

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.117

Spring 2012

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Photograph from National Museums Scotland



Welcome to our Spring edition! After record-breaking temperatures (warmth rather than cold) during March here in Scotland, Spring has certainly sprung. However, the weather gods have dusted Easter with snow, just in case anybody was thinking of over-enjoying themselves.

This issue is packed with features and games. George Pyrich analyses the second ICCF rating list of 2012 and does some Spring pruning.

Richard Beecham looks back fondly on founder member Allan Hislop whose death was reported in issue 116.

Our DVD Reviews include studies by Andrew Martin , Lubomir Ftacnik, Alexei Shirov, Dejan Bojkov, Ari Ziegler and Nigel Davies.

Our Games Column features members Richard Beecham, Stuart Graham, David Cumming, Raymond Burrige, Andrew Macmillen and Kenneth Brooksbank.

Alan McGowan makes a welcome return with a short piece on CC in Scotland during 1924.

Peter Bennett contributes an innovative article featuring a winning line he uncovered in the Ruy Lopez.

George Pyrich analyses games from our 2nd Webserver Open final which is reaching an exciting conclusion. George also supplies his usual international update.

Alan Borwell reports that ICCF Veterans' World Cup 3 preliminaries have completed on schedule and that semi-final placings will conclude in April.

I'm playing Joop Jansen of Netherlands in our newly-started friendly international. He's a magazine collector and is interested in swaps and correspondence with like-minded souls. Get in touch with me if you'd like to contact him.

We still haven't received any applications for our secretary vacancy, so I've repeated the notice inside. If you are interested in helping out, please get in touch. If you enjoy or have enjoyed playing, you might be able to give something back to your Association!

SCCA Membership

Annual: £10/year buys you entry to all SCCA domestic events and friendly international matches, plus 4 quarterly e-magazines.

Life: £100 gets you annual membership for the rest of your days (plus a year's worth of printed magazines to try out).

Patron: £125 (+ any further donation you care to make) gets you life membership and your name on something commemorative.

SCCA 100 Club

The 100 club has thrived through the work of George Livie. George has decided that he should retire and responsibility in the future will rest with our Treasurer, Gordon Anderson. The Association is extremely grateful to George for the time and commitment he has given to ensuring that members supported the 100 club.

A few members' subscriptions to the 100 club have recently expired and Gordon will be writing encouraging them to renew. Units cost £1 with some members taking one unit while others take as many as 10 units per month. From the Association's perspective paying by Bankers Order is most convenient. If you don't already subscribe to the 100 club please consider if you can help the SCCA by taking out units and make contact with Gordon whose contact details are shown below.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2012	1st	2nd
March	G W G Livie	Mrs D Livie
February	G M Anderson	K B McAlpine
January	P M Giulian	R Heathwood

SCCA Officials

Position	Name	Address	Contact	Email
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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Kevin Paine (enquiries), Jim Anderson (domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) pro tem.



ICCF 5th Webchess Open



Andrew Dearnley (ENG) has been appointed to run this event, which has been brought forward and is now open for registration.

Players may enter through their national association (the SCCA fee is £6) or by direct entry, and should note registration closes on April 30th.

The tournament will be played in three stages: preliminaries, semifinal and final. Preliminaries will start in early June 2012, with an approximate end date of Feb 28th, 2014.

Preliminaries will consist of groups of 7 players each and section winners qualify for the semifinals.

For further information, please contact George Pyrich.

ICCF 2012 World Championship Cycle Semi-Finals



ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner, Gian-Maria Tani, writes to announce that this stage will commence play on June 10th, 2012 and that entries must be received by April 30th.

Sections are usually 13 players, but may be extended to 15 or 17 in special circumstances.

Several SCCA players have the necessary qualification, title and/or grading norms and we also have one unused member federation nomination left for 2012.

For further information, please contact George Pyrich.

ICCF Services Director

Dr. Michael Millstone, ICCF General Secretary, writes to announce a mid-term election for this post, which starts on 15th April. A contender for the job is Austin Lockwood (ENG), who runs the Scheming Mind chess server and is very well qualified to administer the ICCF equivalent.

SCCA Secretary

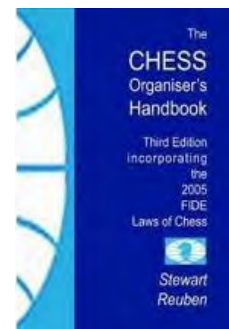
Colin Macgregor demitted office as secretary last year due to his many commitments, so we are looking for someone to fill the vacancy. The main parts of the job are:

- Primary contact point for outside bodies, queries, etc.
- Organise & minute committee meetings (3 fairly fixed in Jan/Feb; May/Jun and Aug/Sep, with others as needed)
- Organise domestic events to start in Jan; appoint & liaise with TDs; organise trophies & medals at season-end
- Other admin as needed

The busy period is Dec/Jan which may appeal to candidates looking to avoid shopping trips and visiting relatives. The remainder of the year is fairly light.

It is possible to share some elements of the job across committee, though we do require a designated secretary to be appointed.

If you can help, please get in touch with Iain at president@scottishcca.co.uk.



ICCF on Facebook



Following the SCCA page on Facebook, Jörg Kracht writes to announce that ICCF has set up a group page at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/iccf.fb/>

This group is Open, which means anyone can see the group, its members, and its posts. Members can post and comment on updates, chat with everyone at once, schedule group events, create shared docs, and more.

Facebook is a rich source of chess players at home and abroad, so plenty of opportunity for you to consolidate friendships begun through playing CC.

The ICCF group makes it easier to find a number of players and officials in one place.



2012/2 Grading List

By George Pyrich

The second ICCF grading list of 2012 has been published and the new grades are based on 3 months' results from 1 December 2011 to 29 February 2012. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 April and 30 June 2012.

Further players have been deleted from this list due to inactivity or lapsed membership. Jim Cairney has now played sufficient games for a full rating. David Cumming and Geoff Lloyd join the happy band that has played 500+ rated games.

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

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
318	Almarza Mato, C	588	2065 ↑	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	292	2347 ↔
518	Anderson, G M	206	2306 ↓	260	Knox, A	77	1656 ↓
121	Anderson, J	216	1771 ↑	1117	Laing, D	18	2084 ↔ *
049	Armstrong, A	138	1882 ↓	419	Lees, J A	83	2055 ↔
313	Armstrong, J McK	164	1595 ↓	256	Lennox, C J (SM)	155	2273 ↔
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	347	2493 ↓	503	Livie, G W G (IM)	194	2337 ↔
599	Bell, A D	104	2383 ↑	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	510	2314 ↓
501	Bennett, P G	127	2274 ↓	337	Loughran, R	106	1557 ↑
431	Binnie, J	28	1626 ↑ *	584	MacGregor, C A	295	1828 ↓
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	795	2226 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	518	2399 ↑
427	Brooksbank, Dr K	75	1820 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	528	1759 ↓
424	Burridge, R J	110	1845 ↑	566	Marshall, I H	336	2101 ↓
435	Cairney, J	33	2052 ↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	168	2448 ↑
423	Calder, H	96	2055 ↔	412	McKinstry, J	57	1601 ↔
	Clark, S L	12	1968 ↔ *	401	Moir, P J	130	1663 ↑
173	Cook, W M	69	1926 ↔	598	Montgomery, R S	185	2290 ↑
364	Coope, D W	495	2059 ↓	564	Murray, J S	30	1979 ↔
247	Cormack, W H	63	1921 ↓	440	Neil, C	66	1668 ↔
527	Craig, T J (SM)	340	2356 ↔	453	Newton, A	24	1773 ↔ *
166	Cumming, D R	506	2317 ↑	429	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	84	1979 ↔
422	Dawson, Prof A G	73	2113 ↓	444	Paine, Dr K A	121	2252 ↓
572	Dempster, D	649	1840 ↑	1012	Paulin, A	37	2035 ↓
030	Dyer, M T	97	2098 ↔	379	Phillips, G H	215	2110 ↔
371	Edney, D	163	1933 ↓	432	Price, D	138	2074 ↑
372	Flockhart, H	27	2133 ↔ *	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	783	2182 ↓
459	Fraser, R A	48	1868 ↔	437	Roberts, A	146	1711 ↔
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	123	2340 ↔	398	Rough, R E	29	1880 ↔ *
124	Goodwin, B J	164	2004 ↓	522	Savage, D J	74	1956 ↔
445	Graham, S (SM)	316	2336 ↑	449	Scott, A	46	1871 ↔
399	Grant, J	26	1767 ↔ *	439	Smith, M J	29	1885 ↔ *
327	Hammersley, C	18	1753 ↔ *	448	Sreeves, C	15	1918 ↔ *
596	Hardwick, M E	159	1385 ↑		Stevenson, F	14	1776 ↔ *
063	Harvey, D	80	2059 ↔	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	138	2109 ↓
515	Jack, J P E	28	1766 ↔ *	1120	Taylor, W	23	2070 ↑ *
447	Jamieson, I M	40	2042 ↔	452	Toye, D T	58	1633 ↓
322	Jessing, M	27	2094 ↔ *	530	Watson, J (IM)	141	2291 ↔
1126	Kelly, J	12	1728 ↔	065	Young, S M	58	1772 ↔

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	74
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	8
Full grades (30+ games)	60
Provisional grades (<30 games)	14
Grading increases (↑)	17
Grading decreases (↓)	22
Grading static (↔)	35

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2493	Lennox, C J (SM)	2273
Matheis, T (IM)	2448	Paine, Dr K A	2252
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2399	Borwell, A P (IM)	2226
Bell, A D	2383	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2182
Craig, T J (SM)	2356	Dawson, Prof A G	2113
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2347	Phillips, G H	2110
Gillam, S R (SM)	2340	Stewart, Dr K W C	2109
Livie, G W G (IM)	2337	Marshall, I	2101
Graham, S (SM)	2336	Dyer, M T	2098
Cumming, D R	2317	Price, D	2074
Lloyd, G (SM)	2314	Coope, D W	2059
Anderson, G M	2306	Harvey, D	2059
Watson, J (IM)	2291	Calder, H	2055
Montgomery, R S	2290	Lees, J A	2055
Bennett, P G	2274	Cairney, J	2052

Top 30 Games Played

Borwell, A P (IM)	795	Anderson, J	216
Pyrich, G D (IM)	783	Phillips, G H	215
Dempster, D	649	Anderson, G M	206
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Graham, S (SM)	316	Watson, J (IM)	141
MacGregor, C A	295	Armstrong, A	138
Kilgour, D A (GM)	292	Stewart, Dr K W C	138

Other Notes

This list includes a number of our members who are registered with other countries, and members who have played <12 games and have yet to receive a provisional rating. Players registered as SCO with ICCF, but who are not SCCA members, have been filtered out.

To check your rating online at any time, go to the ICCF webserver site (www.iccf-webchess.com), click on the Rating list link then complete the search boxes.

