Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Painted Stained Glass by Brigitte Wolf
www.reflectionsglass.ca

Editorial and News

By Iain Mackintosh

Welcome to the second edition of the 2020 magazine set which also marks 150 issues in total – a big anniversary! Lockdown is starting to ease here, so there should be scope for some modest celebrations…

In our last edition, we announced that the 2020 ICCF Congress in Glasgow had been cancelled due to Coronavirus. Online voting on proposals will take place instead this year, and one of these proposals offers to host the 2021 Congress in Glasgow!

I've analysed the third ICCF rating list of 2020, with the assistance of Alistair Maxwell, who is happy to take over the job from now on. In the course of doing the work, I discovered that Mike Dyer of Glasgow had died in 2019, and there's an obit in our Notices pages.

We held our AGM in May. Kevin Paine stood down from Membership Secretary due to taking up a Professorship at Bath University. Kevin remains on committee, and Iain Sneddon takes over the Membership role. We also welcome Mickey Blake to committee this year. Gordon Anderson and Alan Hind did their usual accomplished job on our accounts. Full details are enclosed.

To celebrate our 150th edition, I've plagiarised some material from our 50th and 100th issues. Both magazines were lively and there are many weel-kent names from SCCA history to entertain you (and get you nostalgic).

Peter Bennett continues his account of how he manages his huge games load - instructive reading this! Peter shares column space with portrait painter Sir Henry Raeburn, who made his own mark in Edinburgh 200+ years ago.

We welcome back John Hawkes, now fully recovered, with an account of Bird's Defence. John also sourced a lot of the illustrations in our Chess Art feature on Bill Jacklin which follows his own article.

Alastair Dawson features a couple of strong games from SIM Andrey Kochemasov of Russia, who won the ICCF WC30 Final, scoring two wins and achieving a GM norm.

No room for an International Report or an ICCF Page in this issue, but I expect they'll re-appear next time. Meanwhile, I trust you all manage to stay safe and well as we slowly make our various ways back to normality.

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 been and continues to be an important revenue-earner for our Association, with many long-standing subscribers.

However, in recent years we have lost a number of subscribers through death and replacing them has been a challenge that, as yet, we have been unable to fully meet.

Could you help us address our challenge by agreeing to take one, two, three or more units each month?

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 making contact with Gordon to sign up for some units (contact details below).

Recent 100 Club Winners

2020	1st	2nd
June	I Mackintosh	K B McAlpine
May	J Anderson	P M Giulian
April	J Anderson	I Mackintosh

SCCA Officials				
President	Iain Mackintosh	7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth PH1 1BA	+44 (0) 1738 623194	president@scottishcca.co.uk
International	Gordon Anderson	63 Wellin Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AH	+44 (0) 115 923 1021	international@scottishcca.co.uk
Treasurer	Gordon Anderson	63 Wellin Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AH	+44 (0) 115 923 1021	treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk
Membership	Iain Sneddon	45 Fintry Place, Bourtreehill, Irvine KA11 1JB	+44 (0) 1294 683799	membership@scottishcca.co.uk
Member	Kevin Paine	47 Park Hill Drive, Frome BA11 2LQ	+44 (0) 1373 467585	kevin.paine@scottishcca.co.uk
Member	Alan Borwell	8 Wheatfield Avenue, Inchture PH14 9RX	+44 (0) 1828 686556	alan.borwell@scottishcca.co.uk
Member	Mickey Blake	Culquha Mid Lodge, Castle Douglas DG7 2AQ	+44 (0) 1557 820584	mickey.blake@scottishcca.co.uk
Games Editor	Alastair Dawson	10 Berry Place, St Andrews KY16 8RG	+44(0) 1334 477236	games@scottishcca.co.uk

NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Iain Sneddon and Iain Mackintosh pro tem; grading duties by Iain Mackintosh.

Michael T Dyer RIP

Alistair Masxwell writes: Mike Dyer passed away on the 8th September 2019 after a 2 year battle with cancer.

Mike was a genuinely nice man, very well liked in both Scottish OTB and CC communities. He played for Cathcart and Bearsden in the Glasgow Leagues and participated in SCCA domestic and international events.

Mike was also a staunch trade union activist and member of the Labour Party.   Alistair recalls one CC anecdote: Mike was playing a game with Ian Reeman in a tournament where I was TD and the scorecard had been going back and forward quite happily until I got the card with a covering letter, asking me what they should do now. My recollection is that when I played through the game the White king had gone from f2-c5 via e3 and d4, except that it wasn't legal for it to go through d4 at the point that it had done...! Game agreed drawn!

Iain Mackintosh writes: Mike re-appeared in our Grading List in 2011 after a long absence, and you may have noticed him in our list of highest graded players recently. When I receieved Alistair's news, I contacted ICCF to ask why Mike's account was still active after September 2019.

It transpired that another Michael T Dyer based in Hertfordshire had started to play CC in 2009, and the TO of his first event had used the inactive account of his Glasgow namesake! My thanks to John Rhodes, the Hertfordshire TC and Austin Lockwood, ICCF Services Director, for helping to investigate. We'll now create separate accounts for both players, and (sadly) retire Mike from our Grading List.

ICCF 40th WCCC Candidates Tournament

Gian-Maria Tani, ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner, writes to announce the Candidates stage of the 40th World Championship which will start on 20th September. The following players are eligible:

a.   All entries will be accepted according to ICCF Tournament Rules valid as from January 1, 2020, to be received not later than August 2, 2020. Rating numbers will be taken from the ICCF Rating List as at July 1, 2020 and/or from the current FIDE Rating List.
b.   Candidates Tournament sections normally have 13 players with the possibility for the TTC to extend them to 15 or 17 players if appropriate in special situations.
c.   Normally, no more than four Candidates Tournament sections are started each year with 1st and 2nd qualifying for a Final. However additional sections may be started at the discretion of the TTC. In this situation, the number of qualifiers for the Final may be reduced from two to one.
d.   If the number of the entries isn't a multiple of 13, 15 or 17, sections will be filled with the players who ask to enter the Candidates Tournament according Rule 1.2.1.3.3; if it's again impossible to fill a section, the players who have been entered according to Rule 1.2.1.3.1.(h) and who have the lowest ICCF ELO rating won't be admitted to the 2020 Candidates' Tournament.
e.   Entries have to be sent through the "New events" page of www.iccf.com. The entry fee can be paid via Direct Entry or via the player's National Federation. Entries of "reserve players" must be sent by e-mail to the TTC via the player's National Federation. It is mandatory that the qualification right under Tournament Rules 1.2.1.3.1 should be specified for each entry.

Registration completes on 5th August, so please contact Gordon Anderson before 29th July, if you meet the entry criteria, to register your interest.

ICCF 23rd World Cup

ICCF General Secretary, Michael Millstone has written to announce the launch of the 23rd World Cup. The tournament will be in 3 stages, with the Preliminaries commencing on 30th September 2020.

Each group will consist of 7-11 players. The event will be played by webserver with the pace 40 days per 10 moves (45 days leave per year, no special leave).

Linear conditionals can be entered. Each player plays one game with every player of his group simultaneously. Allocation of players to the Preliminary sections will be made as random as possible; however geographical distribution as well as an achievement of reasonable equality of the average rating will be taken into account.

All players are eligible to enter. Players must register in the usual way through ICCF registration system (select "Register by Direct Entry" or "Register via National Federation").
..

Tournament fees by Direct Entry will be €14.04 Euros and through SCCA £9. Multiple entries are allowed up to the number of preliminary sections. The closing date for registration is September 1st.

All Preliminary groups will finish on 1st May 2022. The Semi-final round will be started on 31st October 2022.

Sweden v Rest of Europe Match

The Europa Zonal Director writes to announce that a friendly match has been organised between Sweden and the Rest of Europe.

1. The match will be played on the ICCF webserver, ICCF Playing Rules will apply. Time control is 10 moves in 50 days with duplication after 20 days.
2. Number of boards is expected 50 to 60.
3. Any Zone 1 (Europa) National Federation (except for Sweden) may nominate up to 3 players for the Rest of Europe Team.
4. Each player will play two games (one with White, one with Black) against her/his opponent on her/his board.
5. Start date is 30 September 2020.
6. Order of boards will be set in accordance with ICCF ratings being taken from up-to-date rating list (i.e. 2020/3).

Scottish players wishing to be considered for selection should contact Gordon Anderson as soon as possible but no later than 15 August 2020.

Fernschach 2020 CC Database

Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2020 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:
- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 1,450,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 100,000 new games since 2019
- Approximately 9,500 annotated (400 new)
- German letters ä, ö, ü and ß are not counted in names

- Games from all main chess servers + post + email All tournaments marked correspondence so that CC games can be recognised in a larger database

The price is €13 (shipping within Germany) and €15 (shipping elsewhere).

For further details, contact Herbert at:
Herbert Bellmann
On the Brink 11
46399 Bocholt
Germany

Bank details: Transfer the purchase amount to:
Bocholt Municipal Savings Bank
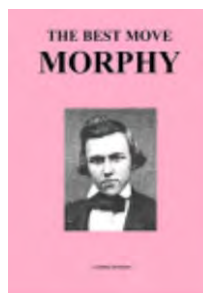IBAN DE 33428500350100118801
BIC SWIFT WELADED1BOH
Purpose: FS CD 2019
Your order must contain your complete postal address!

Email: hebel57@gmx.de
Website: http://www.fernschach.org/fs-cd/index.html

Lyudmil Tsvetkov Books

Lyudmil Tsvetkov served for a long time as a Bulgarian diplomat. In his free time, he played chess and gained the title of Bulgarian candidate master.

In 2013 he decided to quit his full-time job in order to concentrate completely on playing and analysing chess.

In the last couple of years he has been very active in contributing to develop Stockfish, until recently, the strongest chess engine on Earth.
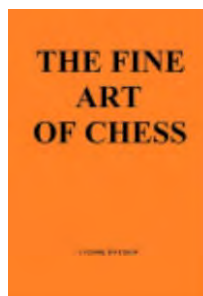
Tsvetkov's books are available on Amazon – follow the link: https://www.amazon.com/Lyudmil-Tsvetkov/e/B074W689PN/ref=dp_byline_cont_pop_ebooks_1

ICCF Updates

June updates to the Games Archive have now been added, and may be downloaded by logging into: https://www.iccf.com/ then selecting Games Archive from the menu.

