

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.159

Autumn 2022

ICCF Grading List 2022/4
Alistair analyses the Q4 statistics

The Hawkes Files
John celebrates the 100th anniversary of Yuri Sakharov's birth

HM Queen Elizabeth II
Awani pays tribute to our departed monarch

Living Dangerously with Correspondence Chess
Tom Anderson writes a debut column

Is there a future for Correspondence Chess?
Peter begins a new series...

Chess Art
We feature the surrealist William Higginson

Games Column
Alastair analyses some recent WC31 games



4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum

Two knights back to back, from Skye, mid-13th century
National Museum of Scotland <https://www.nms.ac.uk>



Welcome to the third edition of our 2022 magazine set.

We hosted the ICCF Congress in Glasgow during August. Post-Covid, numbers attending were down, but the delegates surpassed their predecessors by finishing their business agenda a day early! This allowed most people to participate in the excellent events programme around Glasgow. We concluded with a very convivial dinner in the Hilton Hotel before returning home from a most productive and enjoyable gathering.

The fourth ICCF rating list of 2022 is analysed by our grader Alistair Maxwell. The article includes news of a CCE title for Ian Whittaker, and a second IM norm for Iain Sneddon. Just as we went to press, we heard that Alan Bell had achieved the IM title. Well done all!

John Hawkes' column continues its Ukrainian flavour, this time featuring Yuri Sakharov. John celebrates the centenary of his birth on 18th September, 1922 and looks at his troubled chess career.

I pondered last time what subject Awani Kumar would cover next. Sadly, the recent death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth provided the answer, and you can appreciate Awani's elegant tribute here.

This edition features a new columnist, Tom Anderson, who joined the SCCA recently. Tom writes well and his first piece is entitled 'Living Dangerously with CC'. Enjoy!

Peter Bennett starts a new series entitled 'Is there a future for CC?', looking at the engine issue. He's also supplied a further puzzle, particularly for <2100 players and remains resolved to present that bottle of malt to the winning solver...

We've managed to include a full Chess Art column this time, and it features William Higginson, an Australian-born surrealist painter now living in Canada. I love his stuff - big, bold and enigmatic! I hope you enjoy it too.

Alastair Dawson's Games Column looks at games from the ICCF 31st World Championship. The quality is high and we agreed the game by GM Ron Langeveld (NLD) was particularly elegant.

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

2022	1st	2nd
September	G M Anderson	I P Whittaker
August	A P Borwell	S R Gillam
July	I Mackintosh	P J Moir

SCCA Officials

Role	Name	Address	Contact	Email
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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Iain Mackintosh pro tem.



IM Title for Bell



Falkirk-based Alan Bell has obtained his third International Master (IM) norm and subsequently the IM Title whilst playing on Board 5 of the Scottish team participating in the 11th European Team Championship Final. Alan reached the required total of 6 points with a draw in his final game. Alan obtained his first IM Norm in 2013 whilst playing in the 9th ETC Semi-Final and his

second in the 22nd Olympiad Preliminaries in 2021. Congratulations to Alan!

British Correspondence Chess Championship Update



All the tables can now be seen on the ICCF website:

Penrose Memorial Championship 2022-2024

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=99552>

Penrose Memorial Candidates A 2022-2024

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=99553>

Penrose Memorial Candidates B 2022-2024

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=99554>

Penrose Memorial Reserves 2022-2024

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=99555>

Norms are available in the Championship and Candidates.

The Reserves are using the Silli pairing system so that all players get 14 games.

ICCF Hall of Fame 2022



ICCF is looking for nominations for individuals to join the ICCF Hall of Fame.

<https://www.iccf.com/halloffame>

To be considered for inclusion, the nominated individuals should have made exceptional contributions to ICCF, either as players and/or officials.

Should you have a suggested candidate, please contact Gordon Anderson at international@scottishcca.co.uk.

Agreed nominations with supporting arguments should be sent to Russell Sherwood, ICCF Marketing Director (Leanthinker@hotmail.co.uk), and a copy to Michael Millstone, ICCF General Secretary (dr.millstone@gmail.com) for consideration by the Hall of Fame Committee by 17.07.2022.

ICCF Credit Card Payments Now Accepted



From 14 September 2022, payment for Direct Entries can now be made online using your credit card.

When you register for a tournament using Direct Entry, you can now select "Stripe" instead of PayPal, which will allow you to check out using your credit or debit card directly and does not require you to have an account with PayPal. Stripe is also available in some countries where PayPal is not. As this replaces the functionality of the ICCF Store, this facility is now permanently closed.

ICCF Congress 2022



All the proposals submitted to the Congress in Glasgow were approved in August.

You can read full details at: <https://www.iccf.com/Proposals.aspx?id=75>

Fernschach 2022 CC Database



Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2022 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 1,730,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 115,000 new games since 2021
- Approximately 10,000 annotated (300 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 €13.50 (shipping within Germany) and €15 (shipping elsewhere).

For further details, contact Herbert at:
Herbert Bellmann
Auf dem Brink 11
46399 Bocholt
Germany

Bank details: Transfer the purchase amount to:
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IBAN DE 33428500350100118801
BIC SWIFT WELADED1BOH
Purpose: FS CD 2022

Your order must provide your complete postal address!
Email: hebel57@gmx.de
Website: <http://www.fernschach.org/fs-cd/index.html>

ICCF Updates



September 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.

SCCA on Twitter



Mickey Blake sends a reminder that we are now on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/scotcorrchess>

The account is linked to membership@scottishcca.co.uk

If you are a Twitter user, feel free to follow us and retweet our news items. We'll retweet news from ICCF to broaden the reach of their tournament announcements etc., and our posts will carry the tag #CorrespondenceChess

Our page looks like this:



If you're a Twitter user, feel free to get in touch!

SCCA on Facebook



Ben Major continues to provide news updates on the SCCA Facebook page.

If you prefer to get your updates from Social Media, then the page to visit is:

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishcca>

You can help Ben by posting your own comments on the page, and 'Liking' anything which catches your eye!

For reference, ICCF are on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/168419426514337>



2022/4 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

The fourth ICCF grading list of 2022 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 Jun 2022 and 31 Aug 2022. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 Oct and 31 Dec 2022.

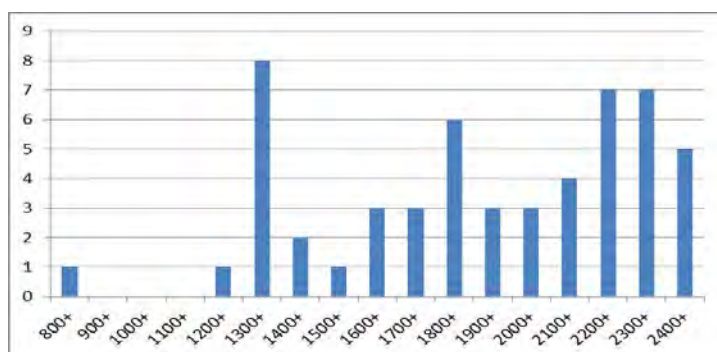
In the norms and titles stakes, Iain Sneddon obtained his second IM norm in the 12th European team Championship and Ian Whittaker's CCE title has been ratified so congratulations to them both!

There were 3 new additions to the list. 8 players have unfixd and hence unpublished ratings at present. All of them are in double figures of games so should not be long before hitting the main list. The most significant rating moves were Rob Taylor (+41), Benjamin Major (+24) and Colin McGregor (+20).

New games centurions were Carlos Almarza-Mato (2300+), Martin Hardwick (1800+), Geoffrey Lloyd (1100+), Allan Buchan (300+) and James Murray (100+), Highest recorded games this quarter were Carlos Almarza Mato (52), Iain Sneddon (51), Alan Buchan (50), Martin Hardwick (38), David Cumming (27), Geoff Lloyd (23), Colin Beveridge (22), and Andrew MacMillen (20).

