Best Game Prize 2024
Winner and runners-up announced

ICCF Grading List 2025/2
Alistair analyses the Q1 statistics

The Hawkes Files
John celebrates Ken McAlpine's 80th birthday

Chess Art
We look at Bauhaus and other posters

Notices and International Report
David looks at what's been and what's to come

Knights Tour On 169 Cell Board
Awani gets squared up

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

NB printed copies no longer available

Editorial and News

By Iain Mackintosh

Welcome to the spring edition of our 2025 magazine set. We have been blessed with plenty of sunny weather hereabouts, though that kind of thing tends not to last for long here!

I've been indisposed a bit again this time, so I still have to tidy up the website from the end of last year, and try to make sure that the magazine copy is coherent this time. If I can't manage to do that, then I'll need to review what level of contribution I can sensibly make before our AGM in May (this will probably be held using Google Meet though we'll confirm nearer the time).

The second ICCF rating list of 2025 is analysed by our grader Alistair Maxwell, who reports no new norms or titles this time..

Our main article pays tribute to Ken McAlpine, whose 80th birthday falls due on April 11th. It'll be nip and tuck whether this magazine is issued before that date but, in any event, Ken deserves our fulsome thanks for his wonderful playing career (including 3 consecutive Scottish Championship wins the 1970s). Nowadays he keeps his winning habit going via the 100 Club!

We also cover the SCCA Best Game Prize for 2024, judged this year by GM John Pugh of England. The three winners each annotate their games for us.

Awani Kumar contributes two articles this time. The first is based on the magazine number169 (which is the square of 13 – giving him some magic numbers to play with); and the second pays tribute to IM David Levy for his development work in computer chess worldwide.

International Secretary David Kilgour files his report, and John Hawkes contributes some Chess Art posters which have their roots in the Bauhaus movement.

Good to see the decent level of activity and enterprising play from our small membership once more!

Many thanks to those of you who have contributed articles, done research, and wrestled with the mechanics of bringing another magazine on to the streets!

Enjoy the read!

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 chess-hobbying days.

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

2025	1st	2nd
January	J Armstrong	A P Borwell
February	J S Murray	S G Mackenzie
March	K B McAlpine	K B McAlpine

SCCA Officials

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ICCF 2nd World Team Cup

On behalf of ICCF, I am pleased to announce the 2nd World Team Cup.

All member federations (MF) are invited to enter this event played on the ICCF webserver. Either may enter teams:

1. Individual National Federations
2. Groups of Federations (For example, a Benelux team representing Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands)
3. A team representing Isolated Players

Note: A National Federation may only be represented once; for example, if a Benelux team took part, then Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands would not field individual teams.

Each national federation may enter one team. The event is free to enter.

Member Federation should express their wish to participate not later than July 1st, 2025.

A tournament is played as a series of matches. Each round begins after the previous round is completed.

All players must be full members of the federation they represent or be registered on the ICCF server for the country of the federation they represent for the duration of the tournament.

Teams will comprise 20 players.

Any number of players may be replaced during the tournament.

It should be noted that any player may only play on a single board (so each team must comprise 20 different players).

Time control is Triple-block, 302 days with 51 days initial bank and 1 day increment for the first 50 moves at each round.

The schedule is as follows (if there are 4 rounds):

1. 1st round. Start date 15-August-2025. A team that wins a match is promoted to the next round.
2. 2nd round. Start date 15-August-2026. A team that wins a match is promoted to the next round.
3. Semifinals. Start date 15-August-2027. A team that wins a match is promoted to the final; a team that loses a match plays 3rd-place-match.

4. Final and 3rd-place-match. Start date 15-August-2028.

In case there are three rounds start dates are 15-August-2025, 15-August-2026 and 15-August-2027.

In each round, matches will comprise either two or three teams, dependent on overall entries.

A team that wins a match receives 2 match points; a team that loses a match receives 0 match points; if it is a draw, both teams receive 1 match point.

The winner is defined on a number of match points. In case 2 or 3 teams of a group have the same number of match points, a number of total points scored by all team members is the first tie break rule. If these figures are the same, a team with the lowest average rating (at the moment of a start of a match) will be promoted to the next round.

A whole cycle will be played in 3 or 4 years as a maximum.

The three top teams are awarded medals/certificates.

At the beginning of the first round, all teams receive their start numbers according to an average rating of the entered team, which represents its national federation in rating list 2025/3.

I kindly ask you to reply to this invitation no later than July 1st to let me know how many teams are ready to participate in this 2nd World Team Cup. I would appreciate it very much if you inform me whether your NF intends to participate or not. Following this, the deadline for team details will be July 15th, with a start date of August 15, 2025.

Confirmations, team details, and any queries should be sent to Tournament Organizer Giraldo Menéndez Rodríguez (giraldomenendez@gmail.com)

Giraldo Menéndez   Tournament Organiser

(Interested SCCA members should contact David Kilgour, International Secretary).

José Daniel Finkelstein Memorial Team Tournament for players rated <2300

ICCF is glad to announce the VIII ICCF Team Tournament for players rated <2300 – here in memoriam José Daniel Finkelstein.

All ICCF member federations (that are not currently suspended) are invited to enter their teams to this event, which will be played on the ICCF webserver on two rounds: semi-final and final.

The first three teams in the final will receive medals.

Each federation may enter two teams.

All players on the team must be rated <2300 on the ICCF rating list 2025/2 or on the current FIDE list. In addition, all players must be full members of the federation they represent or be registered on the ICCF server for the country of the federation they represent for the duration of the tournament.

The preliminaries will start on July 1st, 2025.

There will be 6 players in each team. A maximum of 3 players may be replaced during the tournament.

Further tie-breaking procedures:

- Semifinal: after standard tie-breaks in ICCF rules, the team with the highest average rating on the commencement of play;
- Final: after standard tie-breaks in ICCF rules, the team with the lowest average rating on the commencement of play.

The right to be promoted from the semifinal shall be determined by the ICCF Non-Title Tournaments Commissioner and approved by the Executive Board at the start of the tournament. The intention will be for a 13 Team final.

The entry fee will be at the rate of € 4 per player, i.e. € 24 per team. There will be no further entry fee for the final.

Time control will be Triple Block (Duration of Tournament: 700 days; Initial Clock: 50 days; Initial Bank: 50 days; Increment: 5 days).

Please note – without guaranteed time in the semi-final and in the final with guaranteed time.

Team entries have to be sent by the national federations to the Non-Title Tournament Commissioner Giorgio Ruggeri Laderchi (nttc.iccf@gmail.com) not later than June 10th, 2025.

No replacement or board change will be allowed after that date, unless exceptional circumstances occur.

All entries should include the following details:

- board order
- name and ICCF code of the players
- name, ICCF code and e-mail address of the Team Captain

Amici Sumus
Giorgio Ruggeri Laderchi
NTTC

José Daniel Finkelstein (05.02.1949 – 07.06.2022)

He learned about postal chess in LADAC (Argentina National League) and never left it, until the end of his life.

As a player, he achieved the titles of National Master in 1995 and International Master in 1998.

His most important work was as Arbiter of numerous tournaments, both national and international, being Captain of the Argentine Olympic Team on one occasion, and working on the LADAC Board for many years, as General Tournament Director first and as Vice President later.

In ICCF he was the TTC in the first years of the webserver.

He obtained the titles of National Arbiter in 1990 and ICCF International Arbiter in 1996, achieving his highest distinction when ICCF awarded him the Bertl von Massow Silver Medal (in 2005) for his leadership work over so many years.

A cruel disease (diabetes) attacked his body in his last years,

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SCCA AGM 2025

The next SCCA Executive Committee meeting will take place on Sunday May 11, 2025 at 2pm, followed by the AGM at 4pm.

Both meetings will be held online, probably via Google Meet. The Executive Committee is limited to committee members.

The AGM is open to all SCCA members. It will be advertised on the SCCA website and https://www.facebook.com/scottishcca in advance for those wishing to attend,

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Fernschach 2025 CC Database

Herbert Bellmann writes to advise that Fernschach 2025 offers a CC games database in addition to ICCF and commercial products. In summary:

- Database available annually since 2000
- Nearly 2,032,000 games (from 1991)
- Over 100,000 new games since CD 2024
- 11,084 annotated games (400 new)
- German letters ä, ö, ü and ß are not counted in names
- Games from all main chess servers + post + email All tournaments marked correspondence so that CC games can be recognised in a larger database

The price is €14.00 (shipping within Germany) and €16 (shipping elsewhere). Email version €12.
For further details, contact Herbert at:
> Herbert Bellmann
> Auf dem Brink 11a
> 46399 Bocholt
> Germany

Bank details: Transfer the purchase amount to:
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> Purpose: FS 2025

Your order must provide your complete postal address!
Email: hebel57@gmx.de
https://www.bdf-fernschachbund.de/news/fernschach-cd-2025-erschienen.html

ICCF Games Archive Updates

March updates to the Games Archive have now been added. You can now download all archives to end- Q1 2025.

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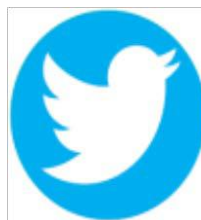
Mickey Blake sends a reminder that we are now on Twitter at https://twitter.com/scotcorrchess

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:

Scottish Correspondence Chess
24 Tweets

Scottish Correspondence Chess
@ScotCorrChess

The SCCA is a non-profit body responsible for organising and promoting correspondence chess (CC) in Scotland. We are a full national member of ICCF.

