

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.90

Summer 2005

- **2005 AGM**
- Alan Brown provides the minute
- **How to Play the French**
- Robert Serradimigni concludes his championship games
- **CB9 and CD Reviews**
- Bernard looks at the latest ChessBase offerings
- **Korchnoi and the King's Indian**
- Eric Nylander looks at one of Viktor's favourites
- **Games Column**
- Bernard sends another collection of annotated games
- **The Write Move**
- Iain reviews Tim Harding's latest book
- **SCCA v ICCF Match**
- George Pyrich annotates some fascinating games

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Welcome to the summer edition! Remarkably, we have some weather to fit the season for a change.

We welcome Alan Brown, who joined our committee at the Sirling AGM in June and who will serve as Membership Officer. His first task provides us with the AGM minute.

Not so prompt, once again, is the production of our 2004-05 Accounts. Stuart apologises for his heavy schedule of personal and work commitments, and will bring you the audited figures in our next edition.

Richard Beecham's friend and playing rival, Robert Serradimigni, concludes the entertaining account of his French Championship success.

As ever, Bernard has supplied a well-annotated Games Column and he also looks at all the recent ChessBase CDs and DVDs, and provides part 3 of his series on ChessBase 9.

We welcome back Eric Nylander of Sweden, who is an admirer of the legendary Viktor Korchnoi. Eric annotates a game with Norway's Arne Oddvar Trana, which followed a favourite variation of Viktor's.

Tim Harding of Chess Mail has gone back to university to research CC history, but you can't keep a prolific writer down, and I've reviewed his latest book here.

George Pyrich has kindly annotated a number of games from our Silver Jubilee match against ICCF, and you can see the results in our concluding article.

Our all-Scottish team is progressing reasonably well in division 3 of the ICCF Champions League, with everybody managing to pick up some points.

The ICCF XVI Olympiad (postal) Preliminaries are due to start in July, with Scotland up against Germany, US, Latvia, Croatia, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Sweden in section 3.

Our 2004-05 Championship ended in an exciting 3-way tie, with Alan Brown, Iain Mackintosh and Ian Reeman sharing the spoils.

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Recent 100 Club Winners

Table with 3 columns: Year, 1st, 2nd. Rows for 2005 (June, May, April) listing winners R W M Baxter and J R Milne/P M Giuliani.

SCCA Officials

Table with 5 columns: Position, Name, Address, Phone, Email. Lists officials from President to Games Editor.



2005 AGM

By Alan Brown



- Meeting:** The 28th AGM of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association.
- Venue:** Sunday 5th June, 4pm, 2005 at BB Headquarters, Dalgleish Court, Stirling.
- Present:** Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Stuart Mackenzie, Jim Anderson, Raymond Baxter, Alan Borwell, Alan Brown, George Livie and George Pyrich.
- Apologies:** None.

Minutes of Last AGM

The Minutes were approved unanimously and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 13th June 2004. Alan Borwell suggested that it would be useful to number these AGM minutes in future and this was accepted.

President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh drew attention to last season as a successful one in which a full range of tournaments and international commitments had taken place. He thanked the Committee and Controllers for all of their efforts to secure the success of these events. In particular he remarked upon the outstanding contribution made to the Association by Alan Hind over a number of years.

Secretary's Report

Jim Anderson indicated that the Association had fifty members who pay annually with one ongoing query about membership. Additionally there are currently ninety-three life members listed.

A second Patron member (Stan Young) had been enrolled. Jim also confirmed that the number of members entering tournaments was satisfactory although there had been a slight dip in enrolments for the Major tournament.

Treasurer's Report

Stuart Mackenzie reported that while the 04/05 accounts were not yet finalised he hoped to have these available within the next few weeks. He indicated that there was a surplus of c£1,800 made up of c£1,650 more cash plus a lower net creditors figure than at the same time last year. About 2/3rds of this surplus related to trading with the remaining £500 a donation from the Livie family.

The current net assets balance was c£7,600 although a few minor adjustments were yet to be made. Of this £1000 will be recorded separately in a Development A/c as agreed by the committee. Consolidation of accounts had been carried out as previously agreed with the Clydesdale and Nationwide A/c's closed and the Bank of Scotland and new Standard life accounts remaining with £3,304 and £5,000 respectively.

Concern was expressed by the members that the accounts had not been finalised again prior to the AGM and it was asked that this matter be expedited.

Stuart confirmed that fee income was up and thanked George Livie for taking over the working of the "100 Club" and for increasing the units sold to ninety-eight.

International Secretary's Report

George Pyrich drew attention to the fact that Scotland in spite of its small population had continued to do very well in international correspondence events – and clearly “punched above its weight” -from which we can take quiet satisfaction. He also pointed out that in terms of ICCF administration and management our contribution has also been noteworthy with Alan Borwell's previous election and service as ICCF President and his current appointment as Honorary President.

In addition George spoke of Iain Mackintosh's sterling work initially as project manager for the webserver and now advisor to the webserver committee. George had also served in various capacities including that of Qualifications Commissioner and two ICCF congresses had also been hosted in Scotland in recent years.

Finally with regard to the webserver he confirmed that it is intended that it will generate gradings from 2006. He emphasised the need for the Association to appreciate that it is our webserver and to promote and use it fully.

Election of Office Bearers

The following individuals were elected to office:

Position	Individual	Proposer	Seconder
President	Iain Mackintosh	George Livie	George Pyrich
Vice President	George Pyrich	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Borwell
Secretary	James Anderson	Stuart Mackenzie	Iain Mackintosh
Membership Officer/ Assistant Secretary	Alan Brown	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Borwell
Treasurer	Stuart Mackenzie	James Anderson	George Pyrich
International Secretary	George Pyrich	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Borwell
Grading Officer Committee	Raymond Baxter	George Livie	George Pyrich
	Alan Borwell	James Anderson	Iain Mackintosh
Members	George Livie	Raymond Baxter	George Pyrich

The position of Assistant International Secretary was held vacant. The new committee is to co-opt as required.

Appointment of Auditor

Proposed by George Pyrich and seconded by James Anderson the Auditor Iain Campbell was reappointed for 2006.

Subscriptions

On the proposal by Stuart Mackenzie seconded by George Pyrich it was agreed that there be no change to the fees in 2006.

AOB

Following discussion in which it was noted that there was no charge levied for the use of the BB Headquarters accommodation for the meeting. It was agreed to make a donation of £20 to the Boys Brigade.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks proposed by Alan Borwell to Iain Mackintosh for his work as SCCA President, magazine editor and webmaster.

Thanks were also expressed to Stirling Chess Club for arranging the use of the premises and for their hospitality on the day.

If you were unable to attend the AGM, but would like to help in some way, then please get in touch with any of the committee members. You don't have to hold an official position to help - maybe you can do some part-time things like controlling an event, helping with administration or publicity, or backing up somebody who is otherwise very busy!



2004-05 Championship

By Jim Anderson

2004/2005		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Brown, Dr A C	■	1	1	1	½	½	1	½	½	6
2	Cumming, D R	0	■	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
3	Edney, D	0	1	■	0	0	0	0		½	1½
4	Goodwin, B	0	1	1	■	½	½	½	1	½	5
5	Lloyd, G	½	1	1	½	■	0	½	½	0	4
6	Mackintosh, I	½	1	1	½	1	■	1	½	½	6
7	May, M A	0	1	1	½	½	0	■		0	3
8	Norris, Rev A C	½			0	½	½		■	0	1½
9	Reeman, I F	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	■	6

First place (and prize) in the 2004-05 Championship will be shared between Alan Brown, Iain Mackintosh and Ian Reeman, all of whom finished on 6/8. Only once before has a 3-way split been recorded - in 1979, when Douglas Bryson, David Jenkins and Douglas McKerracher could not be separated at the tape. Alan Brown is no stranger to the winner's rostrum - this is his hat trick, having won the trophy outright in the last two seasons. Iain Mackintosh has previously shared the title with Jonathan Lennox in 1998, while Ian Reeman gains his first success - a worthy achievement after many years of consistently fine play. Congratulations to them all, and prize sponsor Sam Collins can expect some visits in the near future!



Douglas Livie Memorial

By George Pyrich

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	0	½			0	½				½		2½
	2	Pyrich, G D	2373	SCO	0	■	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	0		3½
	3	Mackintosh, I	2328	SCO	1	½	■	1	0	1	½	1		½	0	1	0	6½
	4	Borwell, A P	2229	SCO	½	½	0	■	½		0	½		0		0	½	2½
	5	Brown, Dr A C	2393	SCO		½	1	½	■		1	1		0	½		0	4½
	6	Berthelsen, R	2180	NOR		½	0			■		0	½			½	0	1½
	7	Halme, O	2240	FIN	1	1	½	1	0		■	½					0	4
	8	Rawlings, A J C	2254	ENG	½	½	0	½	0	1	½	■	½	1		½	1	6
	9	Craig, T J	2403	SCO		½				½		½	■					1½
	10	Starke, H	2401	GER		1	½	1	1			0		■	½	½		4½
	11	Geider, F	2412	FRA		½	1		½					½	■	½	½	3½
	12	Lambert, G R	2386	AUS	½	1	0	1		½		½		½	½	■		4½
	13	Martin Molinero, R	2356	ESP			1	½	1	1	1	0			½		■	5

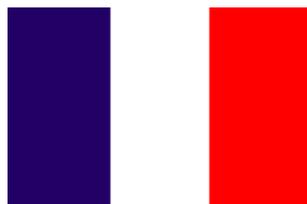
Results are now coming in thick and fast, and the competition for top places is very tight. Almost every game has been keenly contested, and with most players seemingly going for wins, there has been a fascinating spread of results. Tom Craig and Frank Geider are the only players yet to lose a game - a recent fine win by Alan Rawlings has just robbed Heiko Starke of that distinction. I think we can safely say that this event will go to the wire!



How to Play the French

By Robert Serradimigni

[Editor's note: readers will remember the first part of Robert's fascinating article in our last edition. This is the second and concluding part. Thanks to Richard Beecham for encouraging Robert to send us the material! The two players are currently contesting the postal section of the John Jordan Memorial, along with other recent correspondents Mike Donnelly and Per Söderberg.]