You need to complete 12 ICCF-eligible games to obtain a rating. Fixed ratings are based on at least 30 games and only these are shown below. 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 (CCE)	2303	2025 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	1469	1666 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	373	2366 ↑		Major, B	85	1220 ↑
	Anderson, T R	33	1720	566	Marshall, I H	895	2011 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	513	1397 ↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	288	2458 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	513	2477 ↓		Maxwell, A	51	2188 ↓
599	Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	280	2429 ↑		Miles, A	94	1384 ↓
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	509	2378 ↑	401	Moir, P J	205	1507 ↔
481	Beveridge, C (CCM)	731	2229 ↓	598	Montgomery, R S (CCE)	360	2293 ↑
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	919	2388 ↑		Morrison, G J	35	2307
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105	2197 ↔		Moss, R	47	1778 ↔
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	332	2365 ↓	474	Murden, C (IM)	664	2457 ↓
602	Burridge, R J	1844	1897 ↑	564	Murray, J S	101	2041 ↑
247	Cormack, W H	118	1909 ↑	440	Neil, C	342	1338 ↔
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2089	2272 ↓	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	210	1870 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	174	2203 ↑	604	Paine, Prof K A (CCE, SM)	239	2355 ↑
478	Dunn, J	474	1496 ↓		Pettigrew, S	181	1349 ↓
371	Edney, D	332	1878 ↓	432	Price, D	508	1927 ↔
462	Gilbert, R	296	1739 ↓		Rafferty, K	68	1396 ↔
445	Graham, S W	86	1656 ↔		Ross, Derek I	52	1822 ↓
399	Grant, J	79	1629 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	119	1348 ↓
596	Hardwick, M E	1810	890 ↓	439	Smith, M J	120	2179 ↔
475	Kearns, A	115	1380 ↔	057	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	563	2384 ↔
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	357	2248 ↔		Taylor, A	30	1933
260	Knox, A	415	1346 ↓		Taylor, R	75	1450 ↑
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1081	2276 ↓	605	Taylor, W	171	2114 ↑
584	MacGregor, C A	486	1848 ↑	480	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	245	2263 ↑
532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	820	2411 ↓		Wicht, D	68	1887 ↓



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	54
New entrants	3
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Grading increases (↑)	16
Grading decreases (↓)	23
Grading static (↔)	12

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2477	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2263
Matheis, T (IM)	2458	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2248
Murden, C (IM)	2457	Beveridge, C (CCM)	2229
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2429	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2202
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2411	Borwell, A P (IM)	2197
Blake, M J (CCM)	2388	Maxwell, A	2188
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2384	Smith, M J	2179
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2378	Taylor, W	2114
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2369	Murray, J S	2041
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2365	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2025
Paine, Prof K A (CCE, SM)	2355	Marshall, I H	2011
Morrison, G J	2307	Taylor, A	1933
Montgomery, R S (CCE)	2293	Price, D	1927
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2276	Cormack, W H	1909
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2272	Burridge, R J	1897

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C (CCE)	2303	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2089	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1104
Burridge, R J	1843	Blake, M J (CCM)	913
Hardwick, M E	1810	Marshall, I H	895
MacMillen, A N	1469	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	820

Selected Personal Best Grades 2022/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Bell, A D (CCM, SM)	2429	2428	2022/3	1
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2366	2365	2022/3	1
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2263	2250	2022/3	13
Taylor, R	1450	1422	2022/2	28
Taylor, W	2114	2113	2010/1	1

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:

Anderson, G M (1), Bennett, P G (1), Bell, A D (2),
Cumming, D R (1), Sneddon, I (2)

Scottish Master (SM) title norms are held by:

Montgomery, R S (2). Buchan, A (1)

Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:

Montgomery, R S (2), Paine, K A (1), Whittaker I P (1)

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:

Burridge, R J (2), Smith, M J (1).

This list includes a number of our members who are registered with other countries. Members who have played <30 games are not shown.

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.



The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

Yuri Sakharov

Ukrainian Champion 1960, 1966



Celebrating the centenary of the birth of Ukraine's Yuri Sakharov on 18th Sept, 1922 in Yuzovka (now Donetsk).

He died under the wheels of a train at Kyiv's Bucha station in 1981.

Sakharov was taught chess by Apollinary Gaevsky, who was a Physics and Math teacher. However, his career was plagued by post-war denunciations involving the Nazis, the US Army and Stalin's repressions. He lost his title norms and games history before being fully rehabilitated in 1956 (though "restricted to leave").

He trained the Ukrainian Junior team and became the first trainer of Leonid Stein, his most talented pupil, who died early at 38. Two Ukrainian Championships and an IM norm followed.

He began to play correspondence chess and in 1971 he became an ICCF IM. He won the Olympics twice, playing for the USSR team.



References:

<https://www.chess.com/forum/view/chess-players/yuri-sakharov>

<https://chesspro.ru/enciklopediya/yuri-y-saharov-izlomy-sudby> (Nikolai Fuzik)

White: Sakharov, Yuri

Black: Dannberg, Wolf

VII Olympiad Final 1972-76 Bd. 4

English (Anglo-Grünfeld [A16])

[Notes by John E Hawkes after Sakharov]

1.c4	Nf6
2.Nc3	d5
3.cxd5	Nxd5
4.g3	g6
5.Qa4+	Bd7

On 5...c6 Sakharov may well have played 6.Qd4 Nf6 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 inspired by Leonid Stein's famous queens-off-quick victory against Paul Keres at Paernu in 1971.

6.Qd4	Nf6
7.Bg2	Nc6
8.Qc4	e5
9.Nf3	Bg7
10.0-0	0-0
11.d3	Qe7
12.Bg5	Qe6
13.Qh4	Ne7
14.Qb4	b6

If 14...Ned5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 (15...Qxd5 16.Rfc1±) 16.Qb3 Nb6 17.Nd2 c6 18.a4! - Sakharov
15.Qb3

15...	Qd6
16.Nd2	Bc6
17.Nde4	Bxe4
18.dxe4!	

Blocking his Bg2's diagonal, but making Black's game very difficult.

18... c5?
18...c6 was better.

19.Rad1	Qc7
20.Nb5	Qb7
21.f4!	h6
22.fxe5	Ng4



23.e6!!	hxg5
24.e5	Qa6
24...Qc8 25.exf7+ Kh7 26.Nd6!	
25.Bxa8	Nxe5
26.exf7+	Kh7
27.Be4	N7c6
28.a4	Qc8
29.Nd6	Qg4
30.Bf3	Qd7
31.Bxc6	Nxc6
32.Ne4	Qe7



The sixth queen-move!



33.Qe6!
1-0



Sakharov Teaching Juniors

White: Sakharov, Yuri
Black: Jezek, Jaroslav
VII Olympiad Final Bd.4 1972-76
English, Keres Variation [A23]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.c4 e5
2.Nc3 Nf6
3.g3 c6
4.Nf3 e4
5.Nd4 Qb6
5...d5 6.cxd5 Qb6 7.Nb3 cxd5 8.Bg2 Bf5! 9.d3 Bb4! 10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 0-0 12.Be3 Qc7 13.Rc1 Nc6 14.c4 Rad8 15.Nd4! Nxd4 16.Bxd4 and here Jezek -Sapundjiev in this same Olympiad Final continued; 16...Qe7! 17.cxd5 Rxd5 18.Qa4 b6 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Bxe4 Ra5 21.Qc2 Bxe4 22.dxe4 Re8 where Bagirov predicts a draw.

6.Nc2
Bagirov's 1989 book gave 6.e3! as his main line.

6... d5?!
(Bagirov)
6...Bc5 7.Ne3 Bxe3 8.dxe3 0-0 9.Bg2 Re8=

7.Bg2 Bf5
7...dxc4 8.0-0 Be6 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 Nd7 11.Ne3 Qd4 12.Bf5 Bxf5 13.Nxf5 Qe4 14.Ne3 Bc5 15.b3! Dorfman - Karasev, Kishinev 1976

8.0-0



8... Na6
Sakharov - Timman (?)
Correspondence 1970 had gone;
8...dxc4 9.Ne3 Bg6 10.Nxc4 Qc5 11.b3 Na6 12.d4 Qh5 13.f3 Rd8 14.Qe1 Bb4 15.g4 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 Qd5 17.Ba3 Qxd4+ 18.Qxd4 Rxd4 19.Rad1 c5 20.Rxd4 cxd4 21.fxe4 Nxc4 22.e5 d3? (If 22...Nc7 23.Bxb7 Ne6 24.Bc8!±) 23.exd3 Bxd3 24.Rf4! h5 25.h3 1-0

9.cxd5 cxd5
10.d3 exd3
11.Ne3! Be6
12.Nexd5 Nxd5
13.Nxd5 Qb5
13...Bxd5 14.Bxd5 Nc7 15.Qa4+! Qb5 (15...Nb5 16.Be3+-) 16.Qe4+
14.a4 Qa5
14...Qd7 15.Qxd3 Nc5 16.Qb5 Bd6 17.Rd1+-
15.Qxd3 Rd8
16.e4 Bc5
17.Bd2
Stronger than 17.Qb5+ Qxb5
18.axb5 Bxd5 19.exd5 Nc7
17... Bb4



