

# Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

**Magazine No.162**

**Summer 2023**

**ICCF Grading List 2023/3**  
*Alistair analyses the Q2 statistics*

**SCCA AGM 2023**  
*Iain provides the minutes*

**The Hawkes Files**  
*John features Vadim Malakhatko*

**Is there a future for Correspondence Chess?**  
*Peter concludes with part 4 of his thesis*

**A chance to play like Paul Morphy**  
*Tom demonstrates that CC rewards attacking play*

**Knight's Tours**  
*Awani celebrates edition 162*

**Games Column**  
*Alastair features ICCF World Championship 32*



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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 second edition of our 2023 magazine set. We've had most seasons here during June, and the majority have been sunny and enjoyable.

The third ICCF rating list of 2023 is analysed by our grader Alistair Maxwell. This quarter saw Graham Morrison pick up the CCM title, and he now has an SCCA SM norm also.

I've provided some notes from our AGM in May. We changed auditor at the meeting, but unfortunately didn't complete our annual audit before Alan Hind demitted office – holiday clashes being the problem. We'll publish full accounts once new auditor John Fanning is up to speed.

John Hawkes continues his series on Ukrainian players, featuring the late Vadim Malakhatko, whom he befriended while living in Aix en Provence.

Peter Bennett provides the fourth and final part of his series on 'Is there a future for CC?' No sneak previews here, so read on...

Tom Anderson provides an entertaining piece recalling Paul Morphy, lifted from his game in our friendly international match against Wales.

We welcome back Awani Kumar and his box of numbers. This time he celebrates edition 162 with his square-dancing knights.

Alastair Dawson's Games Column analyses 4 games from the recent WC32 World Championship, with some bizarre and eye-catching moves to feast over.

Our Chess Art pages focus on Chess Sets, and there's a rich variety of designs for you to enjoy.

Following our AGM, we welcome incoming committee members David Kilgour (International Secretary) and Graham Morrison (Committee Member). Contact details for them can be found below, and on the Officials page of our website.

Just space for a personal thank-you to Alan Hind and Gordon Anderson (see Notices page) who demitted office at our AGM. Their total service as officials was 60+ years which verges on the heroic! Stalwarts both.

## 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, Ian Whittaker. 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 Ian to sign up for some units (contact details below).

## Recent 100 Club Winners

2023	1st	2nd
June	P J Moir	L R McKenziel
May	I Sneddon	G M Anderson
April	I P Whittaker	I Mackintosh

### SCCA Officials

Role	Name	Address	Contact	Email
President	Iain Mackintosh	11 West Grange Farm, St Andrews KY16 8LJ	+44 (0)1334 470287	<a href="mailto:president@scottishcca.co.uk">president@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
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Treasurer	Ian Whittaker	Inchkeith House, Lauder, Berwickshire TD2 6TE	+44 (0)1578 722 670	<a href="mailto:treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk">treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
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Committee	Graham Morrison	1 Fairhaven Road, Lytham St. Annes FY8 1NN	+44 (0)1253 780090	<a href="mailto:graham.morrison@scottishcca.co.uk">graham.morrison@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
Grader	Alistair Maxwell	34 Loganswell Gardens, Glasgow G46 8HU	+44(0)141 620 2115	<a href="mailto:grader@scottishcca.co.uk">grader@scottishcca.co.uk</a>
Games Editor	Alastair Dawson	10 Berry Place, St Andrews KY16 8RG	+44(0)1334 477236	<a href="mailto:games@scottishcca.co.uk">games@scottishcca.co.uk</a>

NB Secretarial duties will be undertaken by Iain Mackintosh pro tem.



### Executive Committee Retirals



Our AGM in May saw the retirals of Alan Hind and Gordon Anderson, both of whom contributed hugely to the development of the SCCA.

Alan was Secretary from August 1983 to June 1998, and also served as our Auditor from September 2007 to May 2023. Gordon was Treasurer from Summer 2008 to May

2023 and International Secretary from December 2017 to May 2023.

We thank them both for their dedicated service over many years, and wish them both long, happy and healthy retirements!

### Stephen Hilton



Alistair Maxwell reports the sad death of Stephen Hilton on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Steve was principally an OTB player, but was active in CC during the 1990s and early 2000s. He championed many causes, not least facilities for blind players. Always outspoken but ever engaging, he was a decent soul and will be much missed by many, especially in the Glasgow and Ayrshire chess communities.

Chess Scotland has posted tributes on their Forum at: <https://www.chessscotland.com/forum/showthread.php?tid=2221>

### SCCA Printed Magazine



At our last Executive meeting in May, we decided that very low demand for printed magazines would cause this service to be withdrawn after edition 164 in January 2024.

It's sad to see a long-standing service go, but we are only sending out 5 copies each quarter, and our printing costs are well in excess of any revenue we get

### ICCF World Championship 2023 Cycle Candidates' Tournament



Gian-Maria Tani writes to announce that the start date of the Candidates' Tournament of the 43rd WCCC is September 20, 2023.

All entries will be accepted according with ICCF Tournament Rules valid as from January 1, 2023, to be received not later than August 15, 2023.

Candidates' Tournament sections normally have 13 players (though in special situations 15 or 17 players are possible). Players entering more than one section will be accepted only to fill vacancies.

Normally, no more than four Candidates' Tournament sections are started each year with 1st and 2nd qualifying for a Final. However additional sections may be started at the discretion of the TTC.

In this situation, the number of qualifiers for the Final may be reduced from two to one.

Entries have to be sent through the "New events" page of [www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com). The entry fee can be paid via Direct Entry or via the player's National Federation.

Players who obtained their qualification in a WCCC Semi-Final can enter a section of the Candidates' Tournament free of charge.

Entries of "reserve players" have to be sent by e-mail to the TTC via the player's National Federation.

Players who are not currently represented by any National Federation can contact the TTC directly.

The ICCF Executive Board requests all ICCF Delegates to ensure that this important information is made available in all national CC magazines and websites. It is the Delegates' responsibility to ensure that all their players are aware of this information.

Any questions and/or requests for clarification should be addressed to the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner, Gian-Maria Tani, [g.m.tani.iccf@gmail.com](mailto:g.m.tani.iccf@gmail.com).

If you are interested, please contact International Secretary David Kilgour at: [international@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk)

## 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](mailto:hebel57@gmx.de)  
<https://www.bdf-fernschachbund.de/news/fernschach-cd-2023-erschiene.html>

## ICCF Games Archive Updates



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

## 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](mailto: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



Mickey Blake continues as our FB editor.

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

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

You can help Mickey 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>



## 2023/2 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

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

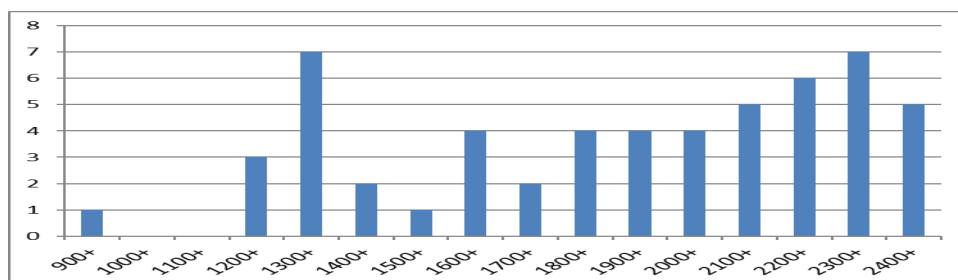
In the norms and titles stakes, Alan Bell got this third IM norm and hence the title playing in the 11<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship Final. Kevin Paine and Robert Montgomery both achieved their final norms to obtain their CCM titles while Graham Morrison and Wilf Taylor have both got final CCE norms for the title as well. Wilf also got his first CCM norm as so congratulations to all our new title and norm holders!

There were no additions or deletions on the list. 7 players have unfixd and hence unpublished ratings at present. The most significant rating moves were Martin Hardwick (+141), Steve Pettigrew (+37) and Wilf Taylor (+27).

New games centurions were Raymond Burrige, Martin Hardwick (both 1900+), Ian Marshall (900+), John Dunn (500+) and Alan Miles (100). Highest recorded games this quarter were Martin Hardwick (48), Carlos Almarza Mato and Geoffrey Lloyd (36), Iain Sneddon (33), Alan Buchan (32), Raymond Burrige (31), David Cumming (30) and Colin Beveridge (25).

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](mailto:grader@scottishcca.co.uk) if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
317	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2382	2066 ↓	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	835	2405 ↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	384	2378 ↔	216	MacMillen, A N	1485	1629 ↓
	Anderson, T R	41	1776 ↓		Major, B	90	1214 ↔
313	Armstrong, J McK	521	1367 ↔	566	Marshall, I H	905	2020 ↓
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	531	2472 ↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	296	2458 ↔
599	Bell, A D (IM)	283	2429 ↔		Maxwell, A	60	2128 ↓
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	512	2378 ↔		Miles, A	100	1353 ↓
481	Beveridge, C (CCM)	773	2240 ↓	598	Montgomery, R S (CCM)	373	2289 ↑
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	930	2384 ↔		Morrison, G J (CCE)	61	2319 ↑
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105	2197 ↔		Moss, R	47	1778 ↔
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	387	2375 ↑	474	Murden, C (IM)	672	2458 ↑
602	Burrige, R J	1912	1945 ↓	564	Murray, J S	102	2038 ↔
	Carswell, D	38	1556 ↓	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	241	1638 ↑
247	Cormack, W H	125	1904 ↓	604	Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	248	2360 ↑
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2160	2255 ↑		Pettigrew, S	187	1377 ↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	177	2191 ↓	432	Price, D	511	1933 ↑
478	Dunn, J	506	1462 ↔		Rafferty, F	42	1343 ↔
371	Edney, D	337	1870 ↑		Rafferty, K	68	1396 ↔
462	Gilbert, R	309	1691 ↓		Ross, Derek I	57	1808 ↔
399	Grant, J	79	1629 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	119	1348 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	1919	968 ↑	439	Smith, M J	124	2195 ↔
475	Kearns, A	115	1380 ↔	057	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	633	2374 ↑
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	364	2247 ↓		Taylor, A	37	1907 ↓
260	Knox, A	425	1262 ↓		Taylor, R	78	1438 ↓
	Lima, Joao	30	2039 ↔	605	Taylor, W (CCE)	192	2153 ↑
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1151	2272 ↓	480	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	281	2273 ↑
	MacDonald, M	96	1246 ↓		Wicht, D	82	1890 ↓
584	MacGregor, C A	495	1822 ↓				