Fister, Bernard (2332) – Serradimigni, Robert (2354)
[C15]
Championship de France 2003

1.e4	e6
2.d4	d5
3.Nc3	Bb4
4.a3	

[Zlotnik in "La Défense Française" Ed. Garnier 1986: "White is willing to obtain the bishop pair without blocking the position. This move became popular after the matches of the World Championship Alekhine–Euwe (The Netherlands 1935) and Botvink–Smyslov (Moscow 1954). Experience has shown that after 4.a3, Black obtains excellent piece play. That's why the variation is seldom played today"] [Δ 4.e5 This is the main variation; Zlotnik in "La Défense Française" Ed. Garnier 1986: "This move that blocks the centre had been considered as anti-positional for a long time, but thanks to the efforts of the Russian theoreticians and especially Rauzer, new possibilities were discovered and the move became popular in the thirties."]

4...	Bxc3+
5.bxc3	dxe4

[5...Ne7 6.Bd3 0-0!? (6...c5 7.Qg4 dxe4 8.Qxe4 Bd7 9.Ne2 Bc6 10.Qg4 cxd4 11.cxd4 0-0 12.0-0 Nd7 13.Bg5! \pm Wojtkiewicz–Chernin, Polanica Zdroj 1988) 7.Nf3 e5 Wojtkiewicz]

6.Qg4

[6.f3!? c5! (6...exf3 7.Nxf3 Nf6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 c5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Qe1! c4 (11...hxg5 12.Nxg5 Nbd7 13.Qh4! ∞) 12.Bxf6! (12.Qh4? cxd3 13.cxd3 Nbd7-+ Kokorin–Elent, corr. 1999) 12...Qxf6 13.Ne5 Qe7 14.Nxc4 \pm T. Winkelmann) 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.Bb2 Nc6 9.fxc4 Nxe4 10.Qe3 Nf6 11.Nf3 0-0 12.Bd3 Nd5 13.Qf2 Nf4 14.Be4 ∞ T. Winkelmann – Hage, corr. 1999]

6...	Nf6
7.Qxg7	Rg8
8.Qh6	Nbd7

[8...c5 this move is the more played]

9.Nh3

[9.h3 b6 10.g4 Bb7 11.Bg2 Qe7 12.g5 Qf8 13.Qxf8+ Nxf8 14.h4 h6 15.f4 0-0-0 16.Ne2 Nh5 17.Be3 f5 18.Kf2 Ng6 19.Rag1 Ba6 \mp Vorotnikov–Uhlmann, Leningrad 1984; 9.Ne2 b6 10.Bg5 Qe7 11.Qh4 Bb7 12.Ng3 (Δ 12.Nf4) 12...h6! 13.Bd2 (13.Qxh6?? Ng4 14.Bxe7 Nxh6 15.Bh4 Rg4 and White loses a piece; 13.Bxh6?? Rg4 14.Qh3 0-0-0 \rightarrow) 13...0-0-0 14.Be2 Nf8 \mp Fischer–Kovacevic, 0-1, Rovinj–Zagreb 1970]

9...	b6
10.Ng5	Rg6
11.Qh4	Bb7
12.Nxh7	Nxh7\square
13.Qxh7\square	Qf6
14.h4?	

[14.Qh5 0-0-0 ∞ ECO]

14...	0-0-0
15.Bg5	Rh8!
16.Bxf6	Rxh7\square
17.Be5\square	Nxe5
18.dxe5\square	Rg5!
19.Rh3N	

[19.Kc2 Rxe5 20.Kc3 Rc5 21.c4 f5 \mp Degraeve–Djurhuus, Arnhem 1989]

19...	Rxe5
20.g4	Kd7

Now that the tactical stage is ended, it is important to lead the King to the Kingside in order to block the white pawns.

21.0-0-0+

With a little early draw offer by my opponent Bernard Fister, because it is obvious that this asymmetrical position is full of imbalances: Indeed White has a smart duo of pawns on the kingside but Black should be able to block them and then should be able to manoeuvre on two fronts, in the centre and on the queenside

21...	Ke7
22.Re1	Ra5

To keep white King away of the centre

23.Kb2\square	a6
24.Bg2	



24... **f5!**

Both h and g passed pawns are not dangerous and a Winawer player shall definitely not fear them if he or she wants to play efficiently with Black.

25.g5
 [25.gxf5?? exf5+]

25... Rh5
 The pawns shall be blocked.

26.c4 Bc6!
 Diagonal a4–e8 is of utmost importance.

27.c3
 White has almost run out of moves.

27... Kf7

28.Rd1 Rh8
 Trespassing my rear front through Rd8 shall not be allowed!

29.Rd4
 With a second draw offer, but White begins to smother! [29.h5? f4!]

29... Kg6
 Now the kingside is completely locked.

30.Rd1
 White is turning around.

30... Rc5
 It is mandatory for my rook not to be shackled by the b5 push, which is one of my objectives.

31.Rg1 f4!
 [31...Rxc4? 32.Bf1=]

32.Bf1
 Accompanied with a third draw offer!

32... Rh5
 Mandatory! [32...f3? 33.h5+=]

33.Rg4
 With Rf4 idea

33... e5
 Rf4 shall not be allowed [33...f3? 34.Rf4=]

34.Rg1



343... f3!
 Now this is the right move!

35.Rh2
 [35.Rhh1? e3! (0-1)]

35... Kg7
 [35...Bd7!?]

36.Rg3
 [36.Kb3!?]

36... Bd7!
 Forbids the a3 square to the White bishop because the bishop exchange would benefit Black.

37.Rh1 Rc6
 [37...Be6!?]

38.Kc1?
 The White pawns on the queenside do need the protection of their monarch, but what other move can be played? [38.Kb3 Rd6! 39.c5 bxc5 40.Rgg1 Rh8!-+]

38... Be6!

[38...Rd6?? 39.c5 bxc5 40.Bc4!+]

39.Rgg1
 [39.Kd2? Rd6+!; 39.Kc2? Rd6!]

39... b5!!
 This formidable move seals the game by opening the b–column.

40.Kc2
 [⊔40.Bh3!? Bxh3 41.Rxh3⊔ Rxc4 (41...bxc4? not in this variation because White will be able to play Rg4 before Black manages to play Kg6 42.Rg4!) 42.Kc2 e3 43.Rxf3 exf2 44.Rxf2 Rxxh4+; 40.cxb5? Rxc3+ 41.Kb2 Rb3+ 42.Kc2 Rxa3 43.bxa6 Rh8 (0-1)]

40... bxc4!
 [≤40...Bxc4? 41.Bxc4 Rxc4 (41...bxc4?? 42.Rg4+–) 42.Rg4+]

41.Bh3
 With a fourth draw offer! [41.g6 Rb6 with the idea Rh5–h8–b8; 41.a4 Rb6 with the idea Rh5–h8–b8]



41... Bxh3!!
 Be careful, taking the h pawn yields a rook endgame in which White could tear off the draw! [For example 41...Rxh4?? 42.Bxc6⊔ Rxh1⊔ 43.Rxh1⊔ Rxe6⊔ 44.Kd2 Rb6 (44...Kg6 45.Ke3 Kf5 46.Rh7 Rd6 47.Rf7+ Kxg5 48.Kxe4 Rd3 49.Rg7+ Kh4 50.Rh7+ Kg4 51.Rg7+ Kh4 52.Kxe5=) 45.Kc3 Rb2 46.Kxc4=]

42.Rxh3⊔ Kg6

43.a4
 [43.Rg4 Kf5⊔ 44.Rgg3 (44.Rhg3 Rg6 45.a4 Rh8 46.a5 Rd8–+) 44...Rh8–+; 43.Re1 Kf5⊔ 44.Rb1 (44.Rhh1 Rb6 45.a4 Rh8 46.Ra1 Kf4–+) 44...Rb6 45.Rb4 Rh8 46.Kc1 (46.Rxc4?? c5 (0-1)) 46...Rc6–+; 43.Rhh1 Rb6 44.Rb1 Rh8–+; 43.Rd1 Rh8 44.Rd7 Rb6–+; 43.Rb1 Rh8 44.Rhh1 Rd6–+]

43... Rb6
 [43...Rh8?! is less accurate]

44.Re1
 [44.Rb1 Rh8–+; 44.Rhh1 Rh8–+]

44...Kf5⊔ 0-1
 Bernard Fister resigns very sportingly, but contrary to all appearances, his position is hopeless thanks to the unavoidable threat Rh5–h8–b8! A beautiful endgame that gives me 5.5 points out of 8...

[Ed: Bernard Fister resigns sportingly, but is it sporting to offer the draw four times to his opponent in a losing position?]





**Le Bled, Pierre (2207) – Serradimigni, Robert (2354)
[C18]
Championship de France 2003**

Robert: from a psychological point of view, this game was difficult, because my friend Pierre had promised a surprise for this France Championship just after we had ended up two games in tournament 5106 [French national 5 players tournament] and he was craving for revenge...

1.Nc3

Robert: the "Van Geet"! Here is Pierre's polymorphic surprise!

1... e6

Robert: I prefer to stay in a familiar ground

2.e4 d5

3.d4 Bb4

4.e5 c5

5.a3 Ba5

Robert: now it is my turn to attempt to surprise my opponent by giving up the Winawer – with which I had just beaten Pierre – and trying the Armenian variation, because I was afraid of some home preparation...

6.b4 cxd4

7.Nb5

[Pierre: nowadays I play 7.Qg4, which is definitely stronger]

7... Bc7

8.f4 Bd7

9.Nxc7+ Qxc7

10.Nf3



10... Ba4!

Robert: pins and puts pressure on c2 pawn

11.Bb2!?

Robert: a rare but interesting move

11... Nc6

12.Bd3 Nge7

13.0-0 Qb6

14.Kh1!

Robert: mandatory to avoid an unpleasant discovery check



14...

Bb5!

Robert: I do not like the white King's Bishop pointing towards my own King [Pierre: a strong equalizing move, after I which I found nothing better than to simplify the position]

15.Bxd4

[15.Nxd4!? Bxd3 16.Qxd3 0-0 17.f5 exf5 18.Nxf5 Nxf5 19.Qxf5 Ne7 20.Qd3 Rac8∞]

15... Nxd4

16.Nxd4 Bxd3

17.Qxd3 0-0



18.f5!?

Robert: with his fiery temper, Pierre makes a last try!

18... exf5

19.Nxf5 Nxf5

20.Rxf5 1/2-1/2

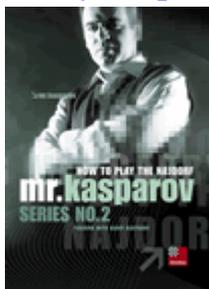
Robert: my second rather positive result, because I am always afraid to play more than once against the same opponent, especially when this opponent is a friend...[Pierre: though I am satisfied to draw my game against the future France Champion, I was not craving for revenge, firstly because Robert is my friend and secondly because I have always considered him as a much better player than me, and, to say the least, a very difficult player to beat. His results in this France Championship and in his other tournaments should prove I am not wrong... Congratulations Robert!]