Scotland   scottishcca.co.uk   Joined May 2022

21 Following   6 Followers

Follow

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

2025/2 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

The second ICCF grading list of 2025 is published and new grades are based on 3 months' results reported between 1 Jan and 31 Mar 2025. The grades will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 Apr and 30 Jun 2025.

No titles were awarded in the period but after the last list was published Robert Montgomery advised that he obtained an IM norm in the Dobri Semov Memorial tournament. Well done, Robert!

There were 2 deletions due to inactivity and no new names.

The most significant rating moves were Ian Foote (+45), Robert Bruce (+36), James Murray (+29), Robert Gilbert (+21), Murdo MacDonald and Clive Murden (+20).

New games centurions were Carlos Almarza Mato (2700+) and Clive Murden (700+). Highest recorded games this quarter were Carlos Almarza Mato (51), Iain Sneddon (49), Robert Bruce (41), and Raymond Burridge (20).

You need to complete 12 ICCF-eligible games to obtain a rating. Fixed ratings are based on at least 30 games and only these are shown below. Rating changes are denoted by arrows. Email grader@scottishcca.co.uk if you have any queries.

No.	Name	Results	Grade		No.	Name	Results	Grade	
317	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2726	2123	↓	532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	883	2436	↓
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	444	2319	↓	216	MacMillen, A N	1547	1651	↓
	Anderson, T R	78	1787	↓		Major, B	128	1244	↓
	Antunes, A	57	2210	↔	566	Marshall, I H	956	2048	↓
313	Armstrong, J McK	585	1268	↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	331	2470	↔
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	575	2476	↓		Maxwell, A	87	1907	↓
599	Bell, A D (IM)	285	2429	↔		Miles, A	106	1231	↔
501	Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	513	2378	↔	598	Montgomery, R S (CCM, SM)	443	2367	↑
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	1011	2432	↔		Munro, P R	106	2167	↑
	Bruce, R (CCE)	1292	1978	↑	474	Murden, C (IM)	713	2486	↑
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	494	2447	↓	564	Murray, J S	125	2096	↑
602	Burridge, R J	2066	1564	↓	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	263	1623	↓
	Carswell, D	73	1470	↑	604	Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	260	2333	↔
247	Cormack, W H	143	1847	↔		Pettigrew, S	210	1294	↔
422	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	179	2144	↔	432	Price, D	549	2069	↔
478	Dunn, J	579	1248	↓		Rafferty, F	54	1154	↔
371	Edney, D	339	1818	↔		Robinson, A	34	1554	↓
	Foote, I	298	1891	↑		Sedstrem, A	127	1268	↓
462	Gilbert, R	363	1602	↑	477	Smith, M J (CCE)	134	2239	↔
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	393	2286	↓	439	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	959	2427	↑
260	Knox, A	431	1266	↔	057	Taylor, A	55	1883	↔
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1271	2237	↑		Taylor, R	82	1425	↔
	MacDonald, M	168	868	↑		Taylor, W (CCE)	256	2174	↑
584	MacGregor, C A	561	1878	↓	605	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	377	2404	↑
					480	Wicht, D	82	1890	↔
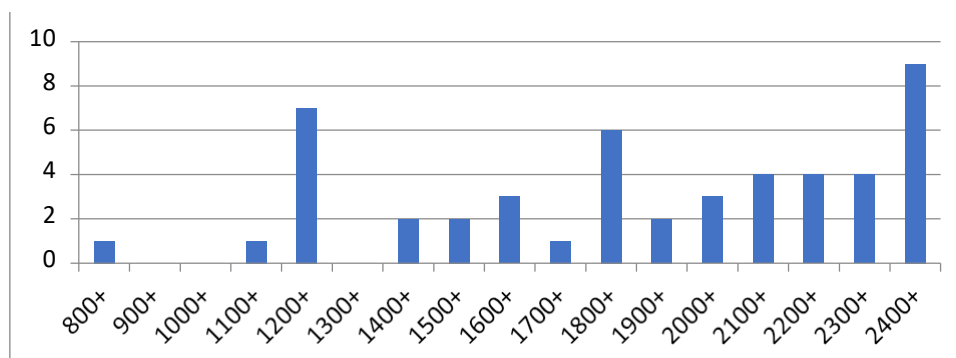
Statistical Analysis

Total listed	49
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed, non-members etc.)	2
Grading increases (↑)	13
Grading decreases (↓)	18
Grading static (↔)	18

Top 30 Grades

Murden, C (IM)	2486	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2237
Beecham, C R (SIM)	2476	Antunes, A	2210
Matheis, T (IM)	2470	Taylor, W (CCE)	2174
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2447	Munro, P R	2167
Mackintosh, I (SIM	2436	Dawson, Prof A G (CCE)	2144
Blake, M J (CCM)	2432	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2123
Bell, A D (IM)	2429	Murray, J S	2096
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2427	Price, D	2069
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2404	Marshall, I H	2048
Bennett, P G (CCM, SM)	2378	Bruce, R (CCE)	1978
Montgomery, R S (CCM, SM)	2367	Maxwell, A	1907
Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	2333	Foote, I	1891
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2319	Wicht, D	1890
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2286	Taylor, A	1883
Smith, M J (CCE)	2239	MacGregor, C A	1878

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C (CCE)	2726	Blake, M J (CCM)	1011
Burridge, R J	2066	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	959
MacMillen, A N	1547	Marshall, I H	956
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1292	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	883
Bruce, R (CCE)	1271	Murden, C (IM)	713

Selected Personal Best Grades 2024/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Murden, C (IM)	2486	2467	2024/4	19
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2427	2425	2025/1	2
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2404	2401	2025/1	3
Taylor, W (CCE)	2174	2173	2025/1	1

Other Notes

Senior International Master (SIM) title norms are held by:
Matheis, T (1), Murden, C (1)
International Master (IM) title norms are held by:
Anderson, G M (1), Bennett, P G (1), Montgomery, R S (1), Sneddon, I (2)
Scottish Master (SM) title norms are held by:
Buchan, A (1), Whittaker, I P (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.

12th Annual Best Game Prize

by GM John Pugh

[Ed –this year we invited GM John Pugh of England to judge our competition. John is unable to supply a photograph, so you'll have to think of him as the Masked Mediator…

John is a 74 year old retired property lawyer living in the centre of Norwich with his wife & daughter.

He has been playing correspondence chess since 1997 and won the GM title in 2006. At the present time he is playing in the European Championship Candidates & World Championship semi- finals.

John found it difficult to pick a winner as all 3 games were of roughly equal quality and another judge could very easily have chosen a completely different order.

Games A & B were similar with a slow build up on the kingside against a King's Indian type structure relying on White's space advantage & better posted pieces.

Third Place

White: Price, Derek (2019)
Black: Mackintosh, Iain (2410)
English Opening, Four Knights Variation [A28]
SCCA Championship 2024–25
[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

In recent years, it's been good to see Derek fight his way through the Championship qualifying rounds and enter the final stages.

1.c4	e5
2.Nc3	Nf6
3.Nf3	Nc6
4.a3	d5
5.cxd5	Nxd5
6.Qc2	Nxc3
7.dxc3	Qf6
8.e4	Bc5
9.b4	Bb6
10.a4N	

Derek leaves the book; 10.Be2 had been played previously.

10...	a5
11.b5	Nb8
12.Bc4	h6
13.0-0	Bg4
14.Ne1	0-0
15.h3	Be6

16.Bxe6	Qxe6
17.Ba3	Rd8
18.c4	Bd4
19.Rd1	Nd7
20.c5	c6
21.b6	Nf8
22.Nf3	Qf6
23.Nxd4	exd4
24.f4	Rd7
25.Qd3	Re8
26.Rde1	Qe7
27.Qg3	d3
28.f5	Nh7
29.e5	Qg5
30.Qxg5	Nxg5
31.Re3	d2
32.Rd1	Rd4
33.Bb2	Re4
34.Rxe4	Nxe4
35.Kf1	Rd8

Black is now well ahead positionally.

36.Ke2	Nxc5
37.Rxd2	Rxd2+
38.Kxd2	Nxa4
39.Bd4	c5
40.Bg1	g6
41.g4	Nxb6
42.Kd3	c4+
43.Kc3	Nd7
44.e6	fxe6
45.fxe6	Ne5
46.Bd4	Nf3
47.Bb6	Ng5
48.h4	Nxe6
49.Kxc4	a4
50.Kb4	h5

Black's plan is to mobilise his KRP as the White bishop cannot defend the white squares on the h-file.

51.gxh5	gxh5
52.Kxa4	Kf7
53.Kb5	Nf8
54.Bc7	Nd7
55.Kc4	Ke6
56.Kd4	Nf6
57.Bf4	Kf5
58.Bh6	Ng4
59.Bg5	Ne5
60.Kc5	Kg4
61.Kb6	Nf3
62.Bd8	Nxh4
63.Kxb7	Nf3
64.Kc6	Ng5
65.Bc7	h4
66.Kd5	h3
67.Bh2	Kf3
68.Kd4	Ne4
69.Kd3	Kg2

The White bishop can't cover the queening square, so if it retreats, Ng3 wraps things up.