## Statistical Analysis

Total listed	55
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Grading increases (↑)	14
Grading decreases (↓)	22
Grading static (↔)	19

## Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2472	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2255
Matheis, T (IM)	2458	Kilgour, D A (GM)	2247
Murden, C (IM)	2458	Beveridge, C (CCM)	2240
Bell, A D (IM)	2429	Borwell, A P (IM)	2197
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2405	Smith, M J	2195
Blake, M J (CCM)	2384	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2191
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2378	Taylor, W (CCE)	2153
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2378	Maxwell, A	2128
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2375	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2066
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2374	Lima, J	2039
Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	2360	Murray, J S	2038
Morrison, G J (CCE)	2319	Marshall, I H	2020
Montgomery, R S (CCM)	2289	Burridge, R J	1945
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2273	Price, D	1933
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2272	Taylor, A	1907

## Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C (CCE)	2382	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1151
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2160	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105
Hardwick, M E	1919	Blake, M J (CCM)	930
Burridge, R J	1912	Marshall, I H	905
MacMillen, A N	1485	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	835

## Selected Personal Best Grades 2022/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2375	2372	2023/1	3
Paine, Prof K A (CCE, SM)	2360	2359	2023/1	1
Morrison, G J (CCE)	2319	2310	2023/1	9
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2273	2268	2023/1	5
Smith, M J	2195	2179	2023/1	16
Taylor, W (CCE)	2153	2126	2023/1	27

## 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:  
Whittaker, I P (1), Taylor, W (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](http://www.iccf.com)), click on the ICCF Ratings link then complete the search boxes.

A number of useful online rating enquiry facilities are available, including a personal forecasted rating as your results come in.



## AGM 2023

By Iain Mackintosh



<b>Meeting:</b>	The 46 <sup>th</sup> AGM of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association.
<b>Venue:</b>	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2022, 4pm by Zoom.
<b>Present:</b>	Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Gordon Anderson, Mickey Blake, Alan Borwell, David Kilgour, Graham Morrison, Kevin Paine, Ian Whittaker
<b>Apologies:</b>	None.

### Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> AGM

On the proposal of Gordon Anderson, seconded by Alan Borwell, the minute of the meeting held on 22nd May 2022 was accepted as an accurate record and approved.

### Matters arising from the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM

None.

### President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh reviewed the preceding year which, after 2 unsuccessful attempts due to Covid disruption, saw us host the 2022 ICCF Congress in Glasgow during August. Gordon and Margaret Anderson deserve fulsome praise for their work; the business agenda finished a day early and the events programme was thoroughly enjoyable!

Our domestic events saw the Championship shared by Robert Montgomery and Iain Sneddon who posted identical points and SB scores. Social A, and Scheming Minds C and D won League divisions 1-3 respectively. We are currently placed 4th in the 11th European Team Final, but some teams behind us are likely to overtake in the run-in. We continued our active participation in numerous ICCF individual and team competitions. We added a Twitter account to our media outlets of website, Facebook and magazine with Mickey Blake now responsible for social media.

Once more, the SCCA has been indebted to its hard-working committee members and tournament directors, all of whom deserve a huge vote of thanks for their efforts and commitment.

### Membership Secretary's Report

Mickey Blake reported we have 112 current members of SCCA (3 Patrons, 88 Life, 21 Annual and 0 Associates). 53 members are classed as 'active' on ICCF.

Mickey reported that the 2021-22 Championship was won by Allan Buchan. Alistair Maxwell won the 2021 Premier, while Andrew Macmillen and Andrew Taylor (with a 100% score) bested the two 2021 Open sections. Robert Gilbert was victorious in the 2021-22 Challengers. The Webserver League comprised 3 divisions again, with winners as last year: D1: Hounds of the Scheming Mind A; D2: Hounds of the Scheming Mind C, and D3: White Rose C. Iain Mackintosh won the 10th Annual Best Game Prize adjudicated by IM Austin Lockwood of Wales.

Grader Alistair Maxwell summarised new title- and norm-holders over the past year:

- IM Title: Alan Bell (Sep 22); IM Norm: Iain Sneddon (Jul 22).
- CCM Title: Kevin Paine (Dec 22); Robert Montgomery (Jan 23); Graham Morrison (May 23); CCM Norm: Wilf Taylor (Dec 22).
- CCE Title Ian Whittaker (Jun 22); Wilf Taylor (Dec 22), Graham Morrison (Mar 23).

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Mickey, seconded by Gordon Anderson and unanimously agreed.

### Treasurer's Report

Ian Whittaker reported that the handover of duties from Gordon Anderson was now complete and new bank arrangements are operational. Holiday clashes with Alan Hind over Easter and the May Bank Holidays meant that the Accounts remain unaudited

for now. With Alan now retired, this year's examination will be undertaken by John Fanning FCA and presented to SCCA members on completion. The following summary is based on unaudited figures.

- As at March 31, 2023 the bank account stood at £9,006 (31 March 2022:£7,398) and is all now held within one Bank of Scotland current account. After various adjustments for prepayments and accruals, members accounts were represented by net assets at the year-end of £8,829 (2022: £7,228).
- The ICCF Glasgow Congress was the major expense item over 2022-23. Total costs were £22,348, but we were successful in obtaining grants and sponsorship as well as delegate fees, resulting in a net deficit of £191 – a very good outcome.

Ian made two proposals:

1. Merge the Development Account into our main Capital Account (Balance Sheet Net Assets). NB the Development Account was introduced in 2005-06.
  2. No change to Members' Subscriptions for 2024.
- Both were agreed by those present.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Ian, seconded by Kevin Paine and unanimously agreed.

### International Secretary's Report

Friendly matches have continued against

Germany	(47 boards, Germany leads by 56½-34½ with 3 games to finish)
Canada	(17 boards, Canada leads by 16-15 with 3 games to complete)
New Zealand	(10 boards, Scotland won 11½-8½)
Philippines	(31 boards, Philippines lead 40-13 with 9 games in play)
Wales	(22 boards, match level at 10½-10½ with 21 games remaining).

In the Final of the European Team event, we now sit 4th with 47points from 95 games (49%) with 1 game still in play. Austria lead with 47½ points although the favourites appear to be Wales who also have 47 points but with 5 games remaining. At the same time as the ETC Final started so too did the ETC 12th Semi-Final. At this stage we have 34½/70, with 2 games still in play.

The Carlos Flores Gutiérrez team event commenced in July 2020. Scotland scored 23 points and finished 2nd bottom in the event. This was followed by the Nol van't Riet Memorial team event for players rated <2300. Scotland finished second with a score of 19/36 and therefore qualifies for the Final of that Memorial event, with play scheduled to commence on 1st June 2023. We will be represented by the same team which qualified for the final.

Also under way is the Horst Rittner Memorial, where Scotland sits 4th with a score of 30/61 with 11 remaining games. The next <2300 team event is the Francois Riva Memorial which is due to start on 1st July 2023. The North Sea V Team event which commenced on 1 September 2021 has only a few games still in play. Scotland will finish second bottom, ahead of Denmark, having scored 22/48.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon, seconded by Alan Borwell and unanimously agreed.

### Election of Office Bearers

The following office-bearers were elected for 2023-24.

Office	Name	Proposer	Second
<b>President</b>	Iain Mackintosh	Gordon Anderson	Alan Borwell
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Mickey Blake	Alan Borwell	Kevin Paine
<b>International Secretary</b>	David Kilgour	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Borwell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ian Whittaker	Gordon Anderson	Kevin Paine
<b>Committee Members</b>	Alan Borwell Kevin Paine Graham Morrison	Gordon Anderson Alan Borwell Alan Borwell	David Kilgour Gordon Anderson Ian Whittaker

### Appointment of Auditor

Ian Whittaker reported that the 2022-23 Accounts were not yet fully audited due to holiday clashes between himself and Alan Hind. Alan has now formally retired, but will assist the incoming auditor to complete the work. Ian's proposal is that John Fanning FCA (former president of the ICAEW's Members in Scotland) should take on the Auditor role forthwith. This proposal was seconded by Gordon Anderson and unanimously agreed.

### Subscriptions

Ian Whittaker proposed no change to domestic membership fees for 2023-24. They are currently Annual £10; Life £100 and Patron £125. With the disappearance of printed magazines after January 2024, their associated fees and conditions will need to be removed from the website. Both proposals were seconded by Kevin Paine and unanimously agreed.

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





## The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

### Vadim Malakhatko



1977-2023

Ukrainian grandmaster Vadim Malakhatko, two-time Kyiv champion, winner of Olympic bronze and world championship gold medals, and passionate organiser of chess tournaments in Ukraine, suddenly died in June this year of a heart attack, aged just 46.

I remember him from time he stayed at my flat in Aix en Provence with his wife Anna Zozulia, circa 2005, prior to the Marseille Open.

Vadim Volodymyrovych Malakhatko was born on March 22, 1977 in Kyiv, Ukraine, then the Soviet Union. As a child, he worked with the well-known trainer Alexei Kosikov. Malakhatko's first big success was his victory at the Ukrainian U20 championship in 1997.

He became a grandmaster in 1999, the same year that he won his first Kyiv city championship. Meanwhile, he graduated from the Kyiv Institute of Physical Education.

As an up-and-coming Ukrainian player, he was included in the national team for the 2000 Chess Olympiad in Istanbul. He scored 3.5/7 and added to the team's score that was good for a bronze medal, behind Russia and Germany.

A year later, Ukraine won the World Team Championship in Yerevan, Armenia. Also there, Malakhatko played second reserve board, this time scoring 2.5/3, including an important draw with the black pieces in the match won against the Hungarian team.