In the 10th ETC Final, three games are still holding up its conclusion, so no word yet of a start date for the 11th ETC Final.

2020/3 Grading List

By Iain Mackintosh

The third ICCF grading list of 2020 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 March 2020 and 31 May 2020. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 July and 31 September 2020.

We had one new addition (Allan Buchan), and one deletion (Mike Dyer deceased – refer Notices page) in this list. Three players gained norms in the last grading period – Iain Sneddon (CCM), Raymond Burridge (2xCCE) and David Cumming (IM) – congratulations to them!

There were four upwards movements in grading bands – Geoff Lloyd is now 2300+; Allan Buchan entered the list at 2000+; and John Dunn progressed to 1500+. Well done to all!

More new games centurions featured – Raymond Burridge surpassed 1500+; Martin Hardwick reached 1400+; and Iain Sneddon is now 300+. Highest recorded games during this quarter were Martin Hardwick (101!), Raymond Burridge (56); David Cumming (55); Carlos Almarza Mato (47); Allan Buchan (41); and Iain Sneddon (37).

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
317	Almarza Mato, C	1859	2163 ↓	260	Knox, A	398	1404 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	339	2345 ↑	264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	978	2309 ↑
121	Anderson, J	302	1941 ↔		MacDonald, M	56	1389 ↔
049	Armstrong, A	209	1876 ↔	584	MacGregor, C A	436	1865 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	434	1531 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	780	2415 ↓
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	474	2478 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	1384	1556 ↑
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	253	2421 ↔	566	Marshall, I H	795	2018 ↓
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	465	2382 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	257	2458 ↓
481	Beveridge, C (CCE)	531	2284 ↑	867	McEwan, N R	39	1896 ↔
472	Blake, M J (CCE)	871	2373 ↔		Miles, A	58	1477 ↔
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1096	2207 ↔	401	Moir, P J	201	1529 ↓
486	Buchan, A W	41	2066 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S	310	2258 ↓
602	Burridge, R J	1533	2190 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	592	2445 ↑
	Clark, S L	275	1862 ↓	564	Murray, J S	83	1996 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	114	1902 ↑	440	Neil, C	342	1338 ↓
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	1765	2369 ↑	453	Newton, A	30	1774 ↔
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	168	2198 ↑	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	184	1874 ↓
572	Dempster, D	807	1759 ↔	604	Paine, Prof K A (SM)	224	2358 ↑
478	Dunn, J	389	1506 ↑		Pettigrew, S	153	1385 ↓
371	Edney, D	286	1945 ↓	432	Price, D	456	1874 ↓
462	Gilbert, R	234	1667 ↓	477	Sedstrem, A	95	1391 ↑
124	Goodwin, B J	389	1719 ↔	439	Smith, M J	90	2115 ↑
445	Graham, S W	82	1689 ↔	057	Sneddon, I (CCE)	307	2335 ↑
399	Grant, J	74	1650 ↓	605	Taylor, W	121	2063 ↑
596	Hardwick, M E	1489	1234 ↑		Warren, J	36	2067 ↔
475	Kearns, A	104	1393 ↓	480	Whittaker, I P	119	2135 ↑
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	351	2238 ↔				
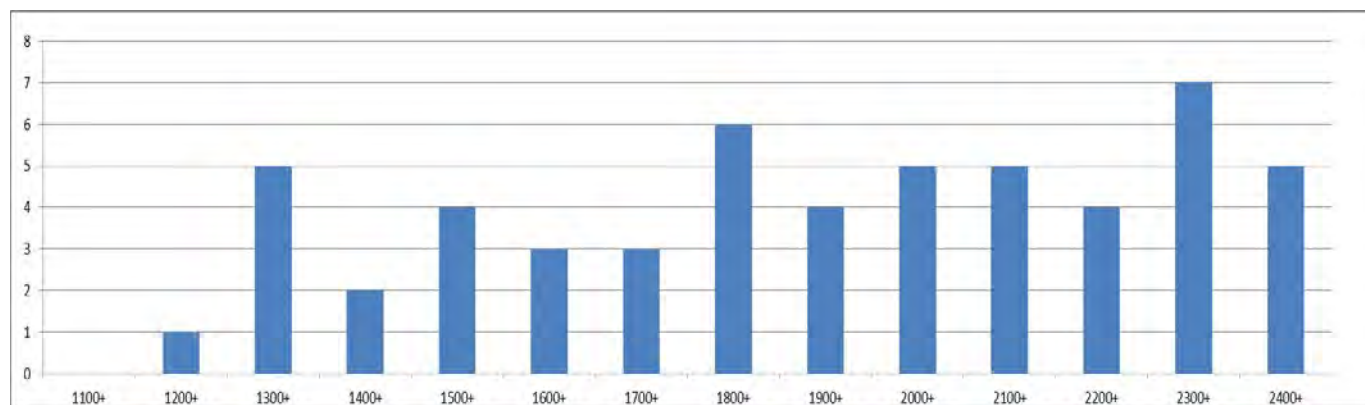
Statistical Analysis

Total listed	**53**
New entrants	**1**
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	**1**
Full grades (30+ games)	**53**
Provisional grades (<30 games)	**0**
Grading increases (↑)	**19**
Grading decreases (↓)	**20**
Grading static (↔)	**14**

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	**2478**		Borwell, A P (IM)	**2207**
Matheis, T (IM)	**2458**		Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	**2198**
Murden, C (IM)	**2445**		Burridge, R J	**2190**
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	**2421**		Almarza Mato, C	**2163**
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	**2415**		Whittaker, I P	**2135**
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	**2382**		Smith, M J	**2115**
Blake, M J (CCE)	**2373**		Warren, J	**2067**
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	**2369**		Buchan, A W	**2066**
Paine, Prof K A (SM)	**2358**		Taylor, W	**2063**
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	**2345**		Marshall, I H	**2018**
Sneddon, I (CCE)	**2335**		Murray, J S	**1996**
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	**2309**		Edney, D	**1945**
Beveridge, C (CCE)	**2284**		Anderson, J	**1941**
Montgomery, R S	**2258**		Cormack, W H	**1902**
Kilgour, D A (GM)	**2238**		McEwan, N R	**1896**

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C	**1859**		Borwell, A P (IM)	**1096**
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	**1765**		Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	**978**
Burridge, R J	**1533**		Blake, M J (CCE)	**871**
Hardwick, M E	**1489**		Dempster, D	**807**
MacMillen, A N	**1384**		Marshall, I H	**795**

Selected Personal Best Grades 2020/3

	New	**Previous**		**Gain**
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	**2345**	**2344**	**2020/2**	**1**
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	**2421**	**2421**	**2020/2**	**0**
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	**2382**	**2374**	**2018/3**	**8**
Beveridge, C (CCE)	**2284**	**2255**	**2019/4**	**29**
Blake, M J (CCE)	**2373**	**2373**	**2020/2**	**0**
Paine, Prof K A (SM)	**2358**	**2352**	**2020/2**	**6**
Smith, M J	**2115**	**2114**	**2020/2**	**1**
Whittaker, I P	**2135**	**2122**	**2019/4**	**13**

Other Notes

Senior International Master (SIM) title norms are held by:
Matheis, T (1), Murden, C (1)
International Master (IM) title norms are held by:
Bennett, P G (1), Bell, A D (1), Cumming, D R (1)
Scottish Master (SM) title norms are held by:
Montgomery, R S (2)
Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:
Beveridge, C (1), Paine, K A (1), Sneddon, I (1)
Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:
Burridge, R J (2), Montgomery, R S (2), Paine, K A (1)

This list includes a number of our members who are registered with other countries, and may include members who have played <12 games and have yet to receive a provisional rating.

To check your rating online at any time, go to the ICCF webserver site (www.iccf.com), click on the ICCF Ratings link then complete the search boxes. A number of useful online rating enquiry facilities are available, including a personal forecasted rating as your results come in.

AGM 2020

By Iain Mackintosh
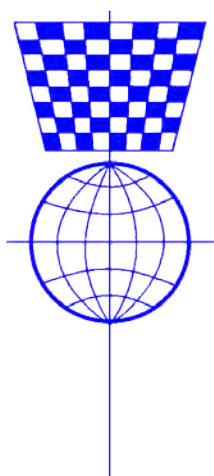
Meeting:	The 43rd AGM of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association.
Venue:	Sunday 24th May, 2020, 4pm by Skype.
Present:	Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Gordon Anderson, Mickey Blake, Alan Borwell, Kevin Paine, Iain Sneddon, Ian Whittaker (all Skype)
Apologies:	None,

Minutes of the 42nd AGM

On the proposal of Iain Sneddon, seconded by Alan Borwell, the minute of the meeting held on 26th May 2019 was accepted as an accurate record and approved.

Matters arising from the 42nd AGM

None.

President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh reviewed the preceding year which had sadly featured one obituary – Derek Coope.

The major story of the year concerned our bid to host the 2020 ICCF Congress in Glasgow during August. After being let down by the Glasgow Hilton Hotel, we obtained premises at the Golden Jubilee Hotel in Clydebank only to see our preparations founder under the Coronavirus restrictions. Gordon Anderson deserves a big vote of thanks for his work in getting us so close.

On the playing front, it was another busy year for the SCCA. Domestic events all ran on schedule and results are summarised below. Internationally, we gained excellent results in the European Team and Olympiad events, and were widely represented in individual and team competitions.

Our website was regularly updated with new content. Our Facebook page continues to service a worldwide following. The online magazine was produced on schedule each quarter; while subscribers to the 2019 printed magazine remained steady.

As usual, the SCCA has been indebted to its hard-working committee members and tournament directors, all of whom deserve grateful thanks for their efforts and commitment.

Secretary's Report

Kevin Paine reported that 2020 membership was 21 Annual and 77 Life/Patron members.