Note that ICCF (Gerhard Binder) has now discontinued support for the Eloquery program, previously available for download from www.iccf.com

The Eloquery software is now incompatible with 64-bit versions of the Windows operating system.

A number of useful online rating enquiry facilities are available at www.iccf-webchess.com



Allan Hislop R.I.P.

By Richard Beecham

I was deeply saddened to hear the news about Allan. I have known Allan and played him for 40 years in many SCCA Championships and League games. We exchanged messages, telephone calls and met at many SCCA Executive meetings.

To me, he was the "Old Fox" for very obvious reasons. Allan was a modest man, of good humour, talents and natural wisdom. His work for the SCCA was conscientious and very constructive. He designed the SCCA postal chess card with a running total time column. Allan never took credit for this design which was typical of this modest man. Allan also designed the Rules of CC by Telephone, when the cost of a phone call became cheaper than mail. Since then, email and the ICCF webserver have taken over.

Allan never excelled at international CC; he told me he did not like the length of time between moves and consequently lost interest in these games. He would have enjoyed the ICCF webserver. Allan is the only chess friend whose postal address and telephone number I could remember without looking it up. That says it all for me. The following game is typical of my battles against the "Old Fox".

Hislop, Allan (2200) - Beecham, Richard (2165) SCCA Championship 1997-98

Grünfeld Defence [D97]

[Notes by Richard Beecham]

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	g6
3.Nc3	d5
4.Nf3	Bg7
5.Qb3	dxc4
6.Qxc4	0-0
7.e4	Na6
8.Be2	c5
9.d5	e6
10.0-0	exd5
11.exd5	Bf5
12.Rd1	Re8
13.d6	h6
14.a3N	

Allan produces a novelty! I had expected him to follow Jeroen Piket's nice win against Garry Kasparov in the Euwe Memorial 1995, which went 14.Bf4 Nd7 15.Rd2 Nb4 16.Qb3 Be6 17.Bc4 Nb6 18.Bxe6 Rxe6 19.Na4 Re4 20.Bg3 Nc4 21.Nxc5 Nxd2 22.Nxd2 Re2 23.Qxb4 a5 24.Qxb7 Rxd2 25.d7 and White is on top.

14... **Nd7**

A poor plan. Better was 14...Qb6!? 15.Qb5 Bc2 16.Rd2 Bb3 17.Qxb6 axb6 18.Bd1 Bxd1 19.Rxd1 Rad8 20.Rb1 when Black has a slight edge.

15.Qa2?!

A very unladylike move and the reason for Allan's 14.a3. A better plan was 15.Be3 Qb6 16.Rd2 Be6 17.Qa4 Rad8 with a nice advantage to White. It's very instructive annotating a

game played over 10 years ago as all the emotion of the time is gone. I recommend you try it sometime.

15...	Be6
16.Bc4	Nb6
17.Bxe6	Rxe6
18.Bf4	Qd7
19.Nd5	Nxd5
20.Qxd5	Rae8

I did not consider 20...Bxb2? 21.Rab1 Bg7 22.Rxb7 winning.

21.h3	b6
22.Rab1	Re4
23.Bg3	Kh7?



Just when Black is nearly equal, I make a mistake. The correct plan was 23...Nb8 24.b3 Nc6 25.Re1 R4e7 26.Qd2 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Nd4 maintaining the balance.

24.Re1	Rxe1+
25.Rxe1	Rxe1+
26.Nxe1	Nb8
27.Nd3	f6

Allan's position is overwhelming and all I can do is shuffle my pieces around. I've been completely outplayed.

28.b4	cxb4
29.axb4	Bf8?!

Slightly better was 29...Qe8 30.Qa8 g5 31.Qxa7 Nd7 32.b5 Qe6 33.Qc7 Kg6

30.b5 **Qf5?!**

This is horrible, but so is 30...h5 31.Nf4 Bxd6 32.Nxg6 Kxg6 33.Bxd6 Kg7 34.Qd3 h4 35.Qd4 Qd8 36.Qf4 Black could resign here.

31.Qf7+	Bg7
32.Nf4	Qd7
33.Qxg6+	Kg8
34.Qd3	Qf7
35.Nd5	Nd7
36.Ne7+	Kf8
37.Qe4	Bh8

This is embarrassing!

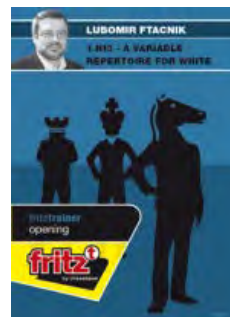
38.Qa8+	Kg7
39.Qxa7	Qe8
40.Nd5	1-0



**The ABC of the Classical Dutch
By Andrew Martin**



**1.Nf3 - a variable Repertoire for White
By Lubomir Ftacnik**



On the ABC of the Classical Dutch, IM Andrew Martin gives the student a thorough grounding in the ways of this unconventional opening.

The positions that are reached after 1...f5 are always sharp and unclear, suiting the chessboard warrior very well. You cannot play the Dutch with a faint heart!

The ABC of the Classical Dutch will analyse systems where predominantly Black plays with an early ...d7-d6. There are discussions of all the key ideas and opening themes, as well as repertoire suggestions for Black.

The Classical Dutch does not enjoy an especially good reputation at the highest level, but from time to time the great players have employed 1...f5 when fighting outright for the win.

It would not have been a good idea to tell Alekhine, Botvinnik, Bronstein or Larsen that 1...f5 is a weak move!



The world of the Classical Dutch is a rather unusual one. If you are looking for a winning weapon as Black and you are an uncompromising fighter, then this opening is for you!

Video running time: 3 hours 45 minutes.

'1.Nf3 - a variable Repertoire for White' is the name for a comprehensive opening system strategy based on security and choice. The old maxim of perceiving 1.e4 openings as tactical and more dangerous as opposed to the more positional and peaceful 1.d4 openings no longer reflects the modern world of chess openings.

This repertoire DVD is the fruit of a lifetime's experience, as the author Lubomir Ftacnik uses it actively in his practice. The system gives all White players the chance to fine-tune the level of exposure and risk – from the main lines of all the great 1.d4 and 1.c4 openings all the way to the concept of playing “Black” lines with an extra tempo – as in the King's Indian in reverse.



The explanations deal with all the big challenges – the English Opening, Nimzo-Indian systems, the Catalan, the Dutch Defence and of course that annoying reply 1...d5.

Video running time: 4 hours 33 min.



Beating the Berlin Defence By Alexei Shirov



Ever since the Kasparov-Kramnik WCh match (London 2000) players with the white pieces have been breaking their teeth biting on the Berlin Wall in the Ruy Lopez.

There may also have been some successes for White of course, but time and again Black has convincingly demonstrated how to equalise or even how to construct an impregnable fortress.

The situation from White's point of view has become precarious – ducking it is equivalent to capitulation, because in all alternative variations to the Berlin endgame White gives up from the start on the struggle for an opening advantage.

What can he do? There is no other way, White has to find ways to crack open Black's defence. With this background in mind, this new DVD by Alexei Shirov comes at just the right time.



There is hardly any other grandmaster of his class who is as well known for his uncompromising and creative play as the Latvian.

In over 3 hours of video he will provide you with a multitude of strategic finesses, innovative ideas and specific suggestions.

Video running time: 3 hours 49 min.

Try the Sicilian Kalashnikov! By Dejan Bojkov



Maybe you remember the famous game McDonnell-De Labourdonnais from their 1834 match in London, the one in which three connected black pawns reached the second rank and forced White's resignation. What you probably do not know is that this game started with the moves 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5.

White's most common move then was 5.Nb5, which Black for many years preferred to meet with 5...a6, which is a strategically risky decision. But a completely new development of the whole system was initiated in 1987, when Evgeny Sveshnikov, the godfather of the Sveshnikov Sicilian (4...Nf6 5.Nc3 e5), changed to 4...e5 and followed this with 5...d6, which is positionally more sound.

The latter move brings us to the subject of the current DVD - the Kalashnikov, or the Neo-Sveshnikov line. In 32 video clips Dejan Bojkov covers the main ideas behind Black's setup, the positional ideas behind the opening, the dangers that the second player is facing and prepares a thorough and deep repertoire for those willing to play the line as Black.



The DVD is separated into two parts - the first one provides the main ideas behind the opening, and the second gives the theoretical material.

The main point behind Black's idea is that he occupies the centre without any delay, with tempo. The main drawback - the weakening of the d5-square. Which factor should prevail? Watch the DVD to find out!

Video running time: 6 hours.

Modern Benoni for Advanced Players By Ari Ziegler



The Modern Benoni is perhaps the most dynamic approach to meeting 1.d4 without sacrificing a pawn.

A lot of legendary players have had a sincere love affair with this opening. The most imaginative world champion of all time, Michail Tal is perhaps the player who has done most to popularise the opening.

In this DVD International Master Ari Ziegler is giving you a fighting repertoire against all White systems in the Modern Benoni. The target audience is club players with Elo 1500-2400. Thanks to Ziegler's research you will find many surprisingly simple solutions in some lines, while in the critical lines which are being debated he gives new moves or reevaluates underrated systems.



With this DVD to back up your repertoire in the Benoni you will combat White from the beginning with counter-blows, strikes, positional traps or deep strategic plans, all that is necessary to hunt White down!

Video running time: 4 hours 57 min.



The Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack By Nigel Davies



The Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack with 1.b3 (or 1.Nf3 followed by 2.b3) is an opening system that has been rather neglected by the theoreticians but can prove deadly in the hands of the skilled tournament player.

Leading exponents of this move have included both brilliant attacking players such as Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Albin Planinc and Artashes Minasian and positional players such as Tigran Petrosian, Mark Taimanov and Vladimir Bagirov.

Even Bobby Fischer tried it in several games instead of his favourite 1.e4. And the greatest exponent of this system was the legendary Danish Grandmaster, Bent Larsen.

White's set up emphasises flexibility, often adapting his position to what Black does in reply. This can prove quite lethal to opponents who like to play a single predictable set up as Black and even strong players can go badly astray when confronted by the unusual problems it poses.



On this DVD Davies arms the viewer with insights into how to handle things and demonstrates how he thinks White should meet Black's main defences.

Using examples taken from the practice of leading exponents of this opening he explains the strategies clearly and concisely.

Video running time: 4 hours 40 minutes.



[Ed – I'm compiling this column once more, but have retained the banner for continuity purposes – some subscribers only buy this magazine to see Bernard's mugshot.

So, to the strains of "Ghost Writers in the Sky", here we go...]

Our first game is provided by one of our strongest players and best annotators. Richard Beecham combines insightful analysis, literary quotes and trenchant observations in a game from the Slovenian Open, an event which marked 15 years of ICCF membership for the hosts.

Slovenian Open, Semi-Final, 2010

White: Beecham, C. Richard (2507)

Black: Petersons, Indulis (2210)

Semi-Slav [D46]

[Notes by Richard Beecham]

The words of Mao Zedong can easily be related to chess, when he so wisely said: "The enemy advances, we retreat; the enemy camps, we harass; the enemy tires, we attack; the enemy retreats, we advance."