0-1

Second Place

White: Montgomery, Robert S. (2336)
Black:- Vegjeleki, Adolf (2332)
King's Indian Classical [E97]
DSM 2300–2399 (BUL) 2023
[Notes by Robert Montgomery]

[This game has some significance for me as it was the game which confirmed my first IM norm.]

1.c4	Nf6
2.Nf3	g6
3.Nc3	Bg7
4.e4	d6
5.d4	0-0
6.Be2	e5

The game started out as an English Opening but has transposed into a Mainline KID - a not uncommon result with the English which lends itself to a number of transpositions.

7.0-0	Nc6
8.d5	Ne7
9.b4	

The main alternative is 9.Ne1 when Black seeks to carry out the main idea of king side expansion. This has been the main battle ground in the KID with White playing on the queen side and Black countering on the king side, often sacrificing to force home a mating attack on White's king. The idea behind playing b4 is to play on the queen side but also to shut down Black's kingside play before it gets going.

9...   Nh5
10.Re1
This move is designed to allow the white-squared bishop to retreat to f1 if Black seeks to exchange it with Nf4.

10...	**f5**
11.a4	**a5**
12.b5	**b6**
13.Ra3	**fxe4**
14.Nxe4	

An alternative is:
14.Ng5 Nf5 15.g4 giving the initiative to Black after 15...e3 16.Nge4 Qh4 17.gxf5 Nf6 18.Bxe3 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Qxe4 20.fxg6 Qxg6+ 21.Kh1 Qe4+ 22.f3 Qf5 Although the position is level, it is not what I was looking for.

14...	**Nf6**
15.Bd3	**Nf5**

Exchanging knights on e4 may be better than the move played. White has an advantage in either case but the exchange may limit the advantage.

16.Neg5	**h6**
17.Ne4	**Qe7**
18.Ng3	**Qf7**
19.h3	**Bd7**
20.Qc2	**Nh7**
21.Ne4	**Nf6**

The last few moves have seen a bit of manoeuvring White waiting to get the pieces co-ordinated before attacking; and Black is trying to cover any breaks and stay in the game. White is better but not yet winning. It is worth noting that although White's queen side play has not led to a breakthrough, it has limited the scope of any Black counterplay on the queen side and the pieces are limited in where they can move. The kingside is usually where Black counters but it is White who has the initiative here. Which means the strategy of not allowing Black to take the initiative on the kingside has been effective.

22.g4	**Nxe4**
23.Bxe4	**Kh8**
24.Qd2	

24.gxf5?? gxf5 25.Bd3 e4 would throw away the whole advantage.

24...	**Ne7**
25.Kh1	**Rg8**
26.Rg1	**Raf8**
27.Rg2	

White's pieces are well co-ordinated. The rook on g2 protects the f2 pawn; the rook on a3 protects the knight and threatens to move to the kingside if required. The bishops are a constant threat, backed up by the queen. The white-squared bishop also protects the knight. The knight is blocking the f file and can quickly move into an attacking position. Black's pieces on the other hand, lack squares and can only try to react to White's plans.

27...	**Qe8**
28.Qe2	**Qc8**
29.Rb3	**Rf7**
30.Kg1	

The King moves to g1 to allow White to move the knight, bishop and queen without giving Black any counterplay on f2.

30...	**Qe8**
31.Bc2	**Rff8**
32.Nd2	**Qf7**

33.Ne4	**g5??**

Should we call this a blunder? It is hard to suggest any good moves for Black, he can perhaps stay in the game by retreating the bishop to c8 or the queen to e8. However, it weakens the kingside and doesn't change the outcome.

34.Qd3	**Qg6**
35.Bb1	**Qf7**

35...Bc8 36.Qe2 Qf7 37.Qd2 Ng6 38.Nxg5 hxg5 39.Qxg5 Bf6 40.Qh6+ Qh7 41.Bxg6 Qxh6 42.Bxh6 Black's position is hopeless: two pawns down and no counterplay to speak of..

36.Nxg5	**hxg5**
37.Qh7#	

I don't believe that Black blundered here - I think he sportingly allowed the mate. I was pleased with this game for a number of reasons. As I said at the start of the game it sealed my first IM norm. Secondly I felt I was always in control and never in any kind of trouble Which is how I like to play the game but seldom get the opportunity!!

1-0

White: Beecham, C. Richard (2377)
Black: Pheby, Ian (2391)
EFCC 60 Ruby/Diamond, 2022
King's Indian Classical [E94]
[Notes by Richard Beecham]

My opponent, Ian Pheby, is a legend in his own lifetime and a thoroughly

nice chap. Ian could have been a GM if he hadn't played so many games and events in recent seasons. For example, he played in 8 events in 2023, 15 in 2022 and 24 in 2021. He has even had a chess tournament named after him!

The English Correspondence Chess Federation has also honoured him for his long and dedicated service. Ian has held several posts with the ICCF having started in 2006 as a tournament director and then later as a tournament organiser. Ian became an International Arbiter in 2009.

In 2010, he was involved in the administration of special leave while in 2011 he became Direct Entry Commisioner for a six year period.

He is also a member of the Tournament Directors Committee having taken on that role during 2014.

Ian has also been tournament organiser of the Veterans World Cups 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. He also received the Bertl von Massow Silver Medal in 2015 and the Gold Medal in 2021 for his services to the ICCF. In England with the EFCC,

Ian has also held a variety of posts since 2003 including Games Archivist, International Secreary, Treasurer since 2020 and President since 2017. Ian also regularly finds time to play correspondence chess at a high level and was awarded his SIM title in 2004. At that time his rating was 2602 having reached a maximum of 2621.

Our game here was played in the Diamond/Ruby English Federation for Correspondence Chess event to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the EFCC which was formed on December 1st, 1962.

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	d6
3.Nc3	Nbd7
1.Rh2	Qd8

What wizardry is being woven here? I cannot figure out what Ian is up to. What is his plan? After a lot of head scratching, I came up with....

I always enjoy the first few moves, it's the sort of bottom-sniffing,

4.e4	e5
5.Nf3	g6
6.Be2	Bg7
7.0-0	0-0
8.Be3	Qe7
9.Qc2	c6
10.d5	

I was unsure about this move at the time. The move 10. Rd1 is recommended in an old King's Inidan book from Russia but I went into other reference books, kicked some twigs around the garden and racked my brains for the correct move to play. In the end, I tossed a coin!

| 10... | h6N. |

The English GM, Gawain Jones, who is an expert in the Kings Indian, has played this position many times. As an example, he played 10..c5 in the PRO League KO stage (Amsterdam Mosquitos - London Towers) against Loek van Wely (2668). After 10..c5 11.Ne1 Ne8 12 Nd3 f5 13.ef5 gf5 14.f4 Nef6 15 fe5 Ne5 16 Ne5 de5 17.Bg5 Qe8 18 Nb5 the position is equal. Another possibility is 10.. Ng4 which turned out badly for Black from the game between Gabriel Sagissian (2677) and Jaime Santos Latoso (2549) cf. 10...Ng4 11.Bg5 f6 12.Bd2 c5 13 Nb5 Nb8 14 b4 Na6 15.Ne1 cb4 16.f3 Nh6 17.Nd3 f5 18.c5 de5 19.de6 and White is winning.

| 11.h3 | c5 |
| 12.g3 | Kh8 |

13.Kg2
The idea of 12.g3 and 13.Kg2 followed by Rh1 came from playing through many games of Alpha Zero who has had numerous wins against Stockfish with this plan.

13...	Ng8
14.Bd3	Ndf6
15.a4	

Now that the threat of f5 has gone I can take a look at the queenside and gain more space with ..a5 etc.

| 15... | a5 |

I was expecting 15 ..b6 16.a5 ba5 17.Ra5 a6 18.Rb1 with nice play on the queenside.

16.Rae1
With the centre closed the precise move order is not critical since there is very little that Ian can do to prevent me from carrying out my long-term plan.

16...	Bd7
17.Bd2	Rae8
18.Qc1	

Leela suggests 18. Rh1 Nh7 19. Rh2 Bf6 20. Qc1 b6 21. Rg1 Rd8 22. Kf1which is an interesting concept.

18...	Nh7
19.Rh1	b6
20.Nb5	Bc8

Um, he said stroking his chin, I am not terribly impressed with 20.. Bc8. Ian plays rather slowly due to the number of games he plays and at this point I discover horse-like qualities and manage to fall asleep standing up waiting for a move!

| 22.Kh1 | Bd7 |
| 23.Rg1 | |

I spent some time on 23.g4 g5 24. Nd6 Bg4 25. hg4 Qd6 but I put my sensible trousers back on and went for 23. Rg1. White must not play 23. Nd6 due to the moves 23. Qf6 24.Ne8 Qf3+ 25.Kg1 when a) 25..Qd3; b) 25. ..Be8 or c) .. Re8 are all favourable to Black.

23...	Bxb5
24.axb5	Re7
25.g4	Qe8
26.Be2	Ra7

27.g5!

A game changer. A ripsnorter of a move. This is the point when I said to myself, '..this game is a win..'. Sometimes you feel you couldn't pull a greased stick out of a pig's bottom yet there are other times when you could tell the dog to go to the bread bin and make me a sandwich - well this was that moment!