Kevin also summarised new title- and norm-holders:
CCM Titles: Gordon Anderson, Geoff Lloyd; CCM Norms: Colin Beveridge, Kevin Paine, Iain Sneddon.
CCE Titles: Colin Beveridge, Iain Sneddon; CCE Norms: Raymond Burridge.

Kevin reported that the 2019-20 Championship was won by Iain Mackintosh. The 2019 Premier was a 3-way tie between Jim Anderson, Ian Whittaker and Carlos Almarza Mato. Andrew Macmillen won the 2019 Open. Colin Beveridge triumphed in the 2019 Challengers.

The Webserver League featured 4 divisions for the first time: In 1, Hounds of the Scheming Mind A prevailed; in 2, Hounds of the Scheming Mind C won out; in 3, White Rose B finished on top; and in 4, BCCA Amethysts bested the rest.

The 7th Annual Best Game Prize was adjudicated by GM Daði Örn Jónsson and won by Iain Mackintosh.

Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that Alan Hind had completed his audit (mostly done by post) and had once again kindly donated his fee. . Income in the 12 month period was £1,561 (2019-£1,899), with membership subscriptions down significantly from £296 (2019) to £133. Expenditure decreased to £1,696 (2019-£3,947), with no outlay on the George Pyrich Memorial this year, and lower domestic trophy expenses. Some outgoings were made in organising the now cancelled Glasgow ICCF Congress, but these were less than previous Congress attendances. We are now using bank transfers to pay 100 Club prizes, though some members still prefer cheques.

No provision has been made in this year's accounts for the cost of trophies for section winners in the George Pyrich Memorial. More than 14 quaichs may be required if ties cannot be broken; we estimate that costs will exceed £1,000, plus P&P. The outcome for the year was a deficit of £134 (2019-Deficit -£2,048). Total assets reduced at the year end to £8,891 (2019-£9,025).

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon and Alan Hind which was unanimously agreed. Gordon moved adoption of the audited accounts, seconded by Kevin Paine and unanimously agreed.

International Secretary's Report

Gordon reported on excellent performances by our teams in the 11th ETC semi-finals (where we finished 3rd and qualified for the final) and 21st Olympiad prelims (where we also finished 3rd, but didn't qualify for the final). The ETC Final is likely to start in September 2020.

Our performances in In the British Tri-Nations 2017, the Esko Nuutilainen Memorial Team Tournament, the North Atlantic Team Tournament VII, and the 3rd North Sea Team Tournament didn't improve during the year. Current Friendly matches are against Panama, Sweden, Cuba, Netherlands and England (<1800) are currently in progress. No new matches are scheduled at present. Entries to ICCF events by Scottish players during 2019 were 77 (22 players). A further 26 entries (17 players) have been received in 2020 so far. We have also provided players to NF Invitational events (including Richard Beecham, currently in 1st place in the Max Zavanelli Lithuania B event). The 2020 ICCF Congress will be a virtual affair due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Delegates will vote online on proposals during July.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon which was unanimously agreed. Kevin Paine moved adoption of Gordon's report, seconded by Iain Sneddon and unanimously agreed.

Election of Office Bearers

The following office-bearers were elected to office for 2020-21.

Office	Name	Proposer	Seconder
President	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Borwell	Ian Whittaker
Vice President[1]			
International Secretary	Gordon Anderson	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Borwell
Secretary[2]			
Membership Officer	Iain Sneddon	Alan Borwell	Gordon Anderson
Treasurer	Gordon Anderson	Kevin Paine	Alan Borwell
Committee Members	Alan Borwell	Gordon Anderson	Iain Sneddon
	Mickey Blake	Iain Mackintosh	Gordon Anderson
	Kevin Paine	Gordon Anderson	Alan Borwell

[1] No nomination received.

[2] No nomination received. We will look at consolidating secretarial and membership functions during the year.

Appointment of Auditor

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

Subscriptions

Gordon Anderson proposed no change to domestic membership fees for 2020-21. This was seconded by Iain Sneddon and unanimously agreed.

AOB

The Edinburgh CC Bicentenary takes place in November 2022, and the club hopes to reproduce the famous Edinburgh-London postal match in the lead-up. SCCA is happy to provide support, but decisions are required re playing format. **(Action: AB, IW)**

Video-conferencing was proposed as a better medium than Skype voice calls. Coincidentally, the AGM was mostly conducted by video (presumably Skype reacting to Zoom's popularity during the Coronavirus lockdown). Other options are also available, but the president needs to upgrade his antiquated IT set-up first. **(Action: IM)**

A vote of thanks to the chair was proposed by Gordon Anderson and unanimously agreed.

SCCA Accounts 2019-20

By Gordon Anderson

2018-19 Income	2018-19 Expenses	2018-19 Net	Profit & Loss	2019-20 Income	2019-20 Expenses	2019-20 Net
			General			
196.00			Annual Members (@£7)	133.00		
100.00			Life Members (@£100)	0.00		
0.00			Patron Members (@£125)	0.00		
148.31			Donations	128.00		
	0.00		Chess Scotland Grant/Donation		0.00	
19.98			Bank Interest	15.80		
	29.83		Committee Expenses		0.00	
	50.00		Chess Scotland Affiliation Fee		50.00	
	67.26		ICCF Affiliation Fee		32.11	
	70.00	**247.20**	Auditor's Fee		70.00	**124.69**
			Domestic Competitions			
48.00			Individual Entry Fees	24.00		
142.00			Team League Fees	140.00		
	1678.50		ICCF Webserver Fees		171.26	
	327.00		Prizes & Trophies		85.71	
	0.00	**-1815.50**	Controllers' Expenses		0.00	**-92.97**
			International Competitions			
0.00		**0.00**	International Match Fees	0.00		**0.00**
			ICCF Competitions			
309.00	344.68		Individual & Team Fees	266.50	183.26	
	0.00	**-35.68**	Bank Transfer Fees		0.00	**83.24**
			Magazine			
84.00			New Magazine Email (@£3)	57.00		
60.00			New Magazine Printed (@£5)	45.00		
	113.81	**30.19**	Printing & Postage		118.40	**-16.40**
			Website			
0.00	0.00		ISP Connection Fees (Donation)	0.00	0.00	
0.00	23.98	**-23.98**	Domain Registration (Donation)	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
			100 Club			
693.00			Units Bought	672.00		
	360.00		Prizes		360.00	
15.00		**348.00**	Cheque Written Back		0.00	**312.00**
			Other			
83.89	96.73		Miscellaneous	80.00	125.00	
	785.00	**-798.34**	ICCF Congress		500.00	**-545.00**
1898.68	3946.79	**-2048.11**	**Surplus/Deficit**	1561.30	1695.74	**-134.44**

Balance Sheet 2019-20

Bank Summary	Opening	Payins	Withdrawn	Written Off	Transfers	Closing	2018-19
BoS Current	1058.47	2955.00	3432.96	0.00	0.00	580.51	
Barclays	8550.59	15.80	500.00	0.00	0.00	8066.39	
	9609.06	**2970.80**	**3932.96**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**8646.90**	**9609.06**

Net Opening/Closing   **-962.16**

Liabilities	Creditor	Debtor					
100 Club Prizes Unpresented	90.00						
100 Club Received For 2020-21	9.00						
Whisky Tour Refund	30.00						
Peter Bennett Float	3.00						
Cheque 10641 Unpresented	10.00						
Cheque 10646 Unpresented	50.00						
Golden Jubilee Refund Not Banked		311.50					
League Fees/Subs Not Banked		125.00					
Subtotals/Net	**192.00**	**436.50**				**244.50**	**-583.22**
Net Assets at March 31, 2020						**8891.40**	**8025.84**

Capital Account							
Balances b/f						8025.84	10073.95
Surplus/Deficit						-134.44	-2048.11
Subtotal						**7891.40**	**8025.84**
Less Allocation to Development Account						0.00	0.00
Balances c/f						**7891.40**	**8025.84**

Development Account							
Balance b/f						1000.00	1000.00
Allocation from Capital Account						0.00	0.00
						1000.00	**1000.00**
Account Totals						**8891.40**	**9025.84**

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.
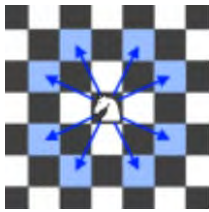
Alan Hind, CA, May 2020.

SCCA 10 Year Surplus/Deficit
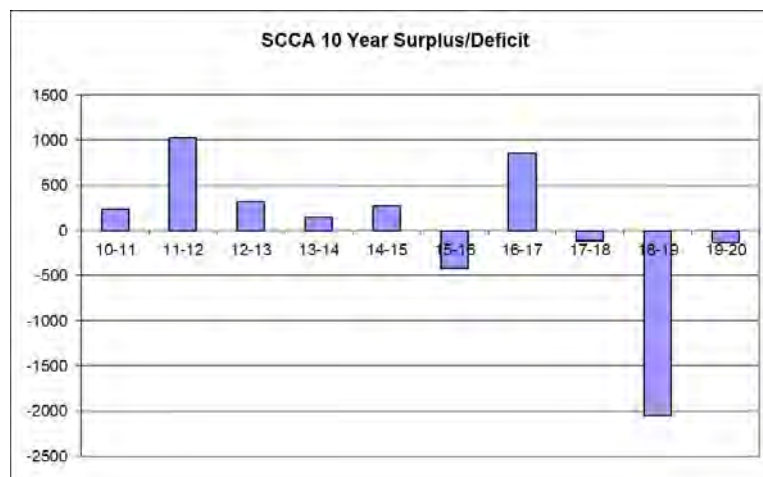
Maze (n): a confusing network of paths or passageways.

Although everyone is familiar with mazes, there is one form of the classic puzzle that, despite having teased mathematicians for centuries, remains unknown to most people – The Knight's Tour.

Using standard legal knight moves, touch every square of the board once only. You should therefore touch 64 squares in 64 moves.

I've combined a sample Knight's Tour with a hidden message. Starting at **d1** (the letter is "**D**"), trace the 64-square message, inserting spaces where appropriate. The answer is a message from someone you probably make unhappy!

