendous number of forced moves to play!

1.e4	e6
2.d3	d5
3.Nd2	c5
4.Ngf3	Nc6
5.g3	g6
6.Bg2	Bg7
7.0-0	Nge7

[7...d4!? recommended by Konstantin Sakaev, is a move that I would like to test it in the future. 8.a4 e5 9.Nc4 f6 (! Sakaev) 10.Ne1 Nh6 11.f4 Nf7 12.Nf3 Bf8 (! Sakaev) 13.Rf2 Be6 14.Qf1 Qd7 15.fxe5 fxe5 16.Ng5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Bg7 Chernov- Sakaev, Chebanenko mem 1st, 0-1]

8.Re1 **b6!?**

This is Black's most popular move. For the time being he keeps White guessing about where his king will go and instead prepares to fianchetto the c8 bishop

9.exd5

This move is very direct. [9.c3 Here White follows a more positional course. 9.h4 a multi-purpose move. White prevents ...g6-g5 and in some positions he can soften up the black kingside with h4-h5. As well as this, White is not committing himself just yet in the centre.]

9... **Nxd5**

[9...exd5?! 10.d4! cxd4 **a**) 10...Bf5!? (this is tricky) 11.c4! Nb4! (**a**) 11...dxc4 12.Nxc4 0-0 13.dxc5 Qxd1 14.Rxd1 bxc5 15.Be3±; **a**) 11...cxd4 12.cxd5 Na5 13.Nxd4±) 12.cxd5 Nc2 13.d6! Qxd6 14.Nh4 Nxe1 15.Nxf5 Nxf5 16.Bxa8 Nd3 17.Qe2+ Kd7 18.dxc5 Nxc5 19.Ne4 Nxe4 20.Bxe4 and Black's vulnerable king on d7 gives White an advantage; **b**) 10...0-0 11.dxc5 bxc5 12.Nb3 Qb6 13.c3 c4 14.Nbd4 and White has a nice outpost on d4, Oratovsky- Kiriakov, Vjejn 1993; 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Bg5 0-0 13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Nbxd4 and the isolated pawn on d5 is more of a weakness than a strength.]



10.d4!?

Again a sharp response, as White tries to exploit Black's unfinished development and the long h1-a8 diagonal.

- 10...** **cxd4**
- 11.Nb3** **Bb7**
- 12.Nfxd4** **Nxd4**
- 13.Nxd4** **Rc8**
- 14.Rxe6+**

[14.c3!/?]

- 14...** **Ne7!**

A move discovered by Peter Horn; this surprisingly calm retreat, exploiting the pin on the d- file, is enough to keep a balanced position [14...fxe6? 15.Nxe6 Qd7 16.Nxg7+ Qxg7 (16...Kf7 17.Bh6 left Black in big trouble, Howell- Soln, Bled 1995) 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Qxd5 Qd7 19.Qe5+ Kf7 20.Bh6 and White has a very strong attack, Komliakov- Moskalenko, Noyabrsk 1995]

- 15.Bxb7** **fxe6™**
- 16.Be3**

[16.Bxc8? Bxd4-+]

- 16...** **Rc7!?**

[16...Rc4 17.Nxe6? the continuation proposed by Peter Horn (17.c3! this is the move that deterred me to play 16...Rc4 because it makes black position very hard to defend...and Dominique saw it as well!) 17...Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Bxb2 19.Rd8+ Kf7 20.Ng5+ Kg7 21.Ne6+ and White has nothing better than this draw by perpetual check; 16...Rb8?! 17.Ba6 Qd5 18.Qd3 Rd8 19.Bb5±±]

17.Nxe6

We are running into endless complications

- 17...** **Qxd1™**
- 18.Rxd1™** **Rxb7**

We shall accept all what is offered and be prepared to give it back at the timely moment.

- 19.Rd8+** **Kf7™**
- 20.Ng5+** **Kf6™**
- 21.Rd6+** **Ke5**

[21...Kf5!/?]

- 22.Bf4+** **Kf5™**
- 23.Kg2** **Nc6™**

- 24.Rxc6** **Be5™**
- 25.Be3** **Rc7**
- 26.Re6**

[26.Rxc7!/? Bxc7 27.c3 should be better]

- 26...** **Bxb2**
- 27.h3** **h5™**
- 28.f3**

[28.f4!/? Bf6 29.Rxf6+ Kxf6 30.Bd4+ Ke7 31.Bxh8 Rxc2+ 32.Kf3²; 28.c3!/? Rxc3 29.f4²]

- 28...** **Rxc2™**
- 29.Kf1** **Rc1™**
- 30.Bxc1** **Bxc1™**
- 31.f4™** **Rc8!**
- 32.Re7**

[¹ 32.Re5+! Kf6™ 33.Ne4+ (33.Re6+ Kf5 34.Re1 Ba3=) 33...Kg7™ 34.Re7+ Kf8 35.Rxa7 h4! In order to double black pawns as well 36.Ng5!/? (36.gxh4 Bxf4 37.Ke2 Rc2+ 38.Kf3 Be5=; 36.g4? Bxf4=; 36.f5 gxf5 37.Nd6 Rc5 38.Rf7+ Kg8 39.Rxf5 Rc3 40.gxh4 Rxh3 41.h5 Rh2 42.a4 Ra2 43.Rb5 Rxa4 44.Rxb6 Kh7=) 36...Ke8 37.gxh4 Bxf4 38.Rg7 Rc6 39.Ke2 Be5 40.Rg8+ Ke7 41.a4 Kf6 42.Ne4+ Kf7 43.Ra8 Rc4 44.Ra7+ Ke6²]



- 32...** **Bxf4!**

The decisive move, the subsequent endgame is a draw

- 33.gxf4™** **Kxf4™**
- 34.Ne6+** **Ke5!**

The Knight shall not be able to come back home

35.Rc7

[35.Ng7+ Kf6 36.Rxa7 b5 37.Rb7 Ra8 38.Kg1 h4=]

- 35...** **Re8**

Beware not to transpose into a losing endgame with K+P against pawns [35...Rxc7?? 36.Nxc7™ g5 37.Kf2!! (37.Kg2 a5 38.Nb5 **a**) 38.Kg3 Kd6 39.Nb5+ (**a**) 39.Ne8+ Ke5 40.a4 b5 41.axb5 Kd5 42.Nf6+ Kc5 43.Nxh5 a4 44.Nf6™ (1/2-1/2) 39...Kc5 40.Nc3 Kc4 41.Ne4 Kb4 42.Kf2 (**a**) 42.Nxg5?? Ka3 43.Kh4?? a4) 42...Ka3=; **b**) 38.Kf3 Kd6 39.Ne8+ Kc5 40.Ke3 Kb4=; 38...Kd5 39.Nc7+ Ke5 40.Na8 (40.Kf3 Kd4 41.Nb5+ Kc4 42.Nd6+ Kc3 43.Ke4 Kb2 44.Nc4+ Kxa2 45.Nxb6 g4 46.hxg4 hxg4 (1/2-1/2) 40...b5 41.Nc7 b4=) 37...a5 38.Ke3!! Kd6 39.Ne8+!! (39.Nb5+?? Kc5!! 40.Nc3 Kc4 41.Ne4 Kb4 42.Nxg5 Ka3 43.Ne4 Kxa2 44.Kd2 Kb2 45.Kd3 a4 46.Kc4 a3 47.Nc3 a2 48.Nxa2 Kxa2 (1/2-1/2) 39...Ke5 (39...Kc5?? 40.Nf6 Kb4 41.Nxh5+-) 40.a4±]

- 36.Ng5** **Kf4**

The Knight shall not trespass

- 37.Nf7** **Re3**
- 38.Rxa7**

[38.h4 Kg4!/=]

- 38...** **Rxh3™**
- 39.Ra4+** **Kf5**

40.Nd6+ **Ke6**
41.Kg2 ½-½

A very interesting and lively game, starting with a theoretical debate, followed by a middlegame with beautiful combinations, and ending up with a wonderful endgame! Half a point that really made me perspire! Congratulations Dominique!

Serradimigni, Robert (2354) - Gorge, Eric (2339) [A16] Championship de France 2003

Haloed with his double France Champion title 2001 and 2002, Eric Gorge was a scarecrow at the start of this new edition...

1.Nf3 **Nf6**
2.c4

An interesting move order that enables to use some efficient systems against the Grünfeld Defence as well as Nimzo and Queen's Indian Defences.

2... **g6**
3.Nc3 **d5**
4.Qa4+

A sound "Anti-Grünfeld" system whose aim is to prevent black pieces from a smooth and harmonious development.

4... **Bd7**
5.Qb3 **dxç4**
6.Qxc4 **Bg7**
7.e4

The d7 Bishop being tightened to the protection of a4-e8 diagonal, this move, with the idea of pushing e4-e5, is very annoying for Black

7... **0-0**



8.e5!

[V. Mikhalevski: The idea of early e4. White is making use of a fact that black's knight can't retreat to d7. After 8.d4?! Black can switch to normal Grünfeld after 8...Bg4 (Smyslov variation), but much better is 8...b5! solving the opening problems at once.]

8... **Ng4**

[8...Be6?! 9.Qh4 Nd5 10.Ng5 h6 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qe4 Nxc3 13.dxc3 Qd5 14.Qxg6 Qxe5+ 15.Be3± Adamski-Vujic, Valjevo 1984, 1-0 (41)]

9.d4

White already has got a tremendous space advantage.

9... **Be6**

[9...Nc6 10.Bf4 Na5 11.Qe2 c5 (11...Be6 12.h3 Nh6 13.Qd2 Nf5 14.d5 Bd7 15.g4+-; 11...Kh8 12.h3 Nh6 13.Bxh6 Bxh6 14.e6 Bc6 15.Qe5+ f6 16.Qxa5 b6 17.Qa6 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Qxd4 19.Rd1 Qe5+ 20.Qe2+- Vaulin-Vokarev, Novgorod 1999) 12.h3 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Nh6 (13...Qb6?? loses the Knight after 14.Nf3 Nh6 15.Qd2+-) 14.Rd1 Qb6 (

14...Qe8? 15.Qd2 Nf5 16.b4 Nc6 17.Nxc6 Bxc6 18.b5+-) 15.Qd2 Nf5 16.Nxf5 (16.Nd5?! Qxd4 17.Nxe7+ Kh8 18.Qxd4 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 Be6,,) 16...Bxf5 17.Nd5 Qd8 18.Qb4± Ivanchuk-Shirov, Polanica Zdroj 1998]

10.d5 **Bf5**
11.Bf4 **Nd7**
12.Qe2 **f6**
13.e6

Thanks to this thorn in the Black rear guard, White cuts down Black forces into two parts.

