

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.126

Summer 2014

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4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum



Welcome to the summer edition of the 2014 magazine set. We've had a few t-shirt days in recent weeks, though it's been safest to wear the t-shirt over a thermal vest. My vest has been on for so long that it would need a frenzied assault with a bread knife to remove it.

While the partying classes have been enjoying the World Cup, we sober gentlemen of a certain age have been attending to AGM matters. I've done a few jots to record proceedings, while Gordon provides us with full accounts once again. Both Gordon and auditor Alan Hind again deserve thanks for their accurate and efficient work.

George analyses the third ICCF rating list of 2014 where notable achievements were recorded by Peter Bennett in becoming our 34th Scottish Master, and George himself in passing the 900 games milestone.

Alan McGowan, the Chess Scotland archivist, makes a welcome return to our pages and looks at the 2nd ever CC Tournament to be staged in Scotland.

Our Games Column continues to be a healthy size and features members Alan Borwell, Simon Gillam, David Cumming, Robert Montgomery, Eoin Campbell, Iain Mackintosh, Raymond Burrige and Andrew Macmillan playing in domestic and international events.

Another feature article is provided by Peter Bennett, whose text this time is playing speeds of CC opponents. This is a wry classification of characters we've all met, and a second part is lined up for our next edition.

George's international report is supplemented by an update on Veterans' World Cup cycles provided by Alan Borwell. Annotated games played by Richard Beecham, Eoin Campbell, plus Alan himself make this an action-packed article. If you haven't already entered VWC7, details can be found on the Notices page inside.

After many editions, I've finally got round to updating the ICCF page to better represent the current range of events which is available to our members.

Papers are now in circulation for the ICCF Congress in Sydney during October, so your committee will reflect on these and organise our proxy voting intentions.

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 is an important revenue-earner for the SCCA and it helps us to keep our fees low and/or unchanged year on year. Responsibility for the 100 Club rests with our Treasurer, Gordon Anderson.

Units cost £1 with some members taking one unit while others take as many as 10 units per month. From the Association's perspective paying by Bankers Order is most convenient.

If you don't already subscribe to the 100 club please consider if you can help the SCCA by taking out units and make contact with Gordon whose contact details are shown below.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2014	1st	2nd
June	J S Murray	C M Dowell
May	D Carswell	S R Mannion
April	G M Anderson	J M Armstrong

SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
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Games Editor	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	games@scottishcca.co.uk

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



7th ICCF Veterans' World Cup



Dr Uwe Staroske, president of BdF (the German CC Federation), writes to announce that VWC7 will start on 1st September, 2014, with the closing date for entries 1st August.

As with previous VWCs, the event will be organised in three stages, which will allow several players from each group stage to advance to the Semi-finals and Final.

The number of promotions will depend on total entries received, but it is envisaged that groups at each stage will comprise 13 players (12 games) played by webserver with a rate of play of 10 moves in 40 days. Playing time in each stage will be 18 months, with a fixed closing date specified at the outset.

VWCs are open to all players who are 60 years old or more at the start date of the tournament. Although the number of preliminary groups which each player may enter is unlimited, no player will qualify for more than two Semi-final groups or more than one place in the Final.

Players may enter through their National Federations (the SCCA entry fee per section is £8.50) or, where eligible, via the ICCF Direct Entry system. For further information, please contact George Pyrich before mid-July.

1st British Chess960 Championship



Austin Lockwood (WAL, and also ICCF Services Director), writes to announce the inaugural British Chess960 (aka Fischer Random Chess)

tournament which will be played on the ICCF webserver with a time control of 10 moves/35 days.

Entrants must be British residents and members of SCCA, WFCC or BFCC. Entry is £5; there will be no cash prizes, but the title of British Champion and a trophy will be awarded to the winner.

Registration closes on 1st September and play begins on 5th October. Entry via SCCA costs £5.00. For further details, please contact George Pyrich before 22nd August.

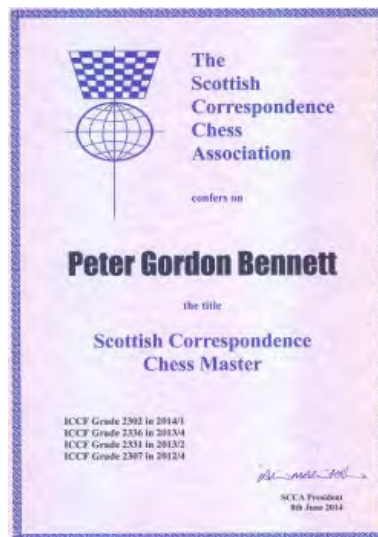
SCCA AGM Highlights



This was held at 7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA and by Skype at 4:00pm on Sunday, 8th June. The highlights were:

- Full audited accounts showing a surplus of £142 and net assets of £10,482 were produced by Gordon Anderson.
- Alan Hind was reappointed as auditor.
- The secretary post will continue to be covered by Kevin Paine (enquiries), Jim Anderson (domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes).
- SCCA membership subscriptions and entry fees remain unchanged.
- ICCF entry fees were reduced (as expected last year) with effect from January 2014.

Scottish Master Title



At the Executive Committee meeting in Perth on 8 June, Peter Bennett was assessed as having four SM grading norms: 2307 on the 2012/4 list (142 games); 2331 on the 2013/2 list (169 games); 2336 on the 2013/4 list (191 games); and 2302 on the 2014/1 list (213 games).

Peter was proposed for the SM title by George Pyrich and was unanimously approved. Peter collected his certificate at the 2014 AGM which followed.

That brings us up to 34 SMs in total (3xGM, 5xSIM, 10xIM and 16xSM). Many congratulations to Peter! In addition, Robert Montgomery was assessed as having two full SM norms.

Streetfighting Chess Magazine



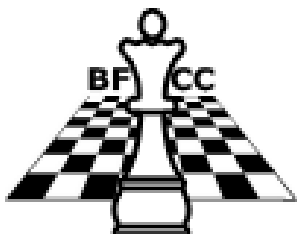
This new publication is an initiative by three times East of Scotland Champion, Andrew Burnett.

The first edition features an interview with WIM Fiona Steil-Antoni (pictured) and can be downloaded free from www.streetfightingchess.co.uk

The magazine is packed with well-annotated games and is designed to offer something to players of all strengths – there are tuition sections for blue, red and black belt levels which Andrew uses to subdivide OTB grading bands.

The second edition is a chargeable download, but is great value for money at just £1.50. It contains an article by Peter Bennett which gives correspondence chess some exposure.

BFCC/EFCC



At their AGM on 24th May, the BFCC elected to change their name from the British Federation for Correspondence Chess to the English Federation for CC.

This ends the York Agreement which had governed Home Nations events. Further discussions will be necessary to decide the format of any future British CC Championships.

One of the last winners of a BFCC prize was SCCA member Raymond Burrige who collected the BFCC Best Game Prize for 2013.

British Champion Peter Catt judged the competition and selected Raymond's win as Black against Steve Cole in a BCCA Webserver Trio game.

You can play over this game by looking up edition 125 of the SCCA Magazine where it features in the Games Column. Very well done Raymond!

GM Aleksandr Dronov World CC Champion 2011-14

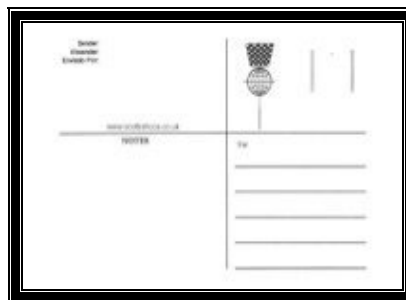


The 27th ICCF World Championship finished in May with GM Aleksandr Dronov of Russia winning the World Title for the 2nd time.

Previously he won the 22nd World Championship 22 (2007-10).

He is only the third player to win the highest title twice: the others are GM Tõnu Õim (EST) and GM Joop J. van Oosterom (NED).

CC Postcards



The SCCA has a stock of cc postcards showing the SCCA logo and website address. They are suitable for domestic and international use (English, German and Spanish used). Orders in units of 100.

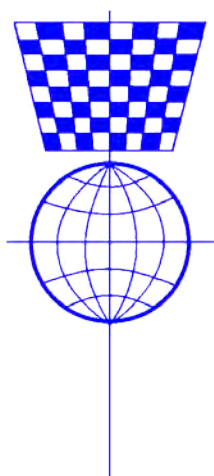
The cards are supplied at their production cost (£2.50/100) and p&p is also required. As a guideline, 200 cards delivered recently cost £7.60 - £5 for the cards, and £2.60 UK second class postage.

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



AGM 2014

By Iain Mackintosh



- Meeting:** The 37th AGM of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association.
- Venue:** Sunday 8th June, 2014, 4pm at Perth and by Skype.
- Present:** Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Jim Anderson, Peter Bennett, George Pyrich (all Perth); Gordon Anderson, Alan Borwell, Kevin Paine (all Skype).
- Apologies:** None.

Minutes of the 36th AGM

On the proposal of Jim Anderson seconded by Alan Borwell the minute of the meeting held on 16th June 2013 was accepted as an accurate record and approved.

Matters arising from the 36th AGM

None.

President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh summarised another busy and productive year for the SCCA.

On the domestic front, membership renewals were slightly down. The 2013-14 Scottish Championship has yet to complete, but David Cumming is assured of at least joint first place. Derek Price won one 2012 Premier section outright and shared the other with Eoin Campbell. Robert Gilbert won the Open with a score of 8/8, and thus joined the 100% Club. David Cumming retained the Challengers' medal. Hounds of the Scheming Mind won division 1 of the Webserver League, while Perth Correspondents and Social Stars shared the spoils in the Postal League. The 3rd Webserver Open was started, and featured two competitions (<2000 and 2000+), both with two preliminary sections. The 1st Annual Best Game Prize was adjudicated by Philip Giulian and won by Richard Beecham. Peter Bennett received the SM title after recording four grading norms.

Internationally, we continued to participate actively in both team and individual events (refer George's report below).

Once again the SCCA has been indebted to its hard-working committee members and event controllers, all of whom deserve thanks for their efforts and commitment. The work done by those assisting in the ICCF Veterans' World Cups should ensure several IA title awards later this year.

Secretary's Report

No secretary's report had been received. We initiated online membership renewal forms last year, which resulted in a notable saving in postage costs. Annual renewals were down slightly while life and patron memberships remained steady. All domestic events were proceeding smoothly. We changed our website hosting without incident. The online magazine was produced on schedule all year, while subscribers to the printed version reduced.

Treasurer's Report

Gordon Anderson presented a full set of accounts and once again expressed his thanks to Alan Hind for an efficient audit. We ended the year to 31st March 2014 showing a surplus of £142 and net assets of £10,482.

Income amounted to £2,584.46 (2013-£2,882.09), the main contributors to the fall in income being reduced membership fees, reduced donations and reduced interest income. The falls in income in these areas was offset a little by increases in team league entry fees and 100 club subscriptions.