Malakhatko won the Kyiv championship a second time in 2004, which was a very successful year: he was also victorious at the 2004 Pic d'Anie, the La Fère Open, the Condom Open (all France), and the FE tournament in Bergamo (Italy). Other European events, included the prestigious Politiken Cup in Høje-Taastrup (Denmark) in 2006 and a shared first place at Hastings 2007-2008. He also clinched a silver medal at the European Blitz Championship in Warsaw (Poland) in 2006.

His friend Oleksandr Prokhorov estimates that Malakhatko won over 90 classical tournaments, while visiting 93 countries in his career. In October of 2008, Malakhatko reached his highest published FIDE rating: 2633.

Malakhatko has played in the national club competitions of Ukraine, France and Spain. In the German Bundesliga he represented SV Mülheim-Nord from 2007 to 2012. Disappointed about the lack of support and gratitude from the Ukrainian Chess Federation, he switched chess federations to Belgium in 2007. He won the Belgian national league in 2008 with his club Bredene.

While mostly known as a player and organiser, Malakhatko also did some private coaching. Two weeks before he died, his pupil Yan Domin won the Ukrainian U14 Championship—in a way, also the last victory for Malakhatko. A day before his passing, he played in a one-day rapid tournament in Kyiv, where he came fifth, remaining undefeated.

Malakhatko was buried in Kyiv. The funeral was attended by about 30 people, mostly from the capital, where the situation has calmed down a bit after the dangerous missile and drone attacks by Russia last week. He is survived by his mother Nadezhda, his father Volodymyr, his ex-wife IM Anna Zozulia, and his children Anna (21) and Volodymyr (11).

(Biographical notes courtesy of chess.com)

**White: Kozel, Roman**

**Black: Malakhatko, Vadim [C02]**  
French Tarrasch (Lputian Variation [C02])  
Yalta, 1996

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

<b>1.e4</b>	<b>e6</b>
<b>2.d4</b>	<b>d5</b>
<b>3.e5</b>	<b>c5</b>
<b>4.c3</b>	<b>Qb6</b>
<b>5.Nf3</b>	<b>Nc6</b>
<b>6.a3</b>	<b>Nh6</b>
<b>7.b4</b>	<b>cxd4</b>
<b>8.cxd4</b>	<b>Nf5</b>
<b>9.Be3</b>	<b>Nxe3</b>
<b>10.fxe3</b>	<b>g6</b>
<b>11.Bd3</b>	<b>Bh6</b>
<b>12.Qe2</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>13.0-0</b>	<b>a5</b>
<b>14.b5</b>	<b>Ne7</b>
<b>15.Nc3</b>	

Chaika-Malakhatko in the same tournament went: 15.a4 Nf5 16.Bxf5 exf5 17.Nbd2 Be6 18.Nb3 Rfc8 19.Rfc1 f4 20.Qe1 fxe3 21.Qh4 Bf8 22.Qe1 Rc4 23.Qxe3 Rac8 24.Qd2 Qc7 25.Rf1 b6 26. Ng5 Bh6 27.Nxe6 Bxd2 28.Nxc7 Be3+ 29.Kh1 R8xc7 30.Rae1 Rc3 31.Na1 Bxd4 32.e6 fxe6 33.Rxe6 Ra3 34.Rc6 Rf7 35.Rc8+ Kg7 36.Rxf7+ Kxf7 37.Nc2 Rxa4 38.Rc7+ Ke6 39.Rxh7 Bc5 40.h4 Rc4 0-1

<b>15...</b>	<b>a4</b>
<b>16.Nd1</b>	<b>Bd7</b>
<b>17.Nf2</b>	<b>Rfc8</b>
<b>18.Ng4</b>	<b>Bg7</b>
<b>19.Nf6+</b>	<b>Bxf6</b>
<b>20.exf6</b>	<b>Nf5</b>
<b>21.Ne5</b>	<b>Qd8</b>

22.Qf2 Rc3  
 23.g4 Nd6  
 24.Qh4



24... Rxd3  
 25.Nxd3 Bxb5  
 26.Rad1 Rc8  
 27.Rf3 Bxd3  
 28.Rxd3 Rc1+  
 29.Rf1 Rc2  
 30.Qh6 Qf8  
 31.Qf4 Ne4  
 32.Rb1 Qc8  
 33.Rf1 g5  
 34.Qe5 h6  
 35.h4 Rb2  
 36.hxg5 Qc2  
 37.Rd2 Nxd2  
 38.Qb8+ Kh7  
 39.g6+ fxg6  
 40.Rf2 Nf3+  
 41.Kh1 Qc1+  
 42.Kg2 Qg1+  
 43.Kh3 Ng5+

0-1



White: Malakhatko, Vadim  
 Black: Kholmov, Ratmir  
 French - Tarrasch [C09]  
 Tchigorin Memorial St. Petersburg  
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 e6  
 2.e4 d5  
 3.Nd2 c5  
 4.exd5 exd5  
 5.Ngf3 Nc6  
 6.Bb5 Bd6  
 7.0-0 Nge7  
 8.dxc5 Bxc5  
 9.Nb3 Bb6  
 10.Be3?! Bxe3  
 11.Bxc6+ bxc6

12.fxe3 0-0  
 13.Qd4 Nf5  
 14.Qc3 Qb6  
 15.Nfd4 Nxd4  
 16.exd4 a5  
 17.a4 f6  
 18.Nc5 Rb8  
 19.b3 Ra8  
 20.Rae1 Ra7  
 21.h3 g6  
 22.Rf3 h5  
 23.Qd3 Rg7  
 24.Rfe3 Bf5  
 25.Qd2 Rgf7  
 26.Kh1 Qc7  
 27.Ne6 Bxe6  
 28.Rxc6



28... c5  
 28...Kg7  
 29.dxc5 Qxc5  
 30.Ra6 Ra7  
 31.Rxa7 Qxa7  
 32.Qxd5+ Kg7  
 33.c4 Rc8  
 34.Qd6 Qf2  
 35.Rd1 Re8  
 36.Qc7+ Kh6  
 37.Qxa5 Re2  
 38.Qd5 h4  
 39.Qf3 Re1+  
 40.Rxc1 Qxe1+  
 41.Kh2 Qe5+  
 42.Kg1 Qd4+  
 43.Kf1 Kg7  
 44.Qb7+ Kh6  
 45.Qd5 Qa1+  
 46.Ke2 g5  
 47.c5 f5  
 48.Qxf5 Qb2+  
 49.Kf1 Qxb3  
 50.Qf6+ Kh7  
 51.Qxg5 Qxa4  
 52.Qe7+ Kg6  
 53.Qd6+ Kf5  
 54.Kg1 Qb4  
 55.Kh2 Qa3  
 56.Qd5+ Kg6  
 57.Qe6+ Kg7

58.Qe5+ Kf7  
 59.c6 1-0



White: Malakhatko, Vadim  
 Black: Mazurok, Alexey  
 Bogo-Indian [E11]  
 Kiev Championship, 2000  
 [Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6  
 2.c4 e6  
 3.Nf3 Bb4+  
 4.Nbd2 d5  
 5.a3 Be7  
 6.Qc2 0-0  
 7.e4 c5  
 8.e5 Nfd7  
 9.Bd3 h6  
 10.cxd5 exd5  
 11.0-0 Nc6  
 12.Re1 a5  
 13.dxc5 Nxc5  
 14.Nb3 Nxd3  
 15.Qxd3 a4  
 16.Nbd4 Nxd4  
 17.Nxd4 Be5  
 18.Be3 Bxd4  
 19.Bxd4 Be6  
 20.Re3 Rc8  
 21.Rf1 Qd7  
 22.Rg3 Rc4  
 23.Qe3 Kh7  
 24.f4 Qc8



25.f5! Bxf5  
 26.e6 Bg6  
 26...g6 27.Rxf5 Rc1+ 28.Rf1 Rxf1+  
 29.Kxf1 fxe6+ 30.Rf3 Rxf3+  
 31.gxf3+-  
 27.exf7 Rc6  
 28.h4 Re6  
 29.h5! Rxe3

30.hxg6+ Kh8  
 31.Bxe3 Qc7  
 32.Rgf3  
 Or in more spectacular fashion;  
 32.Rh3 Qc4 33.Rf6! d4 34.Rxh6+!  
 gxh6 35.Bxh6+–  
 32... Qe5  
 32...Qd6 33.Bd2 Qxg6 34.Bb4+–  
 33.Bc5  
 1-0



White: Shishkin, Vadim  
 Black: Malakhatko, Vadim  
**Benko Opening[A59]**  
 Kiev (Trudova Ukraina) (1), 2001  
*[Notes by John E Hawkes]*

1.d4 Nf6  
 2.c4 c5  
 3.d5 b5  
 4.cxb5 a6  
 5.bxa6 g6  
 6.Nc3 Bxa6  
 7.Nf3 d6  
 8.e4 Bxf1  
 9.Kxf1 Nbd7  
 10.g3 Bg7  
 11.Kg2 0-0  
 12.h3 Ra6  
 13.Re1 Qa8  
 14.Bg5 Nb6  
 15.Qd2 Na4  
 16.Re2 Rb8  
 17.Nd1 e6  
 18.dxe6 fxe6  
 19.Qc2



19... d5

20.e5 Ne4  
 21.b3 Nb6  
 22.Bf4 c4  
 23.Rc1 Nc5  
 24.Nd4 Nd3  
 25.Nxe6 d4+  
 26.Kg1 Nxc1  
 27.Qxc1 d3  
 28.Re1 Rxa2  
 29.bxc4 Qa5  
 30.Rf1  
 30.Qc3 Qxc3 31.Nxc3 Rc2 32.Nxg7  
 Nxc4! 33.e6 d2+  
 30... d2  
 31.Qb1 Nd7  
 32.Qe4 Bxe5  
 33.c5 Bxf4  
 34.Qxf4 Re8  
 35.Nc7  
 35.c6 Rxe6 36.cxd7 Qd8 37.Qd4  
 Raa6 38.Qxd2 Rad6 then Qxd7 and  
 it's ♯  
 35... Rf8  
 36.Qc4+ Rf7  
 37.Ne6 Ne5  
 38.Qd5