13... **Nde5**

[13...Nc5?? 14.Qc4 b6 15.Nd4 Ne5 16.Bxe5 fxe5 17.Nc6 Qe8 18.b4 Nb7 19.Nb5+- Drogoon-Vorobiov, Moscow 1998]



14.Rd1!

A novelty of Alexander Rustemov in his game against Zezulkin quoted below [14.Bxe5 fxe5 15.h3 Nf6 16.Rd1 e4 17.Ne5 c6! 18.dxc6 Qc7 19.cxb7 Rad8!f Goldin - Mikhalevski, Israël 1997, 0-1]

14... **Qd6!?**

[Mikhalevski] [14...c6? 15.Nd4 Bd3 16.Rxd3 Nxd3+ 17.Qxd3 cxd5 18.Be2 Ne5 19.Qb5+- Rustemov-Zezulkin, Swidnica 1999, 1-0; 14...Nxf3+!? 15.Qxf3 Ne5 16.Qg3 Qd6²]

15.Bg3!

In order to parry Nd3+ threat [15.h3!? Nxf3+™ a) 15...Nh6?? 16.Nxe5 fxe5 17.Bxh6 Bxh6 18.g4+-; b) 15...Nd3+?? 16.Rxd3 Bxd3 (b) < 16...Qxf4 17.Rd4 Qc1+ 18.Rd1+-) 17.Qd2 Ne5 18.Bxe5 fxe5 19.Bxd3+-; 16.Qxf3 Ne5 17.Qe3 g5!? 18.Bxe5 Qxe5! 19.Qxe5 fxe5 20.Bb5² (Golod-Tseitlin, Israël 2000, 1/2); 15.Nd4 Bd3! 16.Qxg4 Bxf1 17.Kxf1 Nxc6 18.Bxd6 cxd6=]

15... **Nxf3+**

[15...c6 16.dxc6 Qxc6 17.Nd4±]

16.Qxf3 **Ne5**

17.Qe3!

[< 17.Qe2 hinders the king bishop]

17... **c6**

[17...Qb4!? this move deserved a try: 18.Rd2 Rfd8 19.Be2 c6 20.0-0 Qb6 21.Qf4+]

18.Be2 **cxç5?!**

[18...Rad8!?; 18...Qb4!?!]

19.Nxd5 **Qxe6?**

Enabling a small combination that wins the exchange [¹ 19...Kh8!?!]

20.Nc7 **Qxa2**

21.Qc3!

Protects b2 thanks to Bc4+ threat [21.Nxa8 Rxa8 22.Qc3 Rc8!]

21... **Qa4™**

[21...Rac8? 22.Bxe5 Kh8™ 23.Bg3+-]

22.Nxa8 Rxa8™



23.Bxe5!

Gives up the bishop pair, but shatters Black's pawn skeleton.

23... fxe5™

24.0-0

It is high time to shelter my King

24... Rc8

[24...e4!? 25.Qc7 Qc6 26.Qxe7 h6 27.Rc1 Re8 28.Qb4 Qb6 29.Qxb6 axb6 30.Rfd1 Bxb2 31.Rb1 Be5 32.Rxb6÷ and despite being ahead in material, the endgame is very complex and difficult to win]

25.Qe3 a6

[25...e4!? 26.b3 Qa5 27.Bc4+ Kh8 (27...Kf8 28.Rd5!±) 28.Rd5!±]

26.Rc1!

Forces the exchange of rooks.

26... Rxc1

27.Rxc1+- Qb4

[27...b5?? 28.Bd1 Qd4 29.Bb3+ e6 30.Rc8+ Bf8 31.Qg5 Qe4 32.h4 Qe1+ 33.Kh2 Qxf2 34.Qf6 Qf4+ 35.Kg1 Qe3+ 36.Kh1 Qh6 37.Bxe6+ Bxe6™ 38.Qxe6+ Kh8™ 39.Qxe5+ (1-0)]



28.Qa3!

Forces the exchange of queens to enter into a winning endgame

28... Qxa3™

[28...Qd2? 29.Qa2+ e6 30.Rc8+ Bf8 31.Qa3 Qh6 32.Qb4+-; 28...a5? 29.Qxb4 axb4 30.Rc4 b3 31.Rb4 Be6 32.Bd1+-]

29.bxa3™ Be4

30.Rc7

The famous seventh rank.

30... Kf8

31.Bc4 Bh6

[31...Ke8?? 32.Be6 Bxg2 33.Rc8#]

32.f3

Drives off the e4 Bishop and makes room for my King's bishop.

32... Be3+

33.Kh1!

The White king shall find a shelter to escape both Black bishops.

33... Bc6

What else? On another withdrawal of the bishop, the b7 pawn would have to fall down.



34.Bxa6! Bb6

[34...e4? 35.Bxb7 Bxb7 36.Rxb7 Bc5 37.a4!]

35.Rc8+™ Kf7

[35...Kg7 36.Bd3 Bc5 37.a4! Be3 (37...Bb6 38.Bb5 Bd5 39.Be2) 38.a5 Kf6 39.Be4!]

36.Bd3!

[With the idea Be4]

36... Bc5?

Black shortens his suffering but anyway the Be4 threat is too strong [36...Bd4 37.Be4 Bxe4™ (37...Bc5 38.Bxc6 bxc6 39.a4! (1-0)) 38.fxe4™ b5 (38...b6 39.g4 h5 40.gxh5 gxh5 41.Kg2 b5 42.Kg3 Bb2 43.Ra8 Bd4 44.Rb8 Bc5 45.Rxb5 Bxa3 46.Kh4 e6 47.Kxh5 Kf6 48.Kh6 Bc1+ 49.Kh7 Bg5 50.Rb1 Ke7 (50...Bh4 51.Rg1 Ke7 (51...Kf7 52.Rg4 (1-0)) 52.Rg4 (1-0)) 51.Kg6 (1-0)) 39.g4 Bb2 40.Ra8 Ke6 41.Ra6+ Kd7 42.Kg2 Kc7 43.a4 bxa4 44.Rxa4 Kd6 45.Ra8 (1-0) 45...Ke6 46.Rh8 Kf6 47.Rxh7 g5 48.Rh6+ Kg7 49.Rc6; 36...e6 37.Be4 Bd5 38.Rb8 Bc5 39.a4 b6 40.Rc8 Bd6 41.Rh8 h5™ (41...Kg7?? 42.Rd8 Be7 43.Rd7 Kf6 44.Bxd5 exd5 45.Rxd5) 42.Rh7+ Kf6 43.Rd7 Bxe4 44.fxe4 Bc5 45.g3 Bd4 46.Rh7 Kg5 47.h4+ Kf6 48.Rh8 Kg7 49.Rb8 Kf6 50.Kg2 Ke7 51.Kf3 Kf7 52.g4 hxg4+ 53.Kxg4 Be3 54.Rc8 Bd4 (54...Bc5 55.a5 (1-0)) 55.Rc1 Kf6 56.Rf1+ Kg7 57.Rf3 Bc5 58.Rd3 Bb4 59.Rd7+ Kf6 60.Rc7 Bc5 61.Rxc5 bxc5 62.a5 c4 63.a6 c3 64.a7 Ke7™ (64...c2 65.a8Q Ke7™ 66.Qc8 (1-0)) 65.a8Q (1-0)]

37.a4! 1-0

After a sharp theoretical debate, I managed to seize a material advantage and to concretize it in the endgame. This victory and the encouragements of Eric Gorge made me realize that I should have a card to play in this France Championship 2003. Here I had reached 2 points out of 3. A series of draws were to follow... (More later... Ed)





2005 Grading List

By Raymond Baxter

April 2005 ICCF Notes

A new ICCF grading list has been published. The new grades are based on results up to 31 December 2004, and will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 September this year. The following full grading list includes the changed ICCF ratings. If your name does not appear on this list, then you have neither a domestic nor an international grade. A provisional grade is marked with an asterisk.

February 2005 SCCA Notes

The grading list follows the same pattern as in recent years. Two grades are shown for those players with provisional ICCF grades (i.e. 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. As well as international matches and ICCF tournaments, the following Scottish events are used in the ICCF grading: Championship, Candidates, and Division 1 of the League. 12 results are needed for an ICCF grade to be published.

The SCCA grades shown in this list take account of all results which appeared on the website by 20 January 2005. The new grades will be used for games starting in 2005. 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.

Two members, AG Dawson and R J T F Greene were active in 2004 but have not yet accumulated the required eight results, and therefore have no grades. A provisional grade (i.e. one based on less than 30 results) is marked with an asterisk. Life members are shown with membership numbers above 500. If your name is shown wrongly, or if you are doubtful whether your grade or the number of results is correct, please let me know. Note that correspondence grades are often substantially higher than over-the-board grades.