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.

How to Play the Najdorf Vol. 1 - DVD By Garry Kasparov



The Sicilian Najdorf was a favourite of two of the worlds greatest chess players of all time, namely Bobby Fischer and Gary Kasparov. I doubt if any our us could afford to pay either of them to visit our homes and give us a two to three hour lesson on an opening they spent a lifetime on mastering. Yet this is basically what you get with this DVD. This DVD has the advantage that you can play it on both a PC and a standard TV DVD player. So for the non PC crowd you can simply watch the lectures on your TV in just the same way as you would watch a film. Of course I prefer to use the PC because you can get the full benefit of the instructional Fritz8-Chess Media System where as well as watching the video lectures you can follow the game moves on the playing board. You also have the advantage of being able to switch on your favourite analysis engine as you go through the lectures to see what it thinks is best as Gary explains each variation.

Gary's deliver of the variation moves as he speaks them has been slowed down slightly from his previous DVD on the Queens Gambit, which makes it easier for slowcoaches like me to keep up with the variations. Some people say that the Najdorf has been analysed to death and as a result it is past its best. Well anyone watching this DVD is going to be hit full on in the face with his enthusiasm and I think rediscover a love for one of the great openings of the game. Be sure this will be only the first of a series of DVD's by Gary on the Najdorf. It's sure to be a fascinating journey. If you thought you knew the Najdorf prepare to learn a lot more.

The DVD includes the latest ChessBase 9.0 Reader, a large reference database with more than 16,000 Najdorf games, as well as a complete opening book that can be used to practice what you have learnt with Fritz. The various sections (given in minutes and seconds) covered are:- Introduction 12:37 • possible deviations 9:43 • 6.Bg5 Nbd7 18:35 • 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qf3 19:21 • Gothenburg variation 19:59 • Poisoned pawn variation 9.Rb1 19:36 • Poisoned pawn variation 13.e5 22:46 • Poisoned pawn variation 13.Be2 and 9.Nb3 27:49 • Poisoned pawn variation 8.Nb3 17:24 • Example (1:43).

System requirements: PC (minimum 233 MHz and 32 MB RAM, recommended 1 GHz, 256 MB), DVD drive, Windows98 SE, ME, 2000 or XP, Sound card, Windows Media Player 9 or higher (for the multimedia lessons). Alternately: standard DVD player and TV set (PAL).

The Paulsen System B40-B49 - CD By Norbert Sommerbauer



The second CD this time also covers another variation of the Sicilian and comes with the ChessBase reader for those of you who don't own Fritz or one of its cousins.

As the title suggests this CD covers the Paulsen System and the author cover lines like 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 and 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf6 and 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nb5 d6 6.Bf4 e5 7.Be3 Nf6 8.Bg5 Be6 9.Bxf6 gxf6.

You should find ample material to provide you with a complete repertoire on the Paulsen. The CD starts with 34 excellent text chapters explaining all the various ideas. 330 games are analysed by Norbert and in total over 1000 games are annotated. The CD has 89,275 games on it which should be more than enough for a top class reference database for Correspondence players.

This is Norbert's first title for ChessBase but with about 20 years experience in the opening he has made a good contribution.

Squares Strategy, Vol. 2 - CD The Opening By Alexander Bangiev



This is the second CD on this subject from Alexander Bangiev who is a renowned chess coach. This CD is divided into 11 chapters with 162 annotated game fragments. The author is teaching you the basic logic of the game by giving you specific rules to work with. In essence there is no learning lengthy variations as you should learn to look at any position and find the best move. Games on the CD use the coloured arrows method of annotation rather than text which is a visual stimulus to the learning process which works rather well. The whole point is being able to see a position and be able to see where the best squares for your pieces are. Correspondence players tend to prefer having databases of thousands of games but it is well worth learning the methods on this CD.

ChessBase Opening Encyclopaedia 2005 - DVD By ChessBase



This is the first time ChessBase's Opening Encyclopaedia has come out on DVD and it now has 2.2 million games with ECO codes. Over 72,000 of these are annotated. The opening key has been greatly enlarged on the previous CD. The DVD also has 3,600 opening surveys and 179 special theory databases. The big tree included lets you quickly browse through opening variations and see statistical results for the position reached.

This is a first class addition to your ChessBase program or playing programs. Mind you with it's own reader you need neither. If you want a road map of opening variations this is definitely the way to go. Even if you don't this is well worthwhile for the theory databases alone. All in all the best of both worlds.

The ABC of Chess Openings - DVD by Andrew Martin



I've said it before and I will I will say it again, Andrew Martin is one of the best at giving the type of instruction on this DVD. You get just over 5 hours of instructional video on this DVD and that has to be good value in anyone's book.

Andrew Martin explores the diverse possibilities available to everyone in the opening phase of the game. The material is broken down logically into Open Games, Semi-Open Games, Closed and Semi-Closed Games, Flank and Irregular Openings. Invaluable advice is given about what to look for and how to play each specific category, and the instruction is enhanced by the use of recent, thematic master games to compliment this advice. General instruction about how to play the opening is also included.

There is something here for everyone. Strong and even very strong players will enjoy the investigations into some excellent modern novelties, whereas the average player or even beginner will pick up a wide range of interesting ideas for use in their games. The author's love for the game comes through in this work, which he tries to communicate to the listener.

If you want to learn the ideas behind the openings then buy this DVD.

Budapest Gambit - CD By Dmitrij Oleinikov



The Budapest Gambit results after the moves 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5. It is a popular surprise weapon of many top young grandmasters. If White holds on to the gambit pawn then Black gains a dangerous initiative. But also in the quieter lines there is a lot of scope for the imaginative attacking player. Dmitrij Oleinikov introduces you to the development of the Budapest Gambit and the current state of theory. In many database text articles and model games he explains the fundamental ideas of this opening. There are 60 training quizzes, sorted according to strategy, tactics and traps. They are ideally suited to test your knowledge after you have gone through the course. The CD contains teaching and training databases, but also a full reference database with over 13,000 games from the Budapest Gambit and a full position tree. All features at a glance:

- 13 database texts
- handy database prepared by the author
- containing 197 model games
- large database with approx. 13,000 games
- different training databases
- reader based on ChessBase 9.0

About the author: Living in Moscow, Dmitrij Oleinikov is a journalist and has worked as a trainer for various Russian teams. He has also written the CD ROMs „Colle System“ and Bird Opening“ published at ChessBase.

Just OUT:- Henrik Schlößner: Test your Chess

In the training questions, the new function Multiple Choice also allows questions to be set about the evaluation of positions, or for example what chance is there of an attack on the king. Possible answers are always suggested and the training is done by clicking on what you consider to be the correct solution. But things do not have to be simple... The author has provided 555 game fragments with training questions and divided the material into six chapters:





ChessBase 9 Part 3

by Bernard Milligan



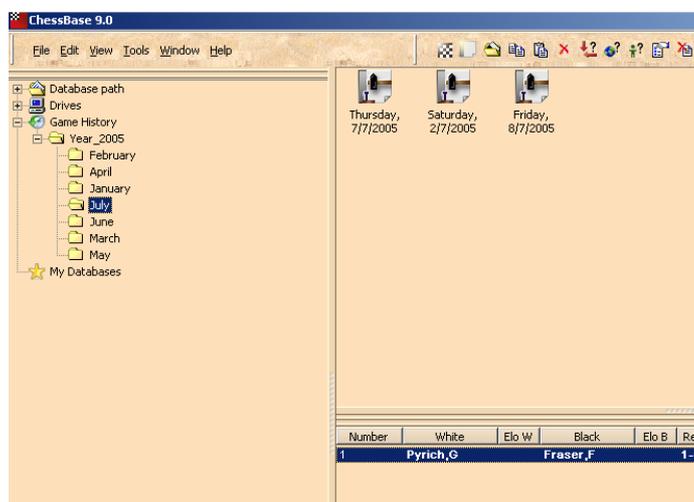
This is my third article on the new ChessBase 9 program. I am going to have a look at some of the new features which may be useful. The first may be of particular interest to Correspondence players who are tired of forgetting exactly where they saw that game they were looking at a couple of weeks ago.

Some of you will be like me and have quite a few databases. For example ChessBase's Mega database 2005 is an excellent resource for analysis for your current games. If you just use that then there is no problem as you will always know where you have been looking before when you found a particular game.

On the other hand you may be like me and constantly creating new, and smaller databases of games on whatever area of research you are looking at at that particular moment. Often the core content of these databases comes from Mega database but are then supplemented with other games gathered from other places on the net such as TWIC, ICCG or the SCCA.

You can quite quickly build up quite a few databases which are not always necessarily stored in the same directory on your hard drive. Believe it or not I have good reasons for storing things where I do. The problem is a few weeks down the line I have forgotten the reasons and therefore the location.

So it was quite a surprise to discover that the ChessBase engineers had found a solution to my lack of proper organisation and poor memory. They have now incorporated a history function in the main database window.



You will notice in the left hand pane there is now a tab which says Game History. Clicking on the + sign next to that will expand the tree and you can then see a list of folders named by month and year. Clicking on any of these folders will get you a list of icons with days and dates appearing in the top right pane. Clicking on any of these days will then get you a list of the games which you were looking at on that particular day. ChessBase has stored the game link so when you go to open a game from the list you don't need to know which database it was stored in as ChessBase has already stored this information and the game is automatically loaded for you to play through again. Simple isn't it.

