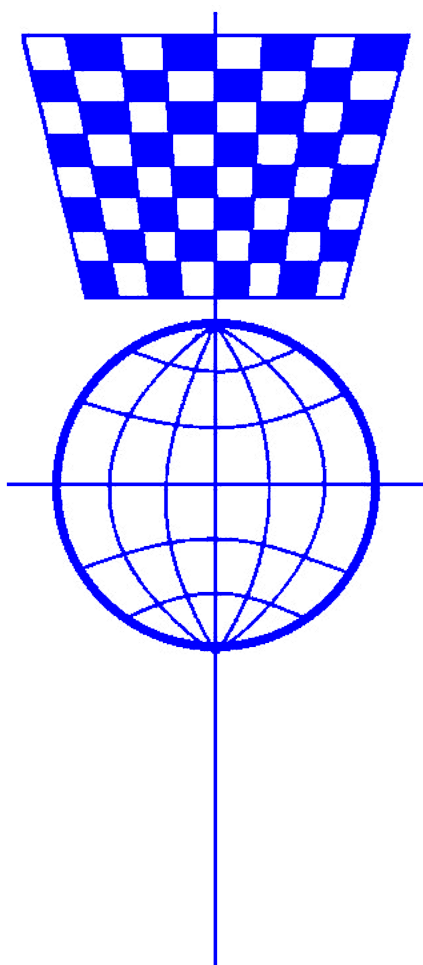




Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.163

Autumn 2023

ICCF Grading List 2023/4
Alistair analyses the Q4 statistics

SCCA Accounts 2023
Ian W summarises the finances

The Hawkes Files
John features a Gallery of Miniatures

Is there a future for Correspondence Chess?
Austin & Peter conclude the series

Lewis Pieces Exhibition in Stornoway
Simon captures the current display

Knight's Tours
Awani celebrates King Charles' upcoming birthday

Games Column
Alastair features GM Aleksandr Dronov



4 Printed Issues
Price £5 per annum

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



Editorial and News

By Iain Mackintosh

Welcome to the third edition of our 2023 magazine set. The onset of October has been a touch cathartic here with a Scottish monsoon in full flow at present...

The fourth ICCF rating list of 2023 is analysed by our grader Alistair Maxwell, who reports that Mark Smith has gained the CCE title – congratulations to Mark!

We've now caught up with our accounts. New auditor John Fanning is up to speed, and incoming treasurer Ian Whittaker has restyled the report to meet current accounting conventions. We posted a surplus despite the big outlay on the 2022 Glasgow Congress.

An exchange of correspondence between Austin Lockwood and Peter Bennett brings the series on 'Is there a future for CC?' to a fitting conclusion. Congratulations to Peter on his much-read initiative!

John Hawkes has produced a selection of Miniatures themed on the Dilworth Gambit - some real brilliancies in there, and a nostalgic look at the British Rail Inter-regional Team Championship.

Our Chess Art pages focus on the current Stornoway exhibition of some of the original Lewis Chessmen on loan from the British Museum. Simon Hawkes, son of John, works in Stornoway and he's used his camera to good effect to capture the display.

Once again we welcome Awani Kumar and his dancing knights. This time he celebrates the upcoming birthday of King Charles III. The Chess Commonwealth continues to tick along...

Alastair Dawson's Games Column looks at GM Aleksandr Dronov (2680) of Russia who won the WC27 final in 2011. Three of Dronov's games are analysed, demonstrating his resolve to win at the topmost level.

New International Secretary David Kilgour has been active with a clutch of ICCF team and individual events to organise. Contact David on international@scottishcca.co.uk if you have any related queries.

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
September	J Anderson	K B McAlpine
August	P M Giuliani	S G Mackenzie
July	P M Giuliani	K B McAlpine

SCCA Officials

President	Iain Mackintosh	11 West Grange Farm, St Andrews KY16 8LJ	+44 (0)1334 470287	president@scottishcca.co.uk
International	David Kilgour	Willowbank, Peebles Road, Galashiels, TD1 1TH	+44 (0)1896 755576	international@scottishcca.co.uk
Treasurer	Ian Whittaker	Inchkeith House, Lauder, Berwickshire TD2 6TE	+44 (0)1578 722 670	treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk
Membership	Mickey Blake	Turnpike Cottage, Kennerleigh, Crediton, EX17 4RR	+44 (0)7485 204208	membership@scottishcca.co.uk
Committee	Kevin Paine	47 Park Hill Drive, Frome BA11 2LQ	+44 (0)1373 467585	kevin.paine@scottishcca.co.uk
Committee	Alan Borwell	8 Wheatfield Avenue, Inchtute PH14 9RX	+44 (0)1828 686556	alan.borwell@scottishcca.co.uk
Committee	Graham Morrison	1 Fairhaven Road, Lytham St. Annes FY8 1NN	+44 (0)1253 780090	graham.morrison@scottishcca.co.uk
Grader	Alistair Maxwell	34 Loganswell Gardens, Glasgow G46 8HU	+44(0)141 620 2115	grader@scottishcca.co.uk
Games Editor	Alastair Dawson	10 Berry Place, St Andrews KY16 8RG	+44(0)1334 477236	games@scottishcca.co.uk

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



Notices

By Iain Mackintosh

23rd ICCF CC Olympiad



Gian-Maria Tani announces that the preliminary rounds of this event will start on 22nd January 2024.

There will be 6 players in each team. With entry fees €12 per player.

Team entries must be sent by the

National Federations to Gian-Maria Tani

g.m.tani.iccf@gmail.com no later than 10 December 2023.

ICCF Champions League 10



ICCF has announced Champions League 10 and full details are contained in ICCF News 1649.

There are three divisions and the registration period runs from 1 October to 31 December.

If you'd like to organise and/or play in a Scottish-based team, please contact David Kilgour on international@scottishcca.co.uk.

SCCA Printed Magazine End of an Era



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

If you're in danger of getting nostalgic, try visiting the members' page of the SCCA website at: <https://www.scottishcca.co.uk/members.html> (password required). It contains the printed magazine archive courtesy of Alistair Maxwell and Bernard Milligan. Enjoy!

Gian-Maria Tani ICCF Hall of Fame



Gian – Maria Tani has been inducted into the ICCF Hall of Fame from 21 August 2023.

He has served as an official since 1974 in ASIGC and since 1977 in ICCF with an exceptional effort and success.

His skills and expertise are legendary, and they are combined with being esteemed by officials and players as well.

Currently Gian-Maria holds the position of Title Tournament Commissioner since the year 2011.

Gian-Maria's career started in 1977 as TD in several groups of the 4th ICCF World Cup (preliminary, semifinal and final).

Later Gian-Maria became TD for Thematic Tournaments (1978 – 85) and for the WT/M Tournaments (1986 – 2000).

In addition to this Gian-Maria took over as Thematic Tournament Officer (1996 – 1998), as World (Postal) Tournament Officer (1999) and in 2011 as Title Tournaments Commissioner

In the period 1998 – 1999 and 2003 – 2010 Gian-Maria was the Zonal Director for Europe and member of the Executive board.

Furthermore, Gian-Maria was member of several important ICCF Commissions: the most important one is his membership in the Rules Commission in the nineties, which drafted the new ICCF Playing Rules (with Reg Gillman as chairman).

