

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.160

Winter 2022

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



Welcome to the final edition of our 2022 magazine set. The editor's 'office' is swathed in anti-hypothermia devices and mistypes are commonplace as the Uriah Heep gloves prove less than hi-tech...

The first ICCF rating list of 2023 is analysed by our grader Alistair Maxwell. This quarter saw two new titles awarded to members – Kevin Paine received the CCM title and Wilf Taylor collected his CCE award. Well done both!

John Hawkes' column isn't featured this time. He and his wife tried a DIY house move just before Christmas and were both unwell as a result – best wishes for a quick return!

We provide comprehensive coverage of last year's domestic and international results. At present, we're sitting on top of the European Team Championship table, so savour it while it lasts...

Peter Bennett continues his new series entitled 'Is there a future for CC?'. He's also set a new puzzle: no bottle of malt on offer this time but finding the solution is a puzzle in itself...

Awani Kumar exercises his knights over some seasonal greetings motifs. Apparently he got a big bag of numbers for Christmas...

Our Chess Art column is Alice Through the Looking Glass, featuring several artists. I hope you enjoy it.

Alastair Dawson's Games Column looks at submissions from Italian player Pasquale Colucci.

Mickey Blake sends a reminder to renew your membership and submit your entry forms before the 2023 events are started!

Ian Whittaker is our new Treasurer, having taken over from Gordon Anderson in recent days. As well as this work, Ian is helping to organise a rerun of the Edinburgh-London match on the 200th anniversary of the Edinburgh club.

Remember that the SCCA 2022 Best Game Prize is off and running. Send your entries to me before the end of January 2023 (see Notices page for details)..

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
December	J Dunn	K B McAlpine
November	J S Murray	I Mackintosh
October	J Anderson	G M Anderson

SCCA Officials

Role	Name	Address	Contact	Email
President	Iain Mackintosh	11 West Grange Farm, St Andrews KY16 8LJ	+44 (0)1334 470287	president@scottishcca.co.uk
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NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Iain Mackintosh pro tem.



CCM Title for Paine



Frome-based Kevin Paine has obtained his second ICCF Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) norm whilst playing on Board 7 in the Final of the European Team Championship, reaching the qualifying score of 5.5 points with 1 game to spare.

Kevin's first norm was obtained in July 2019 whilst playing in the European Team Tournament, Semi-Finals where he scored 5.5/10. The Qualifications Commissioner has now confirmed that the second norm is sufficient to award the CCM Title.

Congratulations to Kevin!

CCE Title and CCM Norm for Taylor



Chudleigh-based Wilf Taylor has obtained his second ICCF Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) norm playing in the Ian M. Pheby Celebration event Section D, and his first CCM norm in the same event when he achieved a score of 10/14.

Wilf's first CCE norm was obtained in June 2021 whilst playing on Board 5 in the Carlos Flores Gutierrez Team tournament, where he scored 4.5/8. The qualifications Commissioner has now confirmed the awarding of the CCE Title.

Congratulations to Wilf on the award of the CCE Title and on his first CCM norm!

ICCF World Correspondence Chess Championship Preliminaries Announced



From ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner Gian-Maria Tani writes to announce the Preliminaries stage of the 2023 (47th) World Championship. This event will be played in sections of 13 players (or 15/17 at the organisers' discretion), with entries closing on 10th February and play commencing on 20th March 2023.

Entry should be made through the ICCF website, New Entries tab by players who meet the set criteria. However, SCCA is entitled to 2 places in the 2023 cycle (includes Preliminaries and Semi-Finals) and players who do not meet the entry criteria must express their interest to Gordon Anderson as soon as possible but before 1st February 2023.

At the closing date consideration will be given on the allocation of places, if necessary. Entry fee for this event is £13.50 if entry through SCCA.

ICCF Entry Fees 2023



ICCF Gordon Anderson's proposals for ICCF tournament entry fees were adopted by Congress delegates in Glasgow during August this year.

The new rates take effect from 1st January 2023 and will be welcome news for players - almost every event will cost less than before! You can browse the changes on the SCCA website at: <https://www.scottishcca.co.uk/fees.html>

SCCA Membership 2023



Membership Secretary Mickey Blake writes:

Annual membership of the SCCA is now due. The 2023 Membership and Tournament Entry forms are available online at <https://www.scottishcca.co.uk/membership.html>

Once again, fees remain unchanged, following our AGM back in May 2022, representing great value for our members.

Scottish domestic tournaments start early in 2023, so please include the tournament entry form in your membership renewal so that you do not miss the start of the Championship, Premier, Open and League tournaments.

Life members not entering domestic tournaments, are kindly requested to complete and submit the membership form so that we may ensure your contact details are up to date.

Membership and Tournament entry forms should be forwarded to the membership secretary at membership@scottishcca.co.uk

SCCA Annual Best Game Prize



The SCCA Best Game Prize will once again operate this year, covering games completed during 2022. The trophy (pictured above) will carry the inscription of its sponsor, Raymond BurrIDGE, i.e.

The R.J. BurrIDGE Trophy SCCA Best Game Prize 2022 (winner's name)

To recap on the rules:

- Entries are games which finish in calendar year 2022;
- Entries restricted to events organised by SCCA or ICCF;
- Only SCCA members can submit their games;
- Games may have been previously published;
- Submission period will close at the end of January 2023
- The Committee will appoint a judge (who cannot enter!);
- The winner will be announced by end-March 2023 and we'll feature the game in a subsequent magazine;
- The winner receives a trophy miniature and certificate.

We're just waiting to confirm this year's judge and we'll announce the winning entry by end-March.

Please send your games to Iain Mackintosh at president@scottishcca.co.uk – multiple entries are allowed – to reach him by end-January 2023.

Fernschach 2023 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 1,835,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 115,000 new games since 2022
- Over 10,000 annotated (280 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 €14.00 (shipping within Germany) and €16 (shipping elsewhere). Email version €12.

For further details, contact Herbert at:

Herbert Bellmann
Auf dem Brink 11
46399 Bocholt
Germany

Bank details: Transfer the purchase amount to:
Bocholt Municipal Savings Bank (Stadtsparkasse Bocholt)
IBAN DE 33428500350100118801
BIC SWIFT WELADED1BOH
Purpose: FS CD 2023

Your order must provide your complete postal address!

Email: hebel57@gmx.de
<https://www.bdf-fernschachbund.de/news/fernschach-cd-2023-erschienen.html>

ICCF Games Archive Updates



December 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.

New SCCA Treasurer



After many years of exemplary service, Gordon Anderson is handing over the reins to fellow committee member Ian Whittaker.

At the last SCCA AGM in May 2022, Ian was appointed joint Treasurer with Gordon with the aim of Ian becoming sole Treasurer once all of the financial work related to the ICCF Congress in Glasgow was completed.

That stage has now been reached and with immediate effect Ian is now the SCCA Treasurer and will operate the treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk email account.

Would Scottish players who wish to enter ICCF events through SCCA please note that, if not paying electronically, they should send cheques to Ian, (whose address can be found on the SCCA website and in the magazine) with effect from this month.

Well done Gordon and good luck Ian!

SCCA Membership Renewals



Mickey Blake reminds us all that annual membership of the SCCA is now due.

The 2023 Membership and Tournament Entry forms are available online at <https://www.scottishcca.co.uk/membership.html>

Scottish domestic tournaments start early in 2023, so please include the Tournament Entry form in your membership renewal so that you do not miss the start of the Championship, Premier, Open and League tournaments.

Please remember the Scottish players may play in the League at no cost. You may either put a team of four together or request a place in a team when submitting your membership and tournament entry forms.

In addition, our first International Friendly Match of 2023 (versus Wales) is due to start soon, so please advise Mickey if you'd like to take part.

Life members not entering domestic tournaments, are kindly requested to complete and submit the membership form so that we may ensure your contact details are up to date.

Membership and Tournament entry forms should be forwarded to the membership secretary at membership@scottishcca.co.uk

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>



2023/1 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

The first ICCF grading list of 2023 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 Sep 2022 and 30 Nov 2022. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 Jan and 31 Mar 2023.