Expenditure in the year was £2,442.85 (2013-£2,558.33). Committee expenses fell significantly due to the use of electronic distribution of renewal papers, however, this was offset by a significant increase in the cost of prizes and trophies to £826.00 (2013-£283.50). The main cause of that increase was the provision for prizes for the recently commenced 3rd Webserver tournament.

Our overall financial position remains very acceptable. Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon which was unanimously agreed. Gordon moved adoption of the audited accounts, seconded by George Pyrich and unanimously agreed.

International Secretary's Report

George Pyrich reported that we finished 8th in preliminary section 2 of the 20th Olympiad, and have begun play in the semi-finals of the delayed 10th European Team Championships. In the 5th Champions League, the Lewis Chessmen finished 8th in section 1 and the Scottish Claymores were 9th in section 7. The Scottish Claymores (different team) are lying 4th in preliminary section 2 of the European Postal Cup.

New friendly matches were started against Venezuela (twice) and France, with a first Tri-Nations match versus Wales and England also initiated. Unusually for us, we managed to win matches against Denmark, Peru and Venezuela.

Through Alan Borwell, we continue to organise and sponsor the ICCF Veterans' World Cup, with cycles 2-4 all proceeding to schedule and the first trophies from cycle 2 expected later this year.

Individual entries into ICCF events reached record levels (98 during the calendar year 2013), and Peter Bennett is participating in the preliminary stage of World Championship 38.

The 2014 ICCF Congress will be held in Sydney, Australia from 11th to 18th October.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to George which was unanimously agreed. Alan Borwell moved adoption of George's report, seconded by Jim Anderson and unanimously agreed.

Election of Office Bearers

The following were elected to office for 2014-15, proposed en bloc by Peter Bennett and seconded by George Pyrich:

Office	Name
President	Iain Mackintosh
Vice President	George Pyrich
International Secretary	George Pyrich
Secretary	See note *
Membership Officer	Kevin Paine
Treasurer	Gordon Anderson
Committee Members	Alan Borwell, Jim Anderson

* No nomination received. Kevin Paine (enquiries), Jim Anderson (domestic events) and Iain Mackintosh (minutes) will continue to provide interim cover.

Appointment of Auditor

Alan Hind was proposed by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Alan Borwell, and duly reappointed.

Subscriptions

Gordon Anderson proposed no change to domestic membership and entry fees for 2014-15. This was seconded by Kevin Paine and unanimously agreed. As expected, reductions in ICCF fees took effect from January 2014.

AOB

A vote of thanks to the chair was proposed by George Pyrich and unanimously agreed.



SCCA Accounts 2013-14

By Gordon Anderson

2012-13			Profit & Loss	2013-14		
Income	Expenses	Net		Income	Expenses	Net
210.00			General	252.00		
0.00			Annual Members (@£7)	0.00		
250.00			Life Members (@£100)	0.00		
305.00			Patron Members (@£125)	232.00		
0.00	500.00		Donations	0.00		
147.73			Chess Scotland Grant/Donation	80.46		
	139.00		Bank Interest		3.00	
	40.00		Committee Expenses		40.00	
	64.33		Chess Scotland Affiliation Fee		61.74	
	70.00	<u>99.40</u>	ICCF Affiliation Fee		70.00	<u>389.72</u>
			Auditor's Fee			
			Domestic Competitions			
39.00			Individual Entry Fees	36.00		
80.00			Team League Fees	122.00		
	50.95		ICCF Webservice Fees		826.00	
	283.50		Prizes & Trophies (Web Open)		0.00	<u>-668.00</u>
	0.00	<u>-215.45</u>	Controllers' Expenses			
			International Competitions			
0.00		<u>0.00</u>	International Match Fees	0.00		<u>0.00</u>
			ICCF Competitions			
562.50	609.19		Individual & Team Fees	561.00	608.11	
	9.50	<u>-56.19</u>	Bank Transfer Fees			<u>-47.11</u>
			Magazine			
90.00			New Magazine Email (@£3)	108.00		
126.00			New Magazine Printed (@£5)	50.00		
	186.00	<u>30.00</u>	Printing & Postage		186.00	<u>-28.00</u>
			Website			
57.48	57.48		ISP Connection Fees (Donation)	108.00	108.00	
8.38	8.38	<u>0.00</u>	Domain Registration (Donation)			<u>0.00</u>
			100 Club			
1006.00			Units Bought	1035.00		
	540.00		Prizes		540.00	
	0.00	<u>466.00</u>	Repayment of Units		0.00	<u>495.00</u>
			Other			
0.00	0.00		Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	
	0.00	<u>0.00</u>	ICCF Delegate Travel		0.00	<u>0.00</u>
<u>2882.09</u>	<u>2558.33</u>	<u>323.76</u>	Surplus/Deficit	<u>2584.46</u>	<u>2442.85</u>	<u>141.61</u>

Balance Sheet 2013-14

Bank Summary	Opening	Payins	Withdrawn	Written Off	Transfers	Closing	2012-13
BoS Current	2571.73	3227.50	1885.35	0.00	0.00	3913.88	
Barclays	8136.34	80.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	8216.80	
	10708.07	3307.96	1885.35	0.00	0.00	<u>12130.68</u>	<u>10708.07</u>

Net Opening/Closing **1422.61**

Liabilities	Creditor	Debtor		
Accrued Prizes – ICCF VWC2	250.00			
Accrued Prizes – ICCF VWC3	250.00			
Accrued Prizes – ICCF VWC4	250.00			
100 Club Prizes Uncashed	45.00			
100 Club Cash for 2014-15	104.00			
Cheque 10457 Unpresented	70.00			
Deposits not yet in Account		20.00		
Accrued Prizes - SCCA Web Open	700.00			
Subtotals/Net	<u>1669.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>		
	0			

Net Assets at March 31, 2014 **10481.68** **10340.07**

Capital Account

Balances b/f		9340.07	9016.31
Surplus/Deficit		141.61	323.76
Subtotal		<u>9481.68</u>	<u>9340.07</u>
Less Allocation to Development Account		0.00	0.00
Balances c/f		<u>9481.68</u>	<u>9340.07</u>

Development Account

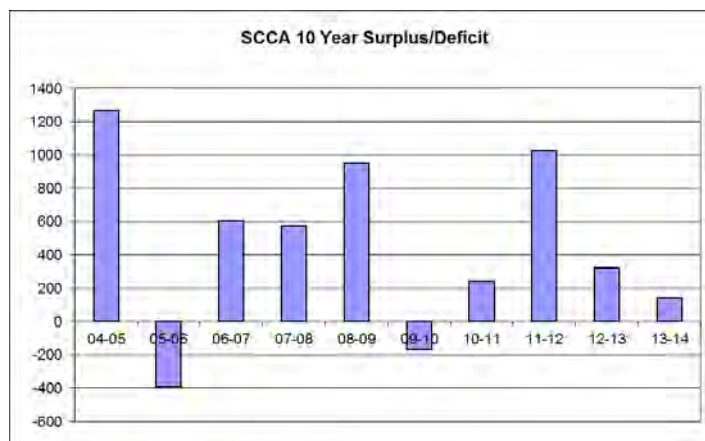
Balance b/f		1000.00	1000.00
Allocation from Capital Account		0.00	0.00
		<u>1000.00</u>	<u>1000.00</u>

Account Totals **10481.68** **10340.07**

Auditor's Report

I have examined the foregoing accounts and have obtained such explanations as I considered necessary. In my opinion these accounts have been properly prepared from the accounting records of the Association and are in agreement therewith.

Alan Hind, May 2014





2014/3 Grading List

By George Pyrich

The third ICCF grading list of 2014 has been published and the new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 March and 31 May 2014. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 July and 30 September 2014.

No additions or deletions were recorded this time, so numerically the list is unchanged. Membership numbers are retained for easy reinstatement should any previously removed players return to the board.

Peter Bennett was awarded the Scottish Master (SM) title at our recent AGM – many congratulations! Robert Montgomery holds 2 of the 3 required SM norms towards the title.

More games milestones were reached this period. George Pyrich became our second player to pass the 900 mark; Raymond Burrige zoomed over 500; Martin Hardwick powered past 400 while Eoin Campbell notched up his first century. The last quarter was very active overall, with most players completing games. Raymond Burrige was way out in front with 73; David Cumming totalled 53; Eoin Campbell knocked up 36; Martin Hardwick completed 26 and Alan Borwell clocked up 25.

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	813	2177 ↔	447	Jamieson, I M	73	1942 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (SM)	253	2294 ↑	322	Jessing, M	29	2083 ↔ *
121	Anderson, J	238	1721 ↓	548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	312	2325 ↓
049	Armstrong, A	161	1918 ↑	260	Knox, A	157	1570 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	264	1587 ↓	1117	Laing, D	24	2100 ↔ *
511	Beecham, C R (IM)	387	2462 ↑	256	Lennox, C J (SM)	157	2278 ↔
599	Bell, A D (SM)	154	2394 ↑	264	Lloyd, G (SM)	647	2257 ↑
501	Bennett, P G (SM)	234	2319 ↑	337	Loughran, R J	116	1564 ↔
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	945	2250 ↑	433	MacDonald, M	30	1564 ↔
424	Burrige, R J	555	2033 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	356	1881 ↑
435	Cairney, J	52	2044 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (IM)	595	2439 ↑
601	Campbell, E S	103	2110 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	614	1837 ↑
038	Campbell, I S	244	1771 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	437	1907 ↓
	Clark, S L	57	2055 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	184	2438 ↓
364	Coope, D W	622	1950 ↑	412	McKinstry, J	76	1588 ↑
247	Cormack, W H	77	1928 ↔	401	Moir, P J	167	1625 ↑
527	Craig, T J (SM)	361	2336 ↓	598	Montgomery, R S	233	2270 ↓
166	Cumming, D R (SM)	784	2244 ↓	564	Murray, J S	38	1996 ↔
422	Dawson, Prof A G	83	2068 ↔	440	Neil, C	119	1570 ↓
572	Dempster, D	738	1775 ↑	429	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	102	1985 ↔
030	Dyer, M T	99	2089 ↔	444	Paine, Dr K A	154	2297 ↑
371	Edney, D	182	1970 ↑	1012	Paulin, A	40	2008 ↔
372	Flockhart, H	29	2134 ↑ *	315	Petrie, A	83	1543 ↑
459	Fraser, R A	60	1853 ↔	432	Price, D	256	2086 ↓
462	Gilbert, R	54	1816 ↑	048	Pyrich, G D (IM)	904	2178 ↓
086	Gillam, S R (SM)	137	2285 ↓	357	Robson, A C W	12	1374 ↔ *
551	Giulian, P M (SIM)	471	2402 ↑	439	Smith, M J	39	1939 ↓
124	Goodwin, B J	245	1940 ↑	463	Smith, P R	46	1737 ↔
445	Graham, S (SM)	354	2202 ↔	546	Stewart, Dr K W C	157	2099 ↑
399	Grant, J	37	1758 ↓	1120	Taylor, W	45	2041 ↓
596	Hardwick, M E	416	1524 ↑	452	Toye, D T	77	1582 ↔
063	Harvey, D	94	2064 ↓	530	Watson, J (IM)	147	2306 ↔
1013	Hilton, S H	127	1637 ↑				