The following distinctions were awarded to Gian-Maria so far:

1982 International Arbiter

1988 Bertl von Massow Silver Medal

1994 Bertl von Massow Gold Medal

2007 Honorary Member

2016 Lifetime Achievement.

Congratulations to Gian-Maria!

Fernschach 2024 CC Database



Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2024 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 1,933,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 95,000 new games since 2023
- Over 10,000 annotated (320 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



September updates to the Games Archive have now been added. You can now download the entire archive to end-December 2022.

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



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>



2023/4 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

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

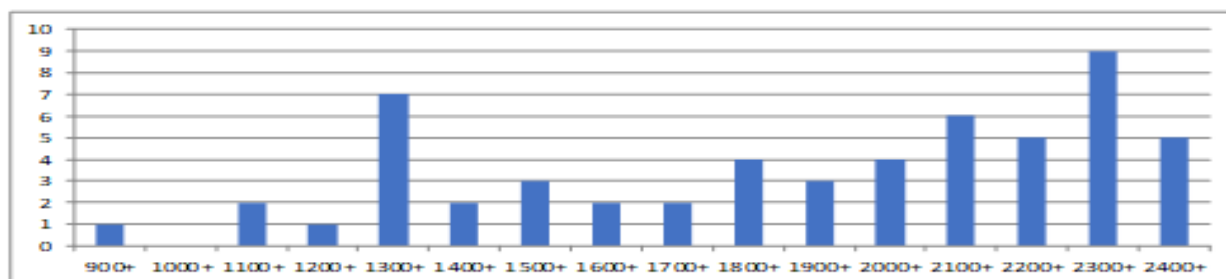
In the norms and titles stakes Mark Smith has gained the CCE title. Congratulations to Mark!

There were no new additions or deletions to the list. There have been some changes to the way ratings are being calculated and anyone interested can view the information regarding this on the ICCF Website. The most significant rating moves were Colin MacGregor (+152) Ian Marshall (+112) Derek Price (+75), Carlos Almarza Mato (+71), Alan Buchan (+69), David Cumming (+53), John Armstrong (+51) David Kilgour (+44) Robert Montgomery (+40) James Murray (+37) Colin Beveridge (+29), Michael Blake (+24) and Raymond Burrige (+20)

New games centurions were David Cumming (2200+), Andrew MacMillen (1500+), Colin Beveridge (800+), Iain Sneddon (700+), Wilf Major (200+) and Benjamin Major (100+) Highest recorded games this quarter were Carlos Almarza Mato (46) Iain Sneddon (38), David Cumming (42), Raymond Burrige (28) and Colin Beveridge (24).

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)	2477	2176 ↑	584	MacGregor, C A	514	1996 ↑
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	397	2328 ↓	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	849	2396 ↓
	Anderson, T R	64	1721 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	1510	1581 ↓
	Antunes, A	34	2135 ↑		Major, B	110	1188 ↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	545	1411 ↑	566	Marshall, I H	918	2153 ↑
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	548	2473 ↑	434	Matheis, T (IM)	310	2449 ↓
599	Bell, A D (IM)	285	2429 ↔		Maxwell, A	74	2059 ↓
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	513	2378 ↔		Miles, A	102	1312 ↓
481	Beveridge, C (CCM)	805	2253 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S (CCM)	388	2336 ↑
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	962	2387 ↑		Morrison, G J (CCM)	88	2326 ↓
509	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105	2197 ↔		Moss, R	47	1778 ↔
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	430	2438 ↑	474	Murden, C (IM)	680	2460 ↑
602	Burrige, R J	1972	1911 ↑	564	Murray, J S	106	2075 ↑
	Carswell, D	51	1528 ↓	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	252	1571 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	129	1905 ↑	604	Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	258	2360 ↓
166	Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2238	2306 ↑		Pettigrew, S	191	1379 ↑
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	179	2144 ↓	432	Price, D	527	2038 ↑
478	Dunn, J	534	1362 ↓		Rafferty, F	42	1343 ↔
371	Edney, D	339	1818 ↓		Rafferty, K	68	1396 ↔
462	Gilbert, R	319	1628 ↓		Ross, Derek I	57	1808 ↔
399	Grant, J	79	1629 ↔	477	Sedstrem, A	119	1348 ↔
596	Hardwick, M E	1936	926 ↓	439	Smith, M J (CCE)	132	2210 ↑
475	Kearns, A	115	1380 ↔	057	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	720	2381 ↑
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	369	2289 ↑		Taylor, A	42	1865 ↓
260	Knox, A	430	1231 ↓		Taylor, R	82	1425 ↔
	Lima, Joao	30	2039 ↔	605	Taylor, W (CCE)	207	2162 ↑
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1181	2270 ↓	480	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	316	2280 ↑
	MacDonald, M	114	1106 ↓		Wicht, D	82	1890 ↔



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	56
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed or non-members)	0
Grading increases (↑)	22
Grading decreases (↓)	21
Grading static (↔)	13

Top 30 Grades

Beecham, C R (SIM)	2473	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2280
Murden, C (IM)	2460	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2270
Matheis, T (IM)	2449	Beveridge, C (CCM)	2253
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2438	Smith, M J (CCE)	2210
Bell, A D (IM)	2429	Borwell, A P (IM)	2197
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2396	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2176
Blake, M J (CCM)	2387	Taylor, W (CCE)	2162
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2381	Marshall, I H	2153
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2379	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2144
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2378	Antunes, A	2135
Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	2360	Murray, J S	2075
Montgomery, R S (CCM)	2336	Maxwell, A	2059
Morrison, G J (CCM)	2326	Lima, J	2039
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2306	Price, D	2038
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2289	MacGregor, C A	1996

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C (CCE)	2477	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1181
Cumming, D R (CCM, SM)	2238	Borwell, A P (IM)	1105
Burridge, R J	1972	Blake, M J (CCM)	962
Hardwick, M E	1936	Marshall, I H	918
MacMillen, A N	1510	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	849

Selected Personal Best Grades 2022/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2438	2375	2023/2	63
Montgomery, R S (CCM)	2336	2317	2013/4	19
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2280	2273	2023/2	7
Smith, M J (CCE)	2210	2202	2023/3	8
Taylor, W (CCE)	2162	2153	2023/2	9
Marshall, I H	2153	2143	1993	10
Antunes, A	2135	2132	2023/3	3
Murray, J S	2075	2044	2019/3	31
MacGregor, C A	1996	1947	2007/1	49

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), Morrison, G J (1)

Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:
Whittaker, I P (1), Taylor, W (1)

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title norms:
Burridge, R J (2).

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.