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)	9	Beecham, C R; Borwell, A P; Livie, G W G; McAlpine, K B; Pyrich, G D; Sprott, G R; Thomson, T; Watson J; Wickens, T S.
SCCA Master (SM)	26	Aird, I; Baxter, R W M; Brown, Dr A C; 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
2538	Finnie, D S (SIM)	2499	Beecham, C R (IM)
2490	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2467	Neil, D (SM)
2455	McNab, Dr C A (SIM)	2450	Mackintosh, I (SM)
2430	Giulian, P M (SIM)	2411	Brown, Dr A C (SM)
2401	Sprott, G R (IM)	2387	Pyrich, G D (IM)
2376	Aird, I (SM)	2375	Craig, T J (SIM)
2373	Livie, G W G (IM)	2363	Gillam, S R (SM)
2325	Stewart, D J (SM)	2322	Baxter, R W M (SM)
2296	Lennox, C J (SM)	2278	Lloyd, G
2273	Reeman, I F	2270	Watson, J (IM)
2251	Borwell, A P (IM)	2238	Anderson, G M
2238	Sneddon, I	2232	Jenkins, D M
2225	Kilpatrick, R	2221	Findlay, J A
2219	May, M A	2217	Montgomery, R S
2214	Goodwin, B J	2185	Edney, D

Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
004	Aird, I (SM)				58	2376	
317	Almarza-Mato, C				222	1906	
518	Anderson, G M				82	2238	
121	Anderson, J				65	1736	
244	Angus, A R	57	2085				
049	Armstrong, A				85	1901	
313	Armstrong, J M	145	1580				
	Ash, G	9	2005	*			
016	Bailey, E A	70	1995		24	2011	*
386	Ballan, Dr M				79	1837	
015	Baxter, R W M (SM)				57	2322	
155	Beacon, R	403	2085		12	1846	*
511	Beecham, C R (IM)				250	2499	
022	Bird, A G E	175	2100				
520	Bird, Prof G H				45	2093	
509	Borwell, A P (IM)				474	2251	
	Boyd, W J	12	1915	*			
587	Boyle, C F				115	2197	
416	Briscoe, C	9	2060	*			
215	Brown, Dr A C (SM)				113	2411	
370	Brown, D E	38	2060				
	Burnett, R	14	1945	*			
424	Burridge, R J	22	1840	*			
096	Campbell, A W I	89	1960		29	1801	*
038	Campbell, I S				210	1873	
108	Cassidy, J	221	1505				
	Clapham, R E	12	1525	*			
	Coffield, P J	72	1965				
585	Collins, S	23	1835	*			
173	Cook, W M				38	1999	
364	Coope, D W				268	1598	
204	Copley, J				95	1918	
247	Cormack, W H	30	1830				
527	Craig, T J (SIM)				285	2375	
332	Crawley, J S	44	1900				
519	Crichton, D	133	1950		16	1946	*
233	Crosbie, R B	179	1955				
166	Cumming, D R				208	1477	
291	Dawson, J	26	1805	*			
595	Domnin, M	19	1555	*			
345	Donohoe, S	22	1895	*	12	2099	*
316	Dowell, C M	173	1785		24	1784	*
030	Dyer, M T				95	2085	
371	Edney, D				55	2185	
421	Ellis, R P	14	1705	*			
396	Ellison, J T	17	1835	*			
284	Findlay, J A				36	2221	
340	Finnie, D S (SIM)				193	2538	
219	Ford, M P	37	1840				
414	Franks, K	15	2290	*			
	Gifford, M J	17	1720	*			
086	Gillam, S R (SM)				119	2363	
	Gillespie, D L				14	1785	*
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)				450	2430	
586	Giulian, Mrs R A				45	1734	
124	Goodwin, B				42	2214	
399	Grant, J	55	1885				
299	Harkins, M G				38	2044	
425	Hart, W	10	2160	*			

Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
556	Hartford, Mrs E A				162	1967	
063	Harvey, D				58	2060	
406	Henderson, B (deceased)	25	2100	*	22	2069	*
114	Hilton, S H				95	1544	
116	Hind, A				32	2205	
510	Hislop, A T				165	1991	
426	Hunter, T	8	1775	*			
268	Hynd, W	32	1745				
515	Jack, J P E	233	1845		16	1868	*
312	James, C R	150	1685				
514	Jenkins, D M				76	2232	
322	Jessing, M	36	2110		15	2237	*
	Keen, M R	12	2130	*	20	2215	*
405	Kelly, P	10	1695	*			
408	Kennedy, G	42	1940				
415	Kerr, A	10	1890	*			
577	Kilgariff, A D	99	1790				
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)				245	2490	
257	Kilgour, J W	94	1660				
021	Kilpatrick, R				53	2225	
260	Knox, A	103	1505		28	1835	*
419	Lees, J A	13	2155	*	35	2037	
256	Lennox, C J (SM)				133	2296	
503	Livie, G W G (IM)				133	2373	
264	Lloyd, G				80	2278	
337	Loughran, R J	190	1945		32	1822	
504	Lumsden, J P L				31	1947	
261	McAinsh, T F	149	1735				
567	McCarthur, J M	50	2040				
352	McDonald, G R				66	1960	
367	MacDonald, P H	24	2070	*	34	1901	
148	McEwan, N R				33	1923	
584	MacGregor, C A				35	1851	
391	McIntee, C				55	1811	
394	MacKenzie, P L	38	1750				
172	Mackenzie, S G	51	1915		16	1889	*
412	McKinstry, J	18	1835	*			
532	Mackintosh, I (SM)				261	2450	
216	MacMillen, A N				145	1833	
001	McNab, Dr C A (IM)				141	2455	
502	McRoberts, D G				44	2052	
376	Malcolmson, R	102	1825				
566	Marshall, I H				224	1795	
083	Maxwell, A				33	2158	
591	May, M A				54	2219	
409	Miller, S	16	1700	*			
178	Milligan, B (SM)				154	1933	
590	Milne, J R	54	1685				
578	Mitchell, I W S				65	1779	
401	Moir, P J	154	1785				
333	Montgomery, R S				67	2217	
338	Morrow, J	66	2060				
564	Murray, J S	56	2080		14	1929	*
234	Murray, S A	35	2125		17	2038	*
202	Neil, D (SM)				36	2467	
225	Norris, Rev A C				170	1947	
315	Petrie, A R	190	1560				
379	Phillips, G H				155	2116	
	Price, D	16	2185	*	16	2047	*

Member	Name	Results	SCCA Grade	Prov	Results	ICCF Grade	Prov
534	Proudler, V A	89	1735				
048	Pyrich, G D (IM)				595	2387	
343	Rawlinson, J	25	1840	*			
136	Reeman, I F				101	2273	
	Richardson, D	8	1775	*	18	1971	*
407	Ross, D W	38	2070		25	1904	*
	Ross, G J S	15	1830	*			
	Rosser, G C	16	1830	*	28	2035	*
	Ruston, A W	12	2020	*			
356	Rutherford, J F	42	1650				
522	Savage, D J				58	1974	
311	Saxton, G				45	1839	
057	Sneddon, I				103	2238	
565	Sprott, G R (IM)				145	2401	
	Stevenson, F C	14	1845	*			
294	Stewart, D J (SM)				118	2325	
546	Stewart, Dr K W C				96	2164	
393	Stott, K	18	2180	*			
389	Swan, Ms G	10	1615	*			
574	Swystun, M A	104	2135		18	2121	*
	Taylor, W	19	2035	*			
336	Teunisse, Dr F	44	2050		20	1964	*
365	Thompson, B				259	1965	
168	Thomson, A C	44	1860				
	Thomson, P	8	1725	*			
579	Thomson, T (IM)				295	2181	
580	Watson, J (IM)				127	2270	
149	Wright, A	116	1905				
	Young, J	14	1875	*			
065	Young, S M	216	2020		29	1975	*

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ChessBase 9 Part 2

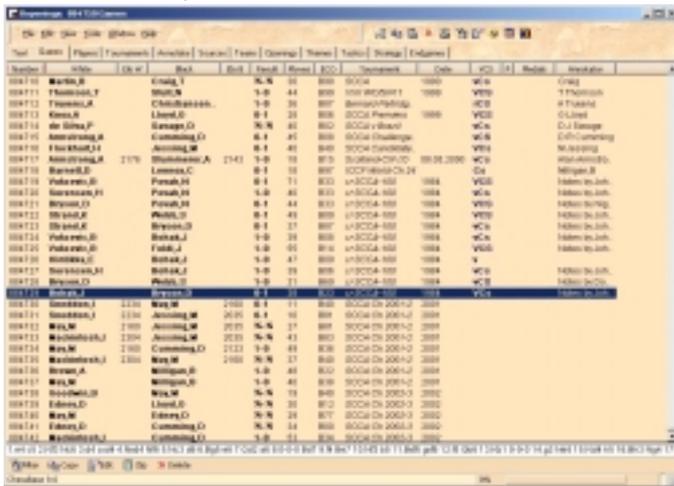
by Bernard Milligan



This is my second article on the new ChessBase 9 program and continuing from my last article I must say that I am still really impressed with the program. The facilities which this type of program make me wonder how we ever managed to keep track of our games and research in Correspondence Chess

before ChessBase provided such tools for us. The simple answer is that we spent a lot more hours devoted to each game with little time left for us to enjoy anything else in life. Well at least that is true for me as I was never a great player.

Anyway lets get back to having a look at the new ChessBase 9. At the heart of the matter ChessBase is simply a tool which I use to search for, and play through games which might be of interest when looking for possible plans in my own games. ChessBase 8 was great for this but CB9 does everything faster. Searching, Sorting and Classifying take less time than with CB8. This is not the end of the story though. The database window with the list of games looks pretty much the same with the player names, tournament, ECO code, etc, but delving slightly deeper reveals some subtle enhancements which most users will find very useful.



For example if you hover the mouse over a ECO code you get a box appearing with the name of the variation in plain English.

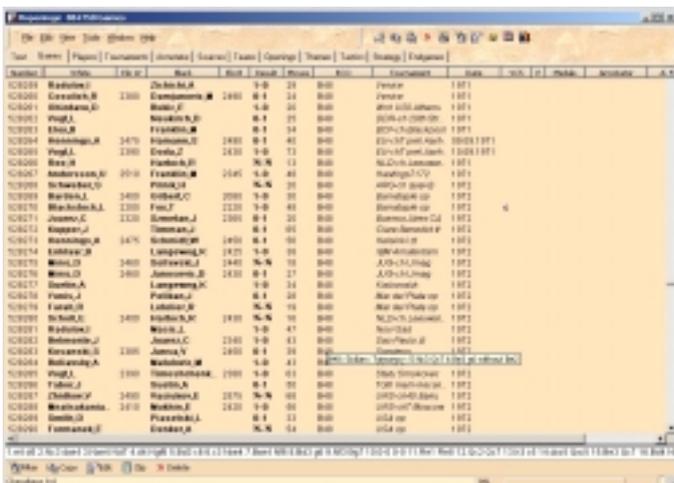
It is the attention to fine detail like this that makes the program more user friendly. I for one find it easier to remember plain English variation names rather than ECO codes.

In the DataBase list each of the columns is now a separate entity pretty much like a spreadsheet or standard database. CB8 users will remember for example that the first column contained the game number, the name of the player who had white and the name of the player who had black, and their grades.

In CB9 this one column is split into 5 separate columns. OK I can see you asking what difference that makes as you still end up with the same information displayed in both instances. True but the difference is what you can now do with the information because of the new format.

Clicking on the header tab for any particular column will now reorganise, or rather Sort, the whole DataBase by that field. So for example I can instantly Sort the DataBase alphabetically by the name of the player with the White pieces or the player with the Black pieces depending on my preference. I could Sort it with the Highest Graded player with the White pieces at the top or do the same for the player with the black pieces. I could sort the whole DataBase by the ECO code. All of this at the click of a mouse button and I can see the DataBase displayed in whichever manner suits me best.