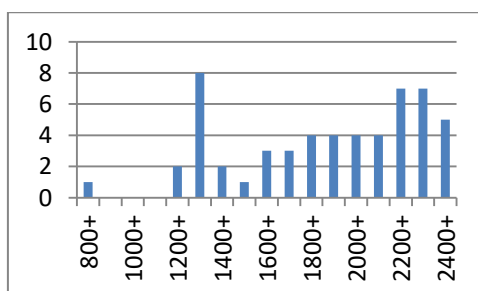
In the norms and titles stakes, Alan Bell got this third IM norm and hence the title playing in the 11th European Team Championship Final. Kevin Paine has obtained his second CCM norm and Graham Morrison and Wilf Taylor have both got their first CCE norms. {Stop Press: Kevin Paine and Wilf Taylor have now been awarded CCM and CCE titles respectively!} Congratulation to them all!

There were 2 new additions and 2 returning players. 7 players have unfixed and hence unpublished ratings for now. Most significant rating moves were Raymond BurrIDGE (+102), Tom Anderson (+57), Carlos Almarza Mato (+42) and Colin Beverdidge (+25).

New games centurions were David Cumming (2100+), Ian Snedon (600), Geoffrey Lloyd (1100+) and Robert Gilbert (300+), Highest recorded games this quarter were Martin Hardwick (61), Carlos Almarza Mato (43), Frey Rafferty (42), David Cumming (41), Iain Sneddon and Raymond BurrIDGE (37), Charles O'Neill-McAleenan (30) Alan Buchan and John Dunn (23), Colin Beveridge (22), and Murdo MacDonald (21).

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)	2346	2067 ↑	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	829	2407 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	381	2378 ↑	216	MacMillen, A N	1479	1648 ↓
	Anderson, T R	38	1777 ↑		Major, B	90	1214 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	521	1367 ↓	566	Marshall, I H	897	2026 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	523	2477 ↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	294	2458 ↔
599	Bell, A D (IM)	282	2429 ↔		Maxwell, A	60	2154 ↓
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	511	2378 ↔		Miles, A	96	1373 ↓
481	Beveridge, C (CCM)	748	2254 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S (CCE)	364	2299 ↑
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	926	2384 ↓		Morrison, G J	47	2310 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105	2197 ↔		Moss, R	47	1778 ↔
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	335	2372 ↑	474	Murden, C (IM)	669	2457 ↔
602	BurrIDGE, R J	1881	1999 ↑	564	Murray, J S	102	2038 ↓
	Carswell, D	35	1559 ↓	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	240	1621 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	121	1907 ↓	604	Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	244	2359 ↑
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2130	2253 ↓		Pettigrew, S	182	1340 ↓
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	174	2203 ↔	432	Price, D	509	1924 ↓
478	Dunn, J	497	1462 ↓		Rafferty, F	42	1343
371	Edney, D	336	1864 ↓		Rafferty, K	68	1396 ↔
462	Gilbert, R	307	1702 ↓		Ross, Derek I	57	1808 ↓
399	Grant, J	79	1629 ↔	477	Sedstrom, A	119	1348 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	1871	827 ↓	439	Smith, M J	120	2179 ↔
475	Kearns, A	115	1380 ↔	057	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	600	2370 ↓
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	358	2248 ↔		Taylor, A	36	1908 ↓
260	Knox, A	424	1269 ↓		Taylor, R	77	1440 ↓
	Lima, Joao	30	2039	605	Taylor, W (CCE)	176	2126 ↑
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1115	2278 ↑	480	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	263	2268 ↑
	MacDonald, M	77	1324 ↓		Wicht, D	80	1892 ↓
584	MacGregor, C A	494	1828 ↓				



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	55
New entrants	2
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	3
Grading increases (↑)	14
Grading decreases (↓)	25
Grading static (↔)	14

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2477	Beveridge, C (CCM)	2254
Matheis, T (IM)	2458	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2253
Murden, C (IM)	2457	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2248
Bell, A D (IM)	2429	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2203
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2407	Borwell, A P (IM)	2197
Blake, M J (CCM)	2384	Smith, M J	2179
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2378	Maxwell, A	2154
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2378	Taylor, W (CCE)	2126
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2372	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2067
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2370	Lima, J	2039
Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	2359	Murray, J S	2038
Morrison, G J	2310	Marshall, I H	2026
Montgomery, R S (CCE)	2299	Burridge, R J	1999
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2278	Price, D	1924
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2268	Taylor, A	1908

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C (CCE)	2346	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1115
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2130	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105
Burridge, R J	1881	Blake, M J (CCM)	926
Hardwick, M E	1871	Marshall, I H	897
MacMillen, A N	1479	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	829

Selected Personal Best Grades 2022/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2378	2366	2022/4	12
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2372	2370	2022/1	2
Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	2359	2358	2020/3	1
Morrison, G J	2310	2307	2022/4	3
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2268	2263	2022/4	5
Taylor, W (CCE)	2126	2114	2022/4	12
Anderson, T R	1777	1720	2022/4	57

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), 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), Whittaker I P (1)

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:

Burridge, R J (2), Morrison, G J (1) 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.



2022 Results

By Iain Mackintosh

Championship

SCO/C2022, Scottish Championship 2022/23

				TD Murden, Clive (IA)														Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7						
1	✉	620775	CCM Buchan, Allan	2370			½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6	0	29	0	1	
2	✉	620426	CCM Cumming, David R.	2283	½	½			½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	5.5	0	27.5	0	2
3	✉	620345	SIM Mackintosh, Iain	2410	½	½	½	½			½	½	½	½	½	½	½	5	0	25.75	2	3	
4	✉	620704	CCM Beveridge, Colin	2237	½	½	½	½	½	½			½	½	½	½	½	5	0	25.75	2	3	
5	✉	211024	Whittaker, Ian R.	2202	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	5	0	25.75	1	5	
6	✉	620529	CCE Montgomery, Robert S.	2287	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	4.5	1	24	4	6	
7	✉	620409	CCM Sneddon, Iain	2358	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	4	1	21.75	5	7	

The 2022-23 event is still unresolved. Defending champion Allan Buchan has drawn all his games and could be overtaken by any of the chasing pack who can achieve these elusive wins. At present, Robert Montgomery and Iain Sneddon are placed 6th and 7th respectively, but both have achieved a full point. It'll be a tight finish...

Premier

SCO/P/2022, SCCA Premier 2022

				TD Paine, Kevin (IA)								Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8						
1	✉	620789	Taylor, Andrew	1915		½	½	1	½	1	1	1	5.5	4	15.75	0	1
2	✉	620635	Burrige, Raymond John	1873	½		½	½	1	1	1	1	5.5	4	15.5	0	2
3	✉	620577	Price, Derek	1881	½	½		1	½	1	0	1	4.5	3	14.25	0	3
4	✉	620591	Ross, Derek I.	1886	0	½	0		1	½	1	1	4	3	9.75	0	4
5	✉	620780	Wicht, Dietmar	1851	½	0	½	0		½	1	1	3.5	2	8.5	0	5
6	✉	620393	MacGregor, Colin A.	1830	0	0	0	½	½		1	1	3	2	5.75	0	6
7	✉	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1668	0	0	1	0	0	0		1	2	2	4.5	0	7
8	✉	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1543	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	8

Congratulations to Andrew Taylor and Raymond Burrige who finished joint top with 5½ points, scoring 4 wins each (we don't use the SB tie-breaking system in our domestic events). The table shows a refreshing bias towards attacking play – only 8 draws recorded in total!

Open

SCO/O/2022/A, SCCA Open 2022 A

				TD Paine, Kevin (IA)													
Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
1	✉	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1668			1 ^E	½	1	0	1	1	4.5	4	9.75	0	1
2	✉	620713	Gilbert, Robert	1717	½	0 ^E			1	1	1	1	4.5	4	8.25	0	2
3	✉	620628	Dunn, John	1531	1	0	0	0			1	1	3	3	4.5	0	3
4	✉	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1543	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	4

SCO/O/2022/B, SCCA Open 2022 B

				TD Paine, Kevin (IA)													
Rated				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place	
1	✉	620454	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1668			1	1	1	1	1	6	6	12	0	1	
2	✉	620603	Armstrong, John M.	1543	0	0			1	1	1	½	3.5	3	4.75	0	2
3	✉	620778	Major, Benjamin	1204	0	0	0	0			1	1	2	2	1	0	3
4	✉	620648	Hardwick, Martin E.	1050	0	0	½	0	0	0			0.5	0	1.75	0	4

Two sections again this year, with Andrew MacMillen and Robert Gilbert tying for first place in section A, and Andrew winning section B with a perfect score –our 100% Club page will need to be updated!