17...Nb4 18.Qa3! Bxd5 19.exd5 0-0 20.Rac1 Bd6 21.Rc4+-; 17...Qb6 18.Qb5+ Qxb5 19.axb5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Nc7 21.Rfc1 b6 22.Bg5 f6 23.Be3!+-
18.Bxb4 Nxb4

19.Qc3!
And Black resigned.
1-0



Sakharov Analysing

White: Mallee, Ralph
Black: Sakharov, Yuri
9th World CC Championship Final 1977-83
French - Tarrasch [C07]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e6
2.d4 d5
3.Nd2 a6
4.Ngf3
4.e5 Bd7 5.Ndf3 Bb5 6.Bxb5+ (6.Bd3 is less committal.) 6...axb5 7.Qd3 Qd7 8.Ne2 b6 9.0-0 c5 10.c3 c4 11.Qc2 Ne7 12.Ng3 h5 13.Bg5 Ng6= Krogius - Kaerner, Sochi 1977
4...c5
5.dxc5 Bxc5
6.Bd3 Nc6
7.exd5 exd5
8.0-0 Bg4
9.Nb3 Bb6
10.Re1+ Nge7
11.Be3
Karpov - Vaganian (Skopje 1976) had gone; 11.c3 h6 12.h3 Bh5 13.Be3 0-0 14.Bxb6 (14.g4!) 14...Qxb6 15.Qe2 Rfd8 16.Rad1 a5 17.Bb1 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 a4 19.Nd4 Qxb2 20.Nxc6 Nxc6 21.Qf5 g6 22.Qf6 Rd7 23.Bf5! Re7 (23...gxf5? 24.Rd3 f4 25.Qxf4 Qc2 26.Rg3+ Kh7

27.Qf6+-) 24.Rxe7 Nxe7 25.Bd3
Nf5 26.Bxf5 gxf5 27.Re1! Qxa2
28.Qxh6 a3 29.Qg5+ Kf8 30.Qf6
Kg8 31.Qxf5 Qd2 32.Re7! and wins
e.g. 32...Qc1+ 33.Kh2 Qh6
(33...Qf4+) 34.Qxf7+ Kh8 35.Re8+
Rxe8 36.Qxe8+ Kg7 37.Qe7+ and
picks off the a3 passed pawn.

11... d4
12.Bf4 h6
13.h3 Be6
14.Ne5 0-0
15.Qh5 Nb4
16.Be4 f5



17.Bd3

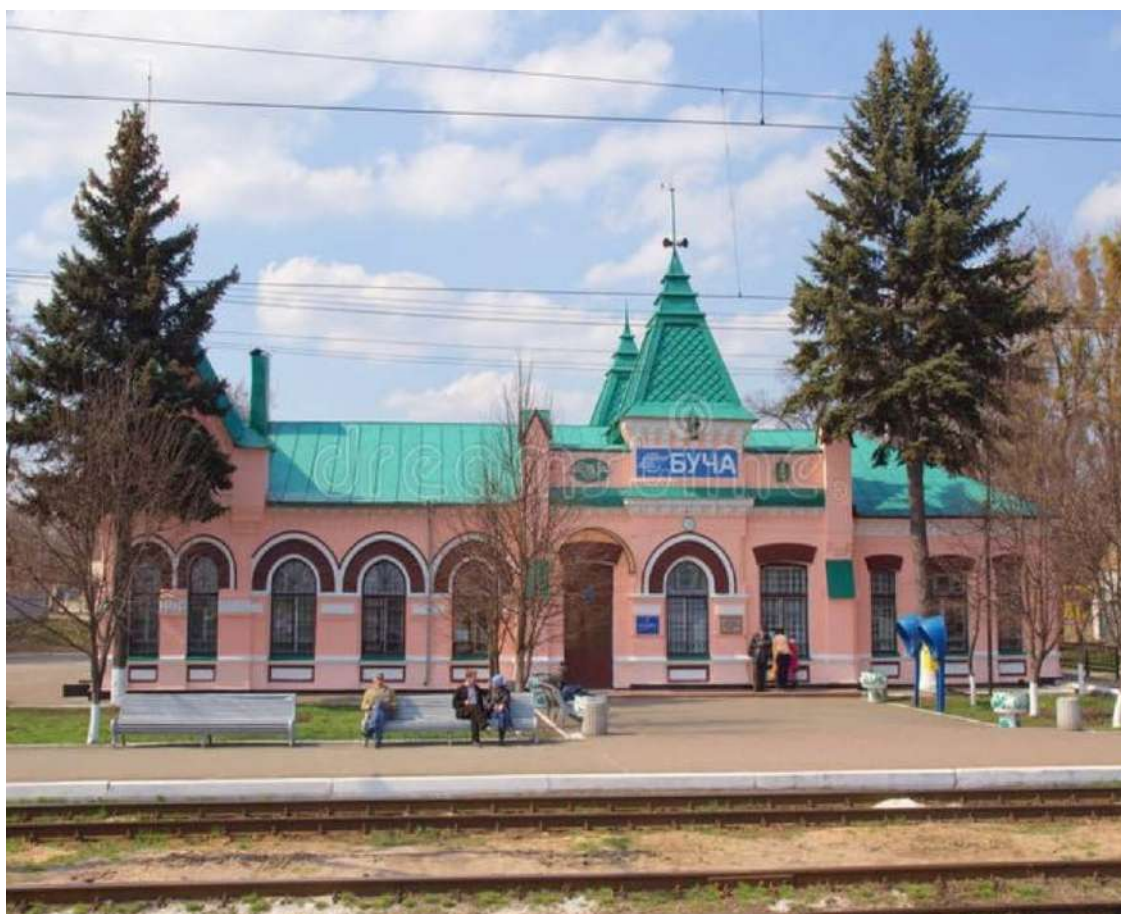
17.Bxh6 might have continued
17...Rf6 18.Ng4[∞]

17... Nxd3
18.Nxd3 Bf7
19.Qf3 Bd5
20.Qg3 Rf6
21.f3 Ng6
22.Kh1 Rc8
23.Rac1 Kh7
24.Re2 a5
25.Rce1 Bc4
26.Nbc1 Rfc6



27.Ne5
27.Re8 Qxe8! 28.Rxe8 Rxe8 29.Ne5
Nxe5 30.Bxe5 g6⁺
27... Bxe2

28.Nxc6 Rxc6
29.Rxe2 Qc8
After 29...Qc8 30.Nd3 (30.Qf2? d3)
30...Rxc2 31.Re1 might have come
31...Qg8! when the prettiest finale
would be 32.h4 Bd8 33.h5 Nh4
34.Rg1 Qf7 35.Be5 Bg5 36.Bxd4
Rd2 37.f4 Qxh5 38.fxg5 Nf3+
39.Qh3 Qxh3+ 40.gxh3 Rh2#
0-1



Bucha Train Station, Kyiv, where Sakharov died.