O	E	O	S	C	T	R	E
C	S	C	S	R	S	U	O
S	R	G	P	A	S	H	E
I	G	N	T	D	E	P	P
A	A	T	N	O	M	S	C
N	D	Y	P	H	E	I	P
E	E	N	N	A	R	E	P
E	I	L	**D**	C	O	L	E

As a clue, the structure of the words is 4/8/6/4/7/14/5/6/3/7

You can find the solution at the end of the Bits 'n' Pieces article.

**From Edition 50
Bits 'n' Pieces**

By Ian Marks

In which Black gets the Bird…

**White: Kabisch, Roland
Black: Marks, Ian**
EU/M/1065, 1994
Bird's Opening [A02]
[Notes by Ian Marks]

1.f4
Batsford's will probably never publish a book called 'The Complete Bird': not a big enough GM database, not a big enough potential readership to make it worthwhile.
Because an opening is rarely played, there's a tendency to think it's bad, Wrong. Not bad, just different. Too many games are lost through trying too hard to beat a "bad" opening.

1...   g6?!
Nothing wrong with this of course but, since most g6 systems are designed to chip away at a broad White centre, and White has so far avoided e4 or d4, I can't help feeling (now!) that the move loses some of its point. Suffice to say that I know what I'll be playing next time I face 1.f4 and it ain't 1... g6. (Prospective opponents wishing to find out more

5.Bd3   d6
6.0-0   c5

please send 1.6264 and await my reply).]

2.Nf3!
2.e4!? d5!?
2...   Bg7
3.e3
White refuses to be provoked.
3...   b6?!
This is going too far. In his book '50 Czech GM Brilliancies', GM Filip, writing about the King's Indian, says: "for a long time I tried various sidelines, but to no avail. In the course of the years I finally realised that, to achieve success, you shouldn't avoid the so-called principal continuations". Words of wisdom indeed. His comments apply equally well here. 3... d5 and 3... Nf6 are both much more sensible and apposite.
Incidentally, this is a super little collection, but isn't too well known. It appeared in German in 1983 and, as far as I know, has never been translated into English. A pity, but that just makes it all the more special to those of us lucky enough to own a copy. Filip puts a lot of honesty and humour into his writing and gets you I thought about a Hippopotamus: e6/Ne7/Nd7 etc. That worked out

involved. I don't know if he's published anything else but, if he has, I'd love to get my hands on it. Anybody out there help!?
[Trivia question: what distinction does GM Filip hold? Answer at the end of the 'From Edition 50' section.]

4.d4
Obviously a Stonewall man.
4...   Bb7

The Final Frontier? Or the end of the road?

well in Masenas (USSR)-Marks:
1.Nf3 d6 2.d4 g6 3.e4 Bg7 4.Bc4 e6

(! from Romanishin) 5.Nc3 Nd7 (Do this on the previous move and you run into 5.Bxf7+) 6.Bg5 Ne7 7.Qd2 h6 8 Be3 a6 9.a4 Nf6 and Black is fine. In Marks-Kroenauer (Austria), Black unleashed a pseudo-Hippo: 1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f6 e6 (! from Marks) 5.Nf3 Ne7 6.Be3 f5!? 7.Bd3 0–0 8.Qd2?! fxe4! 9.Bxe4 (Nxe4 Nd5) c5! 10.dxc5 d5! (Three crackers in a row!) 11.0–0–0 (Bd3 d4 ouch) Nbc6 12.Qf2 Qa5 13.Bd3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qxc3 15.Kb1 Qb4+ 16.Ka1 Qc3+ and White was relieved to get back to the dressing room with a half point. Yep, there's a lot to be said for Hippos.

7.c3
Good timing. ...c5 usually strikes at a weakened d4, but now that's sturdily defended.
7...   Nf6
8.Nbd2   0-0
9.e4

Almost a Pirc, but the Black Bb7 is woefully misplaced (try g4).]
9...   cxd4
10.cxd4

While browsing through *Chess and Draughts – How to Play Scientifically*, I came across the following correspondence game with Shakespearean quotations. It was played between Mr J W Shaw of Montreal and Mr T W Robins of Manchester. Mr Shaw has the conduct of the White pieces; Mr Robins the Black.

White: Shaw, J W

Advantage to White. His Nd2 looks as though it's slid off c3, but otherwise he's fine. Black on the other hand, needs to organise Bg4/Nc6/Qb6 to co-ordinate his position.
10...   Nc6
11.a3
Now is the time to go into a huddle and decide how best to implement the above reorganisation. 11... a6 looks reasonable, e.g. 11... a6 12.Qe2 b5 13.a4!? Nb4 14.axb5 (Bb1!?) Nxd3 15.Qxd3 axb5 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 looks OK for Black, so try (11... a6) 12.d5 Nb8 (Na5? 13.b4!) and if now 13.a4, 13... b5 is still playable since Qb6+ will pick up the White stray on b5. Nbd7 and rooks to the c-file are also on their way. Instead, I get all thematical with...
11...   e5?

"It is a far, far better thing to have a firm anchor in nonsense than to put out on the troubled sea of thought." (J.K. Galbraith)

12.d5!   Nd4?
12...Ne7 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.Nxe5 Nfxd5 15.Nxf7 Rxf7 16.Rxf7 Kxf7 17.exd5 Bxd5 looks OK for Black. *(17...Qxd5?? 18.Bc4 shows the merit of having the N on d2.)*

"Human stupidity consists of having lots of ideas, but stupid ones." (Henry de Montherlant)

13.Nxd4   exd4
14.Nf3
For some reason, I had expected 14.Nb3
14...   Re8

From Edition 50
A Midsummer Knight's Dream!

Black: Robins, T W [C61]
Correspondence, 1995
Ruy Lopez, Bird's Defence [C61]
[Notes by the Players]

1.e4
I do the wrong, and first begin to brawl. *[Richard III]*
1...   e5
Away, you rogue! Dost thou not hear them call?
[Henry IV, Part I]

15.Re1
15.Nxd4 Nxd5
15...   Qe7
Angling for 16.Nxd4 Nxd5
16.b4!
Now the coming Bb2 will pick off the pawn on d4, leaving White a pawn up and nicely placed for a push in the centre and k-side attack, while Black has trouble generating play anywhere.
Essentially, Black now has two options:
(a) let d4 go, fiddle about and hope for a miracle, or
(b) resign
No contest.
**   1-0**

"We all have to live with our illusions." (Bruce Springsteen)

Herr Kabisch made me look a right turnip.

Pit Stop Solution

Dear occupier
Please stop playing correspondence chess
Signed the Postman

By Peter Jack

2.Nf3
Thine own true knight, by day or night, or any kind of light.
[The Merry Wives of Windsor]
2...   Nc6
A knight well-spoken, neat and fine;
But were I you, he never should be mine.
[Two Gentlemen of Verona]
3.Bb5
More reasons for this action, at our more leisure shall I render you.

[Measure for Measure]
3...   Nd4
Proud prelate, in thy face I see thy fury.
[Henry IV, Part II]
4.Nxd4
Slaying is the word; it is a deed in fashion.
[Julius Caesar]
4...   exd4
Mercy to thee would prove itself a bawd;'Tis best that thou died quickly.
[Measure for Measure]
5.0-0
Our castle's strength will laugh a siege to scorn.
[Macbeth]
5...   Bc5
This way my lord, for this way lies the game.
[Henry VI, Part III]
6.d3
Thereon I pawn my credit, and mine honour.
[Henry VI, Part III]
6...   c6
There is mine honour's pawn; engage it to the trial, if thou darest.
[Richard II]
7.Bc4
Tell your piteous heart there's no harm done.
[The Tempest]
7...   Nf6
I am in this earthly world; where to do harm is often laudable.
[Macbeth]
8.Bg5
Comes at the last, and with a little pin bores through his castle wall.
[Richard II]
8...   d6
I'll leave this young man in pawn.
[The Winter's Tale]
9.e5
Darest thou, Cassius, now leap in with me, into this angry flood?
[Julius Caesar]
9...   dxe5
He goes before me, and still dares me on; When I come where he calls, then he is gone.
[A Midsummer Night's Dream]
10.Re1
This castle hath a pleasant seat.
[Macbeth]
10...   Qd6
Here comes the queen, whose looks bewray her anger.
[Henry VI, Part III]
11.f4
Now does my project gather to a heat.
[The Tempest]
11...   e4

I will sing, that they shall hear I am not afraid.
[A Midsummer Night's Dream]
12.Bxf6
The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.
[Henry VI, Part II]
12...   Qxf6
Who would study to prefer a peace, if holy churchmen take delight in broils?
[Henry VI, Part I]
13.Rxe4+
Checks and disasters grow in the veins of actions highest reared.
[Troilus and Cressida]
13...   Be7
Is not his grace protector to the king?
[Henry VI, Part I]
14.Qe2
It is his highness' pleasure that the queen appear in person here in court.
[The Winter's Tale]
14...   Bf5
If after three days' space thou here be'st found, the world shall not be ransom for thy life.
[Henry VI, Part II]
5.Re5
Art thou so confident? Within what space hopest thou my cure?
[All's Well That Ends Well]
15...   Kd7
Let us survey the vantage of the ground.
[Richard III]
16.Nd2
Beshrew me! The knight's in admirable fooling.
[Twelfth Night]
16...   Rae8
Thou great defender of the Capitol.
[Titus Andronicus]
17.Re1
Now let us on, and join our powers, and seek how we may prejudice the foe.
[Henry VI, Part I]
17...   h5
I will lead forth my soldiers to the plain.
[Richard III]
18.Qf2
If we have entrance, and that we find the watch but weak, I'll by a sign give notice to our friends.
[Henry VI, Part I]
18...Bd6
State holy, or unhallow'd, what of that? Is not his grace protection to the king?
[Henry VI, Part I]
19.Qxd4
Cry "Havoc!" and let slip the dogs of war.