38... Nf3+  
 39.Kh1 Qa8!  
 0-1



White: Plachetka, Jan (2441)  
 Black: Malakhatko, Vadim (2569)  
**Slav Defence – Exchange [D14]**  
 21st Open Cappelle la Grande , 2005  
*[Notes by John E Hawkes]*

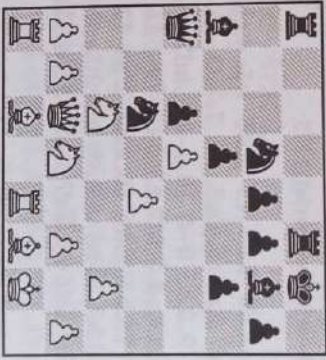
1.d4 d5

2.c4 c6  
 3.Nf3 Nf6  
 4.cxd5 cxd5  
 5.Nc3 Nc6  
 6.Bf4 Bf5  
 7.e3 e6  
 8.Bd3 Bxd3  
 9.Qxd3 Be7  
 10.h3 0-0  
 11.0-0 Nd7  
 12.Rfc1 Rc8  
 13.Qb5 Qb6  
 14.Ne1 a6  
 15.Qxb6 Nxb6  
 16.Kf1 g5  
 17.Bg3 Nc4  
 18.Nd3 Nb4!  
 19.Nxb4 Bxb4  
 20.Nd1 f5  
 21.Ke2 f4  
 22.exf4 gxf4  
 23.Bh4 Rc6  
 24.b3 Na5  
 25.Rxc6 f3+!  
 26.gxf3 Nxc6  
 27.Ke3 Ba5!  
 28.Nb2 Bc3  
 29.Rg1+ Kh8  
 30.Na4 Bxd4+  
 31.Ke2 b5  
 32.Rc1 Rc8  
 33.Nc5 Bb2!  
 34.Rb1 Nd4+  
 35.Kd3 Rxc5  
 36.Rxb2 Nxf3  
 37.Bf6+ Kg8  
 38.Ke3 Kf7  
 39.Bh8 Nh4  
 0-1



*Malakhatko Vadim*

VEČEK, M.  
Pešl, M.  
(45)  
[A581]



Prodanović, M.  
JERAS, I.  
Polifinale prvenstva Jugoslavije, 1986  
(44)  
[A581]

15...♘a3! 16.bxa3 ♖c3 17.♗c3 ♘c3  
18.♞b1 ♚e5 19.♞b3 ♙a5 20.f4 c4!  
21.fes cb3 22.ab3 ♙f1 23.♙f1 ♞fe8!  
24.ed6 ed6 25.♙e2 ♞c2 26.♙d3 ♞ac8  
27.♚c4 ♞2c4! 28.bxc4 ♙e1 29.♙f4 ♞d8  
30.e5 de5 31.♙e5 ♙f2 32.♙f6 ♞d6  
33.♙c3 h5 34.♙b4 ♞d8 0-1

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cb5 a6  
5.ba6 ♙a6 6.♚c3 d6 7.g3 g6 8.♙g2  
- ♙g7 9.♚f3 ♚bd7 10.0-0 ♚b6 11.♞e1  
0-0 12.e4 ♚fd7 13.♗c2 ♚c4 14.♙f1  
♗a5 15.♚d2



## Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 29



**White:** Carleton, John  
**Black:** Pyrich, George  
ICCF Fax Section. B 1994-95  
Caro Kann Advance Variation [B12]  
*[Notes by John E Hawkes after  
George Pyrich (CCYB-14)]*

- |                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 1.e4                             | c6   |
| 2.d4                             | d5   |
| 3.e5                             | Bf5  |
| 4.Nc3                            | e6   |
| 5.g4                             | Bg6  |
| 6.Nge2                           | c5   |
| 6... f6?! 7. Nf4 Bf7 8.exf6 gxf6 |      |
| 9.Bg2!                           |      |
| 7.h4                             | cxd4 |
| 8.Nxd4                           | h5   |
| 9.f4                             | hxg4 |
| 10.Bb5+                          | Nd7  |

- 11.f5  
♚11.Qxg4 keeping material balance.
- |        |      |
|--------|------|
| 11...  | Rxh4 |
| 12.Rf1 | exf5 |
| 13.Bf4 |      |
- 13.e6 fxe6 14.Nxe6 Qe7 15.Qe2 was to be considered.
- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 13...   | a6   |
| 14.e6   | axb5 |
| 15.Qe2  | Be7  |
| 16.Nxd5 |      |
- 16.exd7+ Qxd7 17.Ndx5 Kf8!  
Westerinen - Adianto, Thessaloniki Olympiad 1986
- |          |      |
|----------|------|
| 16...    | Nc5! |
| 17.Nc7+  | Kf8  |
| 18.0-0-0 |      |
- If 18.Rd1 Rh3! threatening Bh4+
- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 18...   | Rxa2 |
| 19.Kb1  | Ra4  |
| 20.Nxf5 |      |

- |                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 20...                    | Qxd1+! |
| 21.Rxd1                  | Nb3!   |
| 22.cxb3                  | Bxf5+  |
| 23.Kc1                   |        |
| 23.Rd3 Rd4+              |        |
| 23...                    | Rxf4   |
| 24.Qxb5                  |        |
| Threatening mate, but... |        |
| 24...                    | Rc4+!! |
- And after 24...Rc4+ it's White who will be mated - on the other side of the board!  
25.Kd2 Bg5+ 26.Ke1 Rh1+ 27.Kf2 Rf4+ 28.Kg3 Rh3+ 29.Kg2 Be4+ 30.Kg1 Rh1#  
0-1



George Pyrich  
RIP



## Is there a future for Correspondence Chess? Part D: if so, what form might this future take?

By Peter Bennett

In this fourth and last of a four-part series of articles on the future of CC, I shall attempt to sketch out some of the practical possibilities for the future of correspondence chess, in the light of the arguments laid out in the first three articles.

In the first article, Part A, I reviewed the competing and widely divergent positions of those involved in the original debates about engine use, around 20 years ago; and how and why the ICCF eventually came to sanction engine use, having concluded that a ban on engine use was unworkable.

In the second article, Part B, I described the historical attempts of one particular CC club to continue to ban engine use, against the trend, in a way which was hopelessly inadequate, ethically dubious and ultimately ineffectual.

In the third article, Part C, I considered the question of whether the ICCF, or any of its affiliated member organisations, could now usefully revisit the question of whether a ban on engines was practicable in the current, contemporary context. I concluded that this would be even more difficult today than it was 20 years ago, hence impracticable; and that the ICCF had been right in its original treatment of the issue.

I do not intend to resurrect any of those debates in this final article, apart from one proposal I originally put forward in Part B; but readers can, of course, refer to the relevant back numbers.

### The Definition of Correspondence Chess (CC)

Even in the 18 months or so since I first conceived the idea of writing this series of articles, there have been a number of developments which suggest to me that the definition of CC, and how it is distinguished from OTB, has been undermined, more than slightly, and not by accident but in ways that may be deliberately mischievous.

For one thing we cannot usefully talk about a future for CC if there is no common understanding of the nature of the beast, so to speak. All I can do here is to set out, and on some points reiterate, my own understanding of the definition of CC.

At least until five years ago, the FIDE and ICCF websites were fully consistent with each other on the subject. Both defined the difference between OTB and CC in the same way and, even more importantly, both organisations went on to state explicitly that they granted full recognition to each other's constitutions, statutes, realms of responsibility, titles, rating systems, ratings, and so on.

Both FIDE and the ICCF are also separately recognised by the IOC, which in turn automatically grants the ICCF access in principle to CAS – the Court of Arbitration for Sport – the use of the term CC Olympiad being contingent on such recognition.

If either FIDE or the IOC had a problem with any aspect of the constitution of the ICCF, the time to have raised it would have been back in 1951, 72 years ago, when the ICCF was formed and its Constitution, after extensive inter-agency consultations, was adopted. But, in fact, none of this material was new, even then. In virtually all respects the definition of CC goes back well over 100 years in more or less its present form.

The crucial statement lies in Article 3 of the ICCF constitution, dating from 1951:

#### Article 3

Correspondence chess is defined as any game of chess in which the players do not sit opposite each other at a chessboard to make their moves. The moves are transmitted remotely by various means....

The first part of Article 3 is abundantly clear; and it seems to me that the use of the word “any” can only be taken to mean, without exception. Otherwise, the definition loses all meaning.

The same Article then continues with what is no longer a definition but, rather, a description, indicating that CC is usually, but not invariably, slower than OTB chess.

Thus the pace of the game is not part of the definition. I can also illustrate the overlap very easily from my own experience. Back in the 1970s, when I played a lot of competitive OTB, those games which reached move 40 were usually adjourned. The adjournment session, to conclude the game, was often the following week; so an individual game, not infrequently, would take a week to be played to a finish.

I can even remember one occasion when a complex endgame went past move 80, necessitating a second adjournment session, the game eventually taking almost a month to reach a conclusion.

By contrast, when I played in the British CC Championship Candidates Tournament, 13 years ago, one of my games (actually going beyond 40 moves, it wasn't a draw) in that event was concluded in less than 36 hours, simply because both players elected to play quickly.

The problem today is that many websites have been remodelled, to put it nicely, in order to focus on marketing current activities; and a lot of historical material has been dropped.

We also have the problem that there has been a proliferation of commercial chess websites whose designers are either ill-informed about chess jurisdictions or elect deliberately to ignore them.

So the Frozen Rooks (a pseudonym) website helpfully suggests that they are “first and foremost a correspondence chess site” but entirely fails to acknowledge that, by virtue of the online method of play, the site should be (but isn’t) affiliated to the EFCC (England being country in which the commercial company is registered) and that the default setting for playing rules is that adopted by the EFCC which in turn, for the most part, relies on the 196-page ICCF rulebook.

The Frozen Rooks site further claims that the main difference between CC and OTB is the pace of play. In fact, it isn’t the main difference, at all; and it isn’t even part of the definition of CC.