Challengers

2021-22 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Armstrong, J M	14	14	0	7½
Gilbert, R	14	14	0	10½
Hardwick, M E	8	8	0	0
Major, B	8	8	0	0
Whittaker, I P	4	8	0	4

2022-23 Cycle	Games	Complete	Ongoing	Points
Anderson, T R	8	8	0	7½
Armstrong, J M	10	10	0	2
Beveridge, C	4	4	8	2
Dunn, J	10	10	0	4
Gilbert, R	12	12	0	6½
Hardwick, M E	6	6	0	0
Magregor, C	2	2	0	0
Whittaker, I P	8	8	0	7
Wicht, D	8	8	0	4

Players have to complete a minimum of 8 games against 3 or more different players to qualify for a medal, but there is no maximum number of games. Points scored is the only criterion used to determine placings.

Leagues

Once again, three webserver leagues last year, with 17 teams entering..

Webserver League Division 1

SCO/L1/2022, SCCA League Div 1 2022

		TD Murden, Clive (IA)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	SchemingMind B	2366	█	2	2	2.5	3	11.5	57	3	7	20	0	1	Lockwood, Austin
2	SchemingMind A	2400	2	█	1.5	2	3	11.5	57	3	6	20	0	2	Rivas Maceda, Juan
3	Social A	2339	2	2.5	█	2	2.5	2	11	61	4	18	2	3	Rosser, Geoffrey C.
4	White Rose A	2225	2	2	2	█	2	2	10	52	1	19	1	4	Sutton, Alan B.
5	Knights of the Board A	2120	1.5	1	1.5	2	█	3	9	44	-2	20	0	5	Sneddon, Iain
6	Civil Service A	2146	1	1	0	1	1	█	4	23	-9	17	3	6	Pomeroy, Ray J.

Webserver League Division 2

SCO/L2/2022, SCCA League Div 2 2022

		TD Murden, Clive (IA)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	SchemingMind C	2337	█	2.5	3	3.5	4	3.5	16.5	82	13	20	0	1	Lockwood, Austin
2	Brutal Realism	2059	1.5	█	2	2.5	3.5	3.5	13	68	7	19	1	2	Sneddon, Iain
3	White Rose C	1884	1	1	█	2.5	3.5	3	11	57	3	19	1	3	Beckett, Phillip J.
4	White Rose B	1984	0.5	1.5	1.5	█	3	3	9.5	47	-1	20	0	4	Ackley, Peter J. E.
5	Civil Service B	1812	0	0.5	0.5	1	█	2.5	4.5	23	-10	19	1	5	Ryan, Robert
6	Social B	1895	0.5	0.5	1	1	0.5	█	3.5	18	-12	19	1	6	Rosser, Geoffrey C.

Webserver League Division 3

SCO/L3/2022, SCCA League Div 3 2022

		TD Murden, Clive (IA)													
		1	2	3	4	5	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain	
1	SchemingMind D	2119	█	4	4	4	4	16	100	16	8	16	0	1	Beckett, Phillip J.
2	Social C	1578	0	█	1.5	3	3	7.5	46	-1	4	16	0	2	Rosser, Geoffrey C.
3	White Rose D	1342	0	2.5	█	1.5	2.5	6.5	40	-3	4	16	0	3	Ward, Bill
4	Civil Service C	1463	0	1	2.5	█	2	5.5	34	-5	3	16	0	4	Ryan, Robert
5	Knights of the Board B	1363	0	1	1.5	2	█	4.5	28	-7	1	16	0	5	Sneddon, Iain

Divisions 1 and 2 are still in progress with final places expected in January.
Division 3 has been won by Scheming Mind with a 100% score – congratulations!



Is there a future for Correspondence Chess? Part B: the strange case of the VCCC

By Peter Bennett

In this second article of a four-part series of articles on the future of CC, I take as my subject what I have called the “strange case” of the Victorian Correspondence Chess Club, with which I was personally associated in the period, roughly from 2005 to 2010.

The VCCC is a pseudonym, as was the BPCA, mentioned in my first article. The reason I adopt these pseudonyms is simply to depersonalise any criticisms I might make of such organisations. The purpose of writing these articles is to get at the underlying issues, not to score political points against individuals. After all, chess administrators give a great deal of their time for little or no reward; so the fact that they occasionally make mistakes should be seen as a matter of collective responsibility, not a basis for blaming individuals.

The VCCC was Victorian in name and by nature, with its values firmly located in the middle of the nineteenth century. I only discovered this after I joined them. Six of its seven Committee members could be classified as either Moralists or Ostriches, or both, in relation to the formulation I set out in the first of these articles: chess engines were as much a source of evil to chess, as alcohol was to the temperance movement.

Even so, the club and its tournaments were conscientiously run although, as in any chess organisation, the Committee were always on the lookout for members who were willing to contribute to the running of the club or its magazine.

At first, my own contribution was just to write regular articles for the magazine and, since some of these articles contained annotated games – and hence showed that I could do this – I was recruited to take on the then vacant position as Games Editor.

In that role, and on the pages of the magazine, I implored the wider membership to submit their annotated games for possible publication; but I failed miserably in my attempt to explain the difference between a Games Editor and a games annotator. So all they ever sent me was the raw scores of games they had played, without any indication as to why they felt them worthy of publication; and when I played them through, I generally found that they weren't.

Chris Smith: Our Club Champion

So I decided to fill my allocated Games Pages in one edition of the magazine with a profile of the VCCC's most recent Club Champion, Chris Smith – a pseudonym, again – by annotating two of his impressive wins from the championship itself. One advantage, apart from the quality of the games, was that Chris and his two opponents were all using engines; so the games I had chosen were at least being played on level terms, even though they constituted a technical breach of the club's notionally blanket ban on engine use in all competitions.

As the Duke of Wellington once said: publish and be damned! Well, he was right. I published a very flattering portrait of Chris Smith's chess games – with the Magazine Editor's full support, I have to say – and I was duly damned!

This wretched man Smith might think of himself as Club Champion, but he had only got there by cheating! And now I, as Games Editor, was praising him for his sins. This was the gist of the contents of my mailbag.

Then I got an extraordinary letter from Smith himself (I should add that Smith died some years ago) in which he thanked me for the tone of my article but added that he would rather I had never written it, on account of all the “total bigots” in the club.

So I wrote back and asked him to explain what he meant.

His second letter was full of vitriolic invective against several members of the VCCC Committee whom he accused of, inter alia, gross hypocrisy. This left me with no alternative but to do two things: firstly, politely to decline to continue this correspondence with Chris Smith; and, secondly, to rip the letter up and throw it away. Telling anyone else about it – apart from now, years later and anonymously – would have caused an absolute furore.

And one of the problems was that Chris Smith's letter – shorn of his unflattering adjectives – was, in some respects, actually technically correct.

Let me explain what I mean. As Games Editor as well as (by this time) Gratings Officer, Tournament Organiser and Tournament Director (for webserver games) in the VCCC, I saw more raw scores of games played within the club than anyone else; so I had a much more dispassionate understanding of the extent of engine use in VCCC events.

Whereas in the BCCA at that time (see my previous article) I believed 60% of members to be using engines, the VCCC genuinely had more members who were against engine use, such that my estimate was that only 40% of VCCC members were now routinely using engines.

The “Ostriches” on the VCCC Committee remained in denial about this, however. They were still under the illusion that 95% of their membership were respecting the ban and that it was only a “tiny minority” of blackguards, like Chris Smith, who were spoiling the party for the majority of decent, law-abiding players. This kind of specious argument is, of course, used in many contexts to justify reactionary political positions.

A Practical Solution

Faced with this kind of dissension and strength of feeling, I tend to take a pragmatic view; and, in this context, I

managed to work out what I believed to be a potential solution for the VCCC, as it tried to swim against the tide of ever-wider engine use.

So I rang the only member of the VCCC Committee – Jim Verth, another pseudonym – who I believed might be responsive to my ideas. Having agreed that our conversation was mutually confidential, I was surprised when he said: tell me honestly, Peter, what proportion of VCCC members do you think are already using engines?

So I said: 40% – which, of course, is far fewer than in most other clubs, but far more than most Committee members believed.

To my great surprise, Jim admitted immediately that the figure I had given him was probably fairly accurate. So he went on to ask: if you are right, Peter, how can there possibly be any solution to this problem, given that attitudes seem so deeply divided?