27... h5
28.Nh4 Ne7
29.Qc3

'I love it when a plan comes together' (Hannibal Smith from the A-team).

29... Kg8
30.Rhg2 Qd7
31.Bd1 Re8
32.b3

Preventing counterplay with ..a4 etc.

32... Kh8
33.Qg3 Qd8
34.Bc2 Rg8

35.Nf5

This is a interesting position. Stockfish gives 35.f4 ef4 36 Bf4 Nc8 37.Nf3 Re8 38.e5 and evaluates the position as +–3.58. If you play through my line in the game to move 38, Stockfish gives +–4.80. Which Stockfish is correct? By the way, Leela, Stoofvlees, Berserk and Komodo all suggest 35.Nf5.

35... Nf8

Both 35. Nf5 36.ef5 e4 37 Be4 Bd4 38.Bc3 and 35. .. gf5 36.ef5 e4 37.Be4 Bd4 38.Qf3 end in lost positions, as does 35 ..Qf8 when the simple 36 Ng7 Qg7 37.f4 wins.

36.Bc3 Qc7
37.Qh4

White is looking at plans of Bd1 and sacrificing on h5.

37... Kh7
38.f4 Nc8
39.Bd1

Also good was 39. Ng3 Rh8 40. f5 Nd7 41. f6 Bf8 42. Nh5!

39... Rh8
40.Rf1 Qd8
41.Nxg7 Kxg7
42.fxe5 dxe5
43.Bxe5+ Kg8
44.Bf6 Qe8
45.e5 Rh7
46.d6 Rd7
47.Rd2

Black resigns. This win gave me 1st= place in the tournament and now the hardest decision of all.. is it to be a bottle of Chateau Margaux or a bottle of Dauissat Chablis to celebrate - I chose the Chablis..!

1-0

39... Rh8
40.Rf1 Qd8
41.Nxg7 Kxg7
42.fxe5 dxe5
43.Bxe5+ Kg8
44.Bf6 Qe8
45.e5 Rh7
46.d6 Rd7
47.Rd2

Black resigns. This win gave me 1st= place in the tournament and now the hardest decision of all.. is it to be a bottle of Chateau Margaux or a bottle of Dauissat Chablis to celebrate - I chose the Chablis..!

1-0

The R.J. Burridge Trophy

Winners

2013	Richard Beecham
2014	Charles O'Neill-McAleenan
2015	Peter Bennett
2016	Kevin Paine
2017	Tom Matheis
2018	Peter Bennett
2019	Iain Mackintosh
2020	Iain Mackintosh
2021	Allan Buchan
2022	Iain Mackintosh
2023	1=Robert Montgomery 1=Allan Buchan
2024	Richard Beecham

Richard Beecham

The Hawkes Files

By John E. Hawkes

White: McAlpine, Kenneth
Black: Rittner, Horst
FINJUB-30 section A 1991–96
[Notes by John E Hawkes]
[London System A48]

1.d4	Nf6
2.Bf4	g6
3.Nd2	Bg7
4.e3	0-0
5.Ngf3	d6
6.h3	c5
7.c3	b6
8.Bc4	Bb7
9.0-0	d5
10.Bd3	Nbd7

11.Qb1	Rc8
12.b4	c4
13.Bc2	Re8
14.Ne5	Nxe5
15.Bxe5	e6
16.f4	Bh6
17.Bxf6	Qxf6
18.Nf3	Qe7
19.Qe1	f6
20.Qh4	Bg7
21.Rae1	a5
22.Rb1	Bc6
23.g4	axb4
24.Rxb4	Qa7
25.g5	f5
26.a4	Bf8
27.Rb2	Qa5
28.Qe1	Ba3
29.Ra2	Bd6
30.Ra1	Re7
31.Ne5	Be8
32.h4	Ra8
33.Rb1	Rb7
34.Ra1	Rba7
35.Rb1	Ra6

36.Rf2	Bxa4
37.Bxa4	Qxa4
38.Rfb2	Bc7

39.h5	gxh5
40.Qh4	Bxe5
41.dxe5	Qe8
42.Kh2	Ra2
43.Qf2	Rxb2
44.Qxb2	Ra6
45.Qb4	Qd7
46.Kg3	Qc7
47.Qd6	

47.Qb5 Qc8 48.Rh1 Ra3 49.Rxh5 Rxc3 50.Qxb6 Rb3 51.Qa7 Rb7 and Black must be preferred.

47...	Qxd6
48.exd6	Kf8
49.Rh1	b5
50.Rxh5	Rxd6
51.Rxh7	Ra6
52.Kh4	b4

52...e5 53.fxe5 Re6 was a serious option.

53.cxb4	Ra1
54.g6	

54...	c3

54...Rh1+ 55.Kg5 Rxh7 56.gxh7 Kg7 57.b5 c3 58.b6 c2 59.b7 c1Q queening first, but 60.h8Q+! *(60.b8Q?? Qg1+ 61.Kh4 Qg4#)* 60...Kxh8 61.b8Q+ Kh7 62.Qa7+! Kh8 63.Kf6 Qb2+ *(63...Qg1 64.Kxe6 Qg6+ 65.Ke5!+–)* 64.Qd4! Qb7 65.Kxe6+ and White is winning.

55.Kg5	c2
56.Kf6	Ke8
57.g7	Rg1

And it would seem like curtains for White.
58.Rh1!
No!

58...	c1Q

58...Rg3 59.b5 Kd8 60.Rc1 Kc7 61.Rxc2+ Kb6 62.Rc6+ Kxb5 63.Rc8+-

59.g8Q+	Rxg8

59...Kd7 60.Rh7+ Kc6 61.Qe8+ Kb6 62.Qb8+ Kc6 63.Rc7+ Kd6 64.Qd8#

60.Rxc1	Kd7
61.Ra1!	Rg3
62.Ra7+	Kc8
63.Kxe6	Rxe3+
64.Kxf5	d4
65.Ra5	Rb3
66.Rc5+!	Kb7
67.Rc4	d3
68.Rd4	Kc6
69.Ke6	Kb5
70.f5	Rxb4
71.Rxd3	Re4+
72.Kd5	

And with his king cut off from the action, Black could have resigned.

72...	Rh4
73.Rb3+	Ka6
74.Rf3	Rh5
75.Kc6	Rh6+
76.f6	Ka5
77.Kd7	Rh7+
78.f7	Kb4
79.Ke6	Rh6+
80.Rf6	Rh8
81.f8Q+	Rxf8
82.Rxf8	Kc4
83.Rf4+	

1-0

Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 36

White: McAlpine, Kenneth
Black: Lumsden, James
SCCA Championship Semi-final, 1974
[Notes by John E Hawkes]
[Pirc Defence B07]

1.e4	g6
2.d4	Bg7
3.Nc3	d6
4.Bc4	Nf6
5.Qe2	

The Kholmov System.

5...	Nc6
6.e5	Nxd4

Regan - Shamkovich, New York (1976)
would go; 6...Nh5 7.g4 Nxd4 8.Qd1
(8.Qe4 dxe5 9.gxh5 Bf5–+) 8...Bxg4!?
9.Qxd4 Bf5 10.Qd5 0–0 11.Qxb7 Bxe5
12.Bd5 Rb8 13.Qxa7 e6 14.Bf3 Qh4
15.Nge2 c5 16.Bh6 Bg7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7
18.0–0–0 Qxf2 19.Rhf1 Qe3+ 20.Rd2
Rxb2 21.Kxb2 Qxd2 22.Rc1 Qe3
23.Qb7 d5 0–1

7.exf6	Nxe2
8.fxg7	Rg8

9.Ngxe2	Rxg7
10.Bh6	Rg8
11.0-0-0	e5

11...c6 might continue; 12.Rhe1 Qa5
13.Nf4 Bf5 14.Rxd6 Qc5! 15.Nb5! cxb5
16.Bxb5+! Qxb5 17.Nd5 Qxd5!
*(17...Qd7 18.Nf6+! Kd8 19.Rxd7+ Bxd7
20.Nxg8+–)* 18.Rxd5 f6 with Black
having survived for equality.

12.f4	exf4

12...g5 has been suggested; 13.fxg5
(13.fxe5 Rg6 14.Bxf7+ (14.Rhf1 f5!)
14...Kxf7 15.Rhf1+ Kg8 16.Rf8+ Qxf8
17.Bxf8 Kxf8 and Black is the exchange
up.) 13...Rxg5 14.Bxg5 Qxg5+ 15.Kb1
Bd7 with f5 and long-castling now in
Black's less-troubled mind.

13.Ne4	g5
14.h4	gxh4
15.Nxf4	Bf5

16.Bb5+!
16.Rhe1 threatens mate, but 16...Kd7
17.Bg5 Rxg5! 18.Bb5+ Ke7! 19.Nxg5+
Kf6 20.Ne4+ Kg7 21.Nh5+ Kh8
22.Nef6 Qf8 and Black has saved his

king and queen.