Then along came Covid 19. The ICCF, as a gesture of friendliness, offered free access for OTB players to its Lockdown Open tournament. I forwarded this invitation to my OTB club’s mailing list – of about 40 players. Only one replied, and that was to decline the invitation rather gracelessly.

I tried again, to recruit Edinburgh players for the bicentennial Edinburgh – London match, in which both CC and OTB players might take part – with no luck whatsoever.

What has happened, instead, is that the OTB fraternity has gone out of its way to try to invade the clearly defined territory of the ICCF, for example with the completely unnecessary invention of a product known as Li-Chess. And my latest discovery, just last week, is that the ECF – which only has jurisdiction over OTB chess in England – is now issuing not just OTB grading lists, but also what it calls ECF-online grading lists. No-one seems to be rushing to acknowledge that such tournaments and ratings lie plainly and squarely under the jurisdiction of the EFCC.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with the ECF organising online tournaments, as long as it recognises the EFCC jurisdiction; but the information I have suggests that they are not doing this.

In a previous article I noted the same theme in reverse. When (pre-Covid) the ICCF organised a Blitz tournament at its congress, the jurisdiction for that tournament lay with FIDE, hence it was played under FIDE rules, because it was OTB Blitz. The determination of the relevant jurisdiction lies in the method of play, not the body which organises a tournament.

It seems to me, therefore, that the ICCF and its affiliates need either strongly to reassert the existing definition of CC, and the demarcation of their jurisdictional territory or, quite frankly, give up the struggle and slide quietly into oblivion.

As I see it, there are still options for the future of CC, but none is perfect. Here I will simply outline those that I have identified. Other members of the SCCA may see further options that I have overlooked – in which case, I would be very interested to read about them in future issues.

### **Option 1: The status quo**

In other words, do nothing to change the situation and plod on as usual. We just need to be aware that the “status quo”  
*SCCA Magazine 162*

is not static. I haven’t seen any recent figures, but I believe the age profile of players in the ICCF rating list is fairly geriatric – I am quite sure the median age of players in the ICCF list is well above 60. So we are abandoning the hobby, and dying off, far faster than new players are being recruited.

I can illustrate this from my own experience. One private goal (which I have never publicly admitted before) was eventually to get a ranking in the ICCF top 1000 players. I failed to achieve that goal except that now, ironically, it is quite possible I will finally make it into the top 1000 in the 2023/4 rating list by default, and without playing a single additional chess move, simply because some of those ranked above me are likely to drop out of the list. My current ranking is 1017.

### **Option 2: Offering a mixed set of tournaments with different playing rules**

This is one for the SCCA – at least to try!

Supposing, just for the sake of argument, we were starting six tournaments next winter, we could identify three in which (as now) players might use engines, if they wish; and three in which all participants are politely requested not to do so.

This does not constitute a ban on engines, merely a convention. Players are perfectly free to use engines if they wish to; but, in that case, they would be encouraged to choose the tournaments in which, by convention, engines are allowed.

I believe it could work; and, in fact, I am currently playing seven CC games (although not in tournaments) in which I have elected not to use an engine, even though they aren’t banned, merely because I am aware that my opponents aren’t using engines either. In no case is this arrangement explicit, it has arisen spontaneously; but I don’t see a reason why it couldn’t be made explicit.

### **Option 3: learning to live with chess anarchy**

This is how I now play on the Frozen Rooks website (a pseudonym) – although it took me a while to work out the best way to use this resource. They hold tournaments, but I don’t play in any.

The site has the facility (with a few restrictions) that players can send each other a challenge, which they can accept or decline. So sometimes players send me a challenge; and sometimes I send the challenge. Players can also write profiles; some do, some don’t. I have learned to work out from the profiles what style of play to expect (which also, crucially, includes the likely pace of a game).

There are very few playing rules (which can be a frustration, as one or two would be useful), players have widely differing views on how they like to play, and how they like their opponents to play. Almost no-one I meet on this site actually has any understanding of chess jurisdictions or the differences between CC and OTB. So it is complete anarchy; but it frankly doesn’t matter.

There is a very good messaging system with a generous word limit (about 300) with each move. I have had lively, interesting exchanges with many opponents.

Pairings work by trial and error. If you don't like the way someone is playing, or the way they are communicating, you simply don't renew the pairing after the first game. It is generally best not to get into an open dispute, just terminate contact if you are not entirely comfortable. Eventually, you



## In Conversation Iain Mackintosh discusses Peter's retirement from tournament CC.



**Iain:** so you finally decided to give up competitive CC?

**Peter:** yes, I finished my last game on the ICCF site a few weeks ago – and I'm not proposing to start any more.

**Iain:** this must be the end of quite a long era for you, then?

**Peter:** I started playing CC in 1962 – 61 years ago – though those were just friendlies, at first. My first competitive CC was to play on Board 14, as I recall, for Lancashire in the Inter-Counties League. That was in 1964, I believe; so, 59 years ago.

**Iain:** so are you letting go of CC with a tinge of regret?

**Peter:** a great deal of regret; but, as I said in my article in the previous Issue, I hadn't won a game since 2018, except when an opponent defaulted on time. There are simply too many draws in serious modern CC; so it ceased to be fun any more.

**Iain:** but you're continuing to play for fun, on the site you have nicknamed Frozen Rooks?

**Peter:** yes, and actually still with a serious purpose, in fact two purposes, but neither is directly related to chess itself.

**Iain:** that sounds intriguing - can you elaborate?

**Peter:** the first reason for carrying on is that I enjoy the playing against opponents from many different countries, throughout the world, and to converse with them.

**Iain:** How does Frozen Rooks facilitate that?

**Peter:** since the Frozen Rooks site is for individuals, and national federations aren't referred to, at all, I can trawl through the players' list and send challenges to players from countries new to me. So, over the last three years, I have added at least 30 new countries to the list of those from which I had already played ICCF opponents – I imagine more than 100 different countries, by now, altogether.

**Iain:** and your second reason?

build up your own community of chess contacts with those who are kindred spirits, just as you might with your neighbours who live in the same street.

And this now concludes my series of four articles. I am still playing CC, but just for enjoyment, and no longer with any interest in tournaments, matches, ratings or titles.

**Peter:** to write a novel; and to share the script, episode by episode, with several readers. The alternating moves of a chess game help to keep the momentum going.

**Iain:** is it a "chess" novel?

**Peter:** a good question, but actually, no, it isn't. I started writing a chess novel some years ago, but after writing about 70 pages I shelved it for a while and never got back to it. Then, later on, my idea was gazumped, so to speak, by The Queen's Gambit! So I abandoned the idea, in the end.

**Iain:** so what is your new novel about?

**Peter:** it's about gender segregation in independent schools, going back to 1959. The action actually starts in contemporary Pitlochry, but then tracks back 64 years, moves south of the border to England, and hence moves into the "historical" category, as a novel.

**Iain:** and the plot, in a nutshell?

**Peter:** the headmaster of a boys' school, which has only ever had male staff, suddenly decides to appoint two female teachers – with dramatic and sometimes hilarious results.

**Iain:** so did such a thing happen in real life?

**Peter:** not as far as I'm aware, at least not for another 30 years or so, by which time schools had changed radically anyway; but it could have happened. So the novel basically deconstructs some of the myths about the supposed merits of independent schooling.

**Iain:** and how does that work, alongside a chess game?

**Peter:** the website allows for 300-word messages. So each episode is about 300 words; and so far I've written just over 120 episodes - probably just past half-way.

**Iain:** and how many readers do you have?

**Peter:** five, at the moment. The three main readers have all read over 100 episodes already, so they are not far behind my writing. One each from Scotland, Canada and India.

**Iain:** you called it historical?

**Peter:** yes - for most people, 64 years ago is historical; but, in writing it, I am drawing extensively on lived experience; and I have very detailed memories of the late 1950s.

**Iain:** so is it autobiographical?

**Peter:** I'm glad you asked that question, Iain; and the answer is: no! The characters are all fictitious; but I have put some of the characteristics of real people I knew into some of the fictional characters. Also some of the things that happen in the novel are similar to real events which I remember; but they aren't the same.

**Iain:** but close enough to real experience for you to be confident about the realism of the story?

**Peter:** yes, exactly! As I see it, there is neither fantasy nor melodrama in my novel. These adventures are the kinds of things that could easily have happened to ordinary people in those kinds of institutions of that period.

**Iain:** well, at least it sounds as though you're enjoying yourself!

**Peter:** very much so.

**Iain:** and any thoughts about publication?

**Peter:** none at all, at least not yet. At the moment, I'm not thinking beyond my conviction that I have created a story worth telling. It really doesn't matter if it never gets published.

**Iain:** thank you, Peter for sharing that; and good luck with the rest of the project!

**Peter:** thank you, Iain.



## Chess Art

By Iain Mackintosh



Salvador Dali, *Fingers*, Bronze, 1964





## Correspondence Chess: A chance to play like Paul Morphy

By Tom Anderson

Paul Morphy (1837-1884) is one of the greatest chess geniuses of all time. He is especially remembered for routing his opponents with brilliant mating attacks that were calculated with devastating precision. Indeed, Bobby Fischer once said that Morphy was “perhaps the most accurate player that ever lived”. Morphy’s achievements are all the more remarkable given that he would play fast, usually spending an hour or less for all moves in a game.

The ability to calculate variations lies at the heart of chess and, like most players, I have a limited capacity in this regard. This does not stop me from playing sacrificial attacks in OTB games but, with clock ticking, there is always the frightening prospect of miscalculating and finding my position busted. The solution: play correspondence chess!

Of course, there is still the possibility of making errors but, with both time and the ability to move pieces around the chessboard, one can make a real attempt to calculate deeply and precisely, like Paul Morphy.

Here, I present a beautiful attacking game that I recently played in the ongoing Scotland-Wales friendly match. Neither I nor my opponent were using computer engines for assistance (my opponent did not tell me this, but it is obvious from the analysis that follows).