Statistical Analysis

Total listed	65
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Full grades (30+ games)	61
Provisional grades (<30 games)	4
Grading increases (↑)	28
Grading decreases (↓)	19
Grading static (↔)	18

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2462	Borwell, A P (IM)	2250
Mackintosh, I (IM)	2439	Cumming, D R (SM)	2244
Matheis, T (IM)	2438	Graham, S (SM)	2202
Giulian, P M (SIM)	2402	Pyrich, G D (IM)	2178
Bell, A D (SM)	2394	Almarza Mato, C	2177
Craig, T J (SM)	2336	Campbell, E S	2110
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2325	Stewart, Dr K W C	2099
Bennett, P G (SM)	2319	Dyer, M T	2089
Watson, J (IM)	2306	Price, D	2086
Paine, Dr K A	2297	Dawson, Prof A G	2068
Anderson, G M (SM)	2294	Harvey, D	2064
Gillam, S R (SM)	2285	Clark, S L	2055
Lennox, C J (SM)	2278	Taylor, W	2041
Montgomery, R S	2270	Burridge, R J	2033
Lloyd, G (SM)	2257	Paulin, A	2008

Top 30 Games Played

Borwell, A P (IM)	945	MacGregor, C A	356
Pyrich, G D (IM)	904	Graham, S (SM)	354
Almarza-Mato, C	813	Kilgour, D A (GM)	312
Cumming, D R (SM)	784	Armstrong, J McK	264
Dempster, D	738	Price, D	256
Lloyd, G (SM)	647	Anderson, G M (SM)	253
Coope, D W	622	Goodwin, B J	245
MacMillen, A N	614	Anderson, J	238
Mackintosh, I (IM)	595	Bennett, P G (SM)	234
Burridge, R J	555	Montgomery, R S	233
Giulian, P M (SIM)	471	Matheis, T (IM)	184
Marshall, I H	437	Edney, D	182
Hardwick, M E	416	Moir, P J	167
Beecham, C R (SIM)	387	Armstrong, A	161
Craig, T J (SM)	361	Knox, A	157

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



2nd Correspondence Tournament of the Scottish Chess Association

By Alan McGowan

(An article about the 1st Correspondence Tournament appeared in issue 119.)

The details of this event were reported in the January 1888 issue of the British Chess Magazine. The report mentioned that the tournament had just started and that there were sixteen entrants:-

1. P. Sandeman, Dundee
2. Rev. Robert Kemp, Blairgowrie
3. G.L. Miller, Berwick-on-Tweed
4. D.M. Latta, Edinburgh
5. Dr E. Duncan, Queen's Park, Glasgow
6. J.D. Chambers, Glasgow
7. Alexander Gauld, Berwick-on-Tweed
8. Daniel Baxter, Alford, Aberdeenshire
9. John Comrie, Alloa
10. Rev. F.R. Macdonald, Coupar-Angus
11. James Young, Glasgow
12. John Russell, Glasgow
13. William M'Combie, Glasgow
14. Dr Andrew Ritchie, Pollokshaws, Glasgow
15. John C. Bremner, Broughty Ferry
16. George Sutherland, Brora

The report then went on to outline the rules. The entrants were arranged by ballot in the above order, and the following rules regulate the move in the games between the various competitors throughout the tournament:-

- Odds have the moves against less evens and greater odds.
- Evens have the move against greater evens and less odds.

The following are the rules:-

1. Every player to play one game with every other, and to play four games simultaneously.

2. Forty-eight hours between time of receiving move and of posting reply to be allowed. One fortnight's holiday each year to be allowed.
3. Competitors retiring to have all unplayed games scored against them.
4. Players to be bound in honour to conduct the games without any consultation whatever with any other player. They may consult books.
5. Drawn games to count a half to each player.
6. The games to be played strictly according to the rules in Staunton's Chess Praxis so far as applicable to correspondence play, and the player to be bound in honour to observe the strictest rules as to enforcing penalties. A move once despatched to be irrevocable.
7. In the event of two players making an even score, the winner of the first game shall be preferred, the move to be decided by lot.
8. The winner of a game, or the first player in a drawn game, to communicate the result to the Secretary of the Association, and to send him a copy of the game within one week of its termination.
9. Any disputes arising to be referred to the Chess Editor of the Glasgow Weekly Herald, who (sic whose) decision shall be final.

The prizes shall be as follows:-First prize, £5; second prize, 25s; third prize, 15s.

The results were published in the September 1889 issue of the BCM (pp. 349-50).

The games marked * were scored without being played, Mr Young and Dr Duncan having retired after playing a few games.

It appears that some of the games were not played or not completed as the table is incomplete.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Pts
1. DM Latta	■	1	½	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13½
2. P. Sandeman	0	■	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	½	1*	1*	13
3. JC Bremner	½	0	■	½	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
4. J. Comrie	0	0	½	■	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11½
5. J. Russell	0	½	0	1	■	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1*	11½
6. JD Chambers	0	0	0	0	0	■	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
7. D. Baxter	1	0	0	0	1	0	■	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	1*	0	9½
8. A. Gauld	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	■	1	1	½	1	0	1	1*	1	6½
9. Rev. Kemp	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	■	0	½	1	1	½	1*	1*	6
10. GL Miller	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	■	1	0	1	0	1*	1	5
11. W. M'Combie	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	0	■				1	1	
12. Dr A. Ritchie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		■	0	1	1*	1*	
13. Rev. Macdonald	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	■		0	1*	
14. G. Sutherland	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1		0		■	1*	1*	
15. J. Young	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	■		
16. Dr E. Duncan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		■	



Games Column

By Bernard Milligan

The World Cup is providing great entertainment to fire up the early summer months, but those who follow more sedentary pursuits are providing us with a few treats also!

Alan Borwell kicks off for us once again, this time providing a fine attacking game from this season's Webserver League division 1.

White: Borwell, Alan (2217)
Black: Gillam, Simon R (2291)
SCCA Webserver League 2014
Modern Defence [B06]
[Notes by Alan Borwell]

Perth Correspondent's usual top board Iain Mackintosh took a "sabbatical" this season so John Warren from the Perth Chess Club joined the team, with Kevin Paine, Doug Harvey and myself moving up a board. This meant we all had a different group of opponents. I had the pleasure of playing an old friend Simon Gillam, who I last met in the 1975 Scottish Championship. Nowadays he plays in top level Scrabble tournaments and recently appeared on TV's Countdown!

1.e4 g6
2.d4 Bg7
3.Nc3 d6
4.Be3 a6
5.Qd2 b5
6.h4 h6

According to notes on Adams-Hodgson 2001 the move 6.....h6 is not the best here.

7.0-0-0 Bb7
8.f3 Nd7
9.h5 g5
10.Nge2 e6
11.d5 Ne5
12.Nd4 Qf6

Now White must decide whether to play Be2 followed by a3, Kb1 and f4 or the more committal a4 which forces Black to respond with b4.

13.Be2 Ne7
14.Rhf1 Nc8

A possible continuation now is 14...Nc8 15.Nb3 b4 16.Na4 a5 17.f4 gxf4 18.Rxf4 Qe7 19.Rdf1 0-0 20.Nd4 Kh7 21.Kb1 Nb6 22.Nxb6 cxb6 23.g4 Nd7 24.R4f2 Nc5 25.g5 Kh8 26.Bd3 a4 27.gxh6 Bxd4

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28.Bxd4+ e5 29.Be3 Nxd3 30.cxd3 Ba6 31.h7 f6 32.Bh6 Rf7 33.Rg2 Rxh7 34.Rg6 Rg8 35.Rfg1 Rc8 36.Qe3 Qf7 37.Qg3±

15.Nb3 Nd7
16.f4 gxf4
17.Rxf4 Qe7
18.Rdf1 Ne5
19.Na5 Rb8

Now White must choose carefully between a4, Bf2 or Bd4 with other candidates being Nxb7, Kb1 or dxe6 or even Nd1, a3 or b3



20.Bf2!

The most forcing move as the White bishop threatens to enter via h4 and f6 and undermine Black's defences

20... Qd7

21.Bd4

Now that the Black Q cannot move to g5, the bishop now diverts to the a1/h8 diagonal to disrupt Black's defences.

21... 0-0

22.Bg4 b4

Now the safer Nd1 or Ne2 are playable but the more dynamic 23. Bxe5 is the best move

23.Bxe5 dxe5

24.Rxf7

Here I analysed 24.Rxf7 bxc3 (24...Rxf7 25.Rxf7 bxc3 26.Qxc3 Qxf7 27.Bxe6 Qxe6 28.dxe6 Bxe4 29.Qxc7 Ra8 30.g4 Kh7 31.Nc6 a5 32.Qb7 Nb6 33.Qxb6 Rc8 34.Nd8 Bxc2 35.e7 Bg6+ 36.Kd2 Be8 37.Qg6+ Bxg6 38.hxg6+ Kxg6 39.e8Q+ Kh7 40.Qd7) 25.Rxf8+ Bxf8 26.Qf2 Qe7 27.Bxe6+ Kg7 28.Qf7+ Qxf7 29.Rxf7+ Kg8 30.Rxc7+

24... Rxf7
25.Rxf7 bxc3
26.Qxc3 Qd8
27.Bxe6 Kh8
28.Qg3

And Black resigned as there is no adequate continuation.

1-0



In recent years, the SCCA Championship has been a three-cornered tussle between David Cumming, Robert Montgomery and Iain Mackintosh. In 2013-14, David is making a big push to land the title.