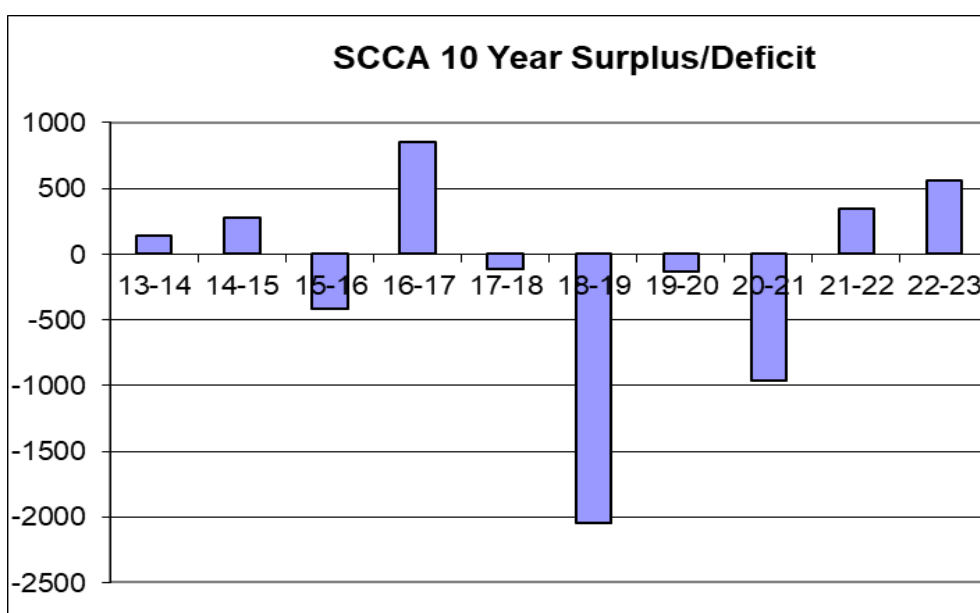
A number of useful online rating enquiry facilities are available, including a personal forecasted rating as your results come in.



SCCA Accounts 2022-23

By Ian Whittaker

Prior Year to 31/3/2022		SCCA Income & Expenditure 2022-23	Current Year to 31/3/2023	
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure
£	£		£	£
240.00		Membership Fees - Annual	340.00	
100.00		Membership Fees – Life & Patron	225.00	
140.00		League Competition Entries	90.00	
12.00		Individual Domestic Competition Entries	167.78	
241.50		ICCF Competition Entries	205.50	
35.00		Printed Magazine Sales	25.00	
665.00		100 Club Units Bought	720.00	
165.00		General Donations	132.20	
10.00		Cheque Written Back		
0.65		Bank Interest Income		
72.00		Miscellaneous Income		
		ICCF Congress Income	23,156.77	
	50.00	Chess Scotland Affiliation Fee		50.00
	70.00	Auditor Fees		70.00
	0.00	Committee Expenses		48.63
	128.38	Competition Prizes & Trophies		158.99
	262.24	ICCF Fees		205.29
		Domestic Competition Fees		57.90
	169.50	Printed Magazine Costs		159.60
	360.00	100 Club Prizes		360.00
	298.33	Miscellaneous Expenditure		43.78
		ICCF Congress Expenses		23,347.80
£1,681.15	£1,338.45		£25,062.25	£24,501.99
	£342.70	Surplus for the Year		£560.26



Prior Year as at 31/3/2022	SCCA Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023	Current Year as at 31/3/2023	
£		£	£
	Current Assets		
	Bank		
7,398.06	Bank of Scotland Current Account		9,006.16
	Sundry Debtors		
	Penrose Memorial 22/24 outturn		33.78
1,040.00	Prepayments re 2022 ICCF Congress		
	less		
	Sundry Liabilities		
	22/23 trophies & postage	45.20	
	100 Club prize to be presented	10.00	
	100 Club received in advance for 2023/24e	28.00	
	Chess Scotland affiliation fee 2023e	50.00	
	Monies c/f for entry fees	8.02	
	Audit fee accrual	70.00	
-169.60			-211.22
£8,268.46	Net Assets at 31 March 2023		£8,828.72
	Represented by:		
		£	£
	Capital Account		
6,925.76	Balance b/f	7,268.46	
342.70	Surplus for year	560.26	
7,268.46		7,828.72	
0.00	Less: Allocation to Development Account	0.00	
7,268.46	Balance c/f		7,828.72
	Development Account		
1,000.00	Balance b/f	1,000.00	
	Allocation from Capital Account		
1,000.00	Balance c/f		1,000.00
£ 8,268.46			£8,828.72

Independent Examiner's Report

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

John Fanning, LLB, FCA, August 2023.

NB The full text of John Fanning's report may be inspected on the SCCA website (scottishcca.co.uk) by following the link to members/downloads..

Accounts prepared by

Ian P Whittaker, BSc FCA FIIA
SCCA Treasurer



Is there a future for Correspondence Chess? Part E: Concluding Letters

By Peter Bennett

Editor: This article takes the form of a Letter to the Editor, written by Austin Lockwood following the conclusion of Peter's 4-part series, and Peter's response.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read Peter Bennett's thoughts on chess jurisdiction in your last issue with some interest.

Peter believes that an online playing website (which he calls "Frozen Rooks") offering correspondence chess events "should" be affiliated to the English Federation for Correspondence Chess... I don't understand his reasoning - What benefits are there either to the website or to the players?

Jurisdiction is circular, a body is only recognised as having jurisdiction by its affiliates and the bodies to which it is affiliated; FIFA has jurisdiction over national football associations because they voluntarily affiliate, but if I kick a ball about with my friends in the local park, then neither SFA/FA/FAW nor FIFA have any authority over the placement of the jumpers; similarly if I set up a website for members of the site to play chess, then neither SCCA/EFCC/WCCF, nor FIDE nor ICCF has any authority over how I run that website unless I choose to seek affiliation. I can define the game and the rules of the game in any way I like... and indeed I'm not just writing hypothetically - I have been doing exactly that for over two decades.

I am the owner of a correspondence chess playing website (let's follow Peter's cryptic convention and call it "Conniving Cerebrum") which has its head office in England and, like Frozen Rooks, is not affiliated to EFCC... There is no reason at all to surrender control of the definition of the game played on the website, or the playing rules, to an organisation with widely different values and aspirations. And that's not even accounting for the affiliation fee - as a responsible operator I am obliged to get value for the money which players invest in the organisation... an affiliation fee paid to EFCC or anyone else would require members to pay higher subs for no benefit.

Peter also fails to observe that Frozen Rooks has an international membership, and, by the terms of their affiliation to ICCF, EFCC can only represent English and unattached players...

If we follow Peter's chain of assumptions, Frozen Rooks (and Conniving Cerebrum) "should" also pay an affiliation fee to all the ICCF member federations which represent members of the website.

Thanks, but no thanks!

Peter goes even further by suggesting that EFCC should be exclusively responsible for all online chess played in England, including real-time chess... this is an interesting assertion, as EFCC have no facilities to run real time online chess events, and so would be unable to do this even if they wanted to (and there is no evidence that they do).

Peter also claims that FIDE and ICCF are separately recognised by the IOC... sadly he's wrong about that too - FIDE is recognised by the IOC as the international federation for all types of chess, ICCF doesn't get a look in - <https://olympics.com/ioc/recognised-international-federations>.

Anyway - affiliated or not, I hope that Peter continues to enjoy his games on Frozen Rooks, and I encourage him (and other readers) to give Conniving Cerebrum a try.

Best wishes,
Austin Lockwood
Webmaster and Owner, SchemingMind.com

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My Article on the Future of CC (Part D) in Issue 162
Some Points of Correction and Clarification

In submitting (typically) two contributions to each Issue of our magazine over many years now, I realise that my style of writing has become progressively more journalistic - characterised by writing quickly (in this case, in less than two days) against a tight publication deadline and taking shortcuts with the relevant research.