[Julius Caesar]
19...   Rh6
Blow, wind! Come, wrack! At least we'll die with harness on our back.
[Macbeth]
20.Nb3
Every minute now should be the father of some stratagem.
[Henry IV, Part II]
20...   Rxe5
Come, therefore, let us fly while we may fly; if Warwick takes us we are sure to die.
[Henry IV, Part II]
21.fxe5
This day those enemies are put to death, and I in better state than e'er I was.
[Richard III]
21...   Qe7
Victorious Talbot! Pardon my abuse; I find thou art not less than fame hath bruited.
[Henry VI, Part I]
22.Re3
But yet I'll make assurance double sure.
[Macbeth]
1-0
Your hands than mine are quicker for a fray, My legs are longer though to run away.
[A Midsummer Night's Dream]

PJ: Inspired by this, I am considering annotating one of my many disasters with suitable quotations from the works of Quentin Tarantino.

♛ ♛ ♛ ♛ ♛

[Editor: Edition 50 was published in June 1995 and occupied 82 A5 pages. Advertising featured – book and equipment suppliers, magazine publishers plus the first chess databases and chess-playing programs. As well as comprehensive coverage of SCCA domestic events and international tournaments, a number of features were included: – Nikolai Gurtovoi 's series entitled 'Winning Without Castling' continued its run, and Bertrand Weegenaar celebrated 25 years of the Dutch CC Federation (NBC).]

Bits 'n' Pieces Trivia Solution

Dr Miroslav Filip was then the world's tallest GM at 6' 8½", dwarfing Donner (6' 7½"); Kramnik & Averbakh (both 6' 6") and Fischer (6' 2").

[Editor: the SCCA Webserver Open was started in January 2007, and was presided over by George Pyrich. Here's how George previewed the event in edition 97, followed by his update published in edition 100:

GP: As part of ICCF's programme to popularise its new server, each member federation was granted permission to host a domestic event free of charge.

After some consideration, the SCCA Executive Committee decided to organise an "Open" event over 2 stages, Preliminary and Final, with free entry to members and non-members alike and a prize fund of £200.

The organisers were pleased to welcome a number of newcomers several of whom have now become members as well as a number of "old faces" including life member and former Glenrothes resident Dave Dempster (resident in Western Australia for some 20 years and playing under the Australian flag!) and ICCF GM and former SCCA President David Kilgour making a very welcome return after a break of several years.

Eventually 3 sections of 10 players were formed and play began officially on 28th January. After only 2 months a considerable number of results have already been posted (admittedly with some defaults) as some of the players seemed to enjoy playing quickly – indeed, one game has recently been agreed drawn after 63 moves!

Presently all 3 sections are fairly close and some keen competition is in store as the players determine the 3 qualifiers from each Section.]

GP: As the adjudication date of 25 January 2008 approaches, all 3 sections are almost completed and 8 of the 9 final qualifiers are now confirmed.

In section A, newcomer Stuart Graham won with an impressive

score of 8/9 closely followed by the experienced duo of Iain Mackintosh and Alan Borwell with 7 and 6½ respectively. One game remains unfinished in this group although it has no bearing on qualifying places.

Section B has been very close throughout but newcomer Alan Bell led the field home with an equally impressive 8/9 closely followed by our regular Bulletin contributor Geoff Lloyd on 7. The 3rd qualifying spot is presently held by Alan Brown on 6½ although he can be overtaken on the finishing line by Hugh Calder if he wins his last game against Stuart Graham.

Section C was perhaps the most interesting of the 3 where Grandmaster David Kilgour had to work hard to keep pace with Tom Matheis and share 1st with 8/9. The 3rd qualifying place was taken by promising junior Jonathan McLatchie just ahead on tie-break of the more experienced David Edney when both scored 6½.

It is planned to start the Final of this event in February – given the list of qualifiers, it should be an interesting event!

Games can be viewed live (with 5 move delay) at the ICCF server site www.iccf-webchess.com

**White: Borwell, Alan (2207)
Black: Paine, Dr Kevin
SCCA Webserver Open − Section A, 2007**
[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	Nf6
5.0-0	Be7
6.Re1	b5
7.Bb3	d6
8.c3	0-0
9.h3	Na5
10.Bc2	c5
11.d4	Nd7
12.d5	

12.Nbd2 exd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 is now a popular line for Black.

12...	Nb6
13.Nbd2	f5!?

13...g6 might be better here when Anand v. Carlsen, Linares 2007 continued 14.b4 cxb4 15.cxb4 Nac4 when White eventually won although Black was ok at this stage.

14.exf5	Bxf5
15.Bxf5	Rxf5
16.Ne4	Kh8

16...Qe8 is likely better here - Ponomariov v. Mamedyarov, EU Ch. 2007 went 17.Bg5 Nb7 and was soon drawn.

17.Qc2	Nxd5
18.Rd1	

18...	Qg8

It's difficult to see much wrong with 18...Nf4 19.Bxf4 *(19.Nxd6 Nxh3+ 20.Kh2 Rxf3 21.gxf3 Bxd6 22.Kxh3 is difficult to assess!)* 19...Rxf4 20.Nxe5 Qe8 21.Ng4 Qg6 and Black looks fine.

19.Nxd6	Rxf3
20.gxf3	Bxd6
21.Qd3	Nxc3
22.Qxc3	Nb7
23.Qd3	

Suddenly White is clearly better.

23...	Qf7
24.Qd5	Qg6+
25.Kh1	Rb8
26.Rg1	Qf5
27.Rg3	Be7
28.Be3	Nd6
29.Bxc5	Rd8
30.Bxd6	Bxd6
31.Rd1	Qf6
32.Qe4	g6
33.f4!	

Faced with the dual threats of Rgd3 and Qc6, Black resigned.

♛♛♛♛♛

White: Bell, Alan
Black: Hilton, Stephen (1544)
SCCA Webserver Open − Section B, 2007
[Notes by George Pyrich]

This game is an impressive positional performance from the section winner.

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Be2	e5
7.Nb3	Be7
8.Be3	Be6
9.Nd5	

A departure from the usual 9.0–0 but it shouldn't achieve much.

9...	Nxd5

British Champion Jacob Aagaard had a game recently in an Italian event which went 9...Nbd7 10.Qd3 Bxd5 11.exd5 0–0 12.0–0 Rc8 13.c4 a5 14.Rac1 a4 15.Nd2 Nc5 and Black was ok - Aagaard v. Hunt, Italy 2007.

10.exd5	Bf5
11.0-0	

11.Qd2 Nd7 12.Na5 Qc7 13.c4 shouldn't be too troublesome for Black.

11...	0-0
12.c4	Nd7
13.Rc1	Rc8
14.f4	exf4
15.Bxf4	Bg6
16.Bg4	f5
17.Bh3	

Black has played natural moves but suddenly his position isn't so easy - there's a gaping hole at e6!

17...	Qb6+

17...Bg5 18.Nd4! is very good for White.

18.Qd4	Nc5
19.Qf2!	Bh4
20.g3	Bf6
21.Rfe1	Qd8

21...Rfe8 allows 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Be3 when White is very clearly on top.

22.Nxc5	dxc5
23.b3	b6

24.Qd2
White is positionally clearly better and Alan's technique is instructive.

24...	Bd4+
25.Kh1	Qd7
26.Re6	Rf6
27.Rce1	Re8
28.Rxe8+	Bxe8
29.Qe2	Bg6
30.Qe7!	Qxe7
31.Rxe7	Rf7
32.Re6	Rb7
33.Bg2	

Faced with the imminent advance of the d-pawn, Black resigned.

1-0

♛♛♛♛♛

White: Brooksbank, Dr Kenneth
Black: Kilgour, David (2490)
SCCA Webserver Open − Section C, 2007
[Notes by George Pyrich]

Most of David's wins were long drawn-out technical affairs but he wins quickly in this game with an incisive attack.

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	e6
5.Nb5	d6
6.Bf4	

6.c4 is another story.

6...	e5
7.Be3	Nf6
8.Bd3	

8.Bg5 Be7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.N1c3 with a Sveshnikov type position is more usual here. After the text Black has no problems.

8...	Be7
9.N5c3	Be6
10.0-0	0-0

11.Nd5	Ng4
12.Nxe7+?!	

This looks perfectly natural but turns out badly [simply 12.Bd2 was ok for White].

12...	Qxe7
13.Bd2	Qh4!

Simply forcing a weakness on the White k-side.

14.h3	Nf6
15.Re1	

15.Nc3 was better.

15...	d5
16.exd5	Nxd5
17.Nc3	f5
18.Bb5	

18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.c4 Be6 doesn't solve White's problems as Black has the k-side pawn majority and an easy attack.

18...	Nde7
19.Qe2	

19...	Rf6!

Simple but effective - Black simply builds up the attack.

20.Qf3	Rg6
21.Be2	Nd4!
22.Qxb7	Rf8

Already White is defenceless.

23.g3	f4
24.Qg2	fxg3
25.f3	Bxh3
26.Qh1	g2
27.Qh2	Nxf3+
28.Bxf3	Rxf3

And, faced with a forced mate, White resigned.

0-1

♛♛♛♛♛

Positions at 31st December 2007:

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section A — TD Pyrich, George D.

#		ID		Rated		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	SB	R	Place
1	SCO	620345		Mackintosh, Iain	2450	■	1^D	1	½	1	½	½	1	½	_C	1	7	25.75	0	2
2	SCO	620638		Blyth, Sam Turner	1800^P	0^D	■	0^D	0^D	0^D	0^D	0^D	0^D	0^D	_C	0^D	0	0	0	10
3	SCO	620639		Jamieson, Ian M.	1800^P	0	1^D	■	0	½	½	½	½	½	_C	1	4.5	13.25	0	6
4	SCO	211664		Graham, Stuart	1800^P	½	1^D	1	■	1	½	1	1	1	_C		8	29.25	0	1
5	SCO	620424		Anderson, James	1627	0	1^D	½	0	■	½	½	0	0	_C	.	2.5	7.25	1	8
6	SCO	620098	IM	Borwell, Alan P.	2207	½	1^D	½	½	½	■	1	½	1	_C	1	6.5	23.75	0	3
7	ENG	620577		Price, Derek	2082	½	1^D	½	0	½	0	■	0	½	_C	½	3.5	10.25	0	7
8	SCO	620640		McBride, John	1800^P	0	1^D	½	0	1	½^D	1	■	½	_C	1	5.5	15.75	0	4
9	SCO	620623		Paine, Dr. Kevin	1800^P	½	1^D	½	0	1	0	½	½	■	_C	½	4.5	13.75	0	5
10	SCO	211319		Neil, Charles	1800^P	_C	_C	_C	_C	_C	_C	_C	_C	_C	■	_C	0	0	0	10
11	AUS	30129		Dempster, Dave	1936	0	1^D	0	0	.	0	½	0	½	_C	■	2	4	1	9

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section B — TD Pyrich, George D.