- 1.d4** **d5**
- 2.c4** **c6**
- 3.Nf3** **Nf6**
- 4.Nc3** **e6**
- 5.e3** **Nbd7**
- 6.Qc2** **Bd6**
- 7.Be2**

I am unable to say if 7.Be2 or 7.Bd3 is correct, as 9 times out of 10 Black plays dxc4 now or a couple of moves later, transposing. However, I did take a long look at the 'Shabalov' with 7.g4!? which is real troglodyte chess at its best. I came to the conclusion that 7... Bb4 was Black's choice, fighting for the e4 square, and that coffee house chess was best left to the computers.

- 7...** **dx4**
- 8.Bxc4** **b5**

Now I have the same problem as before, where to put the bishop? Should it go to d3 or e2? I still do not know.

9.Bd3

If it goes to e2, then 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.e4 e5 13.g3 Rfe8 and Black looks ok to me.

- 9...** **Bb7**
- 10.0-0** **0-0**

At this point, the most popular and correct moves are either 11.Bd2, 11.e4, 11.Rd1, or 11.a3! according to theory. I started looking for something new and came up with:



- 11.Ng5!?** **Bxh2+**

Taking up the gauntlet but, for the pawn, White will get a big lead in development and an open rook's file.

- 12.Kxh2** **Ng4+**
- 13.Kg1** **Qxg5**
- 14.f3** **Ngf6**

After 14...Nxe3 15.Qf2 Qxg2+ 16.Qxg2 Nxg2 17.Kxg2 Rad8 18.Ne4 the position looks positive for White.

- 15.e4** **Qh4**
- 16.Ne2** **Rfc8**

More active was 16...e5!? 17.a4 a6 18.Qc3 Qh5 19.Be3 exd4 20.Nxd4 Qe5!?

- 17.Be3** **Ne8**

Black creates retreat squares for his queen and rightly so.

- 18.e5** **h6**
- 19.Nc3** **Qe7**

This is more challenging than 19...Qh5!? 20.Be2 f5 21.exf6 Nexf6 22.Rfe1 Nd5 23.Qd2 Nxe3 24.Qxe3 Qf7 25.Bd1 Re8 26.Bb3 when White has a lot of pressure.

- 20.Qf2** **f5!?**

I expected 20...Rd8 21.Qg3 Nb6 22.Ne4 (not 22.Bxh6 Rxd4! is equal.) 22...Kh8 23.Rac1 Nd5 24.Bf2 Rab8 and Black has play on the queenside after Ba8.

- 21.exf6** **Nexf6**
- 22.Qg3** **Kh8**
- 23.Rfe1** **Rd8**

Possibly 23...a6!? was better, with the idea 24.Ne4 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 Nf6 26.Bc2 Rf8 27.Bf2 Rad8 when Black's position is reasonable.



24.Qc7!

A far from obvious move, attacking the b7 bishop and pinning the d7 knight!

- 24...** **Rab8**
- 25.Bf2** **Re8**
- 26.Rac1** **b4**
- 27.Nd1!?**

This move was motivated by my opponent's time trouble and sets a whole lot of new problems for Black. [I would be letting him "off the hook" with 27.Ne4 Nxe4 28.Bxe4 Nf6 29.Qxe7 Rxe7 30.Bxc6 b3! when he reaches the 30-move time control with ease.

- 27...** **Nd5**
- 28.Qg3** **Rf8**
- 29.Ne3** **Nf4**
- 30.Bb1** **Kg8**

I don't understand this move?

Perhaps it's a computer move. To me, far better was 30...Qf6 31.Ng4 Qg5 32.Be3 Rbe8 with the idea of playing e5!

31.Nf5

I spent some time looking at 31.Nc4!? but came to the conclusion that the complications lead to reasonable equality after the long variation 31...Qf6 32.Be3 Ba6 33.Nd6 Bd3! 34.Bxf4 Bxb1 35.Be5 Nxe5 36.dxe5 Qg6 37.Qxg6 Bxg6 38.Rxc6 Rb6!

- 31...** **Qg5**
- 32.Qxg5** **hxg5**
- 33.Nd6** **g4**



34.d5!!

A beautiful and powerful move! I would be interested to know from those members who use a computer program to help them analyse, how long it takes to find this type of move!

- 34... **exd5**
 35.Re7 **gxf3**
 36.gxf3 **b3**
 37.axb3 **Ba8**
 38.Bd4 **Nf6**
 39.Kh2 **N4h5**

On 39...Rxb3 40.Rg1 N4h5 41.Bxf6 Rxf6 42.Re8+ Rf8 43.Bh7+

- 40.Bg6 **Rb4**

Relatively best was 40...Rxb3

41.Bxf6 Nxf6 42.Rh1 Rd8 43.Rxa7

Rbb8 44.Kg3 Rd7

- 41.Nf5 **Rxd4**

- 42.Nxd4 **Nf4**

- 43.Bf5 **a5**

- 44.Ne6 **Nxe6**

- 45.Bxe6+ **Kh8**

- 46.Rg1

46.Rg1 Nh5 47.Rg4 c5 48.Bf7

1-0



Our next contributor is Stuart Graham, current SCCA champion, who is enjoying good form in the 35th World Championships.

ICCF 35th World Championship Preliminaries, 2010

White: Graham, Stuart (2310)

Black: Pommrich, Rainer (2209)

King's Indian [E97]

[Notes by Stuart Graham]

- 1.d4 **Nf6**

- 2.c4 **g6**

- 3.Nc3 **Bg7**

- 4.e4

Although the text move is by far the most popular move 4. Nf3 can also be played here as in the game Aronian - Radjabov, Linares 2009: 4.Nf3 0-0 5.g3 c6 6.e4 d5 7.cxd5

cxd5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Bg2 Nc6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Rc8 13.h4 Qa5 14.Qd3 Rfd8 15.Be3 Nb4 16.Qe2 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Nc6 18.Rfc1 e6 19.c4 Qb6 20.c5 Qa5 21.Rab1 b6 22.h5 Qa4 23.Qb5 Qxb5 24.Rxb5 Bf8 25.cxb6 axb6 26.Rcb1 Ne7 27.hxg6 hxg6 28.g4 Ra8 29.R1b2 Nc8 30.Bd1 Rd7 31.a4 Rc7 32.f4 Rc3 33.Kf2 Ra7 34.Rc2 Rxc2+ 35.Bxc2 Rc7 36.Bd1 Rc4 37.Ke2 Rb4 38.Rxb4 Bxb4 39.Bc2 Ne7 40.Bd3 Nc6 41.Bb5 Na7 42.Ba6 Nc6 and a draw was agreed.

4...

d6

At this point I was undecided as to whether or not to play the 4 Pawns attack with 5. f4 or the Classical with 5. Nf3 in the end I decided on playing the Classical system at it is the variation that I understand more of.

- 5.Nf3 **0-0**

- 6.Be2 **e5**

- 7.0-0 **Nc6**

The move that is played most often by Black against the Classical system.

- 8.d5

Ne7



- 9.b4

The so-called 'Bayonet Attack'. Also playable is 9. Ne1 as in the game Aronian - Nakamura 2010: 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.c5 g5 14.cxd6 cxd6 15.Nf2 Ng6 16.Qc2 Rf7 17.Rfc1 Ne8 18.a4 h5 19.Nb1 Bf8 20.Ra3 a6 21.Qc3 Bd7 22.Qa5 b6 23.Qb4 Rg7 24.Rac3 Nh4 25.h3 Be7 26.Be1 Qb8 27.Kf1 Bd8 28.Rb3 Bc7 29.Qa3 Qd8 30.Rbc3 Bb8 31.b4 Ra7 32.Rc6 b5 33.axb5 axb5 34.Ra6 Rb7 35.Rcc6 Bxc6 36.dxc6 Ra7 37.Nc3 d5 38.Nxd5 Nf5 39.exf5 Qxd5 40.Ne4 Rgc7 41.Nxg5 Ng7 42.Rb6 Nxf5 43.Rxb8+ Kg7 44.Qb2 Ra2 45.Qb1 Rc2 46.Rxb5 Qd6 47.Rb7 Kh6 48.Kg1 Qxc6 49.Nf7+ Rxf7 50.Rxf7 Ne3 51.Ra7 Qd5 52.Qa1 Nxg2 53.Qa6+

9...

Nh5

The most frequently played move, by actively placing the knight on h5 it allows Black to play f5.

- 10.Re1

The idea behind this move is that it neutralises the threat of 10. Nf4 as it would give White's light squared bishop a square to go to. On f4 the knight would hinder a possible f7-f5-f4 and the f4 knight could become vulnerable by a future Bxf4 or even g3.

- 10... **f5**

- 11.Rb1

Better would have been 11. Ng5 as it reveals an attack on the h5 knight and it prepares Ne6. Also possible from the game Gelfand - Shirov, Wijk aan Zee 1998 is: 11.Nd2 Nf6 12.c5 Bh6 13.Bd3 fxe4 14.Ndx4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Bxc1 16.Rxc1 Nf5 17.Qd2 Nd4 18.Ne2 Nxe2+ 19.Rxe2 Bf5 20.f3 Qf6 21.Rc4 when a draw was agreed.

- 11... **Nf4**

- 12.Bf1 **fxe4**

- 13.Nxe4 **h6**

- 14.Rb3

A slight advantage to White.

- 14... **a6**

Better would be 14...Bg4 15.g3 Nh5 16.Be2 Nf6 17.Nxf6+ Rxf6 (Definitely not 17...Bxf6? as 18.Bxh6 Re8 would lead to a winning position for White.)

- 15.g3 **Nh3+**

15...Nh5 16.Nfd2 Nf6 17.Nxf6+

Rxf6 (17...Bxf6 18.c5 Bg7

(18...Nxd5? 19.Ne4 Ne7 20.Nxf6+

with clear winning chances for White.)) 18.Ne4 Rf8 19.c5 Nf5

20.Bg2 Nd4 21.Rc3 with a roughly

equal game.

- 16.Bxh3 **Bxh3**



- 17.Nxe5

With every other move White would lose any advantage.

- 17... **dx5**

- 18.g4 **Bxg4**

- 19.Qxg4 **Qc8**

No better would be 19...Qe8 20.Nc5 Qf7 21.Be3 Nf5 22.Ne6

20.Qg2 Qf5
 21.Rh3 g5
 22.Rg3 Rf7
 23.d6 Nc6
 24.Be3 a5
 Only slightly better would be
 24...Kh8 25.Bxg5 hxg5 26.Nxg5 Rf6
 25.Bxg5 hxg5
 26.Nxg5 Raf8
 27.Kh1



27... cxd6?