The result is that errors creep in; and, in this instance, I am most grateful to your correspondent, Austin Lockwood, for putting me right on a number of points of fact.

So I'd be obliged if I could use this letter to make a few corrections, as well as to clarify one or two points where I was insufficiently careful in my choice of words.

Before doing that, I would like to make a general assertion about the approach I have taken in my recent articles. The various arguments I have presented are offered in what I might call the Socratic tradition.

My own thinking about these issues is in a constant state of flux: the more information we receive, the more we have to adjust our views accordingly. None of my material reflects any fixed opinions, even less beliefs.

Turning to Austin's critique, first of all, when I referred to "...commercial chess websites whose designers are either ill-informed about chess jurisdictions or elect deliberately to ignore them..." I was referring to some but by no means all such sites. In particular, I was not referring to Scheming Mind, the highly reputed CC organisation which Austin founded and has been running for many years, as he points out. I have never played chess on Scheming Mind's site; but those I know who have done so speak very highly of it.

To me, Austin himself is correspondence chess royalty. As the ICCF Services Director he has given great service to the CC community for many years in that capacity. As a former British Correspondence Chess Champion, he also has the playing credentials to back up his administrative experience.

Next, I admit that my claim that the IOC had directly recognised the role of the ICCF in conducting (for many years now) the CC Olympiad was misleading. As Austin points out, the ICCF is not included in the documentation listing those organisations explicitly recognised by the IOC. I am grateful to Austin for pointing this out.

But when Austin says that the ICCF "...doesn't get a look in..." I am not sure I can entirely agree with that statement, whereas I do agree with him about the circularity of jurisdictions, affiliations and recognitions of any kind, the implication being that these arrangements are under constant scrutiny by all parties. Organisations change over time, hence partnerships of any kind need to be kept under review and modified as appropriate.

Thus the IOC's recognition of FIDE is not a nominal thing. The IOC has a reputation to maintain and must constantly scrutinise, forensically, the ways in which "olympic" events are being run, to ensure that the use of the term "olympic" or "olympiad" continues to be merited in every case. Its scrutiny of FIDE can fairly be assumed to extend to any "olympiad" activities that FIDE may elect to delegate to other bodies.

A lawyer recently pointed out to me an interesting facet of contract law: an arrangement can certainly be proved to exist because there is documentation to support it; but the absence of documentation does not necessarily disprove it.

Here we have a case in point. "By custom and consent" - another well-known legal phrase - the ICCF has been running the CC Olympiad for the last 72 years. The IOC could not possibly claim - and I am sure would not claim - that it was unaware of this fact; and, if challenged about it, it would likely say that that it was fully aware of the arrangement and was perfectly happy for this to be by verbal, or tacit, agreement.

Austin also points out that my suggestion that a website to which I had given the pseudonym Frozen Rooks "should" affiliate to the EFCC was wrong in principle because (a) Frozen Rooks had international subscribing members and (b) the terms of affiliation of the EFCC to the ICCF only extended to their responsibility for English and unattached players.

I must add here that my use of the word "should" was, in that context, tongue-in-cheek anyway. I knew fine well that there was no possibility of any such affiliation actually being sought; but I acknowledge that Austin's criticisms, in this context, are fair.

I was also using the word "affiliate" in the very loose sense of identifying the particular community (and code) of chess to which an organisation claims to belong, thus clarifying for members / stakeholders the kind of chess on offer.

In retrospect, I should perhaps have avoided the question of affiliation altogether. Austin helpfully points out, as well, two other aspects of formal affiliation which I had not addressed in my article at all (a) the representation of the interests of individual players, and (b) affiliation seen as a dispassionate commercial decision.

I am not entirely sure why Austin - humorously? - refers to what he calls a "cryptic convention". As far as I am concerned there is no such "convention". The vast majority of chess organisations I routinely refer to by their real names. Let's list a few: FIDE; ICCF; ECF; EFCC; SCCA; Chess Scotland; BCCA; CCCC; OUCCS; and, last but not least, Scheming Mind.

There are, however, three chess organisations to which I have referred by pseudonyms for the very specific reason that they have, in my view and mainly in the past, made organisational errors of judgement.

My purpose in describing such events was solely to illustrate the issues that these situations raised; and not to conduct a public spat with named chess administrators of any kind. I have a great respect for all those who take on honorary roles in the world of CC; and the last thing I would want to do is to embarrass them, publicly.

In conclusion, I suggest that your readers might sensibly ignore the parts of my article relating to the various issues referred to in this letter and Austin's helpful critique.

Anyone is free to disagree with anything that I write; and, as here, I am happy to take criticisms on board in a non-defensive way; but my purpose in writing my recent series of articles is not merely to promote debate.

What I would like to see on these pages in future issues is other people's original ideas about the future of CC. Mine are already history; so forget them and give us all your own blueprint for a CC future - that is my challenge to all readers of this magazine.

Yours sincerely,

Peter



The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes



A Gallery of Miniatures

Featuring the Dilworth Variation

Photo: Bournemouth 1976: British Rail Inter-regional Team Championship.

In the foreground is BR skipper George Govas playing yours truly John Hawkes (ex-Southern Region debuting for Scottish Region).

So we have a rare shot of Vernon Dilworth (1916 - 2004) seated third along to my right.

Vernon was also a natural selection for the BR international team and I particularly recall he won a game for us v GM Atanas Kolarov of Bulgaria at the 1976 USIC Olympiad in York.

He takes place of honour in this selection of postal miniatures with a game packed with references to his

experiences with a variation very rightfully named after him.

I knew Vernon Dilworth from my British Rail days playing in the annual Inter-regional Championship and also in the USIC Railways Olympiad team: York (1976), Boras (1980) and Sofia (1985).

I also met Kjell Krantz in Lund following the Swedish venue event of 1980.

White: Estelles, R.
Black: Dilworth, Vernon
Ruy Lopez - Open [C82]
 Correspondence ENG, 1941
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	Nf6
5.0-0	Nxe4
6.d4	b5
7.Bb3	d5
8.dxe5	Be6
9.c3	Bc5
10.Nbd2	0-0
11.Bc2	



11... Nxf2

The Dilworth variation.

12.Qe2

E. A. Greig v Dilworth, corres. 1945 would go; 12. Rxf2 f6 13. exf6 Bxf2+ 14. Kxf2 Qxf6 15. Nf1 (15.Kg1 g5!) Ne5 16. Be3 Rae8 17. Bd4 Bg4 18. N1d2 Qg5 19. Bxe5 Rxe5 20. Nf1 Qh5 21. Qd3 Bxf3 22. gxf3 Ref5 23. Kg1 Rxf3 24. Qd4 Qg5+ 25. Ng3 Rxg3+ 26. hxg3 Qxg3+ 27. Kh1 Qf3+ 28. Kg1 Rf4! and White resigned.

J.Beaty - Dilworth, corres. 1952; 12.Rxf2 f6 13.exf6 Qxf6 14.Qf1 Rae8 15.Nb3 Bxf2+ 16.Qxf2 Ne5 17.Nbd4 Bg4 18.Bg5 Qb6 19.Qh4 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Bf5 21.Bxf5 Rxf5 22.Kh1 (22.Qg4 Rf7 23.Kh1 c5 24.Nb3 a5=/+ in B.Wood - Dilworth, corres.1952 ending 0-1 in 34 moves.) 22...Rf7 23.b4 c5 24.bxc5 Qxc5 25.Rg1 Qxc3 26.Bf6! Qd3 27.Qh5 Kf8 28.Qxd5 Qc4 29.Qd6+ Kg8 30.Nf5 Kh8 31.Nxg7 Ref8 32.Ba1



Black resigned.