White: Cumming, David. R (2304)
Black: Montgomery, Robert. S (2312)

SCCA Championship 2013-14
King's Indian Classical [E90]
[Notes by David Cumming]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6
5.h3 0-0
6.Be3 e5
7.d5 Na6
8.Nf3 Nh5
9.a3 f5

9...Qe8 10.b4 f5 11.c5 Nf6 12.Rc1 Kh8 (12...f4 13.Bd2 dxc5 14.Bxa6 bxa6 15.bxc5 g5 16.c6 Rb8 17.Qc2 Qh5 18.Rh2 Re8 19.Kf1 Bf8 20.Qa2 Kh8 21.Re1 Qg6 22.Kg1 Bc5 23.Na4 Bd6 24.Qc4 g4 25.hxg4 Nxg4 26.Rh1 Rg8 27.Nh4 Vitiugov,N (2694)-Arakhamia Grant,K (2405)/Caleta 2013/CBM 153/1-0 (65)) 13.Bc4 Nb8 14.Ng5 Qe7 15.cxd6 cxd6 16.b5 a6 17.a4 axb5 18.axb5 f4 19.Bd2 Nbd7 20.Ne6 Rg8 21.Ra1 Rb8 22.Ra7 Nb6 23.Bb3 Bxe6 24.dxe6 Riazantsev,A (2710)-Mamedov,R (2624)/Plovdiv 2012/CBM 148/1/2-1/2 (39)

10.b4 Nb8



11.c5N

11.Rc1 Nd7 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Ng5 Ndf6 14.Be2 Qe8 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.dxe6 f4 17.Bd2 e4 18.Bxh5 Nxh5 19.Nd5 e3 20.Bc3 f3 21.gxf3 Qxe6 22.Bxg7 Nxg7 23.Nxc7 Qg6 24.Nxa8 Qg2 25.Qd5+ Kh8 Xu Jun (2520) -Cvitan,O (2515)/Novi Sad 1990/TD/1/2-1/2

11... a5=
 12.Rc1 Na6
 13.Qb3 h6?!
 14.cxd6± cxd6
 15.Na4 axb4
 16.axb4 Nc7
 17.Nb6 Rb8
 18.Nxc8 Rxc8
 19.Bd3 Qe8
 20.0-0

[Stockfish DD: 20.Nd2 Nf4 21.Bxf4 fxe4 22.Bxe4 exf4 23.0-0 Nb5 24.Rxc8 Qxc8 25.Bxg6 0.84/25]

20... fxe4
 21.Bxe4 Nf6
 22.Bb1!± e4
 23.Nh4 Qf7
 24.f3 Ncxd5
 25.fxe4 Rxc1
 26.Bxc1 Ne7
 27.Qxf7+ Kxf7
 28.Bb2 Kg8
 29.e5! dxe5
 30.Nxg6 Nxg6

Stockfish DD: 30...Nxg6 31.Bxg6 Nd5 32.Rxf8+ Bxf8 33.Bxe5 Nxb4 34.Kf2 Bg7 35.Bg3 Bf6 36.Be4 Nc6 37.Bd5+ Kf8 38.Kf3 Ke7 39.Ke4 Bg5 40.Bc4 Kd7 41.Bd3 Nb4 42.Bb5+ Ke7 43.Bc4 Nc6 44.Be2 Bf6 45.Bc4 1.65/5

**31.Bxg6+-**

Winning for White, due to the 2 bishop advantage, the 3 Black isolani pawns vs. White's 2 pawn islands, the fact that Black is vulnerable on the light squares, especially around his kingside, and, for the moment at least, Black's sole bishop is shut in by its own men and in a very defensive position, in contrast to both White's freeranging bishops.

31... Nd5

32.Rxf8+ Bxf8
 33.Bxe5 Nxb4
 34.Kf2 Nc6

Black is hoping that he can swindle a draw here, which he hopes to facilitate ideally by exchanging his knight for my dark-squared bishop, leaving an opposite-squared bishop ending, a classic drawing scenario.

35.Bg3 Ne7
 36.Be2 Kf7
 37.Kf3 Ke6
 38.Ke4 b5
 39.Bb3+ Kd7
 40.Bf4 Kc6
 41.h4 Bg7
 42.h5 Kd7
 43.Bc1 Kc7
 44.Bd2 Kc6
 45.g4 Kd6
 46.Bf4+ Kd7
 47.Be3 Kd6
 48.Ba2 Nc6
 49.Bd2 Ne7
 50.Bc1 Nc6
 51.Bb3 Na5
 52.Bg8

Angling for the optimum positioning of minor pieces on both sides before I push g5.

52... Nc6
 53.Bd2 Kc5
 54.g5! hxg5
 55.Bxg5 Kd6
 56.h6!!

Forcing a decision, Black either has to exchange his bishop for my sole remaining pawn and hope he can survive the material imbalance AND my 2 bishops vs. pawn & knight advantage, try to exchange 1 bishop off for his knight thereby forcing a draw. However, he has no real way of forcing this outcome, and the 2 bishops can indeed mate one's opponent, and are obviously much more powerful and far ranging than the lone knight. Or....

56... Bh8

Concession is forced. Now Black cannot win, and leaves White with all the cards. It only remains for further manoueuvering to take place to exchange dark-squared bishops, prevent Black's king from gaining access to the h8 square where he will be impregnable to any effort to shift him, and the victory will be White's. It's just a matter of technique now.

57.Bd5 Nd4
 58.Bf4+! Ke7

59.Be5!
 Dark-squared bishop exchange forced!

59... Bxe5
 60.Kxe5 Nc6+

**61.Kf5!**

My bishop has to remain on the a2-g8 diagonal whilst my king has to prevent its counterpart from gaining access to my pawn via f6 & g6, hence to capture the knight here would be a blunder allowing Black to draw easily.

61... Kf8
 62.Be6 Ne7+
 63.Kg5 b4
 64.Kf4

Now a bit of king triangulation, bleeding the Black side of tempii so that he has to make a concession which shall allow me to make progress.

64... Nc8
 65.Kf5 Ne7+
 66.Kg5 Nc8
 67.Kf6

Now the pawn cannot be prevented from queening, so Black resigns. Indeed, mate itself is not long in coming had he chosen to play on, viz...[Stockfish DD: 67.Kf6 Nd6 68.h7 Ne4+ 69.Kg6 Ke7 70.Bb3 Nc5 71.h8Q Nxb3 72.Qe5+ Kd7 73.Qd5+ Kc7 74.Qxb3 Kb6 75.Qxb4+ Kc6 76.Kg5 Kd7 77.Kf5 Kc7 78.Kf6 Kc6 79.Ke6 Kc7 80.Qb5 Kc8 81.Kd6 Kd8 82.Qd7# #15/5]

1-0



Now David looks to do the double over Robert using the Black pieces.

White: Montgomery,Robert. S (2312)

Black: Cumming,David. R (2304)
 SCCA Championship 2013-14
 Symmetrical English [A34]
 [Notes by David Cumming]

1.Nf3 Nf6
 2.c4 e5
 3.Nc3 d5

4.cxd5 Nxd5
 5.d4 Nxc3
 6.bxc3 g6
 7.Bg5 Bg7
 8.e3 0-0
 9.Be2 h6
 10.Bh4 Nd7
 11.0-0 Nf6N

11...b6 12.Qb3 Bb7 13.Rfd1 cxd4
 14.cxd4 Nf6 15.Rac1 e6 16.Qa4 a6
 17.Ne5 b5 18.Qa3 g5 19.Bg3 Qb6
 20.Nd3 Rfc8 21.Nc5 Bc6 22.Be5 a5
 23.Nxe6 b4 24.Qb2 fxe6 25.d5 Bxd5
 26.Bxf6 Larsson,P (2341)-Olsson,L
 (2385)/Sweden 2005/EXT 2006/0-1
 (63)]

12.Nd2 Qd7
 13.Bf3± g5
 14.Bg3 g4
 15.Be2 b6
 16.Bd3?!

In order for White to stay competitive here, he would have to keep his light-squared bishop on e2, concentrating fire on g4 and in the meantime play something useful like 16.Rc1, maintaining his slight pull. On d3 the bishop is unprotected and being x-rayed by my queen, thereby (for the moment at least), prohibiting White from playing dxc as it drops the bishop.

16... Bb7=
 17.Re1 Rac8
 18.Rc1 h5
 19.Be5 Rfd8
 20.e4 e6

To counter a subsequent d-pawn push by White.

21.Rb1 cxd4
 22.cxd4 Ne8
 23.Bxg7 Nxc7
 24.Nb3 a5
 25.d5 exd5



26.e5
 Gambiting the pawn to open the long diagonal pointing at my relatively open kingside.

26... d4!
 Opening my own light-squared diagonal, pointing towards the White kingside.

27.Qd2 Qc6
 28.Be4 Qxe4!
 Returning the exchange, but securing the long h7-b1 diagonal for my own bishop, whilst removing White's counterpart cleric, thereby seizing control of the light squares.

29.Rxe4 Bxe4
 30.Re1 Bg6
 31.Qh6 Rc6±

Otherwise White will play 32.e6!...Nxe6, 33.Rxe6!...f7xe6, 34.Qxe6+, and all White has to do is to safeguard his king from a back rank mate and he can Hoover up pawns at will.

32.a3 a4
 33.Nd2 Rdc8
 34.Nf1 b5
 35.h3 gxh3
 36.gxh3 Rb8



37.Nh2?
 Disastrous mistake. An attempted re-manoeuvring of the knight to f3 to pressurise the Black d-pawn, but by doing this White's knight goes badly offside and at the opposite end of the board to my queenside initiative.

37... b4!-+
 Black takes his opportunity. Now I am winning.

38.axb4 a3
 39.Ra1
 [Stockfish DD: 39.Nf3 a2 40.e6 Rxe6 41.Ra1 Re2 42.Nd2 Bb1 43.Qd6 Rc8 44.Nf3 Ne6 45.Qg3+ Bg6 46.b5 Rb2 47.Kg2 Ra8 48.Ne5 Rb1 49.Rxa2 Rxa2 50.Nxc6 Rxb5 51.Ne7+ Kf8 -1.41/21]

39... Rc3
 40.Nf1
 Admitting the error of his 37th move and retracting it, albeit too late now, the damage has been done!!

40... Rxb4
 41.Qd2 Rbc4
 42.Qe2 d3
 43.Qd1 Ne6
 Blockading the e-pawn and bringing the knight to the centre of the board.
 44.Nd2 Rc5
 45.Nb3 Rxe5

46.Rxa3 Kh7
 47.Ra2 Nf4



48.Kh2 d2!
 49.f3 Re1!!
 Forcing the win of the exchange.
 50.Qxd2 Re2+
 51.Qxe2 Nxe2
 52.Rxe2 Rxb3
 53.Kg3 Bf5
 54.Kf4 Bd7
 55.Rd2 Bc6
 56.Rf2 Rxf3+

Sacrificing the exchange back to enter a won pawn endgame.
 57.Rxf3 Bxf3
 58.Kxf3 Kg6
 59.Kf4 Kf6
 60.Ke4 Kg5
 With an easy pawn ending, White resigns.

0-1

So, the double win leaves David with at least a share of the 2013-14 title. He can only be caught if Iain Mackintosh wins his two remaining games.



Meanwhile, in the 2014-15 SCCA Championship, newcomer Eoin Campbell has sprung an early surprise. His previously published games have demonstrated a tactical acumen, but this is a well-engineered positional game.

White: Campbell, Eoin S (2000)
Black: Cumming, David R (2313)
 SCCA Championship 2014-15
 Modern Benoni [A70]
 [Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 c5
 David opts for the Modern Benoni, no doubt to create an unbalanced position early in the game.
 3.d5 e6
 4.Nc3 exd5

5.cxd5 d6
6.e4 g6
7.Bd3

7.Nf3 is the most common move here, with; 7.f4 a close second.

7... Bg7

8.h3!

This move has produced good results for White recently and can also be tried on move 7.

8... 0-0

9.Nf3 Nh5!?