The move that loses the game. Far better would be 27...Qxf2 28.Qxf2 Rxf2 29.Ne6 Kf7 (Moving the rook on f8 would be suicidal, for example 29...Re8 30.Rxg7+ Kh8 31.dxc7 Na7 32.Rg6 Kh7 33.Reg1; 29...R8f6 30.dxc7 Na7 31.Rxg7+ Kh8 32.Re7 Rh6 33.Kg1 Rff6 34.Re8+) 30.Nxf8 28.Rg1 Qxf2 29.Qe4 Qf5 30.Qd5 Kh8 31.Qg2

A possible continuation could have been 31.Qg2 Re7 32.Ne6 Qxe6 33.Rxg7

1-0



Our most prolific annotator, David Cumming, has pointed out that one reason we see so many of his games is that successive Games Editors keep repeating them!

The sharp-eyed amongst you will have noticed that David's game against Andrei Uifolean of Romania appeared twice in issue 115 and again (by popular demand) in issue 116. Enough is enough...

Here, David makes the most of his grading advantage in division 1 of this year's Webserver League.

SCCA Webserver League, 2012

White: Cumming, David. R. (2298)

Black: Bicknell, Graham (1797)

Semi-Slav [D43]

SCCA Magazine 117

[Notes by David Cumming]

1.d4 d5
 2.c4 e6
 3.Nc3 Nf6
 4.Nf3 c6
 5.Bg5 h6

The dreaded Moscow Variation of the Semi Slav, against which I suffered on one or 2 occasions in the 1990s at the hands of some German correspondence opponents!

6.Bxf6 Qxf6
 7.e3 Nd7
 8.a3 g6
 9.Bd3

RR 9.e4 dxc4 (RR 9...dxe4 10.Nxe4 Qf4 11.Bd3 Bg7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Re1 c5 14.g3 Qc7 15.d5 Bxb2 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.Ra2 Bg7 18.Rd2 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Qg4 Qg7 21.Ree2 b6 22.Bc2 Bd7 23.Nxc5 bxc5 24.Rxd7 Dubois, Y-Bontems, C (1939)/ICCF 2009/OM Corr/1/2-1/2) 10.e5 Qd8 11.Bxc4 Bg7 12.Qe2 0-0 13.Rd1 Qc7 14.Kf1 a6 15.h4 Rd8 16.h5 g5 17.Nxg5 Nxe5 18.Nxe6 Bxe6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.dxe5 Qxe5 21.Rh3 Qxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Bxc3 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 Aronian, L (2786)-Tkachiev, V (2642)/Moscow 2009/OM 2.04/1-0 (32)

9... Bg7
 10.0-0 0-0
 11.Rc1N

RR 11.cxd5 exd5 12.b4 Qd6 (RR 12...Nb6 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Ne2 Bg4 15.Rab1 Rfd8 16.Rfc1 a6 17.Qc5 Qc7 18.Nd2 Bf8 1/2-1/2 Carlsen, T (2641)-Soudny, J (2564)/ICCF 2007/OM Corr) 13.Qb3 Nb6 (RR 13...Re8 14.b5 Nf8 15.Qb4 Qd8 16.a4 a5 17.bxa6 b6 18.a5 b5 19.Na2 Rxa6 20.Qc3 Bd7 21.Nb4 Ra7 22.Rfc1 Re6 23.a6 Qb8 24.Nd2 Rd6 25.Nb3 Ne6 26.Qc2 Be8 27.f4 Nd8 28.Nc5 Savchenko, S (2485)-Strutinskaya, G (2270)/Moscow 1991/OM 2.04/1-0 (41)) 14.a4 Bg4 15.Nd2 Be6 16.Rfc1 Nd7 17.Ne2 Rfe8 18.Rab1 Bg4 19.Nc3 Be6 20.Qc2 Rac8 21.Ne2 f5 22.Nb3 b6 23.Nf4 Bf7 24.g3 Qf6 25.a5 Bf8 Sokolov, I (2630)-Lautier, J (2580)/Correze m 1992/OM 2.04/1-0 (73); RR 11.Qc2

a) RR 11...dxc4 12.Bxc4 b6 (RR 12...c5 13.Rfd1 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Rd8 15.Rd2 Nb6 16.Bb3 Bd7 17.Rad1 Rac8 18.Qe4 Bc6 19.Qg4 Rd6 20.Rd3 a6 21.Qg3 Rcd8 22.h3 R6d7 23.R3d2 Kh7 24.h4 Qe5 25.Qxe5 Bxe5 26.Nxc6 bxc6 27.Rxd7

Cuniali, E (2095)-Lumley, W (2405)/ICCF Email 2003/OM Corr/1/2-1/2 (35)) 13.Rad1 Bb7 14.e4 Rfd8 15.Rfe1 Rac8 16.e5 Qe7 17.Qe4 b5 18.Bd3 b4 19.axb4 Qxb4 20.Qe3 c5 21.Be4 Bxe4 22.Nxe4 cxd4 23.Rxd4 Qb6 24.Ng3 Nc5 25.Red1 Na4 26.b3 Schnur, E-Kahl, F (2274)/www.desc-online.de 2006/OM Corr/1/2-1/2 (50); b) RR 11...Rd8 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Rae1 Qd6 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Qc7 16.Re3 Nb6 17.Nc3 Qd6 18.Rfe1 Bg4 19.Ne5 Bd7 20.Ne4 Qxd4 21.Nc5 Bxe5 22.Rxe5 Re8 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Rxe8+ Bxe8 25.Nxb7 Bd7 26.Nc5 Tasic, V (2227)-Schumacher, F (1950)/ICCF 2007/OM Corr/1/2-1/2; c) RR 11... Qe7 12.b4 a6 13.Rab1 Kh7 14.h4 f5 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Rfc1 Nb6 17.Na4 Nxa4 18.Qxa4 Bf6 19.Qa5 Rf7 20.g3 Qd8 21.Qa4 Rc7 22.Rxc7+ Qxc7 23.h5 Bd7 24.hxg6+ Kxg6 25.Qd1 Rc8 Vasquez Schroder, R (2506)-Egger Mancilla, J (2443)/Santiago de Chile CHI 2010/OM 2.04/1-0 (46)
 11... b6?
 12.Qa4



Eyeing the suddenly weakened pawn on c6, and Black has given himself some problems on the queenside and central light squares!

12... e5?+-
 13.cxd5 c5
 14.Ne4 Qe7
 15.d6!

Squeezing Black, attacking his Qe7 and making room for light squared play on the e4-a8 diagonal.

15... Qd8
 16.dxc5 Nxc5
 17.Nxc5 bxc5
 18.Be4 Bd7
 19.Qa6 Bc8
 20.Qb5 Qxd6?!

This increases White's material advantage harvest even further. Preferable for Black was 20...a6.

21.Bxa8 Ba6
 22.Qc6 Qd3?

Another inaccuracy from Black. Once again he increases White's material harvest unnecessarily. He had to swallow a bitter pill here and play 22...Qxc6, 23.Bxc6...Bxf1, 24.Kxf1.

- 23.Rfd1 Qb3
24.Qxa6 Rxa8
25.Qc6 Rb8
26.Nd2 Qd3
27.Nc4 Qf5
28.Qd7 Qg5



Yet again the White Queen bullies its opposite number out of the way, but Black is clearly lost here and it is only a matter of time before the fat lady sings...

- 29.Qxa7 Re8
30.Rd7 Rf8
31.Nd6 Qf6
32.Rxc5 e4
33.Rb5 Qe6
34.Rxf7

Deep Rybka 4 w32: 34.Rxf7 Rxf7 35.Qxf7+ Qxf7 36.Nxf7 Bf8 37.Ne5 Bd6 38.Nxg6 Kf7 39.Nf4 h5 40.Rxh5 Ke7 41.Rh7+ Kd8 42.Ne6+ Kc8 43.a4 13./17

- 34... Be5
35.Rxf8+



Deep Rybka 4 w32: 35.Rxf8+ Kxf8 36.Rb8+ Qc8 37.Rxc8# #3/8

1-0



Here's another submission from David, this time in the final of our 2nd Webserver Open, and once more

profiting from a substantial rating differential.

2nd Webserver Open Final, 2011

White: Cumming, David. R. (2271)

Black: MacMillen, Andrew. N.

(1801)

Petroff Defence [C42]

[Notes by David Cumming]

- 1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nf6
3.Nxe5 d6
4.Nf3 Nxe4
5.Nc3 Nxc3
6.dxc3 Be7
7.Bf4 Nc6
8.Qd2 0-0

RR 8...Bg4 9.Be2 Qd7 10.0-0-0 a6

(RR 10...0-0-0 11.h3 Be6 12.Rhe1

h6 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Kb8

15.Qxg7 Qa4 16.Qd4 Qxa2 17.Bf3

Bg5 18.Bxg5 hxg5 19.Bd5 Qa5

20.Qb4 Qxb4 21.cxb4 Rde8 22.b5

Kc8 23.Rd3 Bxd5 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8

25.Rxd5 Laine, P (2384)-

Yarmolyuk, Y (2353)/ICCF

2010/OM Corr/1/2-1/2 (36)) 11.h3 Be6

12.Ng5 Bxg5 13.Bxg5 f6 14.Be3 0-

0-0 15.Rhe1 d5 16.Be5 Rhe8 17.g4

Kb8 18.b3 Qf7 19.f4 f5 20.g5 g6

21.Kb2 Qg7 22.Bf3 Bf7 23.Rxe8

Branding, G (2607)-Jakobetz, L

(2548)/ICCF Email 2005/OM

Corr/1-0 (74)

9.0-0-0 Rb8

RR 9...a5 10.h3 Be6 11.Kb1 a4

12.Ng5 a3 13.b3 Ra5 14.h4 Ne5

15.c4 b6 16.Qe1 Qa8 17.Bd2 Bxg5

18.Bxa5 bxa5 19.hxg5 a4 20.Bd3

Nxd3 21.Rxd3 axb3 22.axb3 Qxg2

23.Rg1 Qb7 24.Qc3 Montero

Fernandez, R (2180)-Velazquez

Montada, Y (1977)/La Habana CUB

2010/OM 2.04/1-0 (46); RR 9...Bg4

10.Be2 Qd7 (RR 10...Bf6 11.h3 Be6

12.Kb1 Ne5 13.g4 Ng6 14.g5 Nxf4

15.Qxf4 Be7 16.h4 d5 17.h5 Qd6

18.Qe3 Qb6 19.Nd4 c5 20.Nxe6

Qxe6 21.Qd2 Rad8 22.h6 g6

23.Rhg1 Qb6 24.Bf3 d4 25.c4

Roldán García, A (2166)-Balañá

Romero, R (1938)/ICCF 2009/OM

Corr/1-0 (55)) 11.h3 Bf5 12.Rhe1

Qe6 13.Kb1 Qg6 14.Nd4 Nxd4

15.cxd4 Rfe8 16.g4 Be4 17.f3 Bd5

18.Bd3 f5 19.Bxf5 Qf7 20.c4 Bxc4

21.d5 Kh8 22.Be6 Qg6+ 23.Ka1 Rf8

24.Re4 Staggat, R (1661)-Gomez, J

(1600)/FICGS 2007/OM Corr/1-0

(57); RR 9...Bf5 10.h4 Bf6 11.h5

Re8 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 c5 14.d5

Re4 15.f3 Rxf4 0-1 Palmateer, C

(2042)-Wesche, T (1868)/ICCF

2008/OM Corr

10.Bd3 Be6

11.h4±

White has a strong initiative on the kingside, granting him the full advantage.