Sakharov, Stein and Korchnoi in Kyiv during the 32nd USSR Championship

Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 27

White: Pankina, Larisa
Black: Sukhinina, Anna [D32]
VII USSR Ladies CC Championship
1980–82
Von Hennig - Schara Gambit [D32]
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4	d5
2.c4	e6
3.Nc3	c5
4.cxd5	cxd4
5.Qa4+	Bd7
6.Qxd4	exd5
7.Nf3	Nc6
8.Qxd5	Nf6
9.Qd1	Bc5
10.e3	Qe7
11.Be2	0-0-0
12.0-0	

12...	g5!
13.b4	
13.Nxg5?! Rhg8 14.e4 h6 15.e5 Nxe5 16.Qc2 hxg5 17.b4 Neg4! (17...Bxb4? 18.Nd5+ Qc5 19.Qxc5+ Bxc5 20.Nxf6 Rg6 21.Nxd7 Rxd7 22.Rb1=) 18.bxc5 Qe5–+	
13...	g4
Both pawn captures give White a playable game: 13...Nxb4 14.Ba3; and 13...Bxb4 14.Bb2	
14.Nd4	
14.bxc5 gxf3 15.Bxf3 Ne5 16.Bxb7+!? Kxb7 17.f4∞	
14...	Bxb4
15.Bb2	Kb8
16.Ncb5	a6
17.Nxc6+	Bxc6
18.Qb3	Rhg8
19.Bxf6	

19...	Qe4!
20.f3	
No better for White was 20.Be5+ Bd6 21.Bxd6+ Rxd6! 22.f3 gxf3 23.Rxf3□ (23.Bxf3 Rvg2+ 24.Kxg2 Rd2+ 25.Kg1 Qg6+! 26.Kh1 Bxf3+ 27.Rxf3 Qg2#) 23...Rdg6 24.g3 Bxb5 25.Bd1 with 25...h5 - h4 continuing Black's attack.	
20...	gxf3
21.Bxf3	
Leaving a forced mate. The game could have been prolonged by 21.Rxf3 with a probable continuation being 21...Rd2 22.Nd4 Rxe2 23.g3□ Bc5 24.Nxc6+ Qxc6 25.Raf1 Bxe3+ 26.Qxe3 Rxe3 27.Rxe3 Qc5–+	
21...	Rxg2+!
22.Kh1	
22.Kxg2 Qg4+! and mate in four.	
22...	Rg1+!
22...Rg1+ 23.Kxg1 Rg8+ 24.Kh1 Qxf3+ 25.Rxf3 Bxf3#	
0-1	





HM Queen Elizabeth II – A Tribute

By Awani Kumar

Chess had been a favourite pastime of commoners and royals for centuries and British royal family was no exception. Winter [1], an English chess journalist, historian and author has given a vivid description of their love for chess. Queen Victoria, born some 200 years ago, was a keen chess player. Quoting a contemporary source, a chess magazine [2] asserts that "...the greatest solace the Empress Victoria has in her widowhood is chess – a game she frequently played with the Crown Prince when they found themselves with a leisure hour. The Empress generally travels with a chess board and men". Another chess magazine [3] also mentioned in a book review about her fondness and prowess in chess. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the great-great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria, also kept an eagle eye over chess world and was pleased to have a chess problem dedicated to her on the occasion of her wedding in 1948 as reported in a chess magazine [4].

HM Queen Elizabeth II passed away on 8th September, that is, 8-9 and Figure 1, a semi-magic tour of knight on an 8x9 board, is to commemorate it. Here, the sum of all the columns is 292. She was the longest reigning British monarch (and the longest recorded of any female head of state in history) and Figure 2 commemorates 70 glorious years of her rule. It is a semi-magic knight tour on a 7x10 board. Here all the rows sum up to 355. She was born on April 21, 1926 and lived for 96 years. Figure 3 and Figure 4 are magic tours on a 6x16 (= 96) board and 8x12 (= 96) board respectively.

Figure 1

1	44	3	66	5	42	31	68	7
36	65	34	43	32	67	6	41	30
45	2	37	4	71	28	39	8	69
64	35	72	33	38	9	70	29	40
25	46	11	60	27	58	19	52	17
12	63	26	49	10	51	16	55	20
47	24	61	14	59	22	57	18	53
62	13	48	23	50	15	54	21	56
292	292	292	292	292	292	292	292	292

Figure 2

41	30	7	64	43	28	45	60	11	26	355
6	65	42	29	8	63	10	27	46	59	355
31	40	5	66	23	44	61	12	25	48	355
4	67	32	39	62	9	24	47	58	13	355
35	38	1	68	19	22	17	54	49	52	355
70	3	36	33	16	55	20	51	14	57	355
37	34	69	2	21	18	15	56	53	50	355

Figure 3

39	42	53	56	35	26	65	72	83	74	17	20	85	92	7	10	776
54	57	38	41	66	71	34	25	16	19	84	75	8	11	86	91	776
43	40	55	52	27	36	67	64	73	82	21	18	93	90	9	6	776
58	49	46	37	70	61	30	33	24	15	76	79	12	3	96	87	776
47	44	51	60	31	28	63	68	81	78	13	22	89	94	5	2	776
50	59	48	45	62	69	32	29	14	23	80	77	4	1	88	95	776
291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291

Figure 4

19	22	75	80	15	82	39	58	41	94	55	2	582
76	79	18	21	38	59	14	83	56	1	42	95	582
23	20	77	74	81	16	57	40	93	44	3	54	582
78	73	24	17	60	37	84	13	4	53	96	43	582
25	68	31	72	85	12	61	36	45	92	49	6	582
30	71	28	65	34	63	88	9	52	5	46	91	582
67	26	69	32	11	86	35	62	89	48	7	50	582
70	29	66	27	64	33	10	87	8	51	90	47	582
388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388

Prime numbers (a number divisible only by 1 and itself) have been fascinating humankind for over two millennia. There are eighteen prime numbers 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, ... 59, 61 which are less than 64.

Chess players are well aware of guarding/dominating the power of the Queen. Figure 5 and Figure 6 show 'Figured Tour' of a knight on the chess board. Here, the Queen at cell 11 is guarding/dominating all the cells with prime numbers. Readers are requested to look at cell 11 carefully. (The author has purposefully replaced 11 with its look-alike Roman numeral II within the letter 'Q' for obvious reasons). The two tours symbolise her reign spanning two centuries. Figured tours require no magic condition but as a bonus, one column also adds up to magic constant 260.

Figure 5

13	48	15	6	21	24	27	8
16	5	12	47	10	7	22	25
49	14	3	20	23	26	9	28
4	17	40	II	46	29	42	61
39	50	19	2	41	62	45	30
18	53	36	57	32	43	60	63
51	38	55	34	1	58	31	44
54	35	52	37	56	33	64	59

Figure 6

13	48	15	6	21	24	27	8
16	5	12	47	10	7	22	25
49	14	3	20	23	26	9	28
4	17	40	II	46	29	42	59
39	50	19	2	41	58	45	30
18	53	36	57	32	43	60	63
51	38	55	34	1	62	31	44
54	35	52	37	56	33	64	61

Monogram tours, that is, knight tours delineating letter shapes, have an aesthetic appeal. Figure 7 and Figure 8 show two such tours with square numbers $1^2, 2^2, 3^2 \dots 8^2$, namely,

1, 4, 9 ... 64 delineating letters 'E' and 'L' respectively, the first two letters of her name.

Figure 7

5	2	7	28	57	30	11	62
8	27	4	1	10	63	56	31
3	6	9	58	29	14	61	12
26	21	16	53	64	59	32	55
37	52	25	20	15	54	13	60
22	17	36	49	40	43	46	33
51	38	19	24	35	48	41	44
18	23	50	39	42	45	34	47

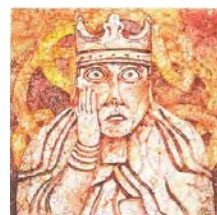
Figure 8

3	10	1	44	5	46	59	62
8	43	4	17	58	61	30	47
11	2	9	6	45	18	63	60
42	7	16	57	64	29	48	31
55	12	25	36	49	32	19	28
24	41	56	15	26	37	50	33
13	54	39	22	35	52	27	20
40	23	14	53	38	21	34	51

This article is dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The author, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Nations, dedicates the tours to the recently demised Head of the Commonwealth of Nations. RIP ma'am. Physically you are not with us but will always remain in our heart and memory.

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Living Dangerously with Correspondence Chess

By Tom Anderson

It is a pleasure to have joined the SCCA earlier this year. I have previously played a fair bit of over-the-board (OTB) chess and each game is usually a nerve-wracking experience with potential brilliancies and blunders lurking at every turn. One of the main attractions of chess is that danger is often concealed and vigilance is required at all times.

Age is catching up with me and it is harder to get out and about these days, so I thought I'd give correspondence chess (CC) a try. I am already hooked! From the outset, I decided not to use computer engines to aid my analysis during games and I will almost certainly keep it that way. The main reason for this is that, as with OTB chess, tactics and combinations, along with the associated search for candidate moves and calculation of lines, are for me at the heart of chess. The wonder of a beautiful combination and, of course, the potential for blunders, are both part of the excitement of playing. My opinion is that using analysis engines in CC, while entirely legitimate, stifles the tactical side of the game. I should nevertheless emphasise that in no way am I criticising players who choose to use engines and nor am I saying that CC using engines is any less skilful than without – more about that later.