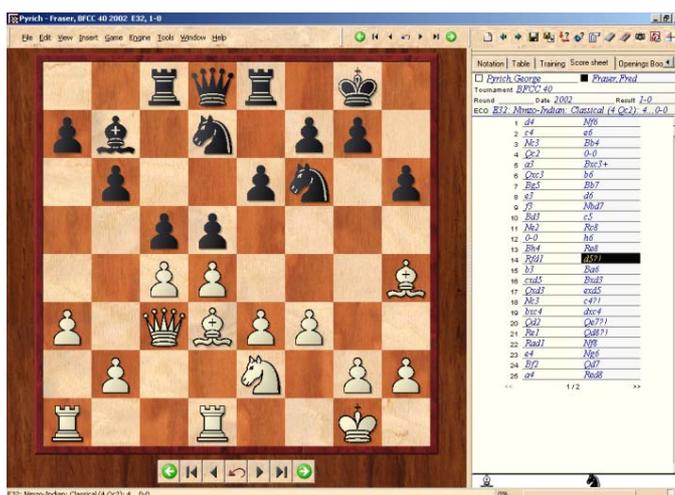
Despite my lack of organisation with databases mentioned earlier I do try to be consistent. For example in the My Documents folder on my Hard Drive I created a folder called Downloads. Simple and easy to remember. Anything I download from the internet gets saved to that folder so its relatively easy to find weeks later when I finally get round to looking at whatever it was I downloaded. This is a good idea if you are constantly downloading game databases since you will always remember where to find them.

Another useful function of CB9 is that you can now use drag and drop to add items to your games window. You can run Windows explorer and CB9 at the same time. Browse to your downloads folder and you can then simple left click and hold the mouse button down on a database and drag it into the CB9 database window (top right pane in the main window). This is particularly handy if you want to import several databases into ChessBase and is certainly faster than using file/Open/database several times.

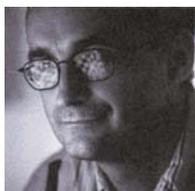
Another novelty of CB9 that tickled my fancy was a new (or should that be old) way of displaying the game move.

Having loaded a game you get a board in the left pane which displays the position. In the right hand pane you get a list of the game moves as well as any annotation. Immediately above these moves are several tabs, one of which says Score Sheet. If you click on that tab the moves of the game are suddenly displayed as if they were written on a standard chess congress score sheet. You can click on any of the moves on the score sheet takes the board to that position in the game.

Of course you no longer see any annotations or sub variations in the game but then again as you can't make notes at a congress you wouldn't expect to see such information on a score sheet. It may be a novelty but somehow it seems a bit more natural looking at a standard score sheet.



One thing that you shouldn't forget is that ChessBase makes it easy to keep up to date on new games. It is easy to download the latest games from TWIC (This Week In Chess). All you have to do is click on the Help menu at the top then click on get new games. ChessBase will then automatically download the latest game file available. In fact if you have forgotten to download these files recently it will also download the previous three weeks of games.



A Favourite of Korchnoi

By Eric Nylander

[Editor's note: Welcome back to Eric Nylander, who has previously contributed an article for us on the Semi-Slav. This time he is paying tribute to the legendary Viktor Korchnoi and one of his favourite defences with Black!]



Introduction

Eric Nylander is 49 and a father of three, having been married since 1988. He works as a school principal in the town of Örnsköldsvik. Chess is one of his many leisure time interests, and with scarce time for leisure, CC is perfect. He plays relatively little, but enjoys it enormously. CC lets him play when he can, instead of not having time when there's an opportunity to play OTB.

This Game

The game is annotated by Eric with the friendly co-writing of his Norwegian opponent Arne Oddvar Trana.

After a lifetime in chess Viktor Korchnoi has left imprints all over the chessboard. He still does! Of this we were fully aware playing a King's Indian in the Nordic Championship for Teams (2004).

The King's Indian Defence has long been a favourite weapon among the more aggressive black players. Black often lacks space and sometimes takes positional risks (as we shall see) but has lots of opportunities to wreak havoc upon White.

The King's Indian is a close companion of Korchnoi's. Arne Oddvar Trana and I tracked one of his variations closely...



Nylander, Eric (2356) - Trana, Arne Oddvar (2348) [D43]

Nordic Club Team Championship, 2004

1.Nf3	Nf6
2.c4	g6
3.d4	Bg7
4.Nc3	0-0

Goals for White: An attack on the Queen's side, to open the c-file after cxd5 or make the pawn thrust e4-e5. The pawn chain is vital to central dominance. A premature Nc6 by Black is met with d5.

Goals for Black: An attack on the King's side. f5 may be needed to take out White's e4-post. If White plays dxe5 in response to e5, Black should try to post a knight on d4, where no pawn can force it out. a6 and b5 can be used to attack c4.

5.e4	d6
6.Be2	Nbd7
[6...e5 leads to the Gligoric Variation.]	
7.0-0	e5
8.Be3	



8... Qe7

[There are lots of alternatives tried here: 8...Ng4 (the statistics are not good); 8...Re8; 8...h6; 8...c6 are also frequent.; 8...exd4 is interesting. The intention is to prevent a White stone from developing in the centre. Watch for it! A setback with 8... Qe7 is that you may want to put the queen somewhere else. In a few moves you will better know where to put her... Perhaps it's time to advise against this move?]

9.Qc2

[9.d5 c5!=]

9...	c6
10.d5	Ng4

[Ilya Tsesarsky suggests that 10...c5 is best.]

11.Bg5	f6
12.Bd2	f5

[12...c5 has been recommended by several players, but also refuted with 13.Ne1! (13.Nb5 Nb6 (13...Nb8!?) 14.b4 a6 15.bxc5±) 13...Nh6 14.Nb5 Nb8 15.b4 Na6 16.Nd3±]

13.Ng5!

In St Petersburg 1997 Viktor Korchnoi and Peter Svidler had a shared second place when meeting in the sixth round. Svidler had prepared for King's Indian. He had a surprise for Korchnoi following his victory from 1984, against Jonathan Mestel. That game went:

**Korchnoi, Victor (2635) – Mestel, Jonathan (2540)
[E94], Beersheba, 1984**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7
7.0-0 e5 8.Be3 c6 9.Qc2 Qe7 10.d5 Ng4 11.Bg5 f6 12.Bd2
f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.Ng5 Ndf6 15.f3 Nh6 16.Bd3 Bd7
17.Rae1 Kh8 18.Kh1 Nfg8 19.f4 e4 20.Ncxe4 fxe4 21.Bxe4
cxd5 22.Bxd5 Bf5 23.Rxe7 Bxc2 24.Rxb7 Rab8 25.Rxg7
Kxg7 26.Ne6+ Kg6 27.Nxf8+ Rxf8 28.Rf3 Nf6 29.Rg3+
Nhg4 30.h3 h5 31.hxg4 hxg4 32.Bc3 Nxd5 33.Rxg4+ Kf5
34.Rg5+ Kxf4 35.Rxd5 Be4 36.Rxd6 Rg8 37.Rd2 Kc3
38.Kg1 Rf8 39.Rd7 a6 40.c5 Rf5 41.b4 Bd5 42.a3 Rh5
43.Bf6 1-0

Alexander Khalifman commented the game at St Petersburg. He wrote: "Bad surprise for Black! Kortchnoi just didn't remember his own game. As a matter of fact, the text move is an important improvement which pushes Black directly on the ropes. After the game Svidler was shocked. He told me later: 'Look what's going on: in 1984 Kortchnoi played quite well, now he plays even better, so what will happen in 2010?'"

13... Nb6

This is actually a recommendation by Kortchnoi against his own TN, 13... Nb6! The alternatives questioned by Korchnoi are: [13...Ndf6?! 14.f3 Nh6 15.c5! 13...Nc5?! 14.b4 Nxe4 (14...Na6 15.a3± (15.dxc6±) 15.Ncxe4 fxe4 16.dxc6±]



14.a4!

Trana found the CC-game Peddie-Kczorowski (1999). White played 14.Qb3 and eventually lost. With this in mind Trana tried 13... Nb6. His conclusion is that 14.a4 certainly is much better!

14... fxe4

[14...a5? and White can choose between 15.c5! (15.dxc6! both winning.) ; 14...Bh6 15.h4!]

15.Ngxe4 cxd5

16.Bg5 Nf6

17.cxd5

Voila! There it is - the White stone in the centre...

17... Bf5

18.Qb3 Rab8

What else!?

19.Qb4 Rbd8

[Black is paralysed on both wings. The White knight on e4 dominates but cannot be taken. 19.Bxe4? 20.Nxe4 Nfxd5 (20...Nbx5 21.Bc4; 20...Kh8 21.Rad1) 21.Bxe7 Nxb4 22.Bxd6+]

20.a5 Nc8

21.Rae1 b6

[21...Qd7 gives White the alternatives: 22.f4 (22.Bb5 chasing the Black queen back.)]

22.a6

Qf7



23.f3

The Black bishop on f5 is tamed. It has lost all power. What a good thing to have it exchanged, but... there is no exchange that wouldn't benefit White.

23... Kh8

24.Bb5

A time-consuming effort to infiltrate Black's defence lines now starts. There is no hurry. Black has no way to break out of his own defence, which is now literally turning into a prison.

24... h6

25.Nxf6 hxg5

26.Nfe4 Bh6

27.Bc6 Qe7

28.h3

Prevents g5-g4 forever.

28... Kh7

29.Bb7 Bd7

30.Nb5 Be8

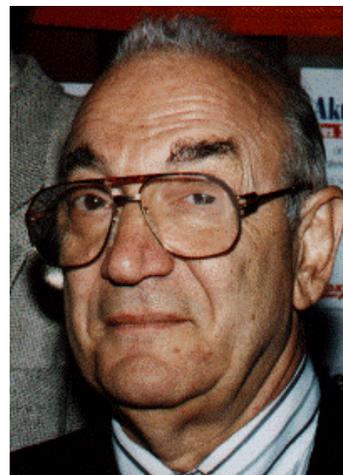
31.Rf2 Bxb5

32.Qxb5 Qc7

33.Qc6 Qxc6

34.dxc6 1-0

Maybe it's time to draw the conclusion 8... Qe7?! Why not 8... exd4!? instead. Better statistics and no heavy White stone in the centre! If we are to trust Viktor Korchnoi's judgement, there is no hope for Black after 13.Ng5.



Viktor Korchnoi



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. I'm sorry to say my letterbox or e-mail address weren't flooded with material. Only 2 games received this quarter so it is a rather shorter games column than usual. Still the lesser quantity is more than made up for by both the quality of the games and the annotation. Sit back and enjoy.

BFCC 40, 2002

White: G Pyrich
Black: F Fraser
Nimzo-Indian Defence [E32]

1.d4 **Nf6**
2.c4 **e6**
3.Nc3 **Bb4**
4.Qc2

Having tried all other recognised alternatives here, I decided to give this a try.

4... **0-0**

Playing Black recently against Roberto Bianchin (ITA) in the ICCF Champions League, I tried 4...d5 after 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Nf3 Qf5 7.Qxf5 exf5 8.a3 Be7 the position was already quite lifeless although we continued to move 30 before agreeing the inevitable draw.