So I explained that the basis of my solution was that the club had many different tournaments and events; and the extent of engine use varied dramatically across that range. So, for example, among “ladder” players there might well be less than 20% engine use; in the club championship it was more like 80%.

Jim said: supposing you are right, what is the next part of your plan?

The plan, I further explained, was formally to designate which of the clubs events permitted engine use and which didn't. For players who wished to avoid engine use, there would be a good range of events, such as the ladder, in which engine use was banned; and for those who preferred engine use, there would also be a range of available events.

Jim then asked how this would work in practice. So I suggested that the only policing that would now be required would be to steer engine users gently away from those tournaments where their style of play was not appropriate. I

was even willing to take on the “policeman” role provided that I was allowed to do this in an advisory capacity. I wasn't willing to start using punitive sanctions to maintain the new structure as I believed that a co-operative approach was the only way forward.

Finally, Jim asked me a question I wasn't expecting: without naming names, did I have a view on how many Committee members were already using engines in their own games?

Yes, I did. In my estimation, four of the seven Committee members were now using engines; and three weren't. Again, to my surprise, Jim said: yes, you're probably right!

Jim also took this to mean that we had a chance of winning the vote; so he kindly agreed to put my idea to the Committee.

The Committee duly debated my proposal at length, thanked me for it, but finally decided against it by a majority of five votes to two; and they further agreed to retain the blanket ban on engine use.

So Chris Smith's accusation of hypocrisy had some numbers to back it up!

And I finally decided that the time had come to leave the strange world of the VCCC and seek solace in those organisations in which more realism prevailed, such as the one for which I am currently writing and of which, of course, I had become a founder life member back in the 1970s!

Next Time...

The third article in this series will address the practical basis on which, even at this stage, engines might still be effectively banned in at least some CC tournaments, in the light of what has happened with the broader question of rule enforcement in other sports.

Autumn Chess Competition Solution



The diagrammed position (in Issue 159) after Black's 13th move was as above. The next sequence of moves, also given in Issue 159, was:

14.e4? dxe4
15.Nxe4 Rxe4
16.Rxe4



What should have happened next? The key move only was required, which was:

16.... Nc5!

There were many possible continuations from this position. White did not find the best one; but the position is lost, anyway.

For the record, the game continued:

17.dxc5 Bxh2+
18.Kxh2 Qxd3
19.Rd4 Qf1
20.Kg3 Re8
21.b4 Re2

and White resigned.

0-1

No correct solutions were received by the closing date, so the prize was unclaimed.

Winter Chess Competition

This issue's problem position is again taken from a real and recent game. Like previous problem positions in this series, it is not too difficult; and has been chosen so that the solution can be found by simply studying the diagram, as in a newspaper chess problem. The use of a chess engine should not be necessary.

The game was a fast game of online skittles, completed in just a few days. The game score is given solely to show how the position arose in

practical play. The game itself is not worthy of study.

White: Iceman 20
Black: Peter Bennett
 Website: Frozen Rooks

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1.e4
 2.Nf3
 3.Bc4
 4.d3
 5.Be3
 6.fxe3
 7.h3
 8.Nbd2
 9.g4
 10.Nxc4
 11.Ncd2
 12.exd5
 13.Qe2
 14.g5</p> | <p>e5
 Nc6
 Nf6
 Bc5
 Bxe3
 d6
 Na5
 0-0
 Nxc4
 Be6
 d5
 Nxd5
 Qe7
 Rad8</p> |
|--|--|



Here White, playing quickly, chose the natural-looking move:

15.0-0?

This, however, allows Black to win material. With what key move?

Initial solution on page 14

Final solution on page 24.



Chess Art Supplement

By Iain Mackintosh

Our main feature looks at Lewis Carroll's *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. The cartoonist Ralph Steadman illustrated the book in the early 1970's. He embraced the chess board throughout the black and white illustrations creating a dramatic and stark world for Alice to work her way through. It became an instant classic.

Transposing modern stereotypes into Carroll's fantastical world, Tweedledee and Tweedledum become nonsensical bankers and the White Knight has the face of Lewis Carroll himself. Here are a couple of examples:



<https://www.ralphsteadman.com/collection/alice-through-the-looking-glass/>



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023



By Awani Kumar

The author wishes a Merry Christmas and Happy New year 2023 to the readers of *SCCA Magazine* and let us celebrate them with some interesting tours of the knight on a 10x16 (= 160) board which relates to this edition. Readers are well aware of the millennium old Knight's Tour puzzle. Figure 1 is a magic tour of knight on a 10x16 board. All the consecutive numbers from 1 to 160 are at knight's move and the sum of all its rows is 805 and that of the columns is 1288. Readers are urged to look for a closed tour. Now let us come to 'figured tours' which are mathematical art on chessboard. Figure 2 and Figure 3 are 'figured tours' with the square numbers $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, \dots, 12^2$, namely, 1, 4, 9, ..., 144 arranged in Christmas tree shape and diamond shape respectively. Figure 4 has consecutive square numbers in square formation.

Figure 1

1	158	79	84	5	156	75	86	7	154	805
80	83	2	157	76	85	6	155	74	87	805
159	78	81	4	151	10	89	72	153	8	805
82	3	160	77	90	71	152	9	88	73	805
143	18	91	70	11	150	65	96	13	148	805
92	69	144	17	66	95	12	149	64	97	805
19	142	67	94	145	16	99	62	147	14	805
68	93	20	141	100	61	146	15	98	63	805
139	22	107	54	135	26	101	60	133	28	805
108	53	140	21	106	55	134	27	102	59	805
23	138	51	110	25	136	57	104	29	132	805
52	109	24	137	56	105	30	131	58	103	805
117	50	115	44	111	46	127	38	123	34	805
114	43	118	47	126	31	124	35	130	37	805
49	116	41	112	45	120	39	128	33	122	805
42	113	48	119	40	125	32	121	36	129	805
1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288

Figure 2

19	6	13	30	21	58	41	54	45	56
12	29	20	59	14	31	22	57	42	53
7	18	5	32	1	40	15	44	55	46
28	11	2	17	60	23	86	39	52	43
103	8	27	6	33	16	61	24	47	38
10	3	102	105	26	87	66	85	68	51
101	104	9	34	65	62	25	48	37	84
122	145	118	63	106	35	88	67	50	69
119	100	121	144	117	64	40	36	83	90
160	123	146	125	142	107	82	89	70	109
99	120	143	132	81	116	141	108	91	114
134	159	124	147	126	139	80	115	110	71
151	98	133	138	131	148	127	140	113	92
158	135	152	149	154	79	130	111	72	75
97	150	137	156	95	128	77	74	93	112
136	157	96	153	78	155	94	129	76	73

Figure 3

109	6	113	158	147	106	115	136	149	104
112	157	110	107	114	159	148	105	116	137
7	108	5	154	1	146	135	138	103	150
156	111	2	145	142	153	160	151	134	117
13	8	155	4	125	144	141	118	139	102
10	3	12	143	122	129	152	133	98	119
17	14	9	124	93	126	121	140	101	132
22	11	18	15	128	123	130	97	120	99
19	16	21	92	87	94	127	100	131	96
26	23	28	73	76	85	88	95	80	83
29	20	25	86	91	74	81	84	89	62
24	27	40	75	72	77	90	63	82	79
41	30	43	35	69	66	71	78	61	52
44	39	68	33	66	35	48	53	58	55
31	42	37	46	45	70	65	56	51	60
38	45	32	67	34	47	50	59	54	57

Figure 4

75	158	147	112	77	160	135	96	93	90
146	111	76	159	148	113	78	91	136	95
157	74	145	140	115	134	97	94	89	92
110	143	156	149	132	139	114	79	98	137
73	2	141	144	155	116	133	138	101	88
142	109	150	131	118	121	154	103	80	99
3	72	1	120	153	126	117	100	87	102
108	151	130	125	122	119	104	65	84	61
71	4	107	152	127	66	123	82	31	86
6	17	8	129	124	105	48	85	64	83
5	70	5	106	67	128	63	32	51	30
18	7	10	69	62	47	52	43	58	33
15	10	61	46	25	68	59	34	29	50
22	19	12	43	60	53	30	55	40	57
11	14	21	24	45	26	41	38	35	28
20	23	44	13	42	37	54	27	56	39

Figure 5

155	152	157	134	131	150	123	70	75	72
158	133	154	151	124	135	130	73	78	69
153	156	141	132	129	122	149	76	71	74
142	159	120	139	136	125	92	79	68	77
119	140	145	128	121	148	137	126	91	80
160	143	118	147	138	127	100	93	98	67
115	146	61	144	117	94	63	96	61	90
60	107	116	113	62	101	82	99	66	97
5	114	1	108	83	112	95	65	89	30
106	59	6	111	102	109	88	31	48	65
7	4	57	2	87	84	45	52	29	46
58	105	8	55	110	103	86	47	32	51
9	56	3	104	85	36	53	50	45	28
18	21	15	13	54	39	24	35	42	33
15	10	19	22	25	12	37	40	27	44
20	17	14	11	38	23	26	43	34	41

Figure 5 and Figure 6 show oblong and triangular formation respectively. Figure 7 shows the square numbers in knight path in a compact formation. Figure 8 depicts holy cross formation.