11... Qc8N

RR 11...d5 12.Ng5 g6 13.h5 Bg4

14.Nxh7 Kxh7 15.hxg6+ Kg8 16.g7

Re8 17.Rh8+ Kxg7 18.Be5+ f6

19.Qg5+ 1-0 Zhukov Viktor (RUS)

(2219)-Movldiev Ibragim (RUS)

(2024)/Rostov on Don (Russia)

2007/OM 2.04

12.Ng5 Bf5



13.g4!

This provokes Black into the bishop exchange immediately, and will provide cover and/or support for the forthcoming attack on the Black king.

13... Bxd3

13...Bxg4 14.Bxh7+ Kh8

14.Qxd3 g6

15.Rdg1 Bxg5

Whilst this removes the irritating knight, it creates another problem, namely, the semi-open h-file, and Black is in serious trouble.

16.hxg5 Kg7??



17.Rxh7+!!

17.Rxh7+ Kxh7 (17...Kg8 18.Qh3 f5

19.Qh6 Rf7 20.Rh8#) 18.Qh3+ Kg7

19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.Rh1 Re8 21.Qh8#

1-0



Here's final effort from the Inverness Inquisitor, completing a trio of wins which demonstrate that the grading list doesn't lie.

SCCA Championship, 2012

White: Burrige, Raymond. J. (1797)

Black: Cumming, David. R. (2298)

Sicilian, Accelerated Dragon [B34]

[Notes by David Cumming]

1.e4 **c5**
2.Nf3 **Nc6**
3.d4 **cxd4**
4.Nxd4 **g6**
5.Nc3 **Bg7**
6.Be3 **Nf6**
7.Be2 **0-0**
8.0-0 **d5**
9.Nxc6 **bxc6**
10.e5 **Ne8**

RR 10...Nd7 11.f4 e6 12.Na4 (RR 12.Bd3 Qa5 13.a3 c5 14.Qf3 Rb8 15.b4 cxb4 16.axb4 Qxb4 17.Ne2 a6 18.Qh3 Re8 19.c3 Qf8 20.Ra5 Bb7 21.Rb1 Bc6 22.Rd1 Bb5 23.Bxb5 axb5 24.Nd4 Nc5 25.Bc1 Rec8 26.Ba3 Qe8 Malmstroem, J (1828)-Aguilar, S (1695)/LSS 2007/OM Corr/0-1 (59)) 12...f6 13.exf6 Qxf6 14.c3 Qe7 15.Bd4 Bh6 16.g3 e5 17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.Rxf8+ Bxf8 19.Bc5 Qg5 20.Qc1 Qxc1+ 21.Rxc1 Bh6 22.Rd1 Bf5 23.b3 a5 24.Bd4 Re8 25.Nc5 Hund Barbara (GER)-Kristol Mrs Luba Danielovna (2415)/corr 1993/OM Corr/½-½ (38)

11.f4 **f6**
12.exf6
RR 12.Qd4 Bf5 13.Bf3 Rb8 14.Rf2 Qc7 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Qc5 Rxb2 17.Bd4 Qb6 18.Qxb6 axb6 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Rb1 Rxb1+ 21.Nxb1 Ra8 22.a3 Ra5 23.h3 h5 24.Re2 Re5 0-1 Gibson, J-Grayland, S/corr BCF 1996/OM Corr

12... **Bxf6**
13.Na4=

RR 13.Bf3 Ng7 14.Na4 Nf5 15.Bf2 e5 16.fxe5 Bxe5 17.g3 Ng7 18.Bd4 Bxd4+ 19.Qxd4 Bh3 20.Rf2 Ne6 21.Qd3 Ng5 22.Bg2 Rxf2 23.Kxf2 Bxg2 24.Kxg2 d4 25.c4 Qa5 26.h4 Qxa4 27.b3 Qa5 Sarsem, S (2422)-Al Modiahki, M (2506)/Tunez 2001/OM 2.04/½-½

13... **Nd6N**



RR 13...Ng7 14.c3 Qa5 15.Nc5 Ne6 16.Nb3 Qc7 17.Qd2 Ng7 18.Rad1 Bb7 19.Nc5 e5 20.Nxb7 Qxb7 21.Bc5 Rfe8 22.fxe5 Bxe5 23.Bg4 Ne6 24.Ba3 Bg7 25.Rde1 Qb6+ 26.Kh1 Nc5 27.Qf2 Ne4 28.Qxb6 Markantonaki, H (2115)-Paganoglou, A (1948)/Ermioni Argolidas 2005/OM 2.04/1-0 (49)

14.Kh1?! **Nf5!?**
This not only attacks the Bishop on e3 and with it threatening a fork, gaining a tempo in the process, it also blocks up the f-file thereby preparing ...e5, so that my Rook on f8 wouldn't be exchanged, leaving a disjointed back rank which obviously I didn't want following Rxf8+. Also importantly, it eyes the square g3, which has become "hot" following White's dubious prophylactic King move.

15.Bg1 **e5**
16.fxe5 **Bxe5**
17.Bd3 **Re8**
A necessity. Obviously I want to play ...Qh4 intending ...Ng3#, simultaneously attacking the Knight on a4. But this would fail to the prosaic Bxf5, followed by c3, guarding the Na4.
18.c3??



I received this move at about 4.58am on Monday morning, I had just switched my computer off, but I noticed the wee red light indicating that I had email traffic on my Blackberry, so I checked the move out on that and saw that my opponent had blundered!! I immediately saw the refutation, and that Black was

now winning, but I didn't get a chance to play it until I woke up after 11am on Monday.

18... **Ng3+!!**
And the only way White could avoid mate in the short term was to shed material, clearly losing, viz:-
18...Ng3+ 19.hxg3 Bxg3 20.Rf4 Bxf4 21.Bh2 Qh4 22.Qg1 Bxh2 23.Qxh2 Qxa4

0-1



To round off, here is a well-contested game from last year's Premier event. Black makes an early positional slip to give White the initiative. Both sides miss opportunities in the ensuing tactics, but White pulls through with forcing play.

SCCA Premiers, 2011

White: MacMillen, Andrew N (1842)

Black: Brooksbank, Kenneth (1881)

Symmetrical English [A39]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.c4 **Nf6**
2.Nf3 **c5**
3.Nc3 **Nc6**
4.d4 **cxd4**
5.Nxd4 **Nxd4**
5... e6 is dead level.
6.Qxd4 **g6**
7.g3 **Bg7**
8.Bg2 **0-0**
9.0-0 **Qc7?!**

Seemingly a natural developing move, but it just gives White a target. 9...d6 is more solid.

10.Nb5
10.c5 also looks promising.
10... **Qb6**
10...Qa5 avoids the doubled pawns.
11.Qxb6 **axb6**
12.Be3 **d6**
13.Bxb6 **Be6**
14.Nc7 **Nd7?!**

Trying some tactical complications.

15.Nxa8 **Rxa8**
16.Be3 **Bxc4**
17.Rfe1?!
17.Bxb7 Rb8 18.Rac1 Ne5 19.b3 looks better for White.
17... **Rb8?!**
17...Bxb2 18.Rab1 Rxa2 looks worth a try for Black.

18.Ba7
18.Rac1 Bxa2 19.Rc7 looks the strongest for White.
18... **Ra8**
19.Be3 **Rb8**

Once again, 19...Bxb2 looks the best try for Black.



20.Rac1!

Definitely best - White won't be denied now.

20... Bxa2

21.Rc7 Ne5

21...Be6 holds out for longer.

22.Ba7 Re8

23.Rxb7 e6

Good moves for Black are getting harder to spot now.

24.b4 d5

25.b5 Nc4

26.Bc5

26.Rb8 Rxb8 27.Bxb8 is slightly quicker.

26... Rc8

27.Bb4

Bb3

28.e3

Ne5

29.b6

Nc6

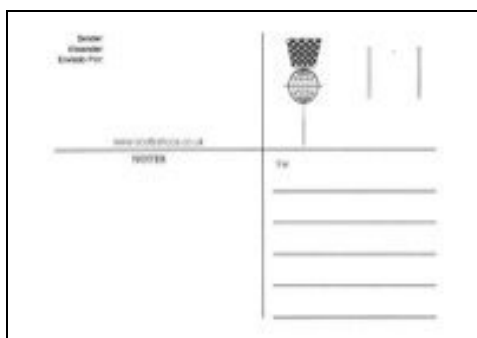
30.Rc7

And Black will need to sacrifice significant material to stop the b-pawn.

1-0



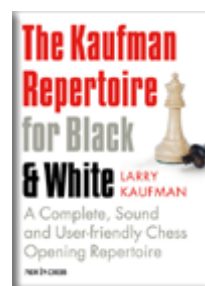
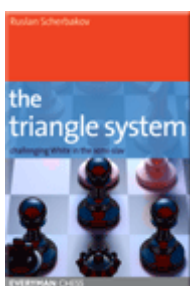
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The SCCA has a stock of cc postcards showing the SCCA logo and website address. They are suitable for domestic and international use (English, German and Spanish used). Orders in units of 100. The cards are supplied at their production cost (£2.50/100) and p&p is also required. As a guideline, 200 cards delivered in January 2012 cost £7.61 - £5 for the cards, and £2.61 UK second class postage. Orders to [Iain Mackintosh](mailto:Iain.Mackintosh@scca.org.uk) please.



Keep an eye open for:





Correspondence Chess in Scotland 1924

By Alan McGowan

British County and District Correspondence Championship

A West of Scotland team won the British County and District Correspondence Championship, the third year of the competition, with a score of 21 points from their 30 games. Second was Devonshire with 18½ points, with Lancashire, Somerset and Yorkshire tied for third place with 18 points. The West of Scotland team members were:

1. Dr R.C. Macdonald	11. A. Martin	21. R.B. Thomson
2. J.A. McKee	12. J.D. Chambers	22. J. Young
3. D.M. MacIsaac (Captain)	13. J.E. Sachs	23. S.C. Weir
4. C. Wardhaugh	14. J. McGrouther	24. Miss Gilchrist
5. J. Birch	15. R. Walker	25. R. Leigh
6. J.R. Draper	16. W.A. Lochhead	26. W. Sharp
7. J. Gilchrist	17. P. Fyfe	27. J.H. Elliot
8. A. Murray	18. H. Dobson	28. H. White
9. J.M. Nichol	19. M. Davies	29. J. Dickson
10. Rev. J. Young	20. T.C. Rutledge	30. Mrs Brockett

Most of these players were already very active in over-the-board chess, and further details of many of them can be found in the History Archive on the Chess Scotland website at: <http://www.chessscotland.com/history/biographies/biographies.htm>

The team captain, MacIsaac, who would later take over the chess column of the Glasgow Herald was a populariser of chess in all its forms, including correspondence chess. He organized a number of correspondence matches involving the readers of that newspaper.