12... f6

Refusing to make one of the six discovered checks!

13.exf6

If 13.Rxf2 then 13...fxe5 threatening e5-e4

13... Qxf6

14.Rxf2

If 14.b4 then the double-check 14...Nh3+ gives Black a winning position after 15.Kh1 Nf4-+

14... Rae8

15.Qd3 g6

16.Qf1 Bg4

17.Nd4?



17.Bb3 was relatively best.

17... Nxd4!!

18.Rxf6 Rxf6

19.exd4

If 19.Qxf6 Nf3+! 20.Kf1 Nxh2# (or 20...Re1#)

19... Bxd4+

20.Kh1 Rxf1+

21.Nxf1 Re1

22.Bd3 Bf5

23.Be2 Rxe2

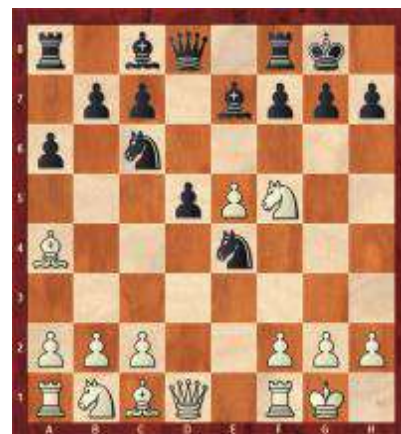
24.Bh6 Be4

0-1



White: Koch, Berthold
Black: Krebs, Hans
Ruy Lopez Closed [C84]
 1953-56
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	Nf6
5.d4	exd4
6.0-0	Be7
7.e5	Ne4
8.Nxd4	0-0
9.Nf5	d5



10.Bxc6

Zakharian - Klovans, USSR 1967 makes a beautiful (otb) reference game; 10.exd6 Bxf5 11.dxe7 Qxe7 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Be3 Qf6 14.f3 Nd6 15.c3 Nc4 16.Bd4 Qg6 17.b3 Nb2! 18.Qd2 Nd3 19.Na3 c5 20.Bf2 Rfe8 21.Bg3 Re7 22.c4 Rae8 23.Qa5 h5 24.Nb1 h4 25.Bxh4 Re2 26.Bg3 Nf4 27.Qxc7 Rxg2+ 28.Kh1 Rxh2+! 0-1

10... bxc6

11.Nxe7+ Qxe7

12.Re1 f6

13.f3 Ng5

14.Nc3 Rb8

15.Qd2 Ne6!

16.Na4 fxe5

17.Rxe5 Qd6

18.Re2





18... Rb4!
19.b3 Rh4
20.g3 Nd4
21.Rf2 Nxf3+!
22.Rxf3 Rxf3
23.gxh4 Bh3
24.Bb2



If 24.Qe1 there was 24...Qb4! 25.Bf4 Qd4+! 26.Kh1 Rxf4+ 24... Rf4!
25.Kh1
25.Qxf4 Qxf4 and mate in five at most.
25... d4
26.Nc3
26.Rg1 Qd5+ 27.Rg2 Rf1#; 26.c4 Qg6! 27.Rg1 Qxg1+ 28.Kxg1 Rf1#
26... c5!
Vacating c6.
26...c5 27.Qe2 (27.Re1 Qc6+ 28.Ne4 (28.Kg1 Rg4+ 29.Kf2 Qg2#)
28...Qxe4+! and mate next.)
27...dxc3 28.Bxc3 Qc6+ 29.Kg1 Qg6+ 30.Kh1 Bd7 31.h3 Rxh4 and mate in six.
0-1



White: Sakins, Aivars
Black: Dambitis, Ilgonis
King's Indian Defence [E93]
Latvian Correspondence 1974-75
[Notes by John E Hawkes after Zemitis]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0
6.Be2 e5
7.d5 Nbd7
8.Be3 Ng4
9.Bd2 f5



10.h3?
A serious mistake.
10... Nxf2!
11.Kxf2 fxe4
12.Nxe4 Qh4+
13.Ke3
Forced.
13... Bh6+
14.Kd3 Qxe4+!
The point: KxQ and Nc5 is checkmate!
15.Kc3 Bg7!
16.Rf1
16.Bd3 Rxf3 17.gxf3 Qd4+ 18.Kc2 e4 and wins. e.g. 19.Bc3 Qf2+ 20.Be2 exf3; so 16.b4 seems forced.
16... Nc5
17.b4



But now it's too late.
17... Rxf3+!
18.gxf3
If 18.Rxf3 then comes 18...Qd4+ 19.Kc2 e4 20.Rc3 Na4 21.Qg1 e3! 22.Rxe3 Qb2+ 23.Kd3 Bf5+ and mate in six more moves.
18... Qd4+
Now it's mate in three.
0-1



White: Seres, Lajos
Black: Varga, Zoltan
Nimzoindian Defence [E28]
Hungarian CC 1983
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.e3 0-0
5.Bd3 c5
6.a3 Bxc3+
7.bxc3 b6
8.e4 Bb7



9.e5 Bxg2
10.Bg5 Bxh1
11.exf6 g6
12.Qd2! d5

Better defensive play is; 12...d6 13.f3 Nd7

13.f3 Nc6?

Irrelevant. Missing White's step-back with the bishop. 13...Nd7

14.Bh4! Kh8

15.Qh6 Rg8

16.Nh3 Qf8



17.Ng5!

17.Ng5 Qxh6 18.Nxf7# is a delightful smothered mate.

1-0



White: Krantz, Kjell
Black: Korzh, Leontiy
Petrov Defence [C43]

16th World Championship SF 1985–86

[Notes by John E Hawkes after Krantz in SSKK Bulletin]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nf6
3.d4 Nxe4
4.Bd3 d5
5.Nxe5 Nd7
6.Qe2 Qe7?!



The pawn-sacrifice line occurred in Ochkov - Korzh, Ukrainian

corres.1994; 6...Nxe5 7.Bxe4 dxe4 8.Qxe4 Be6 9.Qxe5 Qd7 10.Be3 Bb4+ 11.c3 Bd6 12.Qa5 Qc6 13.f3 Bd5 14.Nd2 0-0 15.0-0 Rfe8 16.Rae1? (16.c4 Bxc4 17.Rac1 Rxe3 18.Rxc4 Qe8 19.Ne4 Re2³) 16...b6 17.Qa6 Bxh2+! 18.Kxh2 Rxe3! 19.Rxe3 (19.Kg1 was better) 19...Qh6+ 20.Kg3 Qxe3 21.Rf2 Re8 22.c4? Losing quickly. (22.Nf1) 22...g5!! 0-1 If 23.cxd5 Qf4+ 24.Kh3 Qh4#

7.Nxf7 Qxf7

Gurgenidze v Bellin 1977 illustrates the knight sacrifice with the king capture: 7...Kxf7 8.Qh5+ Kf6 9.0-0 Qf7 10.Qh4+ g5 11.Bxg5+ Nxg5 12.f4 Ke6 13.fxg5 Qg7 14.Nc3 Nb6 15.Rf6+ Kd7 16.Raf1 Ke8 17.Rf7 Qxf7 18.Rxf7 Kxf7 19.g6+ Ke6 20.Qe1+ 1-0

8.f3 Ndf6
9.Nd2 Bf5
10.fxe4 dxe4
11.0-0 Qd5

Attacking the d-pawn with check Black now almost holds the position.