Something of a sideline in established practice.

10.Bg5 Qa5N



And out of the book altogether now - but leaving White positionally ahead. 10...Bf6 looks a bit more solid.

11.0-0± Nf6

For the next 10 moves, White develops simply and directly. However, Black responds well and his position doesn't get any worse.

12.Bf4 Ne8

13.Re1 Nd7

14.Nb5 Qb6

15.Qb3 Ne5

16.Nxe5 Bxe5

17.Bxe5 dxe5

18.Qc3 Bd7

19.Na3 f6

20.Nc4 Qc7

21.a4 b6



Now White formulates a plan based on opening the c-file, doubling rooks to control it, and exerting pressure via his bishop down the a2-g8 diagonal.

22.Rc1 Rc8

23.b4 cxb4

24.Qb2 Qd8

25.Qxb4 Rf7

26.Bc2

Eyeing a2-g8, particularly e6.

26... Rg7

27.Bb3 h5

28.a5 b5

29.Nb2 Kh7

30.Nd3 Qe7

31.Rc5 a6

31...Rxc5 32.Nxc5 Nd6 33.Rc1±

32.Rac1 Rd8

33.Qe1 Ra8

34.R5c2 Nd6

35.Nc5 Bc8



36.Ne6!

White is winning after this.

36... Bxe6

37.dxe6 Nc4

38.Bxc4 bxc4

39.Rxc4 Qxe6

40.Rc6 Qe7

41.Rb6 Rf7

42.Rcc6 Qd8

Black has no counterplay and his a-pawn is doomed.

43.Rd6 Qf8

44.Qe2 h4

45.Qg4 Rd8

46.Rdc6 Kg7

47.Qxh4 Rc8

48.Rxa6 Rxc6

49.Rxc6 Qa8

50.Rc5 Qd8

51.Qg4 Qd2

52.Qf3 Qb2

53.Qd3 Ra7

54.Qd8 Qb1+

55.Kh2 Qxe4

56.Rc7+ Rxc7

57.Qxc7+ Kh6

58.a6 Qf4+

59.Kg1 Qa4

60.a7 Qd1+

61.Kh2 Qa4

62.Qc5

Black has managed a couple of spite checks, but that's as good as it's going to get before the crowning ceremony on a8. A very polished performance by Eoin.

1-0



Now, a game from our friendly international against the Netherlands which resulted in a big win for the Dutch, 37-23.

White: Jansen, Joop (2445)

Black: Mackintosh, Iain (2395)

Scotland v Netherlands, 2013

Ruy Lopez, Schliemann [C63]

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 e5

2.Nf3 Nc6

3.Bb5 f5

Once in a while I play this and I still find Mikhail Tseitlin's 1991

'Winning with the Schliemann' a useful reference.

4.Nc3 fxe4

5.Nxe4 Nf6

6.Nxf6+ Qxf6

7.0-0 Be7

8.Re1 0-0

9.Bc4+

Departing from Tseitlin's Ch 7 B11 line.

9... Kh8

10.d4 Nxd4

11.Nxe5 Bc5

12.Nd3 b5

13.Bd5 c6

14.Be4 Bb6

15.c3 d5

16.Bxd5

16.Bxh7 Nb3 17.axb3 Bxf2+

18.Nxf2 Qxf2+ 19.Kh1 Bg4 20.Be3

is an interesting alternative, though it ends up level.

16... cxd5

17.cxd4 Bxd4

18.Be3 Bxe3

19.Rxe3 Bf5

20.Qd2 d4

21.Rf3 Qd6

22.a4 bxa4

23.Rxa4 a6

24.h3 Bd7

25.Rxf8+ Rxf8

26.Ra1

26.Qb4 Rf6 27.Qxd6 Rxd6=

26... Bb5

27.Re1 h6

28.Ne5 Kg8



29.g3?!

Accompanied by a draw offer from Joop. A few moves back, the position certainly was level, and if he'd played 29.Nd3 I might have said yes. It's tempting to play a seemingly non-committal move when you propose a draw, but his choice here revived my hopes of doing something with the passed d-pawn.

29... d3!
30.Qc3 Rd8
31.Nc4 Qd7
32.b3 d2

32...Qxh3 33.Re7 Qg4 34.Nd2 Rd7 35.Rxd7 Qxd7 and it's not that easy for Black to force a way through.

33.Rd1 Qd3
34.Qxd3 Rxd3
35.h4 h5
36.Na3 Bc6
37.Nb1 a5
38.Rxd2 Rxb3
39.Rd8+ Kf7

Staying central is best.

40.Rd1 Be4
41.Nd2 Rd3
42.f3 Bf5
43.Kf2 a4
44.Ke2 a3
45.Rc1 a2
46.g4 Rc3



47.Ra1

Only move, but it allows the door to clang shut on the rook.

47... Bd3+
48.Ke3 Bb1+
49.Kf4 Rc1

The game is now won for Black, but White tries a few tactics before conceding.

50.gxh5 Kf6
51.Ke3 Ke5
52.Ne4 Kd5
53.h6 gxh6
54.Kd2 Rc2+
55.Ke3 Rc4
56.Nd2 Rb4
57.f4 Rb7
58.f5 Ke5
59.Nc4+ Kf6
60.Na5 Rb4
61.h5 Rh4
62.Nc6 Kxf5
0-1



Raymond BurrIDGE is setting the pace in both sections of the Premiers in 2014. Here, his eye for the attack sees him capitalise on a couple of inaccurate moves by Andrew Macmillen after a level opening.

White: BurrIDGE, Raymond J (2048)

Black: MacMillen, Andrew N (1829)

SCCA Premier A 2014
Sicilian Taimanov [B46]
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 e6
5.Nc3 a6
6.Be3 Nge7
Andrew avoids the more popular Nf6 and Qc7.
7.Be2 Nxd4
8.Qxd4 b5
9.0-0 Nc6
10.Qd2 Be7
11.Rad1 d6
12.f4 0-0
13.a3 Qc7
14.Rf3N Bb7



Both players are happy to take the less travelled path; the position looks equal here.

15.Rg3 Na5?

Having established equality, Andrew now plays an indifferent move and invokes the handicap committee. 15...Rac8 keeps it level.

16.Bd4!

Raymond's attacking eye is alert to the opportunity.

16... e5?

16...f6 17.f5 e5 18.Qh6 Rf7 19.Be3 d5 looks a stuffer defence.

17.fxe5 dxe5

18.Qh6 Bg5

Forced.

19.Rxg5 f6



20.Bxe5!

An excellent spot by Raymond.

20... fxg5 21.Bxc7

21.Qe6+ Kh8

22.Rd7 Qc5+

23.Kh1 Rg8

23...Rf6 24.Qe7 Qxe7 25.Rxe7 Raf8 was maybe worth a try.

24.Qxe5

24.Rh5 with the threat of Qg6 looks stronger.

24... Qxe5

25.Rxe5 Nc6

Black could resign now, but Andrew's competitive spirit can't be quenched!

26.Rc5 Nd8

27.Rcc7 Bc8

28.Re7 Ne6

29.Rxc8 Rxc8

30.Rxe6 Ra8

31.Kg1 Rgd8

32.Bf3 Ra7

33.e5 Kg8

34.Rb6 Rd2

35.e6 Kf8

36.Nd5 Rxd5

37.Bxd5 Ke7

38.Rb7+ Rxb7

39.Bxb7

1-0





The Pace of ICCF Webserver Chess (1) Understanding Fast Play

By Peter Bennett

Readers who are familiar with previous material of mine on these pages will probably be aware that, as a general rule, I advocate what I would call “brisk” play; and furthermore that I believe the ICCF time limits are, in the main, far too generous. Nevertheless there are many other, very good reasons to stay with the ICCF and operate within the rules as they stand: “if you can’t beat ’em, join ’em”, as the saying goes.

Another way of summarising and interpreting what has happened to the rules on pace, as reviewed by a series of ICCF congresses at which there has been much debate, is to say that that the “tortoises” in the ICCF won the battle against the “hares” and that, as a result, the right to play tediously slowly has not only been established, it is all too frequently exercised.

The difference between those who play fast and those who play slowly is, at times, so extreme it is really quite comical. One of the 20 best webserver games I have ever won was completed in less than three weeks, from start to finish, and that was against an opponent whose historical rating was much higher than mine. My opponent did not play badly, he merely had the decency to keep up the pace of the game even when losing (a rare quality) and resign at an appropriate moment. By contrast, it saddens me to report that I have won at least a dozen webserver games in which my opponents have played on for six months or more beyond the point at which they found themselves in hopelessly lost positions before finally resigning or, even worse, not having the grace to resign at all but merely defaulting on time. When a player has a lost position, but over 200 playing days in hand, this kind of nonsense is always a risk.

While I believe there are potential solutions to these problems, until there is collective willingness to address them we have to live with the situation as it stands: the comical *SCCA Magazine* 126

differences between ultra-fast and ludicrously slow play to which I have just referred. In the meantime, one thing we can do is to learn to understand better how and why players determine the pace of their own play. Put another way, I believe I have often won games because I have deliberately engineered a situation in which my opponents have deceived themselves as to how and why I am playing quickly.

My main proposition in this article and its sequel is that there are radically different styles of both fast and slow play. Correctly recognising your opponent’s style is a step towards gaining the upper hand in the game, whereas misinterpreting it can be disastrous. So in this article I will address the question of FAST play (and, in the second article, slow play).

Taking a light-hearted approach, I have identified at least four main styles of FAST webserver play:

- (A) Desk-clearers;
- (B) Engineers;
- (C) Cocks-on-the-Roost and
- (D) Planners.

Let us consider them in this sequence.

(A) Desk-clearers

DESK-CLEARERS are the kinds of players who, in their professional lives, always have a tidy office. They leave their offices on the dot of 5.00pm, with a clear desk and nothing in the in-tray. The same tidy habits apply to their correspondence chess. They positively hate having a full in-tray, even less an unmanageable one. If there is a problem to be dealt with, hence also a move to be played, they deal with it – now! In the case of a chess move, if it is their turn to play, they play. A desk-clearer with 30 CC games in progress will always expect to see the indicator “waiting” against at least 25 of them. To them, “your turn” means “play a move as soon as possible”; and they do so invariably.

In the old days, when we all played

postal chess, the majority of players were desk-clearers. So much time was lost through postal transit that we could not afford to waste any more, once the scorecard actually popped through the letter-box. It was more of a custom than a rule that, whenever possible, we played our moves by return of post. I have records of dates “received” and “sent” for postal games going back to the 1960s. Making moves by return was the norm. Not only was I a desk-clearer, so also were 70% of my opponents. The average overall length of my postal games in the early 1970s was faster than my webserver games are today – a ridiculous statistic, but nevertheless true.

Today, desk-clearers are a relative rarity (and I am no longer one of them). The few that remain are like shining stars who brighten up our playing experience, keep us entertained when all our other opponents have gone to sleep, and serve to remind us how the game can be played if we would all put our minds to the task.