**White: McFadden, Wayne (1721)**  
**Black: Anderson, Thomas (1777)**  
 WLS vs SCO Board 13, 2023  
 English [A21]

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| <b>1.c4</b>    | <b>d6</b>   |
| <b>2.d4</b>    | <b>e5</b>   |
| <b>3.Nf3</b>   | <b>e4</b>   |
| <b>4.Nfd2</b>  | <b>f5</b>   |
| <b>5.e3</b>    | <b>Nf6</b>  |
| <b>6.Nc3</b>   | <b>Be7</b>  |
| <b>7.b3?!</b>  | <b>c6</b>   |
| <b>8.Be2</b>   | <b>O-O</b>  |
| <b>9.O-O</b>   | <b>d5</b>   |
| <b>10.Bb2</b>  | <b>Be6</b>  |
| <b>11.h3</b>   | <b>Nbd7</b> |
| <b>12.cxd5</b> | <b>cxd5</b> |

### 13.Rc1



White has played rather passively with b3 and Bb2, and h3 provides a lever for a king-side attack. So, what to play now after 13.Rc1? I chose 13...Kh8 on principle, with relatively little calculation – the king makes way for ...Rg8 and ...g5-g4, intending to open the g-file.

Remarkably from my post-game analysis, this move ranks as the 12<sup>th</sup> choice move for Stockfish, scoring -0.47 versus -1.35 for the first choice move, 13...a6. Is my move an error deserving a question mark? I think not – it is an excellent practical choice against a human opponent and I have given it the opposite, an exclamation mark.

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>13...</b>    | <b>Kh8!</b> |
| <b>14.Nb5</b>   | <b>Ne8!</b> |
| <b>15.Nc3</b>   | <b>Ndf6</b> |
| <b>16.Re1?!</b> | <b>g5</b>   |
| <b>17.Nf1</b>   |             |



Black is now ready to continue with the plan and I played 17...Rg8 in this

position. Again remarkably, this is only the 11<sup>th</sup> choice move of Stockfish scoring -1.56 compared to the first choice move, 17...Ng7 (-2.20).

For me, it is important to play with a plan that I understand, rather than to make moves based on calculations based on engine analysis which is beyond my comprehension.

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| <b>17...</b>  | <b>Rg8</b> |
| <b>18.Qd2</b> | <b>Bd6</b> |
| <b>19.Nb5</b> | <b>Bb8</b> |
| <b>20.Rc2</b> |            |



The next phase of the plan is now set in action with 20...f4, sacrificing a pawn to open up my opponent’s king.

This is only the fourth choice move of Stockfish which prefers 20...g4 with 21.hxg4 Nxg4 22.Bxg4 Rxg4 23.Qb4 a5. Really? I had analysed 20...g4 with the line 21.h4 g3 22.f3 exf3 23.Bxf3 which Stockfish gives as winning for Black.

Fair enough, but my analysis ran out and for me the theme is to open the g-file. My next few moves (following ...f4) look obvious in hindsight but I took quite a few hours working on them.

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| <b>20...</b>   | <b>f4!</b>  |
| <b>21.Nc3</b>  | <b>f3</b>   |
| <b>22.gxf3</b> | <b>exf3</b> |
| <b>23.Bxf3</b> | <b>g4</b>   |
| <b>24.hxg4</b> | <b>Nxg4</b> |
| <b>25.Bg2</b>  |             |



And now comes a beautiful finish:

25... **Bh2+!!**  
 26.Nxh2 **Nxh2**  
**0-1**



I recorded 27. Kxh2 Qh4+ 28.Kg1 Bh3 +- in my notebook, although subsequent analysis with Stockfish gives mate in 6 with 28...Rxf2+, 29.Kxf2 Bh3+ 30.Kh2 Bg4+ 31.Kg2

Qh3+ 32.Kg1 Bf3 and 33...Qg2# to follow. 27.Kh1 Qh4 also loses quickly.

It was a beautiful, and I would say textbook, attack on my part, despite Stockfish disapproving of my moves ...Kh8 and ...Rg8. I very much doubt that I could have found all the moves in an OTB game – CC gave me the opportunity both to find the candidates and calculate accurately, just like a grandmaster.

Games like the above, even if only played occasionally, are what CC is all about. It is my opinion that such games are rare, if not impossible, when both players are using computer engines for assistance (I very much welcome if someone can prove me wrong).

It is generally easier to attack than defend in OTB chess. Playing with engines is another matter as computers defend thoroughly and with ease.

I am reminded of Game 1 in the Deep Blue-Kasparov match in 1996

where Kasparov went all out with a counterattack which would likely have demolished most players. The computer, however, found a precise defence and mopped up material, leaving Kasparov with no choice but to resign.

I should say that I am not against CC players using engines, although it is a different game where positional play comes to the fore. Chess with engines is nonetheless not for me and, bearing in mind the beautiful game I present above, I would like to again make the case for CC players to consider not using engines.

Calculating tactics is fun and, with no ticking clock to contend with, there is a very real possibility to find the best moves, just like Morphy.

Doing so is immensely rewarding when carried out to perfection, especially when opening up your opponent's king to a successful mating attack.

## Chess Art



Chess as Art -New York, marble, Krystyna Sargent, 2014



SCCA Magazine has come out with its 162<sup>nd</sup> issue so let us celebrate it with some interesting knight tours on a 9x18 (= 162) cell board. Figure 1 is a semi-magic knight's tour. Here sum of all the columns is 1467. It is an open tour – cells 1 and 162 are not knight's moves – and readers are urged to look for a more challenging closed (re-entrant) tour. Figures 2 to 10 are 'Figured tours' of the knight. Here the square numbers 1<sup>2</sup>, 2<sup>2</sup>, 3<sup>2</sup>, ... 12<sup>2</sup>, namely 1, 4, 9, ..., 144 are arranged in a beautiful pattern. Figure 2 has all the consecutive square numbers in a line and the number segments are on alternate side of it up to 133. Readers may like to improve upon it.

Figure 1

3	150	15	154	1	148	9	162	11
16	155	2	149	14	159	12	147	8
151	4	157	18	153	6	145	10	161
156	17	152	5	158	13	160	7	146
21	132	33	136	19	130	27	144	29
34	137	20	131	32	141	30	129	26
133	22	139	36	135	24	127	28	143
138	35	134	23	140	31	142	25	128
39	114	51	118	37	112	45	126	47
52	119	38	113	50	123	48	111	44
115	40	121	54	117	42	109	46	125
120	53	116	41	122	49	124	43	110
59	62	65	74	55	108	67	72	69
64	75	60	57	66	73	70	93	82
61	58	63	76	107	56	83	68	71
104	101	98	89	86	77	94	81	92
99	88	103	106	97	90	79	84	95
102	105	100	87	78	85	96	91	80
1467	1467	1467	1467	1467	1467	1467	1467	1467

Figure 2

21	18	5	40	1	10	3	28	31
6	39	20	17	4	27	30	11	52
19	22	41	38	9	2	51	32	29
42	7	44	23	16	57	26	53	12
45	76	37	8	25	50	35	56	33
78	43	24	47	36	15	58	13	54
75	46	77	80	49	82	55	34	59
102	79	48	73	64	99	14	87	84
71	74	101	104	81	86	83	60	97
106	103	72	65	100	63	98	85	88
67	70	105	108	121	90	93	96	61
110	107	66	69	144	95	62	89	92
151	68	109	120	141	122	91	94	127
118	111	150	145	156	143	126	139	162
149	152	119	142	135	140	123	128	125
114	117	112	155	146	157	132	161	138
153	148	115	134	131	136	159	124	129
116	113	154	147	158	133	130	137	160

Figure 3

29	22	31	38	27	20	13	6	11
32	39	28	21	2	5	10	19	14
23	30	3	40	37	26	17	12	7
42	33	24	1	4	9	80	15	18
61	50	41	36	25	16	65	8	79
34	43	62	49	64	81	148	99	66
51	60	35	144	121	100	83	78	149
44	143	48	63	82	147	150	67	98
59	52	141	120	145	122	101	84	77
142	45	112	47	124	151	146	97	68
53	58	119	140	129	102	123	76	85
118	111	46	113	152	125	128	69	96
57	54	139	110	127	130	103	86	75
158	117	56	153	114	109	126	95	70
55	138	157	116	91	104	131	74	87
156	159	154	135	132	115	108	71	94
137	134	161	90	105	92	73	88	107
160	155	136	133	162	89	106	93	72

Figure 4

13	42	19	32	155	40	161	68	157
20	31	12	41	160	33	156	39	162
43	14	7	18	11	154	67	158	69
30	21	44	65	8	159	34	153	38
45	6	15	10	17	66	37	70	123
22	29	46	1	64	9	122	35	152
47	50	5	16	121	36	63	124	71
28	23	2	49	4	81	120	151	62
51	48	53	100	25	144	125	72	119
54	27	24	3	82	101	80	61	150
95	52	99	26	145	126	143	118	73
98	55	96	83	58	79	102	149	60
85	94	57	146	127	142	59	74	117
56	97	84	141	78	129	148	103	106
135	86	93	128	147	112	105	116	75
92	89	136	111	140	77	130	107	104
87	134	91	138	113	132	109	76	115
90	137	88	133	110	139	114	131	108

Figures 3 and 4 have the square numbers arranged in rectangles – the former in wazir (a fairy piece) path and the latter in the knight's path.

Figures 5 and 6 have the consecutive square numbers in the knight's path arranged in rectangular formation. Figure 7 has them in holy cross formation. Figures 8 to 10 have the square numbers delineating '1', '6' and '2' - the numerals in 162.