11...0-0-0 12.Nxe4±

12.Rxf5!

Forced.

12... Qxf5
13.Nxe4 Nxe4
13...Kd8 14.Ng5+–
14.Bxe4 Qe6



15.Bg5! Be7

15...Kd7 16.Qb5+ Kd6 17.Bxb7 and mate is inevitable.

16.Bg6+!

16.Bg6+ Kd7 17.Qxe6+ Kxe6 18.Re1+ Kd5 19.Bf7+ Kxd4 20.Rxe7 threatens Be3 mate, so Black resigns sooner than play the position after 20...Kc5 21.Rxc7+ Kb6 22.Re7 Rhf8 23.c4; 16.Bc6+! was an

alternative finale going 16...Kf7 17.Qf3+ Bf6 (17...Kg6 18.Be4+! Kxg5 19.Qe3+! Kf6 20.Qf4+ and mate next move) 18.Bd5! - picturesque!]

1-0



White: Bangiev, Alexander
Black: Figler, Ilya

KGA - Fischer Defence [C34]

USSR Correspondence, 1986

[Notes by John E Hawkes]



Ilya Figler was twice Moldavian oth champion and spent the latter part of his life, around New York's Brooklyn chess Club)

1.e4 e5
2.f4 exf4
3.Nf3 d6
4.d4 g5
5.h4 g4
6.Ng1



6... Qf6
6...Bh6 7.Nc3 c6 8.Nge2 Qf6 9.g3 f3 10.Nf4 Nd7 (10...Ne7? 11.e5 dxe5 12.Ne4 Qg7 13.Nh5 Qg6 14.Nhf6+ Kf8 15.h5 Qg7 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Qd6 Bxc1 18.Rxc1 Qh6 19.Nxd7+ Kg7 20.Qf6+ Qxf6 21.exf6+ 1-0 in Craig - Dempster, SCCA 1984) 11.Be3 Qe7 12.Qd2 Nb6 13.0-0-0 Bd7 14.e5!? d5 15.Nfxd5 cxd5 16.Bxh6

Nxh6 17.Qxh6 Qe6 18.Qxe6+ fxe6
19.h5 0-0-0 20.Rd2 Rdg8= Bangiev
- Weissleder, 38th European Final
1992; whilst 6...f3! 7.gxf3 Be7 is a
rare variation that went 8.fxg4
Bxh4+ 9.Kd2 Nf6! in Scholvin -
Protze, West German CC (date
unknown).]

7.Nc3 Ne7
8.Nge2 Bh6
9.Qd2 Nbc6
10.g3 Bg7!

Avoiding 10...fxg3 11.Qxh6 Qf2+
12.Kd1 g2 (12...Nxd4? 13.Qg7±)
13.Bxg2 Qxg2 14.Rg1 Qf3 15.Bg5
then if 15...Bd7 16.Kd2! 0-0-0?
17.Raf1 and the Black queen is
trapped.

11.d5?

11.Nb5 was an option.

11... fxg3
12.Nxg3 Nd4
13.Bg2 Nf3+
14.Bxf3 Qxf3
15.Nce2 Be5
16.Rg1 f5+
17.Qh6 Rf8

17...fxe4 was very strong too.

18.Bg5 f4
19.Rf1



19... fxg3!!

20.Rxf3

20.Qh5+ Rf7 then 21.0-0-0 gets into
21...Ng6 (or 21...g2 22.Rxf3 gxf3-+)
22.Rxf3 gxf3 23.Nxg3 Bxg3 24.Rf1
Ne5-+

20... gxf3

21.Bxe7

21.Nxg3 Bxg3+ 22.Kd2 (If 22.Kf1
Bh3+ 23.Kg1 f2+ 24.Kh1 f1R+
25.Rxf1 Rxf1#) 22...Rf7-+ 23.Bxe7?
Bf4+ of course.

21... f2+

22.Kd2 Kxe7

White resigned: 22...Kxe7 23.Qxh7+
Rf7 24.Qh5 f1Q (24...Rg7! and
Black's q-side pieces are coming out
e.g. 25.Qf3 Bg4 26.Qg2 Rf8 27.Nxg3
Bd7 28.Nf5+ Bxf5 29.Qxf2 Bxe4!)
25.Rxf1 Rxf1 26.Nxg3

0-1



White: Wallwork, G.

Black: Dilworth, V.

Ruy Lopez Open [C82]

Correspondence 1989

[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 a6
4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Nxe4
6.d4 b5
7.Bb3 d5
8.dxe5 Be6
9.c3 Bc5
10.Nbd2 0-0
11.Bc2 Nxf2
12.Rxf2 f6
13.exf6 Bxf2+
14.Kxf2 Qxf6
15.Kg1



15...g5

16.Nb3

17.Qd3

18.Bg5

19.Nfd4

20.Nxd4

21.Nxe6

22.Nd4?

22.Qe3 Re7 23.Qg5+ Qxg5 24.Nxg5
h6 in E.Walther - Dilworth, ICCF
corres. 1986.

22...

23.Kh1

24.h3

25.Qd1

g4

Rf7

Qg7

Nxd4

Qxg5

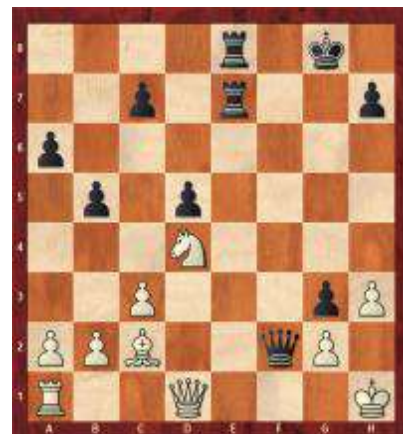
Qf6

Qf2+

Re8

g3

Rfe7



25...Rfe7 26.Nf3 Re1+ 27.Qxe1
Rxe1+ 28.Rxe1 (28.Nxe1 Qf1#)
28...Qxc2-+]

0-1





Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 30



White: Honan, Neil
Black: Mardle, Denis
Ruy Lopez - Open [C80]
 Polio Fellowship Correspondence
 Championship, 1958
[Notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	a6
4.Ba4	Nf6
5.0-0	Nxe4
6.d4	b5
7.Bb3	d5
8.Nxe5	Nxe5
9.dxe5	Bb7
10.Be3	Bc5
11.Qg4	Bxe3
12.Qxg7	



[The only move was 12.fxe3]

12...	Qg5!!
13.Qxh8+	Ke7
14.Qxh7	Bxf2+
15.Kh1	

15.Rxf2 results in a classic smothered mate: 15...Qc1+ 16.Rf1 Qe3+ 17.Kh1 Nf2+ 18.Kg1 Nh3+ 19.Kh1 Qg1+ 20.Rxg1 Nf2#