When two desk-clearers meet each other on the webserver the effect is electrifying, almost like nuclear fusion. Not long ago, there were two such players in a tournament I was playing in; and they agreed a draw before the official start date (the webserver having been set up three weeks ahead of schedule) and long before some of my other slumbering opponents had even played their first move. At the earliest opportunity (when, typically, 10 games are finished in the event) I checked the game out, rather anticipating that it would be a “GM draw” in about 16 moves. Not a bit of it – the draw was a perpetual check on move 38!

Desk-clearers can be readily distinguished from other kinds of fast players. Quite simply, they always play briskly, whether they are winning or losing, and irrespective of the standard of the opposition.

A sub-group of desk-clearers are what I would call the “profis” – those players who dedicate themselves to the game, such that they are professionals in every respect except that of being paid for it. Typically, they are about my age (68, “young” retired) and spend 8 or more hours a day on their CC games. So, naturally, they can play all their moves quickly – that is their main mission in life!

Finally, desk-clearers like to be in control. They manage their games tally very carefully and never - but never! - take on too many games.

(B) Engineers

ENGINEERS are those players who are not only highly engine-dependent but who are also too ready to accept and adopt an engine recommendation. They are of two main kinds: those who used to play “proper” correspondence chess, using their own brains, but have become progressively lazier about the way they play, as engines have got stronger; and a new breed of CC-player, who started to come on the scene from the late 1990s onwards, who actually cannot play chess at all and have been “postmen for Fritz” ever since they started.

As one of the oldies who predates the computer era, it is eternally gratifying to recall that I had a CC grading of 2120 (at least 2250 at today’s prices, allowing for grading inflation which, whatever anyone says to the contrary, has unquestionably occurred in all codes) back in 1978, long before chess computers had come onto the market. By contrast, it is difficult for younger correspondence players to know, in this modern era, what their own human contribution to the CC game consists in.

Engineers rarely push wood. Because they pay engines too much respect, and engines calculate very quickly, so also do engineers play their CC moves quickly. For that reason, they are seen by others to be playing fast. Their motto is, “to play in a trice, take Houdini’s advice!”

Today, engineers are common, but not as universal as foolish observers suppose. I have had letters from many CC players who assume that fast play is always “engine” play, forgetting perhaps that “fast play” predated engines by many decades. Distinguishing engineers from the other three styles of fast play described in this article is not an easy task but absolutely essential for those ambitious players who need to understand their opponents better as a step towards winning against them. The best way to make a differential diagnosis is to rule out all the other possibilities. If your opponent is playing fast but certainly isn’t in categories “A”, “C” or “D”, as described here, then your lead theory should be that they are an engineer.

There is one key indicator, however: the number of games they are playing simultaneously. If a player is of working age and in full-time employment, yet nevertheless playing 40 or more webserver games simultaneously, or securing more than 80 results in a year, the chances are that they are an engineer. A player of any status, including the “profis” referred to above, is certainly an engineer if he is playing more than 80 games simultaneously. Not long ago I calculated that a titled opponent had 105 active ICCF games in progress. When I asked him how he managed to do this, he wrote back thanking me for calculating his games tally for him, and confessing that he had no idea how many games he was playing, he never bothered to work it out. Needless to say, he declined to answer my question!

Finally, a true engineer rarely achieves (or, at least, rarely sustains) a grading above about 2300. To get any higher than that you have to “think beyond the engine”. The grading of the titled player to whom I just referred has been sliding downwards ever since he took on too many games.

(C) Cocks-on-the-Roost

Cocks-on-the-roost are invariably male, macho, self-important and possessed of an exaggerated sense of their own talents. They are also acutely status-conscious. They have an urgent need to demonstrate to

themselves and the world that they are the “best”. They are hugely competitive, talk glibly and dismissively of lower-graded players as “rabbits” and bitterly resent even a draw against a player they had identified as inferior. You can sometimes see their OTB equivalents strutting about at congresses.

Their one redeeming feature is that, unlike engineers, they are not lazy, they are prepared to do a lot of work on their game and put in serious hours of analysis against stronger opponents.

Cocks-on-the-roost do not play fast all the time; but they invariably play quickly against even slightly weaker opponents. The underlying message to such opponents is: “come on you little squirt, you have no chance of beating me, so get on with the game and resign PDQ...”. When they start a new tournament the “cocks” mark out all the lambs-to-the-slaughter (the tournament “rabbits”) and set about peppering them with moves until they succumb. The technique seems to work, but it isn’t exactly the best example of “Amici Sumus”.

When you play them, you can often identify cocks by the way in which they talk about other players in the notes they send; but they also have several predictable characteristics which allow them to be distinguished from other “fast” players:

(1) they communicate minimally with lower-graded players and never make friends with them;

(2) they have no generosity of spirit towards opponents, for example when an opponent resigns one game in a match pairing, they will not agree a draw in the parallel game with colours reversed, even if the position is level and their team does not need the extra half-point;

(3) they only play fast against weaker players. They actually treat strong opponents with respect, even if they don’t readily admit to it.

(4) they are not satisfied with merely winning a tournament, they expect to be a long way ahead of all the opposition. If they win with 9/12, they are immediately dissatisfied that they did not score 11/12.

(5) they are, of course, bad losers. When they lose, they prefer to attribute the result to a stupid mistake that they themselves had made earlier in the game but for which they naturally would have won, rather than recognise that their opponent has simply played the better chess.

I could easily give recent examples of all the above; but I think it wise to avoid the risk of a libel action. Most experienced players will have come across cocks at some stage of their CC careers.

(D) Planners

PLANNERS are the players, quite simply, who think ahead. They can make their moves quickly, not because they play fast but because the current focus of their play – the moves they are analysing – is always well ahead of the moves they are actually transmitting. So if you are playing against a planner, and they respond very quickly, it is not because they can quickly determine what they are going to play in a given position but because they had already determined what they intended to play next before sending off their previous move.

Planners are often fundamentally quite slow players, in the sense that they need a lot of analytical time for their moves. Hence, if they did not think ahead, they would quickly get into time trouble: they cannot afford to start thinking about their next move only when they receive their opponent's reply to their previous one. For them, that is far too late. Thus, they cope with the demands of correspondence chess by constantly anticipating forward lines. I should know, because I am a "planner" myself.

To illustrate, if I am White and my opponent has just played his 19th move, I often send my response, my 20th, within 24 hours. Far from that being evidence that I am an "engineer", I don't usually even put the position on the engine during that 24-hour period, I just send back my pre-planned response. Generally speaking I put the position on the engine after I have sent my move. To some readers that may sound

strange, but my reasoning is that, now that I have confirmation of my opponent's choice of his 19th move, this is the time to start looking in detail at the options for my 22nd move. My 21st move is already prepared, for a variety of possible lines, just in case my opponent also responds by return.

It follows, therefore, that planners cannot sustain fast play in any of their games for more than three or four moves in succession if their opponents also play consistently quickly. This is what distinguishes planners from the other types of fast players who, for example, generally think of me as slow; but against even slightly slower players I can keep my analytical work perpetually ahead of the action throughout a whole game, using hardly any playing time at all.

Here is a further example from a real game I am currently playing. In an endgame I am winning, I recently played my 44th move with White; so I am waiting for Black's 44th. I have already spent more than six hours on my 45th move. I began by working out that my opponent has 14 candidate moves for his 44th; and I have already determined what my 45th move will be in all 14 lines. This exercise is what took so much time. My opponent characteristically takes a week over every move, I apparently take a few minutes over mine; but I am nevertheless putting in ten times the analytical effort of my opponent. Serious students of fast play need to be aware of this dynamic.

What never ceases to surprise me in modern CC is how many players – even stronger players – don't seem to look at their games at all when it is their opponent's turn to play. Even when they receive a move, they may ignore the game for several days because they are still working on moves in other games which, say, came in 2 or 3 days previously. When they eventually get round to looking at it - and, for example, see for the first time that their next move, being forced, could have been despatched by return! - they become aware that they have just wasted a week of playing time only because of the queueing system in their own in-tray. Desk-clearers, by contrast, would never make this mistake.

Whereas planners are deeply concerned about the strategic continuity of their own play in each game, some engineers seem to treat each new move they receive as though it were a discrete problem position. This "bitty" approach to modern CC is a direct consequence of playing too many games simultaneously; but it gives plenty of opportunities for planners to gain an advantage in their games. When these opportunities begin to dry up, that is when I, for one, will consider throwing in the CC towel and getting back to good old wood-pushing as my main chess activity.

Thus, to summarise, desk-clearers play fast all the time but with a limited number of games, engineers always play fast when they are winning (but not always when they are losing) even when playing huge numbers of games, cocks only play fast against weaker opposition and planners can only play consistently fast against opponents who play slowly. Now take a look at your current list of opponents and match these characteristics to their patterns of play. This exercise might just give you a slightly better idea of what you are up against.... :-)

In the next article, I shall turn my attention to SLOW play.....



Image from devilsfoe.com



5th ICCF Champions League

CL/2012/C1, Champions League 2012 C1

		TD Vugt, Wim H. van													Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
1	Fenix I	2200	2.5	2	2.5	3	2	4	2.5	3	3	3.5	4	4	36	78	26	22	46	2	1
2	Black Sea	2337	0.5	2	2.5	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	3	3	3	4	3	30.5	67	16	20	45	3	2
3	Old Friends Team	2442	1	2	2	2.5	1	2	3	2.5	2.5	3.5	3	4	29	63	12	17	46	2	3
4	Chess Club Travertin 2	2337	1.5	1.5	2	2	2	2.5	2.5	1.5	4	2.5	3	3.5	28.5	59	9	15	48	0	4
5	Golden King	2157	1	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	3	3	3	3.5	28	58	8	16	48	0	5
6	Grupo de Xadrez do Porto B	2052	2	1	2	2	1.5	2	2	2	2.5	2.5	3	3.5	26	56	6	14	46	2	6
7	All the King's Men	2236	0	1.5	2	1.5	2	2	3	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	24	50	0	14	48	0	7
8	The Lewis Chessmen	2293	1.5	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	2	1	1.5	3	2.5	3	2.5	22.5	46	-3	9	48	0	8
9	DEMC 2	2266	1	0	1.5	2.5	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	22	46	-3	12	47	1	9
10	Latvian Knights	2068	1	1	1.5	0	1	1.5	2	1	2	3.5	1	2.5	18	37	-12	6	48	0	10
11	BCCA Rooks	2198	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	16	34	-15	4	47	1	11
12	CCI 1	2247	0	0	1	1	1	1	1.5	1	1.5	3	1.5	3	15.5	32	-17	4	48	0	12
13	Czech Black & White Team	2038	0	1	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	1	1	10	21	-27	0	47	1	13