16...	Ke7

If 16...Bd7 simply 17.Rhe1

17.Nd5+	Ke6
18.Nc5+!	dxc5

[18...Ke5 19.Bf4#]

19.Rhe1+	Be4
20.Rxe4+	Kf5
21.Ne7+	Kxe4

[21...Kf6 22.Rf1#]

22.Re1+	Kd4
23.c3#	

1–0

Ken McAlpine's 80th birthday fell on April 11th' 2025.
He won Scottish Correspondence Chess ChampiOnships in 1975-76, 1976-77and 1977-78. In 1979, he was awarded the Scottish
Master title for Correspondence Chess and received the ICCF International Master title in 1990.

Havana 1966

From left to right: Michael Fallone, Ken McAlpine, Michael Freeman, Craig Pritchett
Photo: Fairhurst (via Gerald Bonner)

King Kenneth the 1st{MacAipin), of Scotland
{842-858)
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth MacAipin

Knight Tour on 169 Cell Board

By Awani Kumar
Lucknow, India

SCCA Magazine has come out with its 169th issue and let us celebrate it with some interesting knight tours on 13x13 (= 169) cell board. There can't be a magic tour on 13 x13 board and, in general, on any odd-by-odd board. Figure 1 has the first 16 even numbers arranged in 4x4 magic square formation having magic constant 68. Figure 2 has the multiples of 13 arranged in middle row. The move segments are alternately below and above the middle row up to 115 and readers are urged to improve it. Figure 3 to Figure 5 has the square numbers 1^2, 2^2, 3^2, ..., 13^2, namely, 1, 4, 9, ..., 169 in knight path. Figure 6 has the consecutive square numbers along the middle row.

103	100	61	40	63	110	115	42	65	122	117	44	67
60	39	102	109	112	41	64	121	116	43	66	125	118
101	104	99	62	31	114	111	82	123	120	129	68	45
38	59	108	113	84	5	32	7	128	81	124	119	126
105	98	85	34	107	30	83	10	19	130	127	46	69
58	37	106	29	4	33	6	13	8	11	80	131	134
97	86	95	2	35	28	9	20	79	18	133	70	47
144	57	36	27	24	3	14	17	12	21	78	135	132
87	96	143	94	1	26	169	22	15	164	137	48	71
56	145	88	25	142	23	16	163	168	77	160	165	136
89	150	153	146	93	156	141	76	161	138	167	72	49
152	55	148	91	154	53	162	157	140	51	74	159	166
149	90	151	54	147	92	155	52	75	158	139	50	73

1.

19	16	43	48	21	70	45	94	97	136	139	150	153
42	23	20	17	44	47	96	69	138	149	152	135	140
15	18	49	22	71	68	93	46	95	98	137	154	151
50	41	24	67	76	73	102	99	148	167	132	141	134
25	14	75	72	101	92	147	166	131	142	145	168	155
40	51	66	77	74	103	100	129	146	165	116	133	144
13	26	39	52	65	78	91	104	117	130	143	156	169
38	1	64	29	90	87	128	81	164	85	118	115	112
27	12	53	88	79	30	105	86	127	82	113	120	157
2	37	28	63	54	89	80	163	58	119	84	111	114
11	8	33	4	31	62	59	106	83	126	123	158	121
36	3	6	9	34	55	162	61	108	57	160	125	110
7	10	35	32	5	60	107	56	161	124	109	122	159

2.

39	44	51	60	37	46	49	88	65	70	83	74	77
52	57	38	45	50	59	66	69	48	89	76	71	84
43	40	61	58	67	36	47	64	87	82	73	78	75
56	53	42	35	92	63	68	97	90	95	80	85	72
41	22	55	62	25	98	91	94	81	86	101	116	79
54	17	24	21	34	93	112	99	96	117	114	123	102
23	20	33	16	111	26	161	118	113	100	147	120	115
8	15	18	27	160	165	152	139	162	119	124	103	122
19	32	9	14	153	110	163	166	151	148	121	146	125
10	7	28	3	164	159	138	133	140	145	126	149	104
31	4	13	154	109	156	135	130	167	150	141	144	127
6	11	2	29	158	137	132	107	134	129	168	105	142
1	30	5	12	155	108	157	136	131	106	143	128	169

3.

45	30	23	12	47	28	71	68	153	162	73	166	123
22	11	46	29	70	67	154	161	72	167	124	163	74
31	44	13	24	27	48	69	152	157	160	165	122	125
10	21	2	43	66	155	26	159	120	151	168	75	164
1	32	9	14	25	42	49	156	81	158	121	126	169
8	15	20	3	50	65	82	101	150	119	80	147	76
19	4	33	16	41	36	51	64	83	100	149	144	127
54	7	18	35	52	39	102	37	118	79	146	77	148
5	34	53	40	17	104	63	84	99	134	143	128	145
60	55	6	87	62	85	38	103	138	117	78	135	142
91	88	61	58	95	108	105	98	133	112	137	114	129
56	59	90	93	86	97	110	139	106	131	116	141	136
89	92	57	96	109	94	107	132	111	140	113	130	115

4.

53	56	91	88	93	58	123	128	167	164	149	130	133
90	87	54	57	124	127	168	163	150	129	132	165	148
55	52	89	92	59	94	125	122	137	166	119	134	131
86	83	60	95	126	97	162	169	120	151	136	147	118
51	28	85	82	61	48	121	80	99	138	143	154	135
84	31	50	47	96	81	98	161	144	155	152	117	146
27	24	29	32	49	62	79	100	139	142	145	156	153
30	33	22	25	46	77	64	141	160	103	158	113	116
23	26	9	34	63	36	101	78	111	140	115	104	157
10	1	12	21	16	45	76	65	102	159	112	69	114
13	8	19	4	35	40	37	42	75	110	107	72	105
2	11	6	15	20	17	44	39	66	73	70	109	68
7	14	3	18	5	38	41	74	43	108	67	106	71

5.

29	72	69	88	31	76	127	92	129	78	125	94	97
68	13	30	75	70	89	32	77	126	93	96	161	124
73	28	71	14	87	84	91	128	79	130	159	98	95
12	67	74	85	90	33	102	131	158	165	162	123	160
27	2	15	66	83	86	157	80	101	132	99	166	163
8	11	26	3	34	65	82	103	156	167	164	133	122
1	4	9	16	25	36	49	64	81	100	121	144	169
10	7	24	35	48	59	104	155	120	143	168	153	134
5	52	17	58	37	50	63	142	115	154	119	140	145
18	23	6	51	60	47	116	105	62	141	146	135	152
53	42	45	22	57	38	61	114	149	118	137	110	139
44	19	40	55	46	21	106	117	112	147	108	151	136
41	54	43	20	39	56	113	148	107	150	111	138	109

6.

Figure 7 and Figure 8 are diagonal tours of knight with consecutive square numbers in knight and zebra {2, 3} path respectively. Figure 9 has the square numbers in zebra path in zig-zag way. Figure 10 and Figure 11 have the consecutive square numbers in giraffe {1, 4} path. Christmas tree is always fascinating. The line joining the square numbers delineate Christmas tree in Figure 12.

1	6	17	44	59	22	19	46	55	70	89	74	87
8	15	4	23	18	45	58	69	20	47	86	71	90
5	2	7	16	43	60	21	54	77	56	73	88	75
14	9	24	3	62	53	68	57	48	85	76	91	72
27	34	13	42	25	50	61	78	67	124	83	94	97
10	41	26	35	52	63	66	49	84	79	96	123	92
31	28	33	12	65	36	51	80	125	82	93	98	95
40	11	30	37	108	133	64	149	146	131	126	163	122
29	32	39	110	153	150	147	132	81	164	99	130	127
138	111	154	107	38	109	134	151	148	145	128	121	162
155	106	139	114	135	152	141	116	143	100	165	168	129
112	137	104	157	140	115	102	159	118	167	144	161	120
105	156	113	136	103	158	117	142	101	160	119	166	169

7.

1	22	5	12	33	24	31	14	111	118	115	96	113
6	11	2	23	30	13	34	25	124	95	112	109	116
21	18	7	4	35	32	15	94	119	110	117	114	97
10	3	20	29	16	93	26	123	148	125	128	155	108
19	38	17	8	27	36	131	120	129	156	153	98	127
42	9	28	37	92	87	122	147	152	149	126	107	154
39	50	41	62	77	132	151	130	121	146	157	136	99
60	43	76	49	86	91	88	133	150	135	138	159	106
51	40	61	72	63	78	85	90	145	158	161	100	137
44	59	70	75	48	89	64	165	134	139	144	105	160
69	52	73	56	71	84	79	82	141	162	103	168	101
58	45	54	67	74	47	164	65	166	81	140	143	104
53	68	57	46	55	66	83	80	163	142	167	102	169

8.

89	76	107	70	109	74	111	72	119	116	113	150	153
84	69	88	75	106	71	118	147	112	149	152	167	114
77	90	83	108	87	110	73	120	117	168	115	154	151
68	85	92	103	82	105	146	169	148	155	160	163	166
91	78	67	86	93	102	121	140	143	162	165	156	159
32	29	24	79	104	81	142	145	132	139	158	161	164
23	26	31	66	49	94	101	122	141	144	99	138	157
30	33	28	25	80	65	50	131	100	133	136	125	98
27	22	9	34	19	48	95	64	123	130	97	134	137
10	1	20	5	38	51	36	47	96	135	124	129	126
21	8	13	18	35	16	39	52	63	44	127	56	59
2	11	6	15	4	37	46	41	54	61	58	43	128
7	14	3	12	17	40	53	62	45	42	55	60	57

9.