#		ID		Rated		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	SB	R	Place
1	SCO	620643		Bell, Alan D.	1800^P	■	1	1^D	1	½	1	1	1	½	1	8	29.25	0	1
2	SCO	620418		Hilton, Stephen H.	1544	0	■	1^D	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2.5	0	8
3	SCO	620642		Blyth, Stuart	1800^P	0^D	0^D	■	0^D	0^D	0^D	0^D	0^D	0^D	0^D	0	0	0	10
4	SCO	211664		Graham, Stuart	1800^P	0	1	1^D	■	½	.	1	1	½	1	6	17.25	1	4
5	SCO	629031		Lloyd, Geoffrey	2258	½	1	1^D	½	■	½	1	1	½	1	7	23.75	0	2
6	SCO	620614		Calder, Hugh	2037	0	1	1^D	.	½	■	1	1	½	1	6	17.25	1	4
7	SCO	620641		Scott, Alex	1800^P	0	1	1^D	0	0	0	■	1	½	½	4	8.5	0	6
8	SCO	211319		Neil, Charles	1800^P	0	1	1^D	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	2	2	0	9
9	SCO	620498		Brown, Dr. Alan C.	2370	½	1	1^D	½	½	½	½	1	■	1	6.5	22	0	3
10	SCO	620445		Rough, R. E.	1800^P	0	0	1^D	0	0	0	½	1	0	■	2.5	4	0	7

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section C — TD Pyrich, George D.

#		ID		Rated		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	SB	R	Place
1	SCO	629036		Edney, David	2157	■	0	1	1	½	1	1	1	½	½	6.5	21	0	4
2	SCO	620192	GM	Kilgour, David A.	2490	1	■	1	1	1	1	1	1	½	½	8	29.75	0	1
3	SCO	620625		Doherty, Terry	1800^P	0	0	■	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	0	8
4	SCO	620393		MacGregor, Colin A.	1941	0	0	0	■	1	0	1	½	½	0	3	9.5	0	7
5	SCO	620644		Sreeves, Clement	1800^P	½	0	1	0	■	1	1	1	0^D	0	4.5	11.75	0	5
6	SCO	620637		Brooksbank, Kenneth	1800^P	0	0	1	1	0	■	1	1	0	0	4	7.5	0	6
7	SCO	211319		Neil, Charles	1800^P	0	0	0	0	0	0	■	1	0	0	1	1.5	0	10
8	SCO	620645		MacArainn, Gordon	1800^P	0	0	1	½	0	0	0	■	0	0	1.5	3.5	0	9
9	SCO	620646		McLatchie, Jonathan	1800^P	½	½	1	½	1^D	1	1	1	■	0	6.5	21.75	0	3
10	SCO	620588		Matheis, Thomas	2292	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	■	8	29.75	0	1

[Editor – edition 100 was published in January2008; the final issue of the 2007 series. By this time, we were publishing both paper and online (pdf) copies, having started dual formats with edition 73 in April 2001.

The late George Pyrich was TD of the Webserver Open and wrote the article reproduced here. He also authored the ICCF Congress report (from Belmádena in Spain), which included him receiving his ICCF Gold Medal from then President Med Samraoui. As if that wasn't enough, he also contributed his usual International Report!

George was the best of guys and I still miss him a great deal.

Other authors featured in edition 100 were Jim Anderson (Domestic Events), Bernard Milligan (ChessBase Review and Games Column) and Geoff Lloyd (How to See Ahead in Chess).

Although this edition is numbered 150, it's actually the 151st issue we have produced. Back in 2002 we produced a special Silver Jubilee, issue, but didn't number it. You can download it from our website if you have access.]

Managing 48 Games in the 2019/20 Season
Part 2: a (slightly comical!) progress report

By Peter Bennett

In the previous article (Part 1) I focussed on the logistical exercise of managing a large number of games, while simultaneously ensuring a steady stream of results. By 31 March, when Part 1 went to press, I had reduced my games to tally to 25.

The positive aspect of those (23) early results is that they included several wins, but no losses. The downside was that these results were the easier ones: my 25 continuing games contained, for example, all the games in which I am defending, with varying degrees of difficulty. At that stage (early April) I had identified four games where there was a risk of losing eventually.

So the next phase of results had to be planned carefully. From April onwards I realised that both winning games and saving games were longer-term projects. Any results that could be generated in the medium-term, say before the end of June (and hence included in this progress report), would be likely to be draws.

This was an accurate forecast: all my "new" results have indeed been draws; but the manner in which I achieved this was not at all as I had expected….

Taking draws by agreement: criticisms of my approach

The SCCA, being small, is like a family. A lot of people know each other quite well and, like siblings, are not too reticent about pointing out each other's shortcomings. Well, that at least is my experience. Several of my mentors from the upper echelons of the SCCA (and even a senior member of my OTB club who once studied some of my CC games online) have pointed out that I have a tendency to be a bit too trigger-happy with the "offer draw" button. Actually, historically, the charge was entirely justified.

Three particular criticisms were these:

(1) I had a tendency to agree draws too early in the game, especially against lower-graded players. How could I expect to win games, if I didn't even give my opponent a chance to make the strategic errors which I was perfectly capable of exploiting? Point taken!

(2) I had a tendency to take draws too early in the tournament, where the event had an end-date. For example, VWC sections (both "pr" and "sf") are usually scheduled to last 21 months. Taking a draw against a lower-graded player more than a year before the adjudication date, (hence less than half-way through the tournament) can give others the impression that you are not really trying. Point taken!

(3) I had a tendency to take five or six draws early in the tournament which often put me at the top of the "leaderboard" (as in golf); whereas all I was really doing was setting myself up as a target for the "real" contenders,

who were lurking, menacingly at the bottom of the leaderboard, having registered no results at all in the early stages. In this respect, CC is not like golf. It is more like middle-distance running or horse-racing, where "hitting the front too early" is usually a weak strategy, not a strong one. Point taken!

A single, simple, sensible rule

Having been floored by this barrage of criticism, I picked myself up, dusted myself down (to borrow the lyric from a famous song) and ….. got a sudden, and remarkably straightforward piece of inspiration! I decided to institute the rule: that I would not take any draws against players who had lower gradings than myself more than 12 months ahead of the adjudication date.

The beauty of this simple, sensible rule is that it met all three criticisms, as given above.

Not entirely trusting myself to maintain the discipline involved in implementing this plan, I then wrote to one of my mentors (in a position of authority) and "promised" him that I would carry out the plan to the letter. He seemed quite enthusiastic about it (perhaps with the sub-text: "yes, Peter, that is what you should have been doing all along").

I relaxed the rule to 13 months in the case of my VWCpr, as these sections tend to resolve much faster than the Semi-Finals. This made the rule simpler to apply, as it brought all three of my veterans' tournaments into line: draws against lower-graded players could only be taken after 01:06:20, in all three of my VWC events.

So what happened next?

The first thing to report was that I succeeded – ultimately with considerable difficulty – in carrying out my plan.

In fact, I did not agree a draw with any lower-graded VWC opponent, between 03:04:19 and 31:05:20, almost 14 months. Before 01:06:20, my most recent such draw was with the Spanish player, Antonio Jaumandreu, whose grading at the conclusion of our game was 2283, on 02:04:19 in VWC9sf9.

The problem is that a lot of VWC participants now play very quickly. They are looking for draws very early in each event and they are not reticent about making this clear to their opponents. They can even be quite impatient about it. Worst of all, there are many who play for a draw with the White pieces, from the outset, and especially against higher-graded players.

In short, the culture of the VWC is out-of-step with its formal rules.

I have seen VWC sections where 95% of the games are finished within 3 months of the 21-month tournament starting.

So, from mid-February onwards, I was beginning to get tentative enquiries from lower-graded players about a possible draw. As we moved through April, the number of enquiries and direct offers increased rapidly; and I have lost count of the number of times I had to respond: "yes, I do realise that our game is highly likely to end in a draw, eventually, but not before the beginning of June, please!" I sometimes had to explain: "because I have promised the SCCA, etc…."

As a kind of compromise, I began to add: "but you can offer me the draw any time from the first week in May onwards, and I will accept, as long as you understand that my acceptance will not happen until the beginning of June." A surprising number of players was perfectly happy with this plan – at least the game was thereby "dealt with", as far as they were concerned.
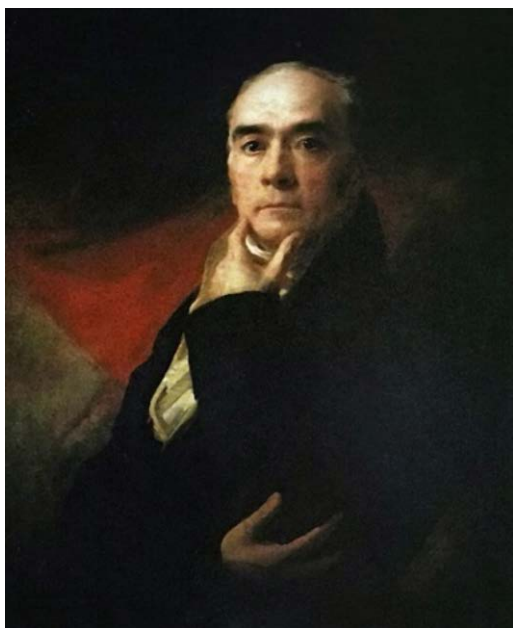
I had some residual Leave left in all three VWC events, which allowed me to make these arrangements without straying into "double time" territory. By the second week in May, the offers were streaming in. By 31:05:20, I was sitting on 12 of them.