Reverend Young, who edited a chess column in the Greenock Telegraph from 1923 to 1939, also organised similar matches.

Scottish Correspondence Chess Championship 1924

SCCA Championship 1924		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts
1	Dr R.C. Macdonald	■	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	6½
2	D.M. MacIsaac	½	■	½	1	1	1	1	1	6
3	J. Birch	0	½	■	½	½	1	1	1	4½
4	G. Hargrave	0	0	½	■	½	½	1	1	3½
5	J. Gilchrist	0	0	½	½	■	0	1	1	3
6	G. Owen	0	0	0	½	1	■	0	1	2½
7	M. Macfarlane	0	0	0	0	0	1	■	1	2
8	J.M. Nichol	0	0	0	*	0	*	*	■	0

Note that Nichol lost 3 games by default (*)

This championship had been in abeyance for a prolonged period. The main contenders came out on top, with only a ½ point separating them. Dr Macdonald was a six-time Scottish Champion in over-the-board play, and was active in British Correspondence Chess Association tournaments over many years. Further information on Dr Macdonald can be found at http://www.chessscotland.com/history/biographies/macdonald_dr_rc.htm

Sources:

BCM 1924, p 311 and 450; BCM 1925, p 81.
Glasgow Herald, 3 January 1925, p 4.

[Editor: you can contact Alan on amcgowan@golden.net if you have any queries or there is further information you can provide on any aspect of SCCA history.]





The Complex Art of Innovation: A Case Study from the Ruy Lopez

By Peter Bennett

[The author would like to acknowledge the contribution of Kjartan Maack who provided database analysis.]

A phrase in the Editor's Preface to the tenth edition of MCO, published in 1965 (the year I started to play CC and the reason why I bought it) has always stuck in my mind.

Referring to the reviser, GM Larry Evans, Walter Korn had argued that "...readers would benefit from the battle-seasoned judgment of a practising ...Grandmaster."

Well, Evans certainly did a good job, in that the tenth edition was a big improvement on the ninth. But, in general, do active tournament players actually make the best writers of books on the opening? In most respects, yes, perhaps, but in one respect I have my doubts: what are they going to tell the general public about the special lines that belong to their own personal repertoire? And are they going to say anything at all about the surprise moves they have planned to use against known opponents in their next tournament? To publish that kind of thing, is to offer your rivals all your opening secrets by megaphone, surely?

For this reason, published opening theory often lags behind the thinking of the players who use the lines. It is only 66-year-old has-beens, like the present writer, who are going to offer their research findings while the ink is still drying on their latest scoresheets.

The following game, which finished a few hours ago as I write, started in September 2011 and was being played against a scheduled adjudication date of 28 February 2013, so it is reasonably up-to-the-minute.

White: Bennett, Peter (SCO) [2252]
Black: Klausner, Helmut (GER) [2207]
ICCF Veterans World Cup 4
Preliminary Group 11, 20011-13
Ruy Lopez, Chigorin Defence [C99]
[Notes by Peter Bennett]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	Nf6
5.0-0	Be7
6.Re1	b5
7.Bb3	0-0
8.c3	d6
9.h3	Na5
10.Bc2	c5
11.d4	Qc7
12.Nbd2	cxd4
13.cxd4	Bb7
14.d5	Rac8
15.Bd3	Nd7
16.Nf1	Nc5

17.b3

18.exf5

f5

Bf6

This position is far from new



The most popular continuation here has been 19.Be4, played in 12 of the 15 games (80%) recorded on the databases. Indeed, in the more limited database to which I had access when I originally reached this position, 19.Be4 had been the only move played.

This was scarcely surprising, since one of those games was played by a former World Champion (Kramnik – Sokolov, Wijk aan Zee, 2005, 1 – 0 in 36 moves). I am sometimes amazed at the inviolate status attributed to the judgements about opening theory made by Super GMs. Remember the days of Bobby Fischer? When Fischer experimented with a new move, whether sound or not, the entire chess world seemed to play it for the next three years.

Something similar happened here. Kramnik played 19.Be4 in 2005. Not until 2008, in a serious game, was anything else tried, so far as we have been able to establish.

Even so, the suspicion that Sokolov may not have found the perfect defence at the first attempt ultimately began to occur to correspondence players in about 2008.

By this time, three correspondence games (at least) in which White had played what had now become the standard move, 19.Be4, had all ended in draws: Mezera – Calugaru, ICCF, 2007; White – Souza, ICCF, 2008; and Zundel – Mesko, ICCF, 2008.

In any case, even before I learned about these games, I had already concluded from my independent forward analysis that Black had perfectly adequate defences to 19.Be4.

So I decided to go back to the drawing board and look afresh at the candidate moves for White's 19th. I quickly established that there were four: 19.Be4, the quieter 19.Be2, the more aggressive 19.Bg5 and the alternative retreat move, 19.Bc2.

By the time I had concluded my analysis, two days later, I had formed a completely different impression of the position than the one that Kramnik had gained, OTB. Put another way, I eventually concluded that 19.Be4 was not merely not the best, it was actually the weakest of the four moves. In retrospect, it seems quite ridiculous that it had ever become a “standard” move in the first place, especially when adopted by so many, reasonably strong, correspondence players.

My attention was first focussed on the simple retreat, 19.Be2. This had two advantages over 19.Be4. First, it allows White to retain the two bishops, a conclusion independently reached by Kubicki (see below), as I later learned. Secondly, it takes away from Black the option of making a piece exchange with the N/c5 and, by virtue of that, introduces the threat of b4, forking the two Ns, a sub-theme in many variations of this system.

I have not retained my analysis of 19.Be2; and it would now be pointless to resurrect it. Suffice it to say that, if I had not found anything better, I would have played 19.Be2 in preference to 19.Be4.

I then spent over two hours examining the more challenging option, 19.Bg5, still (at that stage) believing that this move was a potential innovation.

I examined many sub-variations, but the line I eventually came up with as offering the combination of “best attack” by White and “best defence” by Black ran as follows:

19.Bg5 Bxd5 20.Bxf6 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 gxf6! 22.Be4 Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Qb7 24.Qd3 Nc6 25.Qd5+ Kh8 26.Rad1 Qg7 27.Ng3 Nd4 28.Qxd6 Rg8 29.Qxa6 Ra8 30.Qb6 Rab8 31.Qd6 Nxf5 32.Qc6 Nd4 33.Qe4....

At this stage, White is a pawn up, with a sustained initiative; but my conclusion, yet again, was that White has no forced pathway to a win and that Black seems to be getting sufficient counterplay, in terms of piece activity, to hold the position. Even so, in normal circumstances, I would probably have settled for 19.Bg5 at this point, given that this move seemed to offer more than 19.Be4.

The reason circumstances were not normal related to my tournament strategy. I had six games with White and six with Black. As luck would have it, I had the Black pieces against each of my three strongest opponents in terms of grading – SIM Bo Jäderholm, Rein Thierry and Dieter Päßler, all seasoned campaigners – although, conversely, I had White against six lower-graded players, of whom Klausner was actually the strongest.

To gain a qualification place for the VWC Semifinal I needed to score 8.5/12, which could be achieved, say, by winning four games with White, one with Black and drawing all the rest. So I was under great pressure to “perform” well with the White pieces. Yet, by the time my game with Helmut Klausner had reached move 19, I already knew that I could do no better than draw three of my other games with White. Hence, finding a win against Klausner was a make-or-break task, in terms of my prospects in the

tournament. If I had yet another draw with White, my chances would be gone.

Thus, in the art of opening innovation, as in many aspects of life, necessity is the mother of invention; and that is why even the highly advantageous 19.Bg5 seemed not quite good enough, at that moment.

Some two weeks after I had rejected 19.Bg5, I found out that it wouldn't have been an innovation, anyway, because it had in fact been tried once before in this game which followed the same line that I had independently explored in analysis, at least up to move 21 (Adam – Beth, ICCF 2008):

19.Bg5 Bxd5 20.Bxf6 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Rxf6?! 22.Ne3 Nxd3 23.Qd5+ Rf7 24.Qxd3 (1 – 0 in 56 moves)

By move 24, White already seemed to be winning, so it is a little surprising that this did not immediately replace 19.Be4 as the most popular continuation. Even with my improvement for Black on move 21, the line offers so little to the second player that it could be regarded as close to a refutation already. Yet many players probably continued to assume that 19.Be4 would be played, almost automatically.

It was only at a late stage of my analytical session that I finally started to explore the counter-intuitive move, 19.Bc2 which nevertheless had the advantage (as with 19.Be2) of taking the bishop out of range of the N/c5, yet in this case keeping it on the active b1-h7 diagonal. (By contrast, 19.Bb1? was not possible because it prevents the development of the White QR).

For over an hour I explored line after line until it gradually began to dawn on me that I had actually discovered a genuine opening innovation. Try as I might, I could find no satisfactory defence for Black in any line. “EUREKA” I cried, to the astonishment of my rather perplexed wife, Joy, who was reassuring in a very kindly way, but can never quite find a reason to get excited about correspondence chess moves.

The following day I mapped out all the variations in a systematic way, establishing that even the weakest line was substantially stronger than the line I had planned after 19.Bg5. So I played 19.Bc2 and waited to see what Helmut Klausner would make of it; in the meantime I decided it was time to check my move against a larger database. I emailed a chess friend, Kjartan Maack, now co-author of this article – whose database I knew to be much more extensive than mine.

A few days later (by which time my game against Klausner had already reached move 22) he sent me back the statistics on White's 19th move which appear earlier in this article, the score of the Adam – Beth game, and another piece of news: I may have discovered 19.Bc2 independently, but the move had been played once before, in the following game:

White Kubicki, Tadeusz (POL) [2466]
Black Rozenblum, Jhony (ISR) [2000]
ICCF Fast Money Prize Tournament 2010

(Moves 1-18 as above.)

19.Bc2 e4 20.Nd4 Qf7?! (Black is faltering already)



21.Bb2 Bxd5 22.Ne3 Bb7 23.Rb1 Rfd8 24.Ng4 Bg5 25.f6 h5 26.Nf5 Kh7 27.h4 Bf4 28.Nge3 Be5 29.Bxe5 dxe5 30.Nd6 1-0

It appears that neither player had appreciated the significance of this game for the opening system at the time. That Kubicki should have won the game is hardly a surprise to anyone, since he is a CC-IM and his opponent over 400 grading points below him. Furthermore, Kubicki would have seen immediately that his opponent's defence was flawed. In a mail I have just received from Kubicki, he explained that he had explored 19.Be2 and 19.Bc2 as two alternative ways of keeping the two bishops. He happened to choose the second option, but did not see it as being in any sense a refutation of the opening.