1	56	3	60	53	18	5	42	9	20	7	30	11
62	59	54	57	4	41	52	19	6	29	10	21	24
55	2	61	72	47	74	17	40	43	8	23	12	31
68	63	58	75	108	71	46	51	28	39	44	25	22
65	76	67	70	73	48	103	16	45	34	27	32	13
84	69	64	107	102	109	126	97	50	15	38	35	26
77	66	83	110	127	124	49	104	139	96	33	14	37
82	85	80	101	106	129	138	125	98	163	36	149	156
117	78	111	128	123	100	105	164	95	140	157	162	147
86	81	116	79	112	137	130	99	158	145	148	155	150
115	118	89	136	131	122	133	94	165	154	141	146	161
90	87	120	113	92	135	166	153	144	159	168	151	142
119	114	91	88	121	132	93	134	167	152	143	160	169

10.

59	18	21	12	57	28	1	10	45	30	7	40	5
20	13	58	27	22	11	46	29	8	41	4	31	34
17	60	19	56	53	24	9	2	47	44	33	6	39
14	69	16	23	26	55	84	51	42	3	38	35	32
61	66	73	54	77	52	25	48	85	88	43	104	37
68	15	70	79	74	83	76	87	50	105	36	89	92
65	62	67	72	131	78	49	82	113	86	91	96	103
164	71	64	141	80	75	114	151	106	97	102	93	90
63	142	163	132	155	130	81	120	115	112	95	98	101
162	165	156	143	140	133	150	129	152	107	100	111	94
157	146	159	138	149	154	121	134	119	116	125	108	99
166	161	144	147	168	139	136	153	128	123	110	117	126
145	158	167	160	137	148	169	122	135	118	127	124	109

11.

41	20	11	6	43	22	1	114	45	104	125	108	111
12	7	42	21	10	5	44	103	126	113	110	105	124
29	40	19	8	23	2	115	46	149	122	107	112	109
18	13	28	117	4	9	102	121	144	127	150	123	106
27	30	39	24	51	116	3	82	47	148	145	142	151
14	17	26	85	118	83	52	101	120	143	128	139	146
31	38	55	16	25	50	119	48	81	100	147	152	141
56	15	86	89	84	53	166	99	132	153	140	129	138
37	32	75	54	165	88	49	80	167	158	131	154	65
76	57	36	87	90	79	94	163	98	133	64	137	130
33	74	91	78	95	164	61	168	159	162	157	66	155
58	77	72	35	60	93	70	97	134	63	68	161	136
73	34	59	92	71	96	169	62	69	160	135	156	67

12.

Readers may like to compose more *figured tours* of knight on 13x13 board – the sky is the limit.

International Update

By David Kilgour

Olympiad 23 Preliminaries

CCO23/S4, ICCF Olympiad 23 Preliminaries - Section 4

TD Neves, Bianor de Oliveira (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	Iceland	2313		3.5	3	3	3	2.5	3	2.5	2	22.5	51	1	6	44	4	1	Jónsson, Daði Örn
2	Denmark	2390	2.5		3	2.5	3	2.5	3	3	2.5	22	48	-1	4	45	3	2	Ottesen, Søren Rud
3	Belgium	2370	3	3		3	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	2	21.5	50	0	4	43	5	3	Dondelinger, Jean-Pierre
4	Switzerland	2453	3	2.5	3		3	2.5	2	3	2	21	50	0	4	42	6	4	Rüfenacht, Matthias
5	Scotland	2442	3	3	2.5	3		2.5	2.5	2.5	2	21	50	0	3	42	6	5	Beecham, C. Richard
6	Lithuania	2467	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	2.5		3	2.5	2.5	21	50	0	2	42	6	6	Chocenka, Dmitrijus
7	Türkiye	2413	3	3	2.5	2	2.5	3		1.5	3	20.5	50	0	4	41	7	7	Kural, Aziz Serhat
8	Peru	2445	2.5	3	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	1.5		2	19.5	50	0	2	39	9	8	Figlio, Gino Franco
9	Mexico	2409	2	2.5	2	2	2	2.5	3	2		18	50	0	1	36	12	9	Hernández Martínez, Jerónimo

Scotland is in mid-table with no losses.

North Atlantic Team Tournament VIII

NATT/8, North Atlantic Team Tournament VIII

TD Vinchev, Simeon (IA)

|			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	France	2405		4	4	4	3.5	3.5	3	3	3	2.5	1.5	1	1.5	34.5	49	-1	3	70	26	1	Tinture, Laurent
2	England A	2390	4		4	3.5	2	3	3	3	3.5	2	2	2	1.5	33.5	51	2	2	65	31	2	Beckett, Phillip J.
3	Wales 1	2414	4	4		3.5	3.5	2.5	3	2.5	3	2.5	2	1	1	32.5	50	0	2	65	31	3	Sherwood, Russell
4	Portugal	2367	4	3.5	3.5		2.5	1.5	2	2.5	1	2	1	1	1	25.5	50	1	1	50	46	4	Martins, Sérgio A.
5	Wales A	2419	3.5	2	3.5	1.5		2	1.5	1.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	0.5	24	50	0	0	48	48	5	Jones, Ian
6	Cuba	2373	4.5	2	2.5	1.5	2		1.5	2.5	2.5	2	1.5	1	0	23.5	50	0	2	47	49	6	Menéndez Rodríguez, Giraldo
7	England B	2384	3	3	3	2	1.5	1.5		2	2.5	2	1	1	0.5	23	50	0	0	46	50	7	Pheby, Ian M.
8	Scotland	2390	3	3	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	2		1	1.5	1.5	0.5	1	22.5	50	0	0	45	51	8	Kilgour, David A.
9	Canada	2386	3	3.5	3	1	2.5	2.5	2.5	1		2	0.5	0.5	0.5	22.5	51	1	0	44	52	9	Marconi, Ralph P.
10	United States	2377	2.5	2	2.5	2	1.5	2	2	1.5	1		1.5	1.5	0.5	20.5	48	-1	0	42	54	10	Biedermann, Thomas
11	Spain	2392	1.5	2	2	1	1.5	1.5	1	1.5	0.5	1.5		0.5	1	15.5	50	0	0	31	65	11	de Andrés Senra, Sergio Iván
12	Norway	2310	1	1	1	1	1.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.5		1	11.5	46	-2	0	25	71	12	Sjøl, Henrik
13	Mexico	2408	1.5	1.5	1	1	0.5	0	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	1		10	50	0	0	20	76	13	Sauceda Salazar, Eduardo

North Sea Team Tournament VI

North-Sea/TT6, North Sea Team Tournament VI

TD Vliet, Erik van (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	France	2370		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	1.5	0.5	0	4	57	1	0	7	53	1	Bontems, Cyrille
2	Iceland	2355	0.5		1	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	3.5	50	0	0	7	53	2	Ásbjörnsson, Ásgeir Páll
3	Netherlands	2385	0.5	1		0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	2.5	50	0	0	5	55	3	Daatselaar, Jan Bart van
4	England	2391	0.5	0	0.5		0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	2.5	50	0	0	5	55	4	Beckett, Phillip J.
5	Norway	2347	0.5	0.5	0	0.5		0	0	0	0	0.5	0	2	50	0	0	4	56	5	Sjøl, Henrik
6	Germany A	2386	0	0.5	0	0.5	0		0.5	0.5	0	0	0	2	50	0	0	4	56	6	Joppich, Ulrich
7	Denmark	2365	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.5		0.5	0	0	0	1.5	50	0	0	3	57	7	Bratholm, Palle Skov
8	Scotland	2329	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0.5		0	0	0	1.5	50	0	0	3	57	8	Kilgour, David A.
9	SWEDEN	2294	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1.5	37	-1	0	4	56	9	Larsson, Mats
10	Belgium	2395	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0		0	1	50	0	0	2	58	10	Dondelinger, Jean-Pierre
11	Germany B	2389	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	60	11	Fischer, Wolfgang