CL/2012/C7, Champions League 2012 C7

		TD Kracht, Jörg (IA)													Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
1	Chess.com - Russia	2303	2.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	3	2.5	3	3	2.5	3	3.5	32	66	16	22	48	0	1
2	Anunnaki IV	2193	1.5	1.5	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	3.5	4	29.5	62	12	15	47	1	2
3	Vityaz 2012	2213	1.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2	2.5	2	3	3.5	4	29	63	12	16	46	2	3
4	Zugzwang Bocholt 1	2266	2	2	1.5	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	3	2.5	3.5	28.5	60	10	18	47	1	4
5	Le Palamède	2327	2	1	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	4	26	54	4	14	48	0	5
6	Torres Quevedo	2248	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	2.5	1.5	3	2	2	3	2	3.5	26	54	4	12	48	0	6
7	CSM Cluj Napoca 1	2344	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	2.5	2	2.5	3	2	3.5	24.5	53	3	12	46	2	7
8	DEMC 3	2138	1.5	2	2	1.5	2	1	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	23.5	48	-1	10	48	0	8
9	Scottish Claymores	2315	1	1	1.5	1.5	2	2	2	2	2	1.5	3	4	23.5	48	-1	9	48	0	9
10	Brazilian Chessfriends	2387	1	1	2	2	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	3	23	48	-1	11	47	1	10
11	A.D.A. MÓSTOLES	2191	1.5	2	1	1	1.5	1	1	1.5	2.5	2	3	3.5	21.5	44	-5	8	48	0	11
12	Kylee	2167	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	2	2	1.5	1	0.5	1	3	16	34	-15	4	47	1	12
13	Rochade 5171 Chessmates	2015	0.5	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1	0.5	1	5	10	-38	0	48	0	13

The Lewis Chessmen in Division C1 have now completed all games and moved from 9th place to 8th in its Section – however, with only a handful of games to be completed, may yet slip back down to 9th! The Scottish Claymores in Division C7 have also completed all their games to presently share 7th place – however, as with the Lewis Chessmen, they may also slip down the table as other results come to hand.

Current Friendly Internationals

The new Tri-Nations British Team Tournament started only on 1st May but already a number of results are to hand. Wales presently head the table with 3½/5 whilst we share 2nd place with England.

Another new friendly international team match against Venezuela, this time over 25 boards, started on 9th June. We narrowly won the previous encounter and hope to repeat our success! Our other matches against France (presently we're trailing 2½ - 11½ but there are still lots of games left!), Denmark (presently 26½ - 19½ in our favour!) and Spain (16½ - 26½ and only 1 game remaining) continue. We managed to beat Peru recently in our match which started in October 2012.

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
May 2014	25	Venezuela	Server				
Apr 2014	10	Tri-Nations	Server				
Mar 2014	23	France	Server	1½	8½		
Sep 2013	22	Venezuela	Server	22½	18½	1	win
May 2013	22	Spain	Server	16½	26½		loss
Apr 2013	22	Germany	Server	11½	32½		loss
Dec 2012	20	Australia	Server	17	23		loss
Oct 2012	20	Peru	Server	21½	18½		win

20th Olympiad Preliminaries

CCO20/S2, ICCF Olympiad 20 Preliminaries - Section 02

TD Pheby, Ian M. (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1		France	2432	3	2.5	3	3.5	3	3.5	4.5	5	28	58	8	11	48	0	1
2		Germany	2518	3	3	3	2.5	4	4.5	3.5	4	27.5	58	8	11	47	1	2
3		Switzerland	2428	3.5	3	3.5	2	3.5	2.5	4	5	27	58	8	11	46	2	3
4		Ukraine	2465	3	3	1.5	3	3.5	3	3.5	5	24.5	53	3	9	46	2	4
5		Norway	2404	2.5	2.5	3	3	3.5	3	3.5	3	24	55	5	8	43	5	5
6		Luxembourg	2272	3	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	4	22.5	47	-2	5	47	1	6
7		Spain	2440	2.5	1.5	3.5	3	2	2.5	3.5	2.5	21	47	-2	5	44	4	7
8		Scotland	2379	1.5	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	4	19	40	-9	2	47	1	8
9		Hong Kong	2244	1	2	1	1	2	2	2.5	2	13.5	29	-19	0	46	2	9

Our team now has only 2 games to complete in this event and its final placing of 8th place in the 9 team Section is now confirmed.

2nd Thor Løvholt Memorial Team Tournament

MT-Løvholt2/sf2, 2nd Thor Løvholt Team Tournament Semi-Final 2

TD Dearnley, Andrew (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1		Sweden	2213	3	2	2.5	3	2	2.5	3.5	2	5	25.5	59	8	6	43	11	1
2		Slovenia	2228	3	2	1.5	3.5	2	2	3.5	3	4	24.5	62	10	8	39	15	2
3		Austria	2226	2	2	2.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4	2	4.5	24.5	64	11	6	38	16	3
4		Ukraine	2200	1.5	1.5	1.5	3	1.5	3.5	5	2	3.5	23	60	8	7	38	16	4
5		Czech Republic	2168	3	1.5	1.5	2	2	3	2.5	2	3.5	21	52	2	4	40	14	5
6		Lithuania	2187	2	1	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	2.5	2	4	19	52	2	2	36	18	6
7		Netherlands	2203	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	2	4	17.5	41	-7	2	42	12	7
8		Scotland	2083	2.5	1.5	1	1	1.5	2.5	3.5	1	2.5	17	39	-9	2	43	11	8
9		Latvia	2138	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	14	43	-4	1	32	22	9
10		Belgium	2045	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1	2	1.5	2	13	27	-21	0	47	7	10

Our team has now scored 17 points from 43 completed games as this event draws to a close (although play isn't scheduled to end until September 2015). Whilst the team has now slipped down to 8th place in the in the standings, some of its members have enjoyed some success. On board 1 Gordon Anderson has scored 5 from 7 and still has possibility, with 2 games to finish, of achieving an IM Norm, David Cumming has finished on 50% (4½/9) on board 2 whilst on board 5 Eoin Campbell has achieved a fine debut with 4½/8 and 1 game to finish.

6th ICCF Webserver Open Tournament

Entries closed on 30th June for the 6th edition of the now regular event with play scheduled to start early July. As with previous such events we have a substantial number of entries with some players entering multiple 1st Round Sections.

Thus far Derek Coope, Anton Davis and Colin Beveridge have entered only 1 Section whilst Raymond Burridge and

Iain Campbell have entered two. David Cumming, Andrew Macmillan and Martin Hardwick have chosen to spread their bets with entries for 3, 4 and 5 Sections respectively!

European Postal Cup

Our team completed all its games some months ago and its final placing of 4th in the 8 team section now confirmed has narrowly missed out on qualification to the Final.

ICCF Individual Events

A full list of available events is available at our web site www.scottishcca.co.uk. The list of server events now includes a new level, "Aspirer tournaments", designed for those new to ICCF and without any Rating and those with ICCF Ratings less than 1600. Members should note the substantial reduced entry fees to ICCF events as listed at our web site.

10th European Team Championship

Play finally started in this strong event on 10th June with our 8 man team, Tom Matheis, Iain Mackintosh, David Kilgour, Peter Bennett, David Cumming, Gordon Anderson, Robert Montgomery and Geoff Lloyd up against opposition

White: Rhodes, John (2413)

Black: Beecham, Richard (2459)

MT-Hollis (ENG) ICCF, 2014

Sicilian Pelikan & Sveshnikov [B33]

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 e5
6.Ndb5 d6
7.Bg5 a6
8.Na3 b5
9.Bxf6 gxf6
10.Nd5 f5
11.Bd3

For whatever reason, this move is by far the most popular here with over 2,000 games in the ICCF Archive despite White scoring less than 50%. My own preference would be for 11.g3 when 11...fxe4 12.Bg2 Be6 13.Bxe4 Bg7 14.0-0 looks fine for White; 11.c3 can't be bad either.

11... Be6

12.0-0

Maybe White should go "all in" with 12.Qh5?!

12... Bxd5

13.exd5 Ne7

14.c3

14.Nxb5?! is decidedly dubious as we saw in Coplin - Dorer, VWC2 Final in our last issue.

14... Bg7

15.Nc2

Maybe now 15.Qh5 as in Timmerman - Hertel (NED v. GER, 2009) 15...e4 16.Bc2 Qc8 17.Rae1 0-0 18.Bb3 and drawn on move 37.

15... e4

16.Be2 0-0

17.a4 bxa4

18.Rxa4 Qb6

19.Ra2



19... Rfc8N

At last a new move! The Archive offers only 19...f4 ; and 19...a5

20.Qd2 Qb7

21.Ne3 Rc5

22.Rfa1!?

Maybe a bit risky in view of what happens. 22.g3 looks safer.

22... f4

23.Nc4

23.Bxa6 Qc7 24.Nd1 Ng6 is one line suggested by the engine - for me it looks OK for Black.

23... f3

24.gxf3 exf3

25.Bf1 Ng6

25...Rxd5!?

26.Ne3

And here after 26.Nxd6 Rxd5

27.Nxb7 Rxd2 28.Na5 Rad8 it says it's equal but I'm not so sure.

26... Bh6

27.c4 Bf4

28.b4 Rcc8

29.Qd3 Rcb8

30.b5 Ne5

Maybe 30...Qe7 here or on the previous move.

31.Qd4 Bxe3

32.Qxe3 Kh8

33.Qf4 Rg8+

34.Kh1 f5

35.bxa6 Qf7

from Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, Lithuania, Estonia and Ukraine.

As yet no results have been reported although 1 of the team's game is already at move 42! With its Average Rating of 2327 our team is ranked lowest of the 11 teams in its Section but nevertheless, with Title Norms available on all boards, hopes to achieve at least some measure of success!

Adrian Hollis Memorial

Since last time Richard Beecham has scored another 2 draws, against English GM Nigel Robson and SIM Nigel Burne. Richard's progress may be followed at:

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=41391> where completed games may now be viewed.

Draw agreed. If 36.a7 Rg4 37.Qh6 Rg6 38.Qf4 repeats as does 38.Bh3 Qh5 39.Qxf5 Qh6 when Black's R shuffles back and down the g-file [instead after 35...Qg7?! 36.Bh3 White is more than OK.

½-½



Campbell, Eoin S (1954)

Mickevicius, Juras (2172)

MT-Løvholt2/sf2 ICCF, 2013

Modern Benoni [A64]

[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.d4 Nf6

2.c4 e6

3.g3 c5

4.d5 exd5

5.cxd5 d6

6.Nc3 g6

7.Nf3 Bg7

8.Bg2 0-0

9.0-0 Re8

10.Nd2 a6

11.a4 Nbd7

12.h3 Rb8

13.Nc4 Ne5

14.Na3 Nh5

15.e4 Bd7

16.a5 Qxa5

16...b5 17.axb6 Bb5 18.Naxb5 axb5

19.Nxb5 Qxb6 20.Na3 Qb3= is the line given by GM Martin Petrov in his recent "The Modern Benon".