Helmut Klausner, however, brought more experience to bear on the defence. As it happens he is the only player of the 13 in our VWC Group to have qualified already for a VWC Semi-final; and his historical grading (of 2318) was substantially higher than mine. So, back to the diagrammed position:

19.Bc2! e4!

The alternative defence, 19...Qf7?! 20.Rb1 Qxd5 21.Bd2 e4 22.N3h2!, is very strong for White.

20.Nd4 Bxd5!

Unquestionably the best defence. The only try other than Rozenblum's unsuccessful 20...Qf7?! is 20...Nd3?! 21.Rxe4 Nb4 22.Ne3 Nxd5 23.Rg4 and White is again winning.

21.Bb2 Qf7

Another try is 21...Bb7 22.Ne3 Bxd4 23.Bxd4 Nc6, when White has a choice of three continuations – 24.Qd2, 24.Bxc5 and 24.a3 – all of which seem very strong.

22.Ne3 Ba8
23.Rb1 Rfd8
24.Ng4 Be5
25.b4 h5?!

The only point at which I would take serious issue with my opponent's defence, but: 25...Nc4! 26.bxc5 dxc5 27.Nxe5 Nxe5 28.Bxe4 Nc4 29.Bxa8 Nxb2 30.Rxb2 Rxa8 31.Rd2 Rxd4 32.Rxd4 cxd4 33.Qxd4 Qc4 34.Qxc4+ bxc4 35.Rc1 Rc8 36.Kf1 Kf7 37.Ke2 Kf6 38.g4 Kg5 39.Rc3 g6 40.Rf3 is also winning eventually for White.

26.bxc5 hxg4
27.Ne6 Bxb2

28.Nxd8

1-0



An OTB player might think this resignation a trifle premature; but in correspondence play, obviously, both players were analysing a long way ahead. Black could see that his position was about to implode, for example in the line:

28...Rxd8 29.Rxb2 Nc4 30.Rb3 gxh3 31.Rxh3 Qxf5 32.Qd4 Qe5 33.Qxe5 dxe5 34.Bb3 Rd2 (the only move offering any counterplay) 35.Bxc4 bxc4 36.Ra3 winning.

To win so quickly against such a strong player is a sure sign that something is wrong – in our view, with Black's whole system of defence here. The two Ns on a5 and c5 may look as though they are working strongly in unison, but, in practice, they cause Black a lot of problems. When I played 19.Bc2, I already believed that the game would eventually be winning for White. Such a claim is not always borne out; but, in this case, it surely has been. I fully acknowledge that Tadeusz Kubicki first discovered the move itself; but I can fairly claim to have discovered its strength.

After these two games it is scarcely worth anyone's while to explore it further. The line is effectively refuted. What is astonishing is that so many games passed this milestone at White's 19th move, without anyone really analysing the position properly.

Another question – which is beyond the focus of this particular article – is how far back does the refutation of this line actually go? Our own conclusion is that neither author, playing Black in this branch of the Ruy Lopez, would even be comfortable now in playing the 13...Bb7 line (although other players may take quite a different view).

It also raises the question, of course, as to how many more hidden gems there are in standard theory lines which everyone seems to take for granted.

So next time you play one of those solid, older lines in the Ruy Lopez, just take a quick look before playing follow-my-leader in the "standard" continuation!

[Peter Bennett is a specialist correspondence player, based in Edinburgh, currently also participating in the British CC Championship 2011/12.

[Kjartan Maack plays both correspondence and OTB chess, having recently taken part in the Iceland Championships.]



2nd Webserver Open Final

By George Pyrich

SCO/Open2/final		2nd SCCA Webserver Open Final		TD MacGregor, Colin A. (IA)													
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	SB	RG	Place	
1	SCO	620643	Bell, Alan D.	2353	█	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	5.5	14.25	0	1
2	SCO	629031	Lloyd, Geoffrey	2301	½	█	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	5.5	14.25	0	1
3	SCO	620588	IM Matheis, Thomas	2442	½	½	█	½	1	.	½	1	1	5	13.75	1	3
4	SCO	620345	IM Mackintosh, Iain	2372	½	½	½	█	½	.	½	1	1	4.5	11.75	1	4
5	SCO	620426	Cumming, David R.	2271	½	½	0	½	█	½	½	1	1	4.5	10.75	0	5
6	SCO	620623	Paine, Dr. Kevin	2216	½	½	.	.	½	█	½	.	1	3	9.25	3	6
7	SCO	211664	Graham, Stuart	2309	0	0	½	½	½	½	█	1	.	3	8.5	1	7
8	SCO	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1801	0	0	0	0	0	.	0	█	.	0	0	2	8
9	SCO	620669	Paulin, Andrew	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	.	.	█	0	0	2	8

After just over 9 months play, 31 of the 36 games have already been completed and a close and exciting finish is in prospect.

Geoff Lloyd finished all his games quickly and for some time was the leader “in the club-house” with 5½ from his 8 games. Since then Alan Bell has also finished on the same score. Presently Tom Matheis has 5 with 1 game yet to finish and can possibly surpass both whilst our President, Iain Mackintosh, has 4½ with one to finish and can yet join a possible 3 way or even 4 way tie at the top! However, our Membership Secretary, Kevin Paine, has 3 from 5 completed games and, with 3 games still in progress, can still win the event outright!

We present 3 games from the event – in the first Tom Matheis is rewarded for his original play whilst the second sees a sharp struggle in a popular theoretical opening ending in an interesting theoretical end-game! Another short game from Tom concludes.

White: Matheis, Thomas (2442)
Black: Cumming, David R (2271)
SCCA 2nd Webserver Open Final, 2011
 Queen’s Pawn, 2.Nf3 Sidelines [D02]
[Notes by George Pyrich]

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 1.d4 | d5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3.g3 | Bf5 |
| 4.Bg2 | e6 |
| 5.0-0 | Nb4 |
| 6.Na3 | Be7 |
| 7.c3 | Na6 |
| 8.Ne5 | Nf6 |
| 9.Qb3 | Qc8 |
| 10.f3 | h6 |
| 11.Bf4 | Bh7 |
| 12.Rfe1 | 0-0 |
| 13.e4 | |

Maybe 13... c5 instead?

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 14.exd5 | Nxd5 |
| 15.Bh3 | f5?! |

The sudden threat of Nxf7 is hard to meet but Black suffers for this the rest of the game. 15...Nd7 16.Nxf7 is very strong and; 15...Nxf4 16.gxf4 and White always threatens Nxf7

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 16.Bd2 | Rd8 |
| 17.Bg2 | a5 |
| 18.f4 | Ra6 |
| 19.Rad1 | c6 |
| 20.Nd3 | Bg6 |
| 21.Bf3 | Bf7 |
| 22.c4 | Nc7 |
| 23.Nc2 | Nd7 |
| 24.Ne3 | b5?! |

Another big concession - 24...Bf6 25.Bc3 Qb8 doesn't look too bad.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 25.Qc2 | Bf6 |
| 26.Ne5 | Nxe5 |
| 27.dxe5 | Be7 |
| 28.Bc3 | Bc5 |
| 29.Rxd8+ | Qxd8 |
| 30.Kg2 | bxc4 |
| 31.Nxc4 | Nd5 |
| 32.a4 | Be8 |
| 33.Rd1 | Ra8 |
| 34.Kh1 | Qc7 |
| 35.Bd2 | Kh7 |
| 36.b3 | Kg8 |
| 37.Qd3 | Bd7 |
| 38.Rc1 | Kh8 |
| 39.h3 | Kh7 |
| 40.g4 | g6 |
| 41.Kh2 | Qd8 |



13... Nb8

42.Bg2 Bf2
 43.Qf3 Bc5
 44.Qg3 Be8
 45.gxf5 gxf5



46.Bxd5!

Star move!

46... Qxd5

46...cxd5 looks obvious but walks into 47.Nxa5! Rxa5 48.Bb4! Bd4 (48...Bxb4 49.Rg1! and mates) 49.Rd1 Ra7 50.Rxd4 with a winning end-game for White.

47.Be3 Bf7
 48.Bxc5 Qxc5
 49.Qe3 Qxe3
 50.Nxe3

The rest is a simple technical task

50... Be8
 51.Kg3 Kg6
 52.Nc4 Kf7
 53.Nd6+ Kc7
 54.Kh4 Ra6
 55.Rg1 Kf8
 56.Nxe8 Kxe8
 57.Rg6 Kd7
 58.Rxh6 c5
 59.Rh7+ Kc6
 60.Kg5 Ra8
 61.Kf6 Kd5
 62.Rd7+ Ke4
 63.Kxe6 Kxf4
 64.Kd5 1-0



White: Graham, Stuart (2309)

Black: Bell, Alan D (2353)

SCCA 2nd Webserver Open Final, 2011

French Winawer [C18]

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5
 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.e5 c5
 5.a3 Bxc3+
 6.bxc3 Ne7
 7.Qg4 cxd4
 8.Qxg7 Rg8
 9.Qxh7 Qc7

10.Ne2 Nbc6
 11.f4 dxc3

11...Bd7 was played in Graham v. Horwitz (1-0, 41) published in Bulletin 115 - Black's choice here varies things immediately 12.Qd3 dxc3 13.Qxc3 Nf5 14.Rb1 d4 15.Qc4

12.h4

12.Qd3 d4 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Bd7 15.Rg1 Nf5 16.Qf2 Qc6 17.Bd3 Qd5 was soon drawn in Efremov v Liebert, Keres 95 Memorial, 2011.

12... Bd7

13.h5!?

Does White have time for this?! White has a big plus score in databases but it looks risky.

13... 0-0-0

14.Qd3 Nf5

15.Qxc3 d4

16.Qc5 f6

17.exf6 Nd6



The engines are sure White is winning here but it's far from clear!

18.a4 Ne4

19.Qb5 a6

20.Qd3 Nxf6

21.Rb1 e5

22.h6 e4

23.Qb3 Bf5

Suddenly the engines aren't so sure!

24.Qb6 d3

25.Qxc7+ Kxc7

26.cxd3 exd3

27.Nc3 Rge8+

28.Kd2 Na5

29.Rb4 b5!

30.Bb2

30.axb5 Rd4! and the engines now say Black is winning!

30... Nc4+

31.Rxc4+ bxc4

32.g3 Rd6

Now Black is clearly winning.

33.Bg2 Rg8

34.Ba3 Rd7

35.Bh3 Bxh3

36.Rxh3 Kb7

37.Bb2 Rh7

38.f5 Ng4

39.Ne4 Rxh6

40.Rxh6 Nxh6

41.Nd6+ Kc6

42.Nxc4 Rxc3

43...Ng4 44.Nxg4 Rxg4 45.Kxd3 Rxa4 looks a surer way to win.

43.Ne3 Rf3
44.Bc3 Nxf5
45.Nxf5 Rxf5
46.Kxd3 Kc5



And here White, rather generously resigned! Maybe the position is in some tablebase somewhere but in practice it's far from easy.