Figure 6

73	70	75	66	105	94	91	40	45	42
76	67	72	95	92	65	104	43	90	39
71	74	69	78	103	106	93	46	41	44
68	77	102	111	96	79	64	107	38	89
115	112	117	160	63	110	97	80	47	50
140	159	114	101	98	81	108	49	88	37
113	116	141	118	109	62	99	58	51	48
158	139	156	151	100	85	82	87	36	27
155	142	119	84	61	152	59	26	57	52
138	157	154	124	150	83	86	35	28	75
143	120	123	126	153	60	29	16	53	56
124	137	144	149	122	9	34	55	24	11
133	148	125	4	127	30	17	10	15	54
136	1	134	145	130	33	8	21	12	23
147	132	3	128	5	18	31	14	7	20
2	135	146	131	32	129	6	19	22	13

Figure 7

55	130	127	12	57	44	125	42	59	112
128	13	56	45	126	11	58	111	116	41
131	54	129	106	109	124	43	118	113	60
14	107	46	123	10	119	110	115	40	117
53	132	105	108	47	122	63	8	61	114
104	15	48	1	64	9	120	35	66	39
133	52	103	16	131	36	65	62	7	34
102	17	2	45	4	81	6	143	38	67
51	134	79	100	27	144	37	160	33	142
18	101	50	3	80	5	82	141	68	159
135	78	99	24	137	26	145	158	83	32
98	19	136	91	156	153	138	151	140	69
77	92	23	154	27	150	157	146	31	84
20	97	90	93	74	155	152	139	70	147
89	76	95	22	87	28	149	72	85	30
96	21	88	75	94	73	86	29	148	71

Figure 8

29	6	19	2	31	38	51	42	33	40
20	11	30	5	18	43	32	39	52	45
7	28	3	10	1	50	37	44	41	34
12	21	8	83	4	17	56	35	46	53
27	84	25	16	9	36	49	54	57	60
22	13	82	85	64	55	62	59	66	47
89	26	15	24	81	86	65	48	61	58
14	23	90	87	100	63	106	79	148	67
91	88	99	104	121	80	147	150	107	78
142	103	156	101	144	105	120	153	68	149
157	92	143	98	155	122	151	146	77	108
136	141	102	129	124	145	154	119	152	69
93	158	135	140	97	118	123	114	109	76
134	137	128	117	130	125	112	75	70	73
159	94	139	132	127	96	115	72	113	110
138	133	160	95	116	131	126	111	74	71

Figure 9 and Figure 10 are monogram tours with square numbers delineating numbers '2' and '3' respectively. These are the numerals in the year 2023.

Figure 9

29	6	55	40	19	14	111	42	21	12
56	39	30	5	2	41	20	13	112	43
31	28	7	54	15	18	3	110	11	22
38	57	52	1	4	109	10	17	44	113
27	32	37	8	53	16	103	108	23	106
58	35	26	51	48	9	24	105	114	45
33	50	65	36	35	104	47	102	107	118
62	59	34	40	122	101	120	117	46	115
79	66	61	64	147	138	123	158	119	160
60	63	78	8	100	131	144	137	116	157
67	80	87	146	143	148	139	124	159	136
86	77	82	99	140	145	142	135	156	153
83	68	85	88	133	98	149	154	125	92
74	71	76	97	130	141	134	93	152	155
69	84	73	132	89	128	95	150	91	126
72	75	70	129	96	131	90	127	94	151

Figure 10

29	6	69	40	19	14	55	42	21	12
70	39	30	5	2	41	20	13	54	43
31	28	7	68	15	18	3	56	11	22
38	71	66	1	4	59	10	17	44	53
27	32	37	8	67	16	57	60	23	62
72	35	26	65	58	9	24	63	52	45
33	118	83	36	35	61	47	50	61	102
84	73	34	117	82	49	104	101	46	51
119	116	143	156	153	100	145	48	103	106
74	85	152	121	141	81	154	105	98	125
115	120	157	142	155	146	99	124	107	134
86	75	148	151	122	159	80	133	126	97
149	114	141	158	147	132	123	160	135	108
76	87	150	131	138	79	136	127	96	93
113	140	89	78	111	130	91	94	109	128
88	77	112	139	90	137	110	129	92	95

The author has given a few examples and readers may like to create more pieces of art on 10x16 board.



15....

Nc3!

After, for example, 16.Qh2, to save the Q, Black wins the exchange on d1.

But white did not play this move. Instead he fell into a further trap, by playing:

16.bxc3??

Black now has a mate in 5. Can you spot it?

Second solution on page 24.



Alice Through the Looking Glass

Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There (also known as Alice Through the Looking-Glass) is a novel published in 1871 by Lewis Carroll and the sequel to Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865), based on the game of chess.

Alice again enters a fantastical world, this time by climbing through a mirror into the world that she can see beyond it. There she finds that, just like a reflection, everything is reversed, including logic (for example, running helps one remain stationary, walking away from something brings one towards it, chessmen are alive, nursery rhyme characters exist, and so on).

Through the Looking-Glass includes such verses as "Jabberwocky" and "The Walrus and the Carpenter", and the episode involving Tweedledum and Tweedledee. The mirror above the fireplace that is displayed at Hetton Lawn in Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire (a house that was owned by Alice Liddell's grandparents, and was regularly visited by Alice and Lewis Carroll) resembles the one drawn by John Tenniel and is cited as a possible inspiration for Carroll.

It was the first of the Alice stories to gain widespread popularity, and prompted a newfound appreciation for its predecessor when it was published. (Notes courtesy of Wikipedia)



Lewis Carroll in 1863

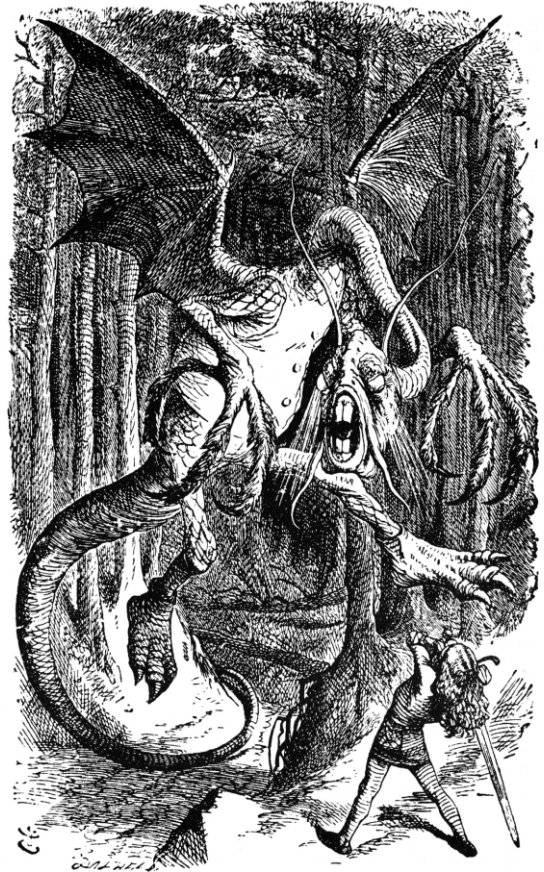


Alice Through the Looking Glass, Toledo Ballet, 2019



Alice Under Ground by Stefano Bessoni (2015), Italy

Full collection at: <https://www.frizzifrizzi.it/2015/10/02/alice-sotto-terra-taccuino-illustrato-di-un-viaggio-misterioso/>