In order to illustrate the dangers inherent in playing without the help of engines, and how these dangers influence move selection, I will here show two examples from my recent correspondence games. In the first, I was White against John Armstrong and the position of interest occurred after 18...Nc5. For the record, here are the moves leading up to it:

White: Anderson, Thomas R.
Black: Armstrong, John (1543)
SCO/Chall22/14, 2022
Kings Indian Averbakh [E73]

- 1.d4 g6
- 2.c4 Bg7
- 3.Nc3 Nf6

- 4.e4 d6
- 5.Be2 O-O
- 6.Bg5 Kh8!?
- 7.Qd2 Ng8
- 8.h4 f6
- 9.Be3 e5
- 10.dxe5 dxe5
- 11.h5 Qxd2+
- 12.Bxd2 g5
- 13.O-O-O h6
- 14.Nd5 Na6
- 15.Bc3 c6
- 16.Ne3 Be6
- 17.Bg4 Bxg4
- 18.Nxg4 Nc5



I now decided upon two main candidate moves, 19.Bb4 and 19.f3, noting that, without a menu of options provided by a computer, I had to find these moves by myself which is a task in itself. It turns out they are the best two moves in this position and I faced an important decision choosing between them. I assessed the position for White as having a secure positional advantage on the light squares, notably a knight outpost on f5 combined with the restraining action of the h5-pawn, noting that the light-squared bishops have been exchanged. The move 19.f3 consolidates this advantage.

Nevertheless, the move 19.Bb4 caught my eye because, if Black replies 19...b6 which at first sight appears to be the only reply, White significantly increases this positional advantage after 20.Bxc5 bxc5 because of the resulting doubled c-pawns and the ensuing good knight versus bad bishop ending. Looking

deeper into the position, I then noticed that Black need not necessarily play 19... b6, continuing instead with the interesting exchange sacrifice 19...Nxe4. My first impression was that this move didn't work because the Ng4 prevents the rook fork ...Nxf2, but chess is rarely so simple and the fact is ...f5 is coming, kicking away the knight from g4.

So, I started to analyse and, without computer analysis to help me, analyse and analyse some more. The initial moves of the exchange sacrifice are 19.Bb4 Nxe4 20.Bxf8. Black can recapture with either the bishop or rook but I quickly rejected the former: 20...Bxf8? 21.Ne2 f5 22.Nxe5 Nxf2 23.Ng6+ Kg7 24.Rd7+ Kf6 25.Rf1+- . That leaves 20...Rxf8!



I now provide a sample of lines, jotted down in my notebook during my analysis of the game as I tried to find my way through the thicket of complications that occur after 20...Rxf8! I complement my thinking during the game with computer analysis that I undertook after the game had finished, both for my own interest and in order to help write this article. This computer analysis is presented in square brackets and with the triangle symbol, [▲...]. Here are some variations, ordered from worst to best for White:

- (i) 21.Rd7 f5 22.Ne3 (22.Rxg7 fxg4) Nxf2 23.Rh2 f4 [▲23...e4 -+]

(ii) 21.Nh3 f5 22.Ne3 g4 [▲ 23.f3 gxh3 24.fxe4 f4 25.Rxh3 fxe3 26.Rxe3±]

(iii) 21.Ne2 f5 22.Ne3? [▲ 22.f3 Nc5 23.Nf2 e4±] Nxf2 -+

(iv) 21.Rh3 f5 [▲ 22.Re3 fxg4 23.Rxe4=] 22.Nh2 Nxf2+

(v) 21.Rf1 f5 22.Ne3 Ngf6 23.Ne2 Nc5 =

(vi) 21.Re1 f5 [▲ 22.f3 Nc5=]

(vii) 21.f3 Ng3 [▲ 21...Nc5 22.Ne3 f5 23.b4 Na4 24.Rd7±] 22.Rh3 f5 23.Rxg3 fxg4 24.Rxg4? [▲ 24.Ne2±] Nf6±

(viii) [21. ▲ Nf3! f5 (21...Kh7 22.Rhe1 Nc5 23.b4 Ne6 Rd7+-) 22.Ngxe5 (22.Nfxe5?! Re8±) Nxf2 23.Ng6+-]

There is only one line that leads to a clear advantage for White, (viii) above, and I missed it completely! I felt sure that there must be a win somewhere, but at the time I just could not find it. And even if I had found this line, without engine scores for reassurance, would I have trusted my analysis? I rightly concluded that most lines lead to drawn or lost positions for White and eventually decided that there was just too much risk in choosing 19.Bb4 when I had the good-looking 19.f3 as an alternative. Fearing that I might throw away all my advantage and more with 19.Bb4, the game continued:

19.f3 Rfd8
 20.Ne2 Rd7?
 21.Rxd7 Nxd7
 22.Rd1+-



White now has a winning positional advantage and I did indeed go on to secure victory in 52 moves:

22... Nc5
 23.Ne3 Ne6
 24.Nf5 Rd8
 25.Rxd8 Nxd8
 26.Bb4 Ne6

27.Bd6 Bf8
 28.Bxf8 Nxf8
 29.Nd6 b5
 30.cxb5 cxb5
 31.Nxb5 a6
 32.Nc7 a5
 33.Nd5 Nd7
 34.Ng3 Ne5
 35.Nf5 Nd3+
 36.Kc2 Ne1+
 37.Kd2 Nxe2
 38.Ke2 Nf4+
 39.Nxf4 exf4
 40.b3 Kh7
 41.a3 Kh8
 42.b4 axb4
 43.axb4 Kh7
 44.b5 g4
 45.fxg4 Kh8
 46.b6 Kh7
 47.b7 Kh8
 48.b8=Q f3+
 49.Kxf3 Kh7
 50.Qb7+ Ne7
 51.Qxe7+ Kg8
 52.Qg7#

1-0



It would have been harder for me, however, if Black had played 20...Nd3+ leading to 21.Kc2 Nf4 22.Nxf4 gxf4±.

Most CC players use computer engines to aid in analysis (Dawson, 2021). Which of the two moves, 19.Bb4 and 19.f3, would these players select, and how long would it take them to decide? Stockfish 11 gives scores of 2.32 (+-) versus 1.56 (+-) for 19.Bb4 and 19.f3, respectively, while Fritz 14 gives 1.15 (±) versus 0.43(±).

A clear indication that, at least numerically, it is better to play 19.Bb4 and allow the exchange sacrifice. I suggest that this move would likely be selected rather quickly by most CC players using engines, with little or no fear of unseen tactical complications or potential blunders. Selecting moves in this way, using analysis engines, is not for me because there is no living dangerously, at least not in the way that I have described above.

The second game that I would like to show is from a WS/O tournament in which I was Black against Ricardo Azzi. The position of interest occurred after 23.Nf3.

White: Azzi, Ricardo Gurgel (1449)
 Black: Anderson, Thomas R. ICCF WS/O 1433, 2022
 Ruy Lopez [C74]

1.e4 e5
 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.Bb5 a6
 4.Ba4 d6
 5.c3 f5
 6.exf5 Bxf5
 7.Bc2 Bxc2
 8.Qxc2 Nf6
 9.d3 Be7
 10.Ng5 d5
 11.O-O Qd7
 12.Qb3 O-O
 13.h3 Na5
 14.Qc2 c5
 15.Nd2 Qf5
 16.Ndf3 Nc6
 17.Nh4 Qd7
 18.f4 Nh5
 19.f5 Ng3
 20.Rf3 Nxf5
 21.Nxf5 Rxf5
 22.Rg3 Raf8
 23.Nf3



Black has a considerable advantage here – I am a pawn up and with a fine pawn centre. Without engines, however, there is no score to measure that advantage numerically and I was left having to assess the position and find candidate moves for myself. At first glance, all my pieces appear to be on excellent squares and so I decided to try and press the initiative by home by analysing the forcing move 23...e4, kicking away the Nf3 and threatening ...Rf1+ and ...Bd6. There are many and wonderful lines,

noting that White has the counter resource, Bh6. I correctly identified 24.dxe4 dxe4 25.Qxe4 Qd1+ as being the critical line, with a hair-raising position:



Post-game engine analysis shows that the position is winning for Black but, as with my previous example, I could not find the lines and did not have engines scores to help me. White has two king moves. I dismissed 26.Kh2 rather quickly with 26... Bd6? 27.Qe6+ Kh8 [▲ 26...Qd5 +- or 26...R8f7 +-]. Instead, I focused most attention on 26.Kf2 with sample lines:
(i) 26...Re5? 27.Bh6! Rxe4 (27...Qxa1 28.Rxg7+ Kh8 29.Qxh7#) 28.Rxg7+ Kh8 29.Rxd1 Re6? 30.Rxe7+- [▲ 29...Rf6!]=]
(ii) 26...Ne5? 27.Bh6! Qxa1 28.Rxg7+=
(iii) 26...Bh4 27.Qxh4 Re5 28.Qc4+- [▲ 28.Rxg7+-]=]
(iv) 26...Bd6 27.Bf4 [▲ 27.Rxg7+!=] Qxa1 28.Bxd6 Qxb2+ 29.Kg1 Qxc3∞
 Without finding a convincing winning line, and worried by White's dangerous counterplay with Bh6, I went back to the drawing board and looked again for candidate moves. All of a sudden, 23...Qd6! dawned upon me. So simple - why did I not see it in the first place (it would have saved me a lot of time)? Black is winning, with ...e4 now a deadly threat. The game concluded quickly:

23... Qd6!
 24.Bg5 e4
 25.dxe4 dxe4
 26.Qxe4 Qxg3

0-1



So what move do the engines think is best for Black after 23.Nf3? The top three moves given by Stockfish 11 are 23...Qd6 (-7.28), 23...Qc7 (-5.91) and 23...c4 (-5.23), with Fritz 14 giving 23...Qd6 (-3.94), 23...Bd6 (-3.06) and 23...c4 (-2.38). All winning, and with no mention of 23...e4.

I personally cannot imagine myself playing chess, OTB or CC, without having to search for candidate moves and then carefully calculate lines, looking for tactics and combinations. Of course, there is the potential for blunders and one must be prepared to suffer the consequences for making mistakes. It only serves to make winning all the sweeter when things work out successfully.

Using computer engines has been described as "advanced chess" that is of the highest standards and very possibly it is this perfection that correspondence players aim for. The CC player is like a great artist, striving to paint a masterpiece of unparalleled beauty. Fair enough and, as per my earlier comment, I should emphasise that I am in no way critical of players that choose to use engines, except those who parrot moves with no real understanding of the underlying chess. Top-level CC chess undoubtedly requires enormous patience, deep knowledge of positional chess and endgames, and great study of the potential for long-term wins beyond the computer's calculation horizon.

As Peter Bennett notes, the skill is in constructing positions in which one's opponent is prone to making strategic errors (Bennett, 2020). The positional side of chess is the hardest to learn and I can only but admire players who battle it out from the first move, seeking to generate an advantage that can be pushed all the way to victory.

For me, chess is primarily a battle and not necessarily about perfection. Just as a beautiful goal in football may involve significant errors on the part of the defensive side, so it is in chess where there are brilliancies and tactical mishaps also. Beautiful combinations are always a wonder to behold. For example, Reuben Fine once said that combinations are to

chess what melody is to music. My opinion is that, in general, play has the potential to be more lively, cut and thrust, without engines. In the pre-computer era, great correspondence players such as Purdy and Sanakoev often opted for gambits and speculative moves or attacks, in the hope that they would calculate the complications better than their opponent (Purdy et al., 1998; Sanakoev, 1999). How often are openings such as Kings Gambit seen today?

Even with the relatively small number of CC games that I have played so far, I have had a good few "heart-in-mouth" moments, waiting for my opponent's reply and wondering if I have missed tactical ideas, or if a combination that I had played was sound. Of course, I could have obtained the answers in a split second by running an engine, and it might seem crazy that I could spend hours instead analysing the position by myself with no more than a chess set and notebook.

At the end of the day, CC players have different ways of playing and aspirations and it is a simple case of each to their own, with mutual respect amongst all. I encourage players, especially newcomers to CC, to consider playing without engines although, of course, don't expect to obtain a high rating. The most important thing is to enjoy the challenge and to achieve personal goals, at whatever level one plays.

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Is there a future for Correspondence Chess? Part A: a brief review of the historical debate

By Peter Bennett

Between 1999 and about 2007 there was much debate about the future of CC, arising from the advent of chess engines. At the admitted risk of oversimplifying the issues,

I shall attempt to summarise what happened by identifying the following positions which, in my observations at the time, were commonly taken by different contributors to that debate:

The Moralists....

....took the view that any use of engines, in any form of chess, was always unethical and to be treated with complete contempt. The rules should state clearly that engines were banned in CC as well as OTB. Infringements constituted cheating; and, where there was any evidence that a player was so cheating, they should be thrown out of the club or event, in disgrace.

The Cynics....

....saw the Moralists as the chess equivalent of flat-earthists. Engines had arrived, they weren't going away, they were here to stay. They agreed with the Moralists that engines would destroy the CC game; but there was no point in holding onto a nostalgic view of the past by demonising the future: human nature being what it is, CC players were bound, increasingly, to use engines, at least covertly. So the Moralists were wasting their time trying to shame players into rejecting the inevitable course the future would take.

The Ostriches....

....refused to debate the issue at all. Like the Moralists, they would have been much happier if engines had never been developed in the first place; but they met the challenge by avoiding it and pretending it wasn't happening. Players knew what the rules were; and it was up to them to continue to abide by them. There was nothing more to say.

The Opportunists....

....were actually few in number but they had a major effect on subsequent developments. These were the players who saw a chance, in being the first to acquire the new technology, to steal a march on their under-equipped rivals and win as many tournaments as possible while they temporarily held this (not very fair) advantage.

The Technicians....

....were the stronger players who immediately saw the strategic weaknesses in the early chess engines. They tried to explain to the chess world that engines were only as good as the algorithms on which they were based; and since algorithms were (initially at least) developed by real people, whose judgments were flawed, they could not be held to be "perfect". Thus the advent of engines could be seen as a challenge, and did not inevitably not lead to catastrophe in the world of CC.

The Realists,....

....taking their lead from the technicians, were the CC chess administrators who decided to take on the challenge, rather than run away from it; and they began to look at ways to incorporate engines into the rules, rather than persist with an increasingly unrealistic "ban" on engine use.

There were players with all these "positions" - and more - on the advent of engines in most of the CC clubs and national associations. So what happened next?

To cut a long story short, the Technicians and Realists (I use capital letters to indicate that I am referring back to my own definition of these terms, above) quickly came to hold sway in the committee of the world's oldest and most influential CC club - the BCCA. As far as I am aware, the BCCA was the first British club openly to acknowledge that the advent of engine use in CC could not be prevented; and that therefore the use of engines should be explicitly permitted.

The decision was controversial, of course; but, as a player who was active in BCCA competitions in the years before that decision was made, my informal estimate is that engine-users in the BCCA at that time outnumbered the players who did not use engines by at least the ratio 60% to 40%. In other words, it was already too late to put the clock back.

I referred earlier to the fact that the Opportunists were few in number, because it did not take many of them to initiate change. I talked to many players about engine use in the decade between 1999 and 2009; and my very strong impression was that the vast majority were reluctant to use engines, and preferred playing without them; but that they only started using them because they became aware that many of their opponents were already doing so.

The historical evidence for the existence of "Opportunists" is still there, however. Between 2000 and about 2005 a number of players who were not very strong - since their gradings dropped dramatically after about 2010 - managed to get IM, SIM and even GM titles, while still holding a technical advantage over many of their opponents.

The BCCA's explicit acknowledgement of engine use was matched, inevitably, by the EFCC; and the EFCC, in turn, had a major influence on policy within the ICCF. Parallel developments in other countries, such as Germany, soon forced the ICCF at least to abandon the "policing" of engine use. As a result, engine use rapidly became universal in ICCF tournaments and was later formally acknowledged in the Playing Rules. Many countries then adopted ICCF policy in their domestic events. Under the guidance of the late George Pyrich, the SCCA also took its lead from ICCF.

I first came across a German player who was using an engine in an ICCF event as early as 1999; and this seemed to be tacitly accepted, even then.

The CC clubs in the UK, virtually all based in England, and apart from the forward-thinking BCCA, were much slower to acknowledge that change was necessary.

I was a regular writer for the magazine of the BPCA (a pseudonym!) whose editor accepted most of my scripts; but when I wrote an article alleging that the internal grading system had become grossly distorted on account of half the club using engines and half not, my script was rejected – not I think by the editor but on the instructions of the committee who mainly comprised Moralists and Ostriches in this debate. The “BPCA” folded a few years later.

The ClergyCCC also tried to avoid the issue – according to friends of mine who belonged to it. The OUCCS seemed similarly incapable of conducting the necessary debate in its own magazine (I used to write articles for that magazine, as well).