A veritable flurry of results….

Between 00.03 on 1 June, and 00.27 on 2 June – in just 24 hours and 24 minutes – I registered 14 new results. Two were offers I had to make (because my opponents had disqualified themselves under the 10-move draw rule) and

the other 12 I had merely to accept. It was a very busy day as, in every case, there was a "thank you for the game" letter, in some cases concluding a fascinating correspondence which had continued for many months.

A further result came two weeks later, making 15 in all, during June. All 15 results were in the VWC, all were draws, and all against lower-graded players.

The effect on my ICCF grading

My current grading is 2370; and is about to climb 12 points to 2382, on 1 July (the 2020/3 list). Have I improved as a CC player? Probably not. The increase is almost entirely due to my refusal to accept draws, as described above.

Within 25 hours of securing the 2382 grading, my "live" grading was back down to 2372, where it still is today (as I write), my 15 new results costing me 10 grading points, without a single loss!

I have often claimed that playing in the VWC at all takes its toll of a player's grading. Here, surely, is the living proof?!

My continuing games

My 10 continuing games may now sound like an easy workload, but that is not entirely true: all the really difficult games from the whole season are still there and still giving me headaches. The final evaluation of this 48-game season will depend on how they turn out. (to be continued….)

Henry Raeburn

Sir Henry Raeburn FRSE RA RSA (1756-1823) was a Scottish portrait painter, born and based in Edinburgh. Among his best-known works are a portrait of Sir Walter Scott (1822), and The Skating Minister (The Reverend Robert Walker skating on Duddingston Loch, painted in the 1790s). Featured here are his self-portrait (c.1820) and The Games Room: Checkmate (1812).

On the staircase at Arniston House in Midlothian hangs a large double portrait which perfectly captures the intimacy of evening pursuits in a Georgian country house. It is a moment of triumph for Eliza Dundas, on the right, wife of General Francis Dundas, on the left, as she deftly removes her husband's queen.

Bird's Defence to the Ruy Lopez

This article is a presentation of the relatively uncharted 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 variation.

First, a couple of games by the defence's inventor, against Mackenzie and Marco; then on to Geller against Kholmov in the 1949 Soviet Championship.

Henry Edward Bird
14 July 1830 (Portsea, Hampshire) –
11 April 1908
Chessplayer, accountant, and author of *Chess History and Reminiscences* and *An Analysis of Railways in the United Kingdom.*

White: Mackenzie,George Henry
Black: Bird, Henry Edward
London, 1883
Ruy Lopez - Bird Defence [C61]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	Nd4
4.Ba4	Bc5
5.c3	

Reti v Spielmann at the Budapest Tournament 1913 went; 5.0–0 Nxf3+ 6.Qxf3 Ne7 7.d3 0–0 8.Be3 Bb6 9.Nc3 d6 10.Rad1 f5 11.Qh5 f4 12.Bxb6 axb6 13.Bb3+ Kh8 14.d4 Ng6 15.Rd2 f3 16.g3 Nf4! 17.gxf4 Rxf4 with Bg4 threatening to trap his Queen, and if 18.h3 g6 19.Qh6 Rh4 20.Qe3 Rxh3–+ Reti had to resign.

5...	Nxf3+
6.Qxf3	Ne7
7.Qg3	0-0
8.Qxe5	d5
9.d3	

9...	a5!
10.0-0	Ra6
11.exd5	Rg6
12.Kh1	

12.Bd1 Bh3 13.Bf3 Nf5 and Bird's position is worth the two pawns.

12...	Bd6
13.Qe2	Nxd5
14.f4	Bg4
15.Qf2	c6
16.Bd1	Bf5
17.Be2	Re8
18.Rd1	Rge6∓
19.Bf3	Nxf4
20.Bxf4	Bxf4
21.Na3	Qg5
22.g3	Be3
23.Qg2	Qh6
24.g4	Bg6
25.Nc2	Ba7
26.Qg3	Bb8!
27.g5	Bxg3
28.gxh6	Bh4
29.hxg7	Rd8?
30.Nd4	Rf6
31.Kg2	Kxg7
32.Nb3	Rf5
33.d4	

And the Captain is back in the game.

33...	Kh6
34.Rd2	Rg8
35.Be4	Rg5+
36.Kf3	

36...	f5!
37.Bc2	Re8∓

But, with his king now cut off on both sides, there is no real hope for the future.

38.Nc5	Bh5+
39.Kf4	Rg4+
40.Kxf5	Rgg8
41.Ne6	Bg4+
42.Ke4	Rxe6+
43.Kd3	b5
44.c4	Bg5
45.Rg2	Re3+
	0-1

George Henry Mackenzie was born on 24 March 1837, in North Kessock on the Black Isle, Scotland, and died on 14 April 1891 in New York City.

For biographical details:
https://worldchesshof.org/hof-inductee/george-henry-mackenzie

Column 1

And on Mackenzie and Bird:
http://www.bcchesshistory.com/visitors1.html

White: Marco, Georg
Black: Bird, Henry Edward
Hastings 1895
Ruy Lopez - Bird Defence [C61]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	Nd4
4.Nxd4	exd4
5.Bc4	h5
6.d3	Bc5
7.0-0	d6
8.f4	c6
9.f5	d5
10.exd5	cxd5
11.Bb3	

11.Bb5+ Kf8 of course.

11...	f6
12.Qf3	Ne7
13.h3	a5
14.a4	Kf8
15.g4	

15.Nd2 Bxf5 and if 16.Bxd5 Bxd3 17.Bxb7 Be2!∓

15...	hxg4
16.hxg4	Ra6
17.Bf4	g6!

The utility of his rooklift to a6 soon becomes evident.

18.fxg6	Kg7
19.Nd2	

⌓19.Rf2

19...	Rh4
20.g5	Rg4+
21.Kh1	

21.Kf2 Nxg6 22.Bh2 Bb4∓; 21.Bg3 Rxg5 22.Rf2 Nf5 23.Nf1 Re6 and if 24.Qxf5 Rxf5 25.Rxf5 Re2 26.Rxd5 Qe7–+ (or *26...Qb6 27.Re1 Rxe1 28.Bxe1 Be6–+)*

21...	Qh8+

Column 2

22.Bh2	Rxg5

Marco has been completely outplayed by some extraordinary play from Bird.

23.Rf2	Bg4
24.Qf4	Rf5
25.Qg3	Bd6
26.Qg1	Rxf2
27.Qxf2	

27...	f5?

An unfortunate blunder.
27...Qh5! 28.Rg1 *(28.Rf1 Nf5–+)* 28...Nxg6–+

28.Qxd4+	Kg8
29.Bxd5+	Nxd5
30.Qxd5+	Kg7
31.Qd4+	Kg8
32.Qc4+	Kg7
33.Qc3+	Kg8
34.Qc4+	Kg7
35.Qc3+	Kg8
36.Qb3+	Kg7
37.Qc3+	

37.Qxb7+ Kxg6 38.Nf1 could have been played, if White had clock time, but he is happy to have escaped a lost game.

½-½

White: Geller, Efim
Black: Kholmov, Ratmir
USSR Championship Moscow, 1949
Ruy Lopez - Bird Defence [C61]
[Notes by John E Hawkes after Kholmov]

Honza Cervenka, Chessgames.com premium member, gives the setting: the last round of USSR Championship 1949. Geller was (surprisingly) a sole leader of the tournament being a half point ahead of Smyslov and Bronstein and one point ahead of Taimanov. A draw with white pieces against Kholmov would have secured him title of

Column 3

Champion (at worst shared with Smyslov and/or Bronstein depending on result of their last game) but he was trying to play aggressively to win - and in the end he lost. Unfortunately for Geller, all three main competitors managed to win their respective games and so finally he shared only the third place with Taimanov behind Smyslov and Bronstein who shared the title.

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	Nd4
4.Nxd4	exd4
5.0-0	c6
6.Bc4	Nf6
7.Qe2	d6
8.e5	dxe5
9.Qxe5+	Be7
10.Re1	b5!

Smyslov - Alatortsev, Moscow Championship (1946), had continued; 10...Kf8 11.c3 c5 12.cxd4 Bd6 13.Qe2 cxd4 14.b3 g6 15.Ba3 a6 16.Qe5 Bxa3 17.Nxa3 b5 18.Bf1 Kg7 19.Nc2 Ra7 20.Nxd4 Rd7 21.Nf3 *(21.Re4? Rd5!–+)* 21...Bb7 22.Re3 Bxf3 23.Rxf3 Rxd2 24.a4 bxa4 25.bxa4 a5 26.Qc3 Rd4 27.Rb1 Rf8 28.Rb8 Qxb8 29.Qxd4 Qd8 30.Qc3 Re8 31.g4 h6 32.h4 g5 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Rf5 Kg6 35.Bd3 Ne4 36.Qc4 Nd6 37.Rxf7+ 1–0

11.Bb3	a5
12.a4	

12...	Ra7!
13.axb5	

13.Qc5 isn't mentioned in Kholmov's annotations: it could go 13...Rc7 14.d3 Be6∞

13...	0-0!
14.b6!	

14.bxc6 Bd6!

14...	Qxb6
15.d3	Bb4
16.Rf1	Qd8
17.Bg5	Re8

18.Qg3	Be6
19.Bxe6	Rxe6
20.Nd2	h6
21.Bxf6	Rxf6
22.Ne4	Re6
23.Qh3	Qd5
24.c3	dxc3
25.bxc3	Be7
26.f4	

Kholmov explains: 26.Ra4 Qb3!
27.Rfa1 Rb7 28.g4! *(28.f4? Qc2
29.Rxa5 Rb1+ 30.Rxb1 Qxb1+
31.Kf2 Qb6+−+)*

26...	f5
27.c4	Qd4+
28.Kh1	g6
29.Rab1	

29.Qxh6 fxe4 *(29...Bf8? 30.Qh3 Rh7
31.Qxh7+ Kxh7 32.Ng5+ Kg8
33.Nxe6 favours White.)* 30.f5 Rf6
31.fxg6 Rxf1+ 32.Rxf1 Qg7! and
Kholmov was happy with his
position.