Right clicking the mouse on a column header will bring up another menu.



So from the Tournament tab you could now choose to hide that particular column and the tournament names would no longer appear in the DataBase list. The same applies for the other columns. In essence you now have the ability to decide which lists of information appear in your DataBase list.

You can also highlight a game, by left clicking the mouse on it, and then holding the left mouse down, drag that particular game to a different place in the DataBase list. This allows you to manually Sort a DataBase if you wish, and is particularly useful if you wish to group a number of games together for easy reference or printing or game merging purposes.

In essence CB9 has a lot more user functionality to let you decide how you want your information displayed.



Once again disks covered in this article come on either DVD or CD so make sure you have the appropriate disk drive in your PC before purchasing them.

The Basics of Winning Chess - DVD By Andrew Martin



This CD is based on the new instructional Fritz8-Chess Media System. All of the lectures are presented in their entirety with video pictures and synchronised chess graphics. This is the latest DVD video course from English IM Andrew Martin. Andrew is a highly respected chess coach and many players will benefit from this excellent coaching DVD. Although probably aimed at beginners I would think that players up to the Major level of Scottish CCA events would find something to benefit their play from this DVD. Through the use of classic games and game fragments, Martin charts a survival course through the competitive minefield. The DVD material is divided into three areas:- opening, middle game and endgame tips. Each of these areas contains some very useful insights.
System requirements: PC 233, 64 MB RAM, CD-ROM drive, sound card, mouse, Windows XP, 2000, Me, 98 SE, Windows Media Player 9. This DVD package also includes the latest ChessBase 9.0 Reader.

My Life For Chess - DVD By Viktor Kortchnoi Vol.1 Vol.2



I must admit that Viktor Kortchnoi has always been one of my heroes of Chess. If nothing else his fighting spirit should have earned him the title of World Champion. It wasn't to be but his great chess skill enthralled chess players from all over the world. Indeed even today at the age of 73 He continues to play top notch chess which leaves a good number of his younger GM compatriots in the shadows.

Those of you who already have some of Kortchnoi's books
SCCA Magazine 89

will be please to know that these DVD's contain some previously unpublished games
In Volume 1, he presents eight of his most brilliant effort from the years 1949-1979, among them games against Smyslov, Geller, Tal, Huebner and Karpov.
Volume 2 features about four hours of "Kortchnoi live". The great chess legend portraits the second part of his eventful career, presenting among other things his games against Kasparov (1986), Spassky (1989) and Short (1990) in his typical gripping style. Embedded in the game commentaries are many details of Kortchnoi's biography.
Kortchnoi speaks candidly about his opponents. He is not afraid to criticise or heal praise where it is due. Sold separately I would urge you to buy both DVD's for a fascinating insight into the heart of chess.
System requirements: Pentium-Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 MB RAM, Windows 98 SE, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Media Player 9.0, DVD drive

The Van Geet Opening - CD By Don Maddox



An interesting CD for those who want their opponents to have to work hard rather than follow their known opening theory. The Van Geet Opening (1.Nc3) should do the trick. The CD has over 9000 games with 156 annotated games. 130 of these were specially annotated for this CD. Those of you who like aggressive ideas might like 1.Nc3 c5 2.Ne4 which is covered on this CD. Don Maddox, a strong correspondence player and chess coach so I would imagine there may be possible advantages for Correspondence players in learning this offbeat opening. Also included is an Opening Tree and a database of 100 training positions to wet you appetite and test your skills. I also found a game involving our own George Pyrich:-

J Azevedo - G D Pyrich [C00]

EU-chT5 corr9498, 1994
1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 e6 3.g3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ Qxf6 6.d4 c5 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bc5 10.Nxc6 Bxe3 11.fxe3 bxc6 12.Qd6 Qf3 13.Rd1 Qxe3+ 14.Be2 Qb6 15.Rd4 f6 16.Rb4 Qd8 17.Qxc6+ Bd7 18.Qd6 Qe7 19.Qxe7+ Kxe7 20.Rb7 Rhb8 21.Rxd7+ Kxd7 22.Bf3 e5 23.Bxa8 Rxa8 24.c4 ½-½

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Pentium PC 300, 64 MB RAM, WindowsXP, 2000, Me, 98 SE, CD-ROM drive, mouse.



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

I still suffer from the constant problem of having insufficient games when I sit down to prepare for this column. Still it was a pleasant surprise this time to actually have 3 games sitting on my desk ready to use rather than have to immediately start asking people directly for games at the last minute. Well done Richard Beecham and David Cumming. Now lets see everyone else follow their example and flood my letterbox or E-mail address, with annotated games over the next couple of months.

The first game I present is from Richard Beecham. As Richard mentions he has been promising me this game for some time. The few things I heard about it made me look forward to receiving it and I wasn't disappointed. His opponent dragged the game on and on but Richard certainly had things well under control.

WCCC26/sf2, 01.09.2002

White: C R Beecham

Black: C Guizar

Trompowsky Attack [A45]

[Annotator C R Beecham]

I had expected my first experience of a World Semi-final would be interesting and difficult. In a field of 13 players there were 2 SIM's, 5 IM's and an untitled player with a rating of 2554! What I had not expected were some very unusual games. Play against my Russian opponent was very slow so we agreed to play using email. After he exceeded the first time control play took a very unusual turn. My opponent, who is required to play 10 moves in 30 days "goes to sleep" for 30 days and then makes 10 moves in 0 days hence making the time limit. He then "goes to sleep" for another 30 days and we start all over again ! Very odd.

Happily on the other side of the coin my Mexican opponent was a delight to play. I.M. Dr. Clemente Guizar is a medical doctor working in Mexico City; he is also playing in the ICCF World Cup Final 10. The preliminary round started in 1994 with 140 groups of 11 players and is now down to the 15 player Final. I had promised Bernard this game well over a year ago but as the game progresses you will see why it has taken

until now to pass it on to you !

1.d4 **Nf6**
2.Bg5 **Ne4**
3.Bf4 **d5**
4.e3 **Bf5**

This is Black's most popular move in this position, but it does provide White with a target and to me just does not seem right. Let's look at the alternatives here:

4...Nc6 also looks wrong, when White will continue with 5.Bd3 or even 5.Nd2 but not 5.f3?! g5! and Black would be better.

Also possible is 4...Nd7 aiming to support the e4 knight against White's Bxe4, but this did not turn out too well in Hodgson - Paunovic, Cacak 1996, when after 5. Bd3 Ndf6 6.f3! Nd6 7. Nc3 e6 8.e4 Nh5 9.Be3 Be7 10.g4! dxe4 11.fxe4 Bh4+ 12.Kf1 f5 13.e5 fxg4 14.Qxg4 0-0 15.Ke2 Nf5 16.Nf3 and White wins. The major alternative seems to be 4...c6.4...c6 5.Bd3 Qb6 6.Bxe4 Qxb2 7.Nd2 dxe4 8.Ne2 Nd7 when Black looks OK.

5.f3



Playing 5.c4 is an absolute no-no due to the strength of 5...e5! This shows the power of the N on e4. In the game Karhanek - Bartos at the Ostrava Open 2002 White was blown away after 6.dxe5 Bb4+ 7.Ke2 Qh5+ 9.f3 dxc4 10.g4 Qh4 11.Nh3 Bxg4 12.Qa4+ Nc6 13.Bg3 Qh5 14.fxg4 Qg4 mate. A graphic illustration against 5.c4?

5... **Nf6**

In the SCCA Championship 2000 Beecham v Reeman, Ian retreated the N to d6 viz ...5...Nd6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Qe2 Be7

8.0-0 Bg6 9.e4 c6 10.h4 and White soon obtained a winning position.

6.c4 **c5?**

This came as a surprise. The high profile game Mickey Adams-Loek Van Wely from Tilberg Fontys 1996 showed that White has a simple tactical refutation(but Black can mix it up a bit). Micky messed it up and the game ended in a draw.

I began to suspect that Clemente must have found an improvement for Black. I looked at the position in great depth and reassured myself that 6...c5? was a mistake.

7.cxd5 **Nxd5**
8.Bxb8!



Black just loses a piece with insufficient compensation.

8... **Nxe3**

The only move, after 8...Rxb8 9.e4 Ne3 10.Qe2 Qa5+ 11.Kf2 Nxf1 12.exf5 cxd4 13.Kxf1 Qxf5 14.Nd2 White is winning.

9.Bb5+ **Bd7**
10.Bxd7+ **Qxd7**
11.Qe2 **Nf5**

In the aforementioned game Adams-Van Wely, Black took the g2 pawn 11.Nxg2+ 12.Qxg2 Rxb8 13.dxc5 g6 14.Nc3 Bg7 15.Nge2 Qc6 16.Qg5? Qxf3 17.Rf1 Qh3 18.Rf2 0-0 and with two pawns for the piece and the White king in the centre Black managed the draw. I suspected Clemente was following a game in ChessBase database between J Cameron Coltharp - Unes Hassim from Exclam

M03 correspondence game 1998, which was won by Black ! That game continued 11...Nf5 12.Be5 cxd4 13.g4 Ne3 14.Nc3 Rd8 15.Bf4 Nd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.Qe4 e6 18.Qxd5 Rxd5 19.Kd2,(much better was 19.Rc1! or 19.Nh3 ! winning) White's game just went downhill from here.

The bishop retreat to g3 is however much better than Coltharps 12.Be5 as it can't be taken by the knight, as firstly, it opens the h-file and secondly his knight is required in the centre.