Let me conclude on a personal note. I came into this debate as something of Cynic (in terms of my own definition,

above). I believed, as long ago as 2001, that there was little point in continuing to play CC in formal tournaments, even then; and I duly announced my retirement from the game in an article.... But it didn't stick!

For about five years I played games only against friends, and in friendly matches, before I was eventually persuaded, in about 2006, to try playing tournament CC again, using an engine. In fact, between 2006 and 2016, I won more than 100 games against players who were using engines, often knowing that their equipment was superior to mine. How did I manage this? Well that is not a subject for this article....

The problem now, as we all know, is that, in the last 5 years, the engines have improved so much that it has become difficult to win any games at all. I haven't won a game, except against a player who defaulted on time, in the last three years; and that is why I am now writing this series of articles.

Summer Chess Competition

The Summer issue's three competition positions were all taken from recent games played on the “Frozen Rooks” (pseudonym) website. No correct solutions were received by the closing date from any of those eligible for the prize on offer, which thus stayed unclaimed.

Nevertheless, here are the three positions with the relevant continuation: (NB preceding moves were given in full in magazine 158)

Position A

White: Iceman 16
Black: Peter Bennett
 Website: Frozen Rooks
Position after 9.Qxd4



The Ne5 is attacked. So, naturally, Black must defend it.
9... d6
10.0-0??

This very natural move was a blunder. Why? What did White overlook?

Answer (fairly easy): that 9....d6 doesn't just defend the N, it also prepares ...c5

10... c5
11.Qd1 c4

The B is trapped. White loses material and resigns a few moves later.

Position B

White: Iceman 17
Black: Peter Bennett
 Website: Frozen Rooks
 Game completed: 9 June 2022
Position after 15....Nc5



16.Re1?

This natural-looking developing move is also a mistake. Why? What should happen next?

16.... Rxa2!
17.Rxa2

A tactical sacrifice, creating a catastrophic weakness on b3. The game continued....

17....Bxb3 18.Qb1 Bxa2 19.Qxa2 Nxd3 20.Rd1 Nxb2 21.Qxb2 Qb6 22.Rb1 Rb8

Black is two pawns up (0-1 in 37 moves).

Position C

White: Peter Bennett
Black: Iceman 18
 Website: Frozen Rooks
 Game completed: 30 June 2022
Position after 18....g6



White to play and mate in 3 moves.

19.Rxh7+!

19....Kxh7 20.Qh4+ Kg7 21.Qh6#

Autumn Chess Competition

This issue's competition position is hot off the press! The game was completed on 23 September 2022, a few days ago.

White: Iceman 19

Black: Peter Bennett

Website: Frozen Rooks

1.d4	Nf6
2.e3	e6
3.c4	d5
4.Nf3	Be7
5.Nc3	0-0
6.cxd5	exd5
7.Be2	c6
8.0-0	Bf5
9.Ne5	h6
10.Bd3	Bxd3
11.Qxd3	Nbd7
12.Nf3	Re8
13.Re1	Bd6

This was a fast game in which the opening play was rather loose, on both sides of the board!

Black's 13th move was intended to inhibit 14.e4.



Undaunted, White decides to play it anyway, on the plausible basis that Q, R and N collectively provide sufficient support for the pawn's advance.

In the old days of the British Chess Problem Society, the key move in any composed chess problem was almost always the first move. In practical play, however, the key variation is often several moves deep, as in this position. So the challenge here is this: can you spot Black's tactical resource (which

White overlooked) directly from the diagram of the position after Black's 13th move?

14.e4?

So, this pawn advance is actually a mistake; whereas, after 14.Bd2 for example, Black has only a slight positional plus, based on having the "better" bishop. The game continued:

14... dxe4
15.Nxe4

In fact, 15.Rxe4 was the more accurate continuation, which holds out a little longer; but White is positionally lost, anyway.

15... Rxe4
16.Rxe4

What should happen next?

The key move only is required. The first correct solution sent in by an SCCA member with a grading of less than 2100 (coupled with a declaration that no engine was used), wins a bottle of single malt whisky.

Closing date: **25 October 2022.**

Good luck!



The Bird

Inna Gershov Slutsky



Inna was born 1956 in Chernovtzi (West Ukraine). From 1967 she lived in Leningrad (St. Petersburg). This is maybe not the dove of peace, but we live in hope..



William D Higginson

William Higginson is an Australian-born surrealist painter now living in Canada.

At 11 years old, he spent several days in a coma due to liver failure and shortly after was diagnosed with leukemia. Attending art classes was his way back to health.

After a rebellious youth, he cultivated discipline and a strong work ethic during his time in the Australian military.

He migrated to Canada in his 30s and has enlarged his reputation with enigmatic and optimistic works. He builds models and researches history and mythology as part of his creative process.

His many admirers find many different inspirations from his works.

William's proudest moment was to be exhibited alongside a Salvador Dali collection in 2019.

I've concentrated on chess connections in this brief article, but you can view many other subjects and motifs on his website:

<https://williamhigginson.com/>



Life's a Game II (2021)



Check (2018)



Monumental Move (2021)



The Kings and Queens of Swords (2022)



Overlooking The Game (2020)



The Mountains You Will Move (2022)



Gambit (2021)



That Old Bald Cheater (2019)



Currently Untitled (2021)



Correspondence tournaments played at elite levels are characterised by many draws. Indeed, it is not unusual for entire tournaments to lack a single win for White or Black.

If an individual game results in a win for either player, it is a source of great interest amongst fellow chess players. This was the case in the recent World Championship 31 Final.

Seventeen players took part. Thirteen of these were Grandmasters while the lowest rated player (Marek) had a rating of 2440. At the top were GM Langeveld, Netherlands (2674), Christian Muck, Austria (2577) and Fabian Stanach, Poland (2492).

Nearly all of the recorded wins were against the two bottom players. Leaving those two players aside there was just one single win.

So how do players win games – or, put another way, how do players manage to lose games? Here we look at three games.

Two of these were played by the eventual winners against the two weakest players in the tournament. The third game is a ding-dong battle played by two players (GM Stephan, Germany and GM Straka, Czech Republic), who eventually finished in fourth and fifth places.

White: Langeveld, Ron A. H. (2674)
Black: Marek, Stanislav (2440)
Queen's Indian, Old Main Line [E18]
 ICCF WC31 Final 2019
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

As the highest ranked player, Ron Langeveld was the clear favourite. Here we see a positional masterclass.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1.Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 2.g3 | b6 |
| 3.d4 | Bb7 |
| 4.c4 | e6 |
| 5.Bg2 | Be7 |

So we now have a Queens Indian structure: White has the space

advantage while Black wants to exploit the control over e4.

6.Nc3 **Ne4**
 If White captures the knight, the Back bishop on e4 is immovable. Also, as pairs of minor pieces are exchanged, Black finds extra space to manoeuvre. So, White plays the most popular move.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 7.Bd2 | Bf6 |
| 8.0-0 | 0-0 |

9.Re1
 Here we see Langeveld playing a rare move. By far the most popular moves here are Qc2 and Rcl.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 9... | c5 |
| 10.d5 | exd5 |
| 11.cxd5 | Nxd2 |
| 12.Nxd2 | d6 |

So the dust has settled and all of a sudden the Re1 has latent power with e4 intended. The king's knight is going to re-route to c4 putting pressure on the d6 pawn. In Black's favour, he now has two bishops and much will depend on how effective they are.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 13.a4 | Na6 |
| 14.e4 | Nb4 |

So now the c4 square is anchored for White. By contrast, Black now has an outpost on b4 for his knight.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 15.Nc4 | Ba6 |
| 16.Nb5 | |

Making very effective use of the White knights and placing huge pressure on the d6 pawn. The Black outpost knight looks imposing but is not putting much pressure on the White position.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 16... | Bxb5 |
| 17.axb5 | Bd4 |



At this point the knight on c4 is completely secure. It is on a white square and Black has no white-squared bishop to challenge it. On the other hand, Black has a very strong bishop on d4. Lastly, the a-file has opened up and the a7 pawn has become vulnerable. One important additional point is that the b5 pawn is undefended and White has to be careful not to lose it.