17.g4 Nf6

18.f4 Nexg4

19.hxg4 Nxg4

20.f5 h5

21.Bg5 c4

22.Kh1

22.f6 Qc5+ 23.Kh1 Bh8 is unclear.

22... Bxc3

23.Nc2! Qc5

24.bxc3 Nf2+
25.Rxf2 Qxf2



26.Nd4
White is slightly better here - Black's d6 pawn and weakened k-side soon become factors although the q-side pawns offer Black some chances.
26... b5

27.Qc1 Qg3
28.Bf4 Qh4+
29.Kg1 b4?
29...Rb6 was surely better although
30.Nf3! Qg4 31.Qe3 looks good for White.
30.Bxd6 Rb6
31.Bxb4
White is now winning.
31... gxf5
32.exf5 Rf6
33.Qf1 Qg5
34.Re1 Rxe1
35.Qxe1 Bxf5
36.Nf3 Qg4
37.Ne5 Qg5
38.Kh1 Rb6
39.Nf3 Qf6
40.Qe8+ Kh7
41.Be7 Rb1+

42.Kh2 Re1
43.Bxf6 Rxe8
44.d6 Kg6
45.Be7 Bc8
46.Nh4+ Kg7
47.Bh3 Bxh3
48.Kxh3
Black can't prevent 49.d7 so...
1-0



ICCF Veterans' World Cups By Alan Borwell

VWC2: (TD George Pyrich) the final is nearing conclusion, and there is no fixed closing date. There are 2 ongoing games which, barring blunders, should result in clear 1-2-3 placings. 3 trophies will be awarded in the form of engraved quichs.

VWC3: (TD George Pyrich) the final started on 15/2/2014 with 13 players. 27 games (all draws!) have completed and 78 remain in progress. Although there is no fixed closing date, it should end in late Summer 2015.

VWC4: (TDs Gordon Anderson, Alastair Maxwell and Kevin Paine) 7 semi-final groups of 15 players each are being contested with a closing date of 15/11/2014. There are 52 unfinished games across all groups. The final starts February 2015.

VWC5-7: (Organised by the BdF) VWC5 has 36 groups which closed on 1/3/2014. Semi-finals start June 2014 (Alan Borwell has qualified, and Richard Beecham, Geoff Lloyd and Peter Bennett are all in contention). VWC6 has 42 groups which started on 1/9/2013 – no set closing date. VWC7 is due to start September 2014 – see Notices page.

White: Borwell, Alan (2251)
Black: Mergard, Hans-Peter (GER) (2202)
VWC6 - Prelims Gp 40, 2013
English Opening A15
[Notes by Alan Borwell]

The next two games are from Preliminary Groups of ICCF Veterans World Cup 6. I have just started games in the Semifinals of VWC5 and am also hoping to qualify for the Semifinal stage from at least one of my three PGs in VWC6.

1.c4
I knew my opponent in this game was an avid Petroff exponent so I decided to play a different opening move for a change! He also plays Nimzo/Queens Indian with early Q-side fianchetto, hence my first and second moves!

1... Nf6
2.g3 d5
3.cxd5 Qxd5
4.Nf3 Qh5
5.d4 Nc6
6.Nc3 e5

The only game I could find in this variation was Reinaldo Castineira-Fedorchuk 2010 when White now played dxe5 and lost. Chess is so amazing that after only 6 moves you can reach a unique (and playable) position!



7.d5! Nb8
8.Bg2 Bd6
9.h3
Black's Q is not well placed on K-side
9... Qf5
10.e4 Qd7
11.Bg5 Qe7
12.0-0! h6

13.Bxf6 Qxf6
14.Nb5 0-0
Although my fianchettoed bishop is blocked, I have the c-file to use and more space and development
15.Rc1 Na6
16.a3 Bd7
17.Qe2 Nc5
18.Nxd6 cxd6
19.b4 Na4
20.Rc7 Qd8



21.Rfc1! Nc5
Although this move severs connection of my rooks, the exchange sacrifice looked very promising

22.R7xc5 dxc5
 23.bxc5 f6
 24.Qb2 Rb8
 25.Qb4 Qe8
 26.Nd2 Qe7
 27.Nc4 Rbc8
 28.Ne3 Rb8

Now White must choose from Nf5, Bf1, h4 or a4.

29.Nf5

I thought this was best as Black cannot really exchange the N as the White B then would become active to support the advancing pawns

29... Qd8
 30.a4 a5
 31.Qa3 Qc7
 32.Nd6 Ra8
 33.Nc4 Ra6
 34.Bf1 Rc8
 35.Ne3 Ra7
 36.d6 Qd8
 37.Qb3+



37.Qb3+ Kh7 38.Nd5 Be6 39.Qe3 Bxd5 40.exd5 Raa8 41.Bd3+ g6 42.Qe4 f5 43.Qxe5 Qf8 44.c6 Re8 45.Qf4 bxc6 46.dxc6 Red8 47.c7 Rxd6 48.c8Q Rxc8 49.Rxc8 Qxc8 50.Qxd6 wins.

37... Kh8
 38.Nd5 Kh7
 39.Ne7 Rb8
 40.Bc4 Qe8
 41.Bf7 Qd8
 42.Bg8+ Qxg8
 43.Nxg8 Rxc8
 44.Qb6 Rga8
 45.f4 Bc6
 46.fxe5 fxe5
 47.Rf1 Ra6
 48.Qc7 Rg8
 49.d7 Raa8
 50.g4 Rad8
 51.Rf7 Bxe4
 52.Qxe5 Bc6

and Black resigned. 53.g5 Bxd7 54.Rxd7 Rxd7 55.Qf5+ g6 56.Qxd7+] 1-0

1-0



White: Borwell, Alan (2251)
Black: Sogorin, Vladimir I (RUS)
 (2047)

VWC6 - Prelims Gp 16, 2013

[A25]

[Notes by Alan Borwell]

1.c4

This opponent plays a rather dull variation of the French but I did not fancy playing my pet 2.b3 against him. So again I tried 1.c4 - maybe I should play it more :-)

1... e5
 2.g3 Ne6
 3.Bg2 Bc5
 4.Nc3 Nf6
 5.a3 0-0
 6.e3 Bb6
 7.Nge2 d6
 8.Qc2 a5
 9.0-0 h6
 10.b3 Bg4
 11.h3 Bd7
 12.Bb2 Qc8

Now White has difficult choice - either the natural response 13. Kh2 or the more ambitious but committal move 13.g4

13.g4!?! h5
 14.g5 Bf5
 15.Qd1 Nh7?!

Probably better was 15.....Nd7

16.Ng3 Bg6
 17.Nxh5 Bd3



18.f4!

Black was tempted into going to win the exchange but White has nice compensation. Nowadays with chess engines around, imbalancing games with exchange sacrifices is often a good idea!

18... Bxf1
 19.Qxf1 g6
 20.Ng3 Ne7
 21.fxe5 dxe5
 22.Nce4 Qe6
 23.h4 Ne6

Now White has several good options eg 24. Bc3, h5, c5, Rb1, Rc1 or Bh3. I chose the last of these as it brings my KB into the attack and starts to clear the g-file

24.Bh3 Qe7
 25.Nf6+ Nxf6
 26.gxf6 Qd8
 27.Rd1 Kh7

Now White must choose carefully from Ne4, Bg4, h5 or Kg2

28.Ne4 Rh8
 28...Rh8 29.h5 Qg8 30.Kh2 Rd8
 31.Qf3 Qe8 32.hxg6+ Kg8 33.Ng5 Rd7 34.Kg3
 29.h5
 29... Qg8



29...Qg8 30.Kh2 Rd8 31.Qf3 Qe8 32.hxg6+ Kg8 33.Ng5 Rd7 34.Kg3 Rxh3+ 35.Kxh3 fxg6 36.Qe4 Kf8 37.Kg4 Qc8 38.Rh1 Rf7+ 39.Kg3

30.Kh2 Black resigned here because he has no adequate defence to White's attack.

1-0



Gens una sumus 2 by Marco Berlusconi (no relation).



General Information

ICCF is the International Correspondence Chess Federation. ICCF was founded in 1951 as a reincarnation of the ICCA (International Correspondence Chess Association), itself founded in 1945 as successor to the IFSB (Internationaler Fernschachbund), founded in 1928.

ICCF organises a huge variety of tournaments for individual and team play; operates a worldwide rating system and awards GM, SIM and IM titles to male and female players to recognise strength and performance. Most play is based now on the ICCF webserver, with a residue of postal and email events. Principal tournaments are:

World Individual (www.iccf-webchess.com)

- World Championship. Annual cycles progress through preliminary, semi-final, candidate and final stages.
- World Cups. These include Adult, Junior and the highly popular Veterans events.
- Norm Tournaments. For aspiring IM, SIM and GM players, categorised by rating strength.
- Promotion Tournaments. For middle-strong players, spanning Open, Higher and Master classes.
- Aspirer Tournaments. For beginners and lower-graded players.
- Thematic Tournaments. Organised by opening variations (see opposite).

World Team (www.iccf-webchess.com)

- Olympiads. National team event, 6-player teams, played to a very high standard.
- Champions League. National, cross-national and scratch 4-player teams, several divisions.

European Zone (www.iccf-europa.com)

- European Individual Championship.
- European National Team Championship.

Other

- Friendly Internationals. ICCF member organisations play team events, usually 2 games per player.
- Invitation/Memorial Events. To commemorate anniversaries and deceased officials and players.
- Chess 960. New events featuring Fischer/Random chess opening positions.

SCCA members are eligible to enter all ICCF events, though Scottish nationality is required for national representation.

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.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2014

Theme 4/14: King's Indian, Saemisch Variation, E80

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3
Entries by 15 September; plays starts 1 October

Theme 5/14: Slav Noteboom System, D31

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4
Entries by 15 November; play starts 1 December

Webserver Events 2014

Theme 5/14: Ruy Lopez - Bird Variation, C61

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4
Entries by 1 September; play starts 15 September

Theme 6/14: Lisitsin Opening, A04

1.Nf3 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Ng5 d5
Entries by 15 October; plays starts 1 November

Note there are no Email Events in 2014.

News

- ❑ The 2014 Congress will run in Sydney, Australia from October 11th to 18th. There is a dedicated website at: www.2014.ccla.net.au Papers and proposals are now being circulated to national federations.
- ❑ The 7th Veterans' World Cup, organised by the German Federation (BdF), will start on 1st September (for full entry details, see the Notices page).
- ❑ The 38th ICCF World Championship semi-finals started play on 20th June.
- ❑ The LIPEAD-40 tournament, an international event organised by the Peruvian Federation as a tribute to founding member Gustavo Paz y Barriga, started play on 15th June.
- ❑ ICCF partner, New In Chess digital edition is not only available for iPad users, but has recently become compatible for Kindle Fire and Android tablets. App download instructions are on the ICCF website.
- ❑ The 2nd Chess 960 World Cup preliminary sections completed in April and semi-finals are now in progress.

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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