- A. The Red King sleeping.
- B. Tweedledum and Tweedledee
- C. Alice and the Red Queen
- D. The Jabberwock
- E. The Walrus and the Carpenter

Illustrations by John Tenniel, from public domain



Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There by John Vernon Lord, 2011, England



German translation of Alice in Wonderland. Alice im Spiegelland. 1923



11th European Team Championship Final

EU/TC11/final, 11th European Team Championship - Final

TD Klauner, Thed (IA)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1 Scotland	2411	4	4.5	3.5	4	4	4	4	3.5	3	4	4	3	45.5	50	0	9	91	5	1	Anderson, Gordon M.
2 Wales	2409	4	4	4	4	4	3.5	3.5	5	2.5	3.5	4	3	45	51	3	8	87	9	2	Sherwood, Russell
3 Slovakia	2501	3.5	4	4	3.5	4	4	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	45	49	-1	6	91	5	3	Helbich, Ján
4 Austria	2455	3.5	4	4	4	4	4	2.5	3.5	4	4	3.5	3.5	44.5	50	0	7	89	7	4	Hofer, Rudolf
5 Switzerland	2500	4	4	4.5	4	3.5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	44	50	1	8	87	9	5	Rüfenacht, Matthias
6 Lithuania	2493	4	4	4	4	3.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	3	3	4	41.5	50	0	5	83	13	6	Chocenska, Dmitrijus
7 Poland	2472	4	3.5	4	4	4	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	41	50	0	4	82	14	7	Pierzak, Rafael
8 Ukraine	2443	4	3.5	3.5	2.5	4	3.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	39	50	1	2	77	19	8	Yeremenko, Andrei
9 Bulgaria	2440	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	3.5	2.5	3	3.5	2	3	38.5	48	-3	1	80	16	9	Vinchev, Simeon
10 Germany	2491	4	2.5	3.5	4	3	2.5	3.5	3.5	3	3	3	2.5	38	50	0	2	76	20	10	Staroske, Uwe
11 Latvia	2413	4	3.5	3.5	4	3	3	3.5	2.5	3.5	3	3	1.5	38	48	-2	2	78	18	11	Klimakovs, Sergejs
12 Slovenia	2510	4	3	3.5	3.5	3	3	2.5	2.5	2	4	3	3	37	50	1	2	73	23	12	Korže, Danilo
13 Italy	2487	3	3	3.5	3.5	3	4	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	2	35	50	0	1	70	26	13	Cesetti, Claudio

This makes for pleasant reading even though we've finished more games than most other teams. Our team of Richard Beecham, Tom Matheis, Clive Murden, Iain Mackintosh, Alan Bell, Iain Sneddon, Kevin Paine and Gordon Anderson is scoring 50% overall, with 1 win, 1 loss and the rest drawn.

Nol van't Riet Team Tournament Semi-Final

MT-Riet/SF1, Nol van't Riet Team Tournament SF 1

TD Quanzaah, Emmanuel (IA)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1 Ukraine 2	2178	3.5	3.5	3.5	3	4	4	21.5	59	7	11	36	0	1	Koshmak, Iurii
2 Scotland	2223	2.5	3	2.5	4	3	4	19	52	2	6	36	0	2	Anderson, Gordon M.
3 Germany 1	2245	2.5	3	3	3.5	3	3.5	18.5	52	2	7	35	1	3	Green, Michael
4 Italia Azzurra	2267	2.5	3.5	3	2.5	3	4	18.5	51	1	6	36	0	4	Ottolini, Graziano
5 Romania	2196	3	2	1.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	17	48	-1	7	35	1	5	Greco, Nicola
6 Australia	2111	2	3	3	3	2.5	3.5	17	47	-2	5	36	0	6	Gray, Garvin
7 England 2	2153	2	2	2.5	2	2.5	2.5	13.5	37	-9	0	36	0	7	Beckett, Phillip J.

Our team of Allan Buchan, Robert Montgomery, David Cumming, David Kilgour, Ian Whittaker, and Wilf Taylor sits in 2nd place with all games completed. If Germany wins their remaining game, they'll pip us for 2nd but the worst we can do is finish 3rd. Congratulations to our team, all ranked <2300 (like their opponents!).

North Sea Team Tournament V

North-Sea/TT5, North Sea Team Tournament V

TD Sherwood, Russell (IA)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1 Germany I 2173		3.5	3.5	3	4	3.5	2.5	4	3	27	57	7	12	47	1	1	Hering, Hartmut
2 Sweden 2161	2.5		2	3.5	3	3.5	2.5	4	3.5	24.5	52	2	9	47	1	2	Larsson, Mats
3 England 2228	2.5	4		3	2.5	3	3	3	3.5	24.5	51	1	8	48	0	3	Beckett, Phillip J.
4 Belgium 2177	3	2.5	3		3	3	2.5	3	3.5	23.5	50	0	7	47	1	4	Dondelinger, Jean-Pierre
5 Norway 2157	2	3	3.5	3		2.5	2	3	4	23	50	0	7	46	2	5	Løvås, Roger
6 Netherlands 2182	2.5	2.5	3	3	2.5		2	3.5	3.5	22.5	48	-1	6	46	2	6	Doorn, Jos P. M. van
7 Germany II 2188	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	3	3		3.5	2.5	22.5	52	2	5	43	5	7	Scheiba, Manfred
8 Scotland 2193	2	2	3	3	3	2.5	2.5		4	22	45	-4	5	48	0	8	Anderson, Gordon M.
9 Denmark 2160	3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2.5	3.5	2		20.5	42	-7	3	48	0	9	Kjeldsen, Karsten

Our team of Clive Murden, Allan Buchan, David Cumming, Ian Whittaker, Raymond Burrige and David Edney has completed all their games and will finish in 8th position despite some good individual performances.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Aug 2022	31	Philippines	Server	4½	27½		loss
Jul 2022	10	New Zealand	Server	6	4		
Jul 2022	17	Canada	Server	14½	13½		
Apr 2022	47	Germany	Server	30½	53½		loss

Mixed fortunes in the last year. We've lost heavily to Germany and ICCF newcomers the Philippines. However, we currently hold narrow leads over New Zealand and Canada.

Max Zavanelli Memorial Section B

MT-Zavanelli B, Max Zavanelli Memorial - Lithuania B

TD Anderson, Gordon M. (IA)

Category 7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	GM	SIM	IM	CCM	CCE	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1 620184 SIM Beecham, C. Richard 2476		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	9½					8.5	3	57.25	0	1
2 920371 IM Samendokas, Alfredas 2455	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	9½	8½				8.5	3	57	0	2
3 910321 IM Klimakovs, Sergejs 2446	½	½		½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	9½	8½				8.5	3	57	0	2
4 212704 SIM Rallabandi, Praveen Kumar 2459	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	9½					8	2	54	0	4
5 920401 IM Korabliov, Aleksandr 2477	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	9½	8½				8	2	54	0	4
6 511155 IM Ingersol, Harry 2490	½	½	0	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	9½	8½				7	1	47.5	0	6
7 920383 IM Vekelis, Gintaras 2349	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	9½	8½				7	0	49	0	7
8 690023 SIM Salcedo Mederos, Pablo 2380	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	9½					7	0	49	0	7
9 910274 IM Mende, Ingus 2433	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	9½	8½				7	0	49	0	7
10 920078 CCM Voveris, Gediminas 2415	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		1	½	½	½	½	9½	8½	7½			6.5	1	44	0	10
11 920048 GM Dambrauskas, Virginijus 2457	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0		½	½	½	½	9½					6.5	0	46	0	11
12 929021 IM Kurylo, Rišard 2344	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	9½	8½				6	0	41.25	0	12
13 920126 Mužas, Kestutis 2217	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	9½	8½	7½	5½	5	6	0	41.25	0	12
14 920418 CCM Voveris, Saulius 2405	0	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	9½	8½	7½			5.5	0	37.75	0	14
15 929018 IM Rauduvė, Algirdas 2371	½	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		9½	8½				5	0	33.5	0	15

Big congratulations to Richard Beecham who scored three wins and pipped 2nd and 3rd places on the Sonneborn-Berger tie-break.



Chess players across the world dip in and dip out of chess material wherever it can be found.

One only has to look nowadays and it is almost possible to build up your chess repertoire from videos on YouTube without having to do much else.

Sometimes we receive correspondence from afar and it is good to know that the SCCA Magazine is read across the globe.