18.e5
 This is the Grandmaster move. For the e5 pawn, White frees up two of his key pieces. First the bishop on g2 increases its range and effectiveness. This is coupled with what is going to happen on d6. If it moves or is exchanged, the Bg2 becomes exceptionally strong. Second the rook on e1 increases its strength after the e4–e5 advance.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 18... | Qd7 |
| 19.e6 | Qc7 |
| 20.Kh1 | |

The position has been transformed. All of the White minor pieces are functioning extremely effectively and Black is hemmed in.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 20... | fxe6 |
| 21.Rxe6 | Rxf2 |
| 22.Qe1 | |

Black has counterchances on the f-file but the White pressure along the e-file is overwhelming and linked to the combined attack on the d6 pawn by rook and knight.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 22... | Nd3 |
| 23.Qe4 | Nxb2 |
| 24.Re8+ | Rxe8 |
| 25.Qxe8+ | Rf8 |
| 26.Qe6+ | Kh8 |



27.Rf1

And a simple tactic places even more pressure on Black.

27... Qd8
28.Nxd6 Bf6
29.Nf7+

The knight has to be captured by the rook because after..Kg1 there is a smothered mate after Nh6+ and Qg8+.

29... Rxf7
30.Qxf7 Nc4
31.Re1 Nd6
32.Qxa7 Kg8
33.Re6 g6
34.h4 Bxh4
35.Rxd6

Another little tactic finished Black off.

35... Qxd6
36.gxh4 c4
37.Qa8+ Kg7
38.Qb7+ Kh6
39.Qf7 c3
40.Be4

A superb display from one of the world's top correspondence Grandmasters.

1-0



White: Stanach, Fabian (2492)
Black: Herfurth, Thomas (2430)
King's Indian Fianchetto [E66]
ICCF WC31 Final 2019
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

SIM Stanach performed exceptionally well in this exalted company of Grandmasters: here we see one of his key wins.

1.c4 Nf6
2.g3 g6
3.Bg2 Bg7
4.d4 0-0
5.Nc3 d6
6.Nf3

We have arrived at the Kings Indian fianchetto variation. The white set-up used here differs from most white set-ups against the King's Indian in that it does not offer freedom to attack White on the kingside.

6... c5
7.0-0 Nc6
8.d5 Na5
9.Nd2

A very well-known line. At first sight the knight on a5 looks out of play on the rim of the board but on the other hand it exerts a lot of pressure on c4 while also increasing the latent power on the Black bishop on g7 on the long diagonal.

9... a6
10.Qc2 b5
11.cxb5 axb5
12.Nxb5

We are still in main line theory here, this position has been reached almost 50 times before.

12... Qb6
13.Nc3 Bf5
14.e4 Bc8
15.Rb1

Fine play and background research by White. The most popular move here is 15. h3. But 15. Rb1 shows clearly on Chessbase as scoring at 78% for White, far exceeding any other move.

15... Ng4
16.Nf3 Nc4
17.h3 Nge5
18.Ne1 Ba6
19.f4 Nd7
20.Rf3 Rfb8

Black is piling on the pressure especially along the b-file. We have reached a position closely resembling a variation of the Benko gambit. The computers have the game still as equal.

21.b3 Qa5
22.Kh2 Na3
23.Bxa3 Qxa3
24.Qd2 Qa5
25.Nc2 Ra7
26.Re3

Black is still doing well, and soon to triple on the a-file or the b-file if allowed. As it turns out the Black queen retreats to give more space for the rooks.

26... Qc7
27.Qe1 Rab7
28.Rc1 Ra8
29.Nb1 Rab8
30.Rd1 Rb6
31.Kh1 R8b7
32.Nd2 c4
33.b4 Bb5

Black has turned the game around and is really pushing hard on the queenside, White is hanging on.

34.a3 Ra6
35.Nf3 Ba4



And at this point the game turns around. Black has the opportunity to play ..Bb2 here, but instead is lured by the prospect of doubling rooks - however, this allows a counter strike.

36.Rc1 Rba7
37.Ncd4 Nb6
38.g4 Be8
39.Rcc3 Qc8
40.f5

At this point White has a slight space advantage but it is countered by the Black pressure on the a-file.

40... Qa8
41.Qc1 Ba4
42.Bf1 Bd7

This allows White to play 43. b5 and if 43..Ra4 then 44. Bc4. But White chooses a different route.

43.h4 Ra4
44.Kh2 h6
45.Bg2

45. h5 is preferred here by the engines.

45... Rc7
46.Kh1 Qf8
47.Re1 Rca7
48.Rf1 Qe8
49.Qe3 Ra8
50.g5

And now things turn decisively in White's favour - the pressure that White is exerting on the kingside is beginning to tell.

50... h5
51.Ng1 Kh7
52.Nge2 R4a7
53.Nf4 Be5
54.Bh3 Qg8

When one looks at this position, one can see that Black's pressure on the queenside has been held up by White defences. Sometimes in chess a defence is set up along a rank (in this case the queen and rook on the third rank) rather than a file. Here, it works very well for White. With the queenside temporarily blocked ad the

centre closed, White has the freedom to prosecute a strong attack.



55.fxg6+ fxg6
 56.Be6 Qf8
 57.Rf3 Qg7
 58.Nfe2 Rf8
 59.Rxf8 Qxf8
 60.Kg2 Rb7
 61.Bxd7 Bxd4
 62.Nxd4 Nxd7
 63.Rxc4

A heavyweight struggle - and well played White!

1-0



White: Straka, Zdenek (2546)
Black: Stephan, Jürgen (2526)
Scandinavian Defence [B01]
 ICCF WC31 Final 2019
[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.e4 d5

So, we have a Scandinavian - let's see how Straka deals with it.

2.exd5 Qxd5
 3.Nc3 Qd6
 4.d4 Nf6
 5.Nf3 c6
 6.g3

Not the most popular move, 6. Ne5 is the most frequent try for White here.

6... Bf5
 7.Bg2 h6
 8.0-0 e6
 9.Na4

Again, not the most common move: on most occasions White usually goes for 9. Ne5 or 9. Re1. The move played makes sense because in these structures Black usually tries to free the position with an eventual ..c5 and

keeps his pawn structure on the kingside solid.

9... Qc7
 10.c4

Now we see the outline of future plans for both sides. For Black, the ploy will be to put pressure on the d-file targeting the d4 pawn forcing White to defend it. But White has a different plan that is quite unusual.

10... Bd6
 11.c5 Be7
 12.Bf4 Qc8
 13.b4 Nd5

So, instead of trying to push the d-pawn, White has chosen to do the opposite and cede the d5 square to Black. Let's see what happens next.

14.Bd2 0-0
 15.Nb2 Bf6
 16.Nc4 Bg4
 17.Be3 Qc7

The position is delicately poised. The Black knight will stay put on d5 unless tempted by a material gain. White has more space and has the potential to advance further on the queenside with a4, b5 etc.

18.Qd2 Nd7
 19.h4 Bf5
 20.Rfe1 Be4
 21.Rac1 Rab8
 22.a3 Rfd8
 23.Bf4 Nxf4
 24.Rxe4 Nxe2
 25.Kxe2 Be7
 26.Re3

White's space advantage begins to tell.

26... Nf6
 27.Nfe5 Nd5
 28.Rf3

Black continues to dominate the centre of the board with the Nd5 in front of the backward pawn on d4. For his part, White is trying to work around the centre by putting pressure on f7 and making use of the f-file.



Black is cramped.

28... Rf8
 29.Re1 Rbd8
 30.Re2 Nf6
 31.g4 Nd5
 32.g5 f6
 33.Ng6 fxg5
 34.Nxf8 Rxf8
 35.Rxf8+ Bxf8
 36.Kg1

And here things change in White's favour. 36...gh4 followed by ..Qf7 is a strong plan. Instead Black goes for the natural 36..Nf4 putting the knight on a dominating square.

36... Nf4
 37.Re5 Be7
 38.hxg5 hxg5
 39.Kf1 Bf6
 40.Re4 Qd7
 41.Nd6 Be7
 42.Re5 b6
 43.Ke1

It is easy to see how Black drifts in this position - but the core of the problem is that the Black knight really needs to stay on the d5 square throughout where it dominates the board. The square f4 looks nice for the knight but it is not as good as d5.

43... Bf6
 44.Re4 Be7
 45.Rxf4

And with this exchange sacrifice that removes Black's best minor piece, White gains a decisive advantage.

45... Bd8??
 A big blunder from Black - why this move was played we will never know.

46.Rf7
 1-0



Publish Your Games

You can participate in the magazine 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! Please send your submissions to:

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