29...	h5
30.Rb8+	Kf7
31.Qg3	fxe4
32.f5	Rf6
33.Rh8	

33...   **Qxd3!**
Having seen ahead to the exchange
sacrifice and won ending, and
probably under some time pressure,
Kholmov refuses other more
nebulous lines.

34.fxg6+	Kg7
35.Rh7+	Kg8
36.Qxd3	

36.Qb8+ Bd8−+ *(Not 36...Rf8?
37.Rxf8+ Bxf8 38.Rh8+ Kxh8
39.Qxf8#)*

36...	exd3
37.Rxf6	Bxf6
38.Rxa7	Bd4!

39.Rf7	

39.Rd7 c5−+

39...	d2
40.Rf1	Bb2
41.Kg1	a4
42.Kf2	a3
43.Ke2	a2
	0-1

A rare photograph of Geller and
Kholmov during their game.

Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces
No. 17

White: Bogoljubov, Efim
Black: Patigler
Correspondence, 1938
French, Classical System [C13]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	e6
2.d4	d5
3.Nc3	Nf6
4.Bg5	dxe4
5.Nxe4	Be7
6.Bxf6	Bxf6
7.c3	

7.Nf3 gets played nowadays.

7...	Nd7
8.f4	Be7∓

9.Nf3   **b6?!**
9...0–0 would maintain Black's slight
advantage.
10.Bb5

10...   **Bb7?**
A serious error, blind to White's
11th. 10...0–0 would hold for Black.

11.Ne5!	Bxe4
12.Bxd7+	Kf8
13.0-0	c5??

A catastrophic choice. 13...Bf6 or
13...Bd6 would keep Black alive.

14.f5!	Bf6

14...Bxf5 15.Rxf5 exf5 16.Qb3

15.fxe6	fxe6
16.Bxe6	Ke7
17.Qg4	Bb7
18.Rxf6!	gxf6
19.Bc4!	Bd5
20.Nc6+	

20.Nc6+ Bxc6 21.Qe6+ Kf8 22.Qf7#
         1-0

From the Metropolitan Museum Met
150 website: Plaque Fragment from
Saddle (probably Spanish).

Bill Jacklin RA

Born in London in 1943, Bill Jacklin studied graphics at Walthamstow School of Art, London (1960-61) before working as a graphic designer at Studio Seven in Holborn (1961-62). In 1962 he returned to Walthamstow to study painting and subsequently went on to the Royal College of Art from 1964 to 1967. Between 1967 and 1975, Jacklin taught at Chelsea School of Art, Hornsey and Royal College of Art and at schools in Kent and Surrey. Initially concerned with abstraction, his work moved to figuration in the mid 1970s, when it became preoccupied with the effects of light and movement.

Jacklin was awarded an Arts Council Bursary in 1975, the year that marked his first two solo exhibitions at the Upper Gallery and at Nigel Greenwood in London. His work continued to be exhibited in one-man shows throughout the seventies in London and later in the eighties in London and New York with Marlborough Fine Art and Marlborough Gallery, respectively. He also participated in numerous group exhibitions internationally from the early seventies.

Moving to New York in 1985, Bill Jacklin has concentrated on painting 'Urban Portraits' of 'the city' in all its guises; from large scale canvases of crowds in flux to intimate moments in Seurat-like etchings. He was elected a Royal Academician in 1991 and in 1993 was Official Artist-in-Residence for the British Council in Hong Kong. Jacklin presently lives and works in New York.

We present here some examples of his work, mostly depicting open air chess scenes in New York. Most are entitled 'Chess Players' or variants thereof.

Bill's 2016 retrospective:
https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/artist-of-the-month-bill-jacklin-ra

http://www.bjacklin.com

Games Column
games@scottishcca.co.uk

By Alastair Dawson

SIM Andrey Kochemasov is one of the strongest correspondence chess players in the world. In the ICCF WC30/final that started in June 2017 he topped the field with 9/16 - winning by a half point margin over 6 other SIMs and GMs.

In WC Final events, individual wins are like gold dust. For example, this event was a 17 player all-play-all that produced 9 wins and goodness knows how many draws! Andrey was the only player to win twice - and we reproduce his two wins here.

Far be it for us lesser mortals to provide expert commentary on these games! That said, there are themes that one can detect that are familiar to all of us.

One of the games (his game as White) is a classic positional squeeze out of a very well-known opening, the other is one where his opponent tries an often-played sacrifice in another well-known position but then his opponent stumbles in the complexities of the position that ensues.

Enjoy!

White: Zhak, Boris Mikhailovich (2528)
Black: Kochemasov, Andrey Leonidovich (2540)
Sicilian Pelikan/Sveshnikov [B33]
WC30/final ICCF, 2017
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

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

All normal so far.

11.c3	Bg7
12.Bd3	Be6

13.Nxb5
Quite a common sacrifice in this position. The position is very double-edged, however, with some engines giving advantage to White, others advantage to Black and yet others declaring position as equal.

13...	axb5
14.Bxb5	Bd7
15.exf5	0-0
16.a4	e4
17.0-0	Re8
18.Qg4	Kh8
19.Rad1	Rc8

The game is transposing backwards and forwards, but even here this position has been reached over 100 times.

20.Rfe1	Re5
21.Ne3	Qf6
22.Qe2	Bxf5

Here, one begins to sense that Black has strong control over the centre of the board. The bishops look powerful but one of them is soon to be removed.

23.Nxf5	Qxf5
24.Rxd6	Nb8

White now has three connected queenside pawns for the piece but it is not so easy to co-ordinate their advance. But now White makes a move that effectively loses the game.
25.Rd4
Here Black spots a tactic whereby the exchange is sacrificed back in order to exploit the vulnerability of the rook on d4. Stockfish 11 sees a big advantage for Black instantly. There were other moves here to choose, most notably 25.h3 with an equal game.

25...	Rxb5
26.Qxb5	Qxb5
27.axb5	Bxd4
28.cxd4	Nd7
29.Kf1	Nf6

The rest, as they say, is history. Black can pick off the loose pawns fairly easily and very quickly the extra N on the board begins to tell.

30.Rd1	Nd5
31.h3	Rc4
32.b6	Kg7
33.Re1	f5
34.b7	Rb4

And here the game ended.
       0-1

♛ ♛ ♛ ♛ ♛

White: Kochemasov, Andrey Leonidovich (2540)
Black: Nefedov, Sergey Vladimirovic (2561)
WC30/final ICCF, 2017
King's Indian Classical [E97]
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	g6
3.Nc3	Bg7
4.e4	d6
5.Nf3	0-0
6.Be2	e5
7.0-0	Nc6
8.d5	Ne7
9.b4	

Another standard position familiar to all.

9...	Ne8
10.c5	f5

Here we have the classic counterpunch so frequently played by Kasparov in his prime. White, on the other hand, is pushing hard on the queenside.

11.Nd2	Nf6
12.a4	g5
13.Nc4	f4

Here the game takes on more urgency. Black's counter-attack is gathering momentum while White will soon start to exploit weaknesses in the Black queenside.

14.f3	Ng6
15.cxd6	cxd6
16.Nb5	Ne8
17.Kh1	Rf7
18.Bd2	

And still we are in well-known territory. Black places his rook on f7 to assist in both defence and attack. White, in the meantime, is piling up pressure on d6 with the two Ns.

18...	Bf8
19.Be1	Bd7
20.Na5	Qb8
21.Rc1	Rg7
22.Bf2	Kh8
23.Qb3	

So now we have reached a position that Kochemasov must have assessed a long time before. Black's counter-attack has slowed down somewhat. On the other hand White is making good use of his space advantage.

23...	a6
24.Nc3	

And with ..a6 the Black queenside is weakened further.

24...	Nf6

25.Nc4	g4
26.fxg4	Nxg4

In trying to assess what it is that is wrong with the Black position, one might argue that, at present, the Ra8 is playing no part in the game. Secondly, the Qb8 and the Bf8 are both tied down to the defence of the d6 pawn.

27.Nb6	Nxf2+
28.Rxf2	Qa7
29.a5	

Black is having to make all sorts of odd moves to disentangle his position, for example the Q has now had to go to a7 in order to free the R on a8.

29...	Be7
30.Nd1	Rd8
31.Rc7	Bg5
32.Qc3	Qb8
33.Bf3	

Looking at the position again, Black still has not been able to progress his attack beyond the 4th rank.

33...	Bb5
34.Rxg7	Kxg7
35.Rc2	Rf8
36.Bg4	

White is starting to take control of the White squares while Black's white-squared bishop on b5 is a passive player unable to do much.

36...	Qd8
37.Qc8	Qe7
38.Qe6	Qxe6
39.Bxe6	Bd8
40.Kg1	Bd3
41.Rd2	Bxe4
42.Nc3	

One theme of these sorts of positions that arise in the King's Indian is the chronic weakness of the d6 pawn. Kochemasov takes advantage of this beautifully in a controlled display of minor piece play.

42...	Bf5
43.Bxf5	Rxf5
44.Ne4	Rf7
45.Nc4	

And now, with the white-squared bishops exchanged, the white Ns come into their own and dominate the centre of the board and again pile pressure on d6.

45...	Rd7
46.Ncxd6	b6
47.Nc4	Rc7
48.Nxb6	Rc1+
49.Kf2	Rb1
50.Nc5	Kf7
51.d6	Rxb4
52.Nxa6	Rb5
53.Nc4	e4
54.Rd1	Nh4
55.g3	fxg3+
56.hxg3	Nf3
57.Rh1	h5
58.Nc7	

And here Black resigned with the pressure of defending the pawn on h5 while simultaneously preventing the advance of the d- and a-pawns, as well as coping with the 2 marauding white Ns proving too much too handle.

1-0

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You can help by submitting your own games, or anything of note you've come across in your travels. We're happy to publish all grading standards and lengths of games as long as there's some interesting play!

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Illusion of Two
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