15...	Rg8
16.Qh3	d4
17.Na3	



17...	Qxg2+
18.Qxg2	Ng3+
19.hxg3	Rh8#
0-1	



Museum nan Eilean, at Lews Castle, Stornoway, host to the Lewis Chess Pieces Exhibition 2023

Image courtesy of, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4140856>

(See Chess Art article)



Chess Art

By Simon
Hawkes

Lewis Chess Pieces Museum nan Eilean, Stornoway Exhibition 2023











Happy Birthday King Charles III

By Awani Kumar

His Royal Highness Charles III is King of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth Realms. In addition to his official and ceremonial duties he has taken a keen and active interest in all areas of public life for decades. He has been instrumental in establishing more than 20 charities over 40 years and has authored or co-authored 17 books. King Charles III was born on November 14, 1948 so let us celebrate his 75th birth anniversary with some interesting tours of knight on 11x14 (which goes for November 14) and 3x5x5 (=75) cell boards. Figures 1 to Figure 5 are monogram tours with the square numbers $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, \dots, 12^2$, namely 1, 4, 9, ... 144 delineating letters 'K', 'C', Roman numeral 'III', numerals '7' and '5' respectively. Figure 6 depicts a growing tree – symbol of life, longevity, tolerance, forgiveness and love – may he be blessed with them for all times.

Figure 1

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

Figure 2

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

Figure 3

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

Figure 4

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

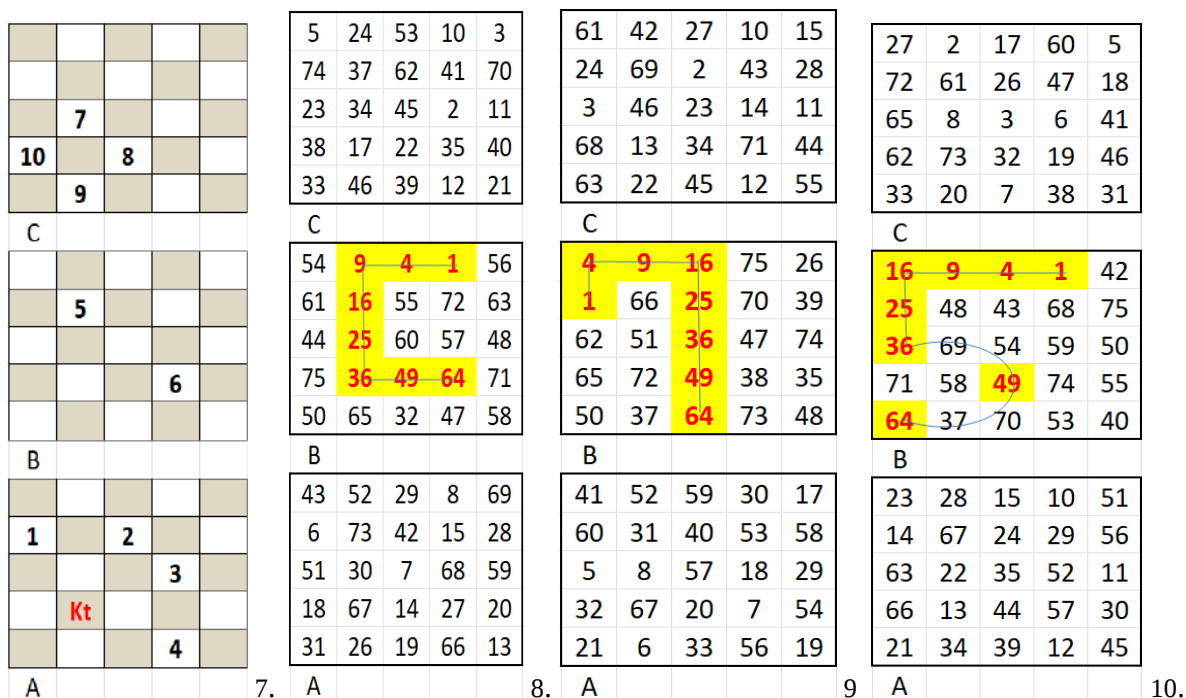
Figure 5

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

Figure 6

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

Figures 8 to Figure 10 are figured tours of knight in three-dimension 3x5x5 board with square numbers delineating letter 'C' and numerals '7' and '5'. Readers can visualise three-dimension 3x5x5 board by stacking three 5x5 boards in alphabetical order as shown in Figure 7. It also shows possible knight moves.



We love, adore and admire King Charles III and wish him a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, India where Awani lives.
This may not be his house, however...



Games Column

games@scottishcca.co.uk

By Alastair Dawson

Playing in elite correspondence chess events is a gruelling task that requires, in addition to talent, immense stamina and a psychological will to win that has to be unswerving over the many months of competition.

In order to win a World Championship group final, one typically has to play as many as 17 games. In most cases nearly all of the games will end in draws and it is often the case that the eventual winner may be someone who has won just a single game and drawn the rest. To win more than a single game in such competitions is uncommon - to win more than 2 is rare.

In this issue we celebrate the chess-playing of GM Aleksandr Dronov (2680) who won the WC27 final in 2011 with no less than 3 wins and 14 draws. (In a later issue we will look at the games of GM Langeveld (2696) who amassed no less than 6 wins in his WC26 victory in 2010).



Here we show below the 3 wins of GM Dronov. As one might expect, they are all very tough struggles with each of three games remaining equal until deep into the late middle game.

White: Dronov, Aleksandr Surenovic (2676)

Black: Schmidt, Theo (2358)

Sicilian Najdorf {B90}

WC29/Final ICCF, 20.06.2015

[Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	a6
6.Be3	e5
7.Nb3	

Black steers the game into a well-rehearsed variation of the Sicilian.

7...	Be6
8.f3	Bc7
9.Qd2	0-0
10.0-0-0	

Still in familiar territory, White has enduring pressure on d5 and along the d-file. Black's strategy is to make a flank attack starting with ..f5.

10...	Nbd7
11.g4	



White burns bridges with this move. Now it is effectively a race to determine who can break through first with their attack.

11...	b5
12.g5	b4
13.Na4	

This move (Na4) is a little bit unusual. Typically the knight either jumps to d5 or back to e2.

13...	Nh5
-------	-----

Black normally scores well in this line (for example, a 56% win rate on Lichess from 523 games).

14.Qxb4	d5
---------	----

Clearly, White has researched this very carefully. Black has played the freeing ...d5 move but does it bring an advantage to Black?

15.Qa5	Bxg5
--------	------

Not the main move here; advancing in the centre with ...d4 is much more challenging.

16.Bxg5	Qxg5+
17.Kb1	dxg4
18.Nd4	Qe7

White has prepared this very well - Nd4 is such an elegant centralising move.

19.Nxe6	Qxe6
20.fxe4	Nhf6

21.Qc7	Rfc8
22.Qd6	Qxd6
23.Rxd6	Rc7
24.Rxa6	Rxa6
25.Bxa6	Nxe4

Believe it or not, all these moves have been played before in a Lichess game in 2021 where the players agreed to a draw at this point. Dronov has other ideas.

26.b4	f5
27.c4	Nd2+
28.Ka1	Ra7
29.Bb5	e4
30.c5	Nf6
31.Nc3	Kf7
32.Ba4	

Computer analysis has this position as equal. Let's see how Dronov makes his breakthrough.