5.a3



5.e4 is a lively alternative!

5... **Bxc3+**
6.Qxc3 **b6**
7.Bg5 **Bb7**

Playing Black against Rune Holmberg (SWE) in Olympiad 12 final, 1998, I tried

an alternate set-up with 7...h6 8.Bh4 Ba6 9.e3 d6 10.Nf3 Nbd7 11.Bd3 c5 eventually drawing at move 51.

8.e3

Another try here is 8.f3 with the idea of 9.e4.

8... **d6**
9.f3 **Nbd7**
10.Bd3

Van Oosterom - Prizant, World ch. 15 final, 1999 went instead 10.Nh3 h6 11.Bh4 c5 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.Be2 a5 14.0-0 d5 15.Rfd1 with White winning on move 60.

10... **c5**
11.Ne2 **Rc8**
12.0-0 **h6**
13.Bh4 **Re8**
14.Rfd1 **d5?!**



14...cxd4 is surely better.

15.b3

Played in preference to
(i) 15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.Bc2 Ncd7 which looks fine for Black;
(ii) 15.cxd5 Nxd5 (15...c4!? 16.Bc2 exd5 17.Re1 is the sort of position White is looking for with a K-side pawn majority and the 2 B's providing attacking chances) 16.Bxd8 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Rxd8 18.e4 is nothing special; and
(iii) 15.Rac1 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Ne5 when, again, Black looks fine.

15... **Ba6**

15...cxd4!? looks playable when 16.exd4 dxc4 17.bxc4 b5 18.c5 Bc6 is unclear!

16.cxd5

This seemed preferable to 16.Rac1 cxd4 17.Nxd4 dxc4 18.bxc4 Qc7 when Black should be ok.

16... **Bxd3**
17.Qxd3 **exd5**
18.Nc3 **c4?!**



I was pleased to see this! I'm not sure how much advantage White has after the "unpositional" 18...cxd4!? 19.Qxd4 g5 20.Bf2 White has to play this as (20.Bg3 allows the line 20...Nc5 21.Rab1 Ne6 22.Qd3 d4) 20...Nc5 21.Rab1 Ne6 22.Qd2 when White certainly has a plus but will have to play accurately to make anything.

19.bxc4 **dx4**

19...Rxc4? loses simply to 20.Nxd5

20.Qd2

20.Qe2 is possibly better - in either case White's plan is simply to advance the central pawns 20...Nf8 21.d5 Ng6 22.Bg3 with a clear advantage.

20... **Qe7?!**

I expected 20...a6 21.Qf2 (Not 21.e4? Nxe4!; or 21.d5? Nc5) 21...b5 22.e4 Qa5 when White is a bit better after 23.Qd2 the text simply loses time and allows White time to strengthen his position.

21.Re1

or 21.Bf2 when 21...a6 22.e4 b5 23.e5 Nh7 24.Ne4 looks good for White.

21... **Qd8?!**

21...a6 is very good for White after 22.e4

Qe6 23.d5 Qd6 24.f4 Qc5+ 25.Bf2; but I thought he'd play 21...g5 although after 22.Bf2 a6 23.e4 b5 24.h4 White is very clearly better.

22.Rad1 Nf8
23.e4 Ng6
24.Bf2 Qd7



If 24...a6 then White continues with the likes of 25.f4 b5 26.f5 Ne7 27.d5

25.a4

This seemed safest and best - trying to rush things with either 25.d5 Ne5 26.Qd4 Nd3; or 25.Be3 b5 26.d5 Ne5 didn't seem so clear.

25... Red8

If 25...a6 I anticipated something along the lines of 26.d5 Qd6 27.Bg3 Ne5 28.Bxe5 Qxe5 29.f4 Qh5 30.e5 Nd7 31.Ne4 when White is surely winning.

26.f4

With hindsight, I should have just gone for it with 26.d5 when 26...Ne5 27.Bd4 Nd3?! 28.Bxf6 gxf6 (28...Nxe1 29.Bxd8 and White emerges a piece up) 29.Qxh6! much better than (29.Re2 Kh7 30.f4) 29...Nxe1 30.e5! when Black is defenceless against threats like Rd4 and Ne4.

26... Qg4

Black is probably lost now anyway. After 26...a6 27.f5 Ne7 28.Bh4 Ne8 29.e5! is crushing.

27.Be3 Ne7
28.Qb2 Nh5
29.Rf1 Qg6

29...f5?! was probably his last chance - however 30.e5 Nd5 31.Nxd5 Rxd5 32.Rc1 Qg6 33.Qe2 leaves White well in control.

30.f5 Qc6
31.d5 Qd7

If 31...Qc7 then with Qe5 or Bd4 to follow 32.Nb5

32.Bd4 Qe8

32...Nf6 is horrible after 33.Bxf6 gxf6 34.d6 Nc6 35.Nd5

33.Qe2 Nxd5

33...Nf6 is similar to the last note when after 34.Bxf6 gxf6 35.e5 fxe5 36.Qxe5 White has Ne4 coming in. With the text Black gives up a piece for 2 pawns to at least avert an immediate mating attack.

34.exd5 Qxe2
35.Nxe2 Rxd5
36.Nc3



36.g4 first was probably more accurate 36...Nf6 37.Bxf6 Rxd1 38.Rxd1 gxf6 39.Nc3 when Black has nothing.

36... Ra5
37.g4 Nf6
38.Bxf6 gxf6
39.Rd7 Kg7

If 39...a6 then simply 40.Rb1.

40.Rfd1 h5
41.h3 1-0

And here, Black resigned - he could have limped on for a bit but White has several ways to win easily.



Stephen Tatlow Memorial, 22.06.2004
White: G Pyrich
Black: S Grayland
 Sicilian Defence [B33]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3 e5
6.Ndb5 d6
7.Nd5

This isn't anything special but it's more interesting than the usual 7.Bg5 and following to about move 25 or so the latest games played by the likes of Kramnik and Leko.

7... Nxd5
8.exd5 Nb8

I had to face 8...Ne7 in a recent otb game against Amjad Ali in the Scottish National League. After 9.c4 (9.Be3 worth consideration) 9...Nf5 10.Be2 g6 11.0-0 Bg7 12.Rb1 0-0 13.b4 White stood slightly better (although I later blundered and lost).

9.c4

9.Be3 is an interesting alternative when 9...Be7 was played in Arakhamia-Grant v Brown, Scottish Ch., 2003 when White achieved a very nice position after 10.Qd2 a6 11.Na3 0-0 12.Nc4 Nd7 13.Be2 f5 14.f4 e4 and won on move 27.

9... Be7
10.Be2



10.Bd3 is more common here - however, Nigel Short came unstuck against Ni Hua at Beijing in 2003 after 10...a6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.0-0 f5 13.f3 (with the B at d3 13.f4 makes no sense here) 13...Nd7 14.Kh1 Bg5 15.b4 b6 16.a3 Kh8 17.Qc2 Qf6 18.g4? Bxc1 19.Raxc1 e4! 20.fxe4 f4 when Black had excellent play for the pawn and won on move 40.

10... 0-0
11.0-0 a6
12.Nc3 f5
13.f3

With hindsight 13.f4 is likely better here.

13... Nd7
14.Be3 f4!?

Rather committal (and leaving a nice square on e4 for the N!) Instead 14...Bg5 15.Qd2 Bxe3+ 16.Qxe3 is roughly equal.

15.Bf2 Rf6

Black's plan is clear as he continues with "King's Indian" type moves

16.b4 Rh6



17.g4

Unfortunately this is necessary - "normal" moves seem to allow Black to crash through quickly:

(i) 17.c5 Qe8 18.cxd6 Qh5! 19.h3 Nf6 20.d7 Bxd7 21.d6 Bxh3! 22.Bc4+ Kh8 23.dxe7 Bxg2! is crushing - as is;
 (ii) 17.Ne4 Qe8 18.h3 (18.c5 is much the same after 18...Qh5 19.h3 Nxc5 20.bxc5 Bxh3; and 18.g4 is simply embarrassing after 18...fxg3 19.hxg3 Qh5) 18...Nf6 19.Bd3 Qh5 20.Nxf6+ Bxf6 with Bxh3 to follow.

**17... fxg3
18.hxg3 Qe8**

18...Nf6 probably is the same as the game - White has to play 19.g4 at some point in order to prevent both Qh5 and Nh5 19...Qe8 (19...Rh3!? is very interesting - things might go 20.Rc1 (20.Kg2? Bxg4!) 20...h5 21.Kg2 hxg4 22.fxg4 Rh6 23.c5 (23.g5? Bh3+ is very good for Black) 23...Bxg4 24.Bxg4 Rg6 25.Bg3 Nxg4 26.Qd3 Qe8 27.Ne4 when White should be ok) 20.c5 Nh5 21.Be3 and, again, White seems to be ok.

19.g4

Played in preference to 19.Be3 when after 19...Rh3 20.Kg2 Nf6 21.Rh1 Rxh1 22.Qxh1 Qg6 Black seems to be doing well.

**19... Bg5?!
20.Ne4 Bf4**

Understandably trying to get the B into the game but 19...Nf6 looks much longer

(Black's threat is Nh5 when obviously White can't take the N) when 20.Kg2 is worth looking at (maybe 20.c5 Nh5 21.Be3 is better) 20...Nh5! 21.Be3 Nf4+ 22.Bxf4 exf4 23.Ne4 Qg6 24.Bd3 Bf5 25.c5!? (25.Nf2 seems to lead to a draw after 25...Qg5 26.Bxf5 Rh2+! 27.Kxh2 Qh4+ 28.Kg2 Qg3+ 29.Kh1 Qh4+) 25...Bxe4 26.Bxe4 and it's roughly equal!

**20.Ne4 Bf4
21.Bg3**

Played in preference to the committal 21.c5 when 21...Qg6 (threat Rh1+!) 22.Bg3 (22.Ng3 Nf6 is unclear) 22...Bxg3 23.Nxg3 Nf6! looks fine for Black after 24.Qd3 Qg5! 25.Kg2 Bd7 26.Rh1 Bb5 27.Qc2 Bxe2; 21.Bd3 Qg6 22.Ng3 Qf6 also looks good for Black.