A while ago we received some letters from Pasquale Colucci in Italy. Pasquale had been reading our magazine and had decided to send us a couple of his games.

Pasquale has a current FIDE rating of 1970, a Rapid grade of 1908 although he was a much stronger player around 10 years ago.

So, without further ado, we present two of his games here. Both of the games are fascinating. Pasquale has annotated both of the games and his notes are very instructive. Enjoy.

White: Colucci, Pasquale (2233)
Black: Moskalenko, Eduard (2241)
 5FEDAPVEN/CS/C2 (VEN) 2018
 Sicilian Scheveningen, Keres Attack [B81]

[Notes by Pasquale Colucci]

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 1.e4 | c5 |
| 2.Nf3 | d6 |
| 3.d4 | cxd4 |
| 4.Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5.Nc3 | a6 |
| 6.h3 | e6 |
| 7.g4 | Be7 |
| 8.g5 | Nfd7 |
| 9.Be3 | b5 |
| 10.a3 | 0-0 |
| 11.h4 | Bb7 |
| 12.Qd2 | Nc6 |
| 13.0-0-0 | Nxd4 |
| 14.Bxd4 | Bc6 |
| 15.f4 | Qb8 |



16.Kb1
 16.g6 fxg6 (16...b4 17.axb4 Qxb4 18.gxh7+ Kh8 19.Rg1 e5 20.Qg2 Bf6 21.fxe5 Nxe5 22.Nd5 Bxd5 23.exd5 Nd3+ 24.Rxd3 Bxd4 25.c3 Rac8 26.Qc2 Rxc3 27.bxc3 Qa3+ 28.Qb2 Qxb2+ 29.Kxb2 Bxg1= Hamann,H (2306)-Sommerbauer,D (2397) ½-½, EU/C2014/sf-03, ICCF 2014) 17.Bh3 e5 18.h5! gxh5 (It's losing 18...exd4 19.Be6+ Rf7 (19...Kh8 20.hxg6 h6 21.f5) 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.Qh2) 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.Be6+ Kh8 21.Rxh5 exd4 22.Rxh7+ Emelyanov,M (2486)-Neß,H (2486) ½-½, CL/2012/A ICC F2012. A possible following 22...Kxh7 23.Rh1+ Kg6 24.Rg1+ Kh7 25.Rh1+ with a perpetual check.; 16.Bh3 b4 17.axb4 Qxb4 18.Rhe1 a5 19.Nd5 Qxd2+ 20.Rxd2 Bd8 21.Ne3 with a slight positional advantage for White, Glatthaar,M (2405)-Kubicki, T (2443) 1-0, Interzonal TT/8 ICCF 2015; Interesting 16.f5 exf5 (16...b4 17.fxe6 bxc3 18.Qxc3 Bxe4 19.exd7 Bxh1 20.Bd3 with attack for the exchange.) 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5∞

16... Qb7
 16...Re8 17.g6 fxg6 18.h5 gxh5 19.Rxh5 Bf6 20.Bh3 Bxd4 21.Qxd4 Nf6 22.Rg5 with a threatening attack from White, Helbich,J (2504)-Degerhammar,R (2500) 1-0, MT-Zemgalis (LAT) ICCF 2015; 16...a5 17.f5 b4

a) 17...exf5 18.exf5 b4 (18...Bxh1 19.Bxb5) 19.Rh3 with attack.;

b) 17...e5 18.Be3 b4 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5 bxa3 21.Bb5 (21.b3 a2+ 22.Ka1 a4 23.Bc4 axb3 24.cxb3 Nb6 25.Bxb6 Qxb6= Podgursky, A (2472)-Johnson,B (2447) ½-½,

WS/GMN/046 ICCF 2015) 21...Nb6 22.Bxb6 Qxb6 23.bxa3 Rab8 24.a4 advantage, Botev,K (2422)-Volkov,E (2340) 1-0, CupTurgenev/sf3 (RUS) ICCF 2015;
 18.f6 bxc3 19.Bxc3 Bd8 20.fxg7 Re8 21.h5 (To be considered also 21.g6!?) with a possible continuation 21...fxg6 22.h5 g5 23.Bh3 g4 (23...Bxe4?! 24.Rhf1 and White gets the initiative) 24.Rdf1 e5 25.Bxg4 with a strong attack, Burg,T (2589)-Finocchiaro,F (2617), EU/TC9/ final ICCF, 2014) 21...Bxg5 22.Qxg5 Nc5 23.Rh4 Nxe4 24.Qe3 d5 25.h6 Evtushenko,S (2530)-Daubenfeld,N (2533) 1/2-1/2, MT-Latash (RUS) ICCF 2013

17.Rh3 Rab8



17...Rfb8 18.g6 b4 (Overly optimistic 18...fxg6 ; for instance 19.h5 gxh5 20.Rxh5 Nf6 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Bh3 Qf7 23.Qh2! and the Black King is under crossfire.) 19.gxf7+ Kxf7 20.axb4 Qxb4 21.Qc1 a5 22.h5 a4 23.Na2 and Black counterattack breaks and shatters, Lobanov,E (2475)-Jensen,E (2460) 1-0, EU/C2015/ct03 ICCF 2015

18.f5!
 Now it would be dubious 18.g6 fxg6 19.h5 gxh5 20.Rxh5 Nf6 and the Black fortress seems impregnable.

18... b4
 After 18...Bxe4?! 19.Nxe4 Qxe4 20.f6 the Black King would be in a full storm.; A simple transposition could occur after 18...e5 19.Be3 b4

19.axb4 e5
 If 19...Qxb4 20.b3 e5 21.Ba7! Rb7 22.h5!!



Speculating on the double hanging position of queen and Be7 22...Rxa7 23.Nd5 Qxd2 24.Nxe7+ Kh8 25.Rxd2 Bxe4 26.Rxd6 with advantage.

20.Be3 Qxb4

21.b3 Bxe4

22.Bd3 Bxd3

22...Bg2 23.Qxg2 Qxc3 24.Be4 Rb4 25.Bd2; 22...Bc6 23.f6

23.Qxd3 e4

Black gives back a pawn to force the queens exchange, but the resulting endgame is won for White, due to structural weaknesses of a6 and d6 pawns.

24.Nxe4 Ne5

25.Qd4 Qxd4

White is not afraid of 25...Nc4 26.f6 Na3+ 27.Ka2 Nxc2 28.Qxb4 Nxb4+ 29.Kb1 and Black remains empty-handed.

26.Bxd4 f6



27.Bxe5!

"Exchange the best!"

27... dxe5

27...fxe5 28.Rf3

28.Rd7 Rfe8

29.Rhd3

Harmony of the pieces!

29... Kf8



30.h5!

With this elegant breakthrough manoeuvre, White realises the great positional advantage.

30... h6

With idea 30...fxg5 31.h6 gxh6 32.f6

31.gxh6 gxh6

32.c4 Ra8

33.Kb2 Red8

Or 33...Reb8 34.Rg3 with the deadly threat 35.Rg6

34.Rxd8+ Rxd8

Slightly more resistant 34...Bxd8, but after 35.Rd6 Black's fate is settled.

35.Rxd8+ Bxd8

36.Ka3

Didactic demonstration of knight's superiority over a passive bishop.

1-0



White: Vegjeleki, Adolf (2229)

Black: Colucci, Pasquale (2233)

5FEDAPVEN/CS/C2 (VEN),2018

King's Indian Classical [E97]

[Notes by Pasquale Colucci]

1.d4 Nf6

2.c4 g6

3.Nc3 Bg7

4.e4 d6

5.Nf3 0-0

6.Be2 e5

7.0-0 Nc6

The Mar del Plata Variation, so called after the games played in tournaments organized during the 1950s in the well-known city located in central-eastern Argentina.

8.d5 Ne7

9.b4

The Bayonet Attack, currently considered the best performing

continuation for White, immediately beginning an offensive on the Queen side, gaining space and initiative. Other moves, like 9.Nd2, appear less convincing, by allowing Black answers such as 9...a5, preventing the b4 push.

9... Nh5

The main and probably best variation, intending to fight for a counterplay

10.Re1!

This line was practically unknown before 1995; it subsequently received a significant boost from several super-GMs, including Kramnik.

10... f5

By far the most popular option.

11.Ng5 Nf6

12.Bf3

The alternative is the positional 12.f3 which is no less poisonous than the variant of the text, which may be followed by 12...Nh5!? 13.c5 Nf4 14.Bc4 Kh8!?