12.Bg3 **cxd4**
13.Qd3



This is only slightly better than 13.Nd2 or 13.Bf2, however it does clear e2 for king's knight ; but as you can see the other two are both very good. [13.Nd2 d3 14.Qe4 e6 15.Nh3 Qb5 16.a4 Nxc3 17.hxg3 Qxb2 18.Rb1 Rc8 19.Qxd3; 13.Bf2 Rc8 14.Nd2 d3 15.Qe5 e6 16.Rd1]

13... **Ne3**
14.Ne2

After the game I came up with the following lovely variation, giving White a totally won game ! 14.Nd2 Rc8 15.Kf2 Qf5 16.Ne4 Ng4+ 17.Ke1 Qa5+ 18.Qd2 Qd5 19.Nc3 Qe6+ 20.Nce2 Ne3 21.Kf2 Rc2 22.Qxd4

14... **f6**

Black could have tried 14...Nxc3 but still does not have compensation for the piece, for example. [14...Nxc3+ 15.Kf2 Ne3 16.Rc1 Nd5 17.Qxd4 e6 18.Nbc3

15.Nd2 **e5**
16.Kf2 **Bb4**
17.Nc4 **Nxc4**
18.Qxc4 **Bd2**
19.Rhd1 **Rc8**
20.Qb3 **Be3+**
21.Kf1 **a6**

22.Bf2 **Bh6?!**



A dubious move, due to White's next move 23.Bxd4 ! After the liquidation Black is all but lost. A better try was 22...Bxf2 but even then Black is really struggling as can be seen from the following. 22...Bxf2 23.Kxf2 Qf7 24.Qa3 Qe7 25.Qd3 0-0 26.a3! Qf7 27.Rac1 Qg6 28.Qxg6 hxg6 29.Ng3 b6 30.Ne4 f5 31.Ng5 Rfe8 32.Rxc8 Rxc8 33.f4

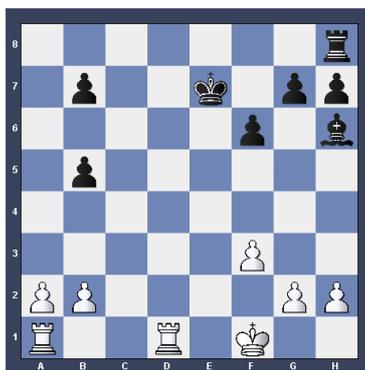
23.Bxd4 **exd4**
24.Nxd4

We now have material equality, but with Black's king stuck in the centre his defence is impossible.

24...Rc5 **25.Ne6**
Qb5+

What else is there? The only other try is 25...Rb5 and look what happens: 26.Rxd7 Rxb3 27.Rad1 Re3 28.Nc7+

26.Qxb5+ **Rxb5**
27.Nc7+ **Ke7**
28.Nxb5 **axb5**



With this move I expected Clemente to resign, but no, so we play on.

29.Rd5 **Rb8**
30.Re1+ **Kf7**
31.Rxb5 **Bf4**
32.g3 **Bd6**

32...Be5

33.Rc1 **g5**

33...f5 34.Rb6 Be5 35.Rc5 Bf6 36.Rxf5 Rc8 37.a4 Kg6 38.Rfb5 Rc2 39.h4

34.Rb6 **Be5**
35.Rc4 **Rd8**
36.f4

It was now that I was becoming very frustrated, why was an International Master playing on in a totally lost position ? Was he waiting for a clerical error ? Perhaps. I spent time checking and re-checking ever move before pressing send ! I remember years ago my old chess teacher Peter Anderson told me never to resign a game in a lost position at an OTB tournament. Always seal a move. Your opponent might get knocked down and die and the point is yours !! I did ask Clemente why he was playing on and I received the polite reply." According to the Official Rules of Chess : The game is won by the player who has mated his opponents king." So I have to mate him !! For completeness I enclose the rest of the game.

36... **gxf4**
37.gxf4 **Bd4**



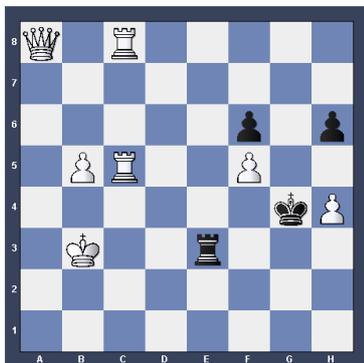
37...Bd6 38.Rxb7+ Kg6

38.Rxb7+ **Kg6**
39.a4 **Kf5**
40.a5 **Be3**
41.Rb5+ **Kg4**
42.Ke2 **Bd4**
43.f5 **Kh5**
44.a6 **Be5**
45.h4 **h6**
46.b4 **Bf4**
47.Rbc5 **Bc7**

47...Re8+ 48.Kf3

48.Rc6 **Rd5**
49.R4c5 **Rd8**
50.Rxc7 **Kg4**
51.a7 **Ra8**

52.b5 Re8+
 53.Kd3 Rd8+
 54.Kc4 Re8
 55.Rc8 Re4+
 56.Kb3 Re1
 57.a8Q Re3+



57...Rb1+ 58.Kc2 Rb4 59.Qg2+ Kh5
 60.Qg6+ Kxh4 61.Rg8 Rb2+ 62.Kxb2
 h5 63.Qg3#

58.Rc3 Kf4
 59.Rxe3 Kxe3
 60.Rc3+ Kd4
 61.Qa4+ Ke5
 62.Rc5+ Kd6
 63.Qa7 h5
 64.Qc7# 1-0

So it took 64 moves, the number of squares on the board to comply with the Law of Chess 11.1 and mate my opponent. After the game ended Clemente sent a very nice letter, congratulating me on the win, thanking me for such sporting play which is so rare and asking to visit him when I'm next in Mexico City !!



Next we have two games provided by David Cumming from his 2005 Premiers tournament. The use of the word pawns is not a typing error by me. David has used the word pawn for many a year. The games are interesting and highlight David's strong forte for sharp attacking opportunities.

SCCA Premiers, 2005
White: D R Cumming
Black: A Wright
 Grünfeld Defence [D10]
 [Annotator D R Cumming]

1.d4 d5
 2.c4 Nf6
 3.Nc3 c6
 4.cxd5

4...cxd5 is an important form of the

Exchange Slav Defence which is theoretically viewed as a significant improvement for White to have omitted Nf3. Alex encourages an exchange a la Grunfeld Exchange, and immediately thereafter transposes into one directly, albeit a poor cousin of one, where Black has played ...c6 instead of the traditional ...c5, attacking White's pawn centre.

4... Nxd5?!
 5.e4 Nxc3
 6.bxc3 g6?!
 7.Nf3 Bg7
 8.Be3 Bg4
 9.Be2 Nd7
 10.Rb1! Qa5!?



Choosing to undermine White's centre with piece play rather than with pawns.

11.Rxb7!?

A sharp move, although I had given serious consideration to the more solid 11.Qd2.

11... Qxc3+
 12.Bd2 Qa3
 13.Qc2! Bxf3
 14.gxf3!

Leaving the light squared Bishop on the e2-b5 diagonal for tactical reasons.

14... Bxd4
 15.Qxc6! Rd8??



15...Qd6 16.Qxd6 exd6 was the lesser evil. albeit 17.Bb5 was in the air, with full advantage to White!; 15...Rd8?? allows a Queen sac with a mate in 5, as follows....

16.Qxd7+!! Rxd7
 17.Rb8+ Rd8
 18.Bb5+ Kf8
 19.Bh6+ Bg7
 20.Rxd8# 1-0

Black was wrong to transpose from an Exchange Slav to an Exchange Grunfeld, having pushed his c-pawn only 1 square instead of 2 he was always going to be a tempo behind, permitting White's ultra-sharp play and encouraging Black to indulge in premature exchanges, instead of getting his King to safety first.



SCCA Premiers, 2005
White: D Crichton
Black: D R Cumming
 French Defence [C00]
 [Annotator D R Cumming]

1.e4 e6
 2.d3

This none too ambitious move has a long history. At the very highest level, it has been employed at least since 1911; I have in mind the game Nimzowitsch - Capablanca from the San Sebastian tournament of that year. Later players to be counted among its adherents were Leonid Stein and Bobby Fischer. " - Lev Psakhis.

2... d5
 3.Nd2 Nf6
 4.g3



"..... is encountered much more rarely (than 4.Ngf3) which is not surprising since Black easily obtains a comfortable game" - Psakhis again.

4... dxe4
 5.dxe4 e5
 6.Ngf3 Bc5
 7.Bg2 0-0
 8.0-0 Nbd7
 9.c4

9.Qe2 b6 10.b3 a5 with at least equal chances (Fof Black); Anceschi - Lputian, Reggio Emilia 1999, - Psakhis.

9... b6
 10.Nb3 Qe7
 11.Nfd2 Bb7
 12.Qc2 Rfd8
 13.Nxc5? Nxc5
 14.b3 Qd6!
 15.Rd1?



Maybe I'm being overly critical of White's 15th here, White was close to losing anyway, but 15.Rd1 enables me to take White's e-prawn because White's Nd2 is now pinned in front of the Rd1.

15... Bxe4
 16.Qc3 Bxg2!
 17.Kxg2 Nce4!
 18.Qb2 Ng4!

19.Resigns. 0-1!!! White will lose more material, it's unavoidable. 0-1



Our final game also involves David Cumming but this time it was selected from the Scottish CCA Candidates season of 2003/4, by Iain Mackintosh and annotated by Iain.

SCCA Candidates 2003-4, 2003

White: G Lloyd (2157)
Black: D R Cumming (2163)
 King's Indian Attack [A08]
 [Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

Here is another great scrap from last year's SCCA Candidates tournament.

1.Nf3 Nf6

2.g3 g6
 3.Bg2 Bg7
 4.d3!?

4.c4; 4.d4 and; 4.b3 are all statistically better for White.

4... 0-0

Presumably on the basis that symmetries contain lots of dead games...!

5.0-0 d5

Black accepts the invitation to occupy the empty centre. 5...c5 is also playable here.

6.Nbd2 c5
 7.c3

The immediate 7.e4 is the main line for White.

7... Nc6
 8.e4



Now White contests the central squares.

8... e5!

and Black responds in kind.

9.Re1

9.Qb3 is a feasible alternative.

9... d4

10.cxd4!

Best.

10... cxd4
 11.Nc4 Bg4!?

11...Qc7 or; 11...Re8 were plausible options also.

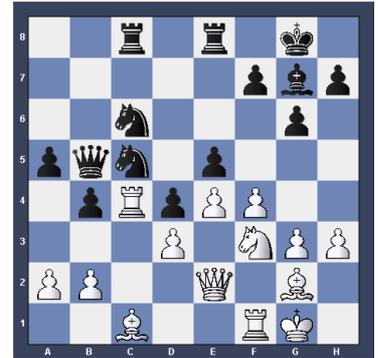
12.h3N

12.Qb3?! was played in an unrated American game, Carpenter-June, 1991, 0-1.

12... Bxf3
 13.Qxf3 b5=

At the end of the opening phase, it's honours even.

14.Na3 Qa5
 15.Nc2 Rac8
 16.Qe2 Qb6
 17.Bd2 a5
 18.Rac1 Rfe8
 19.f4 Nd7
 20.Rf1 b4
 21.Ne1 Nc5



21...b3!? also looks interesting.