**21... Bxg3?!
22.Nxg3 Qf6**

I expected 21...Qf8 22.Bxf4 Qxf4 23.Rf2 Qe3?! Black has 2 stronger alternatives a) 23...Nf6 24.Qc1 (a) 24.Nxd6? allows 24...Rh3! with the idea Qg3+ and Qh4!) 24...Qxc1+ 25.Rxc1 Nxe4 26.fxe4 Rg6 27.Rg2 a5 28.c5 axb4 29.cxd6 Rxd6 30.Rc7 maybe White is a little better;
 b) 23...a5 24.a3 axb4 25.axb4 Rxa1 26.Qxa1 Rh3 27.Qf1 Rh4 28.c5!? Qh6 29.Qg2 dxc5 30.bxc5 Nxc5 31.Nxc5 Qc1+ 32.Rf1 Qxc5+ when, despite the pawn deficit, White is possibly a little better 33.Qf2; 24.Qb3 Qf4?! 25.c5 and White has turned the tide.

**22.Nxg3 Nf8
23.Bd3 Ng6**



24.Bxg6

Of course, the N can't be allowed to settle on f4 - also the pattern of the game is now established, the N at e4 against the Black B.

**24... Qxg6
25.Qd2**

25.c5?! looks premature after say 25...Qg5 26.Qe2 Rh3 27.Ne4 Qh4 28.Qg2 Bd7 29.cxd6 Rf8 30.Rac1 Rf4 31.Nc5 when Black has both 31...Bxg4! (and 31...Rg3 32.Nxd7 Rxg2+ 33.Kxg2).

25... b6!?



A surprise - simply 25...Bd7 looks ok after say 26.c5 Rf8 27.Rac1 Rf4 28.c6 Bc8 29.cxb7 Bxb7 30.Rc7 Rh3 31.Qg2 Rxg3 32.Qxg3 Bxd5 with rough equality.

26.c5

Time for action - especially as 26.a4 seems ineffectual after 26...Bd7 (26...Rh4!? 27.Qf2 h5 28.Nf5 Bxf5 29.Qxh4 hxg4 is unclear!) 27.a5 bxa5 28.Rxa5 Rf8 29.Rxa6 Rh3 30.Kg2 when Black has both 30...Rxg3+ and(30...Bxg4 available).

**26... bxc5
27.bxc5 dxc5
28.Rae1 Bd7?!
29.Rxe5 Qd6?!
30.Qc3**



Defending the pawn with 28...Qd6 was better - White has nothing much after 29.Ne4 Qe7 30.Qg5 (30.d6!? Qh4!) 30...Qxg5 31.Nxg5 Bb7 32.Rxe5 Rd6.

**29.Rxe5 Qd6?!
30.Qc3**

But now this isn't so good - better instead 29...Rf8 when 30.Kg2 is roughly equal.

30.Qc3
Preparing Ne4.

30... Rb8

After 30...Rh3 White has 31.Kg2 Qh6 32.Re7 Bb5 33.Rfe1 Rf8 34.d6 Bc6 35.R1e3 Rh2+ 36.Kg1 when, with moves like R3e6, Qe5 and Nh5 in the air, White is well on top.

31.Ne4 Qf8

With the idea of Qf4 but it's easily parried.

32.Rg5 c4



32...Qf7 is interesting when 33.Re1 is better than both

- a) 33.d6?! Bc6 and;
- b) 33.Nxc5 Rc8 34.f4 (b) 34.Qd4? Rxc5! 35.Qxc5 Qf4+ 34...Bb5 35.Rc1 Rf6;

33.Kg2

This seemed safest, awaiting developments whilst quietly improving the position - the alternatives seemed to allow Black counter chances

- (i) 33.Qe5 Rb5 34.a4 Rb3 35.a5 Rd3 36.Kg2 c3 37.Qc7 c2 38.Rf2 (38.Qxd7?! c1Q!) 38...Bc6!;
- (ii) 33.d6 Kh8 34.Rc1 Rb5 35.Qxc4 Rb2

36.Rh5 Rxb5 37.gxh5 h6 38.Qc7 Qxf3; and (iii) 33.Qxc4 Bb5 34.Qc7 Bxf1 35.Rxg7+ (forced) 35...Qxg7 36.Qxb8+ Qf8 37.Qxf8+ Kxf8 38.Kxf1

33... Qf7

If 33...Rhb6 then 34.d6 Rb2+ 35.Rf2 seems fine for White.

34.Re1

Instead 34.d6 seems premature as 34...Rb5 35.Rxb5 axb5 36.Qa5 Qe8 37.Re1 Re6 allows Black off the hook; and 34.Nc5?! is very unconvincing after 34...Rc8 35.Nxd7 Qxd7 36.Re1 Rd6 37.Re4 Rxd5 38.Rxc4; also 34.Re5? Qf4 is a little awkward for White.

34... Rhb6



35.d6 Rf8

Now if 35...Bc6 White has 36.Rf5.

36.Re5!

...and wins!

36... Qg6

White copes easily with 36...Qf4 after 37.Re7 Rb2+ 38.Qxb2 Qxf3+ 39.Kg1; and 36...Rb2+ 37.Qxb2 Qxf3+ 38.Kg1 Rf4 39.Rg5

37.Re7 Rb7



Forced as 37...Be6 loses to 38.Qe5 Bxg4 39.fxg4 Qxg4+ 40.Ng3; and 37...Bxg4 is met with 38.fxg4 Qxg4+ 39.Qg3 Rb2+ 40.Kg1

38.Qxc4+ Kh8
39.Qe2

Preparing Nc5 39.Nc5?? loses outright to 39...Rb2+

39... Bc6
40.Rd1

Now White wins easily.

40... Rd8
41.Rxb7 Bxb7
42.Qc4 Bxe4
43.Qxe4 Qf7
44.Qe7 1-0



Another offering from our website picture gallery—this is Fantasia, by Robert Bellini.



Introduction

Tim Harding's most recent opus is a first ever anthology of CC writing. It will probably be his last publication until he completes his university research into CC history. The book includes articles on CC history, many of its outstanding players and games, the roles of computers and of women in CC (so far as these can be distinguished), and it contains a bibliography of CC writings in English. The book has 160 pages, and is stitch-bound B5 size.

Contents

The book opens with an article by GM Gennady Nesis, entitled: *The prophecy that almost came true*. Nesis hails from St Petersburg but is now domiciled in Germany. His piece is a finely written account of his postal chess career, inspired by Sosonko (who predicted Nesis would win the CC world championship), and which culminated in a shared 1st place in the XI Final, losing on tiebreak to Baumbach. Nesis has a nice writing style, which carries through into the extensive annotations of his games.

Next up is Dr Eduard Dyckhoff, with *CC – the Ideal Chess*, translated from the German by Kevin Gorby. This examines the thesis that CC players play from half to a whole class better than they would in OTB. Freed largely from the limits of space, time and distraction, players can exploit their ability to imagine, judge and analyse to the full.

Tim himself weighs in with an updated and re-edited article on Alekhine, which first appeared in *Chess Mail 4/2000*. This is solid CC journalism and research, with extensive game notes.

Egbert Meissenburg examines CC History before 1800, in an article translated from the German by J C Bloodworth. The earliest recorded CC reference in manuscript was by Thomas Hyde in 1694, dating CC beginnings around the start of the 17th century, and its development is charted entertainingly until 1804, when the first postal game scores from the Netherlands are preserved.

A description of the Paris-Westminster match ascribed to George Walker in 1837 then follows. This is less well

known than the famous Edinburgh-London encounter, but some of Walker's observations are pithy.

GM Dick van Geet praises and despairs of computers in an insightful piece, which first appeared in *Chess Mail 2/2004*.

Stephan Gerzadowicz offers us *Inner Chess*, a witty cross between quotable quotes and Zen CC. I'd never heard of the *qweenside* before reading this, but fittingly, Rhoda Bowles then described the joys of a lady CC organiser in a nice series of anecdotes.

Two articles are devoted to Paul Keres' career: the first by Valter Heuer (translated from the Estonian by Malle Laar), and the second by Tim Harding. Both are ex-*Chess Mail*, but there are lots of great games and annotations.

Jon Edwards contributes two entertaining pieces from his *Chess Analyst* book – *Sacrificial Frenzy* (immolation combination) and *Uncle Fred's Gambit* (how to profit from CC over many years).

USCF and ICCF magazine editor Alex Dunne weighs in with a compilation from 2003 issues of *Chess Life*, while James Pierce, writing in 1883, demonstrates that sending moves to the wrong opponent is nothing new!

Tim reappears with an updated version of the Grob article, which first appeared in *Chess Mail 3/2002*, followed by Canadian GM Jonathan Berry annotating a game from WM/XIII, and US SIM Kevin Embrey recounting *Erlingur's Saga* from his newsletters of the 1990s.

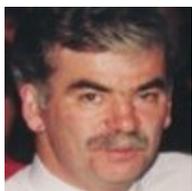
Tim intercedes once more with *CC Records and Curiosities* before historian and IM Ivan Bottlik of Hungary annotates on the issue of annotations. On the basis that the editor is allowed to have more pages than anybody else, Tim signs off with a piece on the mysterious *Nicolas Preo*.

The book concludes with a poem by Robert Potter Palmer on CC. This is more MacGonagall than Milton, but the sentiments are recognisable, and there probably aren't many other odes from which to choose!

Conclusion

This is an entertaining collection of CC journalism and articles, covering a wide range of topics and writing styles. It's an anthology, so everything has been published somewhere before, but there is always merit in bringing together the representative best of the bunch. This is a very pleasant read, and a good one to have on your bookshelf for that idle hour.

The Write Move sells at £15.99, or 22 euros. With UK p&p, this becomes £16.99 or 24 euros. You can find out more at <http://www.chessmail.com/> or write to Chess Mail at 26 Coolamber Park, Dublin 16, Ireland. Other stockists also carry the book - you should quote ISBN 0-9538536-8-3.



Silver Jubilee Match SCCA v ICCF

By George Pyrich

This event was devised during 2002 as part of our celebrations of the 25th anniversary of our founding in 1977. Basically the idea was to play a match with as many boards as possible (by either email or post) against an ICCF select team. Organising the event soon proved to be a considerable task and I am grateful to Richard Beecham who recruited the Scots players. As we hoped for at least 125 boards, it was clear that the Scots players would have to play more than 1 board and “volunteers” were asked to specify the number of boards they could take – Jim Anderson and Derek Coope both agreed to take 6! As each board involved 2 games (1 White, the other Black), Jim and Derek both took on 12 games!