SCO - USA 2024, Scotland - USA Friendly Match 2024

	Scotland Kilgour, David A.			White	Black	White	Black	USA Biedermann, Thomas		
Board 1	SIM Beecham, C. Richard	2479	(94)	½	½	½	½	IM Biedermann, Kyle	2465	(82)
Board 2	SIM Mackintosh, Iain	2431	(92)	½	½	½	½	CCM Tedesco, Matthew	2432	(84)
Board 3	CCM Sneddon, Iain	2410	(58)	½	½	½	½	IM Meiners, Edwin	2414	(100)
Board 4	CCM Beveridge, Colin	2353	(71)	_C	_C	_C	_C	CCM Ralls, Richard	2346	(59)
Board 5	CCE Whittaker, Ian P.	2317	(79)	½	0	1	½	CCM Price, Brennan	2318	(73)
Board 6	CCM Lloyd, Geoffrey	2301	(75)	.	.	.	.	CCM Relyea, Alexander	2314	(60)
Board 7	CCE Taylor, Wilf	2110	(81)	1	1	0	0	Nurmi, Ronald	2102	(103)
Board 8	Price, Derek	2063	(89)	½	½	½	½	Quirk, Michael	2056	(94)
Board 9	Murray, James S.	2021	(92)	½	½	½	½	Helmbrecht, John R.	2014	(96)
Board 10	MacGregor, Colin A.	1957	(83)	½	½	½	½	Capron, Mark	1948	(104)
Board 11	CCE Bruce, Robert	1899	(52)	½	½	½	½	Aiken, Joseph	1863	(79)
Board 12	Cormack, William H.	1820	(94)	1	0	1	0	Schoenwald, Ira	1821	(126)
Board 13	Anderson, Thomas R.	1811	(89)	½	½	½	½	Ott, Paul B.	1809	(88)
Board 14	Burridge, Raymond John	1776	(69)	½	0	1	½	Messinger, Bruce	1778	(92)
Board 15	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1736	(77)	0	0	1	1	Korman, Joseph	1708	(74)
Board 16	White, Richard	1548	(95)	0	0	1	1	Stack, James	1575	(106)
Board 17	Gilbert, Robert	1485	(85)	1	1	0	0	Braider, Christopher	1475	(72)
Board 18	Sedstrem, Alan	1327	(107)	1	0	1	0	Niemi, Greg	1360	(77)
Board 19	Dunn, John	1327	(71)	1	0	1	0	Cadarett, Joseph	1357	(105)
Board 20	Armstrong, John M.	1307	(78)	0	½	½	1	Jakubas, Ed	1321	(79)
Board 21	Hardwick, Martin E.	761	(59)	1	0	1	0	Ellis, Roscoe	782	(73)

Total: 17.5 — 20.5

Scotland has lost a fairly close match

POL-SCO 2024, Poland-Scotland 2024

|	Poland Szerlak, Andrzej			White	Black	White	Black	Scotland Kilgour, David A.		
Board 1	IM Szerlak, Andrzej	2400	(45)	1	½	½	0	SIM Mackintosh, Iain	2431	(92)
Board 2	IM Woźnica, Mirosław	2380	(57)	½	½	½	½	CCM Sneddon, Iain	2410	(58)
Board 3	CCM Bartkiewicz, Bronisław	2374	(71)	½	½	½	½	CCE Whittaker, Ian P.	2317	(79)
Board 4	Fiedor, Paweł	2359	(92)	.	.	.	.	CCM Lloyd, Geoffrey	2301	(75)
Board 5	Wiaderek, Piotr	2170	(99)	.	½	½	.	CCE Taylor, Wilf	2110	(81)
Board 6	Grochol, Kamil	2123	(150)	.	.	.	.	Price, Derek	2063	(89)
Board 7	Makosiej, Władyslaw	2050	(97)	.	.	.	.	Murray, James S.	2021	(92)
Board 8	IM Lew, Tadeusz	2042	(95)	1	1	0	0	MacGregor, Colin A.	1957	(83)
Board 9	Rabczewski, Adam	1901	(79)	½	0	1	½	CCE Bruce, Robert	1899	(52)
Board 10	Głowiński, Daniel	1849	(67)	0	½	½	1	Cormack, William H.	1820	(94)
Board 11	Bobrova, Yevheniia	1800	(250)	1	½	½	0	Anderson, Thomas R.	1811	(89)
Board 12	Mańczuk, Dominik	1800	(250)	1	½	½	0	Burridge, Raymond John	1776	(69)
Board 13	Grabowski, Benedykt	1798	(73)	1	.	.	0	MacMillen, Andrew N.	1736	(77)
Board 14	Domaraczeńko, Krzysztof	1712	(86)	1	1	0	0	White, Richard	1548	(95)
Board 15	Krupacz, Maciej	1687	(179)	1	.	.	0	Gilbert, Robert	1485	(85)
Board 16	Krupacz, Maciej	1687	(179)	1	1	0	0	Dunn, John	1327	(71)
Board 17	Kamiński, Janusz	1789	(88)	1	1	0	0	Sedstrem, Alan	1327	(107)

Total: 18 — 7

Chess Posters
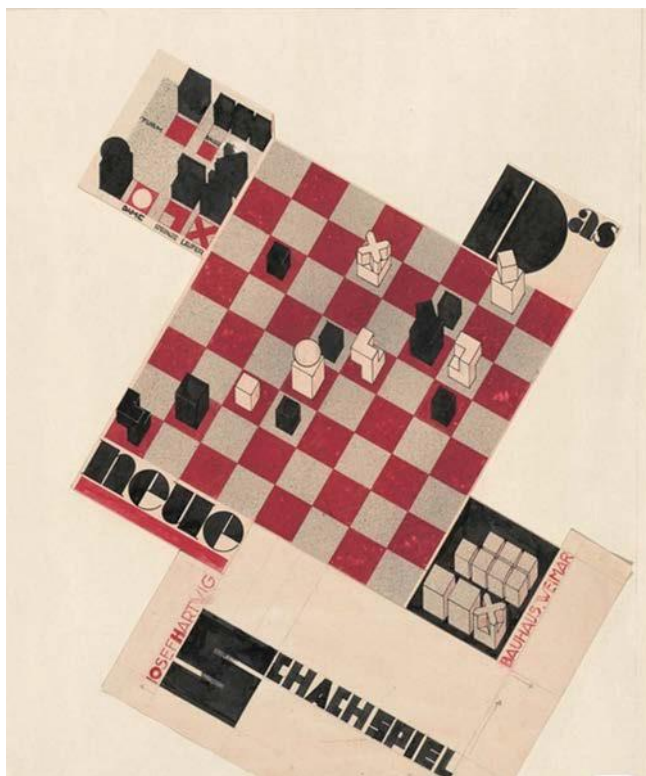
Bauhaus Chess Set designed by Joost Schmidt

Marcel Duchamp, French Championship 1925

Josef Hartwig, designer of the now famous Bauhaus chess-set

9. SCHACHKONGRESS
ALEXANDER ALJECHIN v KARL AHUES
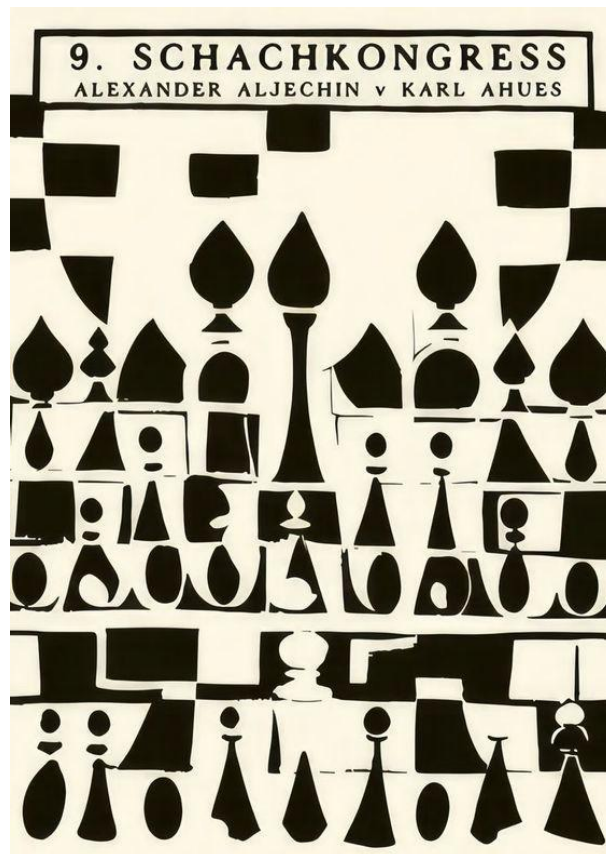
Mephistopheles playing Faust
Artist: Friedrich August Moritz Retzsch

Happy Birthday IM David Levy

By Awani Kumar
Lucknow, India

Scotland has produced some very strong chess players, such as GM Jonathan Rowson – three-time British champion and GM Matthew Turner but IM David Neil Laurence Levy stands on a different pedestal. He is noted for his involvement with computer chess and artificial intelligence, and as the founder of the Computer Olympiads and the Mind Sports Olympiad. He has written more than 40 books on chess and computers and has been a central figure in computer chess practically since the term was invented. His interest in computer chess was triggered by an incidence in 1968. Levy met John McCarthy, an artificial intelligence (AI) pioneer, in a party hosted by Donald Michie, another (AI) expert, and they played a game of chess which Levy won. Perhaps McCarthy was unaware of Levy's strength – he had already won London Junior Chess Championship twice – in 1965 and 1966 and later won Scottish Chess Championship in 1968. Nevertheless, McCarthy took the loss seriously and believing in AI prowess responded that 'you might be able to beat me, but within 10 years there will be a computer program that can beat you.' Levy suggested they bet on it and he won the bet by defeating Chess 4.7 in a six-game match by a score of 4.5–1.5 in 1978. Levy became a professional chess writer in 1971 and co-authored several books with GM Raymond Keene. Their professional relationship grew personal when Levy married Keene's sister later. In 1974,

Levy played a key role in organising World Computer Chess Championship – won by Soviet Union program Kaissa. In 1977, he co-founded the International Computer Chess Association (ICCA) rechristened as International Computer Games Association (ICGA) in 2002. From 1986 to 1992 and from 1999 to 2018, Levy was its president. ICGA organised a symposium to celebrate 50th anniversary of World Computer Chess Championship in 2024 and Levy delivered a keynote address: My Fifty Years of Computer Chess. Chess programs have gone from 1600 ELO (1974) to 3600 ELO (today) and Levy has played a pivotal role in this journey. Levy won Loebner Prize twice; in 1997 and again in 2009. The prize is given in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Levy has varied interests and has published a book 'Love and Sex with Robots'. It is not a fictional narration but based on his PhD thesis which he defended successfully at Maastricht University, Netherland in 2007. He is concerned with ethical treatment of robots and has forecasted that marriages with robots will be legalised around 2050!! Levy was born on 14 March 1945 and the author wishes to celebrate his 80th birth anniversary with interesting knight tours on 80 cell board. Figure 1 and Figure 2 are magic tours of knight on 8x10 board. Sum of move numbers in each row and each column is 324 and 405 respectively. Figure 3 shows magic tours on 4x20 board. Sum of move numbers in each row and each column is 810 and 162 respectively. Possibility of tours having bi-magic lines are always fascinating. Sum of the squares of move numbers in each row adds up to 43070 and 43870 which is 43470 +- 400. Readers are urged to improve upon it.