32...	Ra8
33.c6	Ke7
34.b5	Nc4
35.Bb3	Nd2
36.Kb2	Kd6
37.Rd1 e3	
38.Bc2	Ke5
39.Bd3	Ne8

This move may be the point where the initiative passes over to White with 39..Rc8 preferred and giving an advantage to Black.

40.b6	Rb8
41.b7	Kd6
42.Bb5	Kc5
43.Rc1	Kb6
44.a4	Nc7
45.Bd3	



This tight race between the advance of White's queenside pawns against the central pawns advance of Black has reached a decisive stage. White is in the driving seat.

45... f4
 46.Nb5 Nd5
 47.Nd6 Kc7
 48.Nf5 Kb6
 49.Ka3 f3

The fatal mistake, White had to try
 49...Rd8 here.

1-0



White: Dronov, Aleksandr
Surenovic (2676)
Black: Silva, António Augusto M.
(2550)
French Winawer [C18]
 WC29/Final ICCF, 20.06.2015
 [Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5
 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.e5 c5
 5.a3 Bxc3+

One thing about the French Winawer
 is a guarantee of a long fight!

6... Ne7
 7.Qg4 0-0
 8.Bd3 Nbc6
 9.Bg5 Qa5
 10.Ne2

As is the case in the Winawer, White
 has launched his attack that he hopes
 will accelerate as the game
 progresses. That said, White has the
 weaker pawn structure that may
 become important later in the game.

10... Ng6
 11.0-0 Qa4
 12.f4 c4

The advance of ...c4 by Black closes
 off the queenside and effectively
 'freezes' the centre making it difficult
 to be broken open. Perhaps 12 ...cd4
 may have offered Black more
 dynamic opportunities.

13.Bxg6 fxg6
 14.f5

A double-edged move hoping to gain
 some advantage out of the position.

14... Rxf5
 15.Rxf5 exf5



One wonders what White had
 planned if Black had captured with
 the g-pawn. After all, the Black
 pawns are un-doubled and White
 does not have a passed e-pawn as
 well as a weak pawn on d5 to take
 aim at.

16.Qg3 Bd7
 17.Nf4 Nd8
 18.Bxd8 Rxd8
 19.Nxd5 Qb5
 20.Nf4

The White knight dominates the
 centre of the board.

20... Qb2
 21.Rd1 Qxc2
 22.Re1 Qb3

Black is taking a bit of a gamble here
 with these queen moves around the
 queenside. In response, White
 centralises his pieces.

23.d5 Qxa3
 24.h4 Bc8
 25.Qc3 b5
 26.d6

The sortie by the Black queen has
 proved his undoing.

26... b4
 27.Qc5 Qxc3
 28.Re3 Qd2
 29.Qxc4+ Kh8
 30.Re2 Qd1+
 31.Kh2 b3
 32.Qc7 Rg8



Black just does not have enough
 forces to take advantage of the
 passed c-pawn.

33.Qxa7 h6
 34.Nxg6+ Kh7
 35.Nf4 Be6
 36.Qf2 Bd7
 37.e6 b2
 38.Rxb2 Bxe6
 39.Nxe6 Qxd6+
 40.Nf4 Ra8
 41.h5

White has gradually constructed the
 mating net.

41... Ra4
 42.g3 Ra8
 43.Rb7

Black is all tied up - and resigns.

1-0



White Dronov, Aleksandr
Surenovic (2676)
Black: Windhausen, Georg (2505)
Modern Benoni[A65]
 WC29/Final ICCF, 20.06.2015
 [Notes by Alastair Dawson]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 g6
 3.f3

Dronov springs the first surprise to
 take the game out of mainstream
 theory, although in this case the
 game can transpose back into the
 Saemisch variation.

3... Bg7
 4.e4 d6
 5.Ne2 0-0
 6.Nbc3 c5
 7.d5

So the opening has settled down
 somewhat - White has closed the
 centre, Black now seeks counterplay
 on the queenside while White
 contemplates a kingside assault.

7... e6
 8.Ng3 exd5
 9.cxd5

The game, after ...e6 has transposed
 to a sort of Benoni. Here, White
 tends to capture with the e-pawn
 rather than the c-pawn - Black needs
 to respond quickly on the queenside.

9... Nbd7
 10.Be2 Ne8
 11.Bf4 a6

And now the position sharpens; the
 Black knight on e8 means that it will

be a while before both rooks are connected. In the meantime, the White bishop on f4 exerts strong pressure on the d6 pawn.

12.Qd2 b5
13.0-0



This is a key move. Many times in the Saemisch White castles on the queenside. With kingside castling, White signals quite different intentions of where an initiative should be sought.

13... Nb6
14.Rfe1 b4
15.Nd1 Nc7

To the outside observer one might ask where is the black knight on c7 heading?

16.Bg5 f6
17.Bh6 Bxh6
18.Qxh6 Nb5

Now we see Black's plan to contest the a1-h8 diagonal with knight and pawns rather than with a bishop on g7.

19.Ne3 Bd7
20.f4 Qe7
21.f5 Qg7
22.Qf4

The game is still equal, White has significant kingside pressure but Black has long-term pressure on the e5 square.

22... g5
23.Qf2 Nd4
24.a3 b3
25.Bd1

So as one would expect from games played at this rarified level, the game remains equal with Black pressing hard on the queenside.

25... Qe7
26.h4 Kh8
27.hxg5 fxg5
28.Rc1

Now White has a passed f-pawn but it is difficult to exploit. At the same time, Black now has a vulnerable

pawn on g5 - the advantage is now clearly with White.

28... Qe5
29.Ngf1 a5
30.Nd2 a4
31.Ndc4 Nxc4
32.Nxc4 Qf6
33.Qg3 Ra6
34.Bg4

White still has a tangible edge.

Black's rooks are now disconnected while the bishop on d7 needs to find an active square.

34... Kg8
35.Rc3 Nc2
36.e5



Now comes a decisive e-pawn push.

36... dxe5
37.Rxe5 Nd4
38.Qe3 Kh8
39.d6

It is instructive to consider the evolution of the respective weak and strong squares of the two players. After Black played b4 a huge hole was created on c4. White has exploited this 'hole' extremely effectively with his knights. On the other hand, Black had a strongpoint with the hole on e5 - but this has now disappeared in the process of White having taken control of the e-file.

39... Nb5



40.Re7 Nxc3
41.Rxd7 Qd4

Black now forces off the queens but this is going to be a difficult ending to hold given the 'monster' knight on c4 and a rook already on the 7th rank.

42.bxc3 Qxe3+
43.Nxe3 b2
44.Rb7

The rest of the game is a matter of technique.

44... Rxd6
45.Rxb2 Rd3
46.Nd1 Rfd8
47.Nf2 Rxc3
48.Ne4 Rxa3
49.Rb7 Rb3
50.Ra7 Rf8
51.Nxc5 Rbb8

And Black resigns.
(52.Rxa4)

1-0



Publish Your Games

Whether you've just participated in an ICCF World Championship or an SCCA Challengers tie, you can participate in the magazine by sending your own games, or those of note you've come across in your travels.

We're happy to publish all grading standards and lengths of games. Please submit to:

games@scottishcca.co.uk