Obviously it was desirable to try to pair everyone against opponents of roughly equal strength and so it was necessary to carefully outline “rating requirements” when extending invitations to other Federations – also, care had to be taken in offering postal boards only to those countries with good postal connections! Due to the aforementioned “rating requirements”, the ICCF team (average rating 2020), drawn from 19 countries, was in no way representative of ICCF’s true strength but rather tailored towards our strength (average rating 1984).

Eventually, pairings were produced for players from 20 countries over 129 boards (47 postal & 82 email) and play finally commenced on 1 December 2002. I captained the Scots team whilst Duncan Chambers (ENG) kindly agreed to fulfil this role on behalf of the ICCF team. Unfortunately, for various reasons, play had to be abandoned during the first year on 5 boards. However, everything seemed to go smoothly on the remaining 124 boards and presently, some 2½ years after the start, only 3 games remain unfinished. As in all such friendly matches, the overall score is relatively unimportant. For the record, the ICCF select, currently ahead by 147 points to 98, won comfortably.



We now provide a selection of games from the event, with annotations by yours truly.

Craig, Tom - Hegoburu, Pedro (ARG) SCCA v ICCF board 12, 2002 Budapest Gambit [A52]

Our 1st game is a really interesting tactical joust.

1.d4 **Nf6**
2.c4 **e5**

The Budapest Gambit, which doesn't enjoy a great reputation

3.dxe5 **Ng4**

4.Nf3

The main line whilst [4.Bf4 is the main theoretical alternative which I faced twice in the SCCA 21 event. After... 4...Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.e3 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 a5 Franklin Campbell played 11.Nb3 (Ralph Marconi played the stronger 11.a3 and after 11...Bc5 (*11...Bxd2* as played by Gottardo Gottardi (possibly the only really top player to play the Budapest) against Joop van Oosterom in World Ch. Final XV is best) 12.Nb3 Bb6 13.c5 Ba7 14.Qd5 Re8 15.Rac1 a4 16.Nd2 d6 17.cxd6 cxd6 White was clearly better (although the game was drawn on move 29)) 11...a4 12.a3 Bd6 13.Nd4 Bc5 with approximate equality (although Black won on move 37)]

4... **Bc5**
5.e3 **Nc6**
6.Be2 **Ngxe5**
7.0-0 **0-0**
8.Nxe5 **Nxe5**
9.Nc3 **Re8**
10.b3 **a5**
11.Bb2

[11.Na4 as played in Vallejo Pons v. Romero Holmes, Spanish Ch. 2002 is likely stronger – anyhow, White won brilliantly after 11...Bf8 12.f4 Ng6 13.Qd2 b6 14.Bb2 Bb7 15.Bf3 Qb8 16.Rad1 Nh4 17.Bd5 Nf5 18.Bxf7+ Kxf7 19.Qxd7+ Kg6 20.g4 Nxe3 21.f5+ Kg5 22.f6 Qc8 23.fxg7 Bd6 24.g8Q+ Rxc8 25.h4+ Kxh4 26.Qxh7+ Kg3 27.Qh2+ Kxg4 28.Rd4+ 1-0]

11... **Ra6**
12.Ne4

[Maybe 12.Na4 was stronger after say 12...Bf8 13.f4 Ng6 (*13...Rd6!?*) 14.c5]

12... **Ba7**
13.Qd5 **Rae6**

[13...Rg6 looks playable]

14.Qxa5 **Bb6**
15.Qc3 **Qh4**



16.f4

Already it looks that Black is busted....

16... **Rh6**
17.h3 **d5!**

However, he is not without resources!

18.c5

[18.fxe5 produces the fascinating possibility of 18...Bxh3! 19.e6 f6 when White has to go for 20.Rxf6 (20.c5 loses to 20...Bxg2!) 20...gxf6 21.Nxf6+ Qxf6 22.Qxf6 Bxe3+ 23.Kh2 Rxf6 24.Bxf6 Bxe6 when a draw is very likely]

18...dxe4

[not 18...Bxh3 when White has 19.Qe1! which covers everything and wins for White(19.cxb6? loses to 19...Bxg2!)]

19.fxe5 Rg6

[again 19...Bxh3 is met with 20.Qe1]

20.Rf2 Bxh3

21.Bf1!

[White does well to avoid 21.cxb6 when after 21...Bxg2 22.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 23.Kxg2 Re6 24.Rg1 Rg6+ 25.Kf1 Qh3+ Black's K-side pawns give him the better chances]

21... Ba7

22.Qa5 Bb8

23.Qb5 Rd8

24.Rd1!

[Not 24.Qxb7 Be6! when Black controls the d-file and has Rh6 to follow]

24... Rf8

25.Qxb7



25...Bc8?!

[Now 25...Be6 is fine for White after 26.Rf4 Qh5 27.Rd2; but 25...Bg4 looks better when 26.Rd4 allows (26.Rdd2 Rh6 27.Rf4 c6 and Black has both Qg3 and g5 to follow) 26...Rh6 27.Rf4 g5 28.Rfxe4 Qg3 and Bf3 is a strong threat] 26.Qd5!? [26.Qxb8 leads to a draw after 26...Rh6 27.Rf4 Qh2+ 28.Kf2 Rh3 29.e6 Qg3+]

26... c6

27.Qd4 Qh5

avoiding Rf4 and preparing his next

28.Rdd2 Rh6

29.Rf4 g5

30.Rxe4

[30.e6 looks strong (it threatens mate!) but rebounds on White after 30...f6 31.e7 Re8 32.Rxe4 Bg3 White's 30th allowed this! 33.Bc4+ Kg7 when Black is winning]

30... Qh2+

31.Kf2 f5

Now things fizzle out to a draw [instead 31...Bf5!? is really unclear after 32.Rg4 Bxg4 33.Qxg4 Rg6]

32.exf6 Rhxf6+

33.Qxf6 Rxf6+

34.Bxf6 Qg3+

35.Kg1 1/2-1/2

A fascinating struggle![35.Kc2?? loses after 35...Bg4+ 36.Kd3 Bf5]



**Finnie, Doug – Flores Gutierrez, Carlos (ESP)
SCCA vs ICCF board 2, .2002
Sicilian, Alapin Variation [B22]**

Next, Doug Finnie scores an excellent win in a sharp gambit line

1.e4 c5
2.c3 Nf6
3.e5 Nd5
4.d4 cxd4
5.Nf3 Nc6
6.Bc4 Nb6
7.Bb3 d5

[Black can try for a quieter life with 7...g6 as in Szule – Le Bled, ICCF Champions League Qualifier 2002. However, White set the board alight with 8.cxd4 Bg7 9.d5!? Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 11.Bh6 Bxb2 12.Nd2 and a draw after 50 moves!; whilst 7...d6 leads to the game as White invariably captures on d6]

8.exd6 Qxd6
9.Na3

[The older move here is 9.0-0 when Gottardi–Gritsaenko, Konstantinopolsky Memorial, 1993 continued 9...Be6 10.Na3 dxc3 11.Qe2 Bxb3 12.Nb5 Qb8 13.axb3 e5 14.Nbd4 when White won a classic game analysed in detail by Tim Harding in his "64 Great Chess Games"]

9... a6
10.0-0 dxc3

Another parting of the ways – Black has 2 other options but both leave White well placed: [(i) 10...Be6 11.Bxe6 Qxe6 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Rd8 14.Qh4; (ii) 10...e6 11.cxd4 Be7 12.Be3 0-0 13.Ne5 Bf6 14.Rc1] 11.Qe2 e6 [11...Bf5 may be better here when 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.bxc3 e6 14.Nh4 Bg6 15.g3 Qe5 looked fine for Black in Rybak – Serafim, World Ch. 26 sf, 2002]

12.Rd1 Qc5

[12...Qc7 looks better although the Q is not well placed on the c-file]

13.bxc3 Be7
14.Be3



14... Qxc3?!

[14...Qa5 looks preferable here]

15.Bxb6 Bxa3
16.Rab1 Be7
17.Bc2 0-0
18.Be4!

White has excellent compensation for his 2 pawns

18... Qf6

19.Bc7

Black's problems are now evident: he's unable to develop his q-side and White has full control of the centre.

19... Re8

[19...e5 might have been a better try although after 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 White has a clear advantage]

20.Qc2



20... Nb4

[Instead 20...g6 loses simply after 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Qxc6]

21.Rxb4! Bxb4

22.Be5 Qe7

23.Bxh7+ Kh8

24.Rd4 Bd7

[24...Qc5? 25.Rh4 Qxc2 26.Bxc2+ is a simple win for White]

25.Rg4 f5

26.Rxg7! Qxg7

27.Bxg7+ Kxg7

28.Qb2+ Kxh7

29.Qxb4 Kg8 #



It looks as if Black may have survived the worst – however, his exposed K leads to his downfall

30.Qh4 e5

31.Nxe5 Rxe5

[31...Be6 also loses after 32.Qg5+ Kh7 33.Qg6+ Kh8 34.Qf6+ Kg8 35.Ng6]

32.Qg3+ Kh7

33.Qxe5 Re8

34.Qc3 Rc8

35.Qh3+ 1-0

Now, White simply manoeuvres the Q to g5 and then advances the h-pawn – so, Black resigned

**Osburn, Eric (USA) - Baxter, Raymond**

SCCA v. ICCF board 22, 2002

Gruenfeld Exchange Variation [D85]

Next, by way of contrast, Raymond Baxter skillfully wins a nice endgame

1.c4

2.Nc3

3.Nf3

4.cxd5

5.e4

6.bxc3

7.d4

c5

Nf6

d5

Nxd5

Nxc3

g6

Bg7

By transposition we have reached one of the main lines of the Gruenfeld Defence – usually White plays either 8.Rb1 or 8.Be3

8.Bb5+

Nc6

[Black didn't get much for his pawn in the game Bendana–De Groot, APA 30 "A", 2001 after 8...Nd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Ba3 a6 11.Bxd7 Bxd7 12.Bxc5 b6 13.Ba3 Rc8 14.Qd2 Rc4 nevertheless he still managed to draw]

9.0-0

cxd4

10.cxd4

[10.Nxd4 was tried in the game Nizynski–Hollis, Gillman Memorial "A", 1999 and ended in a rather uninteresting draw after 10...Bd7 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qa4 0-0 14.Be3 Bxc3 15.Rac1 Qa5]

10...