22.Nf3

22.f5 b3 23.a3 a4 24.f6 Bf8 25.Rc4 Rc7³

22... Qb5
 23.Rc4 Na4
 24.Bc1 Nc5?!

After some patient middle game manoeuvres maintaining the balance, this is a slight positional slip. 24...Nb6 preserves the tension.

25.Qc2 Na7
 26.b3 f6

26...exf4 27.Bxf4 Ne6 28.Qd2 Nxf4
 29.Qxf4²

27.Bd2

27.f5 gxf5 28.exf5 Nd7 29.Nd2²

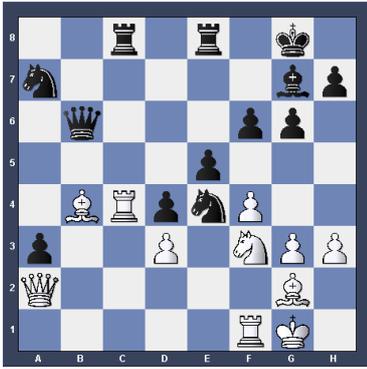
27... Qb6
 28.a3 bxa3
 29.b4

29.fxe5 Qxb3 30.Nxd4 Qxc2 31.Nxc2
 Nxd3 32.Rxc8 Rxc8 33.Nxa3 Bf8
 34.Ra1 Bc5+ 35.Kh2 Nxe5 36.Bxa5
 Nac6 37.Bc3³

29... axb4
 30.Bxb4 Nxe4!

Black is still scrapping!

31.Qa2!



Tiepin?! 31.dxe4?? d3+

31... Kh8

31...Qe6 32.Rxc8 Nxc8 33.Qxe6+ Rxe6=

32.dxe4 Rxc4
 33.Qxc4 Rc8
 34.Qf7 d3+
 35.Kh1 Qxb4
 36.Qxa7²

After the smoke clears, White has his nose just in front.

36... Rc2?

A great shame after the spirited cut and thrust, but this well-intentioned move loses outright. 36...Qc5 37.Qd7 exf4 38.gxf4 Qc3± would have preserved some fighting chances.

37.fxe5!

White seizes his opportunity. 37... fxe5

37...d2 38.Qa8+ Qf8 39.Qa4 Rc1 40.Nxd2 Rxf1+ 41.Bxf1 fxe5 42.Kg2 and White wins comfortably.

38.Ng5 Rc8
39.Ne6 1-0

39.Ne6 Rg8 40.Rf7 a2 41.Rxg7 a1Q+ 42.Qxa1 Rxg7 43.Qxe5 Qe7 44.Qb8+ Rg8 45.Qb2+ Rg7 46.Nxg7 Qxg7 47.Qb8+ Qg8 48.Qd6 and White is home and dry.



Picture Gallery



Another of the motifs on our website Picture Gallery—look under the Lewis Chess Pieces.



International Update

By George Pyrich

Douglas Livie Memorial

Category III, SIM Norm 9½, IM Norm 8½				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts
	1	Maxwell, A	2081	SCO		1	½				½				½		2½
	2	Pyrich, G D	2373	SCO	0		½	½		0	½		0	½			2
	3	Mackintosh, I	2328	SCO				1	0	1	½	1			0		3½
	4	Borwell, A P	2229	SCO	½	½	0		½		0				0	½	2
	5	Brown, Dr A C	2393	SCO		½	1	½			1		0	½		0	3½
	6	Berthelsen, R	2180	NOR			0				0				½		½
	7	Halme, O	2240	FIN		1	½	1			½						3
	8	Rawlings, A J C	2254	ENG	½	½	0		0	1	½		½		½	1	4½
	9	Craig, T J	2403	SCO							½						½
	10	Starke, H	2401	GER		1			1						½		2½
	11	Geider, F	2412	FRA		½	1		½								2
	12	Lambert, G R	2386	AUS	½			1		½		½	½				3
	13	Martin Molinero, R	2356	ESP				½	1			0					1½

Results are starting to come in with increasing frequency. Alan Rawlings of England is ahead at present, but the unbeaten players Alistair Maxwell (SCO), Olavi Halme (FIN), Heiko Starke (GER), Frank Geider (FRA) and Grant Lambert (AUS) are well placed just behind.

2nd North Sea Team Tournament		Netherlands	Norway II	Sweden	Iceland	Germany	England	Norway I	Denmark	France	Belgium	Total Points	Percentage
1	Dr Alan Brown	½	½	0	½	1	1	0	1	0		4½	50.0
2	Robert Montgomery	½	1	0	0		0	½	1	0		3	37.5
3	Dr Ken Stewart	0	½	1	0	0	½	½	½	0	0	3	30.0
4	John Findlay	½	½	0	½	0	½		0	0		2	25.0
5	Gordon Anderson	½	1	1		0	½	0	½	½	½	4½	50.0
6	David Edney	½	0	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	1	5½	55.0
Team Total		2½	3½	2½	2	1½	3	1½	3½	1	1½	22½	41.7

Leaders at the beginning of March are France (63%), followed by Norway I (59%), Germany (54%), Netherlands (53%), England (52%), Sweden (50%), Denmark (49%), Iceland (46%), then Scotland with 42%.

Current Friendly Internationals						
Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void
Mar 2005	24	Netherlands	Mixed			
Feb 2005	20	BCCS	Mixed			
Jan 2004	20	Romania	Email	8	21	
Jul 2003	23	Finland	Mixed	14	29	2
Jun 2003	24	Canada	Mixed	11½	24½	2
Dec 2002	129	ICCF	Mixed	94	141	10
Jun 2002	20	Catalonia	Mixed	8½	26½	2
Feb 2002	21	Norway	Mixed	11	31	

Full details of all competitions can be found on the SCCA website: <http://www.scottishcca.co.uk>



Alan Borwell Interview

By Per Söderberg

[Editor's note: this interview was conducted during November 2004 at the time of the Mumbai Congress. We are grateful to Per for allowing its reproduction here.]



Thank you, Alan, for taking your time to be interviewed for Korrschack Magazine! We first meet at the ICCF Congress in Perth, Scotland in 1994. You were the main organiser of that Congress and at the time you were the ICCF Treasurer. Can you please give me a summary of your excellent work performed for ICCF up to then?

My first ICCF Congress was in 1981 in London, although I had been involved with Scotland's applications for ICCF membership since 1973! Until the early 1980s there had been combined representation for Great Britain under the auspices of the English-based organisation BPCF. Eventually, England, Scotland and Wales gained recognition from ICCF for the three distinct countries, which form Great Britain. The Scottish CCA organised a memorable ICCF Congress in 1985, where I was appointed Treasurer and became a member of the Presidium. As principal host for that Congress, it was particularly pleasing that we managed to produce Minutes in both English and German, which were handed to delegates at the Closing Banquet. My wife Moira typed the German version and her friend the English one – on manual typewriters! The weather, of course, was typically Scottish!

I could write a book for the period you are asking me about – the way in which ICCF operated, the people involved, the interesting venues – so many fascinating and enjoyable experiences. Many of the immense characters of those days are no longer with us, like Hans-Werner and Bertl von Massow, Henk Mostert, Paul Diaconescu, Prof Zagorovsky, Francek Brglez, John Cleeve, Josef Vandorffy, Reg Gillman and many other great CC friends. We are fortunate that some of the most capable officials from the 1980s and early 1990s are still active in ICCF, including Ragnar Wikman, Nol van 't Riet, Roald Berthelsen and Gerhard Radosztics, with nonogenarians Erik Larsson and Hermann Heemsoth still maintaining interest in ICCF and international CC. The experience and knowledge of these enthusiasts has been invaluable in creating the heritage of ICCF.

I remained as ICCF Treasurer for 12 years, although I also became involved with wider issues, including the drafting and introduction of new ICCF Statutes and organisation of ICCF, including its annual congresses in conjunction with the President. The financial position of ICCF over those years was greatly strengthened but we should never forget

the very generous legacy given to ICCF by Hans-Werner von Massow, on his death.

In 1996 the president of ICCF Henk Mostert decided to step down and you were the candidate to take the presidency. Was it a hard decision to take this position?

The year 1996 was a sad one for ICCF and for me personally. I had been very good friends with Henk Mostert for 15 years and we worked together very closely preparing congress arrangements, completing minutes and dealing with various ICCF developments and activities. When Henk became ICCF President, following Hans-Werner's retirement, I became Henk's "right hand man" and we consulted together very regularly, almost daily.

In 1995 and the earlier part of 1996, it was apparent that Henk's health was failing although he tried valiantly to continue to carry out his responsibilities for ICCF and NBC. However, well before the 1996 Congress, he had privately revealed to me his intention to retire at the end of the year, but he did not wish to announce it until the beginning of the Congress. It made succession rather difficult and when I was asked by the other members of the Presidium to become Acting ICCF President on Henk's retiral, I was not very comfortable about doing this. However, I eventually agreed and my appointment was subsequently confirmed in Argentina the following year.

I considered it a great honour to succeed two fine Presidents, Hans-Werner von Massow and Henk J. Mostert.



Yes, I remember very well that I could see in your face a cautiousness in Bad Neuenahr at your appointment and its very interesting to now learn why. As you probably very well understand I didn't wish to ask then. But Presidency was for sure not only fame and honour but also a lot of hard work. Can you tell our readers more about what you managed to accomplish for ICCF during your period in office?

It was always my principal aim to do things in a fair and objective way, without special favours to any group or individual. I also endeavoured to uphold the traditions and heritage of ICCF and introduce changes in harmony with ICCF's ways of doing things but also to move forwards in a progressive and evolutionary way.

I would like to be remembered as a “pioneering” President, who introduced some initiatives and delivered them! Amongst the developments I have been particularly pleased about were the Jubilee celebrations, with the five sponsored tournaments, including the unique World CC Champions event, the Gold book, new ICCF Statutes (x2!), Congress arrangements and allowances (not just for the President and General Secretary), the Code of Conduct Guidelines, and insisting upon ICCF developing its own dedicated webserver system and facilities.

We have been very fortunate to have some exceptional innovators and achievers in ICCF, like Nol van ‘t Riet, Gerhard Binder and now the young Chris Lueers, as well as many others, who have contributed enormously.

Of course, in an ever-changing and increasingly demanding world, it has been necessary for ICCF to adapt and develop but, in my opinion, this can be achieved without departing from well-established principles of honesty, openness and good manners in everything we try to do and to uphold our important motto of “amici sumus”.