Much has been written on this end-game with the rook's pawns and the game Kramnik v Ponomarev, Moscow 2009, saw a top class GM go astray in a very similar position

0-1



White: [Matheis, Thomas \(2442\)](#)
Black: [Paulin, Andrew \(2024\)](#)
SCCA 2nd Webserver Open Final, 2011
Schmid Benoni [A43]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 g6
2.c4 Bg7
3.e4 c5
4.d5 d6
5.Nc3 Nd7
6.Qc2 Ngf6
7.Be2 0-0
8.Nf3 Ne5?!

8...Ne8 9.0-0 Ne5 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 is maybe sounder.

9.Nxe5 dxe5
10.0-0 Bd7
11.Be3 b6
12.a3 a5
13.b3 Qc7
14.h3 Qd6?!

Pawns want to be queens, but queens wanting to be pawns?!

15.g4!?
15... Qc7
16.f4 Ne8
17.f5 Nd6
18.a4 h6
19.h4 Rfd8
20.Rf2 Rf8

Not the best positionally, but White is set on a pawn storm.

Shuffling a bit.

21.Raf1 Rae8
22.g5
Preparation complete, advance!
22... h5



Bullseye!

23.Bxh5!
23... gxh5
24.Qd1 Rb8
25.Qxh5 Ne8



26.d6!

A lovely move, activating all the White pieces.

26... Qxd6
27.Rd1

27.Rd1 Qc7 28.Nd5 Qd8 29.f6 exf6 30.gxf6 Nxf6 31.Nxf6+ and Black is crushed.

1-0





International Update

By George Pyrich

Forthcoming ICCF Events

Announcements are awaited shortly regarding the Preliminaries of the 5th ICCF Veterans Championship to be organised by the German Federation, the BdF, and the Semifinals of the 69th European Championship to be organised by ICCF's EU zone.

The next cycle of the ICCF Champions League has been delayed somewhat, likely to sometime in the autumn, because of delays in completing outstanding games in the previous cycle. Consequently the 5th ICCF Webserver Open tournament was brought forward and entries now close on 30th April. Further details can be obtained at our SCCA web site.

Europa Postal Cup

EU/PC/pr2		European Postal Cup - Preliminary Group 2								TD Hömske, Markus							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Scottish Claymores	2138	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	7	87	6	4	8	20	1
2	CASPA-ROV	2005	0	0.5	0	1	1	0	2	4.5	89	4	1	5	23	2	
3	A. D. Scacchi Rocca Priora	2247	0	0.5	0	2	0	0	1	3.5	87	3	1	4	24	3	
4	Veterans	2373	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	100	3	0	3	25	4	
5	White Rose Exiles	1879	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	20	-6	1	10	18	5	
6	Dutchess	2076	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	50	0	0	4	24	6	
7	Germany B	2159	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	100	1	0	1	27	7	
8	Arc-en-ciel / Rainbow / Regnbåge	1854	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-11	0	11	17	8

The table makes impressive reading as our team maintains its early blistering pace.

ICCF World Championship 35 Preliminaries

WC35/pr09	WCCC35PR09		TD Chambers, Duncan (IA)															Score	SB	RG	Place	
Category 3 SIM=11 IM=10 LGM=7 ILM=4½			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
1	TUR	490377	Akinal, Ediz	2228	0	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	8	52.5	2	1	
2	SCO	211664	Graham, Stuart	2310	½	0	½	½	½	1	0	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	8	51.25	0	2
3	SLO	480032	Potrata, Janko	2272	½	½	0	½	1	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	1	8	50.75	0	3	
4	RUS	140620	IM Stepanov, Konstantin Vasilievich	2359	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	8	49	0	4	
5	CZE	130306	SIM Teichmann, Čeněk	2409	0	½	0	½	0	1	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	8	48.5	0	5	
6	GER	83088	Pommrich, Rainer	2209	½	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	8	46.75	0	6	
7	ENG	210354	SIM Bowyer, Ken J.	2390	½	1	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	1	½	½	7	47.25	1	7	
8	ISL	300178	IM Haraldsson, Haraldur	2379	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	1	½	½	7	46.25	1	8	
9	GER	80433	IM Koch, Hans-Georg	2338	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	1	7	43.75	0	9	
10	USA	511280	Horwitz, Daniel M.	2352	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	1	7	41.5	0	10	
11	BRA	70113	Silva, Marcus Antonio Rolim	2372	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	1	6	38	1	11	
12	POL	420546	LGM Szczepaniak, Alicja	2285	0	½	1	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	½	1	5.5	36.25	5	12	
13	GER	83764	SIM Schmitzer, Klaus	2426	0	½	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	4.5	28.5	1	13	
14	ESP	160127	IM Parés Vives, Natalia	2315	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	3.5	23	1	14	
15	ITA	240652	Sparnacini, Stefano	2113	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	1	3.5	20.25	0	15	

Stuart Graham has now finished all his games in section 9 with an impressive score and, conditional upon the results of the few unfinished games, may qualify for the Semi-final stage.

Witold Bielecki Memorial Team Tournament

MT-Bielecki/pr1	Memorial "Witold Bielecki" - Preliminary 1								TD Wojnar, Mariusz							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Belarus	1845	0	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	1	3	11.5	76	8	1	15	21	1
2	Finland	1932	0.5	0	2.5	1.5	1	4	9.5	79	7	2	12	24	2	
3	Austria	1927	1.5	0	2.5	2.5	1.5	1	9	69	5	0	13	23	3	
4	Germany	1864	1	0.5	0.5	2	1	3	8	50	0	1	16	20	4	
5	England	1986	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1.5	5	35	-4	0	14	22	5	
6	Portugal	1969	0	0	0.5	0	0	2	2.5	27	-4	0	9	27	6	
7	Scotland	1891	0	0	1	0	0.5	1	2.5	14	-12	0	17	19	7	

Unfortunately our team has been a little slow out of the blocks in this one.

ICCF 19th Olympiad Preliminaries

CCO19/S1		ICCF Olympiad 19 Preliminaries - Section 01										TD Flores Gutiérrez, Carlos (IA)					
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	Poland	2446	3.5	4.5	3.5	4.5	4	4	5	29	67	15	8	43	13	1	
2	Austria	2510	2.5	2.5	4.5	4	2.5	2.5	6.5	25	67	13	5	37	19	2	
3	England	2391	2.5	2.5	2	4	3.5	3	5	22.5	51	1	3	44	12	3	
4	Canada	2423	1.5	2.5	3	3.5	3	1	3	17.5	54	3	0	32	24	4	
5	Italy	2297	2.5	1	4	2.5	0.5	2	4	16.5	42	-6	2	39	17	5	
6	Spain	2359	2	1.5	3.5	0	1.5	1.5	5.5	15.5	48	-1	2	32	24	6	
7	Scotland	2270	2	0.5	3	1	3	1.5	1.5	12.5	43	-4	0	29	27	7	
8	Argentina	2218	1	0.5	1	1	2	1.5	2.5	9.5	23	-21	0	40	16	8	

We're slipping down the table a bit now with the players finding it tough to reach 50% scores.

Thor Løvholt Memorial

MT-Løvholt /sf1		Thor Løvholt Memorial U-2300 Team Tournament SF1										TD Pheby, Ian M. (IA)							
Nr.	Team	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	France	2183	3	3	3	2.5	3	3.5	3.5	4.5	5	31	59	10	12	52	2	1	
2	Austria	2235	3	3.5	2.5	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	4.5	30.5	57	8	14	53	1	2		
3	Poland	2216	3	2.5	3	3	3.5	2.5	3	5	30.5	58	9	10	52	2	3		
4	Czech Republic	2203	2	3.5	3	2.5	4	2.5	3.5	4	3.5	28.5	56	7	11	50	4	4	
5	Belarus	2166	2.5	3	3	2.5	3	2.5	3.5	4.5	3.5	28	54	5	9	51	3	5	
6	Spain	2239	3	2.5	1.5	2	3	3	3.5	4.5	4	27	52	3	9	51	3	6	
7	Latvia	2211	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	2	1.5	4	4	26	50	0	8	52	2	7	
8	Bulgaria	2184	2.5	1.5	3	2.5	1.5	1.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	26	50	1	7	51	3	8	
9	Scotland	2124	1.5	2.5	1	1	1.5	1.5	2	1.5	3.5	16	30	-21	2	53	1	9	
10	Cape Verde	1935	1	1.5	1	1.5	2.5	2	2	1.5	2.5	15.5	29	-22	0	53	1	10	

We are thankful to Cape Verde for keeping us out of last place – but there's only half a point in it with a game each to play!

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Feb 2012	30	Netherlands	Server/Post				
Mar 2011	20	Romania	Server	9	23		loss
Mar 2011	32	France	Server/Post	10	34		loss
Jan 2011	10	Hong Kong	Server	9	11		loss
Nov 2010	15	Cape Verde	Server	23	6		win
Nov 2010	30	Finland	Server/Post	19½	34½		loss
Sep 2010	32	Sweden	Server/Post	21½	38½		loss
Apr 2010	10	Lithuania	Server	8	12		loss
Mar 2010	20	Scheming Mind	Server	10½	29½		loss
Feb 2010	20	Ecuador	Server	29½	10½		win

The new friendly match against Netherlands has started over 24 server and 6 postal boards whilst other new matches against Italy and Czech Republic are expected to start in the coming months.

SCCA Webserver Events



To view tables and games in the SCCA Webserver Open, Championship Cycle and Leagues, you don't need to register on the ICCF server - go to the website, click Tables and Results, then National Federation Events then Scotland Events. Some games have a time delay, e.g. current position is 5 moves ahead of what you can see.

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/>



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 the SCCA. 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 Fees 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 2012

Theme 4/12: Ruy Lopez, Cordel Defence, C64

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

Theme 5/12: Winawer Gambit, D10

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e5

Entries by 15 November; play starts 1 December

Webserver Events 2012

Theme 4/12: Muzio Gambit, C37

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 g4 5.0-0

Entries by 15 May; play starts 1 June

Theme 5/12: French, MacCutcheon Variation, C12

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.e5 h6

Entries by 1 September; play starts 15 September

Note there are no Email Events in 2012.

News

- ❑ The 17th Olympiad has been won by Germany with Spain in 2nd place. 3rd place has still to be decided.
- ❑ The 7th European Team Championship is now concluded with the final placings: 1st Slovakia; 2nd Italy; 3rd Slovenia.
- ❑ The German team, Underdogs I, has won the 2010 Champions League.
- ❑ World Cup XIV is complete, with 1st Reinhard Moll (Germany – his 4th win!); 2nd Aleksey Simakhin (Russia); 3rd Andreas Schinke (Germany).
- ❑ In the 2nd Webchess Open, M. Kaas (Czech Republic) and M. Loinjak (Croatia) tied for 1st and M. Gueci (Italy) was 3rd.
- ❑ The Federal Cross of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) of the Federal Republic of Germany has been bestowed upon GM Dr. Fritz Baumbach to honour his lifetime achievements. Fritz is an honorary member of ICCF and BdF, a former world champion and Olympiad winner.

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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