Figure 5

43	60	41	76	87	78	67	70	85
40	57	44	61	66	75	86	79	68
45	42	59	74	77	88	69	84	71
58	39	56	65	62	73	82	89	80
55	46	93	102	95	64	91	72	83
38	51	48	63	92	101	98	81	90
47	54	103	94	49	96	109	156	99
52	37	50	107	104	161	100	97	110
13	106	53	36	141	108	155	160	157
26	35	14	105	162	121	158	111	154
15	12	25	140	137	142	113	122	159
24	27	34	17	144	139	120	153	112
11	16	23	138	117	136	143	114	123
28	33	10	1	18	145	116	119	152
9	2	7	22	135	118	151	124	115
32	29	4	19	146	131	134	127	150
3	8	31	6	21	148	129	132	125
30	5	20	147	130	133	126	149	128

Figure 6

155	124	149	140	153	130	133	106	103
148	141	154	131	150	139	104	129	134
123	156	125	152	127	132	107	102	105
142	147	122	111	138	151	128	135	108
157	118	145	126	121	110	137	80	101
146	143	158	119	112	79	100	137	101
117	2	161	144	99	120	65	84	81
162	159	76	115	78	113	82	47	66
3	116	1	160	75	98	85	64	83
94	73	6	77	114	63	46	67	48
7	4	95	74	97	86	49	62	45
72	93	8	5	50	89	68	37	34
9	52	91	96	87	36	33	44	61
92	71	16	51	90	69	88	35	38
15	10	53	70	25	32	39	60	43
54	21	12	17	40	57	24	31	28
11	14	19	56	23	26	29	42	59
20	55	22	13	18	41	58	27	30

Figure 7

12	19	6	21	32	55	28	45	30
7	22	13	2	27	46	31	54	51
18	11	20	5	56	33	52	29	44
23	8	3	14	1	26	47	50	53
10	17	24	57	4	15	34	43	48
61	58	9	16	25	36	49	84	79
66	103	60	99	64	83	80	35	42
59	62	65	102	81	40	37	78	85
104	67	98	63	100	145	82	41	38
97	150	101	146	121	116	39	86	77
68	105	148	151	144	153	122	115	162
149	96	143	124	147	120	117	76	87
106	69	126	119	152	123	154	161	114
95	128	135	142	125	118	137	88	75
70	107	94	127	136	155	74	113	160
131	134	129	156	141	158	91	138	89
108	71	132	93	110	73	140	159	112
133	130	109	72	157	92	111	90	139

Figure 8

29	6	21	10	27	54	43	56	41
20	11	28	5	2	23	40	53	44
7	30	3	22	9	26	55	42	57
12	19	8	1	4	39	24	45	52
31	34	17	38	25	50	67	58	69
18	13	32	35	16	37	70	51	46
33	84	15	80	49	66	59	68	71
14	79	82	65	36	75	72	47	60
83	104	85	78	81	48	143	76	73
86	99	106	103	64	77	74	61	142
105	102	137	100	121	144	63	162	159
98	87	146	107	138	119	160	141	62
109	136	101	120	145	122	139	158	161
88	97	108	147	118	157	126	123	140
135	110	131	156	125	148	117	152	127
96	89	134	113	130	93	124	149	116
111	132	91	94	155	114	151	128	153
90	95	112	133	92	129	154	115	150

Figure 9

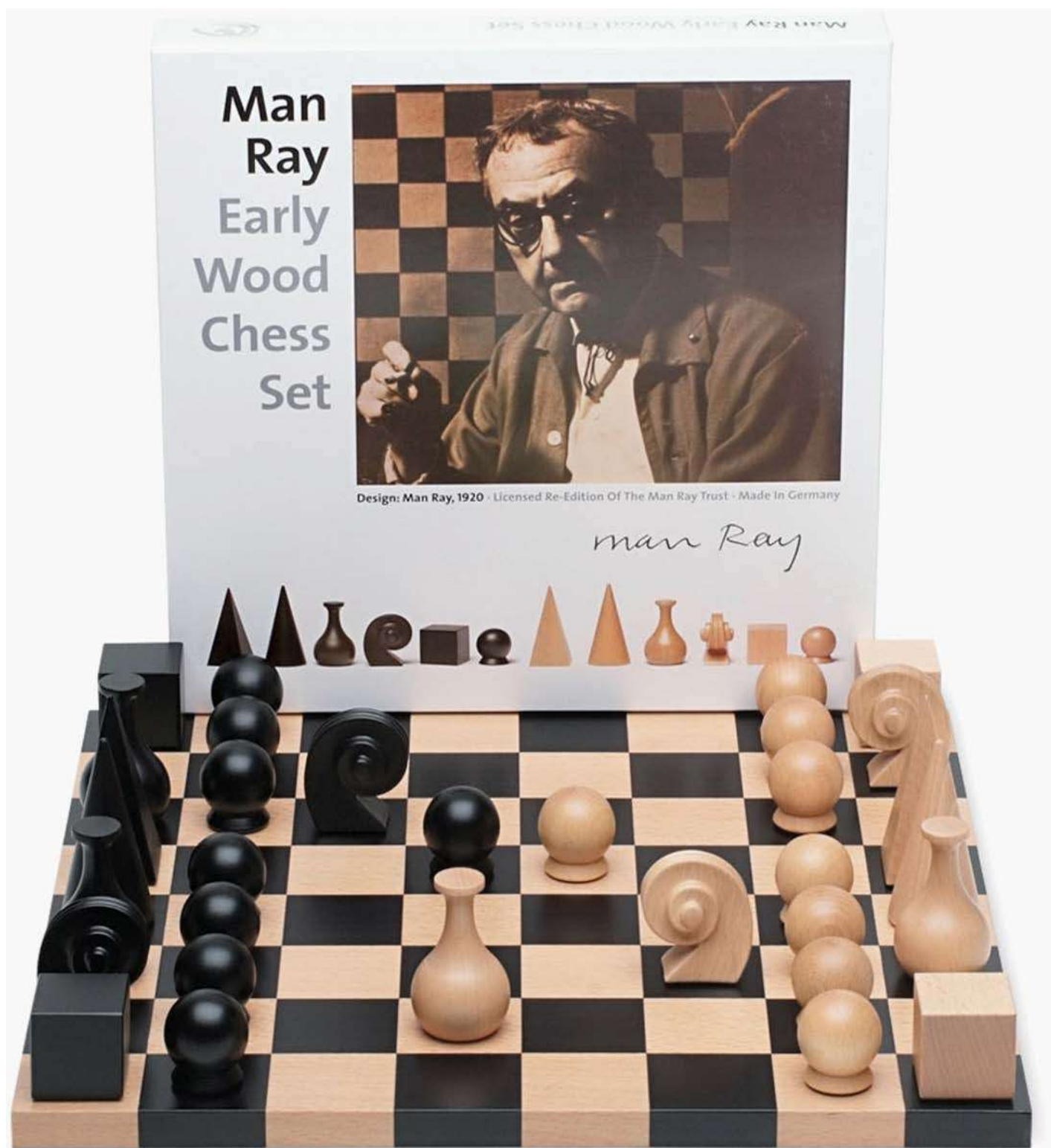
95	158	91	154	49	160	109	136	151
90	155	94	159	92	153	150	161	108
69	96	157	148	129	110	137	152	135
156	89	68	93	138	147	130	107	162
97	70	139	128	141	118	111	134	131
88	67	142	119	46	127	132	117	106
71	98	87	140	143	120	145	112	133
86	83	66	99	126	123	114	105	116
59	72	85	82	121	144	101	124	113
84	77	60	65	100	125	122	115	104
73	58	75	78	81	102	63	2	5
76	79	48	61	64	1	4	103	10
57	74	35	80	49	62	9	6	3
42	51	56	47	36	25	16	11	8
55	34	43	50	15	30	7	26	17
52	41	54	37	46	21	24	29	12
33	44	39	20	31	14	27	18	23
40	53	32	45	38	19	22	13	28

Figure 10

69	44	55	30	21	42	13	6	19
56	31	68	43	54	29	20	41	14
45	70	53	22	3	12	5	18	7
32	57	2	67	52	23	28	15	40
71	46	51	60	1	4	11	8	17
58	33	66	37	24	27	16	39	10
47	72	59	50	61	38	9	26	111
34	83	48	65	36	25	110	105	102
73	76	35	62	49	104	101	112	109
84	97	82	75	64	147	108	103	106
77	74	63	98	81	100	121	144	113
96	85	80	141	148	143	146	107	122
139	78	149	94	99	120	157	114	145
86	95	140	79	142	151	116	123	158
133	138	93	150	131	156	119	152	115
90	87	132	135	128	117	130	159	124
137	134	89	92	155	126	161	118	153
88	91	136	127	162	129	154	125	160



Chess Sets Selection



Man Ray Early Wood Set, 1920



**Frank Lloyd Wright, Polyresin, 1913**



**Robert Burns Chess Set, metal, John Morgan, [Stirling1314.com](http://Stirling1314.com)**



## Games Column

[games@scottishcca.co.uk](mailto:games@scottishcca.co.uk)

By Alastair Dawson

The ICCF World Championship Final has nearly completed now. In WC32, like all the others a Category 11 tournament, 4 players were tied for first place on 9/16. The eventual winner on tie-break was SIM Jon Edwards (USA) ahead of GM Michel Lecroq (France), SIM Sergey Osipov (Russia) and GM Horacio Neto of Portugal.

With each player having 16 games to complete, it is a gruelling event. In addition, at this elevated level of correspondence chess, one tiny slip can be fatal - and so it proved.

Here, we provide 4 games won by these 4 players. Winning games in such a prestigious event is rare enough but here we witness 2 games in which the wins were achieved by catastrophic blunders on the part of the opponent.

The third game has a conclusion that is inexplicable and can only have arisen as a result of a time control issue. The fourth game is a wonderful attacking display by Sergey Osipov.

Under 'normal' circumstances his win ought to have been enough to propel him into 1st place but bizarre events elsewhere in the tournament proved this not to be the case.

**White: Edwards, Jon (2525)**  
**Black: Michálek, Miroslav (2480)**  
**Sicilian Najdorf [B90]**  
 ICCF WC32/final ICCF, 2020  
*[Notes by Alastair Dawson]*

- |        |      |
|--------|------|
| 1.e4   | c5   |
| 2.Nf3  | d6   |
| 3.d4   | cxd4 |
| 4.Nxd4 | Nf6  |
| 5.Nc3  | a6   |

The players have entered a main line Sicilian – let's see how long they keep to the established and where the paths diverge.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 6.Be3   | e5  |
| So we are entering a Sveshnikov Sicilian, a highly tactical variation at the best of times. |     |
| 7.Nb3   | Be6 |
| 8.f3  | h5  |

But here a provocative move. The most common move here is 8... Be7 having been played nearly 19,000 times. But in the games database 8..h5 shows as the best scoring 8th move for Black at just over 48%.