A big advantage for you as President was that you were retired and could really give so much of your time to ICCF. The new development with the internet changed a lot the duties to be president for such a large international federation. Can you share some of it to us to make us understand how much you really did put down a day at the ICCF Office?



Yes, I think that it is beneficial if the ICCF President is not engaged in a full-time occupation and can focus undivided attention to ICCF affairs. I retired from my professional occupation when I was aged 54 (in 1991) so I was ready to assume the responsibilities of ICCF President in 1996, based on considerable ICCF experience.

You are correct in referring to the impact of technology on the duties of ICCF officials. For example, when I was Treasurer, I prepared all accounting schedules manually, but the new Treasurer, Carlos Flores, computerised the ICCF system very capably and it is a great improvement. The impact of the Internet has been enormous.

My “day at the office” used to be dealing with postal communications at a relatively leisurely pace but in latter years they became almost exclusively by email. This dramatically created much greater pressure in dealing with the wide range of issues, which are always referred to an ICCF President. For example, on return from two weeks holiday, I would find several hundreds of email messages awaiting attention and urgent response!

I always rise early, around 6.45am each day, and open my incoming email and regularly download it throughout the day. I try to respond the same day, where answers can be given quickly. Even though I am now Honorary President, many people continue to write to me for my views and advice, on a wide range of ICCF topics.

Thank you for all the immense work you did for ICCF! Great achievements!

Last year was a turbulent year. You decided to step down to not accept the full period of 4 years more as president. Which thoughts went through your mind to take this decision?

It was a very difficult decision and, as I explained in Ostrava, I would have preferred to continue for another year or so, to complete the important tasks which I had been very much involved in initiating, e.g. the new Executive Board and Management Committee concept, the ICCF Webserver, Code of Conduct, Arbiter Review, etc.

The timing of the elections (for a four-year period) was not really ideal but my successor had made his intention known to candidate for the Presidency. There are times in one’s life when you have to make difficult decisions and last year was one of those for me. According to ICCF Statutes, I could not have continued for more than 4 years anyway, as I would have reached age 70 by the next elections in 2007. I actually initiated this particular clause in the Statutes, as I felt younger people should be encouraged to take ICCF positions in this increasingly demanding world.

You are still behind the scenes I recognize giving helpful hints and support to the present EB group. What is the future for ICCF do you think?

I have been involved with the current EB members quite regularly, particularly in the period prior to the Mumbai Congress and, as you know, I did have a few contributions to make during Congress meetings! Of course, I am available to advise as required by any ICCF officer and am doing this rather often “behind the scenes” although my advice is not always followed!! The future of ICCF is bright, providing that the Congress and the EB make enlightened and properly considered decisions, rather than hasty and/or expedient ones.

During our chat on the flight to Mumbai we talked a lot about the national federations and their future. Especially on their importance in the future. You mean that some of it can be diminishing. Would you like to elaborate this further?

The observation that national federations “might be doomed”, which you attributed to me in your recent Chess Mail report on the Mumbai Congress, does not properly represent my opinion! I believe that federations must adapt to a new era of CC and the “market place” which now exists. The age of postal play, printed magazines and where players could only play national and international correspondence chess via the national federations, have passed and we must all try to adapt the 21st Century environment.

We will only retain and attract new CC players (and members) if we offer the kind of services they are seeking, rather than simply “expecting them” to become members of national federations as being the only option available to enjoy competitive CC games.

For example, in Scotland, we have moved to an Internet Magazine (we provide printed copies to those without Internet access), we try to keep fees low and are adapting our internal tournaments to meet customer needs.

We will join the new ICCF Direct Entry concept, as we think it is a positive step, which will help to encourage new SCCA members, rather than lose more existing members. Players should “want” to be national members, rather than feel they are being “pressured” into membership – nowadays, people have choice and seek value. In my opinion, the loss of members of member federations has not in any way been caused by ICCF policies.

How do you regard the competing CC organisations?



For more than 10 years, I have been involved in all those discussions which ICCF has had with competing CC organisations. On three occasions, we have come quite close to reaching agreement with other bodies but for various reasons these were not realised. The “existence” of other organisations should not be of great concern to ICCF as I do not believe that any of them can offer CC players anything to compare with ICCF’s wide range of postal, email and webserver CC tournaments and unique services, e.g. the only valid official World CC titles, established international CC ratings and worldwide coverage of National CC organisations. ICCF is clearly the organisation for all serious CC players who wish to participate in top class events with international recognition.

You were one of the architects behind the Webserver Project. Can you give us your views on this large project?

Yes, I was one of the main architects of the ICCF Webserver concept and have been involved in all stages of its evolution and development. Initially, we had discussions with proprietors of some existing providers but these were not successful, principally because we realised that the best way forward for ICCF would be to develop and own, its dedicated webserver system. Thereafter, there was no point in entering into further discussions with other private system owners/providers for the provision of webserver facilities for ICCF and federations.

In my opinion, since early 2003, the ICCF webserver development has been progressed very well under the excellent guidance of Project Manager Iain Mackintosh, who produced the system specification and related

implementation timetable and resource schedules, which were formally approved by the Ostrava Congress. Iain and I met Martin Bennedik in early October 2003, when we arranged for the programming contract and Martin along with Dr. Ambar Chatterjee and others, including the test team, have achieved the goals which had been set for the first phase of the system. It became operational well within twelve months of that meeting and my congratulations go to all those involved. Although I handed over Chairmanship of the Webserver Steering Group to my successor in Ostrava, I have agreed to resume as Chairman of the new Webserver Development Steering Committee, which will oversee the further ongoing enhancements of the ICCF webserver system.

What did you expect from the Mumbai Congress?

I expected some very long meetings and some quite exciting discussions and I was not disappointed! However, I believe the 2004 Congress was very successful and many important decisions were taken, which will greatly influence the future of ICCF. It was good to have the participation of new World CC Champion Tunc Hamarat, who made some valuable contributions to the debates, as well as participating fully in the programme of events.

I will not make detailed comments here, as decisions of Congress will be covered in full in the official Minutes. Better arrangements need to be made for the early production and release of draft Congress Minutes (to try to avoid inaccurate and misleading reports appearing prematurely on websites and in commercial magazines !).

However, I would like to say that the vision which both ICCF and AICCF had several years ago to hold an ICCF Congress in India, was accomplished very successfully. First discussions about this possibility were with the late Hareh Samtani and it was a great pleasure for me to meet and have a conversation with Mrs. Samtani and their son Mahender, before the Opening Ceremony. The Congress was held in a perfect hotel and location and it was superbly organised by Dr. Ambar Chatterjee, President Prasad Dalvi and AICCF colleagues and friends.

It’s for the first time in Asia, which shows how the ICCF family is growing. But otherwise it seems to be hard to find organisers. What do you think needs to be improved to host a Congress?

It was another milestone in ICCF’s history for the Congress to be held for the first time in Asia and, since I became President, it is satisfying to me that we have now visited four continents of the world, i.e. Asia, Europe, and North and South America. In Mumbai, I was privileged to be the custodian of the proxy for Australia and in my opinion, it would be tremendous if the ICCF Congress could be held in Australasia, some time in the not too distant future. I am currently participating in one of the tournaments to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Cecil Purdy’s success in the 1st CC World Championship and our CCLA friends are organising several international, including the recently started ICCF World Cup XIV. They are a very progressive national federation.

I believe that the decision taken by the Mumbai Congress regarding the financial responsibilities for hosting ICCF congresses has improved the likelihood of more countries offering to be hosts in future years. Having organised two congresses in a small country like Scotland (in 1985 and 1994), I can say that it is possible and it is a most enjoyable and rewarding experience. In years gone by, there was more contact between ICCF and FIDE and in my opinion it would be very good for both organisations if a future ICCF Congress was to be held immediately after a FIDE Olympiad/Congress and I think this concept should be actively pursued by the EB.

Then I would like to ask you about your personal life and life as a chessplayer.

When did you first get in touch with chess?



I was a relatively late starter in learning the play the game of chess. My cousin visited me when I think I was about 15 years of age and taught me how to play and within two years I was top board of the school team and playing for York Chess Club. Earlier this year, I attended a reunion of York Chess Club and reflected on those early days and the development of chess in the York area more than 50 years ago. It was a nice occasion!

Have you continued to play in a club?

Just before I moved from York to Edinburgh for business reasons in 1965, York Chess Club had achieved the notable distinction of winning the British National Club Championship, beating Oxford University in the Final. I played on board 4, with top board being Michael Haygarth versus Jonathan Penrose, both British Champions!

In my first year in Edinburgh, I won the East of Scotland area tournament and was nominated to play in the 1966 British Championship in Sunderland. After 3 rounds, I was joint leader having played Frank Parr, P.N Wallis and Dr. J.M.Aitken and then I met and lost an exciting game against Jonathan Penrose (which was published in The Times!) Thereafter, I had mixed fortunes, playing Michael Haygarth, P.S. Milner Barry, Peter Clarke and Owen Hindle, and finished with 5.5 points from 11 games. I remember being tired at the end but feeling very privileged to have played so many of the top British chess players and personalities of those times!

I played for Edinburgh Chess Club, then Bearsden in Glasgow and for Perth CC, after I moved permanently to the Perth area in 1971. I gave up regular over the board play in the 1980s, but have just started a new Chess Club in the

Carse of Gowrie, principally to encourage youngsters, who I coach in three of the local schools.

Good Luck to you with this! I used to coach youngsters myself during more than a decade. It's a lot of work but also enjoyable and rewarding!

Finally you changed over to CC. Anything in particular you remember? Persons and results which were important?

I remember sitting next to Hermann Heemsoth at the London Congress in 1981 and playing blitz games with him during the meetings (there were interminable translations in those days!) – we started our long friendship!. Hermann invited me to play in the Kurt-Klar Memorial GM tournament, but I was rather out of my depth and although having good games, my final score was poor. One of my better earlier CC results was in the 1960s when I won the Postal Chess Club Championship (organised by Baruch Wood's Chess magazine) Of course, I remember with affection the Scottish Magazine 10th Anniversary international tournament, in which I achieved my IM title. Moira and I produced 72 editions of the SCCA Magazine over 20 years!.

My most memorable Congress game was defeating the "unbeatable" Prof. Zagorovsky in the Blitz tournament at the Peebles 1985 Congress, but I had to settle for runners up place, behind my friend Hermann Heemsoth.