(14...fxe4 15.Ngxe4 Nf5 16.a4 Nd4 17.Be3?! Nxe2!?)

18.Kxg2 Nxf3 and Black has a strong attack for the material - Vrbica,L

(2348)-Colucci,P (2318) 1/2-1/2,

Foglar Veterans-SIM C 3rd 2007)

15.Rb1! A strong move introduced

by Bareev in the 2003 Wijk aan Zee

Tournament 15...h6?! (Preferable

15...a6) 16.Ne6 Bxe6 (Better

16...Nxe6 keeping the bishop pair)

17.dxe6 fxe4 18.fxe4 and White has

advantage - Benzoni,A (2200)-

Colucci,P (2318) 1-0,

WC31/Semifinal. 8, ICCF 2008

12... h6!?

A minor line played in order to force the re-entry in the variation 12 ... c6, but removing the option 13.Be3 from White.

12...c6 13.Be3! (Interesting but less

pressing 13.Bb2 with the possible

following 13...h6 14.Ne6 Bxe6

15.dxe6 fxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4

17.Rxe4!?

d5 18.Rxe5! Bxe5 19.Bxe5

Qb6 with unclear play - Micic,N

(2376)-Colucci,P (2318) 1/2-1/2,

Champions League/C2 bd04, ICCF

2007) 13...cxd5 14.cxd5 Ne8 15.Rc1

and White overflows to the West

side - Oger,C (2388)-Colucci,P

(2311) 1-0, WS/MN/039, ICCF

2008

13.Ne6 Bxe6

14.dxe6 c6

15.b5 fxe4

16.Bxe4 d5

17.Bc2N



So far it had been played 17.cxd5
 cxd5 18.Ba3 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 dxe4
 20.Qxd8 Rfxd8 21.Bxe7=

17... e4

The best reply: it forms a strong
 pawn chain that limits the action of
 the Bc2, while opening the long
 diagonal for the Bg7

18.Rb1

Less pressing 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.Rb1
 (19.Ba3 Nh5) 19...Qa5 and Black has
 a comfortable position

18... Ne8

It's unrealistic the aggressive
 18...Qa5 19.Bd2 and the queen is
 forced to withdraw

19.Na4

To be evaluated the risky 19.bxc6!?

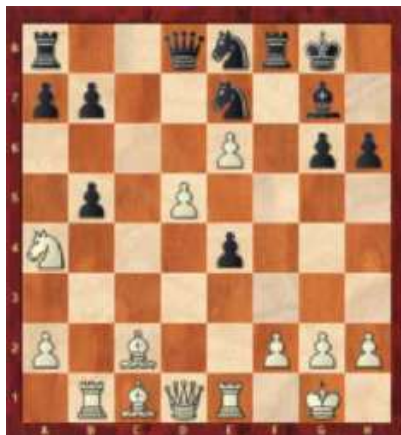


19...Bxc3 (Perhaps more prudent
 19...bxc6, but after 20.Na4 White's
 play dominates the queen side) with
 possible following 20.Re3 Ba5
 (Doesn't withstand 20...d4 21.Rxe4
 bxc6 22.Bxh6) 21.cxb7 Rb8 22.cxd5
 Bb6 23.Bxe4! Bxe3 24.Bxe3 and
 White has a great advantage, thanks
 to the pawn phalanx and the very
 strong bishop pair.

19... cxb5

It's not satisfying 19...Nd6 20.bxc6
 bxc6 21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Nc5 Qc7
 23.Nd7 Rfc8 24.Bb3 Nc4 25.Qg4

20.cxd5



It was also to be considered 20.Rxb5
 Nd6 21.Rxd5! Nxd5 22.Qxd5 Kh7
 23.Ba3 with compensation for the
 exchange

20... Re8!

The threat is notoriously stronger
 than its execution!

20...bxa4 21.Rxb7 Nxd5 22.Bxe4
 Nc3 23.Qxd8 Rxd8 24.e7 Nd6
 25.exd8Q Rxd8 26.Rxg7+ Kxg7
 27.Bd3 Nxa2 28.Bb2+ and the
 formidable bishop pair amply
 compensates for Black's plus-pawn.

21.Rxb5 Nd6

22.Rc5 b5

23.Rxc8 Qxc8

24.Ba3



24... Rf5!!

The tactical resource that keeps
 Black's position afloat.

25.Qe2

Obviously 25.Bxd6 Rxd5

25... Rxd5

26.Bb3 Rd4

27.Bxd6

Or 27.Rc1 Qd8 28.Bxd6 bxa4

29.Bxe7 Qxe7 30.Bc4 Kh7

27... bxa4

28.Bxe7 axb3

29.axb3 Kh7!

The idea is now well known!
 Immediate exchange also seems
 sufficient: 29...Qxe6 30.Bc5 Rd7

31.h4 (31.b4 a5 32.bxa5 Bc3 33.Rb1
 Bxa5) 31...Qxb3 32.Qxe4 Qf7

30.h4 a5

Black has already glimpsed the
 access to the safe harbour of a
 theoretically drawn endgame.

31.Ba3

It doesn't promise nothing but a draw

31.g3 Qxe6 32.Bc5 Rd5 33.Qc4 a4

34.bxa4 Qc6 35.Rc1 Bb2 36.Rc2

Rd1+ 37.Kh2 e3 38.Qf7+ Bg7

39.Qxg7+ Kxg7 40.Bd4+ Rxd4

41.Rxc6 exf2 42.Kg2 Rxa4

31... Qxe6

32.Bb2 Rd7

33.Bxg7 Kxg7

34.Qxe4 Qxe4

35.Rxe4 Rb7

36.Re5 Rxb3



Practically the game ends here, the
 rest is pure rhetoric.

37.Rxa5 Rb1+

38.Kh2 Rb2

39.Kg3 Rb4

40.f3 Rc4

41.Rb5 Ra4

42.Kh3 h5

43.Rb7+ Kg8

44.Rb2

Accepting what is evident.

1/2-1/2



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General Information

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

ICCF organises a huge variety of tournaments for individual and team play; operates a worldwide rating system and awards GM, SIM, IM, CCM and CCE titles to recognise strength and performance. Most play is based now on the ICCF webserver,

ICCF organises a vast range of tournaments on its main world site (www.iccf-webchess.com) SCCA members are eligible to enter all ICCF events, though Scottish nationality is required for national representation. Current tournament fees are shown on the Entry Fees page of the SCCA website.

Winter Chess Competition Solution Part 2



Position after 15.0-0-0 Nc3 16.bxc3

16....	Qa3+!
17.Kb1	Bxa2+
18.Ka1	Bb3+
19.Kb1	Qa2+
20.Kc1	Qxc2#

No whisky prize on offer this time; Peter has opted for some inner warmth to offset his heating bills...

ICCF Thematic Tournaments

To enter, visit ICCF Main Menu/New Events/Thematic

Webserver Events 2023

Theme 1/23: Ruy Lopez, Archangelsk Var., C78

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O b5 6.Bb3 Bb7
Play starts 15 January

Theme 2/23 - Keres Defence, D06

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Bf5 3.c4 c6
Play starts 1 March

Theme 3/23 - Latvian Gambit, C40

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5
Play starts 15 April

Theme 4/23 - Grünfeld Exchange, D85

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5
6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Rb1
Play starts 1 June

ICCF News

- ❑ The 47th Individual World Championship will begin its Preliminary Stage in March 2023. (See our Notices page for details.)
- ❑ The semi-finals of the Direct Entry 15th Webserver Anniversary have now started.
- ❑ The winner of the 7th Webchess Open Tournament is IM Francisco Burgos Garbin of Spain
- ❑ François (Frank) Riva of Luxembourg sadly died on 14th November 2022. He was the National Delegate for Luxembourg from 1996-2006 and represented his country in several Olympiads and European Team Championships.
- ❑ Jon Edwards (USA), the recently crowned ICCF World Champion, is the subject of a New York Times article which you can access at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/09/crosswords/correspondence-chess.html>
- ❑ Cor van Wieringen (Netherlands) died unexpectedly on 19th October 2022. He was a strong IM, a TD, an IA and ND; besides which he edited De Postduif for 20 years and contributed to Schaakshakeringen.

Further details of all ICCF activities and events; entries to events, and orders for ICCF publications may be obtained via Gordon Anderson at: international@scottishcca.co.uk