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 9.Nd5   | Bxd5 |
| 10.exd5 | Nbd7 |
| 11.Qd2  |      |

We are still in main line territory here with 11.g6 showing up as the most popular and successful move for Black.

- |        |     |
|--------|-----|
| 11...  | g6  |
| 12.Be2 | Bg7 |
| 13.0-0 |     |

At this point the databases are looking promising for Black. A host of super-GMs have followed this line, in particular Carlsen, Topalov and So for White, and Vachier Lagrave and Giri for Black.

- |       |    |
|-------|----|
| 13... | b6 |
| 14.h3 |    |

But here Edwards opts not for the most popular move by far (14.c4) but the relatively more obscure 3rd choice move.

- |       |     |
|-------|-----|
| 14... | 0-0 |
| 15.a4 |     |

And again Edwards prefers the 2nd most popular move (15. Rac1 is the top choice).

- |       |     |
|-------|-----|
| 15... | Qc7 |
|-------|-----|



And it is here that Edwards departs from mainstream. Chessbase online shows this move as having been played only 3 times with 2 wins for White plus one loss.

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 16.Kh2  | Rfe8 |
| 17.g3   | Rec8 |
| 18.c4   | Nc5  |
| 19.Nxc5 | bxc5 |

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 20.Rab1 | Rab8 |
| 21.b3   | Qe7  |
| 22.Kg2  | Rb7  |
| 23.Bd1  | Re8  |
| 24.g4   | hxg4 |
| 25.hxg4 |      |

And so as we follow the moves through the middle game, the engines are showing the position continuing to be equal.

- |        |      |
|--------|------|
| 25...  | Qd7  |
| 26.Qe2 | Reb8 |
| 27.Re1 | e4   |
| 28.f4  | Nh7  |
| 29.g5  | f5   |

Black is beginning to pressurise White. Some space has been gained with the f-pawn push while the Bg7 is starting to look menacing.

- |        |     |
|--------|-----|
| 30.Qd2 | Qc7 |
| 31.Rh1 |     |

And here for some inexplicable reason Black has a meltdown and gives away a piece. These things happen in chess, in particular in CC where the tiniest slip can result in a lost game. Spare a thought for poor Michalek. He is playing 16 opponents all of them either SIMs or GMs. He has spent months finding the best moves, checking and counter-checking variations. Then all of a sudden his tournament is over.



- |         |     |
|---------|-----|
| 31...   | Kf7 |
| 32.Rxh7 |     |

1-0



**White: Schwetlick, Thomas (2470)**  
**Black: Lecroq, Michel (2568)**  
**Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defence [C67]**  
 ICCF WC32/final ICCF, 2020  
*[Notes by Alastair Dawson]*

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|--------------|-------------|
| <b>1.e4</b>  | <b>e5</b>   |
| <b>2.Nf3</b> | <b>Nc6</b>  |
| <b>3.Bb5</b> | <b>Nf6</b>  |
| <b>4.0-0</b> | <b>Nxe4</b> |
| <b>5.Re1</b> | <b>Nd6</b>  |

A well-established line of the Berlin that most times proves a tough nut to crack.

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| <b>6.Nxe5</b> | <b>Be7</b>  |
| <b>7.Bf1</b>  | <b>Nxe5</b> |
| <b>8.Rxe5</b> | <b>0-0</b>  |
| <b>9.d4</b>   | <b>Bf6</b>  |
| <b>10.Re1</b> | <b>Re8</b>  |

Here, 11.c3 is the most popular move but White elects to go for a more speculative try with a move that, according to the online database, has only been tried 17 times before.

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| <b>11.d5</b> | <b>b6</b> |
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In turn, Lecroq tries a relatively rare move in preference to the more common exchange of rooks on e1.

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| <b>12.Rxe8+</b> | <b>Qe8</b> |
| <b>13.a4</b>    | <b>Qe4</b> |



And now the players are on their own with the position equal.

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| <b>14.Bd3</b>  | <b>Qe7</b>  |
| <b>15.a5</b>   | <b>Bb7</b>  |
| <b>16.axb6</b> | <b>cxb6</b> |
| <b>17.c4</b>   |             |

White is grabbing space in the centre of the board, but at the same time setting up targets for Black.

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| <b>17...</b>  | <b>a5</b>  |
| <b>18.Nd2</b> | <b>Re8</b> |
| <b>19.Nf3</b> | <b>Ba6</b> |



#### 20.Qb3??

And here Schwetlick makes a fatal error and forgets about the dangers to his back rank.

#### 20... Qe1+

A fatal mistake that is difficult to comprehend. Irrespective of how White responds, the White Q has to be sacrificed to fend off checkmate. The resulting position leaves Black with sufficient extra material to convert to a win without difficulty, so White resigns. If SIMs and GMs can blunder like this in a World Championship Final, then there is still hope for us lesser mortals!

0-1



**White: Pessoa, Francisco Azevedo (2524)**

**Black: Neto, Horácio (2567)**

**Closed Catalan [E06]**

ICCF WC32/final ICCF, 2020

*[Notes by Alastair Dawson]*

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|--------------|------------|
| <b>1.Nf3</b> | <b>d5</b>  |
| <b>2.d4</b>  | <b>Nf6</b> |
| <b>3.c4</b>  | <b>e6</b>  |

The game has transposed into a QGD, probably one of the best known chess openings with scarcely a trap or innovation not already discovered and analysed.

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| <b>4.g3</b>  | <b>Bb4+</b> |
| <b>5.Bd2</b> | <b>Be7</b>  |

Now the game shifts to the g3 variations with Black trying to exploit the fact that the Bd2 is not on its best square.

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| <b>6.Bg2</b> | <b>0-0</b> |
| <b>7.0-0</b> | <b>c6</b>  |

Black is completely solid with the only matter requiring attention being

the long-term future of the bishop locked in on c8.

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| <b>8.Qc2</b> | <b>b6</b> |
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The move 9.Bf4 is less common than 9.Rd1 but both score equally well.

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| <b>9.Bf4</b> | <b>Bb7</b> |
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| <b>10.Nbd2</b> | <b>c5</b> |
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Black continues in classical style and is expecting the usual capture 11.dc5.

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| <b>11.dxc5</b> | <b>bx5</b> |
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| <b>12.cxd5</b> | <b>Nxd5</b> |
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#### 13.Rfd1

Pessoa has clearly considered this capture in advance and assumed the view that the compromising of his pawn structure is well worth the pressure gained over the central squares and files.

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| <b>13...</b> | <b>Nxf4</b> |
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| <b>14.gxf4</b> | <b>Qc7</b> |
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| <b>15.Ne5</b> | <b>Bxg2</b> |
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But Black starts to gain a slight edge from here on in.

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| <b>16.Kxg2</b> | <b>Nc6</b> |
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| <b>17.Qe4</b> | <b>Nxe5</b> |
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| <b>18.fxe5</b> | <b>Rad8</b> |
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| <b>19.Nc4</b> | <b>f5</b> |
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| <b>20.exf6</b> | <b>Rxf6</b> |
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| <b>21.Ne5</b> | <b>Bd6</b> |
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Black's pressure is beginning to ramp up but there is still no obvious way through.

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| <b>22.Nc4</b> | <b>Be7</b> |
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| <b>23.f3</b> | <b>Rdf8</b> |
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And then for some unfathomable reason Black is declared the winner in a dead equal position - one can only presume that the time controls were breached?

0-1



**White: Osipov, Sergey Adolfovich (2499)**

**Black: Schwetlick, Thomas (2470)**

**Modern Benoni [A65]**

ICCF WC32/Final ICCF, 2020

[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.d4 Nf6  
2.c4 g6  
3.f3 Bg7  
4.e4 d6  
5.Nc3 0-0

Osipov is happy to enter the classical Saemisch lines against Schwetlick.

6.Be3 c5  
7.Nge2 Nc6

Black with 7..Nc6 is trying to lure White forward with 8.d5

8.d5 Ne5  
9.Ng3 e6  
10.Be2 exd5  
11.cxd5

A tense situation has been created with Black hoping to generate pressure with an eventual ...a6 and ..b5.

11... a6  
12.a4 Bd7  
13.0-0 b5  
14.h3 Nc4  
15.Bxc4 bxc4  
16.e5

As always stated, 'an attack on the flank should be countered by pressure in the centre'.

16... Qe7  
17.f4 dxe5  
18.f5



This is where the engines come in - here Deep Fritz has this move as strongly advantageous to Black while the latest Stockfish engine has it a hugely advantageous to White! Black chooses a different move.

18... Rab8  
19.Qe2 Bxf5

Black probably did not appreciate what was to follow.

20.Rxf5 gxf5  
21.Nxf5 Qb7

22.Qe1  
Making way to end the game by putting the White queen on the g-file.

22... Nh5  
23.Qh4 Qxb2  
24.Rc1 Nf4  
25.Qg4 Ng6  
26.Ne4 Kh8  
27.d6

Black cannot cope with both the threats to his king and also the pressure of the advancing d-pawn.

27... c3  
28.Kh2 Rb4  
29.d7 Rd4  
30.Rf1 Qb6



White is now well ahead.

31.Nfd6 f5  
32.Rxf5

Yet another rook on the rampage.

32... Rxd6  
33.Bxc5 Qd8

34.Bxd6 c2

One last try by Black but it is easily repulsed.

35.Rh5 c1Q

36.Qxg6 h6

37.Bxf8

Black queen checks on f4 are simply met by g3.

37... Qf4+

38.g3 Qxf8

39.Rf5 Qxd7

40.Rxf8+ Bxf8

41.Qf6+ Kg8

42.Qxa6 Qd4

43.Qc6 Qb2+

White has opted to enter the endgame with an extra a-pawn - in correspondence chess at this level, more than enough to win. The rest is a matter of technique.

44.Kg1 Qb1+

45.Kg2 Qb2+

46.Nf2

And Black throws in the towel.

1-0



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