I would of course also like to ask you about Erik Larsson? Maybe a short story on Harry Åhman or Sture Nyman, which could be interesting to our readers.

I remember all of these CC friends with great affection. Erik and Svea were at all of my early Congresses and I always wrote a poem in Svea's little book, which was a nice tradition started in the 1980s just like the postcards. When Harry Åhman came to Peebles, he bought a tammy (Scottish cap), but he lost it and was disconsolate, so his wife asked me to get another for him, which she gave him as a surprise Christmas present. The Åhmans and Nymans and their wives were inseparable and they thoroughly enjoyed their visits to ICCF Congresses.

You are married and your wife Moira is an important supporter of ICCF and has also performed a lot of work for ICCF. She is a most appreciated guest to many Congresses even though she didn't come this time. Can you tell me more about your family and their chess interest?

Moira is a tremendous supporter of my CC activities and has quietly performed great work herself for ICCF for more than 20 years. She has typed thousands of reports, documents, accounts and letters, meetings minutes, title certificates and has given valuable advice and opinion on many matters, especially when times were tough.

She has attended 10 ICCF Congresses and only family commitments have prevented her attending many more. - I hope very much she will be able to come to Argentina next year, which will be my 25th successive Congress!

My son Niall was a good chess player at Primary School and he still plays a little but Claire(15) is not interested!
Both of them have been to ICCF Congresses, especially during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Hans-Werner was very fond of children and encouraged families to attend Congress. We were always made to feel welcome!

Would you like to share with us a little of your professional background and work?

My early training was as an Accountant, but I became a Company Secretary and then moved into Personnel Management (Human Resources as it is called nowadays!). After several years as Group Personnel Manager for the largest international company based in Scotland, I was appointed Branch Operations Manager for the UK, with responsibility for nearly 200 offices and 10,000 employees. After retiring from full time employment in 1991, I worked as part time business consultant for Scottish Enterprise, advising companies and organisations on business planning and human resource policies. I fully retired from gainful occupation in 1998, but I am now much involved with local youth cricket, the church, choral society, Probus club – so I am not really very retired :-)

Finally I would like to thank you again for our most pleasant chat! Is there anything you would like to tell our Swedish readers?

It has been a great pleasure to provide this interview for arguably the best long running correspondence chess magazine for members and I wish you, Korrschack and the Swedish CC federation every success in the future.

I am happy that it will also be made available to other publishers, but only with our specific mutual agreement.

I'm sure that this will be no problem. Many thanks for this interview and our readers will be thrilled by reading all this about such a well-known person in the ICCF, it was truly great that you could take your time for this and I wish you a lot of success in the continuing work on the Web server. I'm sure that we will see an increase of your results as cc player and my best wishes for your future work for ICCF and for your chess play!

Here is a recent game played by Alan against another well-known ICCF official!

**Borwell,A (2328) - Hegoburu,P (2512) [C42]
Harry Ahman Memorial , 2002**
[Notes by Alan Borwell]

This was my first CC game with ICCF friend Pedro, but I was aware of his considerable playing ability - and his much higher rating! I expected a tough competitive game and was not to be disappointed.

**1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nf6**

Not unexpected. Pedro has a reputation as a Petroff exponent and I had found from previous games that it was not easy for White to secure an opening advantage against this defence. I seek to achieve an open position which offers tactical possibilities.

**3.Nxe5 d6
4.Nf3 Nxe4
5.d4 d5
6.Bd3 Be7
7.0-0 Nc6
8.Re1 Bg4
9.c3 f5
10.Nbd2**

The main alternative is 10.....0-0, 11. Qb3 as in Ivanchuk-Shirov 1998 and Anand- Grischuk 2003

10... Qd6



11.c4!

It is necessary at this point for White to loosen the position before Black has castled (either side!). [The slower 11.Nf1 0-0-0 12.Ne3 h5 13.h3 g6! is good for Black as his pieces are well- centralised and his K- side options are good]

11... Nxd4

[Other possibilities here include 11...0-0? 12.cxd5 Nxd4 13.Bxe4 fxe4 14.Nxe4 Bxf3 15.Qxd4 Qb4 16.Qxb4 Bxb4 17.Re3 Bh5 18.Rb3 Ba5 19.Be3 Bf7 20.Ng5 with positional advantage for White as in Leko- Jusupov, Dortmund 1998; 11...Nxd2! 12.Bxd2 0-0-0 13.Bc3 Bf6 with pressure on d4]

12.cxd5

[12.Qa4+ b5! 13.cxb5 Nxf3+ 14.Nxf3 Nc5 15.Qd4 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 0-0 and Black's King has escaped to safety!]

12... Qxd5

[Safer is 12...0-0]

13.Qa4+ Nc6

14.Nxe4

Black now has a choice of 3 possible piece captures!

14... Bxf3

Best [14...fxe4 15.Bxe4 and White will win a piece with great position.; 14...Qxd3 15.Nc5 b5 16.Qa6 Qd6 17.Ne6 Bxf3 18.Bf4 which looks very good for White]

15.Bc4

A fascinating position, certainly not typical of a Petroff Defence! Black seeks simplification by offering an exchange of Queens.

15... Qa5

[Here if 15...Qe5 I was planning 16.gxf3 fxe4 17.Bb5]

16.Qxa5!?

Maybe there was something better?

16... Nxa5

17.Ng3 Nxc4



18.Nxf5!

Both of Black's bishops are "en pris" and castling is impossible on either wing (a double King fork!?), as the White Knight captures on e7 with check and then takes on f3.

18... Bg4
19.Rxe7+! Kd8
20.Rxg7!

I could envisage here gaining 4 pawns for my knight with material imbalance and, more importantly, the confinement and continued lack of connection of Black's rooks.

20... Bxf5
21.Bg5+ Kc8
22.Rc1 h6
23.Bf4 Nb6
24.Bxc7!

The threat of discovered check is better than a rook capture, when Black might escape via d1, due to White having no first rank escape option.

24... Nd5
25.Be5+ Kd8
26.Rd1 Be6
27.Bf6+ Ke8
28.Re1

Exchange of the opposite coloured bishops and more limited mobility of Black's knight will be exploited - important positional considerations!

28... Nxf6
29.Rxe6+ Kf8
30.Rxb7 Nd5

Now the dust has settled and it is necessary to take a fresh look at the position. I was convinced that White was better (despite what Fritz might say!). I was sure that I could win the Black a- pawn, giving two connected passed pawns on the Q- side and a fast running f- pawn. However, Pedro puts up staunch resistance and I must not allow his rooks to connect or infiltrate by position.

31.g3

Providing an escape for my King, securing f4 from the Black knight and supporting eventual f- pawn advance - not bad for one little pawn move!

31... Nb6

A difficult decision. Black's only mobile piece needs to find some kind of mission. This defends the a- pawn, but White has an interesting plan.....!

32.f4 h5
33.f5 Nd5

[Realising that 33...Rg8 34.Rf6+ Ke8 35.Rh6 loses his h- pawn - the three connected K- side pawns would be even better than two on the Q- side!]

34.Rd6 Ne3
35.h3!

The plan now is to keep the knight well away from the K- side

35... Nc4
36.Rf6+ Kg8
37.Rg6+ Kf8
38.Kg2 a5

[38...Rg8 39.Rf6+ Ke8 40.b3 Nd2 41.Rff7 looks good for White]

39.b3! Ne5
40.Rf6+ Kg8
41.Re7 Nd3
42.Rd6 Nb4
43.a3! Nc2
44.Rdd7 Nxa3

White's plan has been accomplished. Although Black has secured a pawn with his flamboyant knight, it is now far away on the edge of the board! However, White must play very accurately to secure the win.....



45.g4! hxg4
46.hxg4 Rh4

At last, a rook move, but it cannot achieve anything as a "lone ranger"!

47.Kg3 Rh1
48.f6 Nc2
49.g5 Rf8
50.Kg4 Nb4

The White rooks prevent the knight from returning to the defence of the K- side

51.Rd6! Rc1
52.Rd2!

Threatening mate in 2 moves

52... Rh1
53.Rc7!

It is now hopeless for Black. White threatens Kf5/g6/f7+ and the Black knight cannot prevent this infiltration.

53... Rb8
54.Rdd7

Black resigned here. For example 54...Na6 55.Rg7+ Kf8 56.Rcf7+ Ke8 57.g6 Rb4+ 58.Kg3 Rxb3+ 59.Kg2 Rh8 60.Re7+ Kd8 61.Ra7 wins .

1-0



General Information

Members of the Scottish CCA are eligible to play in ICCF postal, email and webserver 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 usually possible to interchange between playing modes 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 and GM Norm tournaments with 13-player sections are available for strong players. Master 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. GM entry levels are 150 rating points higher. A player can enter only one section per playing mode 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 normal for email and webserver play. Playing rules and time limits are provided for each event, and the usual postal limit is 30 days per 10 moves, with 60 days for 10 moves in email and webserver. Players may take up to 30 days leave per calendar year.

Use air mail stickers to all destinations to speed postal play, and 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). Email and webserver have speeded up many events, and made it cheaper to play. Generally, you play less email/webserver games simultaneously than postal because of the faster play.

A prerequisite for entry via the SCCA is that the player remains 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 2005

Theme 4/05: Hetmanski Gambit Wiacka Variation, D20

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 exd4 5.Bxc4 Bb4+ 6.Kf1
Entries by 15 March; play starts 1 May

Theme 5/05: Vienna Game Santasiere Variation, C27

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.d4
Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 June

Theme 6/05: Barcza/Reti Gambit, A11

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 dxc4
Entries by 15 May; play starts 1 July

Email Events 2005

Theme 5/05: Winawer Gambit, D10

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e5
Entries by 1 April; play starts 1 May

Theme 6/05: Two Knights Defence, C55-C59

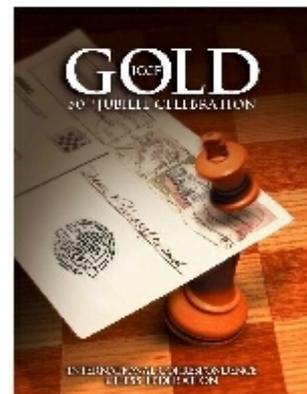
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
Entries by 1 May; play starts 1 June

Theme 7/05: King's Indian, E97-99

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5
7.0-0 Nc6 Entries by 15 May; play starts 15 June

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