3	6	77	74	15	18	67	64	324
76	73	4	7	66	63	16	19	324
5	2	75	78	17	14	65	68	324
72	79	8	1	62	69	20	13	324
9	40	71	50	11	30	61	52	324
80	49	10	31	70	51	12	21	324
39	32	41	48	29	22	53	60	324
42	45	38	35	54	57	28	25	324
33	36	47	44	23	26	59	56	324
46	43	34	37	58	55	24	27	324
405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	

1.

3	6	77	74	27	24	55	58	324
76	73	4	7	54	57	28	25	324
5	2	75	78	23	26	59	56	324
72	79	8	1	60	53	22	29	324
9	40	71	50	11	30	61	52	324
80	49	10	31	70	51	12	21	324
39	32	41	48	13	20	69	62	324
42	45	38	35	66	63	16	19	324
33	36	47	44	17	14	65	68	324
46	43	34	37	64	67	18	15	324
405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	

2.

1	78	39	44	5	74	9	46	11	66	33	68	29	64	31	54	19	56	23	60	810	43870
40	43	2	77	8	45	6	71	34	69	14	65	32	51	28	63	26	59	20	57	810	43070
79	38	41	4	73	36	75	10	47	12	67	16	49	30	53	18	55	22	61	24	810	43070
42	3	80	37	76	7	72	35	70	15	48	13	52	17	50	27	62	25	58	21	810	43870
162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162		

3(a).

1	78	39	44	5	74	9	46	31	70	33	52	13	56	27	66	23	64	19	60	810	43870
40	43	2	77	8	45	6	71	34	49	30	69	28	67	24	55	16	61	22	63	810	43070
79	38	41	4	73	36	75	10	47	32	51	12	53	14	57	26	65	20	59	18	810	43070
42	3	80	37	76	7	72	35	50	11	48	29	68	25	54	15	58	17	62	21	810	43870
162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162		

3(b). Magic tour of knight on 4x20 board. Sum of the squares of move numbers in each row 43470 +- 400.

Figure 4 to Figure 6 are semi-magic tours on 5x16 board. Sum of move numbers in each row is 648. Figure 4 and Figure 5 are 14-fold cyclic tour. That is, they remain semi-magic when tour starts from 1, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, 36, 41, 46, 51, 56, 61, 71 or 76 and proceeds onwards. Figure 6 is 15-fold cyclic tour. That is, it remains semi-magic when tour starts from 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, 36, 41, 46, 51, 61, 66, 71 or 76 and proceeds onwards. It is a very rare tour.

3	12	67	70	19	10	77	72	21	42	59	54	49	26	31	36	648
66	69	2	11	78	71	20	9	60	55	22	41	32	37	48	27	648
1	4	13	68	63	18	73	76	43	58	53	50	25	30	35	38	648
14	65	6	79	16	75	8	61	52	23	56	45	40	33	28	47	648
5	80	15	64	7	62	17	74	57	44	51	24	29	46	39	34	648

4. 14-fold cyclic semi-magic tour on 5x16 board.

3	12	67	70	19	10	77	72	21	34	49	56	41	36	27	54	648
66	69	2	11	78	71	20	9	48	57	22	35	26	55	42	37	648
1	4	13	68	63	18	73	76	23	60	33	50	45	40	53	28	648
14	65	6	79	16	75	8	61	32	47	58	25	30	51	38	43	648
5	80	15	64	7	62	17	74	59	24	31	46	39	44	29	52	648

5. 14-fold cyclic semi-magic tour on 5x16 board.

3	8	79	12	69	74	63	18	25	44	55	30	37	46	53	32	648
80	13	2	7	64	17	68	73	56	29	24	45	54	31	38	47	648
9	4	11	78	75	70	19	62	43	26	57	36	23	50	33	52	648
14	1	6	65	16	77	72	67	60	21	28	41	58	35	48	39	648
5	10	15	76	71	66	61	20	27	42	59	22	49	40	51	34	648

6. 15-fold cyclic semi-magic tour on 5x16 board.

Chess with computer is ubiquitous now and almost everyone from amateur to world champion relies and relishes computer game/analysis. This was not the case some half a century ago and Levy has played a key role in bringing this transformation. We love, adore and admire IM David Levy and wish him a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY. May he be blessed with long life, health and happiness. Amen.
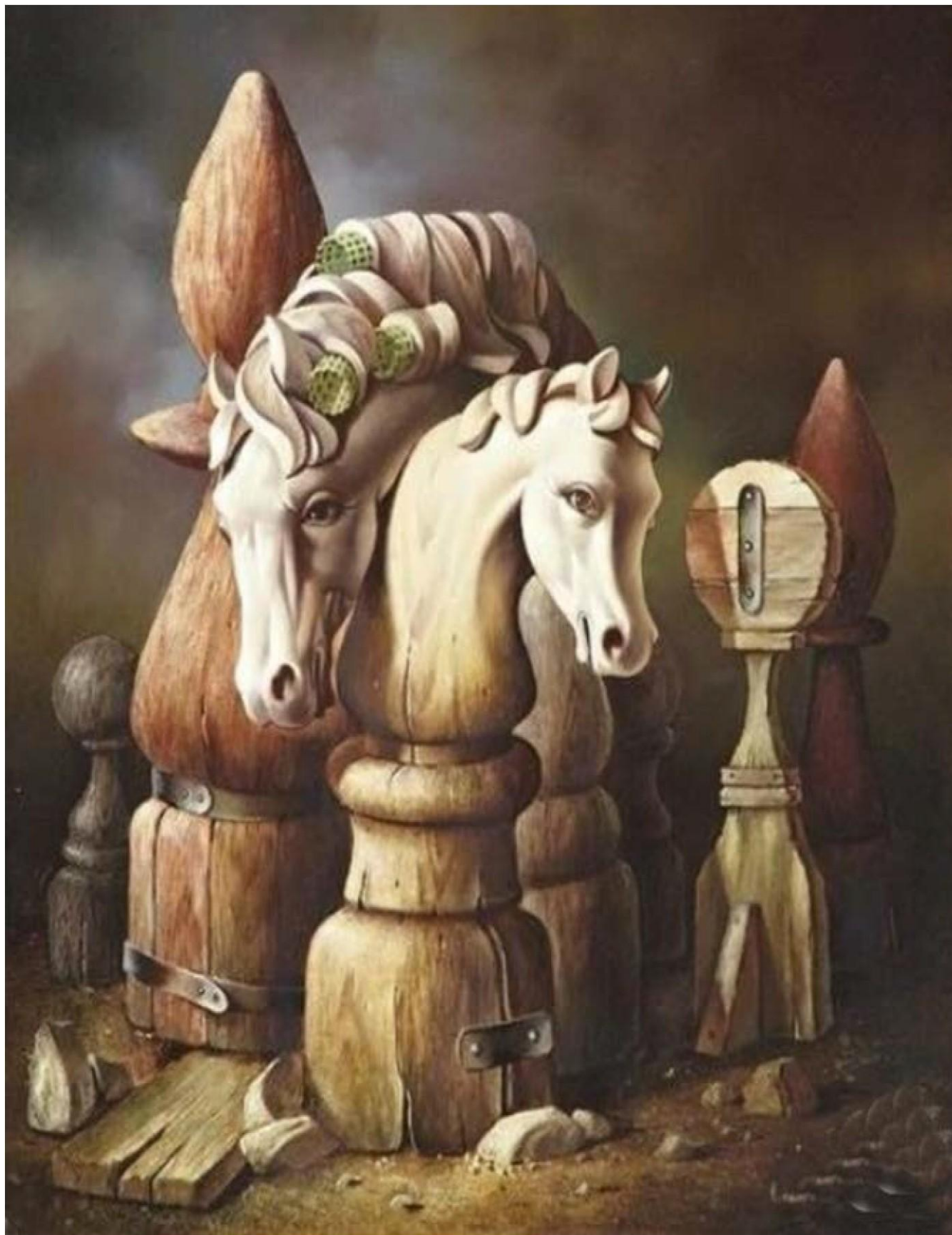
Vito Campanella (1932-2014) was an Italian-Argentine painter, known for working in the Surrealism style.
Born: 17 October 1932, Monopoli, Italy
Died: 26 December 2014 (age 82 years), Buenos Aires, Argentina