0-0

11.Be3

Bg4

12.Bxc6

bxc6

13.Rc1

Qa5



14.Rxc6

[14.Qe2 was preferred in the game Zilberberg – Cuno, World Ch. 19 tqf, 1999 continuing 14...Rfd8 15.Rc5 Qa3 16.Qc4 Be6 17.Qc1 Qxa2 18.Rxc6 Bd7 19.Rc7 Rdc8 20.Qc5 Qe6 21.Rxc8+ Bxc8 22.d5 Qd7 (22...Qxe4?? 23.Qc6+-) 23.Rc1 when White converted his advantage to win on move 52]

14...

Qxa2

15.Rc7

Qe6

[15...a5 varying from the game Bokar – Espejo Hava, Mate Postal "B", 2000 which went 16.Rxc7 a4 17.Rb7 a3 18.Rb1 and a draw was agreed!]

16.h3

Qd6

17.Rc5

Bd7

18.Qc2

[Simply 18.e5 looks strong here when Black looks pressed to find a good square for the Q Amazingly, it seems that White's 18.Qc2 is the losing move – we soon see how!]

18...

Rfc8

19.Rc1

Rxc5

20.Qxc5 Qxc5
21.Rxc5



Following these exchanges, White's advantage has gone and the Black a-pawn soon becomes an important factor

21... a5
22.Kf1 a4
23.Ke1 a3

Already White is losing as he can do little about Black's a-pawn – nevertheless, Black's win requires good technique which Raymond provides

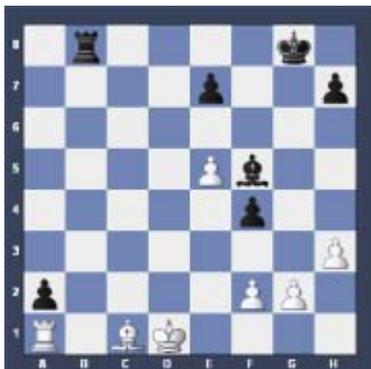
24.Rc1 a2
25.Ra1 Be6
26.Kd2 f5
27.exf5 gxf5
28.Ne5 Rb8
29.Kc2 f4!

Black's plan is Bf5+ and Bb1

30.Bc1

[30.Bxf4 Rb1 31.Rxb1 Bf5+ wins immediately]

30... Bf5+
31.Kd1 Bxe5
32.dxe5



32... f3!!

Wrecking White's k-side pawns so that, after Bb1, Black's R can easily mop up

33.gxf3 Bb1
34.Ke2 Rb3
35.Be3 Rb2+
36.Bd2 Kf7

White is a pawn up but can happily resign here – the rest requires little comment

37.Ke3 Ke6
38.Bc3 Rb3
39.Kd4 Kf5
40.Kc4 Rb6
41.Bd2 Kxe5
42.Bg5 e6

43.Be3 Rc6+
44.Kb3 Kd5
45.Kb4 Rc4+

The h-pawn soon falls and Black wins easily
0-1



Fyhn, Karsten (DEN) – Montgomery, Robert
SCCA v. ICCF board 27, 2002
Scandinavian Defence [B01]

Our next game is rather lengthy and, for the first 20 moves or so, rather boring – thereafter, the game come alive and we witness a fascinating tactical endgame

1.e4 d5
2.exd5 Qxd5
3.Nc3 Qd6!?

A strange departure from the usual 3... Qa5 – however, it's quickly gaining adherents and featured in a key last round game, Goldin– Stripunsky, in the 2004 USA Ch.

4.d4 Nf6
5.Nf3 a6
6.Be3 Nc6

[The aforementioned Goldin–Stripunsky game went 6...b5 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qe2 e6 with Black winning a lively game on move 44 to end sharing 1st place (although he later lost a quickplay play-off)]

7.Qd2 Bg4
8.Ng5?!

Strange [natural (and surely better) is 8.Be2]

8... Bf5
9.Bd3 Qd7
10.0-0 Nb4
11.Bxf5 Qxf5
12.Rac1 e6
13.a3 Nc6
14.Rfe1 h6
15.Nf3 0-0-0
16.Rcd1 Bd6
17.Qd3



White has achieved less than nothing from the opening – following the Q exchange, one might expect an early draw agreement. However, the game meanders on...

17... Qxd3
18.Rxd3 Rhe8
19.Na4?! b5
20.Nc5 Bxc5
21.dxc5 Rxd3
22.cxd3

Now White has a weak backward pawn on the open d-file and, after d4, the B is the worst piece on the board

22... Nd5
23.d4 f6
24.Bd2 g5
25.g4 Kd7
26.h4!?

[Maybe waiting with 26.Kg2 is better – however, we wouldn't had the fun which follows!]

26... h5!?

[A valiant winning attempt but 26...Rh8 looks more prudent – after say 27.h5 a5 Black can try to prepare the break with f5]

27.gxh5 g4
28.Nh2 Nxd4
29.h6 f5
30.Kg2 Nb3
31.Bg5 Nxc5
32.Rd1 Ne4
33.Nf1

[29...Nb3 30.Be3 f5 comes to the same thing]

[33.f3!?!]

33... c5
34.Ng3 Nxc3
35.Kxc3 Rh8



36.a4!

Opening the a file – a pawn down, White shouldn't lose despite the doubled h pawns – in fact, the h6 pawn holds the game!

36... Kd6
37.axb5 axb5
38.Ra1 c4
39.Ra6+ Ke5
40.Rc6 Rh7
41.Bd2 Rd7
42.Rc5 Ke4
43.Rxb5 f4+
44.Kxg4 Nf6+
45.Kg5 Nh7+
46.Kg6 Nf8+

Winning a piece – things now look good for Black

47.Kf6 Rxd2
48.Rb4

[Is no better as after 48.Kg7 Rd8 49.Rb4 e5 50.Rxc4+ Kf3 the White K is likely in a mating net after Ne6+]

48... Kd3?

Unfortunately this cuts off the R's retreat [instead 48...Kf3 looks winning for Black after 49.Kg7 Rd8 50.Rxc4 e5 51.h7 Nxh7 52.Kxh7 Kxf2 53.Kg6 Kf3]

49.Rb7 Ke4
50.Rf7 Nd7+

Forced as [50...Rd8?? loses to 51.Ke7]

51.Kg7 Ne5
52.Rc7 Rd8!?

[52...Rxf2 looks sufficient only for a draw after say 53.h7 Rg2+ 54.Kh6 Ng6 55.Rg7 f3 56.Rxg6 Rxg6+ 57.Kxg6 f2 58.h8Q f1Q]

53.h7 Kf3
54.h8Q Rxh8
55.Kxh8 Kxf2
56.Rc5

[56.h5 is no better after 56...f3 57.h6 Ke3 58.h7 f2 59.Kg8 f1Q 60.h8Q Qg2+ and Black certainly shouldn't lose]

56... Nd3!?

[much simpler seems 56...Ng6+ 57.Kh7 Nxh4]

57.Rxc4 f3
58.h5 Ke3
59.Rh4 f2
60.Rh1



Things now look bad for Black – amazingly, he holds on!

60... Kf3!
61.Kg7 Kg2
62.Rd1 Ne1
63.Rd2 e5
64.h6 e4
65.Rxf2+

[65.h7 e3 is no better]

65... Kxf2
66.h7 Nf3
67.h8Q e3
68.b4 e2
69.Qe8 e1Q
70.Qxe1+ Nxe1

Quite a game!

1/2-1/2



Lloyd, Geoff - Addis, Edward (USA)

SCCA v ICCF board 44, 2002

Reti Opening [A04]

We end with a nice attacking game by Geoff Lloyd

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 d6
3.g3 Nc6
4.Bg2 g6
5.d3 Bg7
6.0-0 Nf6
7.c3 0-0
8.Re1 Bg4

9.h3 Bxf3
10.Qxf3 b5

[10...Nd7 either here or at the next move seems better]

11.Qe3!?

Rather a strange square for the Q

11... e5?!

Better simply advancing the a-pawn immediately – the text just commits Black to a rigid structure

12.Nd2 a5



13.a4!

Securing the c4 square for the N

13... b4

14.Nc4 Qe7

15.Bd2 Qe6?!

Imitating White – however, it's hard to see what the Q achieves here

16.f4 Nd7?

[He simply has to play 16...exf4]

17.f5!

Now White is well in control

17... Qe7

18.Rf1 f6

19.Qe2 Rab8

20.Qg4 g5

Practically forced. Now White simply builds up his position unhindered

21.cxb4 cxb4

22.Be3 Rfc8

23.Rac1



23... Bf8

Indirectly defending the d-pawn – however, he might have preferred [23...Nc5 when White is well in control after 24.Nxd6 Qxd6 25.Bxc5 Qd7 the text makes a fresh concession which White promptly exploits]

24.h4! h6

25.Qh5 Qf7

26.Qg6+! Qg7

[26...Qxg6 27.fxg6 Kg7 28.Bh3 is very strong for White]

27.Kh2 Nc5

28.Nxd6 Nxd3

29.Nxc8 Nxc1

30.Qe8!

And wins!

30... Qc7

31.Qe6+ Kg7

32.Rxc1 Rxc8

33.Bf1 Qb7

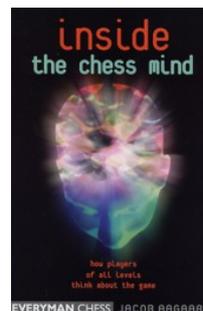
34.Bc4 1-0



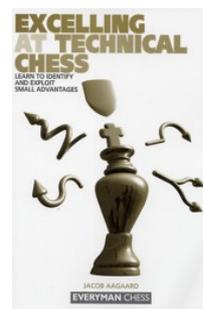
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General Information

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 7/05: Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation, C68-9

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6

Entries by 15 July; play starts 1 September

Theme 8/05: Black's Knight Tango, A50

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6

Entries by 15 August; play starts 1 October

Theme 9/05: Centre Game, C22

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe3

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 November

Email Events 2005

Theme 8/05: Sicilian Kopec, B50

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bd3

Entries by 1 June; play starts 1 July

Theme 9/05: Catalan, E04-05

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 cxd4 5.Nf3

Entries by 1 August; play starts 1 September

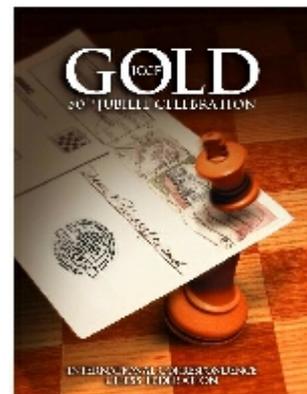
Theme 10/05: Scottish, C45

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6

Entries by 1 September; play starts